

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,
Sunderland on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 4.30 p.m.**

Membership

Cllrs Burrell (Chairman), M. Dixon, Fagan, Foster, S. Johnston, Leonard (Vice Chairman), O' Brien, Scanlan, Warne and Watson.

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Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions

No items.

E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

29 January 2024.

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor Burrell in the Chair

Councillors, Dixon, Foster, Johnston, Leonard, O'Brien, Scanlan and Watson.

Also in attendance: -

James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, SCC

Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer, SCC

Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration, SSC

Councillor Claire Rowntree, Deputy Leader of the Council and Clean, Green City Portfolio Holder, SCC

Sharon Appleby, Chief Executive, BID

Natasha McDonagh, Sunderland Chamber of Commerce

Rhiannon Bearne, Executive Director Policy and Representation, North East Chamber of Commerce

Marion Dixon, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, SCC

Paul Muir, Transport Development Group Engineer, SCC

Anthony Bell, Road Safety Engineer, SCC

Members of the Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Fagan

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November 2023

A copy of the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 21st November 2023 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 21st November 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 5th December, 2023

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2023 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Low Carbon Approach - Update

The Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to set out the progress being made in relation to the Low Carbon Framework and reducing carbon emissions in the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration was in attendance along with Councillor Claire Rowntree, Deputy Leader of the Council and Clean, Green City Portfolio Holder, to present the report along with a PowerPoint presentation.

Councillor Rowntree wished to thank Ms Auld and her team for all the work they did and commented that it was a mammoth task and they had a long journey ahead therefore she encouraged all Members to be active participants where they could.

In response to Councillor Dixons query over the issue of parents leaving car engines idling during school drop offs and enforcement, Ms Auld advised that they hoped to work with their young people to change the attitudes of how students travelled to school and they would take away the findings of the Safer Streets pilot in Washington and see what they could come back with.

Paul Muir, Transport Development Group Engineer also advised that there was a great deal of parking campaigns around schools and they were looking to extend these and they were also working with Environmental Health about air quality around schools.

Councillor O'Brien referred to the Council's own carbon reductions and suggested that the Council Tax statements that were currently sent out by post should be sent via email as an alternative and queried if there were any plans to implement this. Ms Auld advised that there was currently no opt in scheme for this as there needed to be a balance that everyone had access to information and not all residents would have digital accessibility but it was a good point to consider.

In relation to Councillor O'Brien's query over how much Carbon reduction was achieved by cancelling the Airshow, Ms Auld advised that she would refer Members to the answers provided during Questions to Council previously.

There being no further questions, The Chairman thanked Ms Auld and Councillor Rowntree for their attendance. it was then:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Business Improvement District (BID) – Annual Update

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a progress report on the work of the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) and to provide an update on the economic challenges and opportunities facing the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Sharon Appleby, Chief Executive, BID, Natasha McDonagh, Sunderland Chamber of Commerce, Rhiannon Bearne, North East Chamber of Commerce and Marion Dixon, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, Sunderland City Council were in attendance to present the report along with PowerPoint presentations and to answer any Members queries.

Councillor S. Johnston commented that historically there had always been a marquee event taking place at the seafront whether it be the airshow or as last year, the Triathlon, and this year would be the first year that there would be none. Ms Dixon commented that there was a need to market our spaces and the seafront was one of our great assets and it was on the agenda to have those conversations.

Councillor Foster wished to congratulate Ms Appleby and the BID on their successful election result for another 5 years. Councillor Foster also wished to praise the excellent video shown to the Committee but felt that such productions weren't shown enough and the public didn't get to see the work that was being done and this needed to change.

Councillor Foster also added that whilst he did try and promote the bowls offer within the City, the main comments he received were on the lack of leisure options and that he felt we were missing a trick in this regard. Ms Appleby agreed that there were always comments around Communications despite everything that they did and sometimes it was just about what people wanted to read and what they didn't, but they could always improve on Communications.

Ms Appleby added that things were always changing with the algorithms on Facebook for instance and as a positive she had found that residents were starting to challenge each other on social media and posting the positive aspects and not just the negative opinions. It was good to see residents encouraging and engaging with one another.

Ms Appleby agreed with Councillor Foster that we needed a blend in terms of Leisure and there were some really interesting discussions ongoing to bring more Leisure into the City which it was hoped would be more permanent provision rather than single events.

Councillor Dixon thanked Officers for providing a very important report and enquired if the increased Police presence had made any difference to the confidence of City Centre Businesses. Ms Appleby advised that they met regularly with the businesses and the increased police presence had definitely made a difference as this used to be top of their agenda previously and this was not the case now. The businesses

were appreciative of the extra resources such as the Wardens and it was not just about a physical presence but the intelligence sharing also.

Councillor Dixon referred to the recent work done by the Committee looking at the Sunnyside area in which it was found that the businesses there weren't really working well together in terms of coordinating opening times etc and enquired if there had been any change over this. Ms Appleby advised that with new businesses coming in and opening up for longer hours this had helped and issues in the area were reducing. The Sunnyside Masterplan would also have an effect and would encourage more activity.

In response to Councillor Dixon enquiring as to the University Students use of the City Centre and if this was getting any better, Ms Appleby commented that it was acknowledged on both sides that the offer needed to improve and we were starting to see more students coming into the City Centre with the introduction of more student accommodation but we needed more of this so it was not a sea change but was improving.

Councillor Dixon commented that there had been an influx of people from West Africa in recent years and enquired if any contact had been made with those about starting businesses. Ms Appleby advised that there was an issue with the visas from West Africa in which they did not allow the setting up of businesses but they were starting to have greater conversations with the student unions.

Ms McDonough informed that there hadn't been anyone from West Africa attend their meetings. Councillor Dixon suggested that there may be some potential there.

Councillor Dixon also queried as to the impact that Brexit, now that it had happened, has had on businesses in Sunderland and the North East. Ms McDonough advised that the frustrations raised now mostly relate to cost of living and inflation pressures.

Ms Bearne commented that it had been an incredibly challenging period with the changes brought about by Brexit and then going into the Pandemic but there was greater stability now and businesses were gaining a greater awareness of customs requirements and such like. They were finding that some businesses were working well with this and some weren't and it depended upon the type of businesses so the responsibility was upon the Chamber of Commerce to find out what those issues were.

Councillor Dixon also wished to thank Ms Dixon and her team for their work on Events during the years which he had attended and found to be excellent.

Councillor O'Brien commented that as a Ward Councillor of a suburban Ward he was glad to see there would be a budget for more local events and he was keen to hear how engagement with local groups would take place, suggesting that groups such as Royalty Theatre for Shakespeare in the Park would be interesting for example.

Ms Dixon advised that they would be working with the Area Committees on this to build in a process to engage with groups and it was about having events that could become sustainable and reoccurring to be a catalyst for Sunderland. Ms Dixon also advised that she would obtain the data on footfall from What's on Sunderland as per Councillor O'Brien's request.

Councillor Foster commented that students used to have a dedicated week in which they used to get involved with businesses and this had been popular but we seemed to let that go. Ms Appleby advised that she was not sure that happened anywhere in the country now but they did do freshers week and the new executive of the students union was engaging with them much more effectively.

Ms Appleby advised that students were involved in the Halloween Parade for instance and they were really keen to do something around Nigeria Day and looking at Fashion and Beauty leading up to the launch of Culture House.

Councillor O'Brien referred to Freshers Week and commented that there was a need for more events and to be coordinated with restaurant week for example to give students more of a reason to stay in the City.

Ms Appleby commented that this was a valid point and they had coordinated Freshers with restaurant week and they were also doing another restaurant week in March when the businesses had requested it be held but there was a need to hold more promotions.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance and for a really positive report

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Road Safety Annual Report 2022

The Assistant Director Transport and Infrastructure submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on road safety issues in the City and consider the Road Safety Annual Report 2022

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Muir, Transport Development Group Engineer and Anthony Bell, Road Safety Engineer, were in attendance to present the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and to respond to any Members queries.

In response to Councillor Foster's query over the Little People signage, Mr Muir advised that these were erected by Council staff as they were used on the Public Highways and therefore the liability would be with the Council.

Councillor Scanlan referred to the Child Pedestrian Training and commented that she was pleased to hear this being undertaken as they appeared to be very poor education in this regard, especially around those attending Thornhill School.

Mr Muir advised that they do target secondary schools with more hard hitting education programmes but they needed the schools to be engaged for this.

In response to Councillor Scanlan's queries, Mr Muir advised that the Speed Cameras were managed through a partnership with the Police and there was a need to get these up and running again. It was to be considered by Cabinet in the next couple of months and then they would start the procurement process. In relation to the School Crossing Patrols and where people could apply for the posts, these were an open advert on the Jobs North East website.

The Chairman commented that the website was quite bureaucratic and not the easiest to use. Mr Muir acknowledged the website may not be the friendliest to use but they were trying to help any candidates that came forward.

In regards to Councillor Leonards query over the crossing patrols and how to reassess the issue that Venerable Bede School had lost theirs, Mr Bell advised that it was still an active post but they just hadn't had any interest as of yet for the role.

Councillor Dixon referred to the school streets pilot and enquired as to when this would possibly be moved into other streets. Mr Muir informed that this was initially tried in Washington as they had funded the pilot, Officers had bid for and secured funding to look at other sites and the road safety design team were in the process of identifying those locations so that it was then about engaging and getting the schools on board.

In relation to the inconsiderate parking signage, Councillor Dixon enquired if this were expensive to be purchased and suggested that it may be a good use of Community Chest funding at Area Committee. Mr Muir advised that the signs were in the hundreds and not thousands of pounds to purchase so they were a worthwhile investment.

There being no further questions, The Chairman thanked Mr Muir and Mr Bell for the report. it was then:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2023-24

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), which set out the current work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Member's information and possible discussion.

Councillor Dixon enquired if the Software Centres item would be brought before the Committee. Mr Diamond advised that it was still on the work programme and he was awaiting confirmation of the date it would be scheduled for.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 20th December, 2023 (copies circulated).

(For copy report and notice – see original minutes).

Mr Diamond reminded Members to get in touch if they required further information on any of the items included in the notice.

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) M. BURRELL,
Chairman.

Item 4

**ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

6 FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SUNDERLAND CULTURE

CULTURAL SECTOR UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a provide a report on the progress of the cultural sector and its impact on the local economy of the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to include in its work programme a report on the cultural sector.
- 2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the significant economic impact of the cultural sector for the city.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Rebecca Ball (Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture) will be in attendance to provide a presentation and answer any questions.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

5 Background Papers

None

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND MULTIPLY PROGRAMME – UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Multiply programme and their implications for Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is intended to invest in economic growth and regeneration in the regions of the UK, replacing the previous European Structural and Investment Funds. The Multiply programme is the national programme focused on improving adult numeracy skills and targeting adults aged 19+ who do not already have a Level 2 qualification in maths and supports both the employed and the unemployed.
- 2.2 The total amount of funding allocated to Sunderland across the two initiatives is £16.57m over the three years from 2022/23 – 2024/25. As a designated lead authority, the Council is responsible for the development, management and monitoring of the two programmes.
- 2.3 When the UKSPF programme was launched in April 2022, government stated that the UKSPF should be invested in local areas to achieve the following objectives:
- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging
 - Empower local leaders and communities
- 2.4 Funding is intended to support projects across three key investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills.
- 2.5 In response to the government's announcement, the Council submitted Sunderland's Investment Plan to Government in July 2022, following a period of engagement and consultation with public, private and voluntary sector partners across the city and region. Approval of Sunderland's Investment Plan was confirmed in December 2022, enabling grant to be invested over three financial years from 2022/23 to 2024/25.
- 2.6 Government published the prospectus and guidance on the Multiply adult numeracy programme at the same time as the UKSPF programme but requested that a separate Investment Plan be submitted to the Department for

Education. The Multiply Investment Plan was approved by government in September 2022.

2.7 In Sunderland, UKSPF investment is focused on supporting the priorities set out in the City Plan:

- Sunderland will be a **Dynamic Smart City** with more and better jobs, a lower carbon economy, a great choice of housing and a stronger city centre. It will be a leading digital city, deploying smart and sustainable technologies for the benefit of all
- it will be a **Healthy Smart City** with equitable opportunities and the best life chances for children, where people will live healthier, independent lives for longer. It will be a clean and attractive city with great transport links and low carbon and active travel opportunities, and
- it will be a **Vibrant Smart City** with more resilient people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and businesses benefitting from a safe and secure environment. There will be a range of opportunities for people to participate in their communities, cultural events and activities and residents will feel proud of the city and the place where they live.

2.8 UKSPF resources are being allocated to seven objectives identified in Sunderland's Investment Plan:

- City Centre and Town Centre vibrancy improvements and investment in Arts, Culture, Heritage and Creative Industries;
- Building VCS capacity and capabilities, to tackle health inequalities and to address anti-social behaviour and crime, including support to young people and other hard to reach groups;
- Delivering a smart city for all and supporting climate change initiatives in our communities;
- Responding to the cost of living crisis;
- Boosting local enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation, and transitioning towards a net-zero low carbon economy;
- Supporting economically inactive people and those furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to accessing sustainable work and learning;
- Improving skills to progress in work and responding to local skills needs.

3 Current Position

3.1 Catherine Auld (Assistant Director of Regeneration) and James Garland (Principal Funding and Commercial Officer) will be at the meeting to provide a presentation and answer any questions.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC REGENERATION

SCREEN INDUSTRIES – UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update report on the development of screen industries in the city within the context of the North East Screen Industries Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 In early 2021, the BBC published a pan-UK commissioning strategy – ‘The BBC Across the UK’ – and announced its commitment to increase out-of-London production by 10% by 2028 (equivalent to £700m of expenditure). This strategy sets out to ensure increased representation of communities throughout the UK across all BBC platforms and increase commissioning spend in the nations and regions.
- 2.2 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the BBC and the North East region as a whole was signed in 2021 at Baltic in Gateshead following discussions and agreement with the three Combined Authorities and individual local authorities across the region. This set out the BBC’s intention to invest up to £25m over 5 years into regional programming and content and a region-wide target commitment from the North East authorities to seek to commit £11.4m to support creation of a sustainable screen industries eco-system over the same period of time.
- 2.3 The MoU set out a series of shared ambitions and established the NESIP between the BBC and the North East authorities as a partnership initiative through which a co-ordinated regional Screen Industries Development Programme would be funded and delivered. Signing of the MoU followed a period of engagement with the BBC and partners across the region, co-ordinated by North East Screen which is the North East’s not for profit regional screen agency.
- 2.4 The collective approach to resourcing the development of the screen industries sector that is being progressed across the North East is a reflection of the scale of the investment from the BBC, which is such that no one single part of the region could meet the requirements. It also reflects the expectation that all areas across the region and their businesses and residents will benefit. A range of the delivery activity within the region, and specifically within Sunderland, is set out in section 3.
- 2.5 A collective Business Case was prepared across the region setting out the detail of the workstreams which would be delivered as part of the Development Programme and the way in which this would be governed.

Within this context, it was agreed that Tees Valley Combined Authority (“TVCA”) would carry out the accountable body function on behalf of the North East authorities in relation to NESIP.

- 2.6 Implementation of the MoU with the BBC is being taken forward through the North East Screen Industries Development Programme, for which the TVCA is the accountable body. This Development Programme has been designed to maximise opportunities for significant growth of the screen industries sector across the North East to enable the development of a thriving and sustainable ecosystem. The NESIP Board is in place to oversee progress and provide strategic oversight. The Board has a rotating Chair with representatives from the three Combined Authorities, Higher Education, Further Education, BBC and North East Screen. In addition, an Investment Panel (to determine individual grant applications from eligible businesses from a North East Production Fund of £3.8m over the period of the partnership), Skills Group, Steering Group and Marketing & Communications Working Group have been set up.
- 2.7 Following agreement that TVCA would act as Accountable Body for the North East authorities for NESIP – including commissioning North East Screen (the regional screen agency) to operate as the delivery partner; issuing grant agreements to successful businesses from the Production Fund; and carrying out monitoring and assurance on behalf of the authorities – it was agreed that an IAA would be put in place between the authorities.

3 Delivery in Sunderland and the wider region

- 3.1 North East Screen launched its new brand and the Screen Industries Development Programme in Sunderland at City Hall in June 2022, attracting over 150 industry leaders, followed by a crew event at the Fire Station which was attended by 230 TV and screen freelancers. They opened an office in The Beam at Riverside Sunderland in March 2023. North East Screen have since expanded their team and continue to recruit, ensuring they are resourced to deliver the Development Programme.
- 3.2 Each local authority across the North East now has a ‘Film Friendly Contact’ in place to coordinate filming requests in their area. North East Screen has set up a Filming Friendly Network, to share best practice regarding production enquiries aiming to develop a consistent approach to working practice across the region. The Council signed a Filming Friendly Charter in December 2022, demonstrating to the sector that Sunderland is open for business and welcomes productions. This was promoted collectively at a national industry conference in London in December 2022.
- 3.3 The number of productions filmed within the region has increased more quickly than was anticipated when the MoU was first signed. A number of shows have been filmed in Sunderland including: - Series 1 and 2 of ‘Charlotte in Sunderland’ for BBC 3 produced by Chatterbox Media; - BBC’s Rickshaw Challenge, Children in Need, BBC Breakfast and Question Time; - Vera, series 13 for ITV; - Robson Green’s Weekend Getaways – with Jill Scott

as one of the guests; - BBC Comedy Short 'Where it Ends' – resulting from a writers' room event.

- 3.4 In terms of reach, 'Where it Ends', the BBC Comedy Short above, which was shot entirely in Sunderland, premiered at the BBC Comedy Festival 2023 in Cardiff and gained regional and national press coverage. Charlotte in Sunderland is currently the largest unscripted production in the region; it is currently being broadcast on BBC Three and BBC iPlayer. Series 2 follows on from the success of Series 1, which averaged 300,000 viewers, with 40% of this audience being between the ages of 16 and 34, with strong overall iPlayer viewing (62%). The series performed particularly well with viewers in the North of England. It also generated 448k engagements via social media with a combined total of 36m impressions.
- 3.5 North East Screen continues to build its locations database with a wide range of locations from across the region. There are now 61 Sunderland based locations on North East Screen's locations database and 14 of these are new locations. This allows production companies to search images of the region's and city's diverse locations and encourages them to film in the area.
- 3.6 Sunderland-based companies are among those which have benefited from the NESIP Development Programme. These include: - MCC Media - commissioned by Channel 5 to produce 'Cooking with Gills,' awarded BBC Indie Funding and Commissioner support, awarded a REACH award and taking part in PACT Future North East (a two year growth programme focusing on developing skills and understanding in specific areas such as strategy, market intelligence, business planning, creativity and development, export strategy, investment and maturity); - New World Designs - supported with their business development activity, developing innovative new products and applying for Innovate UK funding; - Fulwell73 were supported through a Reach Plus grant to assist with recruitment of a local Development Producer Support from NE Screen also extends to individuals, with a Sunderland-based Development Producer being supported through Open Horizons to shadow on UKTV's 'The Murders' in London with Tiger Aspect.
- 3.7 The North East Production Fund was formally launched on 12th September 2023 in London with a range of industry representatives present. It is a discretionary grant funding scheme, managed and delivered by North East Screen on behalf of the North East authorities. Open to both local and national companies, the Production Fund aims to catalyse the sustainable growth of the region's film and TV production sector by investing in a portfolio of distinctive, high-quality projects that will collectively contribute to the North East region increasing on-screen visibility and will actively contribute to employment of locally based crew, spend in region and improved equality, diversity and sustainability. Grants offered range from between £50,000 and up to £500,000. Individual funding applications to the Production Fund are determined by the NESIP Investment Panel which comprises a representative from each combined authority plus North East Screen. Sunderland-based MCC Media, received support from the Production Fund to secure their commission with Channel 5's Milkshake, for a children's show called 'Cooking

with the Gills' which was recently nominated for a Royal Television Society Award.

- 3.8 North East Screen have actively taken part in a series of events and initiatives across the region since the MoU was first signed. In 2022 in Sunderland, this included participating in the Sunderland Business Festival at which they hosted 'In conversation with Lord Puttnam' at the Fire Station, with over 350 people in attendance as well as in Sunderland Shorts Film Festival where they hosted a Talent Development Talk and Networking event in City Hall. During the recent Sunderland Business Festival 2023 held in October, North East Screen took part in a Future Skills panel highlighting employment opportunities in the region's growing screen industries sector following a key note speech from Leo Pearlman of Fulwell73.
- 3.9 North East Screen have developed several programmes and initiatives to develop skills in the sector. These are delivered at locations across the region with agreement that activity is open to residents from anywhere within the North East unless there are any specific external funding restrictions which apply. In terms of the Sunderland-specific benefits, from September 2022 to June 2023 the following took place: - NE Screen Bootcamp held at the Stadium of Light on 28th June with 43 people attending, 9 from Sunderland - 5 North East Screen Crew Academy events took place in partnership with Sunderland University - 23 Sunderland based crew signed up to the crew database and 2 Sunderland based entry level crew were supported into paid work - 21 Sunderland-based first time/new entrants to the sector were supported through the skills academy, 3 trainees were placed on productions made in Sunderland and 2 early career crew have had longer term placements in Sunderland Indies - 170 Sunderland-based new entrants and established professional crew attended advice sessions, networking and careers and spotlight events across the region - 8 Sunderland-based enterprises attended the following events: 'Get Ready For Business': Meet the Comedy Companies; Writer's Tea Room; Northern Talent Network: Writing For Drama; Creative Cities Convention; PACT Event - 2 Sunderland-based enterprises took part in pitch opportunities.
- 3.10 In addition, Tiger Aspect brought a writers' room to Sunderland, led by experienced industry producer David Simpson and lead writers Richard Naylor and James Baxter (originally from Sunderland). Working with North East based talent, the connections and development from the writers' room resulted in Tiger Aspect developing the Sunderland-based Short, Where it Ends referred to earlier in the report. The Short, which was premiered at the BBC Comedy Festival in Cardiff, is now available to watch on BBC iPlayer.
- 4.14 It is important that momentum behind the collective approach to growing the region's screen industries is maintained. This includes ongoing commitment of resources through the Production Fund, business development and skills development initiatives to maximise the impact which can be realised. The proposed Inter-Authority Agreement underpins this collective approach.

3.10 The Council's contribution to the North East Screen Industries Partnership delivery programme for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is being met from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

3.11 Catherine Auld (Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration) will be in attendance to provide a presentation on the nature and level of activity to date.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider progress and comment.

Item 7

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 FEBRUARY 2024

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO- ORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out the current work programme of the Committee for the 2023-24 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee can undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2023-24.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.
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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

REASON FOR INCLUSION	1 JUNE 23 (INFORMAL MEETING)	11 JULY 23	12 SEPTEMBER 23	10 OCTOBER 23	7 NOVEMBER/ 21 NOVEMBER 23	5 DECEMBER 23	9 JANUARY 24	6 FEBRUARY 24	5 MARCH 24	9 APRIL 24
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses			Food Law Plan (Marion Dixon)						Licensing Policy Review (Marion Dixon)	Scrutiny Annual Report
Scrutiny Business	Remit and Work Programme of Committee	Empty Properties (Graham Scanlan) Work Programme 23-24 - Feedback		Triathlon Feedback (Victoria French/Portfolio holder)	Housing Provider Consultation (Gentoo)/ (Other Housing Providers)	Environmental Services Update (Marc Morley) Regeneration of City – Update (Neil Guthrie Anthony Crabb/Portfolio holder)	Sunderland BID/Chamber of Commerce (Sharon Appleby/ (Natasha McDonough) Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld/Portfolio holder) Road Safety Annual Report (Paul Muir)	Culture Sector and the Local Economy (Rebecca Ball) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) Screen Industries – Update (Catherine Auld)	Siglion (Anthony Crabb) Housing Update (Graham Scanlan) City Heat Networks (Peter Graham)	Cycling Infrastructure (Craig Mordue) Accessibility of the City Centre (Craig Mordue) Highways Maintenance (Craig Mordue)
Consultation Information and Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-24

To Schedule:

Business Centres (Catherine Auld)
Sunnside Masterplan (Dan Hattle)
Public Transport Update (Craig Mordue)

Item 8

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 FEBRUARY 2024

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
0191 561 1396
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting: -

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
221006/744	To seek agreement to enter into the Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230428/799	To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230818/831	To update Cabinet on the Masterplan proposals for High Street West, Sunderland and to seek approval to appoint a Multi-disciplinary Design Team to progress the feasibility, design and planning work to develop the Project.	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231107/846	To procure a framework agreement for funeral and coronial services	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/847	Capital Programme Third Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231110/848	Revenue Budget Third Review 2023/2024.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/849	Council Tax Base 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/850	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/851	Revenue Budget 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231110/852	Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/853	Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/854	Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231113/855	To Seek Cabinet approval to the Letting of Space at Sunnyside Leisure	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231116/856	To consider Housing Investment and Delivery Plan Housing Disposals	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231120/857	To approve works to address storm damage to piers	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231121/858	To seek approval to increase housing rents for Sunderland City Council tenants with effect from 1 April 2024	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231204/861	To consider a proposal to commence statutory processes to develop a SEN unit at Mill Hill Primary School and to approve subsequent procurement of required capital works	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231206/862	To seek approval to award grant funding to support the homeless drop in	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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231211/863	To provide an update on the former Civic Centre site	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231220/865	To seek approval to award a contract to provide support to homeless clients residing in temporary accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231222/866	To consider a report on Investment Zone – Enabling Economic Growth	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Democratic Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Democratic Services team City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

***Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Democratic Services at the address given above.**

Who will decide;

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader & Clean Green City; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City; Councillor John Price – Vibrant City; Councillor Linda Williams – Children, Education and Skills.

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance 2 January 2024