

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,
Sunderland on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 5.30 p.m.**

Membership

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

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	-
2.	Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 7th December 2023 (copy attached).	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Smart City Progress Update	8
	Report of the Director of Smart Cities (copy attached)	
5.	Sickness Absence Update	9
	Report of the Director of Smart Cities (copy attached)	
6.	City Plan and Indicative Timeline Assurance Process	10
	Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs (copy attached)	

7. **Annual Work Programme 2023/24** 12
Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support
Co-ordinator (copy attached).

8. **Notice of Key Decisions** 20
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.

9th January 2024.

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mason-Gage in the Chair.

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

Also in attendance:-

Martin Bewick, Senior Housing Manager, Health Housing and Communities Directorate
Anthony Crabb, Development Director (Commercial)
Richard Cullen, School Improvement Services Lead, TfC
Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate
Claire Emmerson, Assistant Director of Finance, Finance Directorate
Neil Guthrie, Development Director (Residential)
Simon Marshall, Director of Education, TfC
Marc Morley, Director of Environmental Services
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
Graham Scanlon, Assistant Director of Housing Services, Health Housing and Communities 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 Councillor Morrissey.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th November 2023

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th November, 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 6 Performance Management Update – Quarter 2 of 2023/24

Councillor Mullen made an open declaration regarding section i) Dynamic Smart City in respect of work he was undertaking with the School of Education at the University of Exeter.

**Reference from Cabinet – 9 November 2023
Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 to 2027/2028**

The Director of Finance presented a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on a report considered by Cabinet on 9 November 2023 which detailed:

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

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

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance together with Officers from the Directorates concerned, addressed questions and comments from Members in relation to:-

- The importance of retaining a cinema within the options for Sunnyside leisure,
- The impact of the current condition of the former Joplings building given its importance as a gateway to Sunnyside,
- The operation of the Barnes Park Café,
- Funding of the Wear Footbridge
- Funding of the replacement Houghton Depot

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

2. RESOLVED that it be reported to Cabinet that:-

'The Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report including the overall capital commitments for the coming financial year, as well as the additional capital new start projects. The Committee has nothing further to add at this time.'

**Reference from Cabinet – 7 December 2023
Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 –
2027/2028**

The Assistant Director of Finance presented a report (copy circulated) which sought the views of the Committee on a report considered by Cabinet on 7 December 2023 which:

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

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

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance briefed the Committee on the report highlighting paragraph 3.4 concerning Central Government Funding for Local Government, the Medium Term Financial Plan detailed at paragraph 3.5 of the Cabinet report. There was a revised budget gap of £1.3m in 2024/25 and a figure of £42m over the period 2025/2026 to 2027/2028.

Members were informed of the updated spending pressures (as detailed in paragraph 3.6) following those reported to the Committee in October. There were no details yet regarding Sunderland's likely share of the funding provided by Central Government. The Chancellor had delivered the Autumn Statement to Parliament on 22nd November 2023, a week later than in 2022, meaning that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was highly unlikely to be announced any earlier than last year (19th December). Cabinet was due to meet again on 18th January 2024.

Mr Wilson then addressed questions and comments from Members in relation to:-

- Public Health and Social Care funding,
- The sustainability of Sunderland City Council going forward based on current funding allocations, shortfalls and use of reserves,
- Potential workforce planning implications arising from the budget planning process.

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

3. RESOLVED that it be reported to Cabinet that:-

- i) The Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report including the medium-term financial and budget planning framework and acknowledges the budget saving proposals as well as the remaining overall budget gap, and
- ii) The Committee recognises the difficult financial situation that the Council continues to operate within and remains focused on monitoring the budget position

through updates provided at this Committee and has no further comments to make at this time.

Performance Management Update – Quarter 2 of 2023/24

The Senior Manager, Corporate Strategy, submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 2 of 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

The Committee was informed that during the work programme development sessions, Members had requested that they were able to take a deep dive into one of the key themes of the report each time it appeared as an agenda item. The Key Theme for this evening's meeting was Dynamic and Smart City. During the presentation of the Quarter 1 report, the Committee had expressed concern at the exam performance of Sunderland pupils (particularly in relation to Maths and English) and the implications around this. Concern was also expressed regarding school attendance rates, the growth of elective home education and the levels of unauthorised absence. Consequently, Mr. Simon Marshall, Director of Education and Mr. Richard Cullen, School Improvement Services Lead had been invited to attend the meeting to address questions from Members in relation to those issues.

Members were informed that following the City Plan's publication in 2019, an annual review and assurance process had been undertaken each year, to ensure that delivery remained focused on achieving the plan's vision & commitments, whilst taking account of any change in context. The latest assurance, developed in consultation with the committee, 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 that had been made on the delivery of the plan through the completion of the plan's Timeline Activity, and therefore the planned activity was substantially refreshed to deliver outcomes to 2035.

The refreshed plan was adopted from 1st April 2023 with the charts and tables within the performance report revised accordingly to reflect the refreshed plan.

i) Dynamic Smart City

Mr Marshall and Mr Cullen briefed the Committee, placing the GCSE exam performance within the broader context of the current challenging education environment, outlined the improvement programme which was attempting to boost levels of attainment and addressed questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Walton welcomed the improved performance of Sunderland schools in respect of their Ofsted inspections and asked if this was reflected in improved exam results. Mr Marshall replied that it was. In terms of Ofsted for a school to be deemed to be improving it had to demonstrate that its improvement work was providing positive outcomes for its pupils.

Councillor Hartnack believed that the performance report should also include a figure as to the number of pupils in Sunderland who went on to take A levels compared to

those in other areas. He believed this was important as A level qualifications were the gateway to securing the best jobs. Mr Marshall replied that he would check the feasibility of providing the data and would get back to the Committee. It was no longer straight forward as there were now a number of alternatives to A Levels and he would need to check how the different qualifications equated to each other.

Councillor Thornton expressed her concern at the growing number of young people who were not doing well at school, noting that there had been a large increase in non school attendance, exclusions and elective home education. Mr Marshall acknowledged the issues and stated that all of the categories mentioned by Councillor Thornton ultimately became an issue for him. Whilst it was true to say that Sunderland had some excellent provision for excluded children, such as the Link School, all three issues provided a massive challenge.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Thornton regarding the provision of vocational training for year 10 pupils who did not want to go down the academic route, Mr Marshall stated that schools were facing a challenge to raise performance in this regard. In addition to funding cuts and the consequences of the pandemic, there were difficulties in terms of the recruitment and retention of staff to teach the sometimes highly specialised aspects of vocational courses. His personal view was that it would require an improvement in the perceived value of the vocational qualifications and that this would require a joined-up approach both in terms of thinking and pathways.

Councillor Mullen referred to the position of the North-East as having the worst record of unauthorised absences at secondary school level and queried whether this impacted the level of attainment in examinations. Mr Marshall confirmed the position in relation to the number of unauthorised absences and believed that this could best be addressed through early help provision. Was there access to SEND support? Is the curriculum the right one for the respective pupils? How can the Local Authority intervene to support schools with alternative pathways? There needed to be good intelligence at an early stage to spot issues developing. Hope Springs was an excellent organisation, but the challenge remained regarding the ability to scale it up given the limited resources available. With regard to whether there was a link between unauthorised absences and exam attainment, the answer was that this was probable.

Councillor Hartnack, in his position as school governor, paid tribute to the services to schools provided by TfC, both in terms of the availability and approachability of officers and the very high standard of advice given. Councillor Leonard echoed Councillor Hartnack's comments with particular reference to the work of the School Improvement Team.

Councillor Guy stated that there was a conversation to be had regarding the underperformance of boys at GCSE level and asked what the academy trusts in the City were doing to address this. Mr Cullen replied that it would vary from trust to trust, but he would check and report back to the Committee.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Mullen regarding the Crowtree site, Mr Guthrie advised that discussions had been held with a number of interested parties all of whom had wanted to provide a new build which would have required additional land. Because of this and current construction costs, proposals in relation to a

new build were on hold. Options were now being explored in relation to utilising the existing Crowtree building. It couldn't be guaranteed that this would result in the provision of an arena but there would be a 'Plan B'.

In response to a further question from Councillor Mullen, Mr Crabb advised that the Council did not have details of the lettings in respect of the L and G buildings. The market for office accommodation nationally was not strong. There was also a lot of movement between cities with many companies looking at their options and internal ways of working following the impact of Covid. Sunderland as a city was in the position of being able to offer high quality office space at competitive rates within a high quality public realm. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Hartnack, the Committee was advised that the Council did not carry any risk in terms of the lettings and that this remained with L and G.

Councillor Dodds referred to the reference on page 51 of the agenda regarding the '146 privately rented properties inspected for hazards' and asked what were the nature of those hazards? The Committee was advised that the question would be referred to Marion Dixon to provide a written answer.

ii) Healthy Smart City

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Mullen, Mr Morley confirmed that glyphosate was used by the Council as a weed killer. The trial to understand the impact of alternative weed control options in different environments, originally scheduled to conclude at the end of October had been extended for a further month as the usually warm autumn weather and seen continued weed growth throughout November. The results of the trial would be shared with the Committee in due course.

At this juncture Mr Cummings advised that the 3 three written questions submitted by Councillor Jones under the Healthy Smart City topic had been forwarded to the appropriate officers and responses would be circulated to the Committee as soon as they were available.

iii) Vibrant Smart City

No questions

iv) Organisational Health

No questions.

The Chair having thanked Officers for their attendance, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching, for Members' information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee

work programmes for 2023/24 and which provided an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

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

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

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 8th November, 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Consideration was given to the report and it was:-

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

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

(Signed) K. MASON-GAGE,
Chairman.

Item 4

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

18 January 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SMART CITIES

SMART CITY PROGRESS UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a progress report from Liz St Louis (Director of Smart Cities) on the progress being made in delivering the Smart City Vision.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the work planning meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the Committee requested a progress update with regards the Smart City Vision and Delivery Programme.
- 2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the significant and positive impact of the Smart City Programme on the City Plan aspirations of delivering a dynamic smart, a healthy smart and a vibrant smart city

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Liz St Louis (Director of Smart Cities) will provide a presentation on the progress being made to date.
- 3.2 A copy of the presentation will be made available following the meeting.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the contents of the presentation.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

18 January 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SMART CITIES

SICKNESS ABSENCE UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a progress report from Liz St Louis (Director of Smart Cities) and Gill Hunter (Specialist Lead – People Management) in respect of the current sickness absence position.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the work planning meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the Committee discussed their interest in better understanding the sickness absence position within the Council, comparator benchmarks and measures in place to support employees to remain healthy at work.
- 2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the importance in supporting employees to remain at work and is aligned to the Organisational Health performance metrics and the Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Working Group currently taking place.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Liz St Louis (Director of Smart Cities) and Gill Hunter (Specialist Lead – People Management) will provide a presentation including statistical data and support measures available.
- 3.2 A copy of the presentation will be made available following the meeting.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the contents of the presentation.

Item 6

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2024

CITY PLAN AND INDICATIVE TIMELINE ASSURANCE PROCESS

Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's consideration of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the plan and Indicative Timeline.
- 1.2 A presentation will be given at the meeting highlighting the proposed updates and changes to the City Plan and the Committee's views will contribute to the assurance process and the finalisation of the plan.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The City Plan is an Article 4 Plan subject to approval by Full Council.
- 2.2 The City Plan currently covers the period up to 2035 and describes the Ambitions, Themes and Commitments associated with working in partnership to achieve the Vision for Sunderland – "to create a connected, international city with opportunities for all."

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 As in previous years, evidence has been collated to determine whether changes need to be made to the City Plan and Indicative Timeline for 2024-25 including:
 - the council's quarterly performance reporting process
 - responses to quarterly performance reporting to Scrutiny
 - analysis and considerations from council services and city partners
 - analysis of wider socio-economic, demographic and deprivation data and intelligence
- 3.2 In addition, the council's Joint Leadership Team has also met to consider the development of the plan.
- 3.3 Analysis of the above indicates that the following revisions to the City Plan should be proposed.
 - **Ambitions:** following some work within the council and with partners during 2023, it is considered that the ambition statements should be revised and updated to better capture the key issues for the city and where we aim to make demonstrable progress in creating opportunities for all residents. Work is underway in parallel to develop arrangements to evidence impact in these areas.

- **Themes:** No changes to the three themes of Dynamic, Healthy and Vibrant City are proposed (with each continuing to feature 'Smart City') and these will sit beneath and clearly contribute to pursuing the revised ambitions.
- **Commitments:** In seeking to achieve the above alignment between themes and ambitions in the City Plan, it is proposed that some commitments move to a different theme as the activity undertaken under them better supports the delivery of the linked, guiding ambition. Work has also been undertaken to standardise the wording and phrasing of the commitment statements where possible.
- **Indicative Timeline:** As in previous years, updates and revisions to the activities on the Indicative Timeline have been captured, showing the key projects and initiatives that will contribute to the delivery of the City Plan.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Subject to the Committee's considerations and any recommendations, a report (as an appendix to the Budget report) will be presented to Cabinet on 31 January 2024 with a view to the proposed updated City Plan and Indicative Timeline being adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 28 February 2024.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is recommended to consider the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Indicative Timeline.

Item 7

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 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 5 January 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)	Schools Attendance/ Missing Education Update (Simon Marshall) Home Schooling (Simon Marshall)	SEND – Update (Pamela Robertson) School Attainment Update (Simon Marshall)	Apprenticeships/T Level Qualification (Sunderland College) Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Scott Watson)
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

Child Care Support
RAAC Update

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

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

To Schedule:

Business Centres (Catherine Auld)
Sunnside Masterplan (Dan Hattle)
Public Transport Update (Craig Mordue/Paul Muir)

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) South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS FT Action Plan Update (NHS FT)	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update (Gerry Taylor) Oral Health Improvements – New Strategy (Gerry Taylor)	GP Access Update incl. pilot schemes (Sunderland ICB) North East Ambulance Service Update (Mark Cotton) 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

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

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

Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

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 2 January 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 2 January 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 2 January 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	31 January 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	31 January 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	31 January 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
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 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
220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 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
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 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
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	31 January 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
230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	31 January 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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231107/846	To procure a framework agreement for funeral and coronial services	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/847	Capital Programme Third Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231110/848	Revenue Budget Third Review 2023/2024.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/849	Council Tax Base 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/850	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/851	Revenue Budget 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231110/852	Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/853	Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231110/854	Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231113/855	To Seek Cabinet approval to the Letting of Space at Sunnyside Leisure	Cabinet	Y	31 January 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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
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

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
231120/857	To approve works to address storm damage to piers	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231121/858	To seek approval to increase housing rents for Sunderland City Council tenants with effect from 1 April 2024	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231204/861	To consider a proposal to commence statutory processes to develop a SEN unit at Mill Hill Primary School and to approve subsequent procurement of required capital works	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231206/862	To seek approval to award grant funding to support the homeless drop in	Cabinet	Y	31 January 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
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
231220/865	To seek approval to award a contract to provide support to homeless clients residing in temporary accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
231222/866	To consider a report on Investment Zone – Enabling Economic Growth	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

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

2 January 2024