

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,
Sunderland on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 5.30 p.m.**

Membership

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

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1.	Apologies for Absence	-
2.	Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8th February 2024 (copy attached).	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Safer Sunderland Annual Report 2023-24	5
	Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care (copy attached)	
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Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support
Co-ordinator (copy attached).

7. **Notice of Key Decisions** 51

Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support
Co-ordinator (copy attached).

Part C – Health Substantial Variations to Service

No items.

Part D - CCFA/Members' Items/Petitions

No items.

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

28th February 2024.

Item 2

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2024 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mason-Gage in the Chair.

Councillors Burrell, Dodds, Hartnack, Jones, Leonard, Mullen, Samuels, P. Smith, Usher and Walton.

Also in attendance:-

Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

Claire Emmerson, Assistant Director of Finance

David Noon, Principal Democratic Services Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

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

Paul Wilson, Director of Finance

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Morrissey and Thornton.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18th January 2024

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18th January 2024 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 4 - Reference from Cabinet – 31 January 2024 – Budget and Service Reports.

Councillor P. Smith made an open declaration in the item as a Council appointed representative to Gentoo Group Ltd.

Councillor Samuels made an open declaration in the item as an employee of Unison.

4. Reference from Cabinet – 31 January 2024 – Budget and Service Reports:

(A) Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024

(B) (i) Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (ii) Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

The Assistant Director of Law and Government submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the advice and consideration of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on a number of reports considered by Cabinet on 31 January 2024 regarding the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2024/2025 that had been referred to this Committee in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance presented the Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024 report setting out the overall position in relation to the collection fund. The Council's major precepting authorities (the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) had been notified of the implications for them.

The Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his presentation and invited questions and comments from members.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Walton regarding the Council Tax collection rates, Mr Wilson replied that the long-term collection rates continued to be good with a collection rate of around 99%, however, it was clear that aligned to the cost of living crisis that there was some challenges around in-year collection rates. Sunderland operated a Council Tax Support scheme which provided additional financial support and reduced the amounts some residents were required to pay.

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance presented the Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 report and advised that the Capital Programme remained virtually unchanged following its consideration by the Committee in December save for the inclusion of specific grants in relation to highways maintenance, disabled facilities and the condition of schools.

The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy contained no change in the Council's approach to Treasury Management from the current Strategy save for the Strategy being updated to reflect the latest economic conditions. The Strategy had been considered and approved by the Council's Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting held on 2nd February.

The Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his presentation and invited questions and comments from members.

Councillor Mullen referred to paragraph 1.1.3 of the Capital report and welcomed the funding to provide the necessary infrastructure to allow Regulatory Services to fulfil statutory requirements including the re-deployable CCTV cameras. He noted however that there was no provision in the Revenue Budget to increase the number of Enforcement Officers. He asked that this position be monitored as there was some concern that there were not enough officers on the ground when enforcement issues arose.

Councillor Mullen welcomed the £3m allocated to improve Sunnyside and the Joplings building and reiterated his comments from previous meetings that a great deal of thought would need to go into the redevelopment of the area given its importance as a city gateway.

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance presented the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 report.

He advised that the Government's forecasts for increases in Core Spending Power were based on the assumption that Local Authorities would raise their council tax by the maximum permitted without a referendum i.e. 4.99%. As a result, Councils were left with impossible choices about whether to increase council tax bills to bring in desperately needed funding to ensure the delivery of services whilst being very aware of the additional burden it would place on residents. Mr. Wilson advised that indications were that a significant majority of upper tier councils across the country were planning to increase council tax by the maximum permitted amount. Despite the planned increase in Sunderland, our council tax would remain the lowest in the North East region.

Mr. Wilson provided an update in relation to the Final Local Government Finance Settlement and advised that traditionally there was rarely any change from the Provisional Local Government Settlement. This year however, following significant lobbying, the final settlement announced on 5th February included an increase in social care grants which were ring-fenced for adults and children's social care. The emphasis from the Government being placed on using this funding (Sunderland's allocation is c. £3.2m) to support children's social care.

The savings proposals detailed in Appendix A to the Revenue budget report showed no change to those noted by the Committee at its December meeting. In addition in order to protect service delivery it was planned to again use £9m of reserves.

The Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his presentation and invited questions and comments from members.

Councillor Mullen referred to the minutes of the Budget Consultation Meeting with the North East England Chamber of Commerce and Sunderland BID, detailed on page 166 of the agenda papers, and asked how the business representatives were chosen? Mr Wilson replied that the Council asked the Chamber of Commerce and the BID to reach out through their networks to seek representatives. It was often the case that it was only representatives from those organisations that had attended the most recent meetings. The representative attending from Mortons Solicitors had been through the BID. Councillor Mullen asked that the Council continued to seek as wide a range of representatives as possible.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Mullen, Mr Wilson advised that the Budget proposals for 2024/25 did not contain any levy in respect of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority. The new combined authority would come into being on 7th May 2024 following the Mayoral election scheduled for the 2nd May.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that :-

i) the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee noted and acknowledged the information in the various reports as presented.

ii) the Committee also acknowledged the financial pressures on the Council and its services as detailed throughout the report and noted the recommended Council Tax increase for 2024/25, which still needed to be approved by Council. The Committee also noted the proposed budget savings proposals within the reports and the outcome of the budget consultation that was undertaken.

iii) the Committee recognised the work of Officers and Members in preparing the budgetary information presented to this committee and to other key stakeholders and had no further comments to make.

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

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

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Nigel Cummings presented the report, updating Members on the current position regarding the Work Programmes of the Scrutiny Committees. Members were also advised that additional places were available on a training session arranged for members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in relation to Suicide Prevention. The session was to be held on 21st February and any Members wishing to attend should contact Mr Cummings directly.

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

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

(Signed) K. MASON-GAGE,
Chairman.

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2024

SAFER SUNDERLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to share the progress made by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) in 2023-24. This added value multi-agency activity is contributing towards achieving the long-term outcome of making Sunderland a city which is, and feels, even safer and more secure, where people can enjoy life without the concerns of being a victim of crime or being harmed.

2. Background

2.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership is statutory. Membership of its Board consists of 6 responsible authorities:

- Sunderland City Council (including TFC)
- Northumbria Police
- Sunderland Integrated Care Board (ICB) (Previously CCG)
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS)
- Probation Service (PS)
- Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

2.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership continue to have 2 strategic priorities:

- i. **Prevent crime and disorder, reduce re-offending, support community cohesion and maintain high levels of feelings of safety.**
- ii. **Protect and support our most vulnerable people and places from harm so that Sunderland can be a safe, dynamic, healthy and vibrant city.**

2.3 The Safer Sunderland Partnership has 6 key work areas:

- i. **Citywide and local area problem solving** with a focus on responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues
- ii. **Serious & Organised Crime**
Disrupt serious organised crime (SOC) activity by prosecuting and disrupting individuals and SOC groups
- iii. **Other Exploitive crimes**
Prevent people from engaging in modern slavery and ensure traffickers and slave masters have no easy place to hide in Sunderland
- iv. **Serious Violence and Serious Violence Duty** that impacts on safeguarding and feelings of safety such as serious organised crime; sexual exploitation; modern day slavery; trafficking; cyber-enabled crimes; and preventing violent extremism and radicalisation.

- v. **Preventing radicalisation and countering terrorism**
Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- vi. **Partnership working** which covers new and existing statutory duties and strengthening partnership working and collaboration.

3.0 Citywide and local area problem solving with a focus on LMAPS and responses to crime, community safety and cohesion issues

Key current and forthcoming issues include:

3.1 Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving continues to be delivered in locality areas. LMAPS meetings have been operational in Sunderland for a number of years. They bring together several internal Council services and external partners on a bimonthly basis to discuss place-based issues. Membership includes:

- Northumbria Police
- Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue
- Council Neighbourhood Enforcement
- Gentoo
- Council CCTV
- Cllr rep nominated via Area Committee
- Council Environmental Services

3.2 Issues currently discussed at LMAPS include:

- Local crime and ASB update from Northumbria Police
- Hotspot locations for Partners
- Camera locations and proposed moves
- Use of Drones
- Forthcoming Events

3.3 The remit of LMAPS meetings has been broadened to give partners a platform to discuss problematic and vulnerable individuals.

4 National and emerging threats and harms that impact on safeguarding and feelings of safety.

Identified as 'Serious Violence', 'Serious Organised Crime', 'County Lines', 'Modern Slavery', 'Exploitation', 'Cyber Crime' and Preventing Radicalisation.

4.1 ‘Serious Violence’, ‘Serious Organised Crime’, ‘County Lines’, ‘Modern Slavery’, ‘Exploitation’, ‘Cyber Crime’

These are viewed as **exploitative crimes** on the basis that often the vulnerabilities and the methods used to exploit are the same. Sometimes they look like sexual exploitation, sometimes like modern slavery, sometimes like serious violence and sometimes like county lines etc. There is almost always a link and cross over between these crime types and so to avoid tackling them in silos, they could be grouped under ‘exploitative crimes’.

Three types of serious and organised crime to prioritise:

- Reduce the number of victims of exploitation
- Reduce the impact of SOC on communities
- Reduce the harm to individuals, the UK economy and institutions from economic crime

Reduce the number of victims of exploitation

- By working with international partners to prevent more criminality at source, had more success in tackling human traffickers and the modern slave trade than the year before
- Ensure local based systems are in place to identify modern slavery and reduce risks of exploitation.

Reduce the impact of SOC on communities

- Seek assurance local partners are working together to tackle Serious Organised Crime
- Identify SOC and links to Urban Street Gangs

Reduce the harm to individuals, the UK economy and institutions from economic crime

- Work with Local Authority and other partners to tackle the threat of cyber crime.

4.2 Prevent and Counter Terrorism

The Home office updated their Factsheet on Prevent & Channel 2023 to reflect current themes and trends [FACTSHEET](#)

Since the introduction of the Prevent duty in 2015, over 4400 referrals have been supported through the Channel Programme. Channel aims to move individuals away from extremist ideology that could have resulted in harm to themselves or others.

6,817 referrals to Prevent were made in the year ending on 31 March 2023. This is an increase of 6.4% compared to the year ending March 2022 (6,406).

Of those in custody for terrorism connected offences in Great Britain as at 30 June 2023, 65% were categorised as holding Islamist-extremist views, 27% were categorised as holding Extreme Right-Wing ideologies, and the remaining 8% were categorised as holding beliefs related to other ideologies.

These figures include both those that had been convicted and those being held on remand (that is, held in custody until a later date when a trial or sentencing hearing will take place).

- a. The number of referrals discussed at a Channel panel (1,333) and adopted as a Channel case (688) saw smaller reductions compared with the previous year, decreasing by 7% and 0.6% respectively.
- b. Of the 688 Channel cases, the most common were cases referred due to concerns regarding Extreme Right-Wing radicalisation (317; 46%), followed by those with a mixed, unstable or unclear ideology (205; 30%) and concerns regarding Islamist radicalisation (154; 22%).

Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism. Of all the Channel cases adopted in 2022/2023:

46% were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation (296)

18% were linked to Islamist radicalisation (115)

16% related to individuals with conflicted concerns (103)

3% for school massacre concerns (18)

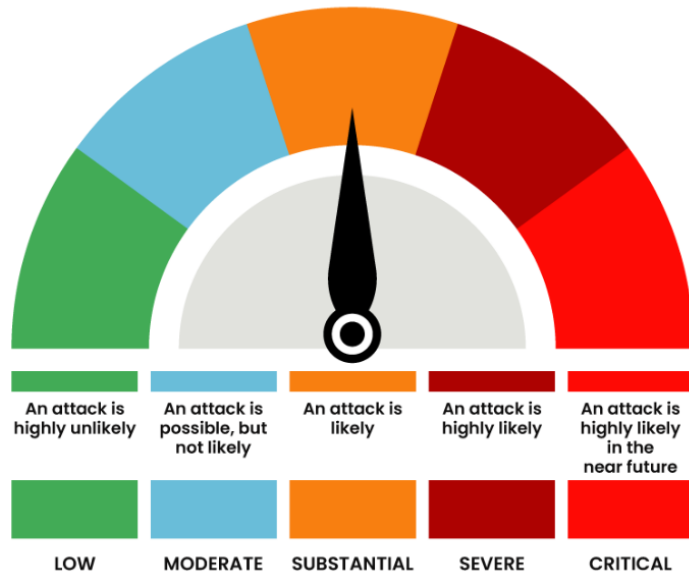
2% for incel related concerns (13)

Individuals aged 15 to 20 accounted for the largest proportion (32%) referrals, with individuals aged 14 and under accounting for 31%, followed by individuals aged between 21 and 30 (14%)

Locally delivered Prevent & Channel

Work has continued around the **PREVENT** agenda involving a wide range of partners across Sunderland and the wider Northumbria area during 2023-24. Staff training has continued to be progressed across agencies to help staff spot signs of radicalisation and how to respond to it.

We regularly receive the Counter Terrorism Local Profile that informs local and national threat level. The Current UK National Threat Level remains - SUBSTANTIAL AN ATTACK IS LIKELY. Self-Initiated Terrorists (S-ITs) are the primary threat across the Northumbria Police force area. It is considered a realistic possibility that a S-IT inspired by either an Islamist or Extreme Right-Wing terrorist ideology could carry out a low sophistication attack without warning. The use of bladed or blunt force weapons are the most likely form of attack methodology due the ease of access and concealment. Other more complex methodologies, such as the use of vehicles and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) cannot be ruled out.



The Local Authority works with Counter Terrorism Policing considering referrals into Prevent. We have a joint Children & Adults **CHANNEL** panel which sits monthly looking at support to children, young people and adults at risk of exploitation and being drawn into Extremism. There are currently two individuals being discussed at this monthly panel and we are working with the individuals and their families.

A snapshot for **December 2023** for Northumbria Police area, there were 17 cases, 8 managed in Channel (2 of which were in Sunderland Channel).

Sunderland at the **Regional CONTEST Board** continues to operate to provide governance for Prevent and is chaired by Durham LA. Advice from the Home Office lead and the Northumbria lead for counter terrorism indicates that meetings for Sunderland CONTEST should mirror the cycle of the Northumbria Board which is in place.

5. Hate Crime and Tension Monitoring

5.1 Reported Hate Crime

Sunderland			
	October 1 st - December 31st		
	2022	2023	Variance +/-
Race	108	112	+4
Faith	8	5	-3
Disability	19	13	-6
Homophobic	37	25	-12
Transphobic	6	2	-4

5.2 Hate Crime/Incident Action Plan

1. Develop local targeted campaigns to support hate crime

2. Case Management

- Ensure partners are fully aware of the graded response, tools and powers and other interventions e.g. Youth Crime Education Programme
- Ensure regular liaison between Communities to ensure community cohesion
- Development of Safe Havens who have staff trained in Hate Crime Awareness

3. Prevention through Education

- Improve the use of promotional and media opportunities to raise awareness of hate crime and consequences
- Deliver targeted education and training programmes to groups
- Ensure a consistent and regular dialogue with key groups

6 Partnership working which covers new, existing statutory duties whilst strengthening partnership working and collaboration

Summary of current and forthcoming issues include:

- a. There is a planned review this year of the role and remit of all core multi-agency meetings that support SSP work, including new or proposed statutory requirements. With partner agreement, this will involve the **introduction of multi-agency operational tasking groups**. We will consider cross cutting themes with SSAB, SCB, Domestic Abuse group as well as Serious Violence Duty.
- b. Strategic assessments, and scrutiny reports continue to be provided as required.
- c. Information Sharing Protocol is reviewed annually to ensure it is GDPR compliant.
- d. **Training, awareness raising and workforce development** cuts across all of the partnership's work areas. **7-minute briefings** have been introduced with recent sessions on Preventing Fire Deaths, Professional Curiosity & Domestic Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation, Prada Willi Syndrome

7 Cross Cutting Issues – Exploitation, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Homelessness

Partners have recognised cross cutting themes across Safer Sunderland Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Board, Domestic Abuse and Violence against women and girls DA & (VAWG) Strategic Partnerships

The effects of cost of living is an ongoing concern to enhancing feelings of safety, this is felt greatest in our homeless support team.

Homeless service data

As of November 2023

- 603 Current open Homeless support cases
- 21 Duty to Refers awaiting assessment.
- 269 people have contacted Customer Service Network for assistance from Housing Options
- An additional 140 households have provided documentation and are now awaiting allocation of a Homeless Reduction Officer
- An additional 66 households awaiting urgent allocation.
- In November there were 224 Street Homeless appointments up to 27th November.
 - An ave. of 11.79 per day
 - On 27th November there were 25 street homeless appointments (in 1 day)
- 62% of applications present with a mental health support need.
- Average support need per case is above 3.

The city continues to be a place that welcomes. The Home Office returns demonstrate at the 30th September 2023 for Sunderland, we were supporting the following individuals:

Homes for Ukraine	Afghan Resettlement Programme	Supported Asylum	All 3 pathways
174	5	771	950

8. Public Perceptions of Crime

8.1 Northumbria Police completed a Safer Communities Survey for the 12 months rolling to December 2023. Residents living in the Northumbria Force area were contacted by telephone and asked about their perceptions of the local neighbourhood, police visibility and the services delivered by the police and council. The sample is chosen at random to ensure that it is representative of the overall population. A total of 2,883 residents took part across Northumbria Force area.

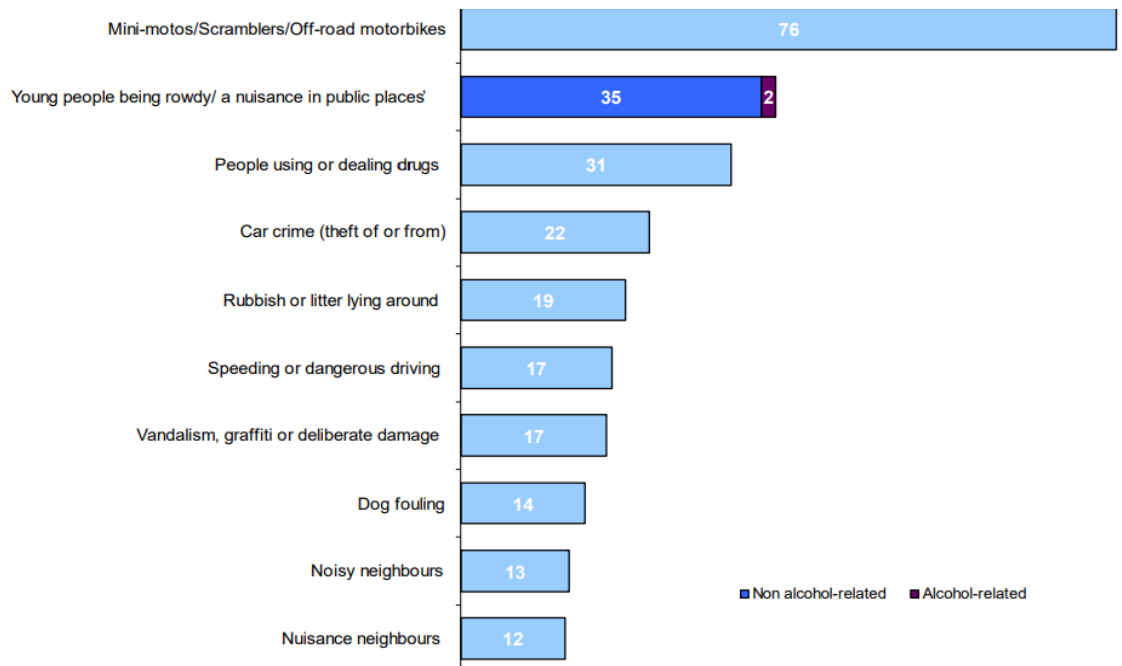
8.2 Perceptions of Neighbourhood

Across the Force, there has been a significant decrease in the percentage of residents who were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live compared to the same period last year. Over 65s and individuals without a disability reported higher levels of satisfaction with their neighbourhood than younger generations and disabled residents. Females were more likely than males to report that their neighbourhood had got worse in the last 12 months.

Perceptions of Neighbourhood The percentage...	Force		Gateshead		Newcastle		North Tyneside		Northumberland		South Tyneside		Sunderland	
	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous
who say their neighbourhood has got better in last 12 months	6%	9%	5%	7%	7%	12%	7%	9%	7%	8%	4%	8%	6%	9%
	+/- 1%	+/- 1%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%
who say their neighbourhood has got worse in last 12 months	30%	26%	36%	31%	30%	27%	25%	23%	25%	21%	39%	23%	33%	30%
	+/- 2%	+/- 1%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 6%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%
who think ASB is a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood	26%	22%	32%	25%	26%	22%	23%	23%	21%	17%	30%	19%	28%	26%
	+/- 2%	+/- 1%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%
who think crime is a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood	18%	15%	21%	21%	20%	18%	17%	16%	13%	10%	18%	13%	24%	17%
	+/- 1%	+/- 1%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%
who are completely, very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live	81%	85%	78%	83%	79%	82%	84%	88%	85%	90%	78%	86%	81%	81%
	+/- 1%	+/- 1%	+/- 4%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%	+/- 2%	+/- 5%	+/- 4%	+/- 3%	+/- 3%
who feel very or fairly safe living in their neighbourhood	94%	95%	94%	93%	92%	94%	95%	96%	95%	98%	95%	96%	95%	93%
	+/- 1%	+/- 1%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 1%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%	+/- 2%

9.3 Sunderland Public Priorities

544 Residents were surveyed across the local authority area; of these, 120 (22%) identified at least one problem in their neighbourhood. The chart below shows the top ten public priorities for Sunderland in descending order, along with the score for each priority :



9 Recorded Crime

9.1 Northumbria Police recorded Serious Violence Crime Types by Local Authority (October 2022-September 2023)

Sunderland:

4,568 total recorded violent crimes, an increase of 147.

190 knife related crimes (+33)

1 homicide (-6)

16 hospital admissions for assault with a sharp object.

202 robberies, 48 knife related.

5,809 domestic abuse crimes (+2.4%)

9.2 Risk factors for Sunderland

9.3 There are a number of factors shown to increase the risk of being a perpetrator or a victim of violence. Prevalence of these factors differs significantly, within a regional footprint.

9.4 These factors will identify higher risk sections of the population and successful interventions that may reduce violence will include:

- a) Reducing the number of people within these population groups, e.g. reducing homelessness or drug use.
- b) Interventions to reduce the risk of offending or victimisation of people within higher risk groups, e.g. youth mentoring

9.5 Alcohol/Drugs

T24 - Offenders of Serious Violence Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs in Northumbria (October 2022-September 2023)

	Under the Influence of Alcohol	Under the Influence of Drugs	Total
Gateshead	730	304	1,034
Newcastle	1,196	402	1,598
North Tyneside	591	237	828
Northumberland	802	287	1,089
South Tyneside	592	240	832
Sunderland	1,117	421	1,538
Total	5,045	1,897	6,492

9.6 Drugs Offences

The link between substance misuse and violence in Northumbria has been identified and highlighted in recent data. In Northumbria, data showed that 39 percent of all violence admissions to hospital related to substance misuse (NHS Digital, 2022b). ONS data also shows that the North East had the highest rate of drug misuse of any English region for eight consecutive years.

9.7 Alcohol

The Sunderland Drug and Alcohol Partnership is established and they produced their first Alcohol Strategy to address alcohol harms across the city [ALCOHOL STRATEGY](#)

9.8 City Centre Youth Violence

The SAIL (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) scheme between police, VRU, the city council and private companies was launched in December 2022 after concern from residents and businesses. In the first 6 months, Youth related anti-social behaviour was reduced by 40%, street drinking and drunken behaviour both fell by 48%, and begging dropped by 20%. During the same period, vehicle crime in the city centre came down by 63%, public disorder by 26% and burglary by 56%.

9.9 Motorcycle Disorder

In November 2023 Sunderland City Council joined forces with Northumbria Police and South Tyneside Council to tackle the issue of motorcycle disorder and criminality, which has resulted in a dedicated multi agency pilot taskforce set up to robustly tackle this issue.

As part of the new approach of the team, so far there has been:

27 people arrested or reported for an offence by Northumbria Police

49 Vehicles seized

165+ Intel submissions

4 stop searches

20 community/housing orders issued in joint partnership

135 incidents reported to the police and contact made by the Operation Capio team

10. Organisational Changes, Funding and Resources

- **OPCC** elections for crime commissioner take place in May, the **VRU** continues to be funded by Home office. The VRU have funds to look at 'teachable moment' style interventions for young people involved in serious violence. This looks to capitalise on important moments when they are likely to be most receptive (for example, admission to A&E or in police custody), connecting them to a package of support enabling a more positive life course. Quarterly updates are received at every Board.
- **Safer Streets Funding:** available for PCCs to bid for funding . This is Round 5 of the fund and we were successful as one of the six LA's in bidding for a securing £1m of funding for work around Transport Hubs, Women's Safety in Public Places and ASB. Funding commenced in 2023 unfortunately the government have now announced for 2024/5 this funding is reduced by £180,000. We are working with partners considering the impact of this.
- The costs of the current 2 DHRs in Sunderland will exceed £20,000. The Council, has to date funded these costs. There have previously been some financial contributions from the ICB. The duty to carry out DHRs sits with the SSP (i.e. all the responsible authorities). The financial implications to the Partnership going forward may need to be revisited with partners if any increased volume of reviews was to be experienced in the coming year.

11. Conclusions and Impact on the Safer Sunderland Work Programme

- a) The PSIA reflects that we are not seeing significant changes in crime patterns and impact in the 12 months since the Board last considered this.
- b) We would suggest, subject to Board agreement, that the overall strategic priorities should be retained. Based partially upon recent national policy development and local knowledge, we should perhaps expand and define more clearly the way we present the priority areas for work programming and propose an Action Plan to look at:
 - **Retaining tackling violence against women and girls as a distinct area** – Reflecting the extensive work undertaken by Public Health in this area and working in collaboration with partners ensuring Sunderland is a Safe City. Focusing on responses to perpetrator, public and community awareness are also continuing areas for development.
 - **Citywide and Neighbourhood Problem Solving should be retained though expanded to reflect a proposed focus at city level on problem solving and tasking.** Continuation of multi-agency working to operationally develop new approaches to service delivery, targeting of our most deprived and high crime locations.
 - The **new priority this year to tackle serious violence** the focus on governance of this work will be via Community Safety Partnerships.
 - **Whilst CONTEST and PREVENT should be retained further work is required on PROTECT Duty and Public Accessible Locations.** The CONTEST Board chaired by Durham has been reconvened which Sunderland attends. Partnership working has been improved in relation to PREVENT. A regular standing CHANNEL joint Adult & Children's panel has been implemented in line with both national and regional best practice.
 - The Far-Right threat still remains although it is not as prominent as previously encountered locally. A further focus is required regarding **Community Cohesion** reflecting the changes in Sunderland demographics.
 - **Serious and Organised Crime should be retained and perhaps made more distinct.** Building on the work currently with Organised Crime Gangs & Urban Street Gangs.

12. Recommendations

- 12.1 The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee are asked to note the key multi-agency improvement activity and achievements contained in the annual report and agree to accept the next annual report in March 2025

Annual Report produced by Adult Social Care Directorate February 2024

Contact Officer: Stephen Laverton
Strategic Manager Community Safety and Safeguarding
Stephen.Laverton@sunderland.gov.uk

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7th March 2024

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE – QUARTER 3 OF 2023/24

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 3 of 2023/24.
- 1.2 The Senior Manager – Corporate Strategy will attend the meeting to respond to questions.

2. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 A key element of the Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is to present, on a quarterly basis, an update to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on key performance information for consideration and discussion.
- 2.2 The Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is aligned to the Sunderland City Plan.
- 2.3 The City Plan covers:
 - A Vision, shared by the members of the Sunderland Partnership, for the Sunderland of 2035
 - Ambitions that guide the city's transformation and the council's associated contribution
 - Three Key Themes – Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City under which the council organises its work and activities to pursue the ambitions
 - A set of Commitments for each key theme under which the council's activities are aligned
 - An Indicative Timeline of Activities illustrating the council's actions across all of the key themes.
- 2.4 The Corporate Performance Report is aligned to the three key themes of the City Plan (*Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City*) as well as including additional Council indicators for organisational health / productive & innovative working, financial management and a council ready for the future.
- 2.5 The report sets out the progress made to the end of Quarter 3 of 2023/24, against the City Plan 2023 - 2035.

- 2.6 Following the City Plan's publication in 2019, an annual review and assurance process has been undertaken each year, to ensure that delivery remains focused on achieving the plan's vision, ambitions and commitments, whilst taking account of changing circumstances and conditions at a local, national and global level.
- 2.7 The annual review and assurance of the City Plan undertaken in early 2023, recognised the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and a need to focus on resilience within the plan. It also recognised the significant achievements made in the first three years of the plan's lifespan through the completion of its Timeline Activity, and therefore the planned activity was substantially refreshed to deliver outcomes to 2035.
- 2.8 The refreshed plan was adopted from 1st April 2023. This report relates to activity and performance in the third quarter of 2023/24.

3 RECOMMENDATION

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

Contact Officer: Beverley Poulter, Senior Manager Corporate Strategy
Tel: 07824 596691
Beverley.Poulter@Sunderland.gov.uk

DYNAMIC SMART CITY

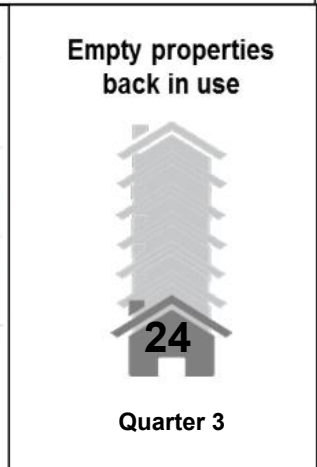
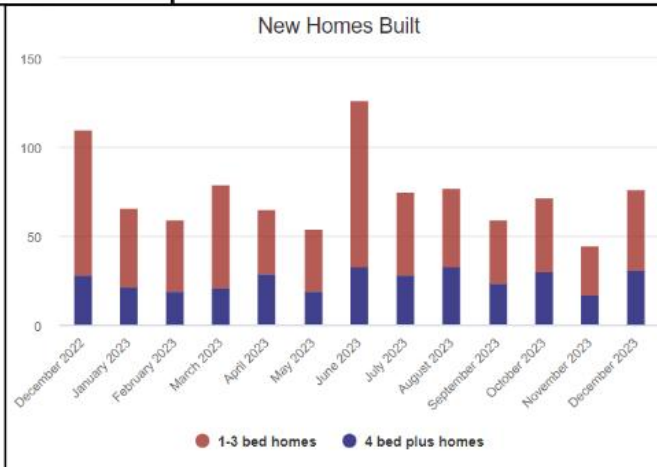
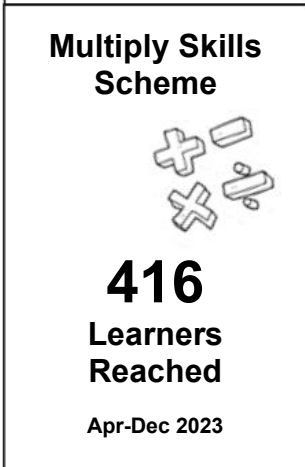
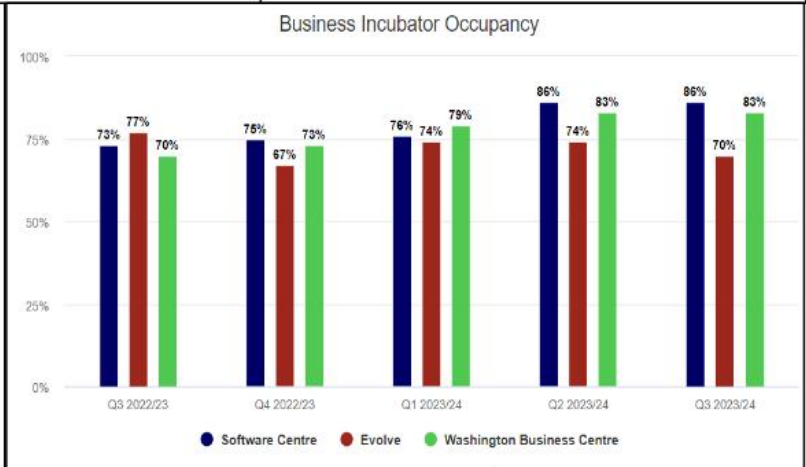
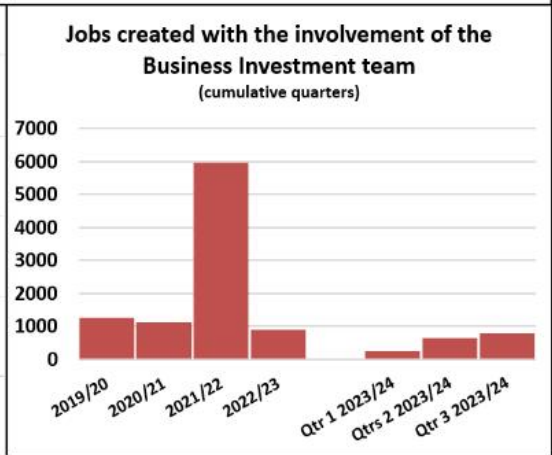
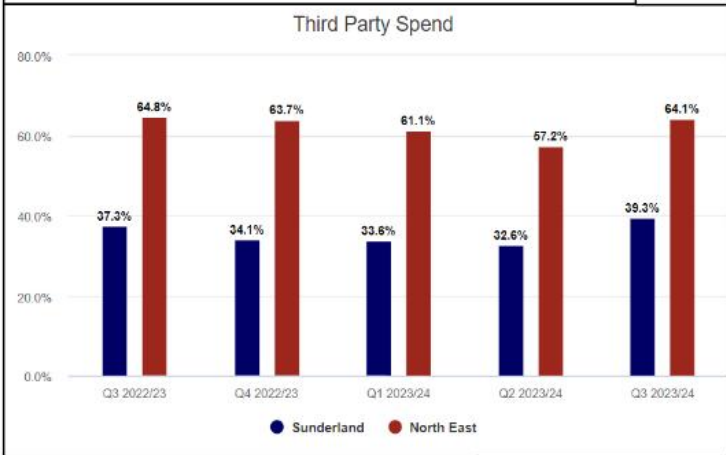
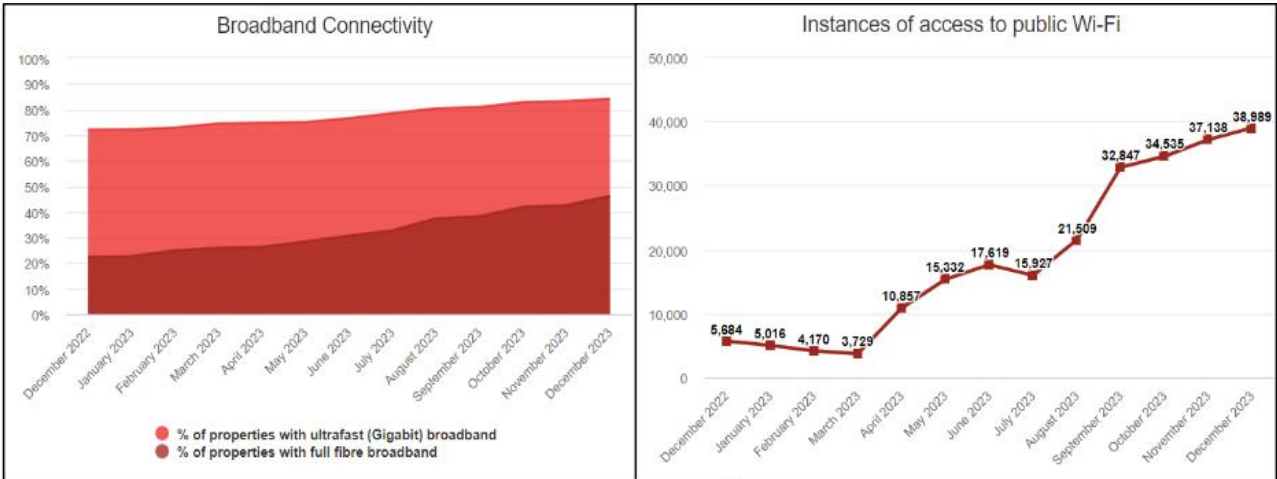
A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all – more and better jobs – more local people with better qualifications and skills – a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing, and cultural opportunities – more and better housing.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Broadband - % of properties with Ultrafast December 2023: 84.2% Full fibre December 2023: 46.2%	UK 79.8% UK 60.5%	Improving (Dec 2022: 72.1%) Improving (Dec 2022: 22.4%)
CO2 emissions estimates for Sunderland (per capita) 2021: 4 tonnes	NE 4.4, England 3.9	Improving (2017: 4.5 tonnes)
Employment rate Oct 2022 – Sept 2023: 73.1%	NE 71.6%, GB 75.8%	Improving (Oct 2021 – Sept 2022: 71%)
Proportion of workers earning below Living Wage Foundation rates 2022/23: 17.6% (provisional estimate).	NE 15.9%, GB 13%	Improving (2018/19: 19.5%)
Median wage workers Apr 2023: £594	NE £608 GB £683	Improving (2019: £527)
% Population NVQ Level 4 qualification 2021: 24.7%	NE 34.4% GB 43.5%	Declining (2017: 27.3%)
GCSE - % achieving a grade 4-9 in Maths & English 2022/23: 58.3%	NE 62.4%, England 65.4%	Declining (2018/19* 58.6%) <i>(2018/19 most meaningful comparator year due to impact of Covid)</i>
Level 3 (A level & equivalent) attainment by age of 19 in 2021/22: 49.7%	NE 53.9% England 60.7%	N/A <i>(Exams & Teacher Assessed not comparable)</i>
City Centre new homes Qtr. 3 2023/24: 0	N/A	No change (Qtr. 3 2022/23: 0)
People employed in the City Centre 2022: 12,300	N/A	Improving (2018: 11,890)
Population of the City 2021 mid-year estimate 2022: 277,354	N/A	Improving (2021 Census: 274,200)
Net Internal Migration 2020: -403	N/A	Declining (2016: -381)
New homes-built Qtr.3 2023/24: 193	N/A	Declining (Qtr.3 2022/23: 282)
Completed affordable homes Apr-Dec 2023: 118	N/A	Declining (Apr-Dec 2022: 137)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS & ACTION



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

A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all

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

At the end of Quarter 3, the proportion of Sunderland properties with ultrafast broadband has increased to 84.2% (from 80.9% at the end of Quarter 2). There are now an increasing proportion of properties in Sunderland that have even faster and more reliable connectivity through full fibre broadband at 46.2% at the end of Quarter 3 (up on the 38.3% at the end of Quarter 2).

At 110,662 instances in Quarter 3 of 2023/24, access to Public Wi-Fi in the city was up by 92,367 on the 18,295 instances in the same period in the previous year (Quarter 3 of 2022/23) - following on from considerable expansion of free public Wi-Fi access points. Our City Plan outlines our plans for further expansion of public Wi-Fi, along with 5G networks across the city over forthcoming years. Our plans are to be further enabled with the announcement of an additional 3.7m grant from the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) to support 5G and advanced wireless connectivity projects across the North East region in key sectors (including transport, event production and live broadcasting, port operations and farming). At the start of the year technical development began on the first phase of a City Wide App / Messaging Platform. At the end of Quarter 3, developments are nearing completion and App will move to testing in February prior to deployment in March. Installation of next generation wireless connectivity is being progressed for the 24 Community Health and Digital Hubs facilitated by UKSPF.

The Digital Hubs will tackle the digital divide to enable digital inclusion for all by improving access to digital devices, growing digital skills and bolstering connectivity to boost confidence and provide motivation to get online. Alongside the Digital Hubs, a new Community Esports concept is being introduced at 5 of the Hubs, to raise awareness about the gaming industry and encourage people of all ages into educational and employment pathways. Progress at the end of Quarter 3 includes: 22 Digital Hub sites Wi-Fi tested, 81 access points installed and live, 5 Databanks established providing free SIM cards to eligible people to ensure they stay connected, 48 local people registered and upskilled as Tech Mates to support others in the community and 5 E-sports Hubs in development for roll out by the end of 2023/24. We are further supporting digital inclusion through wider digital events with 60 events this year involving 1,508 participants with 12,552 impressions captured from our Digital Inclusion LinkedIn posts.

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

The Council is committed to becoming net zero as an organisation by 2030, across all greenhouse gases, in addition to becoming carbon neutral. Latest data published in the 2022/23 Low Carbon Annual Report shows tonnes of CO2 emissions from LA operations for 2022/23 at 7,867 tonnes, reduced on the revised 2021/22 figure of 8,681 (*figures revised annually). Over the longer term, the figure has been significantly reduced from the 22,000 tonnes recorded in 2017/18.

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

Under the strategic priorities of *Our Behaviour, Policies and Practices* we seek to engage all our residents including our young people and our voluntary and community sector, as well as businesses, partners and employees of the Council in reducing carbon emissions. To do so we will develop communication and engagement assets providing reliable information on climate change causes and impact and opportunities to reduce carbon emission through behaviours. In the last year work has been undertaken, through the Local Climate Engagement Project, to ensure the full engagement of our citizens in the delivery of our low carbon agenda. In 2022/23, 20 Council and TFC employees, in key roles, were trained through the programme on engagement techniques in relation to low carbon and in 2023/24 engagement activities have taken place across the three project themes of cycleway design, SEND transport and social prescribing. In Quarter 3, there were 66 pro-active communications via social media, and we have had 12 Green Champions actively engaged in promoting low carbon policies and behaviours within our workforce including specific events such as Ecofest. We continue to ensure that Carbon reduction is embedded in programme and project planning through our Integrated Impact Assessment Tool.

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

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

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

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

More and better jobs

Our vision in our City Plan is that Sunderland will be a well-connected, international city with opportunities for all. We aim to increase the number of well-paid jobs in the city by promoting growth in key sectors including automotive and advanced manufacturing, financial and customer services, digital and software, as well as increasing professional services in the city centre, and port related activity. The employment rate for Sunderland, at 73.1% (129,000 aged 16+) for October 2022 to Sept 2023, has continued to rise compared with the same period in the previous year (at 71%). The rate remains above the North-East (at 71.6%). The rate for Great Britain in the same period was (75.8%).

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

The Port continues to focus on increasing its economic activity, with a turnover of £2.295m and 133,139 tonnage processed in Quarter 3. At the end of December, the Port is forecast to generate a net trading profit of £1.344m for 2023/24.

We continue seek to enable more office jobs in the city. At the end of Quarter 1 a property search tool was launched to enable businesses to locate office and commercial workspaces to buy or for rent – including new modern purpose-built spaces such as that on Riverside. From the launch of the tool to the end of Quarter 3, there have been 2,837 views of commercial properties.

We continue to ensure that our Council activity supports the local economy where possible. In Quarter 3, 64.1% (£74.8m) of all Council third party spend was within the regional economy, and £245,077 of social value was secured through our procurement projects.

More local people with better qualifications and skills

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

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

The proportion of workers earning below the Living Wage Foundation rate, for the tax year ending April 2023, has increased to 17.6% (provisional estimate) from 14.5% (revised and confirmed) in the previous tax year ending April 2022 (having decreased from 17% in the tax year ending April 2021 and from 22.8% in the tax year ending 2018). In Quarter 3, a Living Wage networking event was held at Sunderland's Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) to mark Real Living Wage week and engage further businesses in the city's Living Wage action group (to deliver on our Real Living Wage city action plan). A further event is planned with Sunderland Business Network in Quarter 4. Local data shows that in Quarter 3 there were 41 accredited real Living Wage employers with headquarters in Sunderland (as well as further employers with a branch in Sunderland) and 10,782 employees employed by Living Wage employers with a HQ in Sunderland (an increase on the 8,879 in the same period in the previous year).

Previously published data showed that 24.7% of the Sunderland population had a Level 4 qualification in 2021 (compared with the North-East at 34.4% and Great Britain at 43.5%). These statistics are sourced through the Annual Population Survey to produce an estimate. For the

year of 2022 (the latest expected data release), the sample size has been deemed too small to produce a reliable estimate for Sunderland and therefore figures are not available. Validated GCSE results (published February 2024) for the academic year 2022/23 show that in Sunderland 58.3% of students achieved a grade 4-9 in Maths & English, lower than the North-East at 62.4% and England at 65.4%.

Validated results for summer 2022 showed Level 3 (A-level and equivalent) attainment by the age of 19 at 49.7%, lower than the North-East at 53.9% and England at 60.7%.

The national Multiply scheme, delivered locally through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, aims to improve the numeracy skills of adults across the UK, based on the recognition that those with numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment and have higher wages. Between April and December 2023, the Multiply scheme has reached 416 learners in need of improving their maths skills with a 94% completion rate for learners concluding their courses in Quarter 3. Initial destinations data shows that in Quarter 3, 147 learners have achieved progression into further learning, employment or other progression, with destinations tracking being developed to understand progression over the longer term.

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

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

Through Riverside Sunderland we aim to create a vibrant new city centre residential community of 1,000 sustainable new homes, promoting more city centre living. Alongside the delivery of new homes, Expo Sunderland will provide events and experiences to engage visitors in new and sustainable ways of living.

Riverside Sunderland will also comprise of 1 million square feet of modern offices, commercial premises, and other employment space, creating new sites for businesses to grow and with the aim of workspace for 8,000 – 10,000 quality jobs. Figures for 2022 (latest available) showed 12,300 people employed in the city centre, a decrease on the figure of 14,000 in 2021 (a greater level of rounding has been applied in the latest release (with previous 2021 figures adjusted accordingly) and figures should be considered in this context). At the end of Quarter 2, 1,110 new city centre office jobs have been created since April 2019 and the completion of further office space on Riverside Sunderland will bring further office jobs to the city. On 27th November 2023, work began to build a new standalone specialist eye hospital at Riverside Sunderland with leaders, staff and patients gathering to celebrate the breaking of the ground. Construction of the new Eye Hospital is expected to take two years.

The City Centre offer is expanding alongside the Riverside Sunderland developments, with the creation of a Cultural Quarter on Keel Square (directly alongside Riverside Sunderland) with new food and drink offerings. In Quarter 3, the 200 capacity Keel Tavern (decorated to reflect the city's industrial and maritime heritage) opened, and the opening of the Botanist and Muddler in the same location have been announced for the New Year. Alongside this, in Quarter 3 there has been the onsite start for Culture House (also located at Keel Square).

We continue to progress our plans for a range of physical developments in the city centre including the development of the Sunnyside area through the Sunnyside Masterplan and Sunderland Rail Station. The southern entrance of the station which was opened in December 2023 features a large glass wraparound design and includes a new ticket office and reception, public toilets, retail space and cafes, waiting areas and a new mezzanine level that has office space for rail industry staff.

More and better housing

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

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

There were 193 homes that were newly built in Quarter 3. Over the last three years there has been an increase in the number of completed affordable homes (from 101 in 2020/21 to 150 in 2021/22 and 178 in 2022/23). There were 38 completed affordable homes in Quarter 3 - down on the 62 in the same period in the previous year, however, figures can fluctuate in year due to a range of factors including phasing of housing schemes.

Alongside more homes, we are also committed to ensuring that the housing we have is of quality. 24 empty properties were brought back into use in Quarter 3, and 160 privately rented properties were inspected for hazards.

Under our Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of an Energy Efficient Built Environment, we will embed carbon reduction in Council assets and maximise energy efficiency improvements to owner occupied and private, social and affordable rented homes. AN ECO (Energy Company Obligation) scheme delivery model has been established, to help households decarbonise and reduce their energy bills (via grants to fund energy-efficient updates to homes) with the first homes expected to benefit by March 2024. Through the Warm Homes Fund energy efficiency advice was provided to 82 fuel poor residents in Quarter 3, taking the total for the scheme to 481 as at the end of December for 2023 – and on track to achieve the programme aspiration to reach 500 residents across the two years of 2022/23 and 2023/24.

HEALTHY SMART CITY

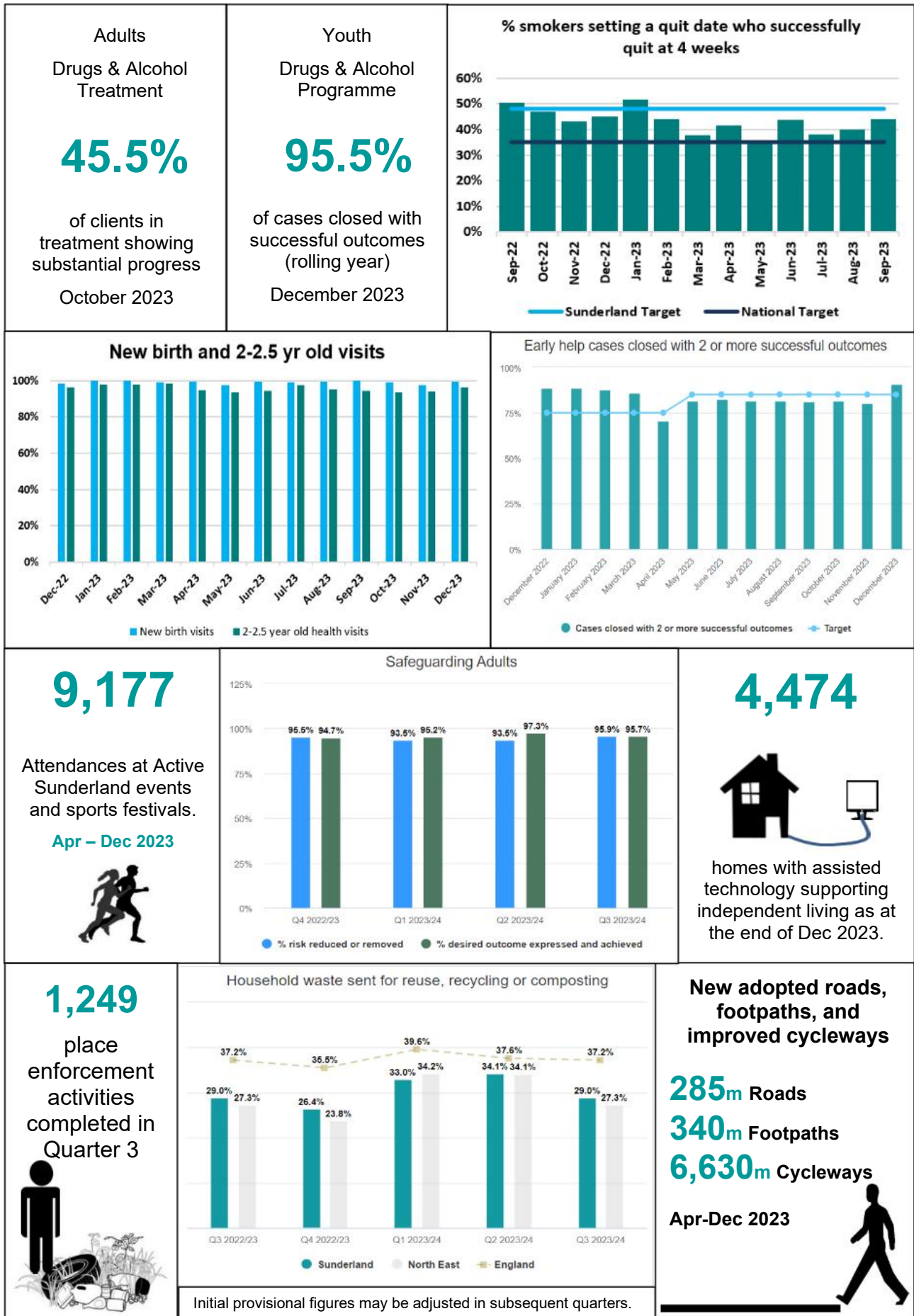
Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives – equitable opportunities and best life chances for children – high quality support and social care that enables those who need it to live the life they want to live – great transport links with low carbon and active travel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



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Healthy Life Expectancy at birth 2018-2020 as at 2021/22 Female: 56.9 yrs. Male: 56.1 yrs.	England 63.9 yrs. NE 59.7 yrs. England 63.1 yrs. NE 59.1 yrs.	Declining (2014-2016: 59.3 yrs.) Declining (2014-2016: 58.8 yrs.)
Admission episodes alcohol-related 2021/22: 2,668 (Broad per 100,000)	England 1,734, NE 2,323	N/A (Not comparable due to change in methodology)
Smoking prevalence 2022: 13.2%	England 12.7%, NE 13.1%	Improving (2018: 22.2%)
The proportion of adults living with overweight or obesity 2021/22: 73.9%	England 63.8%, NE 70.5%	Declining (2017/18: 69.2%)
Prevalence of children living with overweight (Year 6) 2022/23: 41.5% (incl. obese)	England 36.6%, NE 39.9%	Declining (2018/19: 39.2%)
% of people that are fairly active / active (Active Lives – Public Health) 2021/22: 75.5%	England 77.7%, NE 75%	Improving (2017/18: 72%)
Women who smoke at time of delivery Qtr. 2 2023/24: 11.1%	England 7.5% NE 10.1%	Improving (Qtr. 2 2022/23: 11.7%)
EYFSP Good level of development 2022/23: 66%	England 67.2%, NE 66.3%	Declining (2018/19: 72.6%)
Cared for children (rate per 10k) Dec 2023: 94.8	England 71, NE 113 SN 119.4	Declining (Dec 2022: 92.6)
CYP subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10k) Dec 2023: 82.1	England 43.2, NE 64.8 SN 64.4	Declining (Dec 2022: 43.3)
Rate of Children in Need (per 10k) Dec 2023: 412.1	England 342.7, NE 467.4 SN 438.9	Declining (Dec 2022: 344.1)
Teenage Pregnancy (under 18 conception rate): Qtr. 3 2021/22: 26.4 (rolling year)	England 13.1, NE 19.8	Declining (Qtr. 3 2020/21: 21.7)
Proportion of people (18+) living independently (without social care services) Qtr. 3 2023/24: 97.2%	N/A	Declining (Qtr.3 2022/23 98.2%)
Litter - % deposits that fall below an acceptable level Qtr. 3. 2023/24: 4.5%	N/A	Improving (Qtr.3 2022/23: 7.5%)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS & ACTION



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

Equitable opportunities and the best life chances for children

We are taking a life course approach to health and wellbeing starting with the early life stages of preconception to early years and adolescence under this commitment. The latest available quarterly figure (Quarter 2 of 2023/24) for the proportion of women smoking at time of delivery at 11.1% (70 smokers of 633 maternities) is a reduction on the same period in the previous year at 11.7%. The Sunderland figure remains higher than the North-East at 10.1% and England at 7.5%. Quarterly rates may fluctuate based on the number of maternities, however, the latest full-year figure of 13.7% (for 2022/23) also shows a reduction (on the full year of 2021/22 at 14%).

Reducing the rates of tobacco dependency in pregnant women is a high priority for the Sunderland Smokefree Partnership and partners are working closely together on a range of programmes and initiatives to support pregnant women to stop smoking. This includes continuing to embed the Treating Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy pathway as part of the NHS Long Term Plan, including the provision of an incentive scheme available to all pregnant smokers who sign up to stop smoking support as part of the pathway (scheme includes vouchers throughout the pregnancy, including a partner voucher that also encourages stop smoking). In addition, there is a pilot for Health Visitors to carry out CO monitoring at all mandated visits to pregnant women and families with young children, and the establishment of weekly clinics in all 5 Family Hubs as part of the Treating Tobacco in Pregnancy Pathway, supporting partners and families following the birth of their child.

Latest local (unvalidated) data for Quarter 3 of 2023, indicates that 55.9% of Sunderland women who gave birth, initiated first milk as breast milk, with 48.3% breastfeeding at discharge. The proportion of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks was 31.8% for 2022/23 (Child Health Profile, latest available data) below England (49.2%) and the North-East (36.7%). There is a range of ongoing work to support Sunderland being a Breastfeeding Friendly City and to increase the

rates of breastfeeding, including the UNICEF accreditation journey for Growing Healthy Sunderland, STSFT Maternity and Neonatal as well as the Family Hubs.

At the end of Quarter 2, 98.7% of new birth visits and 96.5% of 2.5-year-old checks have been carried out in timescale based on local data, continuing the high levels of performance in previous quarters.

Results for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) for 2022/23 Good Level of Development have been published and showed that in Sunderland 66% of children achieved a good level of development – 0.3% lower than the North-East (at 66.3%) and lower than England (at 67.2%). In Sunderland and across the North-East and England fewer children achieved a Good Level of Development in comparison to the pre pandemic figures. Figures are an improvement on the 2021/22 result of 63.7%, though a decline on the long-term trend figure of 72.6% for 2018/19.

Through support to families with children in need, and intervention in families with children subject to a child protection plan, we seek to increase resilience in families to give children the best life chances, and subsequently we monitor how often worries are raised about children that we have already tried to help. The latest rates of children in need, children subject to a child protection plan and cared for children have increased, however, the Sunderland rates for children in need and cared for children are better than both the statistical neighbour comparator and the North-East. At the end of Quarter 3, 18.7% of referrals to TFC were re-referrals within 12 months (target 23%), a decrease on the same period in the previous year (23.4%). 11% of children subject to a child protection plan had a repeat plan within 2 years (within target of 15%), a decrease on the same period in the previous year (at 14.8%). 80.9% of early help cases closed with successful outcomes (target 85%), 8.2% of Cared for Children have experienced 3+ placements within the last 12 months (target 10% or less) and 98.9% of Cared for Children had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (target 95%).

The rate of under 18 conceptions (teenage pregnancy rate based on conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 -17) for Sunderland was 26.4 in Quarter 3 of 2021/22 (latest available data (expected update not yet available)) – up on the same period in the previous year (at 21.7), though a reduction on Quarter 2 of 2021/22 (at 27.4). The Sunderland figure continues to be higher than the England and North-East rates (of 13.1 and 19.8 - for Quarter 3 of 2022/2023). Support in place includes delivery of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE), ongoing offer of the C-Card for young people age 13+ (501 issues in Quarter 3) and access to free emergency contraception (EHC) via pharmacies and school nursing (56 instance of supply to ages 19 and under of EHC via pharmacies in Quarter 3). Other support includes sexual health advice, targeted sessions delivered in schools, provision of access to free long-acting contraception with further work ongoing to widen choice for point of access, a young person's contraceptive nurse (specialist sexual health service), providing in clinic and outreach services (including emergency access) and an Options Advisor.

Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives

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

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

Wellbeing Board which has been in place since 2021. These are: better understanding of our population, asset-based community development ('residents as participants'), economic activity (skills, aspirations and wealth building) and health in all policies approach.

Alcohol is a complex issue within our society and no single approach will be successful in isolation. Alcohol remains one of the key drivers of health inequalities and one of the key causes of premature death and therefore it requires commitment and contributions from a range of partners across the city. Hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (broad) were at 2,668 (episodes per 100,000) for Sunderland for 2021/22 (North-East average 2,323, England 1,734) – an increase on the previous year figure (longer term trend comparison not applicable due to changes in how the statistics have been compiled).

A range of programmes and services are being delivered by the City Council and partners, as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse. Our published partnership alcohol strategy (Calling Time: It's time to rethink drink) action plan coordinates the ongoing work to reduce alcohol harms. This includes a focus on prevention and the expansion of the Alcohol Care Team within the trust, the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy, the funding of dedicated posts within the treatment and recovery system and the promotion of alcohol harm awareness raising initiatives and campaigns.

Additional 3-year funding through the national substance misuse treatment and recovery grant has been invested across the city with the aim of increasing access into treatment by 20% and reducing drug and alcohol related deaths. Alongside the grant, a new performance framework came into effect for adult substance misuse treatment services from April 2023. For the new key performance indicator of *clients in treatment showing substantial progress*, the figure for Sunderland from the latest available data period of October 2023 was 45.5% (779 clients showing substantial progress of 1,712 in treatment), the England figure for the same period was 47%. Projects and programmes funded through the grant in the current year include dedicated roles within the treatment system for parents and carers, those experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, and those with complex needs. Alongside these posts there are dedicated criminal justice workers based within the local Police service, and a post within the Hospital Trust's Alcohol Care Team. Other projects include the funding of harm reduction initiatives and awareness raising campaigns.

The rate for the three-year period 2018/19-2020/21 (latest available data) for under 18s alcohol admissions per 100,000 was 76 for Sunderland - an improvement on the previous rate of 82.4, (North-East rate 52, England rate of 55.4). Data from the recent 2023 Health Related Behaviour Survey indicates a reduction in alcohol consumption amongst young people - both Year 8 and Year 10 pupils, when compared to data from 2021.

For young people, needing substance misuse intervention, the key performance measure continues to be successful outcomes for closed cases (rolling year). At the end of December 2023, 95.5% of the Youth Drug & Alcohol Programme cases were closed with successful outcomes.

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

In October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its policy paper 'Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation', which includes a key proposal to raise the age of sale of tobacco year on year so anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be able to legally buy tobacco. It also includes proposals to introduce restrictions on vapes to tackle youth vaping and to increase enforcement of illicit sales. The Council support these measures and responded to a government consultation held in December 2023. In addition, a package of measures to help smokers to quit was announced, including a

commitment to increase funding for local stop smoking services over the next five year; the funding allocation for local authorities have been published for 2024-25.

A range of programmes and services are being delivered by the city council and partners, as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to supporting the smokefree agenda. These are reflected in the Smokefree Partnership Action Plan which has been agreed for 2023-2026 with the aim to reduce smoking prevalence to 5% by 2031. The plan covers eight key strands of: tobacco control, including building capacity and skills to support smokers to quit; reducing exposure to tobacco smoke; ensuring effective year-round media and comms; and tobacco regulations and enforcement.

In Quarter 2 of 2022/23 (latest available data) 38% of smokers setting a quit date successfully quit at 4 weeks (117 successful quitters of 307 quit attempts). This combines Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS) and Universal NHS Stop Smoking Services data. As smoking prevalence reduces, meeting the target for smoking quits becomes more challenging due to there being a smaller pool of smokers to quit and the Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS) will be targeting the most complex populations, which inevitably leads to lower quit rates. The SSSS continues to provide high-quality, evidence-based specialist support to smokers to quit, but can also refer to a network of universal stop smoking services across the city and can provide self-help tools such as a Smokefree app for a more flexible offer. The provision of *Very Brief Advice* across a wide audience will also build capacity across the system to encourage smokers to attempt to quit.

Latest data for 2021/22 reports 73.9% of adults in Sunderland are living with overweight or obesity, this is higher than the previous figure of 69.1% and above the North-East (70.5%) and England average (63.8%). Latest national data, for the academic year 2022/23, shows that 41.3% of children in Year 6 were living with overweight (including obesity). This is a reduction from 45% in 2021/22 (the highest rate ever been recorded in Sunderland). In 2022/23 the Sunderland figure is higher than the North-East (at 39.9%) and England (at 36.6%).

Impacting on healthy weight requires a system wide approach to the physical and food environment and our healthy weight strategy incorporates a range of plans and actions to change the environment. A range of services are also being delivered by the city council and partners. In 2021 Sunderland secured national funding to deliver a Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Service – commencing August 2021 and funded to December 2022. The programme was evaluated, and local public health funding has been agreed to continue for a further 2 years, targeted at 3 geographical areas each year, where need is greatest (people will be able to access from across the city). There were 112 people starting the programme in Quarter 3. Quarter 1 and 24 in Quarter 2. 50 people completed a 12-week assessment in Quarter 3 (88%) and 8 completed the programme with an evidenced health improvement (100% of completions).

Alongside this, there has been the ongoing delivery of the Active Sunderland Healthy Lifestyles Programme (formerly Change 4 Life) Sunderland Offer. In Quarter 3, 83 school sessions were delivered, engaging 2,220 school children. There were 7 Active Sunderland Healthy Lifestyle programmes delivered with an 89% successful completion rate. In Quarter 3, the programme worked with primary schools with red NCMP data (child obesity prevalence) with bespoke 1-1 support provided to young people and families.

At the end of Quarter 2, 16% of educational settings are accredited at Bronze standard, in the Sunderland Healthy Schools Awards, 1% at Gold standard and 3% at Emerald standard.

Through our Low Carbon Action Plan, we want to ensure that the council's allotment policy maximises opportunities for local food growing by residents and facilitates community growing projects supporting healthy eating. In 2020, an audit was carried out, identifying abandoned allotment plots and subsequently action plans put into place to bring each site up to standard. Since February 2023, 200 allotment sites that were previously vacant and out of use have been cleared & re-let. A wider consultation and review of allotment provision will commence in 2024. Potential new sites have been identified and feasibility proposals are being prepared.

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

There were 532,460 Leisure Centre attendances in Quarter 3, and 664 attendances at Active Sunderland participation events and sports festivals, building on the 8,513 attendances in the first half of the year. Following the successful Sunderland hosting of the British leg of the World Triathlon Championship series in Quarter 2 we have been working with British Triathlon to create new opportunities to participate in Swim, Bike, Run (SBR) events across the city including the development of SBR Hubs. At the end of Quarter 3 there are two established hubs with a further two in development. The BIG Bike Ride took place on 15th October from a new location – the Beacon of Light. Three different routes were available (12, 20 and 38 mile) attracting 359 registrations (194 of which had not taken part before). Feedback from participants was extremely positive with 94% expressing they would take part again. 14 volunteers supported the event.

With funding from the Lawn Tennis Association, we are investing in tennis facilities in the city. In Quarter 2, the refurbishment of 17 tennis courts in all 7 parks was completed and Everyone Active sessions provided to encourage use of the refurbished courts. With the tennis courts now all refurbished, there have been 789 online bookings in Quarter 3 and 44 coached sessions were made available. An October Half Term free tennis programme run by Everyone Active was delivered across the 7 parks and attended by 30 players.

In Quarter 3 there were 130,052 visitors through the turnstiles of Football Hubs and planning has commenced for five safe and inclusive based sports play zones with investment from the Football Foundation and Sports England. 100 families (390 individuals) registered for the October Half Term Family Fun session at Silksworth Community Pool, Tennis and Wellness Centre. Family activity sessions also took place at Hetton Family Hub and Austin House SARA programme with over 200 people accessing health related resources and taking part in fun games and activities.

We are targeting the least active areas for new active participation opportunities including promoting the walking programme, working with family hubs to deliver activities and implementation of the community tennis programme. In Quarter 4 the Coach to 5K will commence and will target inactive residents with a 12-week support programme. We are also developing five safe and inclusive area-based sports play zones with investment from the Football Foundation. The first Play Zone is currently in planning, with works expected to commence in Spring 2024, subject to planning approval.

Validated data for the three-year period of 2020-2022, showed the suicide rate for Sunderland reduced to 14 per 100,000 (age 10+) from 14.3 (for 2019-2021), though it remained above the England rate of 10.3 and Northeast rate of 13.5. The Public Mental Health Concordat for Sunderland was endorsed and signed off by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in January 2023 - a framework and action plan which has supported work to improve mental health wellbeing, contributing to the suicide prevention agenda. Positive progress has been made against the Public Mental Health Concordat for the 2023/24 period, with an update scheduled for Living Well Delivery Board in February 2024. Suicide prevention training (A Life Worth Living) is available, through Washington Mind, for people who live and work in Sunderland. During the first year of the contract period, 22 training courses have been delivered reaching a total of 304 participants from a range of organisations across the City. Sunderland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan covering the period of 2023-2026 was signed off by the Living Well Delivery Board in November 2023 and is aligned to the 2023 national strategy: 'Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy'. Progress made against the action plan has been positive and the Suicide Prevention Partnership will continue to drive the action plan forward, with regular updates provided to Living Well Delivery Board for oversight and assurance.

The Council continues to support healthy workplaces through the Better Health at Work Awards. In Quarter 3 businesses submitted their applications for assessment, with awards expected to be made by February 2024. At the end of Quarter 3, there were 53 businesses actively participating in the Better Health at work Awards. Alongside this, regular meetings of the Sunderland Workplace Health Alliance enables businesses to engage on the health, work and wellbeing agenda, supported by the Council. The number of businesses recruited to the Workplace Health Alliance Scheme has continued to increase with 158 businesses signed up as at the end of Quarter 3 (an increase on the 147 in 2022/23, 126 in 2021/22 and 108 in 2019/20.) A three-year Sunderland Workplace Health Strategy is in development, and currently being consulted upon with key partners and stakeholders for finalisation by the end of March 2024 – following which the action plan will be developed.

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

The Adult Social Care Strategy 2022-2024 sets out the vision for Adult Social Care in Sunderland and the three key priorities of: supporting people to live independently, supporting people to regain independence and helping people to live with support. 97.2% of people aged 18+ in the city live independently (without social care services) and we remain committed to ensuring people in the city can enjoy independent lives.

To achieve our vision, and deliver on our priorities, we aim to be a leader on the developing of technology enabled care and deployment of smart technology to work alongside other models of care. The Adult Social Care Digital Strategy is currently being finalised for publication in Quarter 4.

At the end of Quarter 3, 4,474 homes had assisted technology to support their care / independent living. Products such as Google, Alexa & Siri, smart lightbulbs and heating, home sensors and GPS trackers have many benefits that can be used to support people's care, health and wellbeing and help people to remain independent in their homes. Our 'Smart Home', located in Leechmere, was opened in Quarter 3 - providing a showcase for technology enable care. For those with dementia, this now being supported through the Home Safety Grant, with the first grants issued in Quarter 3, focusing on funding smart thermostat systems. Alongside this, we have commenced a pilot with health care professionals working in therapy, to support the dementia journey as early as possible with assisted technology and to enable early intervention with this user group.

As part of the digital offer, in 2023 we have implemented a range of Adult Social Care automated telephony Apps. Our Community Loan Equipment App and Wheelchair Apps, enable automated check-ins on how equipment is working, and swift identification of the need for repairs, replacements or returns. Our Reablement App checks in with customers every two weeks following an exit from the reablement service, supporting quick identification of customers who require further support or interventions to prevent an admission or readmission to hospital. Alongside these, we also have an App to seek customer feedback about our services.

Partnership work is progressing to ensure safe and timely hospital discharge with residents and carers central to discharge planning and receiving quality and timely advice and information. Following on from scoping work in Quarter 2, a new way of working was commenced in Quarter 3, with the implementation of the Transfer of Care Hub and related processes. In 2022/23 (latest available data) 78.9% of older people (65 and over) were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into rehabilitation services.

Work has been completed on two pilot programmes aimed at increasing the direct payment / personal budget offer with a view to increasing choice in care and enabling those who need social care to live the life they want to lead with support. The pilots, which provided targeted support to social work teams to increase direct payments, has seen the rates increase by 10%

since April 2023. Work is now progressing on the implementation of the new model of delivery following the completion of the pilots.

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

80.5% of people who use services have control over their daily lives based on confirmed figures (North-East 80.2%) - an improvement on the previous year (at 76.4%). In the same period 73.6% of people who used services in Sunderland felt safe (North-East 74.3%) an improvement on the previous year (at 72.5%). In Quarter 3, 95.9% of Adult Safeguarding cases were completed with the risk reduced or removed. In 78.6% of completed cases the individual was asked about the desired outcome and for those where this was expressed, in 95.7% of cases the outcome was achieved.

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

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

Key to this is having in place the necessary infrastructure. In Quarter 3, there was 182m adopted roads (taking the total for 2023/24 to 285m), 264m of new adopted footpaths (taking the total for 2023/24 to 340m). There were no new or improved cycleways in Quarter 3 (total for 2023/24 remains at 6,630). Three active travel schemes (Whitburn Road, Dame Dorothy Street and European Way) - at various stages of design, engagement and delivery are being progressed subject to funding.

Through our rapid charging station, we continue to support the wider use of electric vehicles in the city. There were 3,538 transactions at electric vehicle rapid charging units in Quarter 3 of 2023/24, up on the 2,565 in Quarter 2 of 2023/24. 2023/24 will see the expansion of the infrastructure to support electric vehicles with new residential community hubs in place by the end of the year and plans in place for future years for further rapid charging stations in the city.

Under the Low Carbon Action Plan strategic priority of Low Carbon and Active Transport we are encouraging take-up of active, sustainable travel options through a range of initiatives including Better Points. The Better Points App rewards users for walking, cycling and other low carbon and active travel through points that can be exchanged for a range of rewards. At the end of Quarter 3 there were 1,546 Sunderland users registered on the Better Points App (up on the 1,401 at the end of Quarter 2).

1,675 children have taken part in cycle training as at the end of December 2023 and 3,443 school children have taken part in pedestrian training.

We are also seeking to ensure that our own behaviours enable and encourage active and low carbon travel by increasing the proportion of the Council's fleet that are electric vehicles (9% in 2022/23), a Cycle to work scheme (32 bike orders in 2022/23) and a salary sacrifice scheme for public transport (used by 41 employees in 2022/23).

Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods

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

The percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting in Quarter 3 was 29% (7,505 tonnes recycled, reused or composted of 25,910 tonnes of total household waste). Comparator figures (%) for the North East and England are shown in the chart. We are working with the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) to change residents' behaviours around recycling and contamination of recycling. The South of Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership has a joint communications plan in place which includes regular recycling updates. During the festive period towards the end of December 2023, we delivered a campaign of communications to encourage recycling of Christmas waste, including flat packing of cardboard to maximise recycling space in recycle bins and communication correct bin usage for other Christmas waste to avoid contamination. We continue to promote and encourage the use of refill stations in the city to avoid single use plastic waste and as at the end of Quarter 3 Sunderland has approximately 125 refill stations (up by 5 on the end of Quarter 2).

At the end of Quarter 3, the percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level was 4.5%, lower than Quarter 2 (at 5%) and lower than the same period in the previous year (Quarter 3 of 2022/23 at 7.5%). The % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having levels of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level was 0% and graffiti was 1.5%. In Quarter 3 service requests within timescale were as follows: litter debris & leaves 98.9%, graffiti & flyposting 89.3%, animal fouling 98.3%, grass cutting 90.9%, shrubs & hedges 90% and fly tipping 98.2%. Performance for all areas was better than the target set for the service.

We are issuing sanctions where appropriate following enforcement investigations. In Quarter 3, 1,249 enforcement activities had been carried out. The enforcement activities included 402 investigations, 310 warning letters, 2 Community Protection Warnings, 4 Section 47 notices (businesses), 457 Section 46 notices (residents) and 74 other notices/activities. Both section 46 and 47 notices relate to the storage, disposal and presentation of waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

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

An environmental programme in the Coalfields area (Link Together) will deliver an ambitious and varied programme to upgrade 13 greenspaces improving access for residents in the area. Alongside environmental improvements such as woodland management, wetland creation, grassland restoration and other improvements, the programme will engage local communities generating benefits for health and well-being from accessing and connecting with nature.

VIBRANT SMART CITY

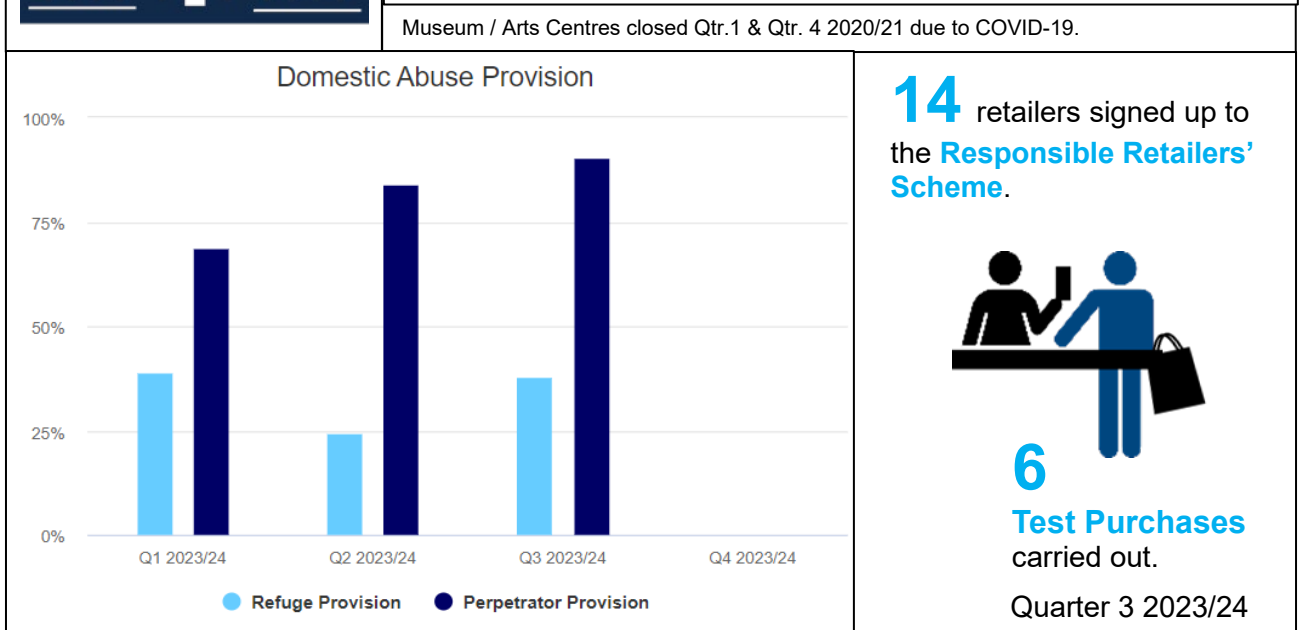
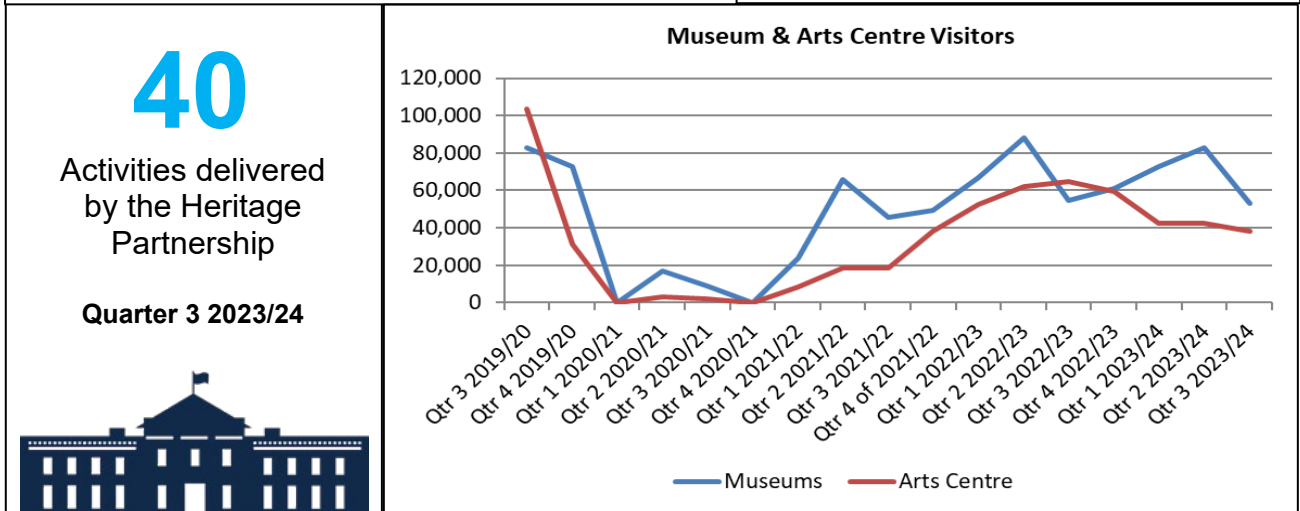
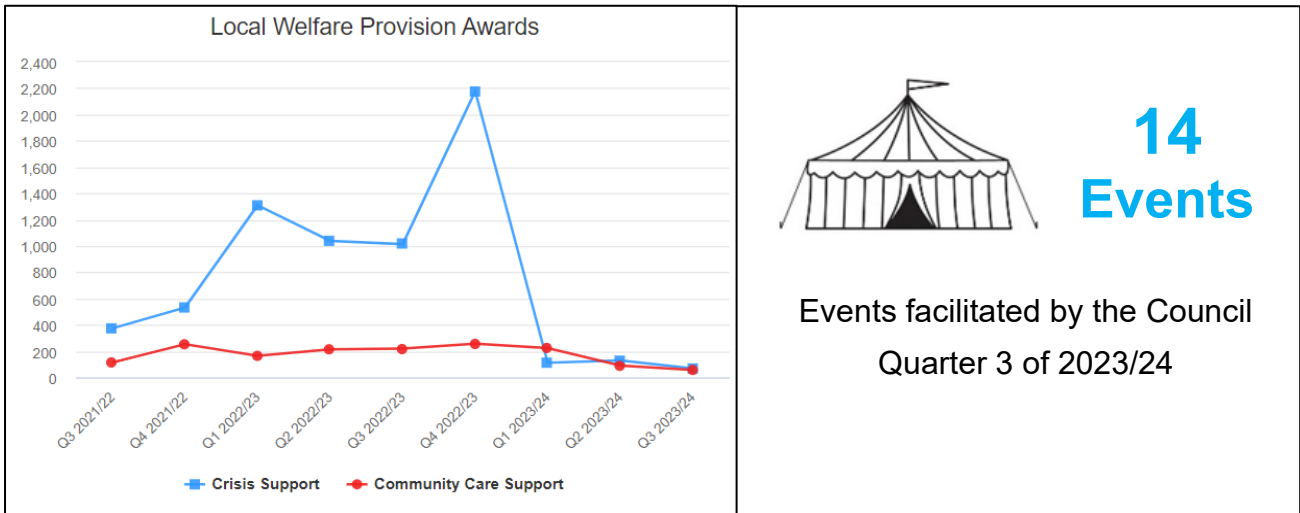
More resilient people – more people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods – more residents participating in their communities – more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Proportion of households considered to be fuel poor 2021: 13.8%	England 13.1%, NE 14%	Declining (2017/18: 12%)
Residents supported by food banks: Qtr.3 2023/24: 6,325	N/A	Improving (Qtr. 3 2022/23: 8,151)
Crime (recorded incidents) Apr – Dec 2023: 22,529	N/A	Declining (Apr – Dec 2022: 21,814)
Residents' feelings of safety (local) Jan 2023 – Dec 2023: 95%	Northumbria Force 94%	Improving (Jan 2022 – Dec 2022: 93%)
Recorded incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Dec 2023: 48	N/A	Improving (Dec 2022: 87)
Proportion of residents proud to live in Sunderland (Residents Survey) 2023: 43%	N/A	No change (2022/23 43%)
Number of visitors to the city 2022: 8,512,000	N/A	Declining (2018: 9,180,000)
Overall spend of visitors to the city 2022: £510m	N/A	Improving (2018: £475m)

COUNCIL LED PROGRESS AND ACTION



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

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

We know that our communities have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with hardship continuing for some in the face of challenges presented by the rise in the cost of living. The number of residents supported by the 6 food banks that report figures to the Council (Sunderland Foodbank, its Distribution Centres and 5 Independent food banks) rose continually over the two years of 2021/22 and 2022/23 peaking at 9,893 for Quarter 4 of 2022/23. In the first half of 2023/24 figure fell (6,319 in Quarter 2), however, it was anticipated that figures would rise in the latter half of the year reflecting seasonal trends. In Quarter 3, there were 6,325 residents supported by foodbanks.

In Quarter 3 there were 87 Crisis Support Awards (Local Welfare Provision) down on the 112 made in Quarter 2. In Quarter 4 of 2022/23 there were 1,014 awards, however, the figures are not comparable as Crisis Support Awards during 2022/23 included awards made under the Council's Household Support Fund. There were 79 Community Care Support Awards made in Quarter 3 - reduced on the 91 made in previous quarter (Quarter 2 of 2023/24) and reduced on the 220 awards made in the same period in the previous year (Quarter 3 of 2023/24).

Latest figures for Fuel Poverty are for 2021 with 13.8% of households considered to be fuel poor – higher than the England figure (at 13.1%) but lower than the North-East (at 14%). This is a small decrease of 0.8% percentage points compared to the figure for 2020. The 2023/4 timeline activity of develop Fuel Poverty Plan and partnership approach to Cost of Living Crisis support programme, was completed in Quarter 1 with the Financial Wellbeing Strategy agreed by Cabinet in June 2023, and delivery plan in place.

Following on from Warm and Welcoming spaces, funding was secured for continued work alongside the VCS to enhance delivery of essential local support services and activities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents - growing the 'Links for Life' social prescribing offer in the city. A call for projects was launched to the VCS in September 2023 with 34 applications approved for delivery involving 46 delivery partners / venues. The Links for Life delivery commences from January 2024 and is funded till the end of the year, with evaluation arrangements in place to assess outcomes. The Links for Life programme is being supported by the delivery of the 24 digital hubs to enable digital inclusion for all.

As at the end of December 2024, the average number of days in temporary accommodation for those presenting as homeless was 141 days. The Homelessness Reduction and Sleeping Rough Strategy, and its action plan have been approved by Cabinet and are being

implemented. Work has been progressed to develop the council's first rough sleeper accommodation. The Housing Service has identified 3 schemes to provide accommodation and support for clients who are homeless or have experienced rough sleeping. These will provide 34 units of accommodation with support, for clients with various levels of support needs and at various places on the journey from the street to independent living. The schemes are now expected to open in mid-2024 or early 2025.

We have been working to maximise the Housing Support Fund for the current year for vulnerable groups, with payments for agreed cohorts confirmed and issued by the end of January 2024.

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

Crime for April to December 2023 (at 22,529 recorded incidents) has increased when compared with the same period in the previous year (21,814 recorded incidents).

We are committed to disrupting criminal and anti-social behaviour through intervention and enforcement with 26 intelligence led pro-active disruption activities carried out in relation to licensing between April and December 2023. We hope to engage 100% of retailers in the city in our Responsible Retailers Scheme - with a further 15 retailers signing up in Quarter 3. We continue to work to prevent sales of age-restricted products and illicit tobacco / alcohol. Trading standards will carry out a visit following receipt of a complaint and additionally in Quarter 3 we carried out 6 test purchases.

Based in the heart of the city centre, the SAIL Project (Sunderland Altogether Improving Lives) aims to make Sunderland city centre safer, more attractive and more vibrant. At the end of its first year of operating (in December 2023) rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour was down by 82%, Alcohol related ASB down by 69%, Public Disorder down 21%, Burglary down 62%, Vehicle crime down 50%. Partners operating in the project include representatives from Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police, Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit, Sunderland BID (Business Improvement District) and support services.

Between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 (latest available data), there were 128 first time entrants (per 100,000 population aged 10-17) to the Criminal Justice System, better than the North-East figure of 146 and the England figure of 172. In Quarter 3, 1,229 young people have attended a prevention bus session. The bus visits schools and communities across the city and is a partnership effort to help ensure young people have healthy, happy lives and are not left behind. Staff on the bus provide support on topics such as bullying, online safety, mental health, sexual health, drug & alcohol issues and careers advice. A key aim of our prevention activity is to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system.

In Quarter 3, the percentage of residents surveyed who felt very or fairly safe was 95% - a 2% improvement on the same period in the previous year, and now above the Northumbria Police Force average (94%).

Sunderland's Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy is being refreshed for publication on 1st April 2024. A whole system approach to training will be explored with partners to equip those on the frontline to recognise abuse in its varying forms and with a focus around active bystander and how to challenge unacceptable behaviours and language. Improvements in feelings of safety amongst women will be monitored through the annual Residents Survey.

In April 2022, the council successfully launched a holistic Domestic Abuse Services model to meet its statutory obligations under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The service provides safe accommodation with specialist onsite support, specialist outreach support for survivors and children, early intervention, perpetrator intervention and support, a sanctuary scheme and a complex needs dispersed accommodation and support service. In Quarter 3, 38% (14 of 37)

refuge referrals were accommodated. 25 children were in accommodation during Quarter 3, with all receiving support. Refuge referrals may be rejected for a range of reasons including: if the client /survivor does not want support or they decline the accommodation offer, if they are identified as unsafe to work with, have previous convictions for offences such as arson / violence or their needs can be better met elsewhere. Where appropriate they will be signposted to other domestic abuse or housing services. A review of complex needs provision has been undertaken, resulting in a realignment of services for this cohort. In terms of the availability of suitable accommodation, a wider sufficiency review is underway of current provision assessed against the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) quality standards for safe supported accommodation provision (including refuge). It is anticipated that the review will be concluded by June 2024, and an improvement plan subsequently developed.

90% (28 of 31) eligible referrals to domestic abuse perpetrator services were accepted. Wider work in relation to perpetrators is ongoing with a whole system approach being explored with partners. The training will equip those on the frontline to recognise abuse in its varying forms, with a particular focus around active bystander and how to challenge unacceptable behaviours and language. This is supported by wider arrangements via the strategy priority pillar, Pursuing Perpetrators.

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

This commitment is about residents, including children and young people, being able to engage with and participate in their communities and feeling proud of where they live. Results from the Residents Survey carried out in Autumn 2023 are now available and show that the percentage of respondents that are proud to live in Sunderland is 43% - consistent with the findings of the 2022 survey (also at 43%).

Through our external communications we aim to increase awareness of the activities and opportunities in Sunderland that enable individuals to engage in their communities. Through our *#WeAllMakeSunderland* Civic Pride communication campaign we have been sharing and celebrating the stories of the people and places that make Sunderland. An evaluation will be completed by the end of March. We continue to engage people through Sunderland UK social media channels. Our audience continues to grow with 32,255 Facebook and 42,405 Twitter followers as at the end of Quarter 3.

We continue to seek opportunities to support people in Sunderland to contribute to their communities and the city through volunteering. In Quarter 3 this included: 459 people volunteering on place-based activities, and more on other volunteering opportunities including libraries, chaperones, digital inclusion support, walk leaders and Big Bike Ride volunteers.

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

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

Prior to 2020, the number of visitors to the city (and associated spend) showed a continued upward trend (visitor numbers increased from 8.24m in 2016 to 9.49m in 2019 and spend from £399m to £500m in the same period). As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in early 2020 however, cultural venues and events were particularly impacted due to the greater challenges of ensuring social distancing and safe delivery. In 2020, visitor numbers reduced to 4.38m and visitor spend to £219m. With Covid continuing to impact across 2021, figures remained low but improved, at 5.73m visitors and £314m visitor spend. Latest available figures, for 2022, show that visitor numbers increased to 8.51m visitors and £510m spend. Following on from the two-

year post-covid Tourism Recovery Plan, a new 10-year Tourism Strategy will take forward tourism for Sunderland. Through our City Plan we have committed to delivering new national and international sporting events and staging world class music events to attract visitors and for residents to enjoy.

Sunderland Empire Theatre re-opened its doors on 2nd September 2021, following Covid-19 restrictions with 212,237 visitors in 2021/2022. In 2022/23 there were 320,649 visitors with figures exceeding the two years prior to Covid (with visitor numbers at 266,440 in 2019/2020 and 304,314 in 2018/19). In Quarter 3 of 2023/24 there have been 97,863 visitors, down on the 126,778 visitors in Quarter 3 of 2022//23. The Museum and Winter Gardens and Washington Arts Centre re-opened mid-way through Quarter 1 of 2021/22 and received 184,979 visitors in the year 2021/22 and 270,954 visits in 2022/23. In Quarter 3 of 2023/24 there have been 208,616, there were 209,992 visits in the same period in the previous year (Quarter 3 of 2022/23). Figures for the Empire Theatre, Museum and Winter Gardens and Washington Arts Centre may vary in year subject to the venue programmes.

In Quarter 3, 48 organisations engaged in the Heritage Partnership Practitioners Network and 40 activities were delivered by the Heritage Partnership.


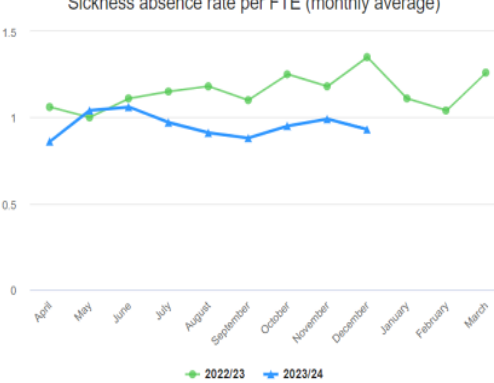
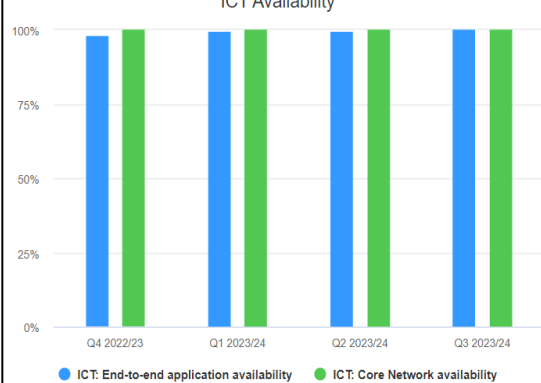


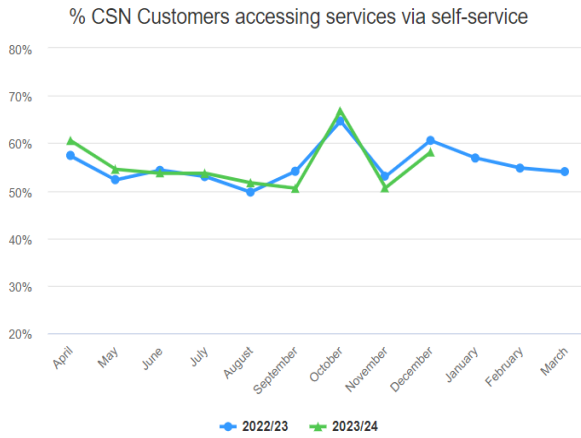
The National Glass Centre received 16,744 visitors in Quarter 3 (taking the total for April to December 2023 to 95,395).

In Quarter 3 there were 28,859 library issues (including physical books, eBooks / e-Audio and e-Magazine), 166 new adult members, 14,741 digital subscriptions and 342 interactions with the Books at Home delivery service.

ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

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



<p>2,702</p> <p>directly employed staff</p> <p>Dec 2023</p> 	<p>Sickness absence rate per FTE (monthly average)</p> 	<p>ICT Availability</p> 
<p>Council tax & business rates collection</p>	 <p>75.8% Qtr. 3 Target 76.9%</p>	 <p>81.5% Qtr. 3 Target 82%</p>
<p>% CSN Customers accessing services via self-service</p> 	<p>Current Position</p> <p>Forecast overspend of £0.368m</p> <p>Quarter 3</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>The forecast position takes into account delegated overspends and includes the estimated impact of the proposed national pay award.</p> <p>Further details can be found in the January Cabinet Third Revenue Budget Review report.</p>

Good organisational health and strong financial management

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

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

At the end of Quarter 3, there were 2,702 directly employed staff (12 less than in Quarter 2 of 2023/24) with a forecast budget position of a £0.368m overspend.

In previous periods the impact of Covid-19 became evident in Business Rates and Council Tax collection levels. Whilst our targets reflect the high levels of collection we aimed for pre-pandemic, we recognise there are ongoing challenges for our residents and in 2023/24 we seek to achieve a level no lower than within 5% of the target. At the end of Quarter 3, the Business Rates in year collection rate was 81.5% (target 82%) and Council Tax in year collection rate was 75.8% (target 76.9%).

In Quarter 3, £7,057,757 has been secured through funding bids for approved projects and programmes supported by the following funding initiatives: £1,566,000 Supporting Families Programme allocation, £183,000 Family Hubs grant, £3,795,826 for the 5G Innovation Regions project (Department for Science, Innovation & Technology), £1,462,931 for the Breathing Space Year 3 project (Department for Education) and £50,000 capacity funding to support the development of the Long-Term Plan for Towns initiative focused for Washington.

There were no reports to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by the Council in Quarter 3.

Productive and innovative working and a council ready for the future

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

The monthly sickness absence rate per FTE at the end of Quarter 3 is slightly lower than at the end of the same period in the previous year (1.35 December 2022, 0.93 December 2023), however, the current 12 month forecast, at 10.4 days as at the end of September 2023, remains above the target of 9 days absence per FTE per year. Following the reorganisation of the Council's structures, revised management information is in place for monitoring within Directorates. A regional benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2023 (data for year to 31st March 2023), in relation to sickness absence levels across the seven North-East Local Authorities and with 1 other organisation (ranked from 1 to 8, 1 being lowest (at 11.16 days per FTE) to 8 being highest (at 15.33 days per FTE), Sunderland had a rate of 12.2 days per FTE and was ranked 5th).

We continue to promote health and wellbeing for our employees through our three-year Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2025) and annual action plan. A range of advice, support services and workplace-based health and wellbeing activities are available to our employees. In Quarter 3 there were 314 attendances at healthy choice sessions delivered by the Council's Employee Wellness Coordinator. Through the Vivup Portal platform employees can get Health & Wellbeing support via a free to use Employee Assistance Programme as well as access shopping & entertainment vouchers, to make their money go further supporting financial resilience.

We continue to develop a new operating model to ensure that the council is as customer focused and effective as it can be. Alongside this, the adoption and enhancement of digital technologies continues, for smart working focused on efficient and effective customer outcomes.

Work is continuing to support frontline employees to engage and digitally transact, supporting the organisations Self-Serve model. At the end of Quarter 3, 430 frontline workers have access to a kiosk ICT licence which can be accessed on individual corporate devices, personal devices or digital touch down zones. To further widen access laptops in 63 catering locations have been enabled to support kiosk ICT licences. 16 Tech Mates volunteers have been recruited internally with 29 employees registered since November to be buddied by the Tech Mates to receive digital support. A Digitally Ready Toolkit will be launched providing information to managers on resources and support available.

The delivery of automation to enable self-service of personal information, leave and time related payments has increased to 60% of the Council's workforce, with the rollout moving onto to frontline workforce next quarter. Wrap around support and training is being offered to support frontline workers with digital skills and confidence. The Learning and Development team are delivering tailored group training courses and working with Sunderland College to expand the successful pilot of individual training, where frontline workers achieved a Level 1 digital skills qualification.

In Quarter 3, 58% (217,259) of our Customer Service Network customers accessed services through self-serve – exceeding the target of 46%.

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

7 MARCH 2024

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY, MAYORAL AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is two-fold, firstly it has a role in co-ordinating efficient business across the Scrutiny Committees and manage the overall Scrutiny Work Programme and secondly to consider the Council's corporate policies, performance and financial issues.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.3 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary).

3. Thematic Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

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

4. Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's Work Programme

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

5. Dedicated Scrutiny Budget

5.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committees to deliver the agreed Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes.

5.2 As of 23 February 2024 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

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

6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee:

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

7. Background Papers

7.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings

Tel: 0191 561 1006

Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

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

To Schedule

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

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

To Schedule:

- City Heat Networks (Peter Graham)
- Business Centres (Catherine Auld)
- Licensing Policy Review (Marion Dixon)
- Public Transport Update (Craig Mordue)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

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

Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

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

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS'
SUPPORT COORDINATOR****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 14 February 2024.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 14 February 2024 is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

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

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 14 February 2024 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
07554 414 878
Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

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

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

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
221006/744	To seek agreement to enter into the Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
230428/799	To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230818/831	To update Cabinet on the Masterplan proposals for High Street West, Sunderland and to seek approval to appoint a Multi-disciplinary Design Team to progress the feasibility, design and planning work to develop the Project.	Cabinet	Yes	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

						public interest in disclosing the information.		
Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231116/856	To consider Housing Investment and Delivery Plan Housing Disposals	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231120/857	To approve works to address storm damage to pier	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231211/863	To provide an update on the former Civic Centre site	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
240108/867	To approve the Community Asset Transfer Policy	Cabinet	N	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240115/868	To seek approval to the partnership with Salvation Army in the creation of a Homeless Hub	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240116/869	To consider the review of Public Spaces Protection Orders	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240118/870	To procure a developer for the Sheepfolds Neighbourhood of Riverside Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240119/871	To seek approval to enter into a new operating agreement with Sunderland BID Ltd for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240119/872	To seek acknowledgement of the Homes England Compliance Report	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240122/873	To receive an update on Sunnyside Regeneration Activity and to approve the Sunnyside Place Strategy	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240122/874	To procure consultants to deliver the Sunnyside Place Strategy	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240122/875	To provide an update on the delivery proposals for Riverside Park Sunderland and seek authority to proceed with procurement and construction of the first phases of work	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240126/876	To consider the updated Local Welfare Provision Policy and Discretionary Housing Payment Policy	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240201/877	To seek approval to procure works and award contracts for construction of a new school building for Thorney Close Primary School	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240201/878	To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2025-2026	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240202/879	To approve Council Tax Premiums and Discounts	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240205/880	To approve the Highways Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme 2024-2025	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240205/881	To seek approval to procure training providers to deliver the devolved Adult Education Budget – academic year 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240205/882	To seek approval to receive external funding to develop new sport and physical activity 'playZones' across the city.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240206/883	To seek approval to award funding to Third Sector organisations providing social care related services	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240208/884	To seek Cabinet approval for the letting of buildings at Hillthorn Business Park and Washington Road	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240208/885	To seek approval to transfer external grant funding to SLM to support additional revenue and capital costs incurred at the Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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240208/886	To approve a delivery model for the provision of Biodiversity Net Gain ("BNG") including the use of Council owned land and the passporting of monies secured from third parties for the delivery of BNG.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
240209/887	To seek approval to procure and appoint an Electric Vehicle Charge-point Operator to deliver Residential Community Charging Hubs	Cabinet	Y	During the period 14 March to 30 June 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

Who will decide;

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

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

Elaine Waugh,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

14 February 2024