

CITY HALL,  
SUNDERLAND.  
7 June 2024

**TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL**

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING** of Sunderland City Council to be held in the **Council Chamber, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA** on **WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024** at **4.00pm** at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business: -

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. To read the Notice convening the meeting</b>   | <b>-</b>  |
| <b>2. Apologies</b>  | <b>-</b>  |
| <b>3. To approve the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 20 May 2024 (copies attached).</b> | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>4. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any).</b>  | <b>-</b>  |
| <b>5. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(e).</b>  | <b>-</b>  |
| <b>6. To consider the Outstanding Motions from the last ordinary meetings of the Council held on 24 January 2024 and 20 March 2024 (copy attached).</b>        | <b>43</b> |
| <b>7. Reception of Petitions.</b>  | <b>-</b>  |

- |     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 8.  | Written Questions by Members of the Public (if any) under Rule 10.   | -   |
| 9.  | Written Questions by Members of the Council (if any) under Rule 11.  | -   |
| 10. | Report of the Human Resources Committee (copy attached).   | 49  |
| 11. | Area Arrangements Annual Report 2023/2024 – report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities (copy attached). | 63  |
| 12. | Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/2024 – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).                       | 95  |
| 13. | To consider a report on action taken on petitions (copy attached).   | 117 |
| 14. | To consider the following reports: -   |     |
|     | (i) Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader (copy attached).  | 123 |
|     | (ii) Appointments to Outside Bodies – report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).                    | 127 |
| 15. | To consider the attached Motions (copy attached).  | 129 |



**PATRICK MELIA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.**

Note it is intended that the meeting will be livestreamed for the public to view on the Council's YouTube channel at

<https://youtube.com/live/ZKB7MN2cdoY?feature=share>

# ***Minutes***



## Sunderland City Council

At the Annual meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024 at 6.00pm.

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor D Trueman) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Chisnall)

Councillors	Ayre	Feeley	Leonard	Smith, G
	Blackburn	Fletcher	Mason-Gage	Snowdon, D
	Bond	Foster	McDonough	Snowdon, D E
	Burnicle	Gibson	McKeith	Speding
	Burrell	Glancy	Miller, F	Stewart
	Butler	Graham-King	Miller, G	Thornton
	Chapman	Guy	Mordey	Tobin
	Chequer	Haque	Mullen	Trueman, H
	Clinton	Hartnack	Newey	Tye
	Crosby	Haswell	O'Brien	Usher
	Curtis	Heron	Potts	Vera
	Dagg	Herron	Price	Walker, M
	Dixon	Hodson	Reed	Walton
	Dodds	Hunter	Rowntree	Warne
	Donkin	Johnston	Samuels	Watson
	Edgeworth	Jones	Scanlan	Williams
	Elms	Laverick	Scott	Wilson
	Fagan	Laws	Smith, A	Wood

### Notice Convening the Meeting

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Council meeting and the Chief Executive read the notice convening the meeting.

### Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements.

### Election of Mayor

The Council proceeded to the election of a Mayor for the ensuing year, (to the next Annual Meeting of the Council) and nominations were invited. Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Wilson, nominated Councillor Allison Chisnall to be appointed as Mayor of the City for the ensuing year.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Foster and Councillor Wilson spoke in support of the nomination.

With no further nominations being received, it was: -

1. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Allison Chisnall be appointed Mayor of the City for the ensuing year.

The Mayor then read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and made her acceptance speech.

### **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor reported that she had appointed the Reverend John Purdy of Castletown Methodist Church to be Chaplain for her term of office. The Mayor's Chaplain then offered prayers.

### **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor**

Councillor Speding, duly seconded by Councillor Scanlan and supported by Councillor Edgeworth, thanked the retiring Mayor, Councillor D Trueman, for the manner in which she had discharged her duties as Mayor.

Councillor D Trueman responded appropriately.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Macebearer presented badges to Councillor Dorothy Trueman and her consort, to commemorate their year of office, together with a photographic record of the engagements during the Mayoral Year.

### **Election of Deputy Mayor**

The Council then proceeded to the election of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, (to the next Annual Meeting of the Council) and nominations were invited.

Councillor Leonard, seconded by Councillor G Miller nominated Councillor Ehtesham Haque to be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the City for the ensuing year.

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillors Leonard and G Miller spoke in support of the nomination.

With no further nominations being received, it was: -

2. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Ehtesham Haque be appointed to the Office of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Deputy Mayor then read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and made his acceptance speech.

On behalf of the Mayor, the Macebearer presented gifts to the Consort to the Retiring Mayor and the Deputy Mayor's Consort.

### **Minutes**

3. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 March 2023, be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to a correction to the declared interest of Councillor Edgeworth to reflect that his interest was as

an employee of CAMRA and not as a member of the Planning and Highways Committee.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor P Walker and on behalf of Aldermen Forbes, Greenfield and Tate.

### **Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- **Civic Service**

A Civic Service would be held in Castletown Methodist Church at 10:30am on Sunday 21 July 2024.

- **Mayor's Charities**

The charities the Mayor would be supporting during her term of office would be the Castletown Scouts Group, Hylton Castle Trust and the Royalty Theatre.

### **Appointments to Cabinet and the Portfolio Responsibilities and Any Amendments to the Arrangements for the Delegation of Executive Functions made by the Leader**

Councillor Mordey advised Council that this information would be provided at the extraordinary meeting of the Council taking place on 20 May 2024.

4. **RESOLVED** that the position be noted.

### **Appointments to all Council Committees and Sub-Committees and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen thereof and Appointment of Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011**

### **Appointments to Joint Committees, Joint Authorities, outside bodies and Working Groups except where appointment to those bodies is an executive function**

### **Update to the Constitution**

**To fix dates and times of meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees etc.**

**To authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the respective Chairs, to make such changes as may be deemed necessary or expedient in connection with the dates and times of meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees etc.**

A Supplementary Report in relation to items 9-10 and 12 on the agenda had been circulated to all Members.

Councillor Mordey advised that there was an update proposed to the Constitution in relation to attesting the seal of the Council.

Councillor Mordey, duly seconded by Councillor Chequer moved that items 9 to 13 inclusive be agreed.

The Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Fagan, moved that Councillor Gibson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mullen, duly seconded by Councillor Reed, moved that Councillor Burnicle be appointed Vice-Chair of the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee

The Mayor informed Councillors that they would be invited to vote by a show of hands for their preferred candidate. The vote was taken and there was a clear majority voting in favour of Councillor Gibson.

The Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the East Area Committee.

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor O'Brien, moved that Councillor Hodson be appointed Vice-Chair of the East Area Committee.

Councillor Mullen, duly seconded by Councillor Reed, moved that Councillor Dixon be appointed Vice-Chair of the East Area Committee

Councillors were invited to vote by a show of hands for their preferred candidate. The vote was taken and there was a clear majority voting in favour of Councillor Hodson.

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Fagan, moved an amendment to item 10 in relation to: -

- Citizen's Advice Bureau, Washington – Management Committee  
Appoint Councillor Donkin in place of Councillor H Trueman
- Washington Sports Trust  
Appoint Councillor Donkin in place of Councillor Laws

Councillors were invited to vote by a show of hands for their preferred candidate and there was a clear majority in favour of Councillor H Trueman for the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Washington – Management Committee and in favour of Councillor Laws for the Washington Sports Trust.

The Mayor having put the motion to Council, that approval be given to items 9 to 13 inclusive, it was agreed accordingly, and: -

**5. RESOLVED that: -**

- (i) the appointments in respect of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees and Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the appointment of Independent Persons under the Localism Act 2011, as detailed below, be approved and adopted for the ensuing year;



- (ii) the appointments to Joint Committees, Joint Authorities, outside bodies and Working Groups except where appointment to those bodies is an executive function, be approved and adopted;
- (iii) the update to the Constitution as set out be agreed
- (iv) the dates and times of meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees be agreed; and
- (v) the Assistant Director of Law and Governance be authorised, in consultation with the respective Chairs, to make such changes as may be deemed necessary or expedient in connection with (iv) above.

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS THEREOF**

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**5 Members** (no more than one Member of Cabinet) plus 2 Co-opted Members

Councillor	A Smith	Councillor	Crosby
	D Snowdon		
	H Trueman	Councillor	Hartnack

Independent Members                      Mr. G.N. Cook and Mr. M. Knowles

Chair (Co-opted Member)      Mr. G.N. Cook

## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### 12 Members

Councillor	Butler Chequer Johnston Jones Leonard Mordey A Smith Stewart Tye	Councillor	Haswell Potts
		Councillor	Ayre

Chair  
Vice-Chair

Councillor Mordey  
Councillor Chequer

## SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

### 20 Members

Councillor Chequer - Chair  
Councillor Butler  
Councillor Mordey  
Opposition Member – Councillor Bond

**The above-mentioned appointments were subject to confirmation of their nomination to the Health and Wellbeing Board by the new Leader of the Council, at the extraordinary meeting on 20 May 2024.**

### (Council Officers)

Chief Executive  
Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities  
Director of Adult Services  
Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive – Together for Children

### (Representatives of external organisations)

Director for Sunderland – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) – Scott Watson  
NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB Representatives -  
Dr Tracey Lucas (Vice-Chair) and Dr Robin Hudson  
Healthwatch representative – Paul Weddle  
Sunderland Partnership representative – **Vacancy**  
Chief Executive, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust– Ken Bremner  
Place Director, Sunderland and South Tyneside, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust – Andy Airey  
University of Sunderland representative – Professor Yitka Graham  
Sunderland Workplace Health Alliance representative - **Vacancy**  
Safer Sunderland Partnership representative – Chief Superintendent Mark Hall

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

### 14 Members

Councillor	Burrell Dodds Glancy Hunter F Miller Price Rowntree D Trueman Usher Williams	Councillor	Bond Walton
		Councillor	Hartnack Mullen
	Chair Vice-Chair	Councillor Rowntree Councillor Dodds	

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 12 Members

Councillor	Dagg Feeley J Heron Hunter F Miller D E Snowdon Tobin Usher	Councillor	Donkin Walton
		Councillor	Ayre McDonough
	Chair Vice-Chair	Councillor Usher Councillor F Miller	

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **12 Members + 4 Co-Opted Members**

Councillor	Chapman Clinton Curtis Elms Samuels Stewart Thornton Williams	Councillor	Crosby Gibson
		Councillor	Burnicle Graham-King

Co-opted Members: -

1 Church of England diocese representative – Vacancy

1 Roman Catholic diocese representative – Ms. A. Blakey

Secondary and Special School Parent Governor representative – Vacancy

Primary School Parent Governor representative - Vacancy

Chair

Vice-Chair

Councillor Williams

Councillor Gibson

## **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **12 Members**

Councillor	Burrell Foster Guy Newey Price Scanlan Warne Watson	Councillor	Donkin Fagan
		Councillor	Dixon Reed

Chair

Vice-Chair

Councillor Burrell

Councillor Price

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

### **8 Members**

Councillor	Chequer Dodds Johnston Jones Mordey Williams	Councillor	Hodson
		Councillor	Mullen

### **Co-Opted Members (non-voting): -**

**2 Members of Hetton Town Council nominated by the Town Council: -**  
To be confirmed

Chair	Councillor Dodds
Vice-Chair	Councillor Chequer

### **Independent Person (not a member of the Committee): -**

### **Appointment of Independent Persons – Localism Act 2011**

Dennis Hall and Stuart Green appointed as Independent Persons, each for a term of two years' duration, which may be extended by the Council for two further two-year terms (i.e. six years in total) and an annual allowance of £1,000 and reasonable travel and subsistence expenses awarded in respect of the roles.

## **PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

### **10 Members**

Councillor	Foster M Herron Laverick Scott D E Snowdon Thornton Warne	Councillor	Haswell Wood
		Councillor	Dixon
	Chair	Councillor Thornton	
	Vice-Chair	Councillor D E Snowdon	

## LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

### 15 Members

Councillor	Chapman Curtis Dagg Dodds Feeley Fletcher J Heron Price Tobin H Trueman M Walker	Councillor	Gibson Wood
		Councillor	Hartnack Vera

Chair  
Vice-Chair

Councillor Fletcher  
Councillor M. Walker

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Panels of 3 Members from Licensing Committee – Rotation system to operate

## HOMELESSNESS APPEALS PANEL

### 10 Members

Councillor	Butler Mason-Gage G Miller Samuels Speding Usher Watson Williams	Councillor	Hodson
		Councillor	Dixon

Chair

Councillor Butler

## EDUCATION COMPLAINTS PANEL

### 10 Members

Councillor	Butler Haque Johnston Newey Tye Williams Wilson	Councillor	Gibson O'Brien
		Councillor	Burnicle

## EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL

### 10 Members

Councillor	Butler Burrell M Herron Scanlan Scott Stewart Watson	Councillor	Bond Potts
		Councillor	Burnicle

Chair

Councillor Butler

## APPEALS COMMITTEE

### 20 Members

Councillor	Blackburn Butler Dodds Fletcher Foster J Heron Jones Leonard Mason-Gage F Miller Rowntree A Smith Speding Stewart	Councillor	Crosby Haswell Hodson
		Councillor	Hartnack Mullen Reed

A Panel will comprise 3 Members, 2 majority and 1 opposition

## **JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **8 Members**

Councillor	Butler Chequer Johnston Jones Mordey A Smith	Councillor	Haswell
		Councillor	Hartnack

\* N.B. The position of Chair alternates annually with Trade Union Side.

## **SUPPORTIVE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP**

### **7 Members**

Councillors	Butler Guy Laverick Tye Williams	Councillor	Crosby (Substitute – Councillor Bond)
	(Substitutes – Councillors Burrell, Chapman and D E Snowdon)	Councillor	Burnicle (Substitute – Councillor Graham- King)
	Chair	Councillor Butler	

## **PORT BOARD**

### **5 Members**

Councillor	Chequer Mordey Scanlan	Councillor	Edgeworth
		Councillor	McKeith

### **Co-Opted Members**

Mr R. McEvoy and Mr L. Taylor

Chair	Councillor Mordey
Vice-Chair	Councillor Chequer



## **COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE**

**(Ward Councillors for Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row)**

Councillor  
Blackburn  
Burrell  
Dodds  
J. Heron  
K. Johnston  
Mason-Gage  
Price  
Rowntree  
Scott  
D. Snowdon  
Speding  
Thornton

Chair  
Vice Chair

Councillor Speding  
Councillor J Heron

## **WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE**

**(Ward Councillors for Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, St. Chad's, Sandhill and Silksworth)**

Councillor  
Ayre  
Burnicle  
Clinton  
Crosby  
Dagg  
Donkin  
Edgeworth  
Haque  
Haswell  
Hunter  
Laverick  
McDonough  
Mullen  
O'Brien  
G. Smith  
Tobin  
Tye  
Watson

Chair  
Vice Chair

Councillor Laverick  
Councillor Watson

**EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE**

**(Ward Councillors for Doxford, Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St. Michael's)**

Councillor  
Curtis  
Dixon  
Elms  
Fagan  
Gibson  
Glancy  
Graham-King  
M. Herron  
Hodson  
Leonard  
Mordey  
Potts  
Reed  
Scanlan  
Wood

Chair  
Vice Chair

Councillor M Herron  
Councillor Hodson

**NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE**

**(Ward Councillors for Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, St. Peter's and Southwick)**

Councillor  
Bond  
Butler  
Chequer  
Chisnall  
Foster  
Hartnack  
McKeith  
Newey  
Samuels  
A Smith  
Stewart  
Usher  
Vera  
Walton  
Wilson

Chair  
Vice Chair

Councillor Wilson  
Councillor Foster

## **WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE**

**(Ward Councillors for Washington Central, Washington East,  
Washington North, Washington South and Washington West)**

Councillor

Chapman  
Feeley  
Fletcher  
Guy  
Jones  
Laws  
F. Miller  
G. Miller  
D.E. Snowdon  
D. Trueman  
H. Trueman  
M. Walker  
P. Walker  
Warne  
Williams

Chair  
Vice Chair

Councillor P Walker  
Councillor Laws

**ITEM 10 - JOINT COMMITTEES, JOINT AUTHORITIES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS**

**ACTIVE SUNDERLAND BOARD**

Councillor Jones

**ADVENTURE SUNDERLAND**

Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**AGE UK**

Councillor Usher

**AGED MERCHANT SEAMEN'S HOMES AND THE SUNDERLAND DISTRESSED MARINER'S FUND**

Councillors Elms and Scanlan

**ALLIANCE (FORMERLY COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN)**

Councillors Speding and H. Trueman

**ANEC LTD.**

The new Leader of the Council, to be elected at the extraordinary meeting to be held on 20 May 2024.

Named Alternative - Deputy Leader of the Council

**ANEC LTD. – NORTH EAST CULTURE PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Jones

**BOWES RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED**

Councillor D Trueman

**BRITISH RESORTS ASSOCIATION - POLICY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Newey

**CHANCE PROJECT**

Councillor Scanlan

**CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU, WASHINGTON - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor H Trueman

**CO-OPERATIVE COUNCILS INNOVATION NETWORK**

Councillor A Smith

**CUMBRIA, NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE AND WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

Councillor Chequer

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Chequer

**ELIZABETH DONNISON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Councillors Elms and Scanlan

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UK**

Councillors Johnston, Leonard, G Miller and Thornton  
Director of Environmental Services – [Not on Committee]

**FRIENDS OF SUNDERLAND MUSEUMS**

Councillor Jones  
Substitute: Councillor Dagg

**GENTOO GROUP LIMITED (this includes board membership of GENTOO  
HOMES)  
(Nominations are made subject to the application of Gentoo's appointments  
process)**

Councillor G Miller

**GREAT EPPLETON WIND FARM PANEL**

Councillor Dodds

**GREEN TERRACE PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUST**

Councillors Haque, Tobin and Wood

**HETTON TOWN TRUST**

Councillor Blackburn (term of office to 16 May 2026)  
Councillor Scott (current term of office to 16 May 2025)

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING CHAIRS NETWORK**

Councillor Chequer

**HOUGHTON FEAST STEERING COMMITTEE**

Councillors Blackburn, J. Heron, K. Johnston and Mason-Gage

**HYLTON CASTLE TRUST**

Councillor Wilson

**INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK (IAMP) LLP**

Councillor Mordey (Substitute – Councillor Chequer), Chief Executive and the Executive Director of City Development

**KEPIER ALMSHOUSES CHARITY  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY**

Mrs. S. Wardle

**KEY CITIES BOARD**

Councillor Mordey (with Councillor Chequer as a substitute) and the Chief Executive

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Councillors Chequer, Mordey and Tye

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – SIGOMA**

Councillor Mordey

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION COASTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

Councillor Leonard and the Flood and Coastal Group Engineer, City Development Directorate

## **MAYOR’S FUND FOR NECESSITOUS CHILDREN**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor for the time being  
Councillors Butler, Chequer and Crosby

## **MILLFIELD/ST. MARK’S COMMUNITY PROGRAMME**

Councillor Hodson

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS**

Councillors O’Brien, J Heron and F. Miller

## **NEWCASTLE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Councillor Usher                      Substitute      Councillor H Trueman

## **NEWCASTLE AIRPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED**

Director                                  Councillor Mordey  
Alternate Director                  Councillor Chequer

## **NORTH EAST AND NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE BOARD**

### **Central Integrated Care Partnership**

Councillor Chequer, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities,  
Director of Children’s Services and Director of Adult Services

### **ICB Place Committee**

Chief Executive, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, Director of  
Children’s Services and Director of Adult Services

## **NORTH EAST AND NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM AND NORTH OF TYNE AND GATESHEAD AND DURHAM, SOUTH TYNESIDE AND SUNDERLAND AREA INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIPS JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillors Donkin, F Miller and Usher.

## **NORTH EAST AUTOMOTIVE ALLIANCE**

Chief Executive

## **NORTH EAST CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION**

Councillor Butler

## **NORTH EAST DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTRE**

Councillor Elms

## **NORTH EAST JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Substitute: Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

## **NORTH EAST MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY**

### **Cabinet**

Councillor Mordey

Substitute: Councillor Chequer

### **Audit and Standards Committee**

Councillors Dodds and Hartnack

Substitutes: Councillors Chequer and Mullen

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillors Mullen and Rowntree

Substitutes: Councillors Dodds and McDonough

## **NORTH EAST MIGRATION NETWORK CORE STRATEGIC GROUP**

Councillor Johnston (appointed by ANEC Ltd.)

## **NORTH EAST REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**

Tyne and Wear vacancy to be nominated by ANEC Ltd.

## **NORTH EAST REGIONAL EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION**

Councillors Chequer, Leonard, Mordey\*, and A Smith

\* Member of the Executive Committee

## **NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Councillor Scanlan

## **NORTHERN HOUSING CONSORTIUM LIMITED**



Councillors Johnston and Mordey

**NORTHERN REGIONAL BRASS BAND TRUST**

Councillor Warne

**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Councillors Butler and Chequer  
Substitutes – Councillors Laws and Mordey

**NORTHUMBRIA REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE  
(Four Year Term commencing 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2025)**

Councillor Leonard  
Substitute – Councillor A Smith

**Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Programming and Investment Group**

Councillor Leonard  
Substitute – Councillor A Smith

**PARKER MEMORIAL HOME / PARKER TRUST CIO**

Councillor Gibson to the Parker Trust CIO for a four-year term ending 17 May 2027

Councillor Gibson to the Parker Memorial Home Trust for a four-year term ending 17 May 2027 or until it is disbanded, whichever is sooner.

**ROKER REGATTA COMBINED CLUBS COMMITTEE**

Councillors Foster and Newey

## **SAMUEL DOBSON TRUST**

Councillors Blackburn, J. Heron, K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Scott and Speding

Chair – Councillor Blackburn

## **SIGLION LLP, SIGLION INVESTMENTS LLP, SIGLION DEVELOPMENTS LLP, SIGLION NOMINEE LTD, SIGLION HOLDINGS LTD, POTTERS HILL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LTD, VAUX MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

Councillors Chequer, Mordey and Chief Executive

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE AND SUNDERLAND NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

Councillor D E Snowdon

## **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Councillors Dagg, Dodds, Glancy, Newey and O'Brien

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference**

Councillors Dagg, Dodds, Glancy, Newey and O'Brien

## **ST. LUKE'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT**

Councillor Haswell

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH BAKEHOUSE CAFÉ (Known as Bede's Monastery @ Monkwearmouth Limited)**

Councillor Newey

## **SUNDERLAND AFC FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Councillors Butler, Jones, Mordey together with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of City Development and Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

## **SUNDERLAND BOYS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FUND**

Councillors Curtis, G Smith and D Trueman

## **SUNDERLAND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Councillors Chequer and Mordey

## **SUNDERLAND CARE AND SUPPORT (HOLDING COMPANY) LIMITED**

Councillors Fletcher, A Smith and Williams together with the Director of Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer of the Company

## **SUNDERLAND CARE AND SUPPORT LIMITED**

Councillors Fletcher, A Smith and Williams together with the Director of Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer of the Company

## **SUNDERLAND CULTURE LIMITED**

Councillor Jones and Executive Director of City Development

## **SUNDERLAND EMPIRE THEATRE TRUST**

Councillor Williams (**for a three-year period to 15 May 2027**) and the Director of Finance (for a three-year period to 28 March 2026)

## **SUNDERLAND AND NORTH DURHAM ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillors Curtis and Scanlan

## **SUNDERLAND FOOTBALL TRUST BOARD**

Councillor Jones

## **SUNDERLAND LIFESTYLE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED**

Councillor Jones and the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

## **SUNDERLAND ORPHANAGE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Councillors Dixon, Elms, Haque and D. Snowdon.

## **SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Chief Executive

## **SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Councillor Mordey

## **Safer Sunderland Partnership**

Councillors Butler and Chequer  
Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities  
Director of Children's Services – Chief Executive of Together for Children  
Director of Adult Services  
Formerly Assistant Director of Community Resilience  
Head of Adult Social Care  
Assistant Director of Regulatory Services

## **Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS)**

Coalfield – Councillor Speding

East Sunderland – Councillors M. Herron and Scanlan

North Sunderland – Councillor Wilson

Washington – Councillor P Walker

West Sunderland – Councillor Tye

## **Dynamic City Board**

Executive Director of City Development

## **SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD**

Councillor Chequer

## **SUNDERLAND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (SSCP)**

Councillor Butler

## **TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN – SUNDERLAND**

### **Executive Directors**

Chief Executive of Together for Children

### **Non-Executive Directors**

Ms T Banks

Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council

Vacancy

## **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH BOARD**

Representative to be appointed by the North East Combined Authority

## **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Representative to be appointed by the North East Combined Authority

**TRIPLETT CHARITY**

Councillors Fletcher, F. Miller and D E Snowdon

**TYNE AND WEAR ANTI FASCIST ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Warne - non-voting

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Councillors Chapman, Edgeworth, Tye and Warne.

**TYNE AND WEAR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Councillor F Miller

**TYNE AND WEAR PENSION FUND**

Councillor Laws

Substitute – Councillor Price

**TYNE AND WEAR STRATEGIC FLOOD GROUP**

Councillor Leonard

Substitute – Councillor A Smith

**UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND: BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Councillor Butler

**VICTORIA HOUSE CHARITY**

Councillor M. Herron, Stewart and Usher

**WASHINGTON SPORTS TRUST**

Councillors Fletcher, Jones, Laws, G Miller and P Walker

**WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD**

The Chief Executive has delegated authority to make appointments to the interim Town Board.

**WEAR WATER SPORTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Wilson

**WOODCOCK AND BOWES CHARITY**

Councillors Hunter and Samuels

**WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Councillor D E Snowdon

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION HEALTHY CITIES NETWORK**

Councillor Chequer  
Substitute – Councillor Usher

## Governors of Schools/Colleges

To note the appointment of Governors as set out below. Those highlighted in bold have been made by the Education (Appointment of Governors) Panel. The other governorships are those positions of which Democratic Services are aware which are held by the individual Councillors in a capacity other than as a nominee of the Council. Any additions to this list may be notified to Democratic Services and the on-line list will be updated.

Cllr M Burrell	St. Michael's RC Primary School
Cllr M Butler	Southwick Primary School (co-opted member)
Cllr K Chequer	<b>Southwick Primary School</b>
Cllr A Chisnall	Hylton Castle Primary
Cllr L Guy	<b>Virtual School</b>
Cllr M Hartnack	Grange Park Primary School (co-opted member)
Cllr K Johnston	Houghton Community Nursery
Cllr B Jones	<b>Biddick Primary</b> , Wessington Primary (co-opted member)
Cllr L Leonard	St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Venerable Bede CE Academy
Cllr K Mason-Gage	<b>New Penshaw Academy</b>
Cllr F Miller	<b>George Washington Primary</b>
Cllr G Miller	Oak Learning Trust (Director)
Cllr M Mordey	Hudson Road Primary (co-opted Governor)
Cllr A Samuels	<b>Grange Park Primary School</b>
Cllr I Scott	<b>Hetton Primary School</b>
Cllr A Smith	Willow Wood (co-opted Governor)
Cllr G Smith	Diamond Hall Junior Academy
Cllr D Snowdon	Barmston Village Primary
Cllr M Speding	<b>Shiney Row Primary</b>
Cllr P Stewart	Willow Wood Primary (Co-opted Governor)
Cllr H Trueman	Albany Village Primary (Co-opted Governor)
Cllr P M Tye	New Silksworth Academy
Cllr J Usher	Northern Saints Primary School

Cllr L Williams

**Lambton Primary**, Oxclose Community Academy, Discover Learning Trust (Trustee)



## **ITEM 11 – UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

### **A. Attesting the Seal of the Council**

Council agreed to amend Article 15.05 of the Constitution to authorise the following officers to attest the Council's seal: Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Senior Manager – Law and Governance, Specialist Lead (Commercial Law), Governance Law Specialist and Commercial Law Specialists.

(Signed)     A CHISNALL  
                  Mayor



## Sunderland City Council

At an Extraordinary meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on MONDAY 20 MAY 2024 at 5.00pm.

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor Chisnall) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Haque)

Councillors	Ayre	Feeley	McKeith	Stewart
	Blackburn	Fletcher	Miller, G	Thornton
	Bond	Foster	Mordey	Tobin
	Burnicle	Gibson	Mullen	Trueman, D
	Burrell	Glancy	Newey	Trueman, H
	Butler	Graham-King	Price	Tye
	Chapman	Guy	Reed	Usher
	Chequer	Hartnack	Rowntree	Vera
	Clinton	Haswell	Samuels	Walker, M
	Crosby	Herron	Scanlan	Walker, P
	Curtis	Hunter	Scott	Walton
	Dagg	Johnston	Smith, A	Warne
	Dixon	Jones	Smith, G	Watson
	Dodds	Laverick	Snowdon, D	Williams
	Donkin	Laws	Snowdon, D E	Wilson
	Edgeworth	Leonard	Speding	Wood
	Elms			

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Fagan, J Heron, Hodson, Mason-Gage, McDonough, F Miller, O'Brien and Potts together with Honorary Aldermen Forbes, Greenfield and Tate.

### Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### Election of the Leader of the Council

The Mayor having sought a nomination for the Leader of the Council, it was moved by Councillor Tye and duly seconded by Councillor Chequer that Councillor Mordey be elected as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Edgeworth, duly seconded by Councillor Haswell, requested that a vote was taken in respect of the nomination of Councillor Mordey.

The Mayor announced that Council would then vote on the nomination of Councillor Mordey as Leader of the Council.

Upon being put to the vote the motion that Councillor Mordey be elected as Leader of the Council was carried with 50 Members voting in favour: -

The Mayor (Councillor Chisnall)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Haque)

Councillors	Blackburn	Foster	Newey	Thornton
	Burrell	Glancy	Price	Tobin
	Butler	Guy	Rowntree	Trueman, D
	Chapman	Herron	Samuels	Trueman, H
	Chequer	Hunter	Scanlan	Tye
	Clinton	Johnston	Scott	Usher
	Curtis	Jones	Smith, A	Walker, M
	Dagg	Laverick	Smith, G	Walker, P
	Dodds	Laws	Snowdon, D	Warne
	Elms	Leonard	Snowdon, D E	Watson
	Feeley	Miller, G	Speding	Williams
	Fletcher	Mordey	Stewart	Wilson

And 17 Members voting against: -

Councillors	Ayre	Donkin	Hartnack	Reed
	Bond	Edgeworth	Haswell	Vera
	Burnicle	Gibson	McKeith	Walton
	Crosby	Graham-King	Mullen	Wood
	Dixon			

There were no abstentions.

Accordingly it was: -

6. **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mordey be appointed as Leader of the Council until the first Annual Meeting after his normal day of retirement as a Councillor.

**Appointments to Cabinet and the Portfolio Responsibilities and Any Amendments to the Arrangements for the Delegation of Executive Functions made by the Leader and Appointments to Joint Committees, Joint Authorities and other committees/bodies where appointment to those bodies is an executive function.**

7. **RESOLVED** that: -

- (i) the Leader's appointments and allocation of Portfolio responsibilities as set out below, be noted and that consequential amendments would be made to the Constitution; and
- (ii) the Budget Headings set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules be amended to reflect the new Portfolios and that the approved service budgets be realigned to the new Portfolio headings.

Deputy Leader of the Council and  
Health, Wellbeing and Safer  
Communities Portfolio Holder

Councillor Chequer

**PORTFOLIO**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

Children's Services, Child Poverty and  
Skills

Councillor Butler

Communities, Culture and Tourism

Councillor Jones

Corporate Services and Equalities

Councillor A Smith

Environment, Transport and Net Zero

Councillor Leonard

Housing, Regeneration and Business

Councillor Johnston

**EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF CABINET**

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Health, Wellbeing and Safer Communities  
Portfolio Holder and one relevant Portfolio Holder.

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF CABINET**

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Health, Wellbeing and Safer Communities  
Portfolio Holder, Child Poverty and Skills Portfolio Holder, Communities, Culture and  
Tourism Portfolio Holder and Corporate Services and Equalities Portfolio Holder.

## CABINET MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

The revised portfolio responsibilities for executive members are as follows:

<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
<b>Leader</b>	<p>To provide political leadership on behalf of residents, stakeholders and partners in the coordination of Council strategies, policies, and service delivery, ensuring good quality services.</p> <p>To provide political leadership in the development of local, regional, sub-regional strategies and strategic partnerships.</p> <p>To promote and enhance the reputation of Sunderland - the city and the Council - at national, European and international levels.</p> <p>To ensure that the Council's approach to the economic, social and physical regeneration of the city is integrated, enabling and effective.</p> <p>To provide democratic leadership to partners, residents and stakeholders, ensuring a collaborative approach to the development and delivery of services which meet people's needs and aspirations.</p> <p>To co-ordinate and apportion the roles and responsibilities of Members.</p> <p>To provide political leadership in relation to Communications and Corporate Affairs.</p> <p>To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to commissioned and procured partnerships as well as partnerships where Sunderland is the lead authority.</p> <p>As a member of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) Cabinet, to provide leadership on behalf of the city in relation to NECA's activities and delivery of the trailblazer devolution deal for the benefit of Sunderland residents.</p> <p>To provide political leadership to the Council's Smart City agenda.</p> <p>To undertake the role of the Council's Armed Forces Champion.</p>
<b>Deputy Leader of the Council and Health,</b>	<p>In the absence of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader has overall responsibility for the</p>

**Wellbeing and Safer  
Communities Portfolio  
Holder**

portfolio of the Leader of the Council.

To support the Leader as appropriate, working collectively with the Cabinet.

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the priorities of health and life chances of children and adults.

To exercise political policy oversight relating to the Council's adults and public health functions.

To provide political leadership to an all-population approach to public health, narrowing the health inequalities gap to achieve the best outcomes for all residents.

To ensure that the Council's approach to the adults and public health agendas is integrated, enabling and effective and the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to these functions.

To provide political leadership in relation to dealing with homelessness and the safer communities agenda.

To Chair the Safer Sunderland Partnership and to lead for the city in associated regional and national partnerships – including the Northumbria Police and Crime Panel.

**Children's Services, Child  
Poverty and Skills**

To be the designated "lead member for children's services" in accordance with Section 19 of the Children Act 2004.

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the priorities of children, learning and skills to ensure that children and young people achieve the best outcomes.

To provide political leadership to the Council's work to reduce child poverty, and to be the Council's designated Food Champion.

To ensure that the Council's approach to the children, learning and skills agenda is integrated, enabling and effective and the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to these functions.

To provide political leadership to learning and skills agendas and approaches for post-16 and people of all ages in Sunderland, ensuring they can benefit from the social, economic and

employment opportunities being created in the city.

## **Communities, Culture and Tourism**

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the priorities of local communities to achieve the best outcomes as well as ensuring a wide-ranging cultural offer and that communities have access to the opportunities on offer in the city.

To exercise political policy oversight relating to the Council's communities and culture and heritage functions, including development and implementation of a tourism strategy.

To ensure that the Council's approach to communities, culture, leisure, physical activity and resident engagement and resilience is integrated, enabling and that the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to these functions.

To exercise political policy oversight relating to community cohesion and Community Wealth Building.

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to area/community and cultural partnerships and the development of area-based events.

## **Corporate Services and Equalities**

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the efficient and effective deployment of resources to sustain services that matter to local people and to local communities.

To ensure that the Council's internal operations are integrated, enabling and effective and the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to Corporate Services.

To exercise political policy oversight relating to the Finance, Governance, IT, People Management, Property and Facilities Management, and Customer and Enabling Services functions within Corporate Services.

To have political oversight of corporate planning and performance management activities and the development of the City Plan.

To exercise political policy oversight in relation to data protection and the Council's Equalities and Inclusion agenda and activities.

To provide political leadership to the Council's



approach to the creation of social value through procurement activities.

## **Environment, Transport and Net Zero**

To exercise political policy oversight and provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the environment, ensuring that the city is clean, green, attractive and accessible for all.

To provide political leadership of the co-ordination of all enforcement activity across the council.

To provide political leadership to the Council's climate change and low carbon plans and activities, working towards being a net zero council and net zero city.

To ensure that the Council's approach to the environment is integrated, enabling and effective, and the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to these functions. This includes exercising political policy oversight in relation to public protection and place regulation to create a high-quality physical environment for living and working in and visiting the city.

To provide political leadership to environment, low carbon and energy partnerships and the Net Zero policy agenda.

To exercise political policy oversight and provide political leadership to the council's local transport and infrastructure priorities and plans, supporting the development of great transport links and active travel opportunities.

## **Housing, Regeneration and Business**

To exercise political policy oversight and provide political leadership to the Council's approach to the priorities of housing, regeneration and planning, ensuring that the city achieves the best outcomes from physical and economic regeneration including business and housing growth.

To ensure that the Council's approach to the housing and regeneration agenda is integrated, enabling and effective and the Council fulfils its strategic and statutory roles in relation to these functions.

To provide political leadership to the Council's approach to partnerships relating to housing and regeneration, with particular focus on expanding social housing across the city.

To work <sup>39 of 132</sup> across the region to grow the business

base of the city with a particular focus on growing the SME sector.

## **SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Councillor Chequer - Chair  
Councillor Butler  
Councillor Mordey  
Opposition Member – Councillor Bond

### **(Council Officers)**

Chief Executive  
Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities  
Director of Adult Services  
Director of Children’s Services and Chief Executive – Together for Children

### **(Representatives of external organisations)**

Director for Sunderland – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) – Scott Watson  
NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB Representatives -  
Dr Tracey Lucas (Vice-Chair) and Dr Robin Hudson  
Healthwatch representative – Paul Weddle  
Sunderland Partnership representative – Vacancy  
Chief Executive, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust– Ken Bremner  
Place Director, Sunderland and South Tyneside, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust – Andy Airey  
University of Sunderland representative – Professor Yitka Graham  
Sunderland Workplace Health Alliance representative - Vacancy  
Safer Sunderland Partnership representative – Chief Superintendent Mark Hall

**REPRESENTATIVES ON BODIES ESTABLISHED UNDER JOINT ARRANGEMENTS**

**COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS (ANEC)**

Councillor A Smith

**SOUTH TYNE AND WEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Councillors Johnston and Leonard  
Substitute – Councillor A Smith

**PATROL (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS OUTSIDE LONDON) ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Leonard

**TYNE AND WEAR TRADING STANDARDS JOINT COMMITTEE**

Councillors Dodds, Chapman, Fletcher and J Heron  
Substitutes – Councillors Price and M Walker

(Signed)      A CHISNALL  
Mayor



***Motions on Notice  
Outstanding from  
Previous Ordinary  
Meetings of the Council***



**MOTIONS ON NOTICE OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions: -

**1. Notice of Motion – Short Term Respite Care in Sunderland**

The transition from Grace House to the newly acquired Red Gables site, set to open in summer 2024, will see parents of disabled and vulnerable children go without overnight support for a number of months.

Members agree that, in future, the Council must better prepare for its provision of short-term respite care, including overnight care, as some families are now being moved from one site of provision to another for the third time in seven years.

Council therefore agrees to a package of measures designed to improve the care and support available to disabled young people, whose disabilities are not catered for by existing services, including:

- Ensuring future decisions regarding short-break respite care arrangements are discussed with members, service users and as part of the scrutiny process rather than being decided at executive level.
- That families and children displaced from Grace House are made priority for placements at Red Gables and that these should be offered on a like for like basis.
- That a wider review of respite care is undertaken to ensure that a range of support (including overnight breaks, after school, weekend and holiday, and inclusive play and support groups) is available for different types of disability and special educational need. A report, following this review, should be presented to Children, Learning and Skills Scrutiny.

Council also agrees to request the Director of Children's Services to present a report to Scrutiny on how staffing, recruitment and retention needs for the new Red Gables facility will be met, in advance of it opening.

Proposed by Councillor Antony Mullen  
Seconded by Councillor Lyall Reed

**2. Notice of Motion – CPMS Charges**

Community Parking Management Scheme (CPMS) zones are a necessary tool of last resort to deal with parking problems in residential areas.

These parking issues are not caused by the residents who live there, but by people from out the area. Yet it is residents who have to pay to park outside of their own home - and this is unfair.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Eliminate the cost of a second parking permit entirely for all households in CPMS zones
- Remove administrative costs relating to the registration of new vehicles when a resident changes car

Proposed by Former Councillor Richard Dunn  
 Seconded by Councillor Adele Graham-King

**Additional Signatories**

Cllr Antony Mullen		
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**3. Notice of Motion – One million women and girls - A framework for women’s equality**

This council notes that:

- When the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) comes into being in 2024, it will be responsible for the aspirations and life chances of over one million women and girls living in County Durham, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Northumberland and Newcastle.
- While it can be tempting for policy makers to think that women and men use public services in the same way this is often not the case. Therefore, considering the specific needs of women and girls from the beginning will result in better policy making, that works for everyone.

This council therefore agrees to formally request the new Mayor and cabinet of the new combined authority to put a plan in place as soon as possible outlining:

- The **practical** steps it will take to improve the lives of women and girls in our region.
- How it will work with partners to ensure women and girls can **access** safe transport, suitable housing, quality jobs, training, and adult education.
- How it intends to **Listen**, carefully, to women and girls from all communities.
- How its **systems and structures** will be developed to ensure equality for women and girls through considering the specific impact on women and girls of every policy/strategy developed, taking action to maximise the positive and mitigate negative impacts.

Proposer by Councillor Kelly Chequer  
 Seconded by Councillor Beth Jones

**Additional Signatories**

Cllr Graeme Miller	Cllr Catherine Hunter	Cllr Kevin Johnston
Cllr Henry Trueman	Cllr Tracy Dodds	Cllr Martyn Herron
Cllr Jimmy Warne	Cllr Iain Scott	Cllr Katherine Mason-Gage



Cllr Claire Rowntree	Cllr Melanie Thornton	Cllr Peter Walker
Cllr Alison Smith	Cllr John Usher	Cllr Joanne Laverick
Cllr Alex Samuels	Cllr Juliana Heron	Cllr Paul Stewart
Cllr Michael Butler	Cllr John Price	Cllr Fiona Miller
Cllr Stephen Foster	Cllr Sean Laws	
Cllr Linda Williams	Cllr Alison Chisnall	

#### 4. Notice of Motion – Sunderland's new footbridge

This Council believes the people of Sunderland should have a say in naming the new footbridge being constructed over the River Wear. Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to liaise with Group Leaders to agree a mechanism that:

- Allows the public to submit suggestions for names for the new bridge;
- Appoints an independent panel to produce a shortlist of suggested names;
- Puts the shortlist to an advisory vote of residents of the City of Sunderland.

Proposed by Councillor Niall Hodson

Seconded by Councillor Martin Haswell

#### Additional Signatories

Cllr Andrew Wood	Cllr Margaret Crosby	Cllr Malcolm Bond
Cllr Julia Potts	Cllr Ciaran Morrissey	Cllr Peter Walton
Cllr Paul Edgeworth	Cllr Heather Fagan	
Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Cllr Paul Gibson	

#### 5. Notice of Motion – Hot Food Takeaways

Supporting local restaurants, cafes, pubs and takeaways is a priority for this Council, as the city navigates its way through the difficult economic conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts around the world.

Sunderland City Council has a responsibility to act in a way that allows these businesses to thrive and provide jobs, services and and improve the quality of life within our city.

Council notes:

- The recent public interest in the City's approach to granting planning permission for hot food takeaways, following the decision not to award such permission to Cole Kitchen.
- That the ruling was made on account of the fact that 21.3% of eleven year olds within the St. Peter's Ward are obese, which is 0.3% over the limit set within Policy VC4 of the Core Strategy and Development Plan.
- That the Government-appointed Planning Inspector ruled that there was 'no leeway' within this policy at present.

Council resolves to:

- Express its regret that a petition signed by over 5,000 residents calling for Cole Kitchen to be granted planning permission has been ignored.
- Call upon the Leader and the Chief Executive to undertake a review of policy VC4 of the Core Strategy Development Plan, considering how Sunderland City Council can create flexibility within the rules to enable businesses which either serve healthier hot food or serve products not targeted towards children to operate as takeaways.
- Call upon the Leader to deliver a report on the findings of this review to a full Council meeting no later than December 2024.

Proposed by former Councillor Sam Johnston  
Seconded by Councillor Lynn Vera

### **Additional Signatories**

Cllr Joshua McKeith	Former Cllr Greg Peacock	Cllr Simon Ayre
Cllr Antony Mullen	Cllr Chris Burnicle	Cllr Michael Hartnack
Cllr Michael Dixon	Cllr Adele Graham-King	Cllr Dominic McDonough
Cllr Lyall Reed	Former Cllr Richard Dunn	

# ***Report of the Human Resources Committee***



**The HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE reports and recommends as follows:-**

**1. Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025**

That at a meeting of the Human Resources Committee on 6 June 2024, they have considered a report of the Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services (copy attached) on the Pay Policy Statement for 2024-2025 and seeking approval for its publication.

The Human Resources Committee recommends to Council that the Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025 be approved and published on the Council's website.



## HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024-2025

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SMART CITIES AND ENABLING SERVICES

##### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that HR Committee approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Pay Policy Statement for 2024-25.

##### 2. Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The Human Resources Committee is invited to consider the information set out in this report and approve for publication, after agreement by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the Pay Policy Statement for 2024-2025.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement; to be updated, approved by full Council and published annually on the Authority's website. The Council has complied with this requirement each year since March 2012.
- 3.2 The Pay Policy Statement needed to be updated, approved by Council and published by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. It is acknowledged that this date has now passed but the statement will be published by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024, subject to full Council approval. The 2023-24 Pay Policy is currently published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/pay-policy>.
- 3.3 There are other, related requirements which are set out here for background information. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 the Government issued a revised Local Government Transparency Code. This came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 under Section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. As part of the Code, local authorities are now required to publish certain data sets. The HR implications of the mandatory information are the annual publication of:
- An **Organisation chart** covering employees in the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade).
  - Annual publication of **Trade union facility time** (including total number and full time equivalent of staff who are union representatives, and the total number and full time equivalent of union representatives who devote at least 50% of their time to union activity.)
  - Senior salaries.

- Pay multiple – the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority’s workforce.

The information must be published at least annually and not later than one month after the year to which the data and information is applicable.

These data sets are published on the Council’s website under Transparency alongside the Senior Pay information and can be accessed at:  
<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/transparency>.

- 3.4 In preparing the Pay Policy Statement for approval and publication, the Council must have regard to the guidance and supplementary guidance issued by the (former) DCLG:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85886/Final\\_Supplementary\\_Pay\\_Accountability\\_Guidance\\_20\\_Feb.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85886/Final_Supplementary_Pay_Accountability_Guidance_20_Feb.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/5956/2091042.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5956/2091042.pdf)

- 3.5 Since 2018 requirements on Gender Pay Gap reporting apply to organisations with 250+ employees, in accordance with Regulations made in 2017 under the umbrella of the Equality Act 2010.

#### **4. Proposal**

- 4.1 The proposed draft Pay Policy Statement 2024-25 is attached as an Appendix to this report. The amendments in comparison with the 2023-2024 Pay Policy Statement are: changes to dates, a national increase in JNC pay rates, structural changes, and minor changes to the presentation of the statement. The information contained in the Statement is required to be that which applies at the date of publication.

- 4.2 One way of measuring pay relationships is to use a pay multiple. It is mandatory to publish the Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the Council’s workforce). This is shown in the pay policy statement. The highest paid is £203,273 and the median paid is £26,421 therefore the ratio is 7.69:1. This is a reduction from the ratio for 2023-2024 which was 8.02:1.

#### **5. Reason for Decision**

- 5.1 The Localism Act 2011 includes the requirement for local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement.

#### **6. Alternative Options**

- 6.1 There are no alternative options recommended.



## **Sunderland City Council**

### **Pay Policy Statement 2024-2025**

#### **1. Introduction and Purpose**

This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of this statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of remuneration of the Council's most senior staff, i.e. 'chief officers' as defined by the relevant legislation.
- The remuneration of the lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of employees who are not Chief Officers.

This Pay Policy Statement is to be approved by Human Resources Committee and the Council and applies to the financial year 2024-2025.

The arrangements set out within this document do not extend to those employees who are employed within the control of school governing boards.

#### **2. Other Legislation Relevant to Pay and Remuneration**

Under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit, subject to Section 41 of the Localism Act 2011 (requirement for determinations relating to terms and conditions of chief officers to comply with the pay policy statement.)

In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant legislation. This includes legislation such as the Equality Act 2010, Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Earnings) Regulations. There is also significant legislation relating to pensions and payments upon termination of employment.

Sunderland City Council is mindful of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and is an equal opportunity employer. This Pay Policy Statement forms part of our policies to promote equality in pay practices. By ensuring

transparency of senior pay and the relationship with pay of other employees, it will help ensure a fair approach which meets our equality objectives.

The Local Government Transparency Code 2014, published by the Government and which came into force on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 under section 2 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, builds on the requirement for local authorities in creating greater transparency through the publication of public data. This includes publishing details of senior employee salaries, including a list of responsibilities, the inclusion of bonus details for all senior employees whose salary exceeds £50,000 and publication of the data on the authority's website. In line with this Code, the pay multiple in this Pay Policy now measures the ratio between the highest paid salary and the median salary of the whole of the authority's workforce.

These related data sets are published annually, including:

- An Organisation chart covering the top three levels of the organisation (including grade, job title, local authority department and team, whether permanent or temporary staff, contact details, salary in £5,000 brackets, consistent with the details published for Senior Salaries, and the maximum salaries for the grade). [Senior employee information - Sunderland City Council](#)
- Senior Salaries – Senior employees (remuneration in the previous financial year, and Responsibilities). [Senior employee information - Sunderland City Council](#)
- Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the council's workforce). The highest paid is £203,273 and the median paid is £26,421, therefore the ratio is 7.69:1.

Further information on senior pay is also published on the Council's website, alongside the Statement of Accounts. This can be accessed at: <http://www.sunderland.gov.uk> and search for Senior employee information or Website URL:

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/12206/Senior-employee-information>

### **3. Pay**

#### **Pay Policy**

Pay policy is determined by the Council, following consideration of recommendations of the Council's Human Resources Committee which is composed of elected members. This ensures that decisions in relation to workforce pay are taken by those who are directly accountable to local people.

## **Pay Structure**

The Council operates a graded salary structure of incremental salary scales with a range of spinal column points (pay points), using the nationally negotiated pay spines as the basis for its local pay structures, together with some locally determined rates.

The large majority of the Council's workforce are covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay spine (spinal column points 3-43), plus some additional local spinal column points (44-52).

The salary figures in this report are gross salary figures before deductions, such as under salary sacrifice schemes, which are made at the discretion of the employee.

## **Pay Awards**

National and Provincial Agreements for the Council's workforce include the negotiation of collective agreements on pay and conditions, which are reviewed and negotiated annually, through agreements of the relevant national bodies such as the National Employers' Organisation for Local Government Services, on behalf of all local authorities in England and Wales, and the signatory Trade Unions. The annual pay awards, if any, take account of a number of issues, including central government guidance, what can be agreed with the relevant trade unions, the general economic situation, the results of consultation, the affordability position of local authorities, the average rate of pay settlements across the economy, the employee relations climate, etc. While the Council as an Employer is consulted as part of the negotiation process, it does not control the level of any national pay award.

## **Grading of Posts**

The grading of posts is approved by either the Human Resources Committee or under delegated powers by the Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services. During 2016 all posts in the council were subject to a grading review following which the grades of all posts are determined using a job evaluation approach called job family modelling.

## **Appointment to New and Existing Posts**

Appointments are made in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures on recruitment and selection. For posts graded on incremental scales, appointments are normally made at the minimum of the salary grade, with employees progressing to the maximum point of the salary range via annual incremental progression where applicable, subject to relevant criteria being met. While provision exists to appoint above the minimum of the grade, this is applied in exceptional circumstances only. The equality impact of the decision is a key issue. In cases where the criteria to appoint above the minimum of the grade is met, records are maintained for use in assessing recruitment and retention trends and for monitoring purposes.

## **Market Pay Supplements**

From time to time, it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills, and capability. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the relevant sector. These are uplifted annually in line with any relevant pay award.

## **4. Senior Management Pay**

### **Definition of Senior Management**

For the purposes of this statement, senior management means ‘chief officers’ as defined within the Localism Act.

Specifically:

- “2 (a) The head of its paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
- (b) its monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
- (c) a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
- (d) a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
- (e) a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act.”

### **Key Principles**

The Chief Officer pay structure is designed to be easily understood and be transparent to the post holders, key stakeholders, and the public.

The structure and level of the pay arrangements is designed to enable the Council to attract, motivate, and retain key senior staff for the authority within a national recruitment context, to lead the Council’s workforce and delivery of the Council’s plans and priorities.

The pay structure is based upon salaries with clear differentials between levels of work/job size, within a range that is affordable now, will remain so for the medium term, and will be subject to review to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose. The remuneration for roles at this level has been set following independent advice from external consultants. In setting the relevant pay levels a range of background factors were taken into consideration for senior pay alongside the significant scope and scale of the Authority in the national context.

For example, the scope and scale of the Chief Executive’s post encompasses responsibilities commensurate with a large city authority, including responsibility for:

- The provision of wide-ranging services to 277,354 (Source: Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates, England and Wales, June 2022. Published 23 November 2023)

- An overall budget of £759.8m for total revenue expenditure.
- Undertaking the role of the Head of Paid Service to 4202 employees.  
(\* Figures include maintained schools. This data is accurate at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 but changes on a week by week basis).
- Lead Policy Advisor to the Council's 75 Elected Members

From time to time, it may be necessary to pay supplements to individual employees as part of their employment contract where specific circumstances require this, such as market pay supplements. All current market supplements are under review.

Other terms and conditions of employment for this group are as defined within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives, and the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers, of Local Authorities Conditions of Service handbooks, with discretion to set actual pay levels at a local level, but within a national negotiating framework and nationally agreed pay awards. These national provisions are supplemented by the Council's local employment policies. Like all council employees, holders of these posts are eligible to join the nationally defined Local Government Pension Scheme.

The individual elements of the remuneration package are:

a) Chief Executive

The current salary of the post is £203,273.

b) Direct reports to the Chief Executive

The current salary of these posts falls within a range called Leadership 3 £115,721 rising to a maximum of £136,965 and Leadership 4 £102,254 rising to a maximum of £115,721.

The salaries of the posts are as follows:

- Executive Director of City Development £161,141 which includes a market supplement.
- Director of Children's Services and Chief Executive of Together for Children £149,631 which includes a market supplement. The postholder is also the Deputy Chief Executive.
- Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities £149,631 which includes a market supplement.
- Director of Finance (section 151 Officer) £125,229.
- Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services £125,229.
- Director of Adult Services (Chief Operating Officer of Sunderland Care and Support) £125,229
- Director of Environmental Services £106,743.
- Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs £111,232.

c) The designated Monitoring Officer, which is the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, is paid within a range called Leadership 5 of £90,639 - £102,254.

d) Assistant Directors and other officers report directly to one of the statutory or non-statutory chief officers listed in (b) and (c) above. The current salaries of these posts fall within six different ranges:

Leadership 4 (£102,254 - £115,721), Leadership 5 (£90,639 - £102,254); Leadership 6 (£78,075 - £90,639); Leadership 7 (£65,905 - £78,075), Grade 11 £56,952-£61,324 and Grade 10 £50,512 - £54,762. For certain posts, a market supplement is paid, in line with the principles above.

All current market supplements are under review.

### **Election Fees**

The designated Returning Officer for the Council, who is currently the Chief Executive, also carries out the role of Acting Returning Officer at UK parliamentary elections and local returning/counting officer at European elections and at other referenda or electoral processes that occur from time to time. These additional roles usually carry an entitlement to payment from central government budgets at levels set by order in relation to each poll. The payment scales for national elections are set out in a Statutory Instrument laid before Parliament in respect of each individual election and are applied to both national and local elections. The Statutory Instruments are published on [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

### **5. Lowest Paid Employee Information**

The definition of the lowest paid employees are those employed in jobs which are paid at Grade 1, spinal column point 3, (£22,737 per annum for a full time 37 hour week post as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024), this being the lowest salary paid to employees, other than apprentices, in line with the Council's decision to comply with the recommended minimum hourly rate of the Living Wage Foundation.

The salaries attributable to apprentices depend on age and are those set out within the National Minimum Wage legislation. (Given the specific nature of these appointments, the Council does not include apprentices within the definition of lowest paid employees for the purposes of this policy statement).

### **6. Pay Multiple**

One way of measuring pay relationships is to use a pay multiple. The Median Pay Multiple (the ratio between the highest paid taxable earnings for the given year and the median earnings figure of the whole of the Council's workforce) is 7.69:1.

(The highest pay is £203,273 and the median pay is £26,421).

## **7. Pension Schemes**

There are two pension schemes covering the Council's employees.

The majority of employees are entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme as applied by the Council.

Public Health employees are members of the NHS Pension Scheme and continue to receive benefits in accordance with the provisions of that Scheme.

## **8. Payments on Termination of Employment**

The Council's approach to discretionary payments on termination of employment or ceasing to hold office is set out within the Council's policy statement on discretions in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

There are also occasions when settlement agreements may need to be put in place to resolve employment matters and to protect the Council's interests, in line with value for money criteria, and the efficient exercise of the Council's functions. Decisions on such matters are delegated to the Assistant Director of Law and Governance under the Council's Constitution, and are taken, where appropriate, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and Section 151 Officer.





# ***Area Arrangements Annual Report 2023/24***



**AREA ARRANGEMENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES****1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the combined Area Committee Annual Report which summarises the work and subsequent achievements of the five Area Committees during 2023/24.

**2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Every year the five Area Committee annual reports are united into one combined report and presented to Council.
- 2.2 The Annual Report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the five Area Committees throughout 2023/24. It provides details of where the elected Members, through Area Committees and the supporting Neighbourhood and Community Boards, have influenced local service delivery, and delivered a range of other activities and projects to meet the agreed priorities as set out within their Area Plans, for the benefit of residents and communities.
- 2.3 The report demonstrates how the Area Arrangements process is integral to supporting elected Members in their role as community leaders and how Area Committees continue to work collaboratively with partners to bring forward opportunities, maximising social value and co-production, to support local people and to develop more resilient, stronger communities.

**3. Area Committees**

- 3.1 The Area Committees are appointed by the Council to lead on the development and implementation of an Area Plan, which includes all main priorities for the Area, which enables its residents to be more resilient.
- 3.2 The Area Committee actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping and delivering the Area Plan, co-producing to support matters which affect them.
- 3.2 To support the delivery of these objectives the Area Committee may:
- Consult, engage and involve local people and organisations in development and delivery of the Area Plan.
  - Consult, engage and work collaboratively with partners (including the Voluntary and Community Sector, public and private sector) in development and delivery of the Area Plan and maximising social value within communities
  - In developing Area Plans, identify priorities for allocation of budgets delegated to the Area Committee.

- Commission activity to improve local quality of life and public satisfaction in its area, and publicise initiatives supported by the Area Committee.
- Area Committees will report on the delivery of area priorities and working in partnership with communities through the production of an Annual Report to Council.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 During 2023/24 the Area Committees have been involved in shaping and delivering a wide range of activities to meet the needs of local communities. During 2024/25 Area Committees will continue to work hard to deliver the priorities within their Area Plans.
- 4.2 The Annual Report should be viewed as a collaborative achievement of work. All five Area Committees would like to thank everyone who has supported and contributed towards the outcomes achieved this year, particularly our voluntary and community sector partners.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees and their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Board during 2023/24 as outlined in the Annual Report.

#### **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 Area Committee Annual Report for 2023/24.

Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon, Assistant Director Housing and Communities  
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# Annual Report of the Area Committees

2023–24

**Sunderland  
City Council**

# Contents

Foreword	3
Area Arrangements and growing community wealth	4
Area Committees and VCS Networks	5
Area Committees, Links for Life and Digital Health Hubs	6
Coalfield Area Committee	8
East Area Committee	12
North Area Committee	16
Washington Area Committee	20
West Area Committee	24
The year ahead	26
Area Committees 2024-25	27



# Foreword



Councillor John Price

As Sunderland City Council's Cabinet member for Vibrant City, I am proud to present this Annual Report of Area Committees for 2023-24. This report has been produced to highlight the combined achievements of the five Area Committees (Coalfield, East, North, Washington, and West Sunderland) and their partners, and to demonstrate the successes of joint working which has taken place over the past year.

In 2023 each Area Committee developed a three-year Area Plan (2023-2026), using local knowledge and evidence, to outline priorities for their area for the benefit of local communities. Area Plans are designed to support the delivery of the City Plan at a local level, with an area-specific focus, relevant to the unique requirements of that area. Each Area Plan has been used to develop, fund and deliver initiatives and projects in collaboration with partners and local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. We are extremely grateful to all the local groups who have helped us to successfully deliver a wide range of activities and

services across all areas. We have now delivered Year 1 of our three-year plan and this report highlights just some of the key achievements. We have recognised the need to be flexible in our support to communities and acknowledge the need to adapt our plans to address emerging issues and concerns within the community.

To deliver on each area's priorities, a total of £2,289,034 area budget was awarded, this year, across the five areas. This has enabled local groups and partners to attract a further £2,257,868 to the City, adding value and providing additional services within local communities. You can see more information and detail in the following, area-specific, sections of this annual report.

I would like to give my thanks and gratitude to the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and all partners in each of the areas, who have continued to deliver projects and supported the work of the Area Committees throughout the past year. Area Committees are proud to support these groups who are providing valuable services for residents of all ages, and all Councillors are committed to supporting and working in partnership with the established five Area VCS Networks, which are linked directly with each of the Area Committees.

In the last 12 months, as well as being allocated funding from Area Committee resources, the sector has been awarded additional budgets to provide enhanced support to residents. Examples include funding to set up 35 Links for Life community hubs, and 22 Digital Health Hubs.

Further information on both initiatives is provided as part of this report.

The implementation of the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA), developed with key partners across the city, has further progressed this year. Area Committees and VCS Networks have worked closely with partners, during this year, to develop and support the Alliance which is now an independent charitable organisation, ensuring the voluntary sector is supported and resourced in the city.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to the Area Arrangements team for all their hard work and support over the last year. The relationships forged between the team and all stakeholders and partners has added value to the work we do within our communities for the benefit of the residents of Sunderland. The work involved in providing support to Area Committees, including the development of projects and initiatives, administering of grants, monitoring funded projects and working with residents, partners and communities for mutual benefit cannot be underestimated. In this year alone we have made 356 payments totalling £1,989,416 to VCS organisations.

# Area Arrangements and growing community wealth

Sunderland City Council is committed to growing Community Wealth and bringing forward significant investment into the city. Sunderland elected members are all Community Wealth Champions, working together with residents and communities to reduce health inequalities, increase resilience and maximise the use of assets to improve communities.

The reality of Community Wealth Building delivery on the ground is practiced through Area Arrangements and the work of the Area Committees with their supporting Neighbourhood and Community Boards. The Area Committees are comprised of all Elected Members from the Area's wards who work closely with council officers, service delivery partners and members from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (VCSN).

The role of the Area Committee is to:

- Identify the main priorities that reflect the biggest need in the area;
- Develop efficient and effective solutions to local area priorities as well as supporting city-wide issues; and
- Encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them



They do this in many ways, one of which is providing funding to take forward projects that deliver their identified priorities. Each of the Area Committees hold delegated budgets in the form of the Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest. These budgets are allocated to support projects and initiatives that can demonstrate that their work will contribute to delivery of the Areas' identified priorities.

The focus of this locally delegated funding is as follows:

- Developing community capacity in localities, often involving volunteering to

make things happen

- Funding 'one off' projects where work would not otherwise be taken forward
- Acting as a catalyst to lever funding from other sources
- Implementing specific local actions to deliver priorities

Area Committees also, at their meetings, receive updates and information from internal Council services in relation to their area priorities and actions. This enables Area Committees to keep fully apprised of work within their own area, reducing duplication, adding value and ensuring that members are informed of upcoming plans.



# Area Committees and VCS Networks

Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks were established in 2009 and operate in each of the five areas of the City - Coalfield, East, North, Washington and West.

The Networks aims are:

- To develop the capacity and influence of the VCS across the City, through open communication and partnership working
- To work together to build relationships within communities and between communities and local services and activities
- To act as the recognised route of Council engagement with the VCS within each geographical area
- To work together to develop and share good VCS practice
- To provide up to three delegates to represent the sector at Sunderland City Council's Area Committees, influencing strategic policies and priorities that affect local communities and the VCS. The delegates will represent the whole VCS in their geographical area at the Area Committee rather than their own organisational interests

The VCS Networks support the development and delivery of the Area Committee Area Plans, in meeting community needs. They help to build the community's capacity to engage in the development and delivery of services through relevant Networks to ensure inclusivity. The value of the VCS and the positive impact made by the

sector is demonstrated within quarterly reports presented to each Area Committee meeting.

Membership is open to all VCS organisations which operate in Sunderland, and meetings also include representatives from any sector working (or volunteering) in the area. This can be representatives from public and statutory authorities such as the council, police and health services or other organisations such as Gentoo, local schools and businesses who have a commitment to working with and supporting the VCS. All organisations attending the VCS Networks should operate within the principles of the Community Wealth Building Strategy, ensuring positive and productive relationships for mutual advantage and community gain.

Meetings are held approximately every four to six weeks or as determined by each geographical area VCS Network. Area Committees support the networks by operating under a co-chairing arrangement involving the Area Committee Chair or Vice Chair and a network delegate.

The network representatives regularly consult with the network to ensure that the agenda items reflect their requirements and also ensure that they take forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area to the Area Committees and reporting back therefore providing a two-way flow of communication. This approach is welcomed by the Area Committee and assists

them in the effective delivery of their Area Plan ensuring a partnership approach that meets the needs of all within local communities.

# Area Committees, Links for Life and Digital Health Hubs

Working closely with Area Committees, the Area Arrangements Team have supported local VCS organisations to develop a key wellbeing programme across the city. This has been changed and adapted to meet the needs of local residents, and now consists of 35 local organisations delivering a 'Links for Life' programme at locations in every ward.

We have supported VCS organisations on the Links for Life journey, which started with providing 'Warm Spaces' - social and wellbeing services set up to give local residents somewhere to go to meet, chat, and participate in activities in a warm and welcoming local venue where they could get access to a free hot drink and snack.

This pilot approach proved to be successful and developed further into 'Welcoming Spaces', which removed the focus on just being somewhere to go to keep warm, and encouraged people to attend and participate in wellbeing and social welfare activities. This invaluable provision is now a recognised service, accessed by hundreds of residents each month.

Sunderland's vision to build on, and support, the work being undertaken to promote health and wellbeing, by providing social prescribing through an integrated, city-wide service, has been realised in this Links for

Life programme. It is a service that is delivered by multiple providers, operating under a single point of access, sharing referrals and resource, breaking down organisational barriers, so that the service is seamless and proactively improves the health and wellbeing of the people of Sunderland.

The main objectives for Links for Life, Sunderland, are to:

- Improve health outcomes for residents, focusing on prevention and improving personal resilience
- Ensure all residents can access support services, ensuring equity for everyone and enabling all residents to receive support

The Links for Life Sunderland model expects all partners to work together to ensure the best outcome for the resident. The focus is to deliver services within communities, recognising that residents' lived experience should inform service delivery, and encourage VCS organisations to co-produce services which are most needed within communities.

Over £800,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Sunderland City Council was awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in every ward across the city, to provide the 35 Community Hubs, which collectively deliver the citywide service.

To complement the Links for Life programme, and in recognition of the need to support local organisations and residents to be more digitally connected, a number of digital health hubs have been set up across the city.

Staff and volunteers within these Hubs are working hard to ensure that support is available to communities at locations and venues where residents feel comfortable and able to seek support from trusted VCS partners.

To date over £500,000 has been allocated to 22 of our community partners to address digital exclusion through these local centres. From one to one advice, to provision of equipment to free digital data, the support provided is vital to those who feel excluded from some activities and services due to barriers in accessing information in a digital format.

Local people can receive support from other local people, who have been upskilled as Tech Mates. Tech Mates will help out, build confidence and share their digital learning and skills with others, who may have never been online before, for example, by showing people how to navigate around the web safely.





## Councillor James Blackburn, Coalfield Area Chair

We have now delivered the first year of our 3-year area plan (2023-2026) which was agreed by the Coalfield Area Committee at the beginning of 2023/24. We have focused on the things that are important to our local residents, we have prioritised projects and actions that will make a real difference to our communities.

The dedicated support of local Voluntary and Community Sector groups, and partner organisations, has enabled continued delivery of a range of projects and services to local communities, supporting them to build resilience, access advice and support, and look after their wellbeing. Social inclusion and keeping active is something that VCS organisations have told us is important to people accessing their projects and services. We value the sharing of this information which informs some of our allocation of area budgets.

The natural and local environment gives local people a sense of pride. The Coalfield area has some unique outdoor spaces and is an attractive and green area. Working with council services, local partners, dedicated volunteers and Friends groups, a number of environmental improvement projects has taken place. The Coalfield Clean it, Green it project has been key in working with residents, carrying out a total of 338 litter picks and community clean-ups, engaging over 200 volunteers.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, and volunteers who have supported the delivery of area priorities for the benefit of our Coalfield residents. Young people have been at the heart of area discussions and priorities. Area funded projects, alone, supported almost 500 young people to take part in youth clubs delivered every week in all wards.

Over 300 children and young people have taken part in holiday activities and clubs, and our CAN DO budget is available to groups of young people aged between 11 and 19 years old. The young people identify a need or issue and develop a funding proposal which they present to Councillors. We continue to be impressed by groups of young people who tell us how they will deliver a project for the benefit of their school, club, group and for the wider community. We are dedicated to continuing this important project into next year.

I am proud to present this Annual Report for the Coalfield Area which outlines some of the key achievements, right across the area. We continue to listen to local communities and what is important to them.



# Coalfield Area Committee

Councillor James Blackburn, Coalfield Area Chair

## Coalfield Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Can Do project to develop skills of young people
- Develop digital skills of residents
- Support to residents to improve financial resilience
- A VAS and road safety programme
- A Tree planting programme and low carbon initiatives in the community
- Positive activities and youth clubs for children and young people
- A Coalfield Healthy and Active Teen (CHAT) programme
- Activities to reduce Social Isolation
- Social Prescribing Services
- Heritage activities and community events
- Improvements to parks and open spaces
- Proactive Coalfield anti-social behaviour project and tackling motorcycle ASB
- Environmental improvements
- Improvements to community assets

## Coalfield Area key highlights

From our 2023–24 allocated budgets, we approved almost **£400,000** of area budget to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Key highlights of the year, include:

**£357,946** of Neighbourhood Fund was awarded to projects delivering against the Coalfield Area Committee priorities. This year we have funded 29 projects and worked with over 40 local partners.

The Neighbourhood Funding aligned and approved has attracted over **£910,000** match funding to the area.

**£40,000** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 52 Community projects. Projects were varied and have included; friendship benches to commemorate King Charles coronation, family fun day and animal experience, classroom resources and improvements to community venues. The average grant was **£769**.

A group of young people applied to Coalfield CAN DO fund to develop a video and resources to highlight the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

The Area Committee are using their inspirational presentation to develop a wider 'knife crime educational programme' working with the Connor Brown Trust.

The successful Communities Connected digital programme was awarded **£31,500** to continue delivery of support to residents in 6 local venues.

Over **£42,000** was approved to continue delivering the RU Ready for UC project to individuals who are moving to, or managing, their Universal Credit benefit.

The Coalfield Youth Choices project will deliver two sessions of youth provision per ward per week until 2026, thanks to Neighbourhood Funding.

Working with the Connor Brown Trust, a programme of bleed kit installations is under development. Funding has been aligned to install at least two kits in each ward within the Coalfield area.

The Coalfield Clean it, Green it project has worked on over 330 neighbourhood improvements, carrying out tasks such as painting, path clearing, litter picking and rubbish removal.

A number of community events were delivered including Christmas Cheer, Newbottle Christmas, Coalfield Pride, Shiney Christmas, Houghton Feast and the inaugural Elemore Music Festival which attracted around 500 people.

A number of local community centres and organisations were successful in a share of over **£79,000** to carry out improvements in their buildings.

A **£25,000** contribution has been provided to a multi- area partnership led pilot project to tackle motorcycle disorder across Coalfield and the wider Sunderland area.

# Coalfield Area Committee our year in numbers

**£358k** 

Neighbourhood  
funding awarded

**29** 

Projects developed and funded  
via Neighbourhood Fund

**12** 

Local organisations supported  
to improve community buildings

**2,305** 

Attendances by Children  
and Young People at free fun  
activities and holiday clubs

**52** 

Voluntary and Community  
Sector organisations supported  
with Community Chest funding

**1,984** 

Residents supported to  
improve digital skills

**167** 

Local families supported  
with additional gifts and  
treats at Christmas

**48** 

Teenage residents provided  
with gym memberships and  
access to Teen Gym and  
Bootcamp sessions

**151** 

Additional enforcement  
actions carried out

**320** 

Sessions of youth  
provision delivered

**338** 

Community clean ups and  
litter picks carried out

**290** 

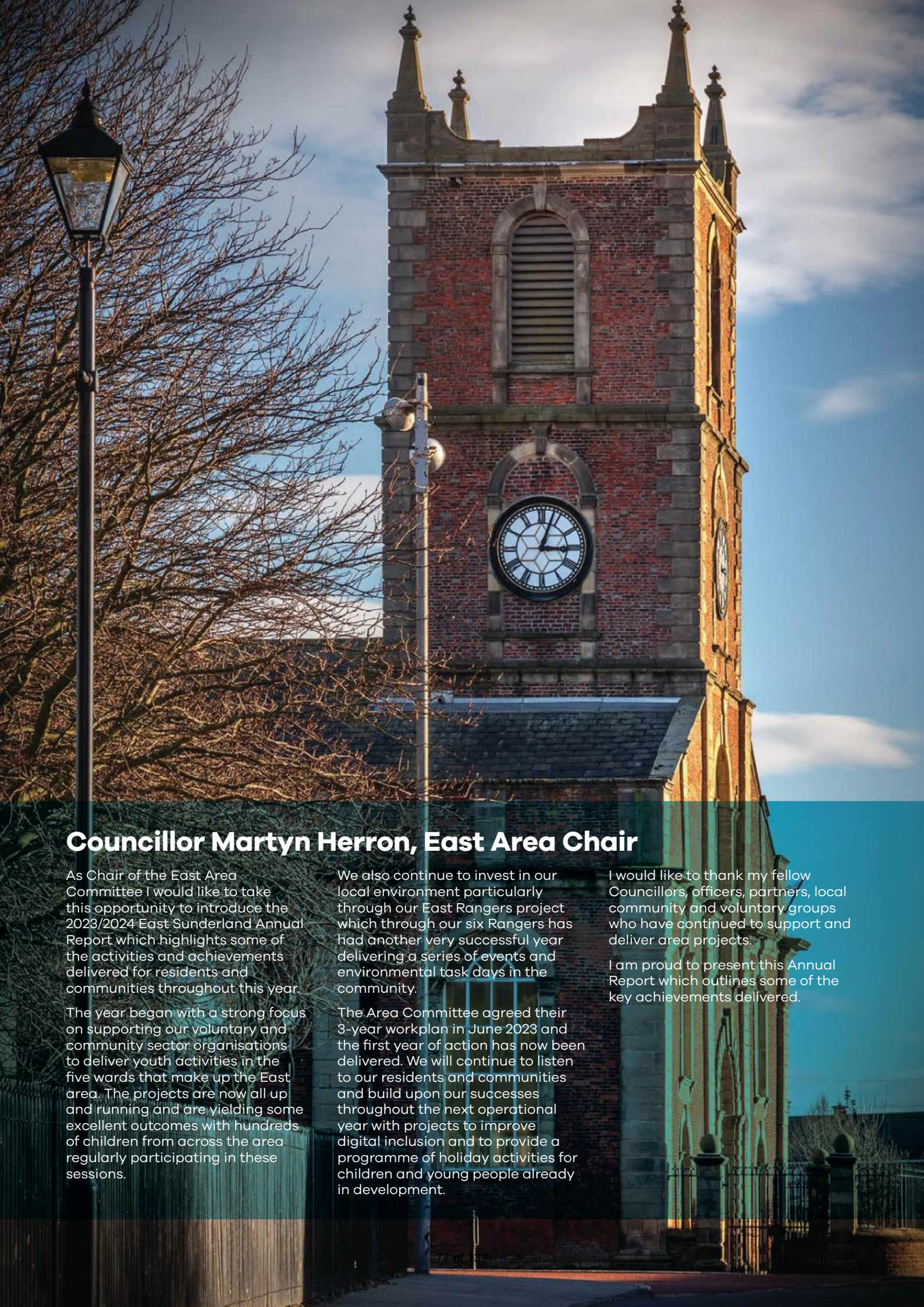
Volunteers participated  
in neighbourhood  
funded activities



# Coalfield Area Committee our year in images







## Councillor Martyn Herron, East Area Chair

As Chair of the East Area Committee I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2023/2024 East Sunderland Annual Report which highlights some of the activities and achievements delivered for residents and communities throughout this year.

The year began with a strong focus on supporting our voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver youth activities in the five wards that make up the East area. The projects are now all up and running and are yielding some excellent outcomes with hundreds of children from across the area regularly participating in these sessions.

We also continue to invest in our local environment particularly through our East Rangers project which through our six Rangers has had another very successful year delivering a series of events and environmental task days in the community.

The Area Committee agreed their 3-year workplan in June 2023 and the first year of action has now been delivered. We will continue to listen to our residents and communities and build upon our successes throughout the next operational year with projects to improve digital inclusion and to provide a programme of holiday activities for children and young people already in development.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, local community and voluntary groups who have continued to support and deliver area projects.

I am proud to present this Annual Report which outlines some of the key achievements delivered.





# East Area Committee

Councillor Martyn Herron, East Area Chair

## East Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Digital inclusion
- Delivering low carbon initiatives in the community
- Improving green spaces including fruit orchards and wildflowers
- Continued delivery of the East Rangers project
- Improving the Stephenson Trail
- Supporting youth clubs in each of the five wards
- Delivering a programme of holiday activities
- Supporting projects that increase physical and wellbeing activities for young people, help to support healthier lifestyles and lessen the impact of the cost-of-living crisis
- Supporting environmental enforcement initiatives to address issues such as motorcycle disorder
- Improving social prescribing opportunities
- Delivering capital improvements to community assets
- Delivering ward-based initiatives
- Supporting community assets to develop, grow and sustain
- Supporting St Michael's and Ryhope Community Centre projects
- Receiving updates on highways schemes and considering future options

## East Area key highlights

From our 2023–24 allocated budgets, we approved over **£458,077** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£44,622** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 38 Community projects. Projects which received support included heritage initiatives, community centre improvements and sports activity programmes. The average grant was **£1,174**.

The East Rangers project carried out 591 litter picks and collected nearly 2,000 bags of waste.

Five organisations received a share of **£186,493** to support them to deliver youth activities in each of the five wards throughout the year. Nearly 2,000 children and young people have benefitted from these sessions to date.

14 organisations received a share of nearly **£89,000** to make

improvements to their buildings, projects included: kitchen improvements, increased security measures and improved training facilities.

The Neighbourhood Funding aligned and approved has attracted over **£560,000** in match funding.

**£47,740** was awarded to 6 groups to extend the East Rangers project to encourage volunteering and environmental improvements in each ward across the East.

**£10,000** was aligned for distribution to small scale, young people led 'Can Do' projects.

**£10,000** was aligned to support Hendon High Street Revolution through signage and parking improvements.

**£78,077** was aligned to support a further phase of the Go! Get Online digital inclusion project.


**£34,790** was aligned to support a further phase of the Fancy a Day Out holiday activity programme for May and Summer Holidays during 2024.



# East Area Committee our year in numbers

**£458k** 

Neighbourhood Funding awarded to 16 projects

**£44k** 

Community Chest funding awarded to 38 groups

**633** 

Volunteers involved in area activities

**1,314** 

Hours delivered supporting residents with digital

**9,312** 

Hours of in-kind support provided by volunteers

**71** 

Motorcycle disorder patrols carried out

**591** 

Litter picks carried out

**713** 

People accessing digital support

**1,669** 

children and young people engaged in health and wellbeing activities

**14** 

Community buildings received funding to make improvements

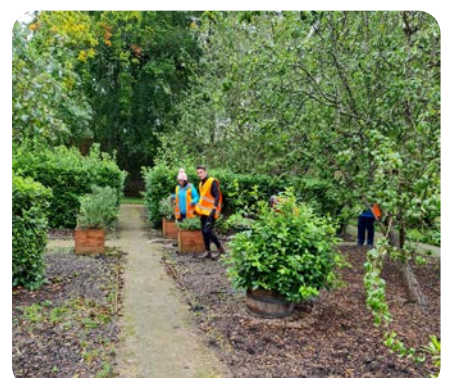
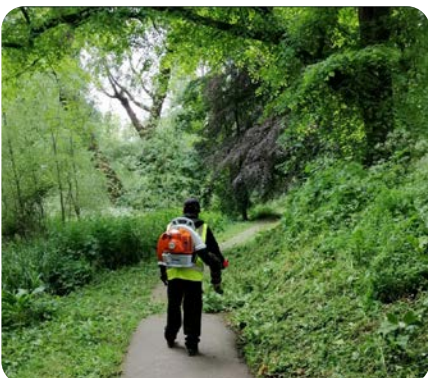
**58** 

VCS Groups received an area grant

**1,927** 

Bags of waste cleared from neighbourhoods by East Rangers and volunteers

# East Area Committee our year in images







## Councillor Denny Wilson, North Area Chair

As Chair of the North Area Committee I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2023–24 North Sunderland Annual Report, highlighting some of the activities and achievements delivered for residents and local communities across Sunderland North.

In June 2023 the Area Committee agreed their 3-year workplan for 2023 – 2026 and we have now delivered the first year of this plan focussing on the things that are important to our local residents.

With the dedication of local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, Sunderland City Council and our partners we have continued to deliver a range of

services, activities and events that have benefitted the residents of Sunderland North and allocated funding where it is needed most.

Residents tell us our greenspaces, play areas and heritage are important and working with council services, local partners and dedicated volunteers a number of environmental improvement projects have been successfully delivered. This year has seen an amazing regeneration of Thompson Park with a much increased play and outdoor gym equipment offer for all ages.

We have had amazing support for our Christmas programme with lights, events and illuminations

at Southwick, Hylton Castle and Redhouse. Without the dedication of area-based projects and local volunteers we would not be able to achieve what we have and I would like to offer my thanks to my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, local community and voluntary groups who have continued to support and deliver area projects. These projects have supported our residents to build resilience, access services and activities for all ages, care for their health and wellbeing, improve their green spaces and celebrate heritage.

I am proud to present this Annual Report for the North which outlines some of the key achievements delivered.





# North Area Committee

Councillor Denny Wilson, North Area Chair

## North Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Ward based Raising Aspiration projects
- Communication project
- Benefit advice/guidance for residents focusing on digital Inclusion
- Low Carbon Initiatives
- Provision of a wide range of youth activities
- North Quarry run
- Play Zone project
- Health and wellbeing
- Wildlife, walking, cycling and running destinations
- Social Prescribing services and activities
- Heritage and culture
- Events
- Regeneration of Thompson Park
- Support to VCS and Community Hubs
- Redevelopment of Downhill Wheeled Sports Park site
- Roker and Seaburn washing facilities

## North Area key highlights

From our 2023–24 allocated budgets, we approved and aligned over **£370,344** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding aligned and awarded are:

**£49,344** of Community Chest funding was awarded to local groups delivering a total of 40 community projects. Awards have included Outdoor Activities for Scouts, Welfare Advice and Guidance sessions in local community projects, Improvements to Community Venues, Activities for all Ages, The average grant was **£1,234**.

Thompson Park Regeneration complete with an overall total of **£300,000** funding allocated from North Area Committee over the past two years.

Hylton Castle Winter Wonderland delivered in 2024 with **£100,000** previously awarded.

**£10,000** awarded to deliver the Roker and Seaburn washing

facilities project with an outdoor shower installed at Roker and a tap planned at Seaburn.

**£150,000 at £30,000** per ward aligned for Ward improvement projects.

**£21,774** for the ward Improvement - Castletown Mural Project.

**£6,000** for Fulwell Community Library Christmas Project.

**£6,930** for the Ward Improvement - Phase 1 of the Redhill Christmas Illumination Project.

**£10,000** for the Redhouse Community Centre Refurbishment Project.

**£20,000** for youth services and activities to add to previous funding in order to offer a range of services

and activities across Sunderland North for young people.

**£100,000** aligned for a project that aims to deliver environmental improvements at the Downhill Wheeled Sports Park site.


**£20,000** towards the Citywide Motorcycle Task Force.

Match funding from external funders, VCS organisations and Sunderland City Council totalling **£556,657**.

# North Area Committee our year in numbers

**£321k** 

Neighbourhood funding awarded to 12 projects during 2023-24

**£49k** 

Was awarded to 40 projects via Community Chest, with an average grant of £1,234 to support neighbourhood projects

**10k** 

Attended the North Battle Re enactment Event at Hylton Castle

**7,240** 

Young People engaged in youth activities - footfall

**106** 

Community clean ups and litters picks delivered across all Neighbourhood Funded Projects

**2,104** 

Volunteer hours delivered across all Neighbourhood Funded Projects

**3,611** 

Attended Christmas Illumination Events at Hylton Castle, Southwick and Redhill

**497** 

Residents engaged in activities addressing social isolation

**1** 

Regeneration and refurbishment of Thompson Park

**71** 

Motorcycle Task Force patrols carried out

**1** 

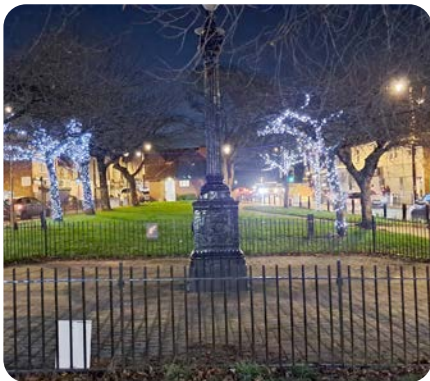
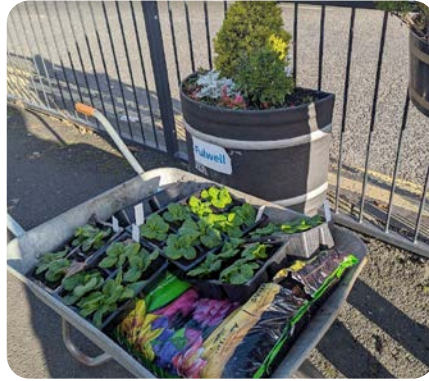
Outside Shower Installed at Roker Beach

**82** 

Number of people receiving information, advice and guidance



# North Area Committee our year in images







## Councillor Sean Laws, Washington Area Chair

As Chair of the Washington Area Committee, I would like to highlight some of the key areas of work delivered over the last year. At the beginning of 2023, the Area Committee agreed their workplan following research and consultation amongst communities and neighbourhoods across the area. This three-year Plan (2023-26) is now underway, and we have recognised the need to adapt and review the plan to meet the ongoing requirements of Washington residents and communities. We do this through our project groups, steering groups and board meetings, and will continue to do so to ensure that area budgets are targeted in the most beneficial way.

I want to offer thanks to my fellow Councillors, officers, partners and

volunteers who have supported our Washington residents. Priorities included enabling and supporting services and activities to help our local communities including tackling issues caused by financial uncertainty and the cost of living. We have given support and funding to continue the WISP project which offers a bespoke approach to providing welfare rights, benefit, debt and housing advice to people, on an individual basis, at venues in Washington.

Area Committee has also been dedicated to planning and developing Washington 60 celebrations - a programme to be delivered in 2024 to mark 60 years of the building of Washington New Town. We were delighted to have Washington-born George Clarke

on board to launch our design challenge and work with us to develop and encourage the skills of young people. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for our designers of the future. We look forward to reporting on the progress and success of this programme in our next Annual Report.

Washington Area Committee, together with its partners, has continued to deliver the actions outlined in our Area Plan with several great projects and improvements being seen across the area. Some of the key highlights are contained in the following pages.





# Washington Area Committee

Councillor Sean Laws, Washington Area Chair

## Washington Area Priorities set out in the 2023-26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- A plantation and tree management programme
- Washington Clean and Green project
- Support for VCS organisations and community hubs
- A heritage and culture programme
- A road safety and VAS programme
- Celebrations for Washington 60
- Recognition of Washington volunteers
- A feasibility study for the vision of Fatfield Riverside development
- A programme of outreach and diversionary youth provision
- Neighbourhood management and enforcement
- Investment in parks and play areas
- Positive activities for young people during school holidays
- Improved access to allotments and community gardens
- Supporting people into work and developing skills of young people
- Providing individual welfare and financial support

## Washington Area key highlights

From our 2023-24 allocated budgets, we approved over **£470,000** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£49,000** Community Chest was awarded to 61 local groups who delivered a variety of projects including community events. The grants were, on average, **£815**.

Washington Clean & Green project was awarded **£60,000** to enable community clean-ups, by engaging residents into volunteering and supporting the delivery of environmental projects.

**£30,000** funding was awarded to deliver the Washington Design Challenge to celebrate the town's 60th anniversary. It is open to all schools in Washington with the help of George Clarke and his charity MOBIE.

Washington Individual Support Project – WISP is a unique project delivered by a dedicated Advice Worker to provide welfare rights, benefit, debt and housing advice to people presenting in crisis.

Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service will be delivering 4 PHOENIX programmes to Secondary Schools and 5 SPARK programmes to Junior Schools. Educational activities aimed at reducing the increasing instances of deliberate fire starting will be delivered.

Funding has been awarded to local community organisations to make improvements or repairs to their buildings to enable them to continue to provide a wide range of activities and services.

A programme of activities and events including the miner's picnic, and Christmas festivities has been enabled.

Additional training and support for young people aged 16-19 is available following approval of a grant of over **£45,000**.

Washington Area Committee funded a varied holiday activity programme for children and young people. All activities are provided free of charge and include a snack/meal during each activity.

Over **£95,000** awarded will provide additional environmental enforcement and street watch provision for a 2 year period commencing in April 2024.

10 portable Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) signs will be deployed across 43 locations in Washington following further funding of **£21,500** being approved.



# Washington Area Committee our year in numbers

**£423k** 

Neighbourhood funding was awarded to 15 projects

**£49k** 

Community Chest was awarded to 61 local groups

**1,605** 

Enforcement actions carried out

**5,000** 

Residents participated in local events and celebrations

**624** 

Young people aged 11-19 benefited from positive holiday activities

**40** 

Volunteers worked on Neighbourhood Fund projects

**1,325** 

Children under 11 took part in activities and events during school holidays

**691** 

Local people more financially resilient

**121** 

Advice sessions delivered in local venues

**495** 

Hours of volunteer time contributed

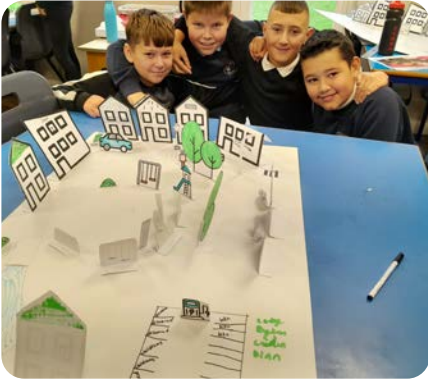
**62** 

Young people benefited from financial awareness programmes

**101** 

Community clean ups and litter picks

# Washington Area Committee our year in images







## **Councillor Joanne Laverick, West Area Chair**

As Chair of the West Area Committee I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2023–24 West Sunderland Annual Report, highlighting some of the activities and achievements delivered for residents and communities.

The Area Committee agreed their 3-year workplan in June 2023 and we have now delivered the first year. We have focussed on the priorities that make the most difference to our communities and have worked with Sunderland City Council, partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector to deliver these priorities where they are most needed.

The priorities delivered have been a range of activities and services as well as the 3-day Barnes Park Event which saw over 700 children and 10,000 local residents attend. We have invested in our local environment and have extended our Clean and Green/Rangers projects and enhanced the impact in the community with the West in bloom projects located across the area and delivered by the Local Voluntary and Community Sector.

Improvements to parking at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery and Silksworth Ski Slope complex have been delivered and we have continued to invest and influence environmental enforcement and

highway improvements across the Area.

Young people continue to be at the heart of our priorities and Area funded youth activities have continued to be delivered with over 2000 young people attending sessions across the year.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, officers, partners, local community and voluntary groups who have continued to support and deliver area projects.

I am proud to present this Annual Report which outlines some of the key achievements delivered. We will continue to listen to our residents and communities.





# West Area Committee

Councillor Joanne Laverick, West Area

## West Area Priorities set out in the 2023–26 Delivery Plan were outlined as follows:

- Environmental improvements and improved green spaces
- Improved community assets
- An improve social prescribing offer
- Improved youth activities including cultural and enrichment activities and raised aspirations.
- Improved access to ICT
- Tackle ASB and environmental enforcement
- A map of defibrillators across the West
- Initiatives to support mental health and wellbeing in young people and to reduce child poverty and child obesity
- Additional heritage walks
- Improvements to small, neglected shopping and enterprise areas
- Improved access to Welfare Right support

## West Area key highlights

From our 2023–24 allocated budgets, we approved over **£540,387** to deliver projects to meet identified priorities. Examples of funding awarded are:

**£60,000** Community Chest was used to support 59 groups including funding youth projects and celebrating cultural and enriching events, values of the grants were on average **£1,016**.

The West Clean and Green/Rangers project carried out 412 litter picks and worked with 450 volunteers making environmental improvements.

The Neighbourhood Funding aligned and approved has attracted over **£102,475** in match funding.

Young people age 10+ from across the West Area had access to 576 youth sessions. An average of 150 young people per week attended.

Residents have been supported to access additional welfare rights services including specialist advice. Over the past year residents have

received **£229,080** in back dated benefits.

A Mental Health specialist Charity delivered sessions in all West secondary schools, attended by 2,953 young people to help improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Following 2 successful years of Area Committee funded neighbourhood enforcement, the Area Committee have now enhanced the project to include an Environmental Enforcement Officer and an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

10 Vehicle Activated Signs located in 22 locations across the area continue to support the local community by making drivers aware of their vehicle speed and encourage drivers to reduce their speed.

The 3 day Barnes Park event gave 735 school children the opportunity

to be engaged in 24 different activities. The family fun day attracted over 10,000 residents to experience a variety of activities including, trampolines, archery, basket ball, dancing, tennis, music, digital skills, a fun fair and more.

9 Digital hubs established with over 230 sessions delivered throughout the year to support residents with online journal access, digital camera operation, account setup, and email communication.

In Bloom projects supported to deliver a spring/summer environmental programme across 11 of centres.

# West Area Committee our year in numbers

£540k 

Neighbourhood funding awarded to 16 projects

£60k 

Community Chest grant was awarded to 59 groups

2,953 

Secondary school pupils positively engaged in activities that provided emotional and mental health support

14,604 

Young people engaged in youth activities - footfall

10k 

Attended the West Area Event in Barnes Park 2023

6,041 

Volunteers worked on Neighbourhood Fund projects

2,709 

Number of enforcement actions

31 

Number of new parking bays at Silksworth Ski Slope Complex and Bishopwearmouth 9/10 bays

12 

Digital hubs created

403 

Number of residents supported with specialist welfare advice

412 

Young people benefited from financial awareness programmes

33 

Highway and road safety improvements

# The year ahead

In the year ahead each of the Area Committees will reflect on the success of the first year of delivering their 2023-26 Area Plan. Each Committee will ensure that their priorities are still relevant and meet the needs of residents and communities, and progress the second year of the plan, whilst also looking ahead to Year 3. Working with service leads, partners and VCS organisations, actions within the plans will be considered, and through the Neighbourhood and Community Boards, be developed and delivered.

We recognise the need to be flexible and prepare for ongoing challenges, aligning area budgets to meet these challenges where relevant. Communication across all

elements of area working is vital and we will continue to make a commitment to the Voluntary and Community Sector partners who continue to support Area Committees year on year.

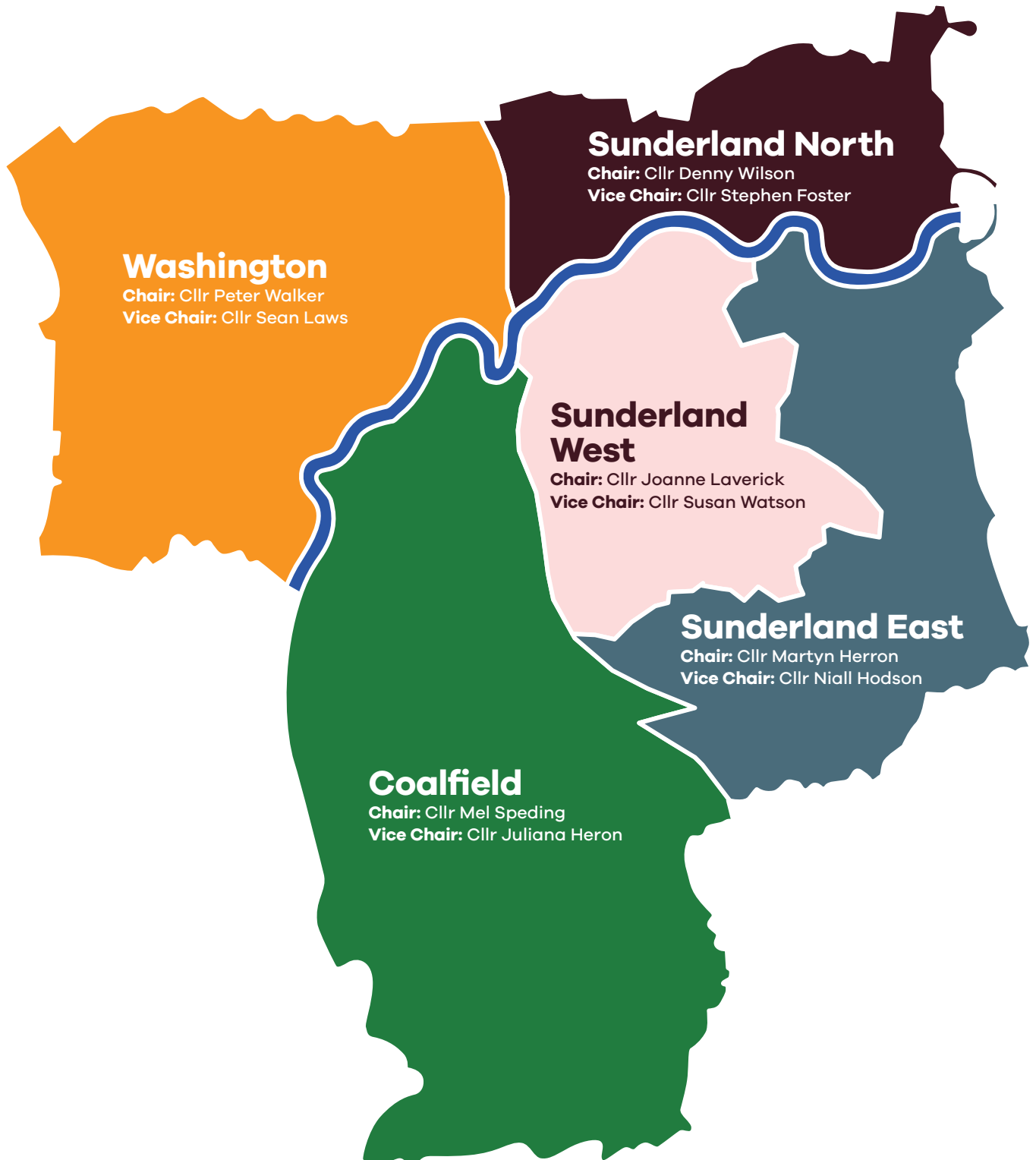
Challenges faced over recent years have demonstrated the huge value and importance of our VCS organisations to residents of the city, and how working in partnership with the key stakeholders in the city has made and will continue to make a significant difference to the delivery of services. These partnerships will be built upon and strengthened as a recognised way of working within communities. The VCS have a vital role to play within all our neighbourhoods. The facilities and services they

offer, their local knowledge of the communities of which they are such an integral part and their understanding of the needs of residents within those communities are all invaluable to supporting the work of Area Committee to meet the objectives set out in each area's plans.

The 2023-26 Area Committee Plans will be reviewed and refreshed, in line with the City Plan, throughout the remaining two years to inform the development of priorities and projects beyond the current plans. This will be done via VCS Networks, resident consultation, Area Neighbourhood and Community Boards and Area Committees.



# Area Committees 2024-25







# ***Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/2024***



**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the Scrutiny Annual Report which summaries the work of the Scrutiny Committees during 2023/2024.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report provides an overview of the work of scrutiny throughout 2023/24 and the contribution it has made to the good governance of the Council and the delivery of the city's priorities. It also looks at the how the scrutiny function will continue to develop and the challenges it faces in the year ahead.

**3. Operation of the Scrutiny Function**

- 3.1 The Council's scrutiny function comprises one formal, overarching Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and three themed scrutiny committees; namely the Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee, the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 Scrutiny ensures that decision-making processes are clear, accessible and accountable. It also has an important role in driving improvement in services delivered to the people of Sunderland.

**4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The four Scrutiny Committees have delivered demanding, varied and interesting work programmes in 2023/24 with 2024/25 promising to be another challenging year.

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Council is asked to receive the report on the operation of the scrutiny function for 2023/24.

**6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

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Contact Officer: Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator

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# Scrutiny Annual Report

## 2023–24

**Sunderland  
City Council**

# Contents

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee	5
Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	7
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee	10
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	13
The year ahead	16
Scrutiny on a page	17

# Foreword



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the council's Scrutiny Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the work of scrutiny during 2023–24 and sets out the contribution it has made to the good governance of the council. It also looks at how the scrutiny function will remain fit for purpose for the year ahead and the challenges we face moving forward.

The council, along with other local authorities across the country, continues to operate within a harsh financial climate. The level of funding made available to local authorities is insufficient to meet both the increasing demand for services and the increasing cost of providing them. Inflation continues to adversely impact the costs of the services provided by the council. This is a problem across the board but particularly an issue in the adult and child social care sectors, where we are facing a perfect storm of rising costs, workforce shortages and increasing demand.

At the same time as these financial pressures, the city continues to face a number of major challenges. These include regenerating the local economy, improving educational attainment and skills and tackling economic and social inequalities. There also remains the problems of improving the long-term health of our residents, tackling child poverty and the consequences of the cost-of-living crisis.

With the council and our partners required to deliver ever greater efficiencies and financial savings, the need for robust, evidence-based scrutiny becomes ever more pressing.

To meet these demands, we have continued to adapt and improve the scrutiny process, helping to ensure that resources are targeted on front-line and key priority services. We have stressed the importance of being customer focussed - using robust data and information to understand our resident's needs and maximising opportunities through the 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.

In the years ahead, the council will need to operate within an ever-tighter regime of financial constraint, while demand for our services continues to grow. With the council and our partners required to deliver ever greater financial savings, the need for cooperation and partnership working becomes ever more pressing.

Despite the challenges faced nationally and locally, considerable progress is being made in a number of areas. In August 2021, an Ofsted Inspection of children's social care services in Sunderland resulted in an outstanding rating. It is pleasing that the level of improvement is being maintained and indeed built upon and we look forward to further developments moving into the future across the whole range of children's services.

The council continues to be ambitious and investing in the city is a key element of the City Plan. Good progress is also being on a range of regeneration projects; including the development of Sunderland Riverside and the former Vaux site, the forthcoming Culture House development on Keel Square, Sunderland Rail Station, the International Advanced Manufacturing Park and the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor. All of these developments bode well for the future transformation of the city centre and long-term economic prosperity of the city.

Sunderland continues to be involved in a number of joint scrutiny arrangements for health provision across the area. Members are also actively involved in the joint





arrangements that cover the North East and North Cumbria, looking at the Integrated Care Partnerships and Integrated Care Systems. These joint arrangements will remain of key importance over the coming year as both are concerned with service reconfiguration and development and how services are delivered across Sunderland and the North East.

Scrutiny in Sunderland has also made a significant contribution to regional scrutiny arrangements. Throughout the year, we have represented the council on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee which looks at matters of significant importance to residents across the region, focusing particularly on economic development and transport issues.

No doubt, the next twelve months will bring further challenges. However, I do believe that with the cooperation of fellow members, partners and the support of our officers we will rise to meet these challenges in the year ahead.

Finally, and most importantly, the Committee would like to place on record its thanks to all those staff within in the council and in our partner organisations who have worked tirelessly in support of our local communities.

**Councillor Katherine Mason-Gage**  
Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee



# Scrutiny Coordinating Committee



**Chair: Cllr Katherine Mason-Gage**

**Vice-Chair: Cllr Tracy Dodds**

**Committee Members:** Councillors Mark Burrell, Michael Hartnack, Beth Jones, Lindsey Leonard, Ciaran Morrissey, Antony Mullen, Alex Samuels, Pat Smith, Melanie Thornton, John Usher and Peter Walton.

I am pleased to be able to present the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's annual report that provides a summary of the work of the Committee over the last municipal year. It has been another challenging year with both global and domestic events impacting on everyone's lives. The Committee has looked at a number of issues through its work programme and Members have contributed and engaged throughout the year.

Budget and financial scrutiny remains one of the key remits of the Committee. A range of comprehensive reports are submitted to the Committee over the municipal year including around the Capital Programme, proposed Council Tax, Revenue Budget and the Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan. Members of the Committee continue to monitor and challenge the budget as well as continuing to acknowledge the current financial situation for the local government sector.

Performance management is another cornerstone of the Committee's work

programme, and we continue to monitor and challenge council performance, achievements and progress against a range of issues across the key themes of Dynamic Smart City, Health Smart City, Vibrant Smart City and Organisational Development. This year has seen further developments with the presentation of performance information focusing on a different key theme for each quarter and inviting relevant key officers for that area to attend. It is hoped that this provides a greater focus and benefit to the Committee and will be reviewed during work planning sessions for the new municipal year.

The Committee also established a task and finish working group during the year to look at the health and wellbeing of the workforce. The working group has looked at how the council supports the health and wellbeing of the workforce through policy development and key initiatives as well as identifying the challenges and key achievements in employee health and wellbeing. The report and recommendations are aimed at supporting and highlighting the work that is already taking place around this important area of work, as well as recognising some of the key challenges that still exist. The report will be submitted to Cabinet in the new municipal year.

In addition to this piece of work, the Committee also received an update on the current position in relation to sickness absence. The Committee was interested in better understanding the sickness absence position within the council and the measures to support employees to remain healthy at work. This was aligned to the Organisational Health performance measures and the task and finish working group that was also taking place at the time. There was a good level of discussion, and it provided the Committee with an overview of the situation and the various initiatives and support for employees within the council.



The Committee has continued to monitor the vision and delivery of the Smart City programme, particularly in the context of the impact on City Plan aspirations. Concerns were raised during discussions at the standard of the reinstatement work undertaken by fibre broadband providers following the installation of cabling. Members concerns were to be passed to the relevant officer for further investigation and ensure appropriate rectification. Members also acknowledged the importance of this work in terms of strengthening partnership working, extending ultra-fast broadband across the city, introducing a Sunderland App and enabling digital inclusion.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to make life difficult for people across the UK and is attributable to factors that are beyond the influence or control of local Councils. The Committee took an active interest in the actions being taken across our city to support residents with their financial wellbeing. Members highlighted a number of issues to officers from their own experiences including around foodbank usage, welcome spaces, Household Support Fund, policies on evictions, money advice and interacting with those harder to reach residents. The Committee recognised the positive and supportive work that was being undertaken through the ongoing development of the Links for Life project, the production of a fuel

poverty action plan, boiler replacements for those in crisis, identifying the most vulnerable households and supporting emotional health and financial resilience through partnership working with the voluntary and community sector.

The updated City Plan and indicative timeline assurance process were also submitted to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for consideration during the year. Members received a comprehensive overview of the updated plan and provided a number of comments and observations including around addressing the decline of the City's retail and leisure offer, greater reference to partner involvement and the terminology used in the plan. These comments were to be reported back to Cabinet and given further consideration with the continued updating and development of the plan in the future.

In finishing this summary of the work of the Committee, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Members for their support, contribution and continued cooperation throughout the year. I would also like, on behalf of all Members of the Committee, to put on record our appreciation to officers and partners for providing their expertise and knowledge to the work of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

**Councillor Katherine Mason-Gage**  
Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee



# Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee



**Chair: Cllr Alex Samuels**

**Vice Chair: Cllr Dominic McDonough**

**Committee Members:** Councillors Joanne Chapman, Margaret Crosby, Allen Curtis, Richard Dunn, Paul Gibson, George Smith, Pat Smith, Dianne Snowdon, David Snowdon and Melanie Thornton.

**Co-opted Members:** Ann Blakey (Roman Catholic Diocese)

At the start of the year, the Committee held an initial scene setting meeting to consider its priorities for the year and establish an annual work programme.

A good deal of valuable data was also derived from the recent Healthy Related Behaviour Study report, which this year contained a particular focus on the effect of the Covid pandemic. The main concerns highlighted included having enough money in the family, having enough food to eat, being lonely and struggling with schoolwork. As well as informing our own work programme, the Committee was pleased to hear that the information derived from the survey will be shared with key stakeholders and inform the planning and delivery of future services.

The Committee received a particularly positive report on the progress being made by the Early Help service and the development of the Family Hubs. It is clear

that Early Help services are having a positive effect on the numbers of children requiring statutory services, and that prevention work is reducing the numbers requiring targeted early help support. Funding, as ever, remains a challenge, but there is a clearly a real commitment to early intervention and family support and ensuring that children and families get the appropriate level of support at the right time, delivered by skilled professionals,

We heard that four Family Hubs have recently been established in Washington, Bunny Hill, Hetton and Thorney Close; with fifth shortly opening in Hendon. Each provides a wide range of activities. Initial feedback on the operation of the Hubs has been highly positive. The activities of the Hubs are being promoted via a number of channels including social media and the use of posters / leaflets containing QR code links.

At the start of the year, the Committee was keen to look more closely at the recently announced Early Years Entitlements Expansion and National Wraparound Childcare Programme which is intended to provide a phased expansion of childcare support for eligible working parents in the city. While recognising the potential benefits of the programme, the Committee are concerned about practical challenges involved in its implementation. The Committee will look to monitor its progress in the year ahead.

In January 2023, a Joint Targeted Area inspection (JTAI) was undertaken into children and families who need help and an action plan for improvement was developed. While there was no formal grading system, the outcome of the inspection was categorised as positive. The Committee heard about the progress being made across the action plan including communication and involvement of all partners in meetings, increased staffing capacity to allow the consistent involvement of health practitioners; analysis of children's ethnic identity, cultural heritage

and diverse needs; the timeliness of early help assessments and finally the quality and effectiveness of the LSP's multi-agency audits. The Committee considered that good progress is being made and we will look to continue to monitor developments in the year ahead.

In December 2022, HM Inspectorate of Probation published the outcome of its inspection of Youth Offending Services in Sunderland. The service received an overall rating of 'Good'. We heard that the service had identified a number of priority areas for development including reducing the number of first-time entrants; reducing reoffending and tackling disproportionality and identify overrepresented groups. Again, it was felt that good progress was being made in addressing areas of improvement.

For a number of years, the Committee has received regular update reports on the delivery of the city's children and adolescent mental health services. We heard from Sunderland ICB about the issues and challenges they face, in terms of a rapidly increasing demand for services. Additional funding has been secured for extra staff resources and a service redesign project has been undertaken to improve the service delivery model. However, there remains uncertainty over the potential long-term demand, including that generated by the Covid pandemic on child mental health. This is clearly an issue that will need to be closely monitored in the years ahead.

Building on our work last year, the Committee received an update on SEND provision in Sunderland. We heard that during the year, the service has conducted a Delivering Best Value review, the findings of which reflect the way in which the rise in the High Needs Budget (HNB) has been driven by a rise in the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's). The review has focused on the key areas of need and the effectiveness of current provision and has resulted in a number of concrete proposals to improve and expand the future delivery of the service. The Committee commended the work being undertaken in relation to SEND provision in the city and looked forward to the introduction of the proposed improvements.

Following the end of the agreement between SCAS and Grace House to provide the short breaks service, the Committee asked for a report on the background to the issue and the plans moving forward to provide alternative care for children with complex and additional needs. During the year, the Committee has continued to monitor progress with regard to the new delivery model and engagement with families.

The Committee also received an update report on the work of the Virtual School which has a duty to promote the education of Cared for Children. We heard that considerable progress was being made against a range of performance indicators including admissions, educational attainment, and attendance. Once again, the Committee commended staff on the progress being made and looked forward to further improvements moving into the future.

At the start of the year, the Committee heard about Northeast Fostering Pathfinder Project; a regionally focused programme for fostering recruitment and retention. The project has three components that together create a holistic package of intervention to boost foster carer numbers including Regional Support Hub, Regional Foster Carer Recruitment Campaign and Retention Support. The Committee commended the initiative and hoped that support from the Government would be continued into the future.

The Committee received a report on the work going on to support children and young people who were unaccompanied and seeking asylum. We heard that TFC had developed staffing expertise and pathways to help meet the needs of these young people. However, the challenges and resource implications were considerable and continued to place very significant demands on the service.

The Committee received an update report on school attendance and how children and young people are supported to increase their attendance at school. As with the rest of the country, schools in Sunderland have been experiencing an increase in rates of school absence. We heard that the main contributing factors are the recovery from Covid, mental and physical health, disengagement from



school, unmet special education need, and a breakdown in the parent/carer/school relationship. We also heard that the challenges that families in Sunderland face are likely to continue and indeed become more challenging and complex. The attendance team will therefore continue to adapt and develop the vital support provided to schools to meet the needs of our children, young people and families and better understand and tackle the barriers to school attendance.

Of continuing concern for the Committee has been the increase in elective home education. While parents have the right to home educate, we are concerned at the potentially detrimental effect on some children. At present, local authorities have only limited powers in this area and we feel that more powers should be made available. We also feel that more detailed, up to date information needs to be kept on elective home education and children missing from education. This is an issue we will be looking to go into in greater detail in the year ahead.

In order to discuss the operation of apprenticeships in the city and the implications of the introduction of the new T Level qualification, the Committee met with Iain Nixon and Judith Quinn from Sunderland College. We heard that as the main provider

of apprenticeships in the city, the College is committed to working with the business sector and helping to provide our young people with the skills to meet future job opportunities. There were concerns that the requirements set for the T Level qualification could act as a barrier for some young people and that the implications of this would need to be monitored.

Following on from outstanding Ofsted rating received, the Committee has continued to receive periodic performance reports in order to demonstrate that the level of improvement was being maintained and we will continue to monitor the progress into the future. The Committee has also received regular update reports on Children Services Customer feedback reports. I am pleased to see that these show a continuing reduction in the number of complaints.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their contributions and to thank all the officers and witnesses who gave up their time to attend and provide insights into the services they provide and the challenges they face.

**Councillor Alex Samuels**  
Chair of the Children Education and Skills  
Scrutiny Committee



# Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee



**Chair: Cllr Mark Burrell**

**Vice Chair: Cllr Lindsey Leonard**

**Committee Members:** Councillors, Michael Dixon, Heather Fagan, Stephen Foster, Logan Guy, Sam Johnston, Michael Mordey, Stephen O'Brien, Lynda Scanlan, Jimmy Warne and Sue Watson

During the year, the Committee's work programme has focused on a range of issues affecting the economic prosperity of the city and the opportunities and challenges we face.

In relation to regeneration, the Committee received a progress report on a number of major projects taking place in the city. These include the Culture House, which will provide a new state of the art library and cultural hub; the refurbishment of the Elephant Tea Rooms Building, the development of Keel Square, plans for the Crowtree site and the opening of the new Rail Station.

Toward the end of the year, we also received an update on the work of Siglion. We heard that the main priorities for Siglion was to improve the concentration of new economic activity in the city centre, create a city centre that supports higher value job creation, bring back into use dormant areas such as the former Vaux site, offer a wider choice of housing to the market and position Sunderland as a place to invest.

We also heard from Catherine Auld (Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration) about the progress of schemes being funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is designed to replace the previous European Structural and Investment Funds. The total amount of funding allocated to Sunderland is £16.57m over three years from 2022–23 - 2024–25. The funding will support projects across three investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills. We heard in detail about the development of the programme in Sunderland which will reflect the priorities set out in the City Plan and the processes by which funds will be allocated.

In 2021, the Committee set up a Working Group to consider the regeneration of the Sunnyside area and during the year, we have continued to monitor the progress being made. We feel that while the challenges facing Sunnyside are highly complex and deep rooted, there are a number of positives and opportunities. Sunnyside is an attractive area close to the city centre and possesses a historic core. It is increasingly proving attractive to social enterprise, early stage businesses and an emerging cultural and creative services sector. In the years ahead, the Committee looks forward to the implementation of the Sunnyside Masterplan which will be crucial in delivering long term sustainable improvement of the area.

Rebecca Ball, Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture outlined the important contribution made by the cultural sector to the economic prosperity of the city. For the future, we heard that the opening of the Culture House and the Museum redevelopment should substantially improve the cultural offer in the city. Attendance figures were now on the rise, though it was recognised that it could be several years before we see attendance figures back up to pre covid levels.

In setting its work programme the Committee asked for an update on development of screen industries in the city. We heard that early in 2021, the BBC had announced that it would invest up to £25m in the region, with regional partners seeking to commit £11.4m over a five year period. A new North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) has been developed and with the support of North East Screen (formerly Northern Film and Media) a number of new productions have been developed or filmed in Sunderland. The Committee also heard about exciting plans for the proposed development of Crown Works Studios, which it is estimated will create 8,000 new jobs regionally in a wide range of fields and professions. The proposed Studios will be one of the largest in Europe, with 20 sound stages located on the south bank of the River Wear generating in the region of £336m a year.

Sharon Appleby of the Sunderland Improvement District (BID) updated us on the work of the BID in supporting local businesses in the city. This included events such as the Summer Food and Drink Festival and the March Restaurant Week, together with a summer and seasonal programme of family activities. We were pleased to note that following the Covid pandemic, footfall and retail spending in the city centre has begun the process of recovery and that the development of Sunderland Riverside should provide an added impetus for the growth of the independent retail sector.

The Committee also received an update from Natasha McDonagh, Sunderland Chamber of Commerce and Rhiannon Bearne, North East Chamber of Commerce on the economic challenges facing the city and the region. These included long term recovery from the Covid pandemic, the challenges for many businesses arising from the UK's exit from the European Union and the nationwide downturn in the high street retail sector. However, on a positive note, it was felt that the Sunderland economy retained strong foundations and that many opportunities existed, particularly in the engineering, manufacturing and the software sectors.

The Committee received an update on a wide range of events organised in the city, including the Festival of Light, the Triathlon and the Kings Coronation. It was noted that

moving forward a greater emphasis would be placed on facilitating smaller community based events, with a wider geographical spread which were less at risk at cancellation and often more cost effective. The council was also looking to work more closely with local communities and partners such as the BID.

Last year, the Committee was consulted on the refresh of the council's Housing Strategy. This year, the Committee has focused on the progress being made in a number of key areas; including the approach being taken to dealing with empty properties and the operation and challenges facing the council's homelessness service. The Committee commended the efforts of staff in an area of work that was seeing increasingly higher pressure and demand.

The Committee met with representatives from a number of social housing providers including Gentoo, Thirteen Group, Believe, Karbon Homes and Bernicia to discuss the challenges they face and any operational issues relating to housing management. The issues raised included the treatment of and responsiveness to complaints, the effect on residents of the cost of living crises, anti-social behaviour, stock condition and damp and mould. We heard that increases in building costs had also had an impact; it was now considerably more expensive to build houses and it was becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain skilled workers. Substantial investment was being made in the sustainability agenda, with there being a drive for greater energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.

Members stressed the importance of ensuring clear lines of communication between housing associations and their tenants and also between housing associations and local councillors. It was noted that partnership working between housing associations was good and that the council's housing team was now holding formal group meetings in order to discuss housing issues in the city.

In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee asked for an update on operation of Environmental Services within the city and its plans for the future. We heard that the Pallion Household Waste and Recycling Centre had now opened and was proving a





great success. The electric refuse collection vehicle (RCV) had begun operations and the fleet service had introduced 24 new refuse collection vehicles during the year. Cemetery regulations have been improved and remedial works to cemetery lawn sections were ongoing.

The Committee's views were sought on the Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2023/2026. This document will provide the basis for undertaking food safety enforcement and ensuring standards of cleanliness and food hygiene across the city. The Committee commended staff on their hard work in this important area of work.

Toward the end of the year, the Committee considered the council's Road Safety Annual Report 2022 which provided details of a range of road safety works and initiatives, including the introduction of road safety schemes, educational programmes, training courses and road safety campaigns. The report also provided data analysis relating to accidents and collisions which at this point remain relatively stable.

We also heard received an update on the council's Highways Maintenance Programme for 2024/25 which included details of planned and ongoing work. The report highlighted the major challenge we face in resourcing the long-term maintenance of our road network moving into the future.

In 2022, the Committee was consulted on the Draft Local Cycling and Walking

Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This document sets out the long-term approach to the development of local cycling and walking networks in the city. As part of this year's work programme, the Committee received an update on the planned programme of infrastructure improvements to the cycling network. The Committee emphasised the importance of consulting with local communities before such works are undertaken.

In March 2019, the council declared a climate emergency. In response, a city-wide 2030 Shadow Board was established, bringing together partners from across the city, with the ambition of the city becoming carbon neutral by 2040 and the council carbon neutral by 2030. The Committee received a report on the progress being made on the Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan that reflected the importance of fully involving partners from throughout the city if the goals are to be achieved.

All in all, it has been a very busy and productive year for the Committee. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Committee and everyone else involved for their hard work and commitment, together with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders who attended and contributed to the meetings during the year.

**Councillor Mark Burrell**

**Chair of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**



# Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee



**Chair: Cllr John Usher**

**Vice-Chair: Cllr Beth Jones**

**Committee Members:** Councillors Malcolm Bond, Chris Burnicle, Michael Butler, Adele Graham-King, Ehtesham Haque, Juliana Heron, Catherine Hunter, Mel Speding, Peter Walton and Michael Walker.

As Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee I am delighted to be able to share with you the work the committee has undertaken during the year. People's health and wellbeing are extremely important as are the services that provide support and guidance and assist us all when we are unwell. With global events continuing to impact on everyday life and rising costs for fuel, utilities and food, pressures remain on health and social care services across the city. The annual report provides a summary of some of the issues looked at by the committee through its wide and varied work programme.

The Committee once again received the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2022/23. The report explores the concept of the commercial determinants of health, its impact on health outcomes, and recommendations to address them. The report focuses on the main unhealthy commodity industries which impact on health, including food and drink, tobacco, alcohol, gambling, working conditions and benefits. The report provides several recommendations

for a local public health approach and the committee will be interested to monitor progress in several areas detailed within the report. To this end the Committee received an update on the recently developed alcohol strategy looking at progress against key objectives.

The Sunderland Alcohol Strategy had been launched in July 2023 and sets out three objectives around strategy, prevention and early intervention and from that seven key priorities which have formed the basis of the partnership action plan. The Committee acknowledged that the action plan was a living document which would allow adjustment for emerging trends and allow partners to continually develop the action plan. On this Members queried the social changes post-covid and the rise in drinking at home, rather than in the more traditional public house setting, and if the strategy would be able to capture this, it was something our public health professionals would look to follow up on.

With access to NHS dentist services in the news over the last year, the Committee continues to monitor the NHS dentistry situation in Sunderland with the Dental Commissioning Lead in attendance at our meeting in July 2023. A wide range of issues were covered including NHS commissioned capacity, pressures and challenges, the NHS dental contract and local actions. Members raised concerns around access to NHS dentists in Sunderland and raised important issues around ensuring that quality information was provided to residents when practices ceased NHS provision. The Committee also requested that dental practices be asked to update the NHS website to ensure the information was up-to-date and accurate.

Suicide prevention is an extremely important issue, and the committee received an update on the whole systems approach to prevention in Sunderland. The development

of a local Suicide Prevention Action Plan is recommended by government and the responsibility for such a plan and strategy lies with the local authority, through Sunderland's Health and Wellbeing Board. Members discussed a number of issues relating to suicide prevention including the suicide prevention partnership, learning from suicide attempts data, raising the profile of suicide prevention in the city and ensuring that new public building projects involved discussions around suicide prevention at the planning stages. Members of the Committee also had the opportunity to undertake suicide prevention training conducted by Sunderland MIND as part of the further action on this issue, and this offer remains open to all Members.

From 31 January 2024 health scrutiny committees will no longer be able to formally refer matters to the Secretary of State for Health that relate to reconfigurations of local health services, as this power is removed. The Committee were briefed on the broader powers for the Secretary of State to intervene in local service reconfigurations and the process that replaces the former arrangements. Despite this change other aspects of health scrutiny remain unchanged, and Members were informed that the Committee's status as a statutory consultee on substantial variations still exists. Health and care providers will also still be required to engage with scrutiny committees as they currently do. It will be important that we continue to work both collaboratively and proactively with our health colleagues to observe the principles of best practice set out by the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that the benefits of scrutiny continue to be realised.

With Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) now abolished and replaced with Integrated Care Partnerships, the Committee is keen to continue to foster the positive working relationships and dialogue with the local Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Committee, therefore, continues to receive performance updates from the ICB covering a range of issues including indicators relating to the key areas of Urgent Care; Planned Care; Cancer; and Mental Health. Members highlighted a number of issues around the challenges of mental health provision, performance against national indicators, waiting times and the

proposed developments in urgent care. The Committee continues to acknowledge the fundamental role that Sunderland ICB has in the delivery of health services across the area and will continue to monitor and challenge, where appropriate, around performance.

The Committee is also represented on the joint scrutiny committee for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System and North and Central Integrated Care Partnerships. The joint committee provides an opportunity for key stakeholders within the ICP to engage with all local authorities within its footprint on region-wide issues which have included health and care of the workforce, children's mental health provision, healthy and fairer programme and strategic options for non-surgical oncology services. In moving forward, and in light of the changing legislation around health scrutiny, the intention will be to provide updates to the committee from these meetings in the new municipal year.

The winter period remains a challenge for all facets of the health service and the Committee continues to take a critical interest in the winter resilience plans for the city. Members welcomed the establishment of 'Transfer of Care Hub' which looked to enable the quick discharge of patients from hospital to home or a community setting. Members also acknowledged the Covid and Flu vaccination programmes including cohort eligibility and campaign timings, as well as the interdependencies of the winter plan with other service developments. Winter planning will continue to feature on the Committee's work programme as an important issue to provide assurances that plans remain robust and fit for purpose.

The North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) continues to provide an annual performance update to the Committee which provides an overview of the ambulance trust's performance against key indicators. The Committee made comments around the recruitment and retention of staff and it was reported that NEAS had implemented a new clinical framework of progression for ambulance staff in terms of career advancement and specialisation. Members also noted that NEAS were looking to review their ambulance stations across the area in terms of their condition and location.





There is clearly the potential for further discussions around this in the future. Members were also pleased to recognise the progress and challenges around the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of the ambulance trust and requested that future reports to the Committee reference actions and progress around areas identified for improvement.

Following inspection in June and August 2022 by the CQC, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT) was given an overall rating of 'Requires Improvement' from the previous rating of 'Good'. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were interested in seeking assurances from STSFT that steps had been taken to address the actions highlighted in the CQC inspection report. Members received an initial presentation which provided information around the Trust's action plan and progress to date but Members felt that this did not provide the assurances required and requested more detailed information be submitted to the committee.

It is important that members, and the committee as a whole, are satisfied with the information provided and sometimes follow-up actions are required to fully scrutinise the

issue under consideration. STSFT submitted a more detailed action plan to the committee, and members were pleased to recognise the progress that had been made. STSFT had made significant progress with only nine outstanding actions from 46 identifiable actions from the CQC, and the expectation was that these actions would be completed by 31 March 2024.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the committee, to thank Members, officers, partners and stakeholders who have continued to contribute and work with the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The City Plan and the Director of Public Health's Annual Report highlight the importance of health and the challenges that we face as a city in addressing those fundamental health issues. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will continue in its role to act as a critical friend to monitor and challenge service providers in the delivery of health provision across Sunderland.

**Councillor John Usher**  
**Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

# The year ahead

Overview and scrutiny is an integral part of the council's governance and decision making structure, contributing to the council's budgetary and policy making function as well as holding the executive to account for its actions. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the last year and recognise the challenges we face in the year ahead.

Clearly, the next few years will continue to be challenging for the council; operating as it does within an environment of constrained resources and increasing demand for services. This represents a major challenge for us all. In terms of scrutiny, it is important that we help the council to make the best use of the resources available and ensure that frontline services are delivered to the highest possible standards.

Moving forward, we will need to address a broad range of issues, not least the long term economic, social and health consequences of the Covid pandemic and the increasing demands placed on our adult and child health services. We also face the challenges of increasing child poverty, the cost of living crisis and its effect on household incomes and the decline of the high street retail sector. We also need to improve educational attainment and tackle its consequences for health and economic inequalities.

As a Council we must ensure transparency, open communication and meaningful public engagement to help us to build trust between ourselves and the people we work for and represent. We also have a vital role in fostering social cohesion and a sense of shared purpose within our local communities.

The pace of technological advancement poses both opportunities and challenges for local government. The adoption of digital tools and platforms is crucial for improving service delivery, enhancing communication and streamlining administrative processes. However, a digital divide remains, with some communities still lacking access or ability to navigate essential technology. In future we need to ensure that all residents can benefit from the opportunity's technology offers.

Scrutiny will also continue to play an active role in the changing delivery of health services across Sunderland and the region. It is certainly an area where financial, social and environmental factors will drive change in the sector. We will continue to monitor and challenge health partners through our own Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with South Tyneside and also regionally through the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Through these joint arrangements we are able to represent the concerns and needs of the Sunderland population and ensure that Sunderland residents views are represented and considered in looking at service reconfigurations.

There are also positive changes on the horizon with the new devolution deal for the North East seeing significant economic benefits of a £1.4bn investment over the next 30 years. The reforms will provide a directly elected mayor for seven local authority areas, including Sunderland, across the North East with the first election taking place in May 2024. The North East Mayoral Combined Authority will enhance adult education provision in a way that meets the needs of business and the community, while allowing them to kick start regeneration by supporting the construction of affordable homes on brownfield sites. There will also be funding available for the new combined authority to shape and improve local rail and bus services.

We continue to monitor the progress being made in implementing the council's City Plan for 2019–2030 and the measures being taken to make Sunderland a more dynamic, healthy and vibrant city. A key to this will be our ability to work closely and collaboratively with our partners and make the most of the resources available in the city.

Once again, I would like place on record our thanks to everyone who contributed to the work of scrutiny over the last twelve months and look forward to having another productive year ahead.

**Councillor Katherine Mason-Gage**  
Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee



# Scrutiny on a page

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, the three thematic scrutiny committees, North East Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee (NECA) and the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) tackle a large range of issues over a municipal year. In order to fully appreciate the variety and breadth of the subjects covered. Below is an extensive, though not exhaustive, summary of the work of scrutiny in Sunderland.

- Alcohol Strategy Update
- Annual Low Carbon Progress Report
- Budget and Finance Reports
- Changes To Health Scrutiny Legislation
- Children Services Customer Feedback
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health
- City Plan Update
- Cost of Living
- Culture Sector and the Local Economy
- Cycling Infrastructure
- Dental Services Update
- Draft Sunnyside Masterplan
- Early Health Update
- Elective and Diagnostic Backlog
- Elective Home Education
- Empty Properties
- Environmental Services Update
- Food Law Plan
- Fostering Pathfinder
- GP Access Update
- Highways Maintenance
- Housing Provider Consultation
- ICB Sunderland Update
- Mental Health Update
- NHS FT CQC Inspection Action Plan
- North East Ambulance Service Update
- Oral Health Improvements
- Performance Management Reports
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
- Public Health Annual Report
- Regeneration of the City Update
- Respite Care Services
- Road Safety Annual Report
- Safer Sunderland Annual Report
- Schools Attendance
- Screen Industries Update
- SEND Update
- Short Break Update
- Sickness Absence
- Siglion
- Smart Cities Update
- SSAB Annual Report
- Suicide Prevention Update
- Sunderland BID
- Sunderland NHS FT Recruitment
- Task and Finish Working
- TfC Performance Report
- Triathlon Feedback
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- Vulnerable Pupil Update
- Water Quality
- Winter Planning
- Wraparound Child Care
- Youth Justice Plan 2021–24



**Sunderland  
City Council**

# ***Action Taken on Petitions***





**ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS**

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petitions which were presented to Council: -

**1. Petition requesting additional car parking at Lakeside Village**

A petition, signed by 126 residents and also those of an online petition, was presented to Council on 25 January 2023 by Councillor McDonough and referred to the Executive Director of City Development. The petition requested that Council officers work with Gentoo to create additional car parking facilities around Lakeside Village and the Towers.

Council officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

The location suggested is not adopted highway and is Gentoo owned land, therefore the Council is unable to consider creating the provision of additional parking. The request was passed on to the Gentoo Coordinator for the area to liaise directly with Councillor McDonough.

**2. Petition requesting the installation of a safe crossing point on Silksworth Road, East Herrington**

A petition, signed by 94 residents, was presented to Council on 25 January 2023 by Councillor McDonough and referred to the Executive Director of City Development. The petition requested that the Council considers the installation of a safe crossing point on Silksworth Road, specifically a pelican or zebra crossing.

Council officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

Silksworth Road is a 30mph bus route with no recorded accidents at the location highlighted by the petition. Surveys which have been conducted to assess pedestrian crossing demand on Silksworth Road have shown low usage of the existing crossing facilities by pedestrians.

The petition has been declined due to the low pedestrian demand and there being no recorded pedestrian related traffic accidents.

Councillor McDonough has been advised of the response.

**3. Petition regarding anti-social behaviour at Stirling Close, Broadway Estate**

Former Councillor Mann presented a petition to Council on 22 March 2023 which had been signed by 53 residents regarding anti-social behaviour in Stirling Close and the surrounding Broadway Estate and requests that the Council address these

issues by working with the residents and the developers to close pathways and block the entrance to the estate from Barnes Park Extension. The petition was referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

Two footpaths link Barnes Park and the housing development on the former Broadway Secondary School. The footpaths lead directly into the estate at Stirling Close and this is an access route into the park causing anti-social behaviour in the form of dirt bikes, gangs, and criminal activity.

Ward councillors have put together a funding package that is being worked upon with officers to target issues within the ward and the petition was declined as options are currently being explored by officers and ward councillors at this location.

The lead petitioner and ward councillors have been advised of the response.

#### **4. Petition requesting that grass verges at Coach Road Estate be converted into parking**

Councillor Mullen presented a petition to Council on 22 March 2023 which had been signed by 93 residents requesting that maintained grass verges be converted into parking on Coach Road Estate. The petition was referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

The location suggested is not adopted highway and is Gentoo owned land, therefore the Council is unable to consider creating the provision of additional parking. The request was passed on to the Gentoo Coordinator for the area to liaise directly with Councillor Mullen.

Councillor Mullen has been advised of the response.

#### **5. Petition regarding road safety at the junction of Givens Street and Harbour View**

A petition, signed by 37 residents, was presented to Council on 13 September 2023 by Councillor Mordey and referred to the Executive Director of City Development. The petition requested that Council officers consider the installation of road safety measures at the junction of Givens Street and Harbour View.

Council officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

A Road Safety Assessment was conducted at the location, which is the junction of an A-road and a minor road. The assessment concluded that there are no immediate safety concerns that require urgent intervention. This suggests that, according to the

assessment criteria, the location does not currently meet the threshold for prioritised safety measures.

The petition was declined at this time on the basis that the Road Safety Assessment for this location concluded that it does not currently meet the threshold for prioritised safety measures.

Councillor Mordey has been advised of the response.

**6. Petition requesting a review of traffic light sequences at the Blue Bell junction, especially for traffic turning right from Dene Lane on Station Road**

A petition signed by 22 residents, was presented to Council on 15 November 2023 by Councillor Hartnack and referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

Currently, the default setting of the traffic signals is set to maximum time which is approximately 25 to 30 seconds. This creates a maximum 'wait' time of 60 seconds for any given junction or crossing phase which may increase slightly if there is a pedestrian demand. These traffic signals can also be controlled by the regional operation centre if demand requires it.

The petition was declined on the basis that the traffic signals at this junction operate by default on a two-stage cycle, and a third stage can be utilised if necessary. Any modification to the current operational programme would cause longer delays at each arm of the junction which would cause more pollution in the area. The timings do not allow a dedicated option to provide a right turn from vehicles from Dene Lane into Station Road.

Councillor Hartnack has been advised of the response.

**7. Petition to review road safety at the junction of Cairns Road and Penrith Road**

A petition signed by 74 residents, was presented to Council on 15 November 2023 by Councillor Hartnack and referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

A Road Safety Assessment was conducted at the location, which is the junction of an A-road and a minor road. The assessment concluded that there are no immediate safety concerns that require urgent intervention. This suggests that, according to the assessment criteria, the location does not currently meet the threshold for prioritised safety measures.

The petition was declined at this time on the basis that the Road Safety Assessment for this location concluded that it does not currently meet the threshold for prioritised safety measures.

Councillor Hartnack has been advised of the response.

**8. Petition to install double yellow lines on Sevenoaks Drive between the junction of the A183 Chester Road and the entrance to the Hastings Hill pub car park**

A petition signed by 85 residents was presented to Council on 15 November 2023 by Councillor Edgeworth requesting the installation of double yellow lines at Sevenoaks Drive. The petition was referred to the Executive Director of City Development.

Council Officers have considered the petition and advised as follows.

The location has been deferred from the 2023/2024 Group Order as it was oversubscribed. The Group Order is a Traffic Regulation Order which encompasses multiple schemes and facilitates the Council in delivering measures such as speed limit restrictions and waiting restrictions under one legal order. The Group Order process is conducted once a year and this location will be considered in the 2024/2025 Group Order for the installation of waiting restrictions in the form of double yellow lines.

Councillor Edgeworth has been advised of the response.

# ***Reports***





**(i)**

**COUNCIL**

**19 JUNE 2024**

**Update on Special Urgency Decisions**

**Report of the Leader**

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken as a matter of special urgency. The relevant provisions are now contained in Regulations 11 and 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

These are the special urgency provisions under which key decisions may be taken by the executive, although not contained in the 28 day Notice of Key decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or private), where compliance with Regulation 10 (the general exception) was also impracticable.

There have been no such instances since the last report.

**Recommendation**

That the Council notes the content of this report.



**COUNCIL**

**19 JUNE 2024**

**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose an appointment to a substitute position on the North East Combined Authority and to note a revised nomination to the NECA Audit and Standards Committee.

**2. North East Combined Authority**

- 2.1 The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 states that each constituent local authority must appoint two substitutes to the Combined Authority who may act in the absence of the appointed member.
- 2.2 At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2024, Councillor Mordey was appointed to the Combined Authority and Councillor Chequer was appointed as a substitute member with the second substitute position being left vacant. Council is therefore requested to approve that Councillor Johnston be appointed as the second substitute member of the Combined Authority.

**3. North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee**

- 3.1 Councillors Dodds and Hartnack were appointed to the North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee at the Annual Meeting on 15 May 2024 and Councillors Chequer and Mullen were appointed as substitute members.
- 3.2 Subsequently the Council was made aware that Councillor Chequer would not be able to act as a substitute as her appointment as a substitute to the Combined Authority would preclude her from membership of the Audit and Standards Committee.
- 3.3 The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has delegated authority to make changes to appointments where any external organisation informs the Council that a nominated member is ineligible for appointment under the organisation's governance requirements and where the appointment must be from a particular political group. In such circumstances, the Assistant Director of Law and Governance may make an appointment in accordance with notification(s) received from the relevant group leader(s) or their representatives and notify Council members accordingly.

3.4 In accordance with the nomination of the Labour group, the Assistant Director of Law and Governance notified NECA that Councillor A Smith would be the nominated substitute in place of Councillor Chequer.

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 The Council is accordingly invited to consider the following: -

- (i) the appointment of Councillor Johnston as a substitute member of the North East Combined Authority; and
- (ii) to note the appointment of Councillor A Smith as substitute member of the North East Combined Authority Audit and Standards Committee in place of Councillor Chequer.

# ***Motions on Notice***





**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Council Members are asked to consider the under-mentioned Motions: -

**1. Notice of Motion – Amendment to Sunderland City Council Constitution (Part 2 Article 7 The Executive)**

To amend Part 2, Article 7 of the Constitution as follows:

To delete Part 2, Article 7, Section 7.06 Deputy Cabinet Members.

To adjust the numbering of sections in Article 7 accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor Paul Edgeworth  
Seconded by Councillor Heather Fagan

**2. Notice of Motion – Fairer Funding for Local Government**

Council notes:

That because of 14 years of consecutive Conservative governments that there is a severe crisis in local government finance and that swift action is required to resolve this problem and calls upon His Majesty’s next Government to bring forward meaningful reform to the way local government in England is resourced over the course of the next Parliament.

Council therefore resolves:

To continue to campaign for a fairer funding deal for local government and to use its influence through the North East Mayoral Combined Authority and the Local Government Association to continue to raise the matter on a regional and national level

To write to the new Prime Minister to request that their government makes resolving the financial crisis facing local government a priority.

Proposed by Councillor Michael Mordey  
Seconded by Councillor Kelly Chequer

**Additional Signatories**

Cllr Alex Samuels	Cllr Graeme Miller	Cllr Lynda Scanlan
Cllr Alison Smith	Cllr Helen Glancy	Cllr Lynn Dagg
Cllr Allen Curtis	Cllr Henry Trueman	Cllr Mark Burrell
Cllr Allison Chisnall	Cllr Iain Scott	Cllr Martyn Herron
Cllr Beth Jones	Cllr James Blackburn	Cllr Melanie Thornton
Cllr Brandon Feeley	Cllr Jill Fletcher	Cllr Mel Speding
Cllr Catherine Hunter	Cllr Jimmy Warne	Cllr Michael Butler
Cllr Claire Rowntree	Cllr Joanne Chapman	Cllr Michael Walker

Cllr David Newey	Cllr Joanne Laverick	Cllr Paul Stewart
Cllr David Snowdon	Cllr John Price	Cllr Peter Walker
Cllr Denny Wilson	Cllr John Usher	Cllr Phil Tye
Cllr Dianne Snowdon	Cllr Juliana Heron	Cllr Sean Laws
Cllr Dorothy Trueman	Cllr Katherine Mason-Gage	Cllr Sophie Clinton
Cllr Ehtesham Haque	Cllr Kevin Johnston	Cllr Stephen Foster
Cllr Fiona Miller	Cllr Linda Williams	Cllr Stephen Elms
Cllr Fiona Tobin	Cllr Lindsey Leonard	Cllr Susan Watson
Cllr George Smith	Cllr Logan Guy	Cllr Tracy Dodds