

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllrs Burrell, Dodds (Vice Chair), Guy, Hartnack, Jones, Leonard, Mason-Gage (Chair), Morrissey, Mullen, P. Smith, Thornton, Usher and Walton

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Part B – Scrutiny Business

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Part C – Health Substantial Variations to Service

No items.

Part D - CCFA/Members' Items/Petitions

No items.

E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
City Hall,
SUNDERLAND.

29th November 2023.

Item 2

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 9th NOVEMBER, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mason-Gage in the Chair.

Councillors Burrell, Curtis, Dodds, Guy, Jones, Leonard, Morrissey, P. Smith, Thornton, Usher and Walton.

Also in attendance:-

Alison Aisbitt, Adult Services Development Manager, Strategic Advice Services
Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

Richard Elliott, Business Development Manager, Community Resilience, Health, Housing and Communities

Helen Peverley, Area Arrangements Strategic Manager, Community Resilience, Health, Housing and Communities

Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny, Mayoral and Members Support Co-ordinator, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Directorate

Graham Scanlon, Assistant Director of Housing Services, Strategic Plans and Housing

Joanne Stewart, Principal Democratic Services Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited introductions.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hartnack and Mullen.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12th October 2023

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12th October, 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Cost of Living Crisis

The Assistant Director of Housing Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an overview of the action taken across the city to support resident financial wellbeing during the cost-of-living crisis.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Ms. Peverley and colleagues took Members through the report and attached presentation which covered a number of issues including:-

- Financial Wellbeing - the story so far;
- Current Actions and Focus;
- Understanding Lived Experience;
- Case Studies;
- Household Support Fund;
- Links for life; and
- Cost of Living – Ongoing Activities.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes.)

Members were informed that households in the UK had experienced a significant fall in living standards since late 2021; largely attributable to increased food, electricity and fuel costs. Members were taken through the presentation which provided an overview of the situation in Sunderland and outlined a number of current actions and activities taking place to support residents of the city during this difficult time.

The Chairman thanked Officers for the detailed and informative presentation and invited questions from the Committee.

Councillor Morrissey referred to the £5.35 million of Household Support Fund 4 and queried how much of this had been spent to date. Mr. Elliott advised that to the end of quarter two the Council had spent approximately £1.8 million; with the majority of the funding to be spent in the final two quarters of the financial year.

Councillor Curtis asked if there was criteria to meet for the allocation of funding as he had noticed that some foodbanks in the Washington area got less proportionate help than others. Mr. Elliott advised that at the start of the pandemic they were making offers which were fairly standard across the board but from earlier this year they had targeted the more dedicated foodbanks such as the Community Food Project or Mickey's Place who had received a larger amount of grant funding. They also provided fresh food deliveries to a range of organisations which helped meet some of the public health outcomes. The service were looking to provide targeted funding that would help address food poverty and insecurity around the city as there were a lot more residents using community pantries and stores that did not report to the Council.

In a follow up question, Councillor Curtis asked why the Warm and Welcome Spaces scheme was only starting in January, 2024 when the cold weather was already hitting and was informed by Ms. Peverley that they had only found out that they had secured the funding to continue the scheme in June, 2023. Following that news they had developed a call for projects which had been circulated to groups and organisations with a closing date for submissions at the end of September. They had been seriously oversubscribed, with sixty-seven applications having been received for just over £2 million of funding, and a lot of work had been undertaken to assess each application; with offer letters to those that were successful having been sent out this week. Officers would be meeting with providers on 23rd November, 2023 and if any were able to start offering the provision before Christmas then they could.

Councillor Smith referred to the anxiety that community groups were experiencing about support continuing for their buildings and spaces and Ms. Peverley advised that the voluntary and community sector, VCS, continued to be under extreme pressure and some of the buildings they used required repairs and/or had rising utility bills, which groups were struggling with. They were working with groups to help them access external funding streams where possible and to look to make buildings as low carbon as possible to help support them by looking at alternatives such as solar panels or new heating systems.

In response to a further question from Councillor Smith regarding the ongoing crisis in relation to the cost of living and the upcoming winter months and the capacity to support residents in the future, Ms. Aisbitt advised that there had been 7,000 people offered first tier advice in the first six months, which was about 1,500 more than the same period last year. The migration of residents from Tax Credits to Universal Credit would see some people better off financially and others not and she could see that this could be an issue in the increase of the amount of advice being sought as the migration in January, 2024 approached.

Mr. Elliott commented that foodbank usage figures over the last 3-4 months had been relevantly static but they were expecting demand to go up this year triggered by the ongoing cost of living pressures which was why they were looking at data sharing between foodbanks and advice providers to ensure people were getting support. They were now seeing a wider variety of people as rent and mortgages continued to increase and residents who had never needed the services in the past were now struggling.

Councillor Smith referred to the statement in the presentation which stated that people had a negative experience with authority and asked for an example and Ms. Patterson explained that many residents were anxious to reach out for support as it may have a detrimental effect on other household income they received. With some residents there was a fear of authority and it was important to break down that barrier by having conversations with them about their life and repairing that relationship.

Ms. Aisbitt added that as a matter of course people did not tend to challenge the DWP around particular benefits and sanctions so this was to be the basis for their next campaign. Again, there was a fear that it may take too long to complete the process or that it may have an effect on other benefits when there was little chance of success from a challenge but this was wrong and residents needed to be made more aware.

In response to a query from Councillor Usher on the Council's policy on eviction, Mr. Scanlon advised that each landlord in the city would have their own policies and arrangements for dealing with tenant rent arrears and evictions but that through the strategic registered providers housing association network meetings they had asked that they engage with the Council as early as possible in cases where they were intending to take action so that together they could work pro-actively to avoid eviction where possible. He was aware that the number of evictions of Gento tenants had reduced significantly this year and that they had introduced more support mechanisms to try and underpin the reasons as to why some tenants may be struggling with rent payments and support them.

Mr. Scanlon went on to advise that there was concern in relation to the private sector where residents could not afford increasing mortgage payments or were facing increasing rent rises, as they were not subject to the 7% increase in interest percentage cap that social housing landlords were. He went on to advise that they would normally see approximately 2,800 people move on from renting to buying their own home but this year they were not even expecting 2,000 as the ability for people to move on affordably was not there. There was a huge number of people requiring accommodation and the supply was coming through but just not at the rate that was needed. When the interest rates come down in the future, the rent would not reduce in line with that, and some landlords may be looking at issuing Section 21 notices, which the Council had limited control over, but they would try to mitigate and prevent evictions where possible.

In response to a comment from Councillor Walton regarding residents having access to face to face money advice support, Ms. Aisbitt advised that the largest provider in the city was the Citizen's Advice Sunderland, which were funded by the Money Advice and Pensions Services, but they were reporting that the contract of over £3 million was not enough. The Council may need to look at specifically funding some advice going forward but they had tried to widen access through the Money Advice Network (MAN) but this was a virtual service via telephone and MS Teams. They were trying to get as many who could access the service in that way to do so and save the face to face provision for particularly vulnerable people who needed it.

In a follow up question regarding advocates dealing with issues on behalf of others, Ms. Aisbitt commented that it was not as easy as it may have been before and they had residents who lacked capacity that they wanted to refer into MAN with the financial safeguarding team to speak on their behalf but this had not been thought of so needed investigating further by them to allow it.

Mr. Scanlon commented that the consequences and impact on health of a lot of the issues raised at the meeting were that they had seen increases in suicide rates and domestic abuse and a whole range of factors contributing to a lot of the crisis residents were facing who had never been in this position before that they needed to be conscious of.

Councillor Thornton raised concerns over the hard to reach residents who did not access any of the warm spaces or voluntary organisations and asked what assurances could be given that they were contacted and given advice on the offers that were available to them. Mr. Scanlon commented that there would never be a perfect solution but advised that the Council could provide all of the data sets and information but sometimes it comes back to the community who could be the unlocking of that and helping to work with the Council to share details of where support was available from.

When asked if posters were sent out to the VCS, sharing information of the services they provided, Ms. Aisbitt advised that they did and they chose to commission with the VCS advice providers because of their reach and they were able to access other funding sources to offer bespoke advice and publicity materials for particular client groups and benefits.

Councillor Dodds asked if the migration to Universal Credit would see residents without benefits and struggling and Ms. Aisbitt advised that Mr. Elliott was working with colleagues in housing benefits to see if they could identify numbers of people it

may affect and based on historic figures they did not think there would be more than a couple of thousand residents. Mr. Elliott commented that the migration was expected January through March and those affected would receive a letter inviting them to claim within a certain timescale and they were looking to provide some specific, bespoke client chasing and awareness raising around the issue to help them navigate the change as smoothly as possible.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked Officers for their attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching, for Members' information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2023/24 and which provided an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Nigel Cummings having presented the report, updating Members on the current position regarding the Work Programmes of the Scrutiny Committees, it was :-

3. RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committees' work programmes for 2023/24 and the variations to these work programmes be noted, together with the current scrutiny budget position.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator 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 11th October, 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Consideration was given to the report and it was:-

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting, having thanked everyone for their attendance.

(Signed) K. MASON-GAGE,
Chairman.

Item 4

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PLANNING 2024/2025 TO 2027/2028

Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek the views of this Committee on a report of the Director of Finance which was considered by Cabinet on 9 November 2023 which detailed:
 - an update to Cabinet on the level of capital resources and commitments for the forthcoming financial year within the current approved capital programme; and
 - additional capital new start project proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024.
- 1.2 Members' views are requested in accordance with the Budget and PolicyFramework Procedure Rules.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet Agenda for 9 November 2023 is available online to all Members of the Council. The Cabinet approved the additional new start capital project proposals set out in this report for inclusion in the full capital programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The matter at 2.1 is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 18 January 2024.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee is invited to give advice and consideration to Council on the report of the Director of Finance.

Background Papers

- 4.2 Cabinet Agenda, 9 November 2023.

A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Assistant Director of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at: -

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/11094/Committee/1953/Default.aspx>

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CABINET MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

<p>Title of Report: Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 to 2027/2028</p>	
<p>Author(s): Director of Finance</p>	
<p>Purpose of Report: The purpose of the report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To update Cabinet on the level of capital resources and commitments for the forthcoming financial year within the current approved capital programme; and To set out additional capital new start project proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024. 	
<p>Description of Decision: Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the additional new start capital project proposals set out in this report for inclusion in the full capital programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024. 	
<p>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? No – this report is integral in reviewing and amending the Budget and Policy Framework</p>	
<p>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</p>	
<p>Suggested reason(s) for Decision: To comply with statutory requirements</p>	
<p>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: No alternative options are submitted for Cabinet consideration.</p>	
<p>Impacts analysed;</p> <p>Equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Privacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes</p>	
<p>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

CABINET – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PLANNING 2024/2025 TO 2027/2028

Report of the Director of Finance

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- To update Cabinet on the level of capital resources and commitments for the forthcoming financial year within the current approved capital programme; and
- To set out additional capital new start project proposals for inclusion in the Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024.

2. Description of Decision

2.1 Cabinet is asked to:

- Approve the additional capital project proposals set out in this report for inclusion in the full capital programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024.

3. Background

3.1 The Council's Capital Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in October 2023. The strategy provides the framework within which the Council's capital investment plans will be prioritised and delivered. The strategy is reviewed annually to capture any required updates including emerging changes to Council priorities encapsulated within the City Plan and the refresh of key financial indicators.

3.2 The Council currently has an ambitious capital programme, with investment of £623m profiled over the period 2023/2024 to 2027/2028. The delivery of the City Plan, which will drive transformation and economic regeneration in the City, will require further capital investment by the Council as detailed within this report.

3.3 While the financial position and future spending commitments continue to be managed closely, the Council still has significant and ambitious growth plans that will benefit the city, its residents, its businesses, and other stakeholders.

4. Existing Capital Programme 2023/2024 to 2027/2028

4.1 The current capital programme (as detailed in the Second Capital Review report presented to Cabinet in October), commits substantial resources over the five years to 2027/2028. The programme was approved with the aim of delivering on the priorities set out in the City Plan. The value of the capital programme investment totals £623.376m across the 5 years as summarised below:

Expenditure by Portfolio	Gross Cost £'000	Expend. to 31.3.23 £'000	Estimated Payments				
			2023/2024 £'000	2024/2025 £'000	2025/2026 £'000	2026/2027 £'000	2027/2028 £'000
Deputy Leader and Clean Green City	273,749	134,838	38,542	70,987	27,422	1,960	0
Cabinet Secretary	91,024	46,130	12,648	11,360	12,049	8,837	0
Children's Learning and Skills	72,980	46,843	15,993	4,224	5,920	0	0
Dynamic City	617,225	272,927	133,333	73,541	46,001	61,291	30,132
Healthy City	24,484	13,809	6,762	3,663	250	0	0
Vibrant City	83,109	24,648	17,355	25,838	7,699	7,569	0
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	1,162,571	539,195	224,633	189,613	99,341	79,657	30,132
			← 623,376 →				

The current programme is funded as follows:

Funding Source	Total	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Prudential Borrowing	470,035	119,859	161,836	88,140	70,068	30,132
Capital Receipts	7,153	3,210	2,382	1,561	0	0
Reserves and Revenue	19,324	15,562	3,712	50	0	0
External Funding	126,864	86,002	21,683	9,590	9,589	0
Total	623,376	224,633	189,613	99,341	79,657	30,132

5. Additional Capital Project Proposals 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Framework for Considering Priority Projects

- 5.1 The Chief Officer Group take forward the development of projects and ensure appropriate prioritisation and oversight. The role of this Group, which consists of senior officers, is to:
- Co-ordinate the development of capital projects to meet future strategic requirements, aligned to Council priorities and the City Plan; and
 - Prioritise new capital proposals and variations to existing projects within the context of available resources and the strategic priorities, prior to making recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.
- 5.2 The current Capital Strategy, approved by Cabinet in October 2023, has been updated to reflect; the priorities included within the City Plan, the latest capital investment and debt ratios, and a refresh of the investment forecasts over the longer term.
- 5.3 The Capital Strategy provides the framework within which the Council's capital investment plans are prioritised and delivered. The capital priorities are aligned to the City Plan "Sunderland 2019-2030" priorities of:
- Sunderland will be a **dynamic smart city**. This includes a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all; more and better jobs; more local people with better qualifications and skills; a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities; and more and better housing;
 - Sunderland will be a **healthy smart city**. This includes reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives; access to equitable opportunities and life chances; people enjoying

independent lives; great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all; and a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood; and

- Sunderland will be a **vibrant smart city**. This includes more resilient people; more people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods; more residents participating in their communities; and more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities.

In addition, a continuing priority for the Council is to deliver the best possible services and support to our residents, with a focus on long term benefits for our children and young people.

5.4 Whilst primarily supporting the above priorities, the Council will also continue to seek to maximise the return on investment through:

- Generating savings or supporting the avoidance of additional revenue costs;
- Growing the Council's income base i.e. fees and charges, business rates and council tax;
- Seeking a commercial return; and
- Generating and supporting funding opportunities which encourages and levers in private sector investment and other funding into the city.

6. Additional Capital Project Proposals 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 - Resources Available

6.1 Resources - Grants

The Council has been successful in securing several key funding streams in recent years to support the City Plan for various projects across the City; these include Future High Streets Fund, Transforming Cities Fund, Housing Infrastructure Fund, Getting Building Fund, Active Travel Fund, Homes England funding for social housing, Levelling Up Round 1 and 2 Funds, Public Sector / Social Housing Decarbonisation funds, Brownfield Land Release Fund to support new housing, Changing Places Fund, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funds as well as from other grant funding streams including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Opportunities for external grant will continue to be targeted to support the delivery of future investment in the city.

As in previous years, it is anticipated that resources allocated in respect of Transport (including via the new City Region Sustainable Transport Fund – CRSTF), Disabled Facilities Grant and Education specific purpose grants will be allocated to those services areas. These grants, in the main, support recurring capital maintenance activity and as such are not included in the detailed new starts section of this report. An update of future years' grant allocations and their proposed use will be provided to Cabinet as part of the Capital Programme report in February 2024 based upon the information available at that time.

6.2 Resources – Capital Receipts and Reserves

The Council continues to market sites for sale to maximise capital receipts and support operational requirements. Capital receipts are only earmarked once they have been realised, or where they have been included as part of any capital project financial plan as part of the overall business case. They have the potential to be required to fund transformation costs arising from implementation of savings programmes, drawing on Government flexibilities on the use of capital receipts to support such costs. Any realised capital receipts not required to fund transformation costs are considered for use to support the funding of the Capital Programme to reduce borrowing requirements.

Available reserves are being utilised to support the current revenue and capital plans and are scheduled to reduce over the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period. Reserves which become available are considered for use to support the funding of the Capital Programme to reduce borrowing requirements.

S106 Reserves - Upon confirmation of S106 agreements with developers, monies received are held in reserves until detailed plans on use of the funding are developed in accordance with the requirements outlined in the S106 agreements. Once developed, the projects are brought into the Capital Programme at the appropriate time. Typical uses include the development / improvement of play provision, educational assets, highways infrastructure, affordable housing, public open spaces and ecological improvements.

6.3 Resources – Capital Expenditure charged to Revenue Account (CERA)

At present there is minimal specific budget provision for revenue contributions to support capital expenditure.

6.4 Resources – Borrowing

The Council can fund its capital expenditure through additional prudential borrowing. Additional borrowing results in additional debt charges which must be affordable within the revenue budget planning with appropriate provision included within the base budget and MTFP.

The Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan Report, approved by Cabinet on 12th October 2023 includes sufficient provision for capital financing charges that may arise following Cabinet approval of the additional new project proposals set out within this report.

In line with past practice, it is proposed to use the funding flexibly, with the option to switch borrowing with surplus capital receipts once they are realised. This would reduce planned capital finance charges that may arise from this borrowing.

6.5 Resources – Other Funding – Enterprise Zones

The Council has three Enterprise Zone sites: IAMP, A19 Ultra Low Carbon Zone and part of the Port of Sunderland. All the business rates growth generated on these Enterprise Zones for their 25-year life are payable to the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This resource is then distributed by the North East LEP to meet / contribute to the capital financing costs of the infrastructure works associated with those zones delivered through the Council's Capital Programme.

7. Additional Capital Project Proposals 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 - Detail

7.1 The following suite of additional projects, categorised by Portfolio, are proposed for inclusion in the capital programme for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 with further details set out in Appendix 1. The profiling of proposed projects will be reviewed and refined, and any updates will be reflected in the capital programme to be reported to Cabinet in February 2024.

Appendix 1 Ref	Project Name	Total Project Spend	Spend 2024/25	Spend Future Years	External Funding	Council Provision in Current Capital Programme	Additional Council Funding
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Deputy Leader and Clean Green City							
1.1.1	Redevelopment of Bishopwearmouth Crematorium	15.646	0.429	15.217	0.000	7.415	8.231
1.1.2	Herrington Country Park - Car Parking	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.900
1.1.3	Regulatory Services Infrastructure	0.340	0.240	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.340
Total		16.886	1.569	15.317	0.000	7.415	9.471
Cabinet Secretary							
1.2.1	Replacement of Coalfields Depot	12.750	0.611	12.139	0.000	6.492	6.258
Total		12.750	0.611	12.139	0.000	6.492	6.258
Children's and Learning Skills							
1.3.1	Relocation of Barbara Priestman Academy	8.000	0.000	8.000	1.998	0.000	6.002
1.3.2	SEND Transport – EV Minibus	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.200
Total		8.200	0.200	8.000	1.998	0.000	6.202
Dynamic City							
1.4.1	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation	10.000	2.350	7.650	3.000	0.000	7.000
1.4.2	Sunniside Leisure	2.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000
1.4.3	Former Joplings Building	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
Total		13.000	5.350	7.650	3.000	0.000	10.000
Healthy City							
1.5.1	Farnborough Court Intermediate Care Centre Refurbishment	0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.750
1.5.2	Barnes Park Coffee Stop Café - Conversion of the Building	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.150
Total		0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.900
Vibrant City							
1.6.1	Leisure Facilities	6.102	1.503	4.599	0.075	0.000	6.027
Total		6.102	1.503	4.599	0.075	0.000	6.027
TOTAL OF INVESTMENT PROPOSALS		57.838	10.133	47.705	5.073	13.907	38.858

7.2 The proposed additional new projects total £57.838m (£10.133m in 2024/2025 and £47.705m in future years). Of the total £57.838m:

- £5.073m is expected to be funded by external grants and contributions;
- £13.907m is existing Council funding already included in the current capital programme; and
- The remaining balance of £38.858m is to be met from available Council resources, following approval of the Budget Planning Framework Report and Medium-Term Financial Plan by Cabinet in October 2023.

It is important to note that:

- Some capital projects included in the table above will be subject to the positive outcomes of external grant funding bids;
- Some of the above investment is anticipated to be recouped through either S106 or commercial arrangements over time; and
- Some investments are linked to the generation of savings to support the revenue budget.

Planned funding sources for individual capital schemes may be subject to amendment to achieve best value to the Council and ensure the capital programme continues to be prudent, affordable and sustainable into future years, and within overall borrowing limits whilst still retaining flexibility.

7.3 Further Reports

Following approval of new project budget allocations by Council in February 2024, and in accordance with the Council's Constitution, prior to the commencement of project works, details of all new schemes must be subject to a full capital investment appraisal. Those schemes with an estimated cost more than £0.500m must be reported for approval to Cabinet before commencement of the scheme.

8. Reasons for Decision

8.1 To comply with statutory requirements.

9. Alternative Options

9.1 No alternative options are submitted for Cabinet's consideration.

10. Impact Analysis

10.1 Impact assessments will be undertaken by Directorates to ensure programmes are delivered within budget.

11. List of Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 - Capital New Start / Additional Investment Proposals 2024/2025 to 2027/2028.

12. Background Papers

12.1 Cabinet Report – 12th October 2023 - Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 – 2027/2028.

Capital New Start / Additional Investment Proposals 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

The following projects are proposed for inclusion in the 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 capital programme. Gross amounts represent the total estimated project cost. For projects with other external or other funding provision, the net amounts represent the estimated net increase in Council financial investment.

1.1 Deputy Leader and Clean Green City New Start Proposals

1.1.1 Redevelopment of Bishopwearmouth Crematorium - £15.646m gross, £8.231m net (£7.415m existing provision)

The project supersedes the Crematorium Replacement Project included in the Council's current capital programme. It will focus on the refurbishment and remodelling of the existing Bishopwearmouth Crematorium. The project includes replacement of the existing stock of cremators, creation of a second chapel, increased on-site parking facilities, revitalising the current landscaping scheme and introduction of a series of carbon reduction methods to support cleaner and more efficient operations. The project includes elements of selective demolition, new build and refurbishment. The ongoing requirement to deliver an operational crematorium facility for the city during the build dictates a longer build time than under a full closure. Appropriate phasing of works will be coordinated to support the ongoing operational requirement of the facility during the construction period. The provision of a second chapel will support continuing operations during construction, provide increased capacity, as well as protection of service should one chapel need to temporarily close.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priorities:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood

1.1.2 Herrington Country Park - Car Parking - £0.900m gross.

Herrington Country Park has significant usage and has continued to increase with the addition of Love Lilly and events at the park. The existing parking provision is considered inadequate, leading to inconsiderate parking on grassed areas. This in turn affects the aesthetics of the park due to the damage to verges as a result of the parking demands. It is therefore proposed to improve and expand the existing car park by the café at top of park and also provide new parking next to the skate park. The total additional parking spaces is estimated at 67.

The investment will directly benefit residents in Coalfields and also to residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood
- Vibrant Smart City: more residents participating in their communities
- Vibrant Smart City: more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities.

1.1.3 Regulatory Services Infrastructure - £0.340m gross.

Provision of necessary infrastructure to allow Regulatory Services to fulfil statutory requirements. This will include new public spaces protection orders signage, city centre re-deployable CCTV cameras, an antisocial behaviour case management system and noise monitoring equipment.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priorities:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood
- Vibrant Smart City: more people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods
- Vibrant Smart City: more resilient people.

1.2 Cabinet Secretary New Start Proposals

1.2.1 Replacement of Coalfields Depot - £12.750m gross, £6.258m net (£6.492m existing provision)

The existing Houghton Depot is in poor condition, does not effectively meet current operational need and has poor energy and cost efficiency. As such the site is no longer considered to be fit for purpose. The scheme will provide a new purpose-built, fit-for-purpose depot to replace the existing Houghton Depot in line with the Council's Asset Management Strategy. It will incorporate the latest low carbon technologies including the introduction of locality-based vehicle charging facilities to support the strategic directive and operational transition to a carbon neutral Council fleet - opportunities will be explored to access low carbon grants should any appropriate funding opportunities arise. It will be occupied by the Council and provide the following services for the Coalfields area and its residents:

- Winter Maintenance (including a covered salt barn) / gritters
- Refuse Collection (domestic/recycling/bulky waste)
- Local Services (street cleansing / grounds maintenance / parks)
- Arbour services.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priorities:

The investment will directly benefit residents in Coalfields and also to residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all

- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood
- Healthy Smart City: great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all.

1.3 Children’s Learning and Skills New Start Proposals

1.3.1 Relocation of Barbara Priestman Academy - £8.000m gross, £6.002m net (£1.998m external funding)

The proposal will relocate the Barbara Priestman Academy from its current site at Ashbrooke and the buildings currently occupied on a short-term lease at Thornhill Academy to the site that will be vacated by Thorney Close Primary School in 2026. Barbara Priestman currently provides 180 of the city’s special school places for pupils with Autism.

The project will include a full refurbishment of the school buildings at the current Thorney Close Primary School, adaptations to ensure children with learning difficulties and disabilities are suitably catered for and extension of the current buildings to provide additional ASD (autism spectrum disorder) places for the city. It will provide for both the city’s 11-16 cohort and the 16 – 25-year-old 6th form population (currently accommodated in temporary leased facilities at another local secondary setting).

The Council has retained around £2m from its High Needs Capital allocation, included in current capital programme, to invest in local SEN (special educational needs) facilities. This funding will be allocated to support this development, alongside any additional future SEN funding allocations to minimise any Council borrowing costs.

As part of the proposal Barbara Priestman would vacate its main teaching block buildings at Meadowside, Ashbrooke. The specialist teaching block at the site, constructed in 2014, would be retained as a SEN facility with associated outdoor space. This would enable the city to accommodate an additional 24 pupils with SEN. The remainder of the site would be declared surplus and made available for alternative, non-educational use, or development.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more local people with better qualifications and skills
- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Vibrant Smart City: more resilient people.

1.3.2 SEND Transport – EV Minibus - £0.200m gross

There is a statutory requirement to provide Home to School Transport (HTST) for children with additional needs. This proposal is for provision of two electric, wheelchair accessible, minibuses and suitable EV charging posts. The buses will be leased, following a tender exercise, to a local Community Transport (CT) organisation for a nominal sum. The CT will then deliver

agreed HTST routes whilst being able to utilise the vehicles to support other community uses.

The project will assist with reducing the costs of the current HTST service and also support the wider Sunderland ambition in its Net Zero target by 2030. By procuring electric, over diesel, vehicles the project would directly align with the Low Carbon Action Plan.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all
- Vibrant Smart City: more resilient people.

1.4 Dynamic City New Start Proposals

1.4.1 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation - £10.000m gross, £7.000m net (£3.000m external funding)

The Council has a statutory duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), to provide appropriate, needs-led provision of safer accommodation for domestic abuse (DA) victims (and their children). This proposal is for the provision of a new 'central hub' accommodation solution replacing current refuge facilities and deliver best practice accommodation in the city, with support of estimated £3m funding from Homes England.

The aim is to reduce the number of DA victims (and their children) unable to access refuge provision as a result of their personal circumstances and/or protected characteristics, to reduce the proportion of repeat DA victims (and their children) requiring refuge provision and to increase the proportion of DA victims (and their children) who report improved health and wellbeing outcomes following a refuge placement.

It is anticipated that this provision would provide financial benefits including through accommodation efficiencies compared to existing provision.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more and better housing
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- Healthy Smart City: people enjoy independent lives
- Vibrant Smart City: more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities
- Vibrant Smart City: more people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods.

1.4.2 Sunnyside Leisure - £2.000m gross

Following the acquisition of the Sunnyside Leisure property early 2023 and the subsequent administration of Empire Cinemas, funding is sought for the refurbishment and fit-out of the cinema and the three adjoining vacant retail units in order to attract new tenants to support the regeneration of the area. Discussions are progressing with a number of potential tenants for these units however it is likely that some form of landlord fit-out contribution will be required. In addition, to support these improvements as well as the emerging Sunnyside masterplan works will also be undertaken to renovate and refurbish the Sunnyside Multi-storey car park to provide a more welcoming arrival point.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will support economic regeneration in the City Centre and will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more and better jobs
- Dynamic Smart City: stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities
- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood
- Vibrant Smart City: more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities.

1.4.3 Former Joplings Building- £1.000m

Building works identified in the building condition survey commissioned as part of the acquisition, are required to make improvements to the aesthetic appearance of the building and to support a long-term investment strategy aligned to the regeneration of the city centre.

The investment will support economic regeneration in the City Centre and will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more and better jobs
- Dynamic Smart City: more and better housing
- Dynamic Smart City: stronger city centre with more businesses, housing and cultural opportunities
- Healthy Smart City: a cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood
- Vibrant Smart City: more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities.

1.5 Healthy City New Start Proposals

1.5.1 Farmborough Court Intermediate Care Centre Refurbishment - £0.750m gross

Farmborough Court Intermediate Care Centre is a purpose-built service which provides up to 42 beds to support adults from the age of 18 who are recovering from illness or injury and has been in operational for over 20 years. The purpose of the service is to support customers who would benefit from a

short period of up to 12 weeks with an intense period of rehabilitation to enable customers to get back to their base line, regain skills and confidence and plan for them to return home living in the community. The service is provided free of charge and benefits from an in-house team of experienced and qualified care team as well as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and social workers, and the service is key to support hospital discharges. It is proposed to modernise and refurbish the building to enhance the facilities and provide a building which is fit for purpose and can meet the aspirations of the service. Improvements will include refurbishment of the bedrooms and en suite facilities as well as to the kitchens and other communal areas.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more and better jobs
- Dynamic Smart City: more and better housing
- Dynamic Smart City: more local people with better qualifications and skills
- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- Healthy Smart City: people enjoy independent lives
- Vibrant Smart City: more residents participating in their communities
- Vibrant Smart City: more people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods
- Vibrant Smart City: more resilient people.

1.5.2 Barnes Park Coffee Stop Café - Conversion of the Building - £0.150m gross

It is proposed to convert the Barnes Park Coffee Stop Café building to enhance facilities with improvements to both the lower and first floor as well as a conservatory extension. The refurbishment will include the upgrade and expansion of the catering area, an improved seating area by extending the front of the building to increase capacity to 30 diners, provision of a storage facility, and the development on the first floor of an airconditioned refrigeration room, meeting room and office.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will directly benefit residents in West Sunderland and also to residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: more local people with better qualifications and skills
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: people enjoy independent lives
- Vibrant Smart City: more residents participating in their communities
- Vibrant Smart City: more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing and participating in cultural events, programmes and activities.

1.6 Vibrant City New Start Proposals

1.6.1 Leisure Facilities - £6.102m gross, £6.027m net (£0.075m external funding)

It is proposed to invest into a series of improvements at leisure facilities across the city to ensure a financially sustainable leisure provision, that provides significant contribution to the vision for establishing “An Active Sunderland – a city where everyone is as active as they can be. In addition, this investment will ensure the leisure provision meets its statutory obligations with lifecycle maintenance, and that the standard of the leisure offers meets the needs of the customers as well as reduce the carbon footprint of the leisure facilities and contribute to the goal of net zero by 2035. Improvements include:

- Gym refurbishments - replace all equipment and change the layout/branding of the facilities at all the of the facilities,
- Silksworth Athletics Track - replace the track and add a fence to protect track from vandalism,
- Changing room refurbishments – upgrades at Sunderland Aquatic Centre, Silksworth Tennis Centre, Hetton, Houghton, Raich Carter, Washington & Silksworth Ski,
- Mechanical & electrical lifecycle works to the Sunderland Aquatic Centre, and
- Energy saving - LED light replacement for outdoor courts, installation of Solar PV at Hetton, Raich Carter and Silksworth Tennis.

The delivery of works will be undertaken by Everyone Active, the Council’s partner in delivering leisure services. The investment values above are the contributions to Everyone Active from Council resources as well as any grants that the Council may secure to support this project. At this stage, a contribution of £0.075m funding is anticipated from UK Athletics for Silksworth Athletics Track and a bid for further funding will be made to support the energy saving works. Everyone Active will provide £2.118m funding bringing the total expected investment to £8.220m.

Area Outcomes / Benefits and Contribution to Strategic Priority:

The investment will benefit residents city-wide, and will contribute to the following strategic priorities:

- Dynamic Smart City: a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Healthy Smart City: access to equitable opportunities and life chances
- Healthy Smart City: reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives
- Healthy Smart City: people enjoy independent lives
- Vibrant Smart City: more residents participating in their communities
- Vibrant Smart City: more resilient people.

Item 5

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 7 DECEMBER 2023

**BUDGET PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN
2024/2025 – 2027/2028**

Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek the views of this Committee on a report of the Director of Finance to be considered by Cabinet on 7 December 2023 which:

- Provides an update, since the Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) report to Cabinet in October 2023, on the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term;
- Sets out the updated headlines and context for the MTFP 2024/2025 to 2027/2028;
- Sets out provisional budget savings proposals for 2024/2025 to assist in meeting the current budget gap, as a basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025; and
- Sets out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2024/2025.

1.2 Members' views are requested in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

2. Background and Current Position

2.1 The Cabinet Agenda for 7 December 2023 is available online to all Members of the Council.

2.2 The Cabinet is recommended to agree: -

- To note the summary MTFP set out at section 3 of the report and note that the full MTFP 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 will be presented to Cabinet in February 2024; and
- To approve the provisional additional budget savings proposals, as a basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025.

2.3 Recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 7 December will be reported verbally to the meeting.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report is referred to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for its comments, in the context of the approved consultation arrangements for the Council's Budget. Comments from the Scrutiny Committee will be reported back to Cabinet.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is invited to give its comments to Cabinet on the attached report of the Director of Finance.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 7 December 2023.
- 5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Assistant Director of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at: -

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/11095/Committee/1953/Default.aspx>

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CABINET MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET- PART I

Title of Report:

Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 – 2027/2028

Author(s):

Director of Finance

Purpose of Report:

This report:

- Provides an update, since the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) report to Cabinet in October 2023, on the key factors influencing the development of the Council’s financial plans into the medium term;
- Sets out the updated headlines and context for the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/2025 to 2027/2028;
- Sets out the provisional budget savings proposals for 2024/2025 to assist in meeting the current budget gap, as a basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025; and
- Sets out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2024/2025.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the summary MTFP set out at section 3 of the report and note that the full MTFP 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 will be presented to Cabinet in February 2024; and
- approve the provisional additional budget savings proposals, as the basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes, it is seeking to inform a future decision to change the Budget and Policy Framework for 2024/2025.

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

- Adoption of the Budget Planning Framework forms an essential part of the process of the preparation and compilation of the Revenue Budget for 2024/2025; and
- To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the Revenue Budget to be met.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Impacts analysed:	
Equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?	Yes
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?	Yes
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions	Yes

**BUDGET PLANNING FRAMEWORK AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL
PLAN 2024/2025 – 2027/2028**

Director of Finance

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report:

- Provides an update, since the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) report to Cabinet in October 2023, on the key factors influencing the development of the Council's financial plans into the medium term;
- Sets out the updated headlines and context for the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/2025 to 2027/2028;
- Sets out the provisional budget savings proposals for 2024/2025 to assist in meeting the current budget gap, as a basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025; and
- Sets out the consultation / communication strategy for the budget 2024/2025.

2. Description of Decision

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the summary MTFP set out at section 3 of the report and note that the full MTFP 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 will be presented to Cabinet in February 2024; and
- approve the provisional additional budget savings proposals, as the basis for budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025.

3. Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/2024 to 2026/2027

3.1. The MTFP 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 was approved by Council in March 2023 as part of the 2023/2024 budget setting process. The MTFP is continually updated to reflect changing circumstances and latest known information. This report provides a further update on the MTFP since the Budget Planning Framework and MTFP report was presented to Cabinet on 12 October 2023. The full MTFP 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 will be presented to Cabinet in February 2024.

3.2. Given the ongoing significant uncertainties relating to Government funding, economic turbulence including significant inflation and future pressures on Council services, the focus of this report is on the 2024/2025 budget. Key points to note since the October Cabinet report, which impact on Budget Planning for 2024/2025 and beyond are set in section 3.3 below.

3.3. Post October Cabinet Update

- 3.3.1 Since the last update to Cabinet in October, the Chancellor announced his Autumn Statement on 22nd November 2023. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) outlook for the economy and public finances was published alongside the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.
- 3.3.2 The Russian invasion of the Ukraine has created significant uncertainty in the global economy, particularly in energy markets leading to significant cost increases. Whilst energy prices have fallen from their peak, they remain considerably higher than before the invasion and together with other rises have led to an unavoidable increase in the cost of living in the UK and significant rises in inflation levels.
- 3.3.3 Following Base Rate rises at fourteen consecutive meetings of the Bank of England's (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) through to August 2023, the MPC voted at its September meeting (5 to 4) to retain the Base Rate at its current level of 5.25%. At the November MPC the vote was 6 to 3 to keep the Base rate at 5.25%, with three members preferring to increase the Base Rate by 0.25 percentage points, to 5.5%.
- 3.3.4 Annual CPI inflation dropped to 4.6% in the year to October 2023. The reduction from September (6.7%) reflected last October's sharp rise in domestic electricity and gas prices dropping out of the annual comparison window to be replaced by a fall this October in line with the latest Ofgem energy price cap reduction. Inflation remains far higher than the BoE target of 2%.
- 3.3.5 The UK unemployment for April to June 2023 increased by 0.3% on the quarter to 4.2% and subsequently rose to 4.3% in July 2023 and remains at that level at the end of September 2023. The increase was largely attributable to people unemployed for up to 6 months.
- 3.3.6 Following the recommendations of the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC), the Chancellor confirmed in the Autumn Statement that the headline National Living Wage (NLW) rate will increase by c. 9.8% to £11.44 an hour from 1 April 2024 and apply to those aged 21 and over. The Real Living Wage foundation confirmed an increase of 10% to £12.00 per hour for the real living wage from 1st May 2024.

3.4. Central Government Funding for Local Government

- 3.4.1 The Chancellor delivered the Autumn Statement to Parliament on 22nd November 2023 a week later than for 2022 meaning that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is highly unlikely to be any earlier than the previous year (19th December). The key aspects relating to local government finance include:

Core Spending Power

- 3.4.2 The delayed Fair Funding Review and amendments to the Business Rates retention model were due to be implemented in 2021/2022. One of the consequences of this delay is the accumulated Business Rates growth within the current system that should have been redistributed into a new baseline when Fair Funding and Business Rates Retention was introduced remains as is. This funding currently resides with those authorities generating this growth rather than

being redistributed as part of a baseline reset. It is expected that a redistribution would benefit Sunderland, all other things being equal. It is not anticipated that this issue will be addressed as part of the Local Government Settlement planned for this year.

- 34.3 The position will be kept under review; at this stage the timing and outcome of any review is too uncertain to specifically include within the MTFP. The Council will, as and when required, make the case for redistribution of this growth.

Revenue Support Grant (RSG)

- 34.4 Given the delay in the implementation of a revised Business Rates Retention Scheme, RSG is likely to be retained in 2024/2025. Funding increases are generally linked to September CPI which was published on 18th October 2023. Pending any final confirmation, the MTFP assumes an inflationary increase of 6.7% for 2024/2025.

Social Care Funding

- 34.5 Members may recall that the 2023/2024 settlement allowed for the continuation of a number of Social Care grants and further Social Care Support Grant. This additional funding, whilst welcome, fails to provide both the certainty and level of funding required to meet the continued cost pressures being experienced within Social Care, driven by demographic, inflationary and workforce retention challenges.
- 34.6 Social Care Grant - Repurposing of funding previously earmarked by the Government for Social Care Charging Reforms of £1.345bn nationally in 2023/2024 and a further £0.532m in 2024/2025. The Chancellor announced the postponement of the Social Care reforms plans from October 2023 to October 2025. This earmarked funding is provided to assist councils to meet their mounting financial pressures in both adults and children's social care delivery. It is unclear how the reforms, which have been delayed until October 2025, will subsequently be funded. From this allocation the Council is expected to receive £13.867m in 2024/2025 (an increase of £3.931m on 2023/24).
- 34.7 Adult Social Care Discharge Fund - For 2024/2025 it is expected that the national allocation will increase to £500m from which the Council is estimated to receive £4.366m to help "ensure those people who need to draw on social care when they are discharged from hospital can leave as soon as possible, freeing up hospital beds for those who most need them". The funding will be pooled as part of the Better Care Fund (BCF).
- 34.8 Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF): In the 2023/2024 settlement the Council was allocated £3.671m from a national funding pot of £562m. This is ringfenced for the primary purpose to make tangible improvements to adult social care services in particular to build capacity and improve market sustainability. For 2024/2025 it is expected that the national funding allocation will increase to £845m from which it is estimated that the Council will receive £5.520m.
- 34.9 On 28th of July 2023, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced a further £570m of ringfenced funding across financial years 2023/2024 (£365m) and 2024/2025 (£205m) to local authorities to improve and

increase adult social care provision, with a particular focus on workforce pay through the MSIF. The Council has been allocated £2.384m for 2023/2024. Allocations for 2024/2025 have not been announced but if apportioned on the same basis it could be assumed that the Council would receive c£1.339m. The grant is one off and should be used to:

- increase fee rates paid to adult social care providers;
- increase adult social care workforce capacity and retention; and
- reduce adult social care waiting times.

This one-off funding in 2024/2025 has been included within the updated MTFP to support the additional cost pressures in Adult Social Care.

3.4.10 As part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) and within the Integrated Care Board (ICB) NHS Minimum Contribution an element of funding is passported to Adult Social Care to support local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and Adult Social Care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers. The Council's 2023/2024 allocation is £9.461m which following application of the national inflation uplift of 5.66%, the Council will receive an extra £0.536m. This additional funding has been included in the updated MTFP and will be used to support ongoing activity in 2024/2025.

Public Health Funding

3.4.11 It was envisaged that Public Health would be rolled into the overall local government funding position following the Fair Funding Review, with the risk that the Council could lose significant funding should the Government adopt a different allocation methodology. Annual allocations of the ringfenced Public Health Grant continue to be announced albeit these are generally confirmed outside of the Local Government Finance Settlement.

New Homes Bonus (NHB)

3.4.12 The local government finance settlements in December 2021 and December 2022 confirmed a further one-year extension of NHB payments. The national quantum of funding available for redistribution from the NHB was again reduced as part of the settlement, due to increases elsewhere in the settlements being taken from this funding source. The previous intention of the Government was to abolish NHB. There remains uncertainty with regard to 2024/2025 and so at present the MTFP forecasts remain unchanged (i.e., it is assumed there will no funding through NHB).

Other Government Grant funding streams

3.4.13 Other Government grants are not anticipated to be confirmed until the Provisional Local Government Settlement is announced in December 2023. However, planning assumptions are currently:

- The Business Rates multiplier and Top Up grant has historically increased in line with inflation (CPI at September). The Chancellor confirmed in the Autumn Statement that the small business rates multiplier would be frozen with the standard multiplier increasing in line with inflation. Additionally, the current 75% business rates relief scheme applied to eligible Retail,

Hospitality and Leisure businesses was extended to the end of 2024/2025. In line with September's CPI an increase of 6.7% has been assumed within the MTFP for 2024/2025 in relation to grant received.

- Housing and Council Tax Benefit Administration and Local Council Tax Support Administration Grant - The current methodology for allocating funding was introduced for the financial year ending March 2020. The methodology was intended to be an interim allocation methodology during migration to Universal Credit (UC). The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have advised of a change to their methodology for the next three years with transitional protection arrangements to apply. This is likely to result in a small negative impact on the Council in 2024/25. The DWP are yet to confirm the allocation for 2024/2025.

3.5. Summary Funding Position Over Medium Term

3.5.1 Based on the assumptions outlined above, Government funding is forecast to increase by £17.984m in 2024/2025 compared with 2023/2024 based upon a number of assumptions outlined above.

3.5.2 The position on Government funding beyond the current year is even more uncertain, with the continued assumption at this stage, that the Government will ensure at worst a broadly status quo position is maintained upon implementation of Fair Funding and any amended Business Rate Retention Scheme.

3.6. Provision for Spending Pressures and Commitments 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

3.6.1 In addition to funding changes, the Council must also plan for a range of spending pressures and commitments which are not funded by the Government.

3.6.2 It is proposed to reflect the following spending commitments in the budget planning, noting that in a number of cases specific cost details still require finalisation and will be subject to review and refinement throughout the remainder of the budget setting process:

Pay Award

3.6.3 The pay award for the 2023/2024 financial year has now been agreed with an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points. This equates to a pay increase of 9.42% for employees on the national pay point 2 and everyone on the NJC pay spine would receive a minimum 3.88% pay increase. A pay award offer of 3.5% for JNC Chief Officer employees was accepted in May 2023 with the same offer now having been accepted by Chief Executives.

3.6.4 Provision for a 5% pay award was factored in to the 2023/2024 approved budget. Based upon the current pay offer, this would create an additional cost of c.£2.500m for the Council and its wholly owned companies, beyond that included in the Council's 2023/2024 revenue budget. This additional impact has been factored in to the MTFP for future years alongside an assumption of 3.5% for 2024/2025 given the forecast inflation levels and impact of increases in the national minimum wage and real living wage. The position will be kept under review throughout the budget process.

Energy

- 3.6.5 The impact of the unprecedented escalation of energy prices is continuing to have a significant impact on residents, businesses and public bodies. The Council as part of the 2023/2024 budget, provided for significant increases in respect of the Council's energy requirements, based on the forecast prices at the time. In recent months wholesale prices have reduced, leading to a revised, lower, forecast cost for 2023/2024 and into 2024/2025 but still significantly in excess of previous levels. The MTFP provides for the latest forecast energy costs for 2024/2025 with the impact into the medium term continuing to be affected by many global factors.

General Contracts

- 3.6.6 There is upward cost pressure on the Council's services due to the impact on general costs and contracts as a result of escalating inflation. Current CPI inflation of 4.6% is expected to decline further for the remainder of the financial year and is forecast to remain above the Bank of England's target for some time
- 3.6.7 Provision is included within budget planning for the impact of general contract inflation, including on contracts, any impact of the National Living Wage and significantly the Council's commitment to the Real Living Wage for contractors. This includes contract inflation for both Sunderland Care and Support (SCAS) and Together for Children (TfC), the costs of which fall on the Council's general fund. Budgets within services have also been realigned to reflect available financial headroom to meet or reduce the impact of general contract inflation in 2024/2025.

Updated Spending Pressures

Adult Social Care Demand and Cost Pressures

- 3.6.8 Pressures in both the NHS and Adult Social Care continue with the number of older people requiring care increasing. The increasing longevity of the population continues to place a significant pressure on Adult Social Care budgets. In addition, client expectations and increasing demand to support clients with complex needs to enable them to maintain independent living requires reconfigured services and additional investment. The Council and its NHS partners are working together informally to integrate health and care and to develop plans collectively to enable the organisations to achieve more than they can individually to improve health and care outcomes and reduce health inequalities in Sunderland.
- 3.6.9 The National Living Wage represents a significant cost pressure for local authorities as service providers, particularly in the social care sector, endeavour to recover the impact of these increased costs through annual inflationary uplifts to contract prices. Planning assumptions will be reviewed and updated as necessary following the recent National Living Wage / Real Living Wage announcements.

Children's Services Pressures

- 3.6.10 TfC is forecasting ongoing pressures of £4.8m largely driven by external factors in the main through increased costs arising from the increasing complexity of

children’s needs and finite capacity in the residential market which is driving higher prices being charged for accommodation alongside increased cost of home to school transport and costs associated with supporting unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The MTFP has been updated to reflect this ongoing pressure.

Homelessness and Supported Housing

3.6.11 The Council is seeing a significant increase in service demand by those that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These increasing demands have been primarily due to the impact of the cost of living crisis and more recently with the refugee programmes. This increased demand to help people with their accommodation needs is placing financial pressure on the temporary accommodation budget. Through our current budget provision and Government funding the financial position being managed, however it is uncertain how demand and accommodation costs will materialise in the future. The position will be kept under review with the budget planning framework and MTFP updated as necessary.

Other Pressures

3.6.12 Full Council at its November meeting agreed a motion In Recognition of Our Key Workers. This included a proposal for the introduction of an additional day of annual leave for Council staff (including TfC and SCAS) from the 2024/25 financial year in recognition of the service they have provided to the Council’s residents during the pandemic. The estimated additional cost that will be incurred by the Council is £266,000 in relation to providing an additional day of holiday. Budget planning has been updated accordingly.

Summary Spending Pressures and Commitments

3.6.13 A summary of the updated spending pressures and commitments is set out below:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Spending Pressures and Commitments					
Pay	9.598	4.172	4.284	4.399	22.452
Energy	(2.400)	0.500	0.500	0.500	(0.900)
Other Price and Contract Inflation (inc.Social Care Demand Pressures)	17.600	9.586	8.101	8.382	43.668
Transport Levy	0.611	0.500	0.500	0.500	2.111
Other Service Pressures	1.190	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.190
Capital Financing	5.130	3.000	3.000	1.200	12.330
Pensions Actuarial Review	0.000	0.000	2.000	0.000	2.000
Total Spending Pressures and Commitments	31.728	17.758	18.385	14.980	82.851

3.7. Summary Resources, Pressures and Commitments Position

3.7.1 The total of changes in resources and spending pressures represents the estimated gross funding gap. At this stage there remain significant uncertainties which include:

- Government funding announcements, and the subsequent Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024/2025, to confirm the actual individual local

- authority allocations. This is likely to be announced in late December;
- The ongoing impact of the global economy and inflation on the Council's costs and income;
- Ongoing pressures around both Adult and Children's Social Care;
- Cost impact and Government funding for Adult Social Care reform;
- Confirmation of delivery of existing savings plans and the development and implementation of any new proposals;
- The impact of capital investment priorities both in terms of debt charges and any associated operational costs;
- The Government's plans and timescales in relation to Fair Funding and Business Rates retention impacting on the MTFP; and
- The general economic position and the direct impact on public sector finances.

3.7.2 The financial position over the medium term therefore remains uncertain. However, based on the best information available at this time, further significant reductions to budgets are required through to 2027/2028 based on a funding gap of £64.809m before any council tax increases. The table below sets out the position and takes into account the use of reserves to support the budget (including £9m in 2024/2025).

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Total On-going Spending Pressures and Commitments	31.728	17.758	18.385	14.980	82.851
Previously Approved Savings Proposals	(0.179)	0.086	1.778	0.000	1.685
Government Grant Changes	(17.984)	0.332	(1.027)	(1.048)	(19.727)
Initial Funding Gap	13.565	18.176	19.136	13.932	64.809

3.8 Locally Raised

Income Council Tax

- 3.8.1 The Localism Act provides for the provision of referendums to veto excessive Council Tax increases. This effectively places a limit on council tax increases and if local authorities exceed the Government's limit the public are able to vote to agree or veto any increase.
- 3.8.2 In recent years the Government's funding calculations have been based upon the assumption that local authorities will increase council tax by the maximum permitted amount, including continuing to levy the Social Care Precept that was introduced in 2016/2017.
- 3.8.3 Government have indicated that the limit for council tax increases for 2024/2025 will be 4.99% (2.99% core council tax and 2% re the Social Care Precept) As is customary the Government will consult on Council Tax referendum principles as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 3.8.4 Decisions on the level of council tax will be made as part of the final budget planning stages once all other funding factors are fully understood. However, at this stage given the significant financial challenges, the MTFP assumes an annual increase of 4.99%, comprising of an assumed 2.99% increase in core council tax and 2% for the Social Care Precept for 2024/2025.

Business Rates

- 3.8.5 Under the current Retained Business Rates funding arrangement, the Council retains locally 49% of increased income arising from growth in the Local Business Rates base (equally it shares the risk of any under achievement of income targets). The Council has a relatively low Business Rates yield with the Government providing a top-up grant.
- 3.8.6 Inherent within the scheme is growth arising from annual inflationary increases to Business Rates. However, there remains uncertainty from appeals and avoidance tactics which can impact on the level of income achieved. The most significant opportunity for Business Rates growth arises through new developments, although growth in Business Rates in our three Enterprise Zones will be accounted for separately, as this is used to support the investment in those sites.
- 3.8.7 As with council tax, the impact of inflationary cost pressures and reduced consumer demand may impact on collectability and business survival as we move in to winter and then 2024/2025. The position will be kept under review and required adjustments reflected in the Budget Planning Framework as appropriate during the budget setting process.
- 3.8.8 The table below sets out the revised funding gap taking account of the MTFP assumed 4.99% increase in council tax and the revised collection fund estimated changes for business rates. The Council has previously created a MTFP Smoothing reserve to address forecast pressures. The MTFP assumes it will be used over 3 years, the table shows the phased removal of the use of the reserve in 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 as the reserve balance is fully utilised.

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Initial Funding Gap	13.565	18.176	19.136	13.932	64.809
Collection Fund Impact - Council Tax	(6.356)	(5.720)	(4.674)	(4.835)	(21.585)
Collection Fund Impact - NNDR	0.833	(0.046)	(1.446)	(1.464)	(2.123)
Current MTFP Gap	8.042	12.410	13.016	7.633	41.101
Decrease / (Increase) in use of MTFP Reserve	0.000	0.000	1.400	7.600	9.000
Current MTFP Gap after agreed use of reserves and council tax increase	8.042	12.410	14.416	15.233	50.101

3.9 Revenue Savings Proposals

- 3.9.1 As noted in the Budget Planning Framework Report in October 2023, plans were in the development stage to be brought forward at a later stage in the budget planning process to address the budget gap. Budget savings proposals totalling £6.673m in 2024/2025 reducing to £6.626m on an ongoing basis have now been developed and are summarised below. Further details of the proposals are provided at Appendix 1. The delivery of the savings proposals developed by TfC will be monitored by the TfC Board at its meetings during 2024/2025.

Portfolio	Service	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Leader	Communications	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000
Leader Total		0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000
Deputy Leader	Local Services	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Port of Sunderland	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Waste	0.000	0.030	0.000	0.000
Deputy Leader Total		0.120	0.030	0.000	0.000
Cabinet Secretary	Corporate Procurement	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.000
	City Enabling Services	0.153	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Housing Benefits	0.100	(0.100)	0.000	0.000
	ICT	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Insurance	0.405	0.000	0.000	(0.400)
	Law & Governance	0.183	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Property Services	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Transformation Projects Team	0.023	0.000	0.000	0.000
Cabinet Secretary Total		1.189	(0.100)	0.000	(0.400)
Dynamic City	Regulatory Services	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Siglion	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Transport and Infrastructure	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.000
Dynamic City Total		0.448	0.000	0.000	0.000
Healthy City	Adult Social Care	2.104	0.300	0.000	0.000
Healthy City Total		2.104	0.300	0.000	0.000
Vibrant City	Welfare Rights	0.000	0.123	0.000	0.000
Vibrant City Total		0.000	0.123	0.000	0.000
Children, Learning and Skills	Together for Children	2.750	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children, Learning and Skills Total		2.750	0.000	0.000	0.000
Savings Proposals Total		6.673	0.353	0.000	(0.400)

3.10 Overall Remaining Budget Gap

3.10.1 As set out in the table below after taking into account the budget saving proposals included in section 3.9, there remains a budget gap of £1.369m in 2024/2025, with a further £42.106m required to be identified over the period 2025/2026 to 2027/2028. Savings and efficiency proposals continue to be developed to address the remaining gap across all services and companies. Any additional proposals in relation to 2024/2025 will be presented to Cabinet in January 2024.

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
MTFS Gap after agreed use of reserves	8.042	12.410	14.416	15.233	50.101
Savings Proposals	(6.673)	(0.353)	0.000	0.400	(6.626)
Updated MTFP Gap after savings proposals	1.369	12.057	14.416	15.633	43.475

3.10.2 The Council's strong financial management and creation of reserves to support the budget over the medium term provides the opportunity to utilise funding to support the budget position whilst developing and delivering savings via the Efficiency Strategy.

3.10.3 Following the publication of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the level of resource to be provided by the Government for 2023/2024 and potentially 2024/2025 will be confirmed. A further update covering the Local Government Finance Settlement and any other changes to budget planning assumptions will be provided to Cabinet in January 2024.

3.11 Approach to addressing the funding gap

3.11.1 The actions and savings proposals required to address the significant forecast budget shortfall will continue to be developed by Chief Officers in conjunction with Members and will be the subject of future budget update reports. The Council's prudent accruing of MTFP Reserves provides the opportunity to utilise reserves to help support the budget position whilst developing and delivering savings over a medium-term time frame. The above figures include for the full use of the MTFP Reserve.

3.11.2 The Council's Efficiency Strategy was agreed by Council in February 2023. The Strategy set out a continual and iterative development of a programme of activity to address the gap taking into account the strategic vision of the Council's role in the future and reflecting the following key principles:

- Ensuring resources are targeted on statutory and front-line services and protecting key priority services with a focus on need rather than want;
- Managing demand - implementing strategies and policies that enable the Council to manage demand and facilitate those services which make a difference in the most effective way;
- Being customer focussed - using robust data and information to understand our resident's needs and maximising opportunities through use of technology for both our customers and internal users, so that people self-serve wherever possible thereby eliminating duplication and making activity more efficient;
- Redesigning and reshaping services to deliver required outcomes which maximises productivity;
- Strategic commissioning based on outcomes and using an intelligence-based approach to ensure a sound evidence base for commissioning decisions and effective commissioning arrangements;
- Ensuring opportunities for collaboration with partners to deliver key outcomes that matter to the city;

- Ensuring that our internal, support services respond appropriately to the changing shape and size of the Council;
- Involving the Community – residents, businesses, partners, voluntary sector to ensure best outcomes for the city; and
- Continued focus on regeneration and inward investment in order to grow business rates and council tax income, leveraging funding to maximise additional income sources and commercial opportunities.

4 Workforce Planning Implications

4.1 At this stage, given the remaining budget gap for 2024/2025 and future years it is anticipated that proposals may have a workforce planning implication. Any subsequent staffing reductions will be managed through the Council's Redundancy Policy and Procedure as necessary. It should also be noted that officers are continually reviewing resource allocations to ensure that staffing arrangements are fit for purpose.

4.2 At this stage it is proposed that any cost of redundancy payments and the release of pensions as required by the LGPS Regulations will be met from a combination of utilisation of capital receipts flexibilities and from within the overall corporate resource position. This position will be kept under review and updated as part of the budget proposals to Cabinet.

5 Budget Consultation / Communication Strategy 2024/2025

5.1 Communication, engagement and consultation are important parts of medium-term financial planning. A range of activity informs this process and influences financial planning.

5.2 Each year, the scale and nature of the proposals determine the approach to communication and consultation. Although further work is required to generate significant savings for 2024/2025 and beyond, the budget consultation in 2023 for the 2024/2025 budget will focus on feeling informed, the priorities within the City Plan and views on how Council budget resources are prioritised and allocated.

5.3 Clear messages focusing on the longer-term budget challenge, the scale of what we do and how the money is spent will accompany this consultation. This will be consistent with the Council's successful approach to resident engagement.

5.4 Existing networks will be utilised to communicate with both geographic communities and communities of interest. Consultation on the budget proposals will commence on 7th December 2023 and will run until early January 2024. Existing networks such as 'Let's Talk' and social media platforms will be utilised to communicate with both geographic communities and communities of interest.

5.5 There will be communications with a range of partners and stakeholders including Trades Unions, Chamber of Commerce, Sunderland Business Innovation District (BID), the wider business community, employees, and the city's Independent Advisory Groups. Communications with these groups will be tailored to their interests, for example, economic regeneration, neighbourhood services and adult services.

5.6 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will continue to be consulted on the Council's budget planning framework and proposals.

- 5.7 Feedback from consultation with Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, Trades Unions and Business representatives will be considered in framing the final budget proposals to be submitted to Cabinet in February 2024.

6 Crime and Disorder

- 6.1 Consideration has been given to the options for savings about their potential impact on crime and disorder, (Section 17 Duty). No existing proposals have been identified as having a negative impact.

7 Integrated Impact Assessment

- 7.1 In accordance with the Council's new approach to assessing predicted impacts of activity, Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) will be applied to the budget setting process. The new IIA tool enables the Council to give due regard to the impacts of activity on:

- i. Equality and Human Rights, including ensuring the Council meets the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Appendix 2);
- ii. Socio-economic and digital inequalities;
- iii. Population health and health inequalities;
- iv. Low carbon and sustainability; and
- v. Community wealth building, including the duty on local authorities to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

- 7.2 Each service must consider the predicted impacts of any new proposals brought forward to meet the future budget gap and complete an IIA. Completed IIAs will be presented with future Cabinet reports, along with a summary of the cumulative predicted impact of the proposals.

- 7.3 Members must understand the implications of the proposals outlined in the IIAs, as having regard to them will assist members in understanding the impact of decision and in complying with the Public Sector Equality Duty when considering the proposals.

8 Suggested Reasons for Decision

- 8.1 Adoption of the Budget Planning Framework forms an essential part of the process of the preparation and compilation of the Revenue Budget for 2023/2024.

- 8.2 To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the Revenue Budget to be met.

9 Alternative Options to be considered and recommended to be rejected

- 9.1 There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Savings Proposals

11 Background Papers

Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2023/2024 and Medium Term Financial Plan (22nd February 2023 Council)

Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 –
2027/2028 (12th October 2023 Cabinet).

Appendix 1 – Savings Proposals

Leader

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Strategy & Corporate Affairs	Review of team staffing arrangements and Operating Model	61,673	0	0	0
Leader Total		61,673	0	0	0

Deputy Leader

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
City Development	Commercial Activity – Improved trading position of the Port	100,000	0	0	0
Environmental Services	Review of Local Services team staffing arrangements	20,000	0	0	0
Environmental Services	Revised Trading Activity – Trade Waste	0	30,000	0	0
Deputy Leader Total		120,000	30,000	0	0

Cabinet Secretary

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Finance	Review of Insurance Reserve – phased reduction	400,000	0	0	(400,000)
Finance	Realignment of Budgets reflecting current levels of income	365,000	(100,000)	0	0
Smart Cities & Enabling Services	Business Practice Improvements – MFDs and Printing	98,000	0	0	0
Smart Cities & Enabling Services	Review of team staffing arrangements and deletion of vacant posts	175,570	0	0	0
Smart Cities & Enabling Services	Realignment of Budgets reflecting current activity levels	150,000	0	0	0
Cabinet Secretary Total		1,188,570	(100,000)	0	(400,000)

Dynamic City

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
City Development	Commercial Activity – Siglion increased distribution	100,000	0	0	0
City Development	Fees and Charges / Charging Policy – Licences & Notices	228,000	0	0	0
City Development	Recharges – Service relating to activity	20,000	0	0	0
City Development	Revised Trading Activity – Contract and Income Share	100,000	0	0	0
Dynamic City Total		448,000	0	0	0

Healthy City

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Adult Social Care	Fees and Charges / Telecare Charging Policy	150,000	0	0	0
Adult Social Care	Realign Operating Model – Practice Review	1,754,000	0	0	0
Adult Social Care	Expansion of Direct Payments	200,000	300,000	0	0
Healthy City Total		2,104,000	300,000	0	0

Vibrant City

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Health, Housing and Communities	Review of Welfare Rights Operating Model	0	123,000	0	0
Vibrant City Total		0	123,000	0	0

Children, Learning and Skills

Saving Proposal Area	Description of Proposal	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £
Together for Children	Additional Income Generation	750,000	0	0	0
	Establishment review	800,000	0	0	0
	Spend to save initiatives	850,000	0	0	0
	General efficiency and savings	350,000	0	0	0
Children, Learning and Skills Total		2,750,000	0	0	0

Total MTFP Savings Proposals		6,672,243	353,000	0	(400,000)
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SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 December 2023

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE – QUARTER 2 OF 2023/24

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24.
- 1.2 The Senior Manager – Corporate Strategy will attend the meeting to respond to questions.

2. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 A key element of the Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is to present, on a quarterly basis, an update to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on key performance information for consideration and discussion.
- 2.2 The Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is aligned to the Sunderland City Plan.
- 2.3 The City Plan covers:
 - A Vision for the city which provides the focus for the council's activity
 - Three Key Themes – Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City - which are used to organise the council's aims
 - A set of Commitments for each Key Theme under which the council's Activities are aligned
 - A Timeline of Activities illustrating the council's actions across all of the Key Themes.
- 2.4 The Corporate Performance Report is aligned to the three key themes of the City Plan (*Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City*) as well as including additional Council indicators for organisational health / productive & innovative working, financial management and a council ready for the future.
- 2.5 The report sets out the progress made to the end of Quarter 2 of 2023/24, against the City Plan 2023 - 2035.
- 2.6 Following the City Plan's publication in 2019, an annual review and assurance process has been undertaken each year, to ensure that delivery remains focused on achieving the plan's vision & commitments,

whilst taking account of the changing context of the world in which we live.

- 2.7 The first review was undertaken following the conclusion of performance for 2019/20, as the impacts of Covid-19 started to become apparent. The refreshed plan was adopted from 1st April 2021. The second assurance concluded that the plan remained relevant, but given the significant focus on tackling global climate change, a related challenge to support the council's and city's commitments in respect of carbon neutrality was included. The refreshed plan was adopted from 1st April 2022. The latest assurance, developed in consultation with this committee, recognised the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and a need to focus on resilience within our plan. It also recognised the significant achievements that have made on the delivery of the plan through the completion of the plan's Timeline Activity, and therefore the planned activity was substantially refreshed to deliver outcomes to 2035.
- 2.8 The refreshed plan was adopted from 1st April 2023. This report relates to activity and performance in the second quarter of 2023/24.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information provided in the report.

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Beverley.Poulter@Sunderland.gov.uk

DYNAMIC SMART CITY

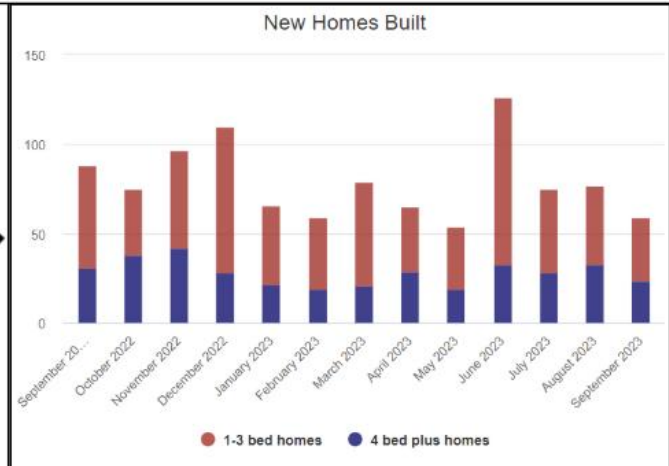
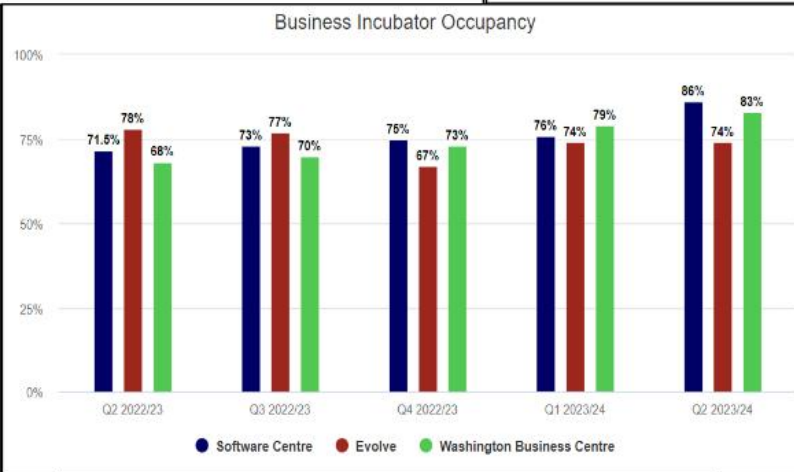
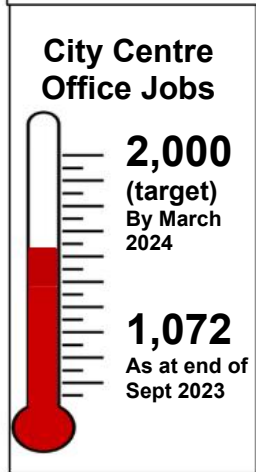
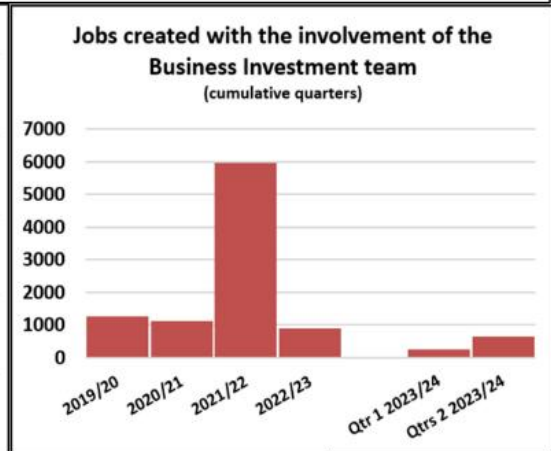
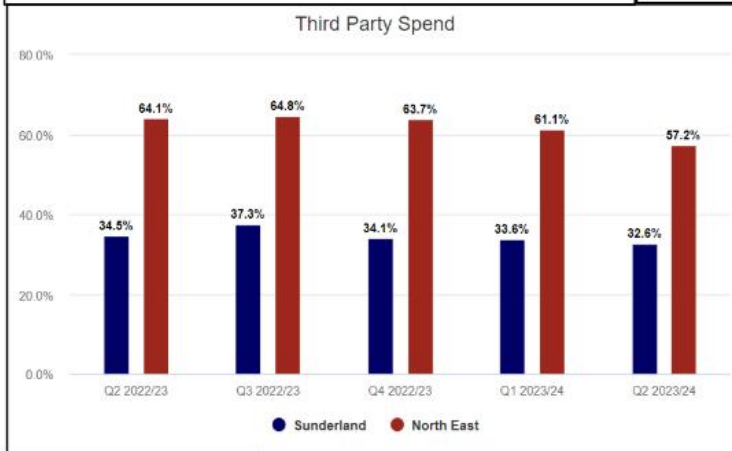
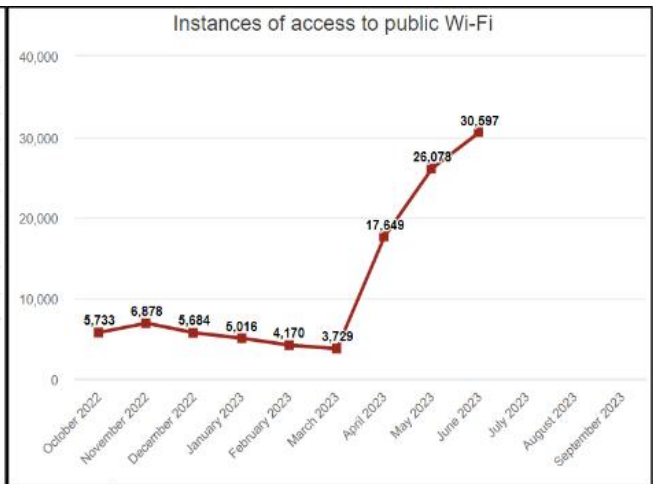
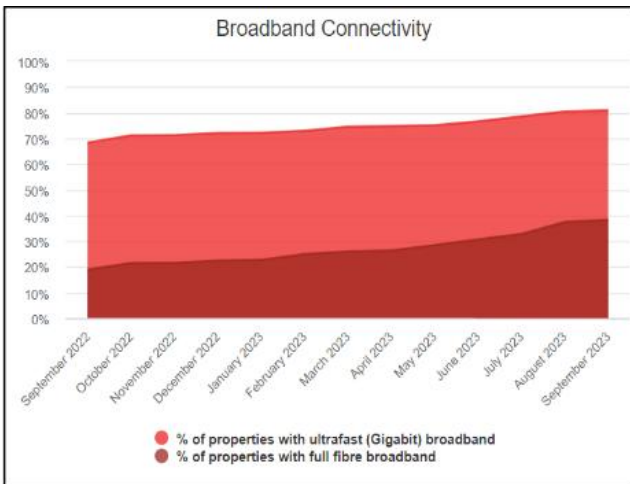
A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all – more and better jobs – more local people with better qualifications and skills – a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing, and cultural opportunities – more and better housing.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Broadband - % of properties with Ultrafast September 2023: 80.9% Full fibre September 2023: 38.3%	UK 77.9% UK 56.7%	Improving (Sept 2022: 68.4%) Improving (Sept 2022: 19%)
CO2 emissions estimates for Sunderland (per capita) 2021: 4 tonnes)	NE 4.4, England 3.9	Improving (2017: 4.5 tonnes)
Employment rate Jul 2022 – Jun 2023: 73.7%	NE 71.2%, GB 75.6%	Improving (Jul 2021 – Jun 2022: 70.8%)
Proportion of workers earning below Living Wage Foundation rates 2021/22: 14.2%.	NE 14.8%, GB 12.2%	Improving (2017/18: 22.8%)
Median wage workers Apr 2023: £594	NE £608 GB £683	Improving (2019: £527)
% Population NVQ Level 4 qualification 2021: 24.7%	NE 34.4% GB 43.5%	Declining (2017: 27.3%)
GCSE - % achieving a grade 4-9 in Maths & English 2021/22: 62.3%	NE 65.8%, England 71.7%	N/A (Previous years not comparable due to changes in assessment)
Level 3 (A level & equivalent) attainment by age of 19 in 2021/22: 49.7%	NE 53.9% England 60.7%	N/A (Exams & Teacher Assessed not comparable)
City Centre new homes Qtr. 2 2023/24: 0	N/A	No change (Qtr. 2 2022/23: 0)
People employed in the City Centre 2022: 12,300	N/A	Increasing (2018: 11,890)
Population of the City 2021 Census: 274,200	N/A	N/A (Census figure not comparable with 2020 mid-year estimate of 277,846)
Net Internal Migration 2020: -403	N/A	Declining (2016: -381)
New homes-built Qtr.2 2023/24: 211	N/A	Declining (Qtr.2 2022/23: 320)
Completed affordable homes Apr-Sept 2023: 80	N/A	Improving (Apr-Sept: 75)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS & ACTION



2023/24 Timeline
Launch of the first phase of the Wi-Fi Messaging Platform/City-wide App
Increase in the number and strength of creative and cultural businesses
Increase in economic activity in the Port
Continue to deliver the Community Wealth Building Strategy building on the Community Wealth Charter and Real Living Wage City accreditation
More local people benefitting from a stronger economy
Continued delivery of the Multiply Adult Numeracy Programme
Sunderland Station South Entrance Open
Stables development opens
Sunniside Masterplan produced
Riverside Multi-Storey Car Park Opens
Holmeside Multi-Storey Car Park Opens
Pre-opening programme activity for Culture House begins
Potters Hill Housing Phases 1 & 2 complete

A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all

Our ambition is to lead the way on digital transformation to make Sunderland a Smart City, and through our Smart Cities Strategy we will deliver a range of use cases for smart working and living - with high speed and resilient digital connectivity central to our plans. In 2022/23 there were continued advances in digital infrastructure that will continue further into 2023/24.

At the end of Quarter 2, the proportion of Sunderland properties with ultrafast broadband has increased to 80.9% (from 76.6% at the end of Quarter 1). There are now an increasing proportion of properties in Sunderland that have even faster and more reliable connectivity through full fibre broadband at 38.3% at the end of Quarter 2 (up on the 30.7% at the end of Quarter 1).

At 74,324 instances in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 (latest available figure due to transition to new recording arrangements), access was up by 61,409 on the 12,915 instances in Quarter 4 of 2022/23, and up by 61,265 on the same period in the previous year (at 13,059 for Quarter 1 of 2022/23). Work is progressing on Wi-Fi extension to Riverside Car Park and plans are in place for Wi-Fi expansion to other key development schemes as they progress. In Quarter 2 outdoor wi-fi went live across the two University Campuses enabling students (up to 2,500 daily) to seamlessly access their network. Installation of next generation wireless connectivity has also commenced at the 24 Community and Digital Hubs facilitated by UKSPF. Following a discovery period, in Quarter 1 technical development began on the first phase of the Messaging Platform/City-wide app. In Quarter 2 technical development continues and a complete security review has been undertaken to ensure the future safety of customer's data that will be gathered and held within the app.

The Council, along with partners across the city, is committed to playing its part in tackling the global challenge of climate change and to become a carbon neutral city by 2040. We will monitor progress against a target trajectory to 2040 to achieve our ambition. Latest published figures showed that progress is being made, with the latest CO2 emissions estimate for Sunderland per capita (tonnes per resident) at 4 for 2021 – reduced from 4.5 in 2017 and better than the North-East at 4.4 (England 3,9). Based on the target trajectory to 2040 set on the latest available figures, we aimed to reduce CO2 per Capita to 3.1 in the next outturn (for the year 2022).

The Council is committed to becoming net zero as an organisation by 2030, across all greenhouse gases, in addition to becoming carbon neutral. Latest (previously reported) data published in the 2021/22 Low Carbon Annual Report shows tonnes of CO2 emissions from LA operations for 2021/22 at 7,405 tonnes - up slightly from 7,094 in 2020/21 (during which

reductions were likely accelerated due to Covid restrictions). Over the longer term, the figure has been significantly reduced, from 22,000 tonnes (recorded in 2017/18). 2022/23 figures are expected to be published in the Low Carbon Annual Report (following December Cabinet).

The Council's Low Carbon Action Plan (first published in January 2021) was updated and published in July 2022. The updated Action Plan identifies a series of over-arching objectives under each of the strategic priorities of: Our Behaviour, Policies and Practices, Energy Efficient Built Environment, Renewable Energy Generation and Storage, Low Carbon and Active Transport & Reducing Consumption & Waste. The identified actions are wide ranging and align with the City Plan priorities across Dynamic, Healthy & Vibrant City.

Under the strategic priorities of *Our Behaviour, Policies and Practices* we seek to engage all our residents including our young people and our voluntary and community sector, as well as businesses, partners and employees of the Council in reducing carbon emissions. To do so we will develop communication and engagement assets providing reliable information on climate change causes and impact and opportunities to reduce carbon emission through behaviours. In Quarter 2, there were 65 pro-active communications via social media, and we have had 10 Green Champions actively engaged in promoting low carbon policies and behaviours within our workforce including workplace recycling, active & low carbon travel to work options and specific events such as the Clothes Swap. We will ensure that Carbon reduction is embedded in programme and project planning through the Integrated Impact Assessment Tool.

Under our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of an *Energy Efficient Built Environment* we will embed carbon reduction in Council assets and maximise energy efficiency improvements to homes with key projects and programmes aligned under more and better homes (see Pg. 6/7)

Through our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of *Renewable Energy Generation and Storage* we will deliver new opportunities in the city that will support growth in the green economy linked with our City Plan commitment to more and better jobs (see below)

A range of initiatives will encourage and enable *Low Carbon and Active Transport* aligned with our City Plan commitment to great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all (see Pg. 15/16).

Under our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of *Reducing Consumption and Waste* we will increase the level of recycling through household waste and engage individuals, businesses and communities to increase wider re-use and recycling and reduce overall waste. This priority is aligned with our City Plan commitment to cleaner, greener and more attractive city for all.

More and better jobs

Our vision in our City Plan is that Sunderland will be a well-connected, international city with opportunities for all. We aim to increase the number of well-paid jobs in the city by promoting growth in key sectors including automotive and advanced manufacturing, financial and customer services, digital and software, as well as increasing professional services in the city centre, and port related activity. The employment rate for Sunderland, at 73.7% (131,000 aged 16+) for July 2022 to June 2023, has continued to rise on the previous quarter (at 72.3%) and compared with the same period in the previous year (at 70.8%). The rate remains above the North-East (at 71.2%). The rate for Great Britain in the same period was (75.6%).

In Quarter 2, we supported key industry events in the automotive and manufacturing industries including the North-East Automotive Expo 2023, as a headline sponsor and by promoting the event through our communication channels. The event was expected to attract over 750 delegates from industry with over 100 exhibitors. Our related business media posts had a reach of 867 views on Twitter and 699 on LinkedIn. Other significant industry events supported / promoted included the EMCON Engineering & Manufacturing Network event (580 views on Twitter, 767 LinkedIn impressions (displays of information)) and the Cenex connected automated mobility event (384 Twitter views, 691 LinkedIn impressions).

Through our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of Renewable Energy Generation and Storage we will deliver new opportunities in the city to support growth in the green economy. Figures for 2022/23 show 9,800 jobs in 41 businesses engaged in the green sector in the city - a 26.5% increase on 2021/22 (at 7,750 jobs and 37 businesses).

The Port continues to focus on increasing its economic activity, with a turnover of £2.431m and 181,427 tonnage processed in Quarter 2. At the end of September, the Port is forecast to generate a net trading profit of £679,000 for 2023/24.

We continue seek to enable more office jobs in the city. At the end of Quarter 1 a property search tool was launched to enable businesses to locate office and commercial workspaces to buy or for rent – including new modern purpose-built spaces such as that on Riverside. From the launch of the tool to the end of Quarter 2, there have been 1,573 views by 238 users.

We continue to ensure that our Council activity supports the local economy where possible. In Quarter 2, 57.2% (£64.805m) of all Council third party spend was within the regional economy, and £11,930,868 of social value was secured through our procurement projects.

More local people with better qualifications and skills

Through the City Plan, the aim is to ensure that residents' skills and qualifications enable them to secure good jobs that match the needs of employers in key sectors thereby reducing the gap in the median wage between Sunderland residents and Sunderland workers.

Newly released provisional data shows that the median weekly wage was £11.90 more for Sunderland workers, than Sunderland residents in April 2023 - up on the £4.30 gap in 2022, though improved on the long-term trend figure for 2019 of £29.80. Figures for both (residents and workers) however, remain below the North-East and Great Britain with the median weekly wage for residents at £537 (NE £580, GB £642) and for workers at £594 (NE £608, GB £683).

The proportion of workers earning below the Living Wage Foundation rate, for the tax year ending April 2022, has reduced to 14.2% (provisional) from 17.4% (revised and confirmed) in the tax year ending April 2021 and from 22.8% in the tax year ending 2018. Local data shows that in Quarter 2 there were 31 accredited real Living Wage employers with headquarters in Sunderland (as well as further employers with a branch in Sunderland) and 9,179 employees employed by Living Wage employers with a HQ in Sunderland. In Quarter 2 work has continued to deliver the Real Living Wage action plan along with work with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to enable them to secure real living wage for their workforce. A Real Living Wage network event is planned for November to engage further businesses working alongside Sunderland Business Partnership and the Sunderland BID team (an update will be provided in the Quarter 3 report).

Previously published data showed that 24.7% of the Sunderland population had a Level 4 qualification in 2021 (compared with the North-East at 34.4% and Great Britain at 43.5%). These statistics are sourced through the Annual Population Survey to produce an estimate. For the year of 2022 (the latest expected data release), the sample size has been deemed too small to produce a reliable estimate for Sunderland and therefore figures are not available. Validated GCSE results (published February 2023) for the academic year 2021/22 show that in Sunderland 62.3% of students achieved a grade 4-9 in Maths & English, lower than the North-East at 65.8% and England at 71.7%. Validated results for summer 2022 showed Level 3 (A-level and equivalent) attainment by the age of 19 at 49.7%, lower than the North-East at 53.9% and England at 60.7%. GCSE and Level-3 results for summer 2022 are not directly comparable with previous results due to changes in the way GCSE examinations were awarded due to Covid.

The national Multiply scheme, delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, aims to improve the numeracy skills of adults across the UK, based on the recognition that those with

numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment and have higher wages. In the first six months of 2023/24, the Multiply scheme has reached 254 learners in need of improving their maths skills with a 100% completion rate for learners concluding their courses in Quarter 2. Initial destinations data shows that in Quarter 2, 177 learners have achieved progression into further learning, employment or other progression, with destinations tracking being developed to understand progression over the longer term.

A stronger city centre with more business, housing, and cultural opportunities

As part of our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic our aspiration is that Sunderland city centre will drive transformational economic growth with Riverside Sunderland clearly demonstrating our investment ambition. In the long term there will be more people living and working in the City Centre.

Through Riverside Sunderland we aim to create a vibrant new city centre residential community of 1,000 sustainable new homes, promoting more city centre living (previously published figures showed the City Centre residential population at 3,089 mid 2020). Alongside the delivery of new homes, Expo Sunderland will provide events and experiences to engage visitors in new and sustainable ways of living.

Riverside Sunderland will also comprise of 1 million square feet of modern offices, commercial premises, and other employment space, creating new sites for businesses to grow and with the aim of workspace for 8,000 – 10,000 quality jobs. Figures for 2022 show 12,300 people employed in the city centre, an increase on the figure of 14,000 in 2021 (a greater level of rounding has been applied in the latest release (with previous 2021 figures adjusted accordingly) and figures should be considered in this context). At the end of Quarter 2, 1,072 new city centre office jobs have been created since April 2019. The Timeline action of Riverside car park opens is now complete.

We continue to progress our plans for a range of physical developments in the city centre - such as Sunderland Station. In Quarter 2 progress was made with the completion of the South entrance.

More and better housing

Through our City Plan we seek to ensure that Sunderland offers the opportunities that families and individuals need to achieve their ambitions – with a housing offer that reflects the homes that people aspire to live in. This includes larger family homes as well as more affordable homes. This will be achieved through the delivery of key housing sites.

Figures previously published for out-migration showed a slowing from a net of -511 in 2019 to -403 in 2020 (latest available data). Whilst the figure is higher than the five-year long-term trend figure of -381 for 2016, the 2016 figure was the lowest figure reached before figures declined substantially in 2017 (to -748) and then began reducing year on year.

In Quarter 2, there were 200 additional homes in the city - of which 118 are in council tax bands C-G (including new and conversions and taking into account deletions). There were 211 homes that were newly built in Quarter 1 (housing completions and Council tax registrations may take place in different periods accounting for further variations in figures).

Over the last three years there has been an increase in the number of completed affordable homes (from 101 in 2020/21 to 150 in 2021/22 and 178 in 2022/23). There were 37 completed affordable homes in Quarter 2 taking the total for the first half of the year to 80 (up on the 75 in the same period in the previous year). In Quarter 2 there have been 21 social houses delivered, taking the total to 139.

Alongside more homes, we are also committed to ensuring that the housing we have is of quality. 15 empty properties were brought back into use in Quarter 2, and 146 privately rented properties were inspected for hazards.

Under our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of an Energy Efficient Built Environment we will embed carbon reduction in Council assets and maximise energy efficiency improvements to owner occupied and private, social and affordable rented homes. AN ECO (Energy Company Obligation) scheme delivery model has been established, to help households decarbonise and reduce their energy bills (via grants to fund energy-efficient updates to homes) with the first homes expected to benefit by March 2024. Through the Warm Homes Fund energy efficiency advice was provided to 66 fuel poor residents in Quarter 2, taking the total to 184 for the first half of the year.

HEALTHY SMART CITY

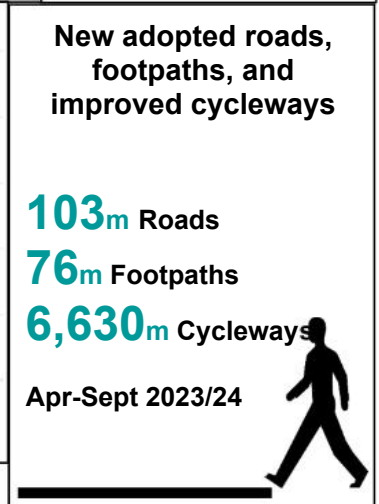
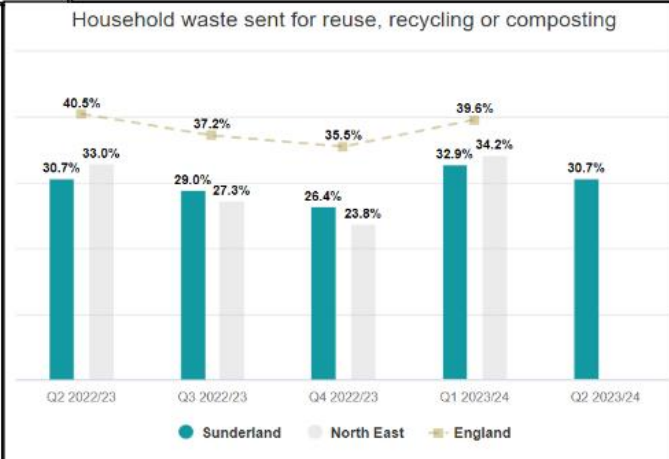
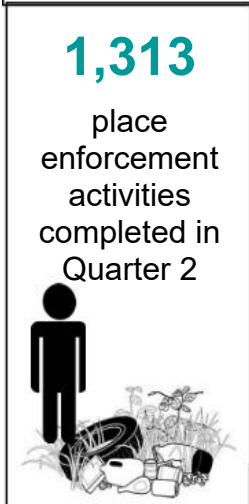
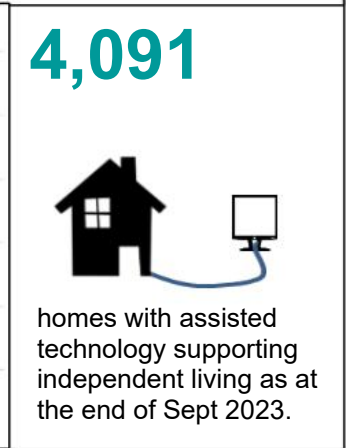
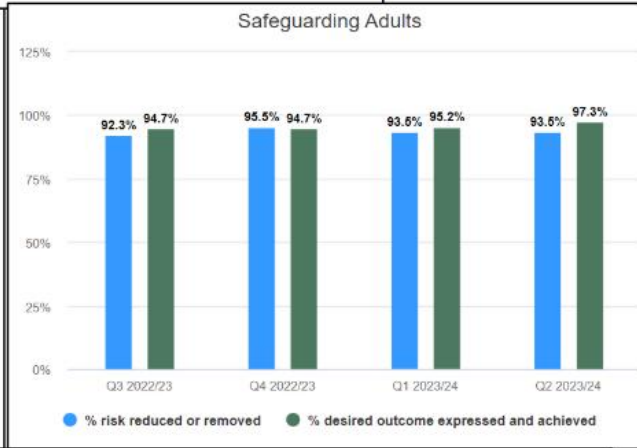
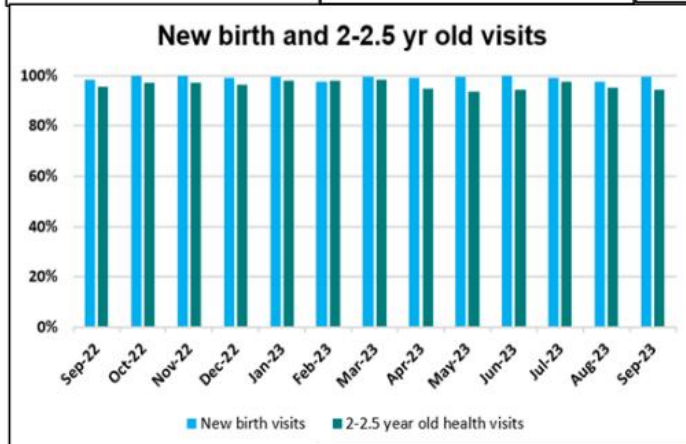
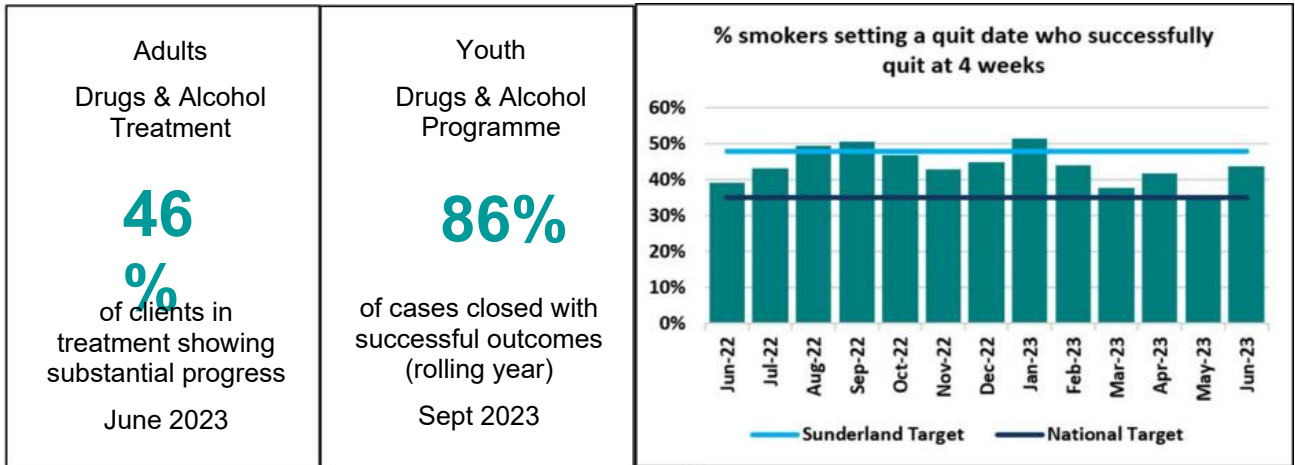
Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives – equitable opportunities and best life chances for children – high quality support and social care that enables those who need it to live the life they want to live – great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all – cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Healthy Life Expectancy at birth 2018-2020 as at 2021/22 Female: 56.9 yrs. Male: 56.1 yrs.	England 63.9 yrs. NE 59.7 yrs. England 63.1 yrs. NE 59.1 yrs.	Declining (2014-2016: 59.3 yrs.) Declining (2014-2016: 58.8 yrs.)
Admission episodes alcohol-related 2021/22: 2,668 (Broad per 100,000)	England 1,734, NE 2,323	N/A (Not comparable due to change in methodology)
Smoking prevalence 2022: 13.2%	England 12.7%, NE 13.1%	Improving (2018: 22.2%)
The proportion of adults living with overweight or obesity 2021/22: 73.9%	England 63.8%, NE 70.5%	Declining (2017/18: 69.2%)
Prevalence of children living with overweight (Year 6) 2022/23: 41.5% (incl. obese)	England 36.6%, NE 39.9%	Declining (2018/19: 39.2%)
% Of people that are fairly active / active (Active Lives – Public Health) 2021/22: 75.5%	England 77.7%, NE 75%	Improved (2017/18: 72%)
Women who smoke at time of delivery Qtr. 1 2023/24: 12.7%	England 8% NE 10.1%	Improving (Qtr. 1 2021/22: 14.9%)
EYFSP Good level of development 2021/22: 63.7%	England 65.2%, NE 64.1%	Declining (2017/18: 71.2%)
Cared for children (rate per 10k) Sept 2023: 96.3	England 70, NE 110 SN 111.8	Declining (Sept 2022: 95.9)
CYP subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10k) Sept 2023: 74.8	England 42.1, NE 62.6 SN 59.4	Declining (Sept 2022: 53.1)
Rate of Children in Need (per 10k) Sept 2023: 393.9	England 334.3, NE 470.7 SN 452.9	Declining (Sept 2022: 374.3)
Teenage Pregnancy (under 18 conception rate): Qtr. 3 2021/22: 26.4 (rolling year)	England 13.1, NE 19.8	Declining (Qtr. 3 2020/21: 21.7)
Proportion of people (18+) living independently (without social care services) Qtr. 2 2023/24: 97.1%	N/A	Declining (Qtr.2 2022/23 98.2%)
Litter - % deposits that fall below an acceptable level Qtr. 2. 2023/24: 5%	N/A	Improving (Qtr.2 2022/23: 11.2%)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS & ACTION



Initial provisional figures may be adjusted in subsequent quarters.

City Plan Timeline 2023/24
Over £1/4m council and Lawn Tennis Association investment in city's tennis courts in parks
Develop five area venues for participation in SWIM BIKE RUN activities
Targeted programmes with new participation opportunities in least active areas
Development of five safe and inclusive area-based sports play zones with investment from the Football Foundation and Sport England
Continue Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant funding
Publish Sunderland City Council Alcohol Strategy: It's Time to Rethink Drink and partner action plan
Publish new Sunderland Smokefree Partnership plan
Develop new Sunderland Workplace Health 3-year strategy and action plan
New Children's Home (Maple Cottage) opening
New Edge of Care Accommodation (Claremont Terrace) opening
Implement a range of Adult Social Care automated telephony apps to support welfare checks, reviews and customer feedback
Partnership working to ensure safe and timely hospital discharge with residents and carers central to discharge planning and receiving quality and timely advice and information
Support the implementation of Dementia and Smart Homes Grants as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant offer
Enhance the Adult Social Care Direct Payment/Personal Budget Offer as a viable alternative to traditional support at home packages
Partnership working to develop and implement a Trusted Assessor model to support Social Care
Bus Rationalisation Route completed
Whitburn Road active travel cycle improvements completed
Electric Vehicle Strategy and Roadmap published
Deliver electric buses and strategic rapid charging facilities
Continue e-Scooter trial

Equitable opportunities and the best life chances for children

We are taking a life course approach to health and wellbeing starting with the early life stages of preconception to early years and adolescence under this commitment. The latest available quarterly figure (Quarter 1 of 2023/24) for the proportion of women smoking at time of delivery at 12.7% (79 smokers of 622 maternities) is a reduction on the same period in the previous year at 14.9%. The Sunderland figure remains higher than the North-East at 10.1% and England at 8%. Quarterly rates may fluctuate based on the number of maternities, however, the latest full-year figure of 13.7% (for 2022/23) also shows a reduction (on the full year of 2021/22 at 14%).

Reducing the rates of tobacco dependency in pregnant women is a high priority for the Sunderland Smokefree Partnership and partners are working closely together on a range of programmes and initiatives to support pregnant women to stop smoking. This includes continuing to embed the Treating Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy pathway as part of the NHS Long Term Plan and establishing community clinics in Family Hubs (2 clinics established). a pilot for Health Visitors to carry out CO monitoring at all mandated visits to pregnant women and families with young children, and the launch in July 2023 of a regional incentive scheme (shopping vouchers) to promote smokefree pregnancies. The latter follows an announcement in April 2023, of a national incentive scheme for all pregnant smokers by the end of 2024, with a strong evidence base for the effectiveness of financial incentives.

Latest local (unvalidated) data for Quarter 2 of 2023, indicates that 53.4% of Sunderland women who gave birth, initiated first milk as breast milk, with 48.2% breastfeeding at discharge. The proportion of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks was 27.6% for 2021/22 (Child Health Profile) below England (48.9%) and the North-East (35.7%). There is a range of ongoing work to support Sunderland being a Breastfeeding Friendly City and to increase the rates of breastfeeding, including the UNICEF accreditation journey for Growing Healthy Sunderland, STSFT Maternity and Neonatal as well as the Family Hubs.

At the end of Quarter 2, 99.5% of new birth visits and 94.3% of 2.5-year-old checks have been carried out in timescale based on local data, continuing the high levels of performance in previous quarters.

Previously published 2021/22 results for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) Good Level of Development showed that in Sunderland 63.7% of children achieved a good level of development – lower than the North-East (at 64.1%) and England (at 65.2%). In Sunderland and across the North-East and England fewer children achieved a Good Level of Development in comparison to the pre pandemic figures. The 2019/2020 and 2020/21 academic years publications were cancelled due to Covid-19. 2022/23 results are expected to be published soon and will therefore be included in the Quarter 3 of 2023/24 report.

Through support to families with children in need, and intervention in families with children subject to a child protection plan, we seek to increase resilience in families to give children the best life chances, and subsequently we monitor how often worries are raised about children that we have already tried to help. The latest rates of children in need, children subject to a child protection plan and cared for children have increased, however, the Sunderland rates for children in need and cared for children are better than both the statistical neighbour comparator and the North-East. At the end of Quarter 2, 18.3% of referrals to TFC were re-referrals within 12 months (target 23%), a decrease on the same period in the previous year (21.8%). 10.5% of children subject to a child protection plan had a repeat plan within 2 years (within target of 15%), a decrease on the same period in the previous year (at 14.6%). 81.1% of early help cases closed with successful outcomes (target 85%), 8.5% of Cared for Children have experienced 3+ placements within the last 12 months (target 10% or less) and 99.1% of Cared for Children had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (target 95%). The City Plan Timeline action relating to new Children's Home (Maple Cottage) is now complete and home to two young people.

The rate of under 18 conceptions (teenage pregnancy rate based on conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 -17) for Sunderland was 26.4 in Quarter 3 of 2021/22 (latest available data) – up on the same period in the previous year (at 21.7). This is above the England and North-East rates (of 13.1 and 19.8 - for Quarter 3 of 2022/2023). The rise was anticipated from local intelligence following reductions during Covid. Support in place includes delivery of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), ongoing offer of the C-Card for young people age 13+ (366 issues in Quarter 2) and access to free emergency contraception (EHC) via pharmacies and school nursing (44 instance of supply to ages 19 and under of EHC via pharmacies in Quarter 2). Other support includes sexual health advice, targeted sessions delivered in schools, provision of access to free long-acting contraception with further work ongoing to widen choice for point of access, a young person's contraceptive nurse (specialist sexual health service), providing in clinic and outreach services (including emergency access) and an Options Advisor.

Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives

Our City Plan recognises the need to ensure that health and wellbeing outcomes are significantly improved, with previously published healthy life expectancy at birth in Sunderland (at 56.1 years for males and 56.9 for females 2018-2020), lower than the North-East and England and declining (following the England & North-East declining trend). The Healthy City Plan is our Health & Wellbeing Board's joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy through which we will address health inequalities.

Health inequalities are influenced by complex factors known as wider determinants of health such as income, housing, the local environment, education, transport and access to good quality work. These factors interact and lead to poorer life expectancy and longer period in ill-health. Poorer health outcomes are experienced by those who have limited access to health care, experience poorer quality care, and have higher levels of risk i.e., smoking, alcohol misuse, etc. Within Sunderland, the Reducing Inequalities Delivery Group (subgroup of the Living Well Delivery Board) has a delivery plan focused on the four key priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board which has been in place since 2021. These are: better understanding of our

population, asset-based community development ('residents as participants'), economic activity (skills, aspirations and wealth building) and health in all policies approach.

Alcohol is a complex issue within our society and no single approach will be successful in isolation. Alcohol remains one of the key drivers of health inequalities and one of the key causes of premature death and therefore it requires commitment and contributions from a range of partners across the city.

Hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (broad) were at 2,668 (episodes per 100,000) for Sunderland for 2021/22 (North-East average 2,323, England 1,734) – an increase on the previous year figure (longer term trend comparison not applicable due to changes in how the statistics have been compiled). A range of programmes and services are being delivered by the city council and partners, as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse. Our published partnership alcohol strategy (Calling Time: It's time to rethink drink) action plan coordinates the ongoing work to reduce alcohol harms. This includes a focus on prevention and the expansion of the Alcohol Care Team within the trust, the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy, the funding of dedicated posts within the treatment and recovery system and the promotion of alcohol harm awareness raising initiatives and campaigns.

Additional 3-year funding through the national substance misuse treatment and recovery grant has been invested across the city with the aim of increasing access into treatment by 20% and reducing drug and alcohol related deaths. Alongside the grant, a new performance framework came into effect for adult substance misuse treatment services from April 2023. For the new key performance indicator of *clients in treatment showing substantial progress*, the figure for Sunderland from the latest available data period of June 2023 was 46% (802 clients showing substantial progress of 1,784 in treatment), the England figure for the same period was 47%. Projects and programmes funded through the grant in the current year include dedicated roles within the treatment system for parents and carers, those experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, and those with complex needs. Alongside these posts there are dedicated criminal justice workers based within the local Police service, and a post within the Hospital Trust's Alcohol Care Team. Other projects include the funding of harm reduction initiatives and awareness raising campaigns.

The rate for the three-year period 2018/19-2020/21 (latest available data) for under 18s alcohol admissions per 100,000 was 76 for Sunderland - an improvement on the previous rate of 82.4, (North-East rate 52, England rate of 55.4). Data from the recent 2023 Health Related Behaviour Survey indicates a reduction in alcohol consumption amongst young people - both Year 8 and Year 10 pupils, when compared to data from 2021. Consumption of alcohol in the previous 7 days amongst Year 8 pupils surveyed shows a reduction from 9% to 8%, and for Year 10 pupils a reduction from 26% to 22%. There has also been an increase in the proportion of pupils who indicated they either do not drink alcohol or have no intention to do so, with 58% of secondary pupils surveyed giving this answer compared to 55% in 2021.

For young people, needing substance misuse intervention, the key performance measure continues to be successful outcomes for closed cases (rolling year). At the end of September 2023, 89% of the Youth Drug & Alcohol Programme cases were closed with successful outcomes.

In October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its policy paper 'Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation', which includes a key proposal to raise the age of sale of tobacco year on year so anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be able to legally buy tobacco. It also includes proposals to introduce restrictions on vapes to tackle youth vaping and a package of measures to help smokers to quit, including a commitment to double the grant for local authority stop smoking services for the next five years and to strengthen enforcement of illicit products. The DHSC has launched a consultation, and a response will be submitted from the Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board to support these measures, which will help Sunderland to reduce smoking rates to 5% by 2030 as set out in our City Plan.

The recently published figure for smoking prevalence in 2022 confirmed a continued reduction to 13.2% (having previously reduced from 22.7% in 2017 to 15.2% in 2021), with a 1.7 percentage point reduction in the gap between Sunderland and England (with the gap now at 0.5 of a percentage point, having previously reduced from 7.8 to 2.2 percentage points between 2017 and 2021).

A range of programmes and services are being delivered by the city council and partners, as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to supporting the smokefree agenda. These are reflected in the Smokefree Partnership Action Plan which has been refreshed for 2023-2026 covering eight key strands of tobacco control, including building capacity and skills to support smokers to quit; reducing exposure to tobacco smoke; ensuring effective year-round media and comms; and tobacco regulations and enforcement. As smoking prevalence reduces, the Specialist Stop Smoking Service, will target the remaining population of smokers, which includes those with the most complex needs, though high quality evidenced based specialist support. The service can also refer on to the network of Universal stop smoking services across the city and provide self-help tools such as a Smokefree App for a more flexible offer. In Quarter 4 of 2022/23 (latest available data) 49.5% of smokers setting a quit date successfully quit at 4 weeks (115 successful quitters of 291 quit attempts). This combines Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS) and Universal NHS Stop Smoking Services data.

Latest data for 2021/22 reports 73.9% of adults in Sunderland are living with overweight or obesity, this is higher than the previous figure of 69.1% and above the North-East (70.5%) and England average (63.8%). Latest national data, for the academic year 2022/23, shows that 41.5% of children in Year 6 were living with overweight (including obesity). This is a reduction from 45% in 2021/22 (the highest rate ever been recorded in Sunderland). In 2022/23 the Sunderland figure is higher than the North-East (at 39.9%) and England (at 36.6%).

Impacting on healthy weight requires a system wide approach to the physical and food environment and our healthy weight strategy incorporates a range of plans and actions to change the environment. A range of services are also being delivered by the city council and partners. In 2021 Sunderland secured national funding to deliver a Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Service – commencing August 2021 and funded to December 2022. The programme was evaluated, and local public health funding has been agreed to continue for a further 2 years, targeted at 3 geographical areas each year, where need is greatest (people will be able to access from across the city). There were 59 people self-referring onto the programme in Quarter 1 and 24 in Quarter 2. Figures on the numbers completing the programme at 18 weeks will be available from Quarter 3.

Alongside this, there has been the ongoing delivery of the Change 4 Life Sunderland Offer. In Quarter 2, 43 school sessions were delivered, engaging 1,575 school children. There were 6 Change for Life Sunderland programmes delivered with a 100% successful completion rate. At the end of Quarter 2, 16% of educational settings are accredited at Bronze standard in the Sunderland Healthy Schools Awards, 1% at Gold standard and 3% at Emerald standard.

Through our Low Carbon Action Plan we want to ensure that the council's allotment policy maximises opportunities for local food growing by residents and facilitates community growing projects supporting healthy eating. In 2020, an audit was carried out, identifying abandoned allotment plots. Since then, it is estimated that 100 plots have been brought back into use with approximately 2,986 plots in the city (Council & private) across 99 sites.

Data for 2021/22 previously published by Public Health England, shows that 75.5% of people in Sunderland were active or fairly active – an increase of 1.5 percentage points on the previous 2020/21 figure of 74% and an increase of 3.5 percentage points on the long-term trend comparison period of 2017/18. Sunderland is now better than the North-East figure of 75% (England 77.7%).

There were 604,243 Leisure Centre attendances in Quarter 2, and 4,716 attendances at Active Sunderland participation events and sports festivals. In Quarter 2 Sunderland hosted the British

leg of the World Triathlon Championship series and alongside this we have been working with British Triathlon to create new opportunities to participate in swim, bike run events and Go Tri. Overall, the event attracted over 2,000 participants with 182 elite athletes and 29,000 spectators. The economic impact for city is estimated at £2.1m with 5 hours broadcast on BBC television and a social media reach of 1.9m. With funding from the Lawn Tennis Association, we are investing in tennis facilities in the city. In Quarter 2, the refurbishment of 17 tennis courts has been completed and Everyone Active is providing activation sessions to encourage use of the refurbished courts. There have been 1,770 online bookings in Quarter 2 and 80 coached sessions were made available. In Quarter 2 there were 82,855 visitors through the turnstiles of Football Hubs and planning has commenced for five safe and inclusive based sports play zones with investment from the Football Foundation and Sports England. We are working with Street Games to facilitate new opportunities in targeted areas. This includes working with 12 community organisations to capitalise on funding opportunities to increase physical activity opportunities for young people. We are targeting the least active areas for new active participation opportunities including planning for a new multi-use games area, expanding the walking programme to include new walks and working with key leisure partners to ensure engagement with residents in areas of greatest need.

Previously published validated data for the three-year period of 2019-2021, showed the suicide rate for Sunderland reduced to 14.2 per 100,000 (age 10+) from 14.4 (for 2018-2020), though it remained above the England rate of 10.4 and Northeast rate of 13. The Public Mental Health Concordat for Sunderland was endorsed and signed off by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in January 2023 - this framework and action plan will support work to improve mental health wellbeing, which will contribute to the suicide prevention agenda. Suicide prevention training (A Life Worth Living) is available, through Washington Mind, for people who live and work in Sunderland. In Quarter 2, there have been 3 adult suicide prevention training courses delivered to 45 participants and 2 young person's suicide prevention courses delivered to 30 participants. Alongside this, Sunderland's Suicide Prevention action plan has recently been refreshed for the period of 2023-2026 and reflects priorities as identified in the new national suicide prevention strategy 'Suicide Prevention Strategy for England: 2023 to 2028'. Sunderland's Suicide Prevention action plan will be shared with the Living Well Delivery Board in November for final sign off.

The Council continues to support healthy workplaces through the Better Health at Work Awards with introductory meetings with all businesses signed up and additional support offered where needed. At the end of Quarter 2, there were 48 businesses actively participating in the Better Health at work Awards. Alongside this, regular meetings of the Sunderland Workplace Health Alliance enables businesses to engage on the health, work and wellbeing agenda, supported by the Council. At the end of Quarter 2, 155 businesses have been recruited with the Workplace Health Alliance Scheme.

High quality support and social care that enables those who need it to live the life they want to live.

The Adult Social Care Strategy 2022-2024 sets out the vision for Adult Social Care in Sunderland and the three key priorities of: supporting people to live independently, supporting people to regain independence and helping people to live with support. 97.1% of people aged 18+ in the city live independently (without social care services) and we remain committed to ensuring people in the city can enjoy independent lives.

To achieve our vision, and deliver on our priorities, we aim to be a leader on the developing of technology enabled care and deployment of smart technology to work alongside other models of care. The Adult Social Care Digital Strategy is currently being developed for publication in Autumn 2023.

At the end of Quarter 2, 4,091 homes had assisted technology to support their care / independent living and work has been completed on a Smart Home to showcase the associated technology, along with dementia and smart homes grants as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant

offer. Eligibility criteria and a supporting online tool is being developed. A three-month trial of the approach will be undertaken with people supported by in-patient and community dementia services. Following work completed earlier in the year during Dementia awareness week, the Dementia Action Plan is now in place.

As part of the digital offer, we will implement a range of Adult Social Care automated telephony Apps to support welfare checks, reviews and customer feedback. Apps are live for community equipment, reablement and wheelchairs. 36.6% had responded to automated review call in Quarter 2.

Partnership work is progressing to ensure safe and timely hospital discharge with residents and carers central to discharge planning and receiving quality and timely advice and information. Scoping work has commenced on the process for hospital work going forward. In 2022/23 (latest available data) 78.9% of older people (65 and over) were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into rehabilitation services.

Work has been progressed to review, develop and expand the Adult Social Care early intervention and prevention offer with tender documents published for early intervention and prevention services and carers, with the scope expanded to include those residents with and without statutory needs.

Latest available published data on the rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ (per 100,000), showed a decrease from 3,164 in 2020/21, to 2,710 for 2021/22 for Sunderland though figures remain above the North-East (at 2,531) and England (at 2,023). Although the Sunderland figure decreased over the last year, the North-East and England figures increased in the same period.

70.5% of people who use services have control over their daily lives based on latest provisional figures for 22/23 (North-East 80.2%, England 2021/22 (latest available) 76.9%) an improvement on the previous year (at 76.4%). In the same period 73.6% of people who used services in Sunderland felt safe (North-East 74.3% England 2021/22 (latest available) 69.2%) also an improvement on the previous year (at 72.5%). In Quarter 2, 93.5% of Adult Safeguarding cases were completed with the risk reduced or removed. In 79.6% of completed cases the individual was asked about the desired outcome and for those where this was expressed, in 97.3% of cases the outcome was achieved.

Great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all

We are committed to ensuring that people can move around the city with ease through improved transport routes (accessible to key employment sites) and enabling low carbon and active travel.

Key to this is having in place the necessary infrastructure. In Quarter 2, there were no new adopted roads (2023/24 total remains at 103m), no new adopted footpaths (2023/24 total remains at 76m) and 5,000m of new or improved cycleways (taking the total for 2023/24 to 6,630).

Progress is being made on our commitment to better routes for active travel. Phase I of the Whitburn Road cycle scheme (Tram Shelter to Roker Ravine Bridge) has been completed and Phase 2 (Roker Ravine Bridge to Bungalow Café) commenced on site September 2023. Design works and engagement with Active Travel England has been undertaken for two further active travel schemes, subject to funding agreement.

Through our rapid charging station, we continue to support the wider use of electric vehicles in the city. There were 2,568 transactions at electric vehicle rapid charging units in Quarter 2 of 2023/24, up on the 2,088 in Quarter 2 of 2023/24. 2023/24 will see the expansion of the infrastructure to support electric vehicles with new residential community hubs in place by the end of the year.

Under the Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of Low Carbon and Active Transport we are encouraging take-up of active, sustainable travel options through a range of initiatives including Better Points. The Better Points App rewards users for walking, cycling and other low carbon and active travel through points that can be exchanged for a range of rewards. At the end of Quarter 2 there were 1,401 Sunderland users registered on the Better Points App.

952 children have taken part in cycle training as at the end of September 2023 and 2,062 school children have taken part in pedestrian training as at the end of August 2023 (latest available data).

We are also seeking to ensure that our own behaviours enable and encourage active and low carbon travel. In 2022/23, 9% of the Council's fleet were electric vehicles and we seek to increase this in our commitment to carbon reduction. In 2022/23 there were 32 bike orders through the Council's cycle to work scheme. The Council's employee travel survey for 2022/23 found that of those employees who commute to work via car, 9% commuted using an electric vehicle, up on the 5% who reported commuting to work by electric vehicle in the 2021/22 survey and we are supporting our employees to choose to use public transport with reduced costs for 41 employees through a salary sacrifice scheme (2022/23).

Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods

Our focus here is on promoting environmental responsibility amongst residents to achieve a cleaner and more attractive city.

The percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting in Quarter 2 was 30.7% (8,886 tonnes recycled, reused or composted of 28,957 tonnes of total household waste). Comparator figures are shown in the chart. We are working with the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) to change residents' behaviours around recycling and contamination of recycling. The South of Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership has a joint communications plan in place which includes regular recycling updates, links to national messaging and a You Tube video to show the recycling process from collection to processing. Education and enforcement officers are working out in the community undertaking engagement and education activity with residents on presenting recycling and/or waste correctly. The Waste and Recycling Visitor education centre at Campground has increased activity with schools and community organisations across the city and developed online activity to assist those unable to access the facility directly,

In Quarter 2 Plastic Free July took place - a global movement aimed at enabling people to be "*part of the solution to plastic pollution*". We supported plastic free July locally with our own social media communications campaign, through which children and young people shared their art work and thoughts on reducing plastic pollution. The communications campaign was seen on 3.1K social media accounts. The campaign was an opportunity to further raise awareness of the Sunderland Refill Scheme, a means of choosing an alternative to single use plastic. As at the end of Quarter 2 Sunderland has approximately 120 refill stations.

At the end of Quarter 2, the percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level was 5%, lower than Quarter 1 (at 15%) and lower than the same period in the previous year (Quarter 2 of 2022/23 at 11%). The % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having levels of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level was 0.4% and graffiti was 2.17%. In Quarter 2 service requests within timescale were as follows: litter debris & leaves 99.4%, graffiti & flyposting 90.1%, animal fouling 95.5%, grass cutting 94.6%, shrubs & hedges 87.7% and fly tipping 94.3%. Performance for all areas was better than the target set for the service.

We are issuing sanctions where appropriate following enforcement investigations. In Quarter 2, 1,313 enforcement activities had been carried out. The enforcement activities included 234 investigations, 884 warning letters, 2 Community Protection Warnings, 13 Section 47 notices (businesses), 120 Section 46 notices (residents) and 60 other notices / activities. Both section

46 and 47 notices relate to the storage, disposal and presentation of waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Sunderland is one of six local authorities in the North-East joining forces with environment organisations to plant trees across the region as part of the North-East Community Forest – improving the natural environment and creating healthier and happier places. The North-East Forest initiative aims to plant up to 500 hectares of trees by 2025, with a long-term goal to increase canopy cover across the North-East to 30% by 2050 – almost double the current national average. Contributing to this, we set out to deliver 13 hectares of new tree planting in Sunderland in the 2022-23 planting season (exceeded with 21.9 hectares planted). New planting sites will be identified by the end of October 2023 for the 2023/24 season. A Tree management strategy is in place with the award of a 3-year contract ensuring arrangements for inspection regimes, timely identification of hazards, response to complaints and other tree monitoring and management requirements.

VIBRANT SMART CITY

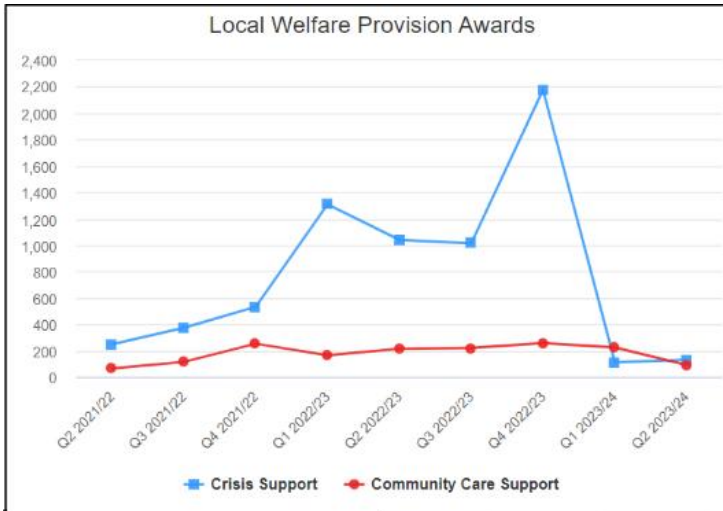
More resilient people – more people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods – more residents participating in their communities – more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Proportion of households considered to be fuel poor 2021: 13.8%	England 13.1%, NE 14%	Declining (2017/18: 12%)
Residents supported by food banks: Qtr.2 2023/24: 6,319	N/A	Improving (Qtr. 2 2022/23: 6,718)
Crime (recorded incidents) Apr – Sept 2023: 15,640	N/A	Declining (Apr – Sept 2022: 14,607)
Residents' feelings of safety (local) Oct 2022 – Sept 2023: 94%	Northumbria Force 94%	Improving (Oct 2021 – Sept 2023: 93%)
Recorded incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Sept 2023: 104	N/A	Declining (Sept 2022: 85)
Proportion of residents proud to live in Sunderland (Residents Survey) 2022: 43%	N/A	Not available
Number of visitors to the city 2022: 8,512,000	N/A	Declining (2018: 9,180,000)
Overall spend of visitors to the city 2022: £510m	N/A	Improving (2018: £475m)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS AND ACTION



28
Events

Events facilitated by the Council
Quarter 2 of 2023/24

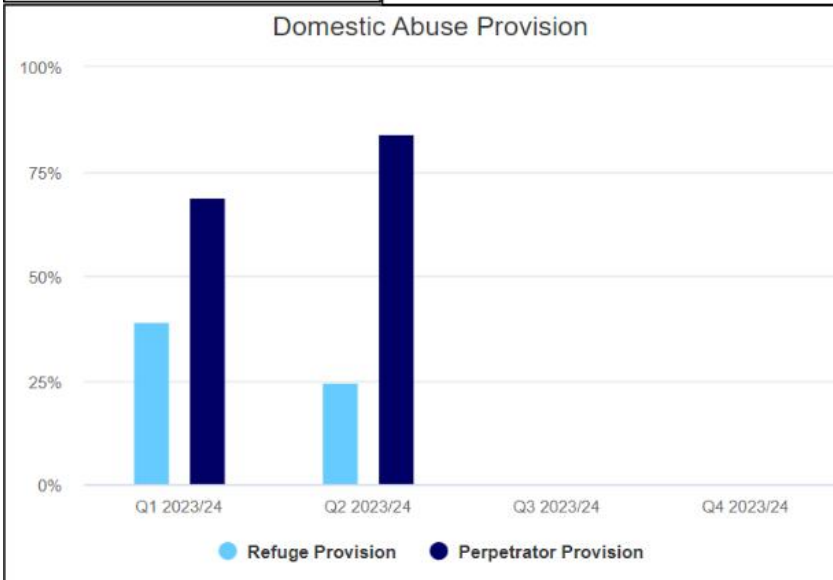
37

Activities delivered
by the Heritage
Partnership

Quarter 2 2023/24



Figures not available for Arts Centre Qtr.2 2019/20. Museum / Arts Centres closed Qtr.1 & Qtr. 4 2020/21 due to COVID-19.



14 retailers signed up to
the **Responsible Retailers'**
Scheme.



16
Test Purchases
carried out.

Quarter 2 2023/24

2023/24 Timeline
More resilient families in Sunderland
Maximise Household Support Grant to vulnerable groups across the city
Develop Fuel Poverty Plan and partnership approach to Cost of Living Crisis support programme
Develop Community Digital and Health Hubs from the Warm Spaces approach
Implement the Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Prevention Strategy
Develop the council's first rough sleeper accommodation
Refresh Sunderland's Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2026
Tackle anti-social behaviour and perceptions of crime in the City Centre through the SAIL project
Development of multi-cultural and community events across the city
Open Elemore Park café and garden centre and secure investment for wider park developments
Establish the Sunderland VCS Alliance as an independent Community Interest Organisation
World Class music events staged in the city
Sunderland's Heritage collections, archives and buildings enjoyed by residents
New national/international events - Host British leg of the 2023 World Triathlon Championship series
Seaburn Masterplan reviewed

Residents who are more resilient to ongoing challenges including the cost-of-living crisis

We know that our communities have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with hardship continuing for some in the face of challenges presented by the rise in the cost of living. The number of residents supported by the 6 food banks that report figures to the Council (Sunderland Foodbank, its Distribution Centres and 5 Independent food banks) rose continually over the two years of 2021/22 and 2022/23 peaking at 9,893 for Quarter 4 of 2022/23. In 2023/24 figures have fallen to 6,427 in Quarter 1 and 6,319 in Quarter 2, however, it is anticipated that figures will rise again in Quarter 3 reflecting seasonal trends in which there is higher need over the winter months.

In Quarter 1 there were 130 Crisis Support Awards (Local Welfare Provision) up on the 112 made in Quarter 1. In Quarter 4 of 2022/23 there were 2,175 awards, however, the figures are not comparable as Crisis Support Awards during 2022/23 included awards made under the Council's Household Support Fund. There were 91 Community Care Support Awards made in Quarter 2 - reduced on the 224 made in previous quarter (Quarter 1 of 2022/23) and reduced on the 214 awards made in the same period in the previous year (Quarter 2 of 2022/23).

Latest figures for Fuel Poverty are for 2021 with 13.8% of households considered to be fuel poor – higher than the England figure (at 13.1%) but lower than the North-East (at 14%). This is a small decrease of 0.8% percentage points compared to the figure for 2020. The 2023/4 timeline activity of develop Fuel Poverty Plan and partnership approach to Cost of Living Crisis support programme, was completed in the previous quarter with the Financial Wellbeing Strategy agreed by Cabinet in June 2023, and delivery plan in place.

There were 59 Warm and Welcoming spaces open in July 2023 with 68,236 people accessing those facilities during the lifetime of the initiative (from 1st October 2022 until 30st July 2023 when the funding for the Warm and Welcoming Spaces Programme came to an end). Additional resources have been secured from UKSPF and ICB and matched with SCC funding for continued work alongside the VCS, enabling the sector to continue to enhance delivery of essential local support services and activities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents, and help to grow the 'Links for Life' (Social Prescribing offer) in the city. The Links for Life delivery model encourages a collaborative approach to delivering services. The Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance is a key partner and available to support the voluntary and community sector to embrace this way of working and strengthen services at a neighbourhood level. Alongside the Links for Life model is the delivery of 24 digital hubs with all capital works expected to be completed by the end of November 2023.

As at the end of September 2023, the average number of days in temporary accommodation for those presenting as homeless was 121 days. The Homelessness Strategy has been approved by Cabinet and the Housing Strategy reviewed with related work completed to develop a supporting action plan to focus on reducing health inequalities. Work has been progressed to develop the council's first rough sleeper accommodation. The Housing Service has identified 3 schemes to provide accommodation and support for clients who are homeless or have experienced rough sleeping. These will provide 34 units of accommodation with support, for clients with various levels of support needs and at various places on the journey from the street to independent living. The schemes are now expected to open in mid-2024 or early 2025.

We have been working to maximise the Housing Support Fund for vulnerable groups with payments expected to be made in Quarter 3.

More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods and businesses benefitting from the city's safe and secure environment

In Quarter 2, the percentage of residents surveyed who felt very or fairly safe was 94% - a 1% improvement on the same period in the previous year and consistent with the Northumbria Police Force average (94%). Crime for April 2023 to September 2023 at 15,640 recorded incidents) has increased when compared with the same period in the previous year (14,607 recorded incidents).

In April 2022, the council successfully launched a holistic Domestic Abuse Services model to meet its statutory obligations under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The service provides safe accommodation with specialist onsite support, specialist outreach support for survivors and children, early intervention, perpetrator intervention and support, a sanctuary scheme and a complex needs dispersed accommodation and support service. In Quarter 2, 24.3% of refuge referrals were accommodated, 84.2% of eligible domestic abuse perpetrator referrals accessed support services and 5 children accessed treatment / support services. Refuge referrals may be rejected for a range of reasons including: if the client /survivor does not want support or they decline the accommodation offer, if they are identified as unsafe to work with, have previous convictions for offences such as arson / violence or their needs can be better met elsewhere. Where appropriate they will be signposted to other domestic abuse or housing services. In terms of the availability of suitable accommodation, a sufficiency review is underway of current provision assessed against the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) quality standards for safe supported accommodation provision (including refuge). This will support a capital business case to develop a new model of refuge provision that is better enabled to meet the demands and complexity of domestic abuse victims/survivors and their children across Sunderland.

Sunderland's Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy is being refreshed, for completion by March 2024. A whole system approach to training will be explored with partners to equip those on the frontline to recognise abuse in its varying forms and with a focus around active bystander and how to challenge unacceptable behaviours and language.

We are committed to disrupting criminal and anti-social behaviour through intervention and enforcement with 25 intelligence led pro-active disruption activities carried out in relation to licensing between April & September 2023. We hope to engage 100% of retailers in the city in our Responsible Retailers Scheme - with a further 14 retailers signing up in Quarter 2. We continue to work to prevent sales of age-restricted products and illicit tobacco / alcohol. Trading standards will carry out a visit following receipt of a complaint and additionally in Quarter 2 we carried out 16 test purchases.

In Quarter 2, 810 young people have attended a prevention bus session. The bus visits schools and communities across the city and is a partnership effort to help ensure young people have healthy, happy lives and are not left behind. Staff on the bus provide support on topics such as bullying, online safety, mental health, sexual health, drug & alcohol issues and careers advice.

A key aim of our prevention activity is to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system. In Quarter 4 of 2022/23 (latest available data), there were 128 first time entrants (per 100,000 population aged 10-17) to the Criminal Justice System, better than the North-East figure of 146 and the England figure of 172.

Residents feeling proud of the city and the place where they live with more people active and participating in their communities

This commitment is about residents, including children and young people, being able to engage with and participate in their communities and feeling proud of where they live.

Through our external communications we can increase awareness of the activities and opportunities in Sunderland that enable individuals to engage in their communities. Through our *#WeAllMakeSunderland* Civic Pride communication campaign we have been sharing and celebrating the stories of the people and places that make Sunderland. We continue to engage people through Sunderland UK social media channels. Our audience continues to grow with 31,110 Facebook and 42,170 Twitter followers as at the end of Quarter 2.

We continue to seek opportunities to support people in Sunderland to contribute to their communities and the city through volunteering. In Quarter 1 this included: 338 people volunteering on place-based activities, and more on other volunteering opportunities.

Through the Changing Places programme work has progressed to improve facilities (changing places) in eight community locations (including 4 leisure centres and 2 parks) to enable people with complex needs to participate in their communities. All eight new changing places will be completed by the end of March 2024.

More people visiting Sunderland with businesses thriving and more residents participating in cultural events and activities

Prior to 2020, the number of visitors to the city (and associated spend) showed a continued upward trend (visitor numbers increased from 8.24m in 2016 to 9.49m in 2019 and spend from £399m to £500m in the same period). As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in early 2020 however, cultural venues and events were particularly impacted due to the greater challenges of ensuring social distancing and safe delivery. In 2020, visitor numbers reduced to 4.38m and visitor spend to £219m. With Covid continuing to impact across 2021, figures remained low but improved, at 5.73m visitors and £314m visitor spend. Latest available figures, for 2022, show that visitor numbers increased to 8.51m visitors and £510m spend. Following on from the two-year post-covid Tourism Recovery Plan, a new 10-year Tourism Strategy will take forward tourism for Sunderland. Through our City Plan we have committed to delivering new national and international sporting events and staging world class music events to attract visitors and for residents to enjoy.

Sunderland Empire Theatre re-opened its doors on 2nd September 2021, following Covid-19 restrictions with 212,237 visitors in 2021/2022. In 2022/23 there were 320,649 visitors with figures exceeding the two years prior to Covid (with visitor numbers at 266,440 in 2019/2020 and 304,314 in 2018/19). In Quarter 2 of 2023/24 there have been 43,756 visitors. Though the figure is down on the 49,910 visitors in Quarter 2 of 2022//23, figures for the first half of 2023/24 (at 152,681) are up on the first half of 2022/23 (at 112,549).

The Museum and Winter Gardens and Washington Arts Centre re-opened mid-way through Quarter 1 of 2021/22 and received 184,979 visitors in the year 2021/22 and 270,954 visits in 2022/23. In Quarter 2 of 2023/24 there have been 82,928 (down on the 155,127 visits in Quarter 2 of 2022/23).

In Quarter 1, 55 organisations engaged in the Heritage Partnership Practitioners Network and 37 activities were delivered by the Heritage Partnership.

The National Glass Centre received 43,287 visitors in Quarter 2.

In Quarter 2 there were 56,193 library issues (including physical books, eBooks / e-Audio and e-Magazine), 363 new adult members, 7,687 digital subscriptions and 381 interactions with the Books at Home delivery service.

ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

Good organisational health – strong financial management – productive and innovative working – a council ready for the future



<p>2,714</p> <p>directly employed staff</p> <p>Sept 2023</p>	<p>Sickness absence rate per FTE (monthly average)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Sickness absence rate per FTE (monthly average)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>April</td><td>1.1</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>1.0</td><td>1.0</td></tr> <tr><td>June</td><td>1.1</td><td>1.0</td></tr> <tr><td>July</td><td>1.2</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>August</td><td>1.2</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>September</td><td>1.1</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>October</td><td>1.3</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>November</td><td>1.2</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>December</td><td>1.4</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>January</td><td>1.1</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>February</td><td>1.0</td><td>0.9</td></tr> <tr><td>March</td><td>1.2</td><td>0.9</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	2022/23	2023/24	April	1.1	0.9	May	1.0	1.0	June	1.1	1.0	July	1.2	0.9	August	1.2	0.9	September	1.1	0.9	October	1.3	0.9	November	1.2	0.9	December	1.4	0.9	January	1.1	0.9	February	1.0	0.9	March	1.2	0.9	<p>ICT Availability</p> <table border="1"> <caption>ICT Availability</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Quarter</th> <th>ICT: End-to-end application availability</th> <th>ICT: Core Network availability</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Q2 2022/23</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q3 2022/23</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q4 2022/23</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td></tr> <tr><td>Q1 2023/24</td><td>100%</td><td>100%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Quarter	ICT: End-to-end application availability	ICT: Core Network availability	Q2 2022/23	100%	100%	Q3 2022/23	100%	100%	Q4 2022/23	100%	100%	Q1 2023/24	100%	100%
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November	1.2	0.9																																																						
December	1.4	0.9																																																						
January	1.1	0.9																																																						
February	1.0	0.9																																																						
March	1.2	0.9																																																						
Quarter	ICT: End-to-end application availability	ICT: Core Network availability																																																						
Q2 2022/23	100%	100%																																																						
Q3 2022/23	100%	100%																																																						
Q4 2022/23	100%	100%																																																						
Q1 2023/24	100%	100%																																																						
<p>Council tax & business rates collection</p>	<p>51.3% Qtr. 2 Target 52.1%</p>	<p>56.4% Qtr. 2 Target 58%</p>																																																						
<p>% CSN Customers accessing services via self-service</p> <table border="1"> <caption>% CSN Customers accessing services via self-service</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>2022/23</th> <th>2023/24</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>April</td><td>58%</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>52%</td><td>55%</td></tr> <tr><td>June</td><td>54%</td><td>54%</td></tr> <tr><td>July</td><td>54%</td><td>54%</td></tr> <tr><td>August</td><td>50%</td><td>52%</td></tr> <tr><td>September</td><td>54%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>October</td><td>65%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>November</td><td>54%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>December</td><td>60%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>January</td><td>57%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>February</td><td>55%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr><td>March</td><td>55%</td><td>51%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	2022/23	2023/24	April	58%	60%	May	52%	55%	June	54%	54%	July	54%	54%	August	50%	52%	September	54%	51%	October	65%	51%	November	54%	51%	December	60%	51%	January	57%	51%	February	55%	51%	March	55%	51%	<p>Current Position</p> <p>Forecast overspend of £1.197m</p> <p>Quarter 2</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>The forecast position takes into account delegated overspends and includes the estimated impact of the proposed national pay award.</p> <p>Further details can be found in the October Cabinet Second Revenue Budget Review report.</p>															
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Good organisational health and strong financial management

We will ensure good organisational health through well planned services (set out through service planning arrangements) that are clearly aligned to our overall vision and ambitions, as set out in our City Plan. We will ensure that this is supported through the delivery of effective corporate functions including those relating to governance, health & safety, effective business processes (such as information management), digital adoption and ICT.

Through strong financial management we will ensure we are in a good and sustainable budget position, maximising external funding and financing opportunities aligned to the City Plan. We have in place efficient income collection arrangements ensuring that the council has access to all the maximum available resource to deliver services.

At the end of Quarter 2, there were 2,714 directly employed staff (32 more than in Quarter 2 of 2022/23) with a forecast budget position of a £1.197m overspend.

In previous periods the impact of Covid-19 became evident in Business Rates and Council Tax collection levels. Whilst our targets reflect the high levels of collection we aimed for pre-pandemic, we recognise there are ongoing challenges for our residents and going forward in 2023/24 we seek to achieve a level no lower than within 5% of the target. At the end of Quarter 2, the Business Rates in year collection rate was 56.4% (target 58%) and Council Tax in year collection rate was 51.3% (target 52.1%).

In Quarter 2, £9,464,045 has been secured through funding bids for approved projects and programmes supported by the following funding initiatives: £74,049 Fostering Recruitment and Retention NE Pathfinder (initial grant only) (DfE), £900,109 Family Network Pilot (Year 1 funding), £26,807 BioDiversity Net Gain grant (2022-23 grant), £1,184,543 Brownfield Land Release Fund (Farringdon Row), £1,950,000 Brownfield Land Release Fund (Carley Hill/Cricketer's Hill), £5,000 Secure Connected Places - Beta Testing Stipend, £68,796 Swimming Pool Support Fund Revenue Phase, £60,000 LATF Round 3, £3,390,879 Sunderland Open Network Ecosystem project, £332,000 Tennis Court Refurbishment programme, £1,341,617 NE Fostering Recruitment Pathfinder and £130,245 Local Energy Advice Demonstrator project.

There were no reports to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by the Council in Quarter 2.

Productive and innovative working and a council ready for the future

As a council we continue to deliver on the organisational changes required to optimise productive and innovative working, and ensure we are a council ready for the future. In pursuit of this we are committed to thinking differently to embrace new ways of working, with our values at the heart of everything we do: *'We innovate, We enable, We respect'*. We want to support our employees to be as healthy and happy as they can be, and therefore able to be their most productive and innovative in delivering services to the communities of Sunderland.

The monthly sickness absence rate per FTE at the end of Quarter 2 is slightly lower than at the end of the same period in the previous year (1.1 September 2022, 0.88 September 2023), however, the current 12 month forecast, at 10.1 days as at the end of September 2023, remains above the target of 9 days absence per FTE per year. Following the reorganisation of the Council's structures, revised management information is in place for monitoring within Directorates. A regional benchmarking exercise has been undertaken in relation to sickness absence levels across the seven North-East Local Authorities and with 1 other organisation. For the period of the benchmarking exercise (year to 31st March 2023), the organisations were ranked from 1 to 8, 1 being lowest (at 11.16 days per FTE) to 8 being highest (at 15.33 days per FTE). Sunderland had a rate of 12.2 days per FTE and was ranked 5th.

We continue to promote health and wellbeing for our employees through our three-year Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2025) and annual action plan. A range of advice, support services and workplace-based health and wellbeing activities are available to our employees. In Quarter 2 there were 411 attendances at healthy choice sessions delivered by the Council's Employee Wellness Coordinator. There are now 1,210 employees registered on the Vivup Portal with 463 active users in Quarter 2. Through the platform employees can get Health & Wellbeing support via a free to use Employee Assistance Programme as well as access shopping & entertainment vouchers, to make their money go further supporting financial resilience.

We continue to develop a new operating model to ensure that the council is as customer focused and effective as it can be. Alongside this, the adoption and enhancement of digital technologies continues, for smart working focused on efficient and effective customer outcomes. Work has progressed to ensure that our frontline employees (often working in the most customer facing roles) are digitally enabled and connected. At the end of Quarter 2, 375 frontline workers have been digitally enabled with a kiosk ICT licence alongside the creation of 9 touch down zones across the city providing connectivity and access to ICT equipment to learn,

work and access information. We have also been working hard to deliver on automation to enable self-service with 48% of the workforce now able to self-manage their personal information as well as digital developments to improve the customer experience in processes for Revenues & Benefits, Bereavement Services and Local Services. In Quarter 2, 52% (50,446) of our Customer Service Network customers accessed services through self-serve – exceeding the target of 46%.

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY, MAYORAL AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2023/24 and provides an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2023/24.

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is two-fold, firstly it has a role in co-ordinating efficient business across the Scrutiny Committees and manage the overall Scrutiny Work Programme and secondly to consider the Council's corporate policies, performance and financial issues.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to 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.
- 2.3 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary).

3. Thematic Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the Scrutiny Committee work programmes for the Children, Education and Skills, Economic Prosperity and Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees respectively.

4. Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's Work Programme

- 4.1 **Appendix 2** outlines this Committee's full work programme for the year, updated to reflect new additions and amendments requested by Committee as the year has progressed.
- 4.2 Topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme will vary from single issue items for consideration such as policy and performance reports through to regular updates on issues that the committee have adopted a more focused monitoring role.
- 4.3 It should be noted that the work programme is a 'living' document and can be amended throughout the course of the municipal year. Any Elected Member can add an item of business to an agenda for consideration (Protocol 1 within the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook outlines this process).

5. Dedicated Scrutiny Budget

- 5.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committees to deliver the agreed Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes.
- 5.2 As of 27 November 2023 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	Nil
Member Development	Nil
Policy Review Development	Nil
Total Expenditure to Date	£0.00
Budget	£15,000.00
Remaining Budget	£15,000.00

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee:
- (a) notes the variations to the Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes for 2023/24 and to its own work programme; and
 - (b) notes the current scrutiny budget position for 2023/24.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings
Tel: 0191 561 1006
Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

REASON FOR INCLUSION	8 JUNE 23 (INFORMAL MEETING)	6 JULY 23	7 SEPT 23	5 OCT 23	2 NOV 23	30 NOV 23	11 JAN 24	1 FEB 24	29 FEB 24	18 APRIL 24
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										Scrutiny Annual Report – 23/24
Scrutiny Business	Work Programme 2023/24	Fostering Pathfinder (Majella McCarthy)	Respite Care Services (Jill Colbert)	Joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help (Jill Colbert) Youth Justice Plan 2021-24 – Update (Linda Mason)	Short Break – Update (Jill Colbert) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Sharon Wills)	Sunderland Healthy Related Behaviour Study Report (Jennifer Green/Ryan Houghton)	Early Help Update (Karen Davison)	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Schools Attendance/ Missing Education Update (Simon Marshall) Home Schooling (Simon Marshall)	SEND – Update (Pamela Robertson) SEND Educational Attainment School Attainment Update (Simon Marshall)	Adult Skills (Jill Colbert)
Performance / Service Improvement		Children Services Customer Feedback – Annual Report (Stacey Hodgkinson)		TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Jill Colbert/Stacey Hodgkinson)		Children Services Customer Feedback (Stacey Hodgkinson)	TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Jill Colbert/Stacey Hodgkinson)			TfC Meaningful Measures Performance Report (Stacey Hodgkinson)
Consultation / Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme	

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) Events (Marion Dixon) 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) Screen Industries – Update (Catherine Auld) Housing Update (Graham Scanlan)	Siglion (Anthony Crabb) Future High Street Fund Programme (Neil Guthrie/ Anthony Crabb) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland)	Cycling Infrastructure (Craig Mordue) Accessibility of the City Centre (Craig Mordue) City Heat Networks (Peter Graham) 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:

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

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

REASON FOR INCLUSION		4 JULY 23 D/L:23 JUNE 23	5 SEPTEMBER 23 D/L:25 AUGUST 23	3 OCTOBER 23 D/L: 22 SEPT 23	31 OCTOBER 23 D/L: 20 OCT 23	28 NOVEMBER 23 D/L: 17 NOV 23	16 JANUARY 24 D/L: 5 JAN 24	30 JANUARY 24 D/L: 19 JAN 24	27 FEBRUARY 24 D/L: 16 FEB 24	26 MARCH 24 D/L: 15 MAR 24
Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses										
Scrutiny Business		Dental Services Update (NHS Improvement) Task and Finish Working Group Report (N Cummings) Determining the Scrutiny Work Programme (N Cummings)	Elective and Diagnostic Backlog (NHS FT)	SSAB Annual Report (Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board) Public Health – Annual Report (Gerry Taylor) Task and Finish Scoping Report (N Cummings)	ICB Sunderland Update (Scott Watson) Winter Planning (ATB/ICB)	South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS FT CQC Inspection Action Plan (NHS FT) Sunderland NHS FT work with college on recruitment in NHS (NHS FT)	MH Strategy Update incl. Community MH in the City (Sunderland ICB, Public Health) Suicide Prevention Update (Gerry Taylor)	Alcohol Strategy – Update also include Alcohol Care Team (Gerry Taylor, NHS FT) North East Ambulance Service Update (Mark Cotton)	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update (Gerry Taylor) Oral Health Improvements – New Strategy (Gerry Taylor)	GP Access Update incl. pilot schemes (Sunderland ICB) Annual Report (Nigel Cummings)
Performance / Service Improvement										
Consultation/ Information & Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23

Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

REASON FOR INCLUSION		13 JULY 23 D/L 3 JULY 23	14 SEPTEMBER 23 D/L 4 SEPT 23	12 OCTOBER 23 D/L 2 OCTOBER 23	9 NOVEMBER 23 D/L 30 OCT 23	7 DECEMBER 23 D/L 27 NOV 23	18 JANUARY 24 D/L 8 JAN 24	8 FEBRUARY 24 D/L 29 JAN 24	7 MARCH 24 D/L 26 FEB 24	11 APRIL 24 D/L 1 APRIL 24
Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Capital Programme First Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson) First Revenue Budget Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson)		Budget Planning Framework 2024/25 and Financial Strategy (Paul Wilson) Capital Programme Second Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson)		Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson) Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)		Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson) Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)		
Scrutiny Business			Task and Finish Working Group Scope and Remit (N Cummings)		Cost of Living (Strategic Advice Service)		Smart Cities Update (Liz St Louis) Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report (Stephen Laverton)			Annual Report (N Cummings)
Performance / Service Improvement		Performance Management Q4 (Beverley Poulter)	Performance Management Q1 (Beverly Poulter)			Performance Management Q2 (Beverley Poulter)				Performance Management Q3 (Beverly Poulter)
Consultation / Information & Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

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 November 2023.

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 November 2023 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 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 November 2023 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
07554 414 878
Nigel.cummings@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 approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	7 December 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance 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	7 December 2023	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	Governance 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	7 December 2023	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	Governance 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	7 December 2023	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	Governance 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	7 December 2023	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	Governance 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	7 December 2023	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	Governance 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	7 December 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230717/826	To seek approval to publish the 2022/2023 Low Carbon Annual Report	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 September – 31 December 2023	N		Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	7 December 2023	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	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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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	7 December 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230913/838	To Seek Approval to the Leasing of Land at Crowtree Green, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	7 December 2023	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	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	7 December 2023	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	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231002/842	Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28	Cabinet	Y	9 November 2023 to 31 December 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 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
231107/845	Subject to the award of external funding, to seek approval to enter into funding, delivery and contracting arrangements for a 5G Innovation Region project.	Cabinet	Y	7 December 2023	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 contains 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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231107/846	To procure a framework agreement for funerals and Coroner removals.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 7 December 2023 – 18 January 2024.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance 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 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 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 Governance 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

8 November 2023