

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.