

**Record of  
Executive  
Decisions  
published  
14/Mar/2024**

**Sunderland  
City Council**

Elaine Waugh  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall  
Sunderland

14 March 2024

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
14 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Honorary Freedom of the City – Report of the Chief Executive

**Full description of decision:**  
To recommend to Council that

i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972

- Kevin Ball; and
- Gerard (Ger) Fowler

as persons of distinction who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city, be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the City; and

ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

**Reasons for decision:**  
The proposal will formally recognise the achievements and contribution of Kevin Ball and Ger Fowler and the respect that the people of Sunderland hold for them.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
The alternative option would be to not agree the proposal, however conferring honorary freedom is considered to be appropriate in order to recognise the outstanding contribution made by the nominated individuals.

**Contact Officer:** Bev Poulter

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

**Date decision in force:**

14 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Appointment of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman of the City of Sunderland – Report of the Chief Executive

**Full description of decision:**

To recommend to Council that

- (i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the titles of Honorary Alderman, and Honorary Alderwoman of the City, on former Councillors Mr Peter Wood and Mrs Louise Farthing, in recognition of their eminent service to the Council and to the people of the City of Sunderland.
- (ii) authority be given for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree all appropriate arrangements for the formal ceremony at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at the earliest opportunity.

**Reasons for decision:**

The appointments to the position of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman are a fitting way to formally recognise the distinguished service of former Councillors, both to the Council and to the City of Sunderland.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To make no appointments to the position of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman. This option is not recommended as it would fail to take an opportunity for the Council to recognise and celebrate the significant contribution made to civic life through the distinguished service of these former Councillors.

**Contact Officer:** Gillian Robinson

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

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Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

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14 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme  
2024/2025 – Joint report of the Director of Finance and Assistant Director of  
Law and Governance

**Full description of decision:**

To consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and make appropriate recommendations to Council, in respect of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2024/2025.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2024/2025, as this is a statutory requirement.

**Contact Officer:** Elaine Waugh

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**Is this a key decision:** No

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

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Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Council Tax Premiums and Discounts – Report of the Director of Finance

**Full description of decision:**

To

- a) approve the reduction in the amount of time a property needs to be classed as empty and unfurnished before a 100% Council Tax premium is applied from the current two years to twelve months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025;
- b) agree to introduce a 100% Council Tax premium for those properties classed as a 'second home' from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025; and
- c) authorise the Director of Finance to consult on proposed changes to the award of council tax discounts as detailed in section 4 of the report.

**Reasons for decision:**

Applying a reduced period of time before the empty homes premium can be applied in line with national legislation will assist with encouraging empty homes to be brought back into use. Application of the second homes premium will deliver additional council tax income for the council and its precepting bodies. The earliest that the Second Home Premium of 100% could be applied is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 as the Council's first determination on using Section 80 of the Act, must be made at least one year before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates. It would generate increased revenue income by increasing the amount of council tax paid by second homeowners.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

With regard to Empty Homes Premium, there was an option available to leave the qualifying period at two years. However, by applying the premium earlier it is likely to accelerate the rate at which unoccupied properties are either sold on or brought back in to use. Similarly, there is an option not to introduce the Second Home Premium, this is rejected on the basis that it would impact on the amount of council tax that could be raised.

**Contact Officer:** Paul Wilson

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**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**  
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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Homeless Support Hub – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**

To: -

1. approve the development of a joint working partnership with the Salvation Army in the creation of a new homeless support hub; and
2. approve in principle the award of grant funding to the Salvation Army from the approved Inspiring Future capital programme to enable the development of a new city multi service support homeless hub and the actual costs to be reported at a future Cabinet for consideration.

**Reasons for decision:**

Cabinet approved the Homelessness Reduction and Sleeping Rough Strategy 2023 – 2028 on 16th March 2023 and then approved the Homelessness Action Plan on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 which outlines the need to have comprehensive response and support for those people sleeping rough, homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The provision of a Homeless Support Hub within the city has been identified as a valuable service in response to those homeless and sleeping rough. The Homelessness Health Needs Assessment identified the Homeless Support Hub as a key point of service access and support for those homeless and was highlighted to support their well-being.

The Homeless Support Hub currently in operation in the city is delivered by Oasis Community Housing, this service has been supported by the Council through a grant award up to the end March 2025. This provision although vital has always been agreed as short-term solution and it is well understood that a more comprehensive and holistic provision for the long term is required, which is why the opportunity to support the Salvation Army to create a new Homeless Support Hub within their existing building at Swan Lodge is an ideal opportunity to look at a long-term homeless provision with multi service delivery and partnerships.

As the grant award will be over £50,000 Cabinet approval is required under the Council's constitution.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To continue with the existing Homeless Support Hub provision with Oasis Community Housing was considered and rejected as the breadth of support services needed in the future Homeless Support Hub could not be accommodated within the existing premises in a way that would provide the long-term aspirational services that needs to be delivered to ensure those presenting as sleeping rough and homeless can get all support in one point of access.

**Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None



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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

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**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Homes England Compliance Audit Report 2023-24 – Provider’s  
Acknowledgement of Report – Report of the Executive Director of Health,  
Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**  
To formally acknowledge the Homes England Compliance Audit Report 2023-24 and any contained recommendations.

**Reasons for decision:**  
Homes England requires that the contents of the Homes England Compliance Audit Report 2023-24 including all recommendations must be acknowledged by the Provider Board’s Chair or equivalent and for the Council this would be Cabinet. Confirmation of this acknowledgement must be recorded in the IMS Compliance Audit System by the Compliance Audit Lead no later than three calendar months of the report email notification being sent

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
That the Council does not proceed acknowledge the Homes England Compliance Audit Report 2023-24  
This option has been considered and rejected as failure to acknowledge the report and its recommendations would jeopardise future grant funding as we would not meet Homes England Audit requirements and there would be wider reputational damage to the Council in failing to meet our Audit responsibilities.

**Contact Officer:** Graham Scanlon

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

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**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Local Welfare Provision Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payment Scheme Policy Updates – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**

To:

1. approve the revised Local Welfare Provision Scheme Policy
2. approve the revised Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme Policy
3. delegate responsibility for ongoing administration and routine review of the Discretionary Financial Support Schemes including updating associated Operational Guidance to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Vibrant City

**Reasons for decision:**

There is a need to update our Discretionary Financial Support Scheme Policies. There is a need to firm up the criteria, make applicants obligations clearer and importantly, confirm that the extent of available support will in most cases be more limited in future.

These policy changes will underpin the other changes being made to internal processes, staff guidance and public and professional communications.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No other suitable options were considered, due to the outstanding need to bring these schemes up to date and the extent of the available budgets to support the schemes.

**Contact Officer:** Graham Scanlon

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

PlayZones – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- i) The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City and the Director of Finance, to accept the award of grant funding from the Football Foundation for Portfolio 1 and subject to further successful applications for Portfolios 2-5 and enter into any required funding agreements for the delivery of up to five PlayZones within Sunderland.
- ii) Approve the funding arrangements for the delivery of the PlayZones (including the provision by the Council of match funding) and approve any resultant variations to the capital programme.
- iii) Subject to the award of funding for any of the PlayZones being received authorise:
  - a) the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City and the Director of Finance to procure and award contracts for the design and construction of each of the PlayZones such contractors to be procured by the Council through the Football Foundations framework on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities in consultation with the Director of Finance;
  - b) the Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve any subsequent variations to any contract awarded for the delivery of the PlayZones as may be required to ensure their delivery in accordance with the requirements of the funding arrangements subject always to the funding being available to fund the works.

- iv) Authorise the Director of Finance to enter into any letting arrangements for the PlayZones on terms (including the grant of rent concessions) to be agreed by the in consultation with the Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities and the Cabinet Secretary.

**Reasons for decision:**

The development of PlayZones will continue to support the ambition of the City Council's Active Sunderland Service area to enable and facilitate opportunities for everyone to be as physically active as they can be. PlayZones will also make a positive impact on the strategic priorities of the City Plan and drive forward the Health & Wellbeing Board's priority of reducing inactivity. Pursuant to the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules respectively the procurement of works in excess of £500,000 and the provision of match funding require Cabinet approval.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative is not to support the project, however in doing so, this would result in a reduction in the number of residents from areas of need, having access to local, modern and safe spaces to participate in sport and physical activity.

**Contact Officer: Gerry Taylor**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Swimming Pool Support Fund – Phase 1 Revenue: Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre – Report of the Director of Finance

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the award of £68,796 grant funding from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) to SLM for operating costs relating to energy and chemical use incurred in 2023/24 at Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre, on such terms as approved by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Council submitted a bid proposal in conjunction with SLM in August 2023 seeking revenue funding support for 3 priority venues in the city: Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre; Raich Carter Sports Centre; and Sunderland Aquatic Centre. The funding decision was announced in September 2023, confirming funding approval of £68,796 for the Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre. The funding bids for Raich Carter and the Aquatic Centre were unsuccessful.

It is a requirement of the SPSF that it is specifically used to directly support energy and chemical costs at the approved venue between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. Cabinet approval is required for the payment of the grant to the operator for eligible costs incurred during this period as the proposed grant exceeds £50,000.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The grant award from Sport England's SPSF was specifically allocated to the Hetton Community Pool and Wellness Centre in response to a competitive national funding competition. The Council, working with SLM, applied for revenue grant support for 2 other local venues but those proposals were unsuccessful. A decision to reject this recommendation would result in the loss of £68,796 grant to support operating costs at the facility.

**Contact Officer:** Victoria French

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Councillor Price and the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities declared an interest as Directors of Sunderland Lifestyle Partnership Board and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Johnston declared an interest as an employee of SLM and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Chequer declared an interest as her partner was an employee of SLM and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

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Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Repairs to the Old North Pier, New South Pier and Roker Pier – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- i. Endorse the arrangements that have been put in place for the procurement and funding for the emergency repairs to the New South Pier due to damage sustained during the October 2023 storms;
- ii. Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Director of Finance to appoint a contractor(s) for the urgent works for the three Old North Pier, New South Pier and Roker Pier; and
- iii. Approve the funding arrangements for delivery of the proposed works and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.

**Reasons for decision:**

During the middle of October 2023, the coastline of Sunderland was subject to the effects of Storm Babet which brought severe, adverse weather to the region in the form of high winds and significant levels of precipitation. This resulted in some of Sunderland's coastal defences sustaining significant damage. The storm lasted from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and had a direct impact upon the Old North Pier, New South Pier & Roker Pier.

Work commenced on the new South Pier during December 2023 to undertake emergency repairs at a committed cost of £0.2m.

These structures protect vital infrastructure and residential properties along the port frontage and mitigate the effects of sedimentary deposition along the route of the Port of Sunderland's main access (navigation channel).

Approval is sought for funding and the appointment of contractor(s) to allow for the urgent repairs to be undertaken to these Old North Pier, New South Pier & Roker Pier that should help prevent further structural degradation and maintain the functionality of the port and affected areas.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No alternatives are submitted for Cabinet's consideration, the works are required to prevent further structural degradation and to protect the functionality of the port and nearby areas.

**Contact Officer:** Craig Mordue

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**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None



## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Review of City-Wide Public Spaces Protection Order – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- a) endorse the introduction of the prohibitions/requirements set out in paragraphs 5.9 - 5.26 and agree to omit the measures set out in 5.27 - 5.28 of the report in the making of a new 3-year City-Wide PSPO.
- b) agree to retain the fixed penalty amount at the current level for breaches of the PSPO, which is currently set at £100, reduced to £75 if paid within 10 days as set out in paragraph 6 of the report; and
- c) authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, to determine the final form of the PSPO and to take all steps in connection with the making of the PSPO.

**Reasons for decision:**

The suggested reason for decision will ensure the Council can continue to utilise all the powers available to them to address non-law-abiding behaviour and environmental crime in the city ensuring the area continues to be a pleasant one to visit, work and play. The proposed PSPO is based on complaints, service requests, intelligence, resident surveys and the outcomes of the PSPO consultation.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The recommended options are based on evidence and consultation. The only other option would be not to have a PSPO for the City, however the Council would therefore weaken its ability to tackle anti-social behaviour, protect the community and respond to a range of issues which residents have stated are important to them.

**Contact Officer: Michelle Coates**

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**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
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**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) Operating Agreement –  
Report of the Executive Director of City Development

### **Full description of decision:**

- (i) To note and endorse the requirement for the Council to enter into a new Operating Agreement with Sunderland BID Ltd for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 in accordance with The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004; and
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to grant financial assistance of £50,000 per annum for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 to Sunderland BID Ltd to support work targeted at independent businesses and on such other terms as may be approved.

### **Reasons for decision:**

The BID was successful in securing a third, five-year term in Sunderland in the ballot which was announced on 30 November 2023. It is anticipated that this will generate more than £3.5m via levy payments, over the 5-year term, to address priorities identified with the City Centre business community. The economic regeneration of the City Centre is a key element of the City Plan and it is important for the Council to engage pro-actively with the BID and support its work to maximise what can be achieved during the third term.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The option of not actively engaging with and supporting the work of the BID has been considered and rejected due to the significance of the City Centre and its economic regeneration within the City Plan.

**Contact Officer:** Catherine Auld

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

### **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Councillors G Miller and Rowntree declared interests as Directors of the BID and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

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22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Sunniside Regeneration Update and Sunniside Place Strategy – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- i) Note the progress update provided in the report in relation to the regeneration of the Sunniside area.
- ii) Approve the launch of the Sunniside Place Strategy and authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, and the Director of Finance, to procure all necessary resources to implement the delivery plan included in the Sunniside Place Strategy (including where relevant the extension and variation of existing appointments), subject to the terms as set out in this report.

**Reasons for decision:**

Sunniside is an area of real potential and is the beating heart of Sunderland's creative economy. It has however suffered from a cycle of failing employment and economic activity, rising crime and anti-social behaviour, depopulation, and physical decay. To address these challenges and allow Sunniside fulfil its incredible potential as a liveable, creative neighbourhood within the urban core there needs to be a clear strategy and action plan for social and economic growth.

The Sunniside Place Strategy is an overarching framework that provides a clear direction and vision to inform the required actions needed to bring about positive change and secure long-term stewardship by the people who live, work, and play in the area.

The Sunniside Place Strategy will act as an evidence base to attract future investment and guide future development, property use, and service provision to ensure they are aligned with the Council's regeneration objectives and satisfy the needs and ambitions of local residents and stakeholders.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The alternative option is not to approve the launch of the Place Strategy. The Place Strategy is however key to driving the ongoing regeneration activity in Sunnyside as well as providing a robust basis for decision making and supporting external funding bids. Without an approved strategy there would be a lack of clear vision and coordination of future activity. This option is therefore recommended to be rejected.

**Contact Officer: Neil Guthrie**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
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22 March 2024

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14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Riverside Park, Riverside Sunderland – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- (i) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, and the Director of Finance, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery of parcels 2,3 and 7 of Riverside Park as identified on the plan in Appendix 1 (“the Scheme”), including the award of all construction contracts and any other relevant professional appointments; and
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City, and the Director of Finance, to approve any subsequent variations to any construction contracts as may be required to deliver the Scheme subject always to adequate funding being available within the approved project budget.

**Reasons for decision:**

Riverside Park is a critical element of the Riverside Sunderland masterplan providing high quality green space and biodiversity to support the creation of a new urban quarter at the heart of the city.

Parcels 2 and 3 form the new southern entrance to Riverside Park, facilitate the completion of the landscape environment and the sustainable urban drainage system, and the formation of Kingsley Gardens, a new community garden, which will serve the new and existing residential neighbourhoods and support the city’s drive towards healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

Parcel 7 will unlock a new community and event space and create connectivity between the residential development and the River Wear.

Collectively the Scheme will create an accessible new community and family orientated social and activity space that will create added value, and be a key marketing tool, for prospective residents and employers moving into Riverside Sunderland.

The Council's Constitution requires prior Cabinet approval for the procurement and award of contracts where the value of a proposed procurement exceeds £500,000. Procurement needs to commence imminently in order that the spaces can be constructed and can mature prior to opening of Riverside Park and occupation of the first residential dwellings and hosting public events and activations in 2025.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

(i) Not to deliver the Scheme.

This option has been considered and is recommended to be rejected as Riverside Park is a critical element of the Riverside Sunderland masterplan and is essential for the delivery of biodiversity net gain as well as supporting the Council's wider objective to deliver healthy active lifestyles for local people.

(ii) Seek cabinet approval once the procurement process has been completed.

This option has been considered and is recommended to be rejected as it does not align with the Council's constitution and any delay would mean that the community facilities and public open space would not be delivered or have matured in time for occupation of the new residential properties and could also jeopardise the ability to hold city centre events and activations in 2025.

**Contact Officer: Neil Guthrie**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

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Cabinet

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Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
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14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme 2024-2025 – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the Highway Maintenance Capital Programme 2024-25 as follows:

- a) approve those highway maintenance schemes set out in Appendix 1;
- b) approve those bridge maintenance schemes set out in Appendix 3;
- c) approve the Integrated Transport Capital Programme schemes set out in Appendix 5; and
- d) approve amendments to those schemes deferred from the 2023-2024 capital programme set out in Appendices 2, 4 and 6.

**Reasons for decision:**

To establish the planned Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2024-2025 which will enable the necessary design, procurement and construction works on the schemes contained therein to commence.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

No alternatives are proposed as these programmes are the appropriate option for the Council, as the local highway authority, determined following a detailed review, including through consultations with Local Area Neighbourhood and Community Boards.

**Contact Officer:** Craig Mordue

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None



## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Delivery of Electric Vehicle Residential Community Charging Hubs – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- 1) Approve a programme of works to deliver Electric Vehicle Residential Community Charging Hubs in phases across the city as detailed in section 4 of the report;
- 2) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder, to procure and subsequently appoint a single contractor to supply, manage and operate the charge-points;
- 3) Subject to confirmation of the funding, approve the inclusion of the additional funding for the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles funded On-Street Residential Charging Scheme and the resultant variation to the Capital Programme;
- 4) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder to procure a concession agreement with an operator in respect of the existing legacy charge points set out in paragraph 4.4; and
- 5) Authorise the Chief Executive, Executive Director of City Development and/or the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to execute all legal documents as required to give effect to the above.

**Reasons for decision:**

The decision is required to:

- a) enable the Council to deliver electric vehicle charge-point infrastructure in the public highway and council managed car parks;
- b) procure a skilled and experienced contractor for the delivery of the scheme; and
- c) comply with the Council's constitution which requires cabinet approval for all procurements with a value in excess of £0.5m. This proposed scheme will exceed this value.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The following options have been considered and are recommended to be rejected;

- 1) **Do nothing:** this would not support the Council's ambition to assist the uptake of electric vehicles as set out within the City Plan and Low Carbon Action Plan.
- 2) **Defer the works:** this could lead to significant delays and potential loss of grant funding secured by the Council.

**Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Proposed Delivery Model for the provision of Biodiversity Net Gain – Joint report of the Executive Director of City Development and Director of Finance

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- Note the implementation of mandatory BNG at a minimum of 10% as a condition of most planning approvals following the enactment of the requisite parts of the Environment Act 2021;
- Approve the principle of the use of appropriate Council sites for the delivery of BNG and authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and the Director of Finance, to identify and determine which Council sites shall be made available for BNG;
- Authorise the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Director of City Development and the Cabinet Secretary, to grant leasehold interests on such terms as are approved (including where appropriate the grant of rent concessions) to relevant third parties of Council land for the delivery and management of BNG;
- Authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to advertise the proposed leasehold disposal for BNG purposes of any land intended for such use which is held as open space in accordance with section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Authorise the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary and the Executive Director of City Development to consider and determine any objections made in response to such notice;
- Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and the Director of Finance, to acquire third party land for the subsequent delivery of BNG and/or wider ecological mitigation works on such terms as may be agreed, provided there is available budget provision for the relevant acquisition; and

- Authorise the provision of grant funding received via Section 106 contributions or through a Conservation Covenant to relevant third parties to deliver and manage BNG on Council sites, such funding to be provided on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Deputy Leader and the Director of Finance.

**Reasons for decision:**

The delivery of BNG is to be a mandatory requirement in most planning approvals and as such the Council wishes to establish a mechanism to support the delivery of BNG in Sunderland to continue to facilitate development and promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the city. The delivery model proposed will promote the delivery of BNG on suitable Council owned sites and, as a result of implementing the Environment Act legislation, assist the Council in improving the management of land for BNG purposes and enhancing the city's natural environment. It will also enable the Council to comply with its Biodiversity duty as set out in the Environment Act and assist with delivery of the emerging South of Tyne and Wear Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Given that many of these sites have the benefit of public access, which will be retained, this provides the potential for positive health and wellbeing impacts for our residents, as set out within the Integrated Impact Assessment (Appendix 1).

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

1. **Do nothing** – this has been considered and rejected as BNG is now a mandatory requirement. Failure to adopt a model for delivery utilising Council land could delay development within the city as the market for biodiversity units has yet to develop at any significant scale.
2. **Alternative delivery models** – As set out in the report, the Council has considered potential alternative delivery models for BNG in the city including the establishment of a Council owned special purpose vehicle. However, at this time, it has been determined that the delivery models recommended within this report are the most proportionate and deliverable methods in terms of what the Council wishes to achieve and are therefore recommended for approval.

**Contact Officer: Catherine Auld**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Children, Education and Skills  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Proposal to Procure Works and Award Contracts for the New Thorney Close Primary School Buildings – Report of the Director of Children’s Services

**Full description of decision:**

To:

- (i) Authorise the Director of Children’s Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills to procure and award all required contracts for the completion of construction works to deliver a new build Thorney Close Primary School on the site of the former Sunningdale Primary School; and
- (ii) Authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to execute all relevant documents in order to give effect to the above.

**Reasons for decision:**

The funding of a replacement school building for Thorney Close Primary School is included within the capital programme. The procurement and award of a construction contract is required to deliver the new building.

The value of the contract required exceeds £0.5m therefore requires Cabinet approval in accordance with the requirements of the Council’s constitution.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

To not procure works to deliver the new Thorney Close Primary School. Failure to deliver the scheme would result in Thorney Close Primary School remaining on a site that is inappropriate for its educational offer, would not provide a low carbon, energy efficient school building for the local area, would not facilitate the follow on, and more appropriate subsequent use of the current Thorney Close Primary School site as a Special Educational Needs setting post 2026 which would lead to a subsequent lack of capacity within that sector.

**Contact Officer:** Alan Rowan

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**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Children, Education and Skills  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

School Admissions Arrangements for the 2025-2026 Academic Year – Report of the Director of Children’s Services

**Full description of decision:**

To approve the following for the 2025-2026 academic year;

1. The admissions policy and procedures associated with the co-ordinated scheme of admissions;
2. The criteria that will be applied for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools where over-subscription occurs; and
3. The published admission numbers (PANs).

**Reasons for decision:**

Cabinet approval of the city’s maintained school admission arrangements is required prior to submission to the Department for Education (DfE) and publication for parents making applications for primary and secondary school admissions for the September 2025-2026 academic year.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Given the requirements described above there are no alternative recommendations to consider in relation to the proposed admission arrangements.

**Contact Officer:** Alan Rowan

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** No

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Cllr Williams declared an interest as a Chair of Governors of an academy seeking to reduce its PAN and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Children, Education and Skills  
Scrutiny Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Funding arrangements for the Adult Education Budget – Family, Adult and Community Learning Provision for 2024/2025 – Report of the Director of Children’s Services

**Full description of decision:**

To seek approval for the competitive process by which funding from the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) will be awarded to providers for the delivery of Adult Education Budget - Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) training courses in the academic year 2024/2025 to support the city’s strategic priorities.

**Reasons for decision:**

To:

- Agree the competitive process to be followed that will enable the identification and selection of suitable providers to ensure the delivery of training outcomes that support the city’s strategic priorities.
- Authorise the Executive Director of Children Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills, to undertake the competitive process for providers of FACL training courses in the academic year 2024/25, as set out in the report, and subsequently to award the proposed funding agreements to the successful providers.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

The decision is required to:

- a) Enable the Council to comply with the grant funding from NEMCA and ensure the delivery of training outcomes for residents of Sunderland.
- b) Select suitable and experienced training providers to deliver quality Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) training courses in the academic year 2024/2025 via grant funding arrangements.
- c) Obtain Cabinet approval before Chief Officer’s provide assistance to any third party by way of loan, grant or guarantee of over £50,000 to any one body in any one financial year. The proposed competitive process will result in grant funding awards to successful providers some of which may be in excess of £50,000.



**Contact Officer: Julie Gwilym**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## **Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024**

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Grant Funding to Third Sector Organisations providing social care related services – Report of the Director of Adult Services

**Full description of decision:**

To:

1. approve the award of:

- a) grant funding for 2024/2025 of £107,441 to Sunderland People First, who are a self-advocacy group for people with learning disabilities and autism; and
- b) grant funding for 2024/2025 of £132,205 to Washington Mind, who are the lead partner in a consortium with Sunderland Mind and Sunderland Headlight, providing a My Life Support project to people with mental health needs.

and

- 2. authorise the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City and the Director of Finance to determine and award grant funding to the above organisations for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 subject to funding being available within the approved budget.

**Reasons for decision:**

The Council continues to support the important work of Sunderland People First (SPF). A lack of continued funding would be detrimental to not only the organisation and those it employs, but to people with learning disabilities and autism, who require a locally based, independent self-advocacy group.

The grant funding requested will also sustain the My Life Support Project, which is provided by a consortium of local mental health organisations, led by Washington Mind. Without the funding, the project would either need to reduce capacity, meaning less people would benefit from the support or the project would cease, which would impact on the health and well-being of the people it supports.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

**Do not provide funding to SPF** - this option is rejected. Funding from the Council ensures the continued delivery of the organisation's objectives and contributes to the overall sustainability of the organisation.

**Do not provide funding to Washington Mind, who are the lead consortium partner in the My Life Support Project** – this option is rejected. Without continued funding, the My Life Support project would either need to reduce capacity, meaning less people would benefit from the support or the project may cease, which would impact on the health and well-being of the people it supports.

**Contact Officer:** **Graham King**

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	No
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
High Street West Development, Riverside Sunderland – Report of the  
Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	Yes
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

2024 Siglion Business Plan – Report of the Executive Director of City  
Development

**Full description of decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Councillors G Miller and Rowntree, together with the Chief Executive, declared interests as Members of the Siglion Board and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Disposal of Industrial Property in Washington and Related Matters – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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**Is this a key decision:** Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:** Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

Councillors G Miller and Rowntree declared an interest as Members of the IAMP Board.

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Grant of Option to Sell Property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	Yes
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None

## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**

Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**

22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**

14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**

Procurement of Developer for the Proposed Redevelopment of the Sheepfolds Neighbourhood of Riverside Sunderland – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

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**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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**Is this a key decision:**

Yes

**Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:**

Yes

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

None



## Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Mar/2024

**Decision Taker:**  
Cabinet

**Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:**  
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date decision in force:**  
22 March 2024

**Date of decision:**  
14 March 2024

**Title and author(s) of written report:**  
Letting of Space at Hillthorn Business Park and Washington Road – Report of  
the Executive Director of City Development

**Full description of decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Reasons for decision:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**  
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

**Contact Officer:** Peter McIntyre

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<b>Is this a key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:</b>	Yes
<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	None