

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre (Committee Room No. 1) on Thursday, 7th November, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllrs, Bonallie, Howe, Kay, T. Martin, Shattock, Tate, Waller and N. Wright

Co-opted Members - Ms A. Blakey, Ms R. Elliott and Ms. H. Harper

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E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

30th October, 2013.

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Tate in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Howe, Kay, T. Martin, Shattock and N. Wright

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Waller and from Ms. A. Blakey, Ms. R. Hood and Mr. D. Noon

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 12th September, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12th September, 2013 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the resolution to the item 'Improvement to Urgent and Emergency Care Services in Sunderland' being amended to read 4. RESOLVED that the information received within the report and presentation and the progress to date be noted.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Reference from Cabinet – 9th October, 2013 Proposals for Budget Consultation 2014/2015

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on proposals for the budget consultation strategy and framework to inform the preparation of the Budget for 2014/2015.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sonia Tognarelli, Head of Financial Resources, presented the report advising that the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 October, 2013 gave consideration to the report proposing the budget consultation strategy and framework as set out, and drew Members attention to the proposal to extend community engagement as set out in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 of the appended Cabinet report.

Councillor Tate asked if the views of the VCS network were gathered as part of consultation and was advised that representatives from each area were contacted and their views included to give a picture across the city.

Councillor Tate went on to ask how the Council would aim to reach those groups of people who are particularly vulnerable or hard to reach and was advised that the Council would do similar to previous years, whereby they had a survey available online and how through using VCS and other advisory groups they would receive as many views as possible. Ms. Tognarelli informed Members that following the event, the idea was to raise community engagement and look to having events in areas to reach wider audiences.

In response to a question regarding the involvement of Community Spirit Panel members, Ms. Tognarelli advised that a letter was circulated to all members of the citizen's panel to request their attendance at the consultation events and there had been a substantial number who had attended in previous years.

Councillor Tate asked how the views of the youth in the city were received and Members were informed that the Youth Parliament tended to meet with the young people and go through the budget situation and gather views and thoughts about any particular areas of interest they had or any issues they wished to be discussed and the Youth Parliament would collate suggestions to the Council from these discussions.

Councillor Wright referred to the Youth Parliament only including a narrow minority of the youth within the city and asked if the consultation exercise could be increased to take in a wider range of views from young people. Ms. Tognarelli explained that the Youth Parliament were used as a lever into the views of young people and other avenues would be explored with them.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was: -

2. RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee endorses the budget consultation strategy and framework for 2014/15

Reference from Cabinet – 9th October, 2013 – Budget Planning Framework 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2016/17

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on the proposed budget planning framework 2014/2015.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sonia Tognarelli, Head of Financial Resources, presented the report advising that the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 October, 2013 gave consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services which identified the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term and set out the budget planning framework for Council for 2014/2015.

Councillor Shattock commented that the report was dispiriting to read and an injustice to the city and asked what would happen should a Council go 'bust'. Ms. Tognarelli commented there would need to be some form of intervention in place to support those Councils in managing the position.

Councillor Shattock also referred to the equal pay claims and resources to cover them. Ms. Tognarelli advised that the required had been factored into the medium term financial plan to support the position,

In response to a question from Councillor Howe as to whether that money was held as a resource or invested, Ms. Tognarelli informed the Committee that treasury management arrangements in place involved investing surplus cash every day and that these resources were included within this overall sum and could be released when required.

Councillor Wright commented that she concurred with comments made by Councillor Shattock and raised concerns over how frontline services would be affected. Ms. Tognarelli explained to Members that one of the key things to understand was that after ring fenced funding was taken into account, almost two thirds of the remaining budget was allocated to adult and children social care services, with the rest being allocated to streetscene, leisure, library provision, etc. Therefore, given the budget challenges ahead it was clear that greater targeting of resources and alternative ways to deliver frontline services would be required. This would include working collaboratively with partners, communities and other agencies to best meet the needs of the city.

Councillor Tate referred to the £0.8 million top sliced by Government for grants and other allocations, and asked if Sunderland would receive any of this funding. Ms. Tognarelli explained that there was potential to secure funding in some areas but the detail around this was not likely to be available until December.

Councillor Tate asked how achievable the savings plan was and was informed that at this stage high level plans were being developed which would be subject to consultation once detailed plans and implications were developed further.

In response to a further comment from Councillor Tate regarding the protection of front line services, Ms. Tongarelli advised that as far as possible the Council would always try and look at different ways to deliver the same outcomes but that there would be choices that needed to be made and over the next few months they would have to prioritise services within the resources available to the Council. It would continue to become much harder but plans would need to be delivered to ensure a balanced budget.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the Committee supports the proposed Budget Planning Framework and endorses the Medium Term Financial Strategy and supports the Cabinet recommendation that both are submitted to Council for approval.

Reference from Cabinet – 9th October, 2013 – Revenue Budget Second Review 2013/2014

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on an aspect of the report on the Revenue Budget

Second Review for 2013/2014 namely requesting Council to approve the transfer of funds.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sonia Tognarelli, Head of Financial Resources, presented the report advising that in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework certain transfers require Council approval and that the following extract referred to those transfer of funds which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 9 October, 2013:-

“Savings on capital financing charges as a result of slippage on the capital programme and income from interest on investments are anticipated to result in planned savings of approximately £0.5m at year end. It is proposed that these amounts and any further underspendings arising from unspent contingencies at the end of 2013/2014 are earmarked to support the overall 2013/2014 position and transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process.”

In response to a comment from Councillor Tate regarding the Council Tax freeze grant, Ms. Tognarelli advised that government had suggested that it continue through the financial years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 and as this was again limited to 1% and that the sustainability of accepting the grant was something the Council would need to consider as part of the budget considerations for next year. She also explained that Councils also needed to consider any restrictions around raising Council Tax and referred to government regulations around any raise above 2% requiring a referendum to be held.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was: -

4. RESOLVED that the Committee supports the transfer of funds to support the overall 2013/2014 position together with the transitional costs arising from the 2014/2015 budget setting process and support the Cabinet recommendation that the transfer be submitted to Council for approval.

Reference from Cabinet – 9th October, 2013 – Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/2014

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out for advice and consideration the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2013/2014 to be used by the Public Protection and Regulatory Services section for the Street Scene service.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Tom Terrett, Assistant Head of Street Scene, presented the report advising that the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 October, 2013 gave approval to the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan for 2013/2014 which formed part of the Council's policy and budgetary framework as defined in the Constitution.

Councillor Bonallie referred to the statistics as set out at paragraph 3.6 of the report and asked why there were so many variations over recent years, Ms. Marion Dixon,

Environmental Health Manager, advised that a lot of increases were as a result of more residents of the city travelling to foreign destinations and could also be down to the fact that people were now visiting their doctor with any ailments more frequently.

Councillor Howe referred to a premises which he had received a number of complaints around concerning smells and was informed that if there were complaints made the service would investigate to find if there was a particular incident which had caused the issue. Ms. Dixon explained that the service worked hard with food manufacturers to combat each case and look into them on their own merit. She advised that they worked to ensure that meats were disposed of in the correct manner and these facilities would be checked on visits to ensure they were running in line with guidance.

In response to a query from Councillor Martin regarding a recent case whereby the UN had been taken to court following a cholera breakout and the risk of that happening in this country, Ms. Dixon advised that there were very occasional cases of the disease but that they were usually travel associated and be mainly found around international airports. She explained that there were very good national systems in place to deal with such cases and they would be closed down quickly to ensure there was minimum or no spread into the general population.

Councillor Wright referred to the fact that there were a lot of food premises rated as medium risk and asked if the service were concerned over these figures. Ms. Dixon advised that there were a lot of medium risk premises as a lot of takeaways, cafes and principle food preparation areas were medium risk classified. She advised that the Council had worked hard to improve standards so that there were not as many high risk premises and now the service was working with the Food Standards Agency to reduce them from medium risk to low risk.

Councillor Bonallie asked if the National Food Hygiene Scheme was still voluntary and was advised that it needed to go through primary legislation. There was currently one local authority that had not yet taken it up and once they were onboard it could be brought in as mandatory for England, Scotland and Wales, which was only a matter of time.

Councillor Kay commented that food prepares/manufacturers could only control what happened on their own premises and asked how much of the role was to advise on them being as aware of the supply chains as possible. Ms. Dixon advised that a key part of the Officers role when inspecting was ensuring that food could be traced between premises. She explained that other Officers would be undertaking the same checks in those premises providing food stuffs to ensure that traceability was continual.

Councillor Howe asked if the premises were forewarned of an Officers inspection and Ms. Dixon informed the Committee that generally they were not advised of their intention to visit as the FSA code of practice encourages them to be on the spot visits.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was: -

5. RESOLVED that the Committee endorsed the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/2014 and supports the Cabinet recommendation to submit the Service Plan to Council for approval.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 8 October, 2013.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman asked any Members having issues to raise or requiring further detail on any of the items included in the notice, to contact the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Ms. Helen Lancaster for initial assistance.

Councillor Kay asked that further information on 130910/10 – To consider and approve the Housing Financial Assistance Policy be brought to a future meeting of the Committee, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions as detailed above be received and noted and further information be provided as requested.

Annual Work Programme 2012/13

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken during the 2013/14 council year.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Lead Scrutiny Member Update

The Lead Scrutiny Members submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

The Committee received an update from those Lead Scrutiny Members present on the work that had been carried out to date by the Scrutiny Panels.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) R.D. TATE,
Chairman.

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2012/13

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13, considered by Cabinet on 6 November 2013, and to meet with the representative from the external auditors Mazars.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 November 2013, will give consideration to the attached report of the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services in relation to the City Council's Annual Audit Letter covering the year 2012/13 (**Appendix 1**).

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To consider the Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13 and seek the views of the representative from Mazars where appropriate.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda – 6th November 2013

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CABINET MEETING – 6th November 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Annual Audit Letter 2012/2013

Author(s):

Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services

Purpose of Report:

This report details the external auditor's (Mazars) Annual Audit Letter (AAL) covering the year 2012/2013. A copy is attached.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note and comment on the contents of this very positive report, and
- Refer the report to Council for their consideration

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Not applicable as the report is for information only.

Impacts analysed:

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?

No

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?

No

Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Meeting – 6th November 2013

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2012/2013

Report of the Executive Director of Commercial & Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report details the external auditors (Mazars) Annual Audit Letter (AAL) covering the year 2012/2013. A copy is attached.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note and comment on the contents of this very positive report, and
- Refer the report to Council for their consideration.

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 The Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to prepare an AAL and issue it to each audited body. The purpose of preparing and issuing AALs is to communicate to the audited body and key external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from the auditors' work, which auditors consider should be brought to the attention of the audited body.

- 3.2 The AAL summarises the findings of the 2012/13 audit, which comprises of two elements:

- An audit of the Council's financial statements
- An assessment of the Council's arrangements to secure value for money in the use of its resources

4.0 Summary Position

- 4.1 The AAL is extremely positive overall providing a strong endorsement of the financial management and planning and governance arrangements in place across the Council.

- 4.2 The Auditor issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's financial statements and an unqualified Value for Money conclusion. The report confirms that the Council:

- Produced accounts for 2012/13 that gave a true and fair view of the council's financial position and that no objections to the accounts were received
- Accurately reported its financial performance to government via the Whole of Government Accounts process
- Had proper arrangements in place to secure value for money.

- Was financially resilient and had managed its financial position very well as both budget setting and close budget monitoring were considered robust which had culminated in an underspend of £6m despite having to successfully deliver continued significant financial savings in 2012/13.
- Is aware of the continued and significant reductions in funding it is facing and in this context is continuing to identify ways of ensuring service sustainability and new ways of working, the details of which are set out on page 7 of the Auditors AAL.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 Not applicable as the report is for information only.

6. List of Appendices

Appendix A - Sunderland City Council Annual Audit Letter 2012/2013

Annual Audit Letter to:
Sunderland City Council

Appendix A



Audit 2012/13

October 2013



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Our reports are prepared in the context of the Audit Commission's 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to members or officers are prepared for the sole use of the Council and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party.

Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Key messages

The 2012/13 audit for Sunderland City Council was completed by the statutory deadline of 30 September 2013.

The Accounts for 2012/13 gave a true and fair view of Sunderland City Council's financial position.

The Council accurately reported its financial performance to Government through the whole of government accounting process.

Sunderland City Council had proper arrangements in place to secure value for money.

There were no objections to the Council's accounts and we have certified closure of the 2012/13 Audit.

This letter represents the completion of our first year as your appointed auditor. We are grateful for the cooperation and assistance provided by officers and Members in completing our work.

Looking to the future

In our view Sunderland City Council will have to respond to some key challenges over the next few years:

- Continuing to deliver good quality services but with fewer resources, and delivering some services in new ways and using alternative models of service delivery
- Making a success of major projects such as the local asset backed vehicle (LABV), City Deal and new Wear crossing
- Working with its partners to deliver the proposals for a Combined Authority and for the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP).

Our 2013/14 audit will focus on the risks that these challenges present to the Council's financial statements and its ability to maintain proper arrangements for securing value for money.

We will also share relevant insights that we have as a national and international accounting and advisory firm with experience of working with other public sector and commercial service providers.

Financial statements

The financial statements are an important tool for Sunderland City Council to communicate how it has used public money. We issued an audit report including an unqualified opinion on the financial statements on 30 September 2013.

The draft financial statements were of a very good quality overall, as were the supporting working papers. The Council's accountancy team was very helpful and cooperative, enabling us to complete our audit work efficiently and effectively.

Audit findings

Our detailed findings were reported in our Audit Completion Report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 September 2013.

We did not identify any significant deficiencies in the accounting and internal controls systems during the course of the audit.

Our audit identified a small number of minor misstatements, presentational and disclosure issues and management amended the Accounts for nearly all issues. There was one unadjusted presentational error of £607k which was not material and officers and Members felt it unnecessary to make a correction.

Securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness

We are required to conclude whether the Council put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We issued an unqualified conclusion on 30 September 2013 stating that the Council had proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

We assessed your arrangements against the two criteria specified by the Audit Commission and set out below our conclusion against each of them.

Financial resilience

The Council managed its financial position very well. Budget setting was robust, and its close monitoring ensured delivery of spending within budget. The outturn report for 2012/13 shows that the Council underspent against its annual revenue budget by £6 million, whilst at the same time delivering the services it had specified. This saving will contribute towards helping the Council manage the further significant reductions in Government funding it faces in future years.

The latest VFM profiles, produced by the Audit Commission, show the General Fund Balance was close to the average for similar authorities, and that the Council is prudent in setting aside earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves are in place for specific plans and projects and will help the Council manage the financial challenges it faces over the next few years. During 2012/13 the Council's usable reserves reduced by £15m overall and assisted in change management.

The Council is financially resilient. The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out how the Council proposes to deal with the difficult economic prospects and the cuts in central government grant funding. The Council has also considered the impact of the retention of business rates and localisation of council tax support, which also has a potentially adverse financial impact, and is monitoring these areas closely.

Securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness

In recent years, the Council has made significant changes to secure its future viability as a community leadership council. In the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 the Council has delivered savings of almost £100m to meet grant reductions and cost pressures, and in the next 3 year period it is expecting to have to deliver a further similar amount.

The Council has delivered ambitious plans and has recognised that there is more to do:

- By redesigning key activity areas so they are financially sustainable, including exploring alternative models of service delivery, such as local authority trading companies, joint ventures and mutuals, and working more closely with local communities, partners and the community and voluntary sector
- Addressing the financial pressures in social care, created by the demand for services from an ageing population, in a time of financial constraints
- Promoting economic regeneration through a local asset backed vehicle (LABV) with a private sector partner
- Delivering its City Deal with Government, including developing a new advanced manufacturing site near Nissan, and developing the Vaux site and the city centre
- Delivering the new Wear crossing, and trying to maintain a strong capital programme to improve infrastructure and provide stimulus to the local economy
- Working with its local authority partners to develop a Combined Authority to deal with economic growth, skills and transportation and making a success of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP), where the Council has a lead role as accountable body.

Fees and closing remarks

Our audit fees for the year are in line with those communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum dated 19 February 2013, being £179,562 (plus VAT). In addition we carried out the audit of three grant claims and returns at an estimated cost of £16,050 (plus VAT).

We have also undertaken one non-audit service for the Council relating to 2012/13; the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services commissioned a Review of Internal Audit for a fee of £3,500 (plus VAT).

We have discussed and agreed this letter with the Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and copies will be provided to all Members. Further detailed findings and conclusions in the areas covered by our audit are included in the reports issued to the Council during the year.

Report	Date issued
2012/13 Audit Fee Letter	November 2012
Audit Strategy Memorandum	February 2013
Audit Completion Report	September 2013
Audit Opinion on the Financial Statements	September 2013
Audit Certificate	September 2013

Steve Nicklin
Director
Mazars LLP
October 2013

Should you require any further information,
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SUNDERLAND HEALTHWATCH

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive a presentation about the role of Sunderland Healthwatch.
- 1.2 Representatives of Healthwatch, including the recently appointed Chair Kevin Morris, will be in attendance at the meeting to provide Members with information and progress.

2. Background Information

2.1 Healthwatch was created by Part 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 which introduced a national body (Healthwatch England), and a local organisation for each local council in England with social care responsibilities (local Healthwatch).

2.2 Healthwatch is intended to strengthen the collective voice of users of health and social care services and members of the public, both nationally and locally. Locally, it has additional powers than those held by the former Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), which it has replaced.

2.3 Local Healthwatches will be a strong, independent consumer champion that:

- Strengthen the collective voice of citizens and communities in influencing local health and social care services to better meet their needs;
- Support people to find the right health and social care services by providing appropriate information, and signposting;

Provide people with information about what they can do when things go wrong or if they have a complaint about NHS services signposting people to the local complaints advocacy service;

- Have powers to request information from commissioners and providers of health and social care and to enter health and social care premises.
- Have a seat on the local statutory Health and wellbeing board. In this way local Healthwatch actively participates in local decision making;

- Have the power to enter and view premises providing publicly-funded care services as part of its role in gathering evidence;
- Is able to alert Healthwatch England, or the Care Quality Commission where appropriate, to specific care providers, health or social care matters; and
- Has a duty to produce an annual report on their activities and finance and send a copy of their annual reports to key bodies.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Healthwatch Sunderland has now started working with local people and has a growing membership of patients, service users, carers, community groups, organisations, service providers and commissioners to get the best out of local health and social care services.
- 3.2 The Chair (Kevin Morris) and Vice Chair (Lesley Ann Sutherland) have now been appointed and will support the appointment process of the Healthwatch Executive Board and finalise a work plan.
- 3.3 Consideration should be given as to how the council's scrutiny function can work with Healthwatch Sunderland in the most effective way to increase local accountability and get the best outcomes for the residents of Sunderland.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to receive and note the presentation, giving consideration to the role of Healthwatch and future relationships with the scrutiny function.

5. Background Papers

Establishing Local Healthwatch (LGA, 2012)

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COMMISSIONING INTEGRATED WELLNESS SERVICES

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report will provide Members with an overview of a programme of reform work related to the commissioning of integrated wellness.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Health inequalities in Sunderland have been apparent for many years. Recently, the NHS made significant investment in “staying healthy” or “wellness” programmes such as physical activity, stop smoking, weight management and alcohol. Responsibility for commissioning these programmes transferred to local government as part of the transfer of public health responsibilities on 1 April 2013. Prior to transfer, it had been identified that in spite of significant investment we had not seen the step change in health outcomes that had been anticipated.

- 2.2 Engagement with local communities and service audits have demonstrated that many experience barriers in identifying and accessing services. In addition, recent research has shown that many people in Sunderland have multiple lifestyle risks. Finally, there is some concern that the fragmented nature of commissioned services does not offer best value for money. It has therefore been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board that a more integrated approach should be taken to the commissioning of these services going forward.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The strategic approach and underpinning principles of the new delivery model have been agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This included working closely with communities to understand barriers and opportunities for people to make healthy choices in their lives so that services developed would be aligned to the needs, assets and values of local communities so that we begin to approach a co-design and eventually a co-production model.

- 3.2 At the beginning of the year a research company was commissioned to undertake engagement work with communities in all five areas of the City and the report of this work has now been received. The services likely to undergo change as a result of these findings have been identified and we are now beginning to build the new service model.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed to have oversight of this development. The current timescales are that the procurement process is likely to begin in January 2014 with new services to be delivered from October 2014. Before that stage, however, the key work in defining the shape of services and the specifications to underpin these will take place. As part of this process there will be a stakeholder event in November 2013 which it is hoped will have representation from Elected Members so that they can influence the services to be commissioned.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The report and presentation will provide members with an outline of the concept and approach and seek the Committee's views on how they would like to continue to be briefed on progress during the consultation and implementation.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That Members;

- (a) consider and comment on the report and presentation; and
- (b) Consider commissioning the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Panel to be consulted in more detail on the concept and approach to Integrated Wellness on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee.

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NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 for the 28 day period from 8 October 2013. Members should note that a further Notice will be issued on 5 November 2013 which will be made available at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

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 for the 28 day period from 8 October 2013 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 for the 28 day period from 8 October 2013 and the most recent Notice for the 28 day period from 5 November 2013 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Coordinator
0191 561 1233
helen.lancaster@sunderland.gov.uk

28 day notice
Notice issued 8 October 2013

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
131008/01	Dog Control Orders	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
121218/13	To approve a policy to deal with horses tethered on Council land	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131008/02	To seek approval from Cabinet to procure a Design Team to lead on the Hylton Castle	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre

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
	Development Project							Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131008/03	Approval to commission an Overnight Service within the existing framework contract for care and support at home.	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131008/04	To seek approval from Cabinet to re-commission and re-organise services delivered through Children Centres.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 6 November 2013 to 4 December 2013	N	N/A	Cabinet Report Review Outcomes	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131008/05	Approval to progress projects funded by Local Pinch Fund and Regional Growth Fund Round 4 Grant awards.	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	N	N/A	Cabinet Report Pinch Point and RGF 4 Bid documents and associated offer letters.	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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
131008/06	Alternative Service Delivery Model for ICT- Approval of Business Case and next steps.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 6 November 2013 to 4 December 2013	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 Paragraph 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	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
130806/05	To seek approval to a Council funded city centre office development scheme and associated pre-letting arrangements	Cabinet	Y	During the period 6 November 2013 to 4 December	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland

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
				2013		the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 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.		SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
130806/06	Renegotiate the contractual position with BT for the provision of alarms monitoring services for a period of 3 years.	Cabinet	Y	6 November 2013	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 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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
						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.		
130910/08	Appointment of preferred bidder in respect of the Sunderland Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) and related matters.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 6 November 2013 to 4 December 2013	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 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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
						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.		
130910/10	To consider and approve the Housing Financial Assistance Policy	Cabinet	Yes	12 February 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN 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 Governance 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 Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Who will decide;

Cabinet; Councillor Paul Watson; Councillor Henry Trueman; Councillor Mel Speding; Councillor Pat Smith; Councillor Graeme Miller; Councillor John Kelly;
Councillor James Blackburn; Councillor Celia Gofton

Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance
8 October 2013

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report attaches, the work programme for the Committee’s work during the 2013/14 council year.
- 1.2 In delivering its work programme, the Scrutiny Committee will support the council in achieving its Corporate Outcomes.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.2 The first priority policy review topics commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee to the Scrutiny Panels are underway as follows:-

Remit	Policy Review Topic
Children’s Services	Child Obesity
City Services	Alcohol and Licensing Control
Health, Housing and Adult Services	Supporting Carers in the City
Public Health, Wellness and Culture	Patient Engagement
Responsive Services and Customer Care	Volunteering: Increasing Community Capacity
Skills, Economy and Regeneration	The Growth and Diversification of the Local Economy

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that took place at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 October 2013. The current work programme is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 At its last meeting the Committee agreed to consider the Housing Financial Assistance Policy prior to Cabinet. This will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 5 December 2013.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2013/14.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of any proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

Contact Officer: Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Coordinator
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REASON FOR INCLUSION	13 JUNE D/L 04.06.13	11 JULY D/L 02.07.13	12 SEPTEMBER D/L 03.09.13	10 OCTOBER D/L 01.10.13	7 NOVEMBER D/L 29.10.13	5 DECEMBER D/L 26.11.13	16 JANUARY D/L 07.01.14	13 FEBRUARY D/L 04.02.14	13 MARCH D/L 04.03.14	17 APRIL D/L 11.04.14
Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Portfolio Holder Response to Policy Reviews 2012/13 Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/2013 and First Revenue Review 2013/2014 Capital Programme Outturn 2012/2013 and First Capital Review 2013/2014 including Treasury Management	Portfolio Holder Response to Policy Reviews 2012/13 Youth Justice Plan 2013/14	Proposal for Budget Consultation 2014/15 Budget Planning Framework 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 – 2016/2017 Capital Programme Second Review 2013/14 Revenue Budget Second Review 2013/2014 Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/14			Revenue Budget 2014/15 Proposals Revenue Budget Third Review 2013/14 Capital Programme and Revenue Budget Second Review 2014/15 Children and Young People Plan-Annual Report 2012/13	Budget and Service Reports: Collection Fund 14/15 Revenue Budget & Proposed Council Tax 14/15 Capital Programme 14/15	Local Development Framework	
Scrutiny Business	Future Library Services Children's Services Scrutiny Panel: CAMHS Update Membership of Scrutiny Panels Commissioning the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14 Notice of Key Decisions	Final Draft of the Health Protocol Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Clinical Commissioning Group 'Better Health for Sunderland' Urgent Care Service Reform – Update on Progress Corporate Parenting Annual Report Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Sunderland Healthwatch Annual Audit Letter Integrated Wellness Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	City Hospitals Update Local Authority Trading Company Outcome of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Refresh Housing Financial Assistance Policy Children's Services Complaints Annual Report Scrutiny Response to the Francis Report Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy – Progress Annual Report – Director of Public Health 2013 Draft Final Policy Review Report: Alcohol and Licensing Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Safer Sunderland Partnership – key priorities and emerging issues Draft Final Policy Review Report: Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Member Development Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services Ofsted Inspection – Progress against Action Plan Outcome of the Peer Challenge – Adult Social Care Draft Final Policy Review Reports Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	South Tyneside Foundation Trust Quality Account Annual Monitoring the Delivery of Agreed Scrutiny Recommendations Draft Final Policy Review Reports Scrutiny Annual Report Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14
Lead Scrutiny Member Update		Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update

Substantial Variations to Service - Health										
CCFA/Members items/Petitions					Veterans – Health Inequalities					

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2013

JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

2. SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER UPDATE

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs David Tate and Norma Wright)

- 2.1 On 8 October 2013, the Chair and Vice Chair met with officers to discuss the forthcoming changes to leisure provision in Sunderland. The meeting specifically focused on scrutiny's future involvement in developing a strategic approach to increasing participation in physical activity, sport and leisure.
- 2.2 The Chair and Vice Chair also met with officers the following day to discuss the annual informal scrutiny budget consultation for 2014/15. It was agreed the meeting will be held on **10 December 2013, at 1.00pm until 3.00pm**. Further details will follow.
- 2.3 The Regional Scrutiny Network was held on 18 October 2013. Cllr Tate led the meeting for the first time in his role as the Chair of the Network. Members and officers received a regional report produced by the National Offender Management Service in relation to Reducing Reoffending in the North East: improving joint working between prisons and local authorities. It also heard from Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau in relation to the frontline perspective of the impact of Welfare Reform.
- 2.4 On 29 October 2013, the Lead Member for City Services attended a meeting of the South Tyneside Select Committee on behalf of the scrutiny function to hear a presentation from the Coal Authority about the proposed Aquifer at Whitburn. Durham colleagues were also present at this meeting which was an opportunity for Members to raise any queries they had regarding the Aquifer. The main concerns raised at the meeting were the potential environmental impact of the pumping facility on the sea and the surrounding land. The next phase of the programme will be to submit planning / licence applications in November 2013. This will be followed by a public consultation by the Environment Agency.

Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)

- 2.5 The Panel has recently met with officers from the local authority and City Hospitals Sunderland around the Sunderland Lifestyle, Activity & Food Programme and the Specialist Childhood Weight Management Service to

discuss the programmes and support provided to children identified as being overweight or obese. The meeting provided information for the review and illustrated how the local authority and hospital were working together across the city to tackle this issue.

- 2.6 The aim of both programmes is to promote and encourage, through a series of healthy lifestyle sessions, children and their families to eat well, become more active and live longer. The Panel noted that families often do not see the issue, do not address the problem and therefore are difficult to engage with through the support programmes.
- 2.7 The Panel are to visit the Stay and Bake Programme at the Tansy Centre in South Hylton. This is an interesting concept that provides an opportunity to engage and develop relationships with families through a cookery course, and this may provide a way to engage with families to acknowledge weight issues, where they exist, and access support.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.8 On 5 October 2013, the Panel met with representatives from the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) as part of its review into licensing and alcohol. In attendance were Lynne Thomas (SSCB Business Manager), Jan Van Wagendonk (SSCB Independent Chair) and Linda Mason (Chair of the SSCB Legal, Policy and Procedures Sub Committee).
- 2.9 The Panel discussed a range of issues including the level and effect of underage drinking on the health and behaviour of young people, together with the detrimental effect of parent who drink too much.
- 2.10 In relation to licensing, it was noted that the SSCB is a statutory consultee on any licensing applications. While the Board is asked to comment there was in practice unfortunately very little upon which they could comment due to a lack of information on safeguarding contained within applications. It was considered important that licensees had a wider understanding of the impact of excessive drinking on family life.
- 2.11 It was suggested that the Council should work with the SSCB and the police in order to put together a package of information that could be distributed to all licensees.
- 2.12 The Panel also received feedback on last year's policy review into Waste and Recycling in Sunderland: Approach to Resident Engagement. It was noted that a great deal of progress had already been made in implementing the report's recommendations.
- 2.13 The Panel took the opportunity to discuss the operation of the bulky waste collection service and existing levels of fly tipping. There was also some discussion around the time taken to order a new or replacement bin and the need to target communications with residents in order that they are clear about the standard of service they can expect. Overall, Members

referred to the very high quality of the waste and refuse collection service in Sunderland

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.14 The Panel continues to gather evidence around supporting carers and recently visited the newly opened St Benedict's Hospice in Ryhope. The hospice provides Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) that aims to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with life-threatening illness. The visit also highlighted how the hospice supports carers and their links with other organisations including the Carers' Centre. The hospice provides support to the population of Sunderland and North Easington (due to geographical location) and is fully funded by the NHS.
- 2.15 Members also discussed the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP), which had recently undergone an independent review of its use in England, brought about through substantial criticism in the media which had created a general unease with the public. It was noted that the LCP had been in use in Sunderland since 1999 and that it was to be phased out within the next six to 12 months.
- 2.16 The Panel's next meeting will be to review the evidence gathered so far and prepare for the expert jury day which is to be held in early December. The jury day will provide a large quantity of evidence from a range of stakeholders, captured in a single day.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.17 The Panel is looking into patient and public engagement (PPE) in the health service.
- 2.18 A meeting was held on 8 October to take evidence from the Patient Engagement lead at NHS England. NHS England is at the starting point of encouraging the development of new relationships between patients, carers and clinicians.
- 2.19 The Panel heard that patient engagement should be a strand of quality in its own right. The NHS Patient Engagement Framework is evidence-based which means that a large amount of evidence is collected to provide an overview of patient views. The Panel is still in the process of determining the extent to which this large volume of evidence is used to reflect patient views in service delivery.
- 2.20 Through NHS England, each Area Team will have high level Quality Surveillance Group which will share intelligence about health services thereby pooling PPE in one place. Added to this, the implementation of the Friends and Family Test is designed to help standardise the views of patients and relatives.

- 2.21 While there is a vast amount of information on patient views, the Panel is still trying to determine the weighting given to public views in shared decision making and will be continuing to collect evidence from providers.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.22 On 15 October 2013, the Panel held its meeting at the Evolve Business Centre, Rainton Bridge. As well as touring the building, Members had the opportunity to discuss with local firms the opportunities available for the Software and IT sector and the obstacles to future growth.
- 2.23 The meeting was attended by Anne Curtis, Creative Director at Shoo Fly Publishing, David Glyn (CEO/Development) and Claire Glyn (Marketing) at 4th Aspect and David Cliff, Managing Director of Gedanken.
- 2.24 A number of issues were raised during the meeting including the importance of the high quality infrastructure provided by the Centre, together with the prestige this brought when dealing with potential clients. The Centre also offered access to a highly skilled and committed workforce, good transport links and an attractive local environment.
- 2.25 Reference was made to the importance of promoting the Centre and making people aware of the facilities on offer. There was also a need to encourage the flow of information between the Council, the University and firms based at the Centre. It was felt that in many ways the software sector should be seen as a form of advanced manufacturing and its value should be better understood and championed. The quality of the city's cultural offer, housing and local environment was an important influence in attracting new business into the city. It was also important that the Council's procurement process took account and was accessible for smaller local companies.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)

- 2.26 The Panel is carrying out a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity.
- 2.27 The Panel met on 17 October to take evidence on the Council's approach to facilitating and promoting volunteering, including the use of volunteers to support delivery of Council services and the role of the Council in promoting volunteering opportunities in communities.
- 2.28 The Panel discussed volunteering opportunities for employees within the council. The current arrangement allows employees to gain learning credits in work time but the opportunities are not well known. Future arrangements through a revised strategy may include increasing the ways that employees can be involved in volunteering.

2.29 In terms of opportunities in communities, increasing the numbers of volunteers participating in priority activities will be a focus of the revised volunteering strategy. The Panel discussed young people's involvement in community life and, in particular, how the University supports students to integrate into the local community through volunteering opportunities. The Panel will focus on the role of young people at a future meeting.

3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

3.1 Non-executive Members have now been allocated to a scrutiny panel, membership of the panels has been decided in accordance with current political arrangements.

3.2 Scrutiny Panels are informal; therefore there is flexibility within the arrangements to revise Panel memberships at any point in the municipal year to reflect changes to Member capacity and other commitments.

3.3 There are no changes to report; therefore the complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 1** of this report.

4. DEDICATED SCRUTINY BUDGET

4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committee and the supporting Panels to deliver the agreed Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

4.2 As of 28 October 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	5,146.16
Member Development	2,282.59
Policy Review Development	0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	7,428.75
Budget	15,000
Remaining Budget	7571.25

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers
-

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0191 561 1233

APPENDIX 1

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIX SCRUTINY PANELS

<p style="text-align: center;">City Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Stephen Bonallie</p> <p>Cllr Neville Padgett Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Lynda Scanlan Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Amy Wilson Cllr Dianne Snowdon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Housing & Adult Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Christine Shattock</p> <p>Cllr Jill Fletcher Cllr Ronny Davison Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Darryl Dixon Cllr Lisa Smiles Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Gemma Taylor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Debra Waller</p> <p>Cllr Florence Anderson Cllr Linda Williams Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Robert Oliver Cllr Bob Francis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills, Economy & Regeneration</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Tom Martin</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr David Snowdon Cllr Denny Wilson Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Tom Wright Cllr Peter Wood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health, Wellness & Culture</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr David Errington Cllr Paul Maddison</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive Services & Customer Care</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Iain Kay</p> <p>Cllr Bob Heron Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Anne Lawson Cllr John Scott Cllr George Thompson Cllr John Wiper</p>

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF AN ITEM

7 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the inclusion of an additional item in the Scrutiny Committee work programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 Protocol 1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook provides a procedure for Members to follow when requesting items to be considered by a Scrutiny Committee (see also the Council's Constitution Part 4 Section 5 Rules of Procedures Paragraph 9).

3. Item Requested

- 3.1 Councillor Howe has requested consideration of the following item:

Ex-Services Personnel in Sunderland: Health Inequalities and delivering the Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive a presentation on current activities in relation to health inequalities around services for veterans and on delivering the Sunderland Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- 3.3 The Sunderland Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed in May 2012 and is a voluntary pledge of mutual support between the civilian community and its local armed forces community.
- 3.4 The local authority and the armed forces community will use their community covenant to:
 - Support the armed forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
 - Recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community
 - Encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces community into local life
 - Encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement
- 3.5 The Sunderland Armed Forces Network (SAFN) has been instrumental in working in the city to ensure that people are not disadvantaged as a result of service in the armed forces. SAFN works with Sunderland City

Council and its partners to deliver the aims of the Covenant. The SAFN will provide the Committee with a presentation on current progress.

4. Framework for Consideration of Submissions

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution and with Protocol 1, the Committee may choose to respond within the following framework:

- (1) The Scrutiny Committee may determine that the item is not relevant to the functions of the Committee. In these circumstances the Committee can resolve to take no action.
- (2) If the issue is linked to an existing work programme item (within the next two cycles) then it should be discussed as part of that item and included in any officer report.
- (3) If the issue is a new item of business, the Scrutiny Committee may:
 - (a) Request a response in writing (with copies to all Members of the Committee) or
 - (b) Request a presentation to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting, or
 - (c) Request a report to a future Panel meeting, or
 - (d) Decide that the issue raised does not merit any response beyond noting the matter, or
 - (e) Decide to express a view or make a recommendation if the Committee considers it has sufficient information to make a fully informed decision.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request and determine from the framework set out in Section 4 of this report which option to pursue.

6. Background Papers

Sunderland City Council Constitution
City of Sunderland Overview and Scrutiny Handbook

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