

**ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 The remit of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee covers the following:-
- Any matter relating to the economic prosperity of the city and the performance of services to support that including physical infrastructure, sector growth and skills, economic vibrancy, safer Sunderland, licensing and trading standards, strategic transport, environmental services, libraries, heritage and tourism.*
- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review.
- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and Corporate Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Committee development sessions.

**3 DETERMINING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 On 11 June 2024, the Committee held a workshop session to discuss potential items for inclusion in the work programme.

3.2 The table below provides details of the issues considered for inclusion in the work programme:-

<b>Regular Work Programme Items</b>	
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme <i>(Monthly)</i>	To receive the Committee's work programme outlining future meetings of the committee and the items scheduled for those meetings.
28 Day Notice of Key Decisions <i>(Monthly)</i>	To consider the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions.
<b>Single Item (Items to be scheduled when dates known)</b>	
Business Improvement District (BID)	To consider the progress being made by the BID. To include plans and feedback on range of events in the city and their contribution to the local economy. Consider the support available to the live music sector.
Siglion Regeneration	To consider and review progress of on the development and regeneration undertaken by Siglion.
Sunniside Area Regeneration	To monitor progress and the Committees recommendations. To consider the Masterplan for Sunniside
Combined Authority Investment Plans	Update on the Investment Plan for the new Combined Authority
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	To hear more about the opportunities for the city arising from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Consider the application and support process for small voluntary organisations
Crown Works Studio	To update the Committee on progress in relation to the development of Screen Industries in the city
Cultural and Heritage Sector	To receive an update on developing the cultural offer in the city including an update on Culture House, Museum and Winter Gardens, city libraries.
Business Centres – Progress Report	To consider the progress made by the Council's Business Centres (Evolve, the Software Centre and Washington Business Centre).

Planning Documents	To seek the views of the Committee on a range of planning documents including:- the draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); the draft Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Draft International Advanced Manufacturing Park Area Action Plan (IAMP AAP)
Low Carbon Annual Report	To consider the plans and progress being made to reduce the level of carbon emissions by the Council and its partners.
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Provision available across the city and plans for the future.
Housing Strategy 2023-2030	To seek the views of the Committee on the Housing Strategy for Sunderland.
Housing Allocation Strategy	To seek the views of the Committee on the review of the Housing Allocations Strategy.
Housing Development within the City	Outline of the new major housing developments in the city and the condition of the housing market.
Gambling Act - Statement of Principles	To seek the views of the Committee on the draft review of the Gambling Act - Statement of Principles.
Licensing Act 2023 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy	To seek the views of the Committee in relation to the review of Licensing Policy
Environmental Services	Update across a range of services including waste policy, recycling, tree management and street cleaning.
Promoting biodiversity and effective sustainable weed management	To consider proposals for the council's future approach to promoting biodiversity and effective sustainable weed management.
Environmental Enforcement	Review of enforcement across a range of areas including Street Watch Cameras, Drones, CCTV and Abandoned Vehicles
Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership	To consider the implications of the forthcoming Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.

Highways Maintenance Programme and Highways Investment	Update on the programme and plans for future investment.
Operation of Highways Asset Management Scheme Requests	Consider the mechanisms for dealing with requests for highways asset management works incl traffic management schemes speed bumps, request for double yellow lines etc and proposals to improve the efficiency of the process.
Flood Management	Details of planned work for the current year and plans for the future.
Housing of Multiple Occupation Policy	Consider the existing policy framework in relation to HMO's and how it operates in the city. Suggested as a potential task and finish group.
Unadopted Roads	Consider the issue of unadopted roads in the city. Policy options and implications. Suggested as a potential task and finish group.

A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

- 3.4 It should be noted that the work programme is a 'living' document and can be amended throughout the course of the municipal year. Any Elected Member can add an item of business to an agenda for consideration (Protocol 1 within the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook outlines this process).

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees a draft Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Notes of the Development session held on 11 June 2024

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