

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,
Sunderland on Thursday 9th November 2023 at 5.30 p.m.**

Membership

Cllrs Burrell, Curtis, 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 12 October 2023 (copy attached). | 1. |
| 3. | Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations) | - |
| | Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses | |
| | No Items | |
| | Part B – Scrutiny Business | |
| 4. | Cost of Living Crisis | 6. |
| | Report of the Assistant Director of Housing Services (copy attached). | |
| 5. | Annual Work Programme 2023/24 | 28. |
| | Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator (copy attached). | |

6. **Notice of Key Decisions**

35.

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.

31st October 2023.

Item 2

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Dodds in the Chair

Councillors Burrell, Curtis, Guy, Jones, Leonard, Morrissey, Mullen, P. Smith, Thornton, Usher and Walton.

Also in attendance:-

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

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

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

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hartnack and Mason-Gage

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th September, 2023

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th September 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of apologies for absence from Councillor Usher.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 5 - Reference from Cabinet – 12 October 2023

Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/2025 – 2027/2028

Councillor P. Smith made an open declaration in respect of the above report with regard to any reference to the Tyne and Wear Pension Fund and the Gentoo Group.

Reference from Cabinet – Second Revenue Budget Review 2023/24

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out, for the Committee's advice and consideration, the report to Cabinet on 12th October 2023 on the Second Revenue Budget Review 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance presented the report and addressed questions and comments from members thereon.

Councillor Mullen referred to the impact an equal pay claim had made to the financial situation at Birmingham City Council and asked if there would be similar consequences for Sunderland. Mr Wilson replied that GMB had yet to formally set out the details of any claim against SCAS. Until this happened it would not be possible to assess any potential implications. In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Mullen, Mr Wilson advised that the reference in the report to ‘undeliverable staff turnover savings’ related to areas of the Council where staff turnover was not being experienced or where areas needed to operate at a full complement of staff to ensure that the service could be provided to residents / customers.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Walton, Mr Wilson explained that contingencies were used to cover unforeseen or unknown events or where costs were uncertain at the time of setting the budget such as the pay award. It was currently prudently assumed that all of the allocated contingencies would be used over the course of the financial year.

The Chairman referred to the Council Tax collection rate and whether there was any evidence that people were struggling with payments. Mr Wilson replied that the long-term collection rates continued to be good with a collection rate of around 99%, however, it was clear that aligned to the cost of living crisis that there was some challenges around in-year collection rates.

Councillor Usher commented that the proposed reduction of £61.248m in reserves during 2023/2024 was a significant reduction in the Council’s reserves. Mr Wilson agreed that it was a significant reduction and confirmed that this included the forecast use of a number of earmarked reserves including those funding specific capital projects alongside the use of £9m from the Medium Term Plan Smoothing Reserve which was being used to support the 2023/2024 budget.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Wilson, the Chairman thanked him 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 budgetary positions and collection fund updates, as well as acknowledging the budgetary pressures.

The Committee would also like to record its thanks to all Members and Officers involved in the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the council’s revenue budget position.

Reference from Cabinet – Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's views on a report of the Director of Finance which was considered by Cabinet on 12th October 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Paul Wilson, Director of Finance presented the report and addressed questions and comments from members thereon.

Councillor Mullen referred to paragraph 9.4 within Appendix 2 of the report regarding the joint venture partnerships and commented that the Everyone Active gyms were not maximising their commercial potential when compared to those in the private sector particularly with regard to early weekend closing times and expressed concern that Everyone Active made no effort on its own part to generate revenue, relying instead on funding from the Council.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Mullen regarding paragraph 9.3 of Appendix 2, Mr Wilson confirmed that the Council receives income from the properties listed whether that was rental income or through car parking charges.

Councillor Burrell having asked if the recently announced Government School funding error was reflected in the report, Mr Wilson replied that it was not reflected with the announcement having been made following the publication of the agenda papers.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Leonard regarding paragraph 10.5 of the main report, Mr Wilson confirmed that he would be happy to arrange additional financial training sessions for new Councillors who missed the previous sessions arranged as part of the induction programme. The invite would be extended to all Councillors should they be interested.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Thornton, Mr Wilson advised that at this stage, any workforce planning implications arising from proposals to address the budget gap were not yet clear as the proposals were still being developed, any implications would be considered in due course.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Usher, Mr Wilson confirmed that the pay award for the 2023/24 financial year was yet to be agreed. The Council was part of the Joint National Council negotiating body. The employers' side had confirmed that the current offer was full and final. The trades unions were at various stages of considering their position including undertaking ballots of their members. Mr Cummings advised that it was understood that the trades unions would meet at the end of October to discuss and agree their position following conclusion of the GMB ballot which was due to close on 24th October.

Councillor Jones referred to DHSC grant funding and asked if this was allocated on the basis of national parameters, or did it take account of local need? Mr Wilson replied that there was a national funding formula for Adult Social Care (the Adults Relative Needs Formula) which took into account need and deprivation but where there is expectation on councils to raise additional funding e.g. through the adult social care precept acknowledgement this is not taken into account in the formula. This impacts adversely on areas like Sunderland with a low council tax base and a low council tax band D as any increases raise less money. In some instances, the

Government will equalise some of this funding. In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Jones, Mr Wilson confirmed that in this respect, Sunderland received its fair share of the adult social care funding. However, the major issue is that the quantum of funding provided at both a national level to councils and subsequently at an individual council level is insufficient to meet the costs of the services that our residents need.

Councillor Mullen stated that last year when the Committee had looked at the budget planning framework, it had asked Cabinet to consider limiting any rises in council tax given the current financial climate and the impact that this would have on residents. He asked if the Committee would again be happy to make a similar request. Having been duly seconded by Councillor Morrissey, the proposal was put to the Committee and agreed accordingly.

Whilst acknowledging the impact on residents of increases in council tax, Mr Wilson informed members that the Government's funding calculations had been based upon the assumption that local authorities would increase council tax by the maximum permitted amount. For 2024/2025 this would be 4.99%. Decisions on the level of council tax would be made as part of the final budget planning stages once all other funding factors were fully understood. However, at this stage the MTFP assumed an annual increase of 4.99% for 2024/2025 and 2.99% in subsequent years. The Council has significant financial challenges to set a balanced budget alongside continuing to deliver services to its residents and businesses. The current funding gap for 2024/2025 is c. £20m (over £10m after using £9m of reserves). A reduction of 1% in the council tax assumption would require c. £1.2m of further savings / reductions in services in 2024/2025 with the financial impact compounded into future years.

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

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

The Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of the report including the medium-term financial strategy and budget planning framework and is satisfied with the information provided.

The Committee would also recommend that serious consideration is once again given to limiting any rises in council tax given the current financial climate and the impact that this will have on residents of the City.

The Committee also acknowledges the work undertaken around the budget consultation and updating the Capital Strategy. The Committee remains committed to budget monitoring through further updates to the Committee and has no further comments to make at this time.

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching, for Members' information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2022/23 and providing an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2022/23.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Full consideration having been given to the report it was: -

4. RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committees' work programmes for 2022/23 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 13th September 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Councillor Usher referred to item 230913/838 (To Seek Approval to the Leasing of Land at Crowtree Green Sunderland) and asked if Sunderland was to acquire a new Leisure Centre? Mr Wilson advised that as that item was due to be considered during the closed part of the Cabinet meeting it would not be appropriate to comment any further in a public meeting. He advised that whilst the notice had the item scheduled for the October meeting of Cabinet, it had not made the agenda and it was anticipated that it would now be submitted to the November meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, it was: -

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

The Chair then closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) T. DODDS,
Chairman.

Item 4

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2023

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee with an overview of the action taken across Sunderland to support resident financial wellbeing during the cost of living crisis.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Households in the United Kingdom have experienced a significant fall in living standards since late 2021. This is largely attributable to increased food, electricity, and fuel costs.
- 2.2 The UK has also seen rises in inflation, not seen for decades, that are not expected to fall below the Bank of England target until at least 2024. The war in Ukraine has also exacerbated inflation woes, particularly in relation to food and energy, the two sectors driving much of the high inflation.
- 2.3 The presentation attached will provide an overview of the situation in Sunderland and outline a number of the current actions and activities taking place to support residents during this difficult time.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 A presentation is attached at **appendix one** of this report and covers a number of key issues including:
 - Financial Wellbeing – the story so far;
 - Current Actions and Focus;
 - Understanding Lived Experience;
 - Case Studies;
 - Household Support Fund;
 - Links for Life; and
 - Cost of Living – Ongoing Activities.
- 3.2 Council officers will be in attendance at the meeting to provide the update on the situation and answer any questions that Members of the Committee may have.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to note and comment on the presentation.

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

Cost of Living Crisis

The action taken across Sunderland to support resident financial wellbeing

Scrutiny Committee

9th November 2023



Financial wellbeing ... the story so far

Internal Financial Wellbeing Group - launched June 2022

- Group made up of leads from key areas of the Council
- Staffing capacity resources secured, recruitment completed and staff in post from January 2023
- Scope and governance arrangements in place to manage the Cost-of-Living Crisis
- Internal group meets monthly
- Key themes identified and progress reviewed each month
- Engagement methods agreed - Lived Experience data is collected routinely and used to inform services
- Key activities that support and enable residents were agreed and the Financial Wellbeing Strategy is now live on the Council's website

Partnership Task Force Group - launched September 2022

- Group made up of leads from key partners of the city
- Terms of Reference and governance arrangements in place
- Partnership group meets bi-monthly
- Agreement to work closely and to share knowledge and best practice, including insight from their own customers
- Partners to share what they already have in place or are planning to put in place to support the crisis



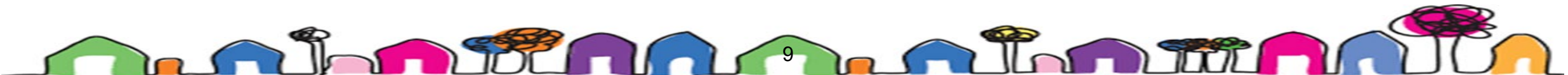
Financial Wellbeing – Internal themes

Key Themes

- Housing and Homelessness
- Digital Inclusion
- Learning and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing (food)
- Early Help / Safeguarding (Children)
- Early Help / Safeguarding (Adults)
- Financial Resilience (fuel)
- HR – staff resilience

Enabling Themes

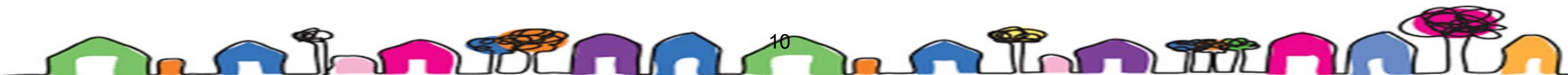
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Comms (Internal and External)
- Lived Experience
- Best Practice



Financial Wellbeing – our current actions and focus

Following Cabinet approval of the Financial Wellbeing Strategy in June 2023 the implementation of the strategic action plan is underway. Actions span services across SCC, TfC and SCAS, including,

- **Housing & Homelessness** - Fuel Poverty Plan - advice, education, support and funding available to eligible households
 - Eviction prevention – advice and support, debt management & referral to specialist services
- **Health & Wellbeing**
 - The Bread and Butter Thing providing low cost groceries, developing ‘Good Food Charter’
 - Swap to Stop programme jointly delivered with Gentoo with their tenants
 - MECC Training on Financial Wellbeing & Emotional Health and Resilience
- **Communications**
 - Financial Wellbeing Support Hub for residents on Council Website & for staff via intranet pages
 - Resident Voice area on The Hub sharing ‘Lived Experience’ insights and resident views
 - Clear Communications review – viewing our communications via Financial Wellbeing lens
- **Financial Wellbeing**
 - First Tier & Specialist advice services in place and ongoing work with Money Wise CU
 - Targeted campaign and comms on money, saving, and scams
 - Re-established Money Advisor Network in SCC, increasing capacity for debt & other advice
- **Community Assets & VCS** - Transition of Warm Spaces to Welcome Spaces and now Links for Life & further funding via UKSPF
- **Lived Experience**
 - Focused conversations are providing insights and presenting the Resident Voice
 - Resident groups being supported in Shiney Row, Hendon and Ryhope with more planned
- **Children’s Early Help**
 - Outreach and HAF activities providing support & contributing insights for young people
 - Development of Family Hubs connected with and aligned with Digital & Health Hubs and Links for Life
- **Adult’s Early Help**
 - Charging policy review connected with HSF 4 support for Carers



Financial Wellbeing Support Hub

[Financial wellbeing support hub - Sunderland City Council](#)

Government help available

Household Support Fund

Help with energy costs

Coping with debt and dealing with finances

Finding a career

Mental health and wellbeing support

Housing and homelessness support

Family support

Get further help and advice

WiFi, computers and internet access

Help with prescription charges

Sunderland Financial Wellbeing Strategy 2023-26



Financial Wellbeing – Understanding Lived Experience

- Utilised the brand we already use in Sunderland to engage with residents - “Let’s Talk Cost of Living”
- Continue resident engagement through the SARA and HALO projects
- Continue resident engagement via Links for Life and community spaces
- Build upon the excellent relationships already established with local VCS organisations.
- Established a specific web area capable of sharing information, receiving resident views and detailing local activities
 - Running for approximately 18 months
 - All information gathered to be considered by this group
- Partners to use their own processes and networks to collect insight through their own coordinated activities
- Working with partnership task force group to share knowledge and information



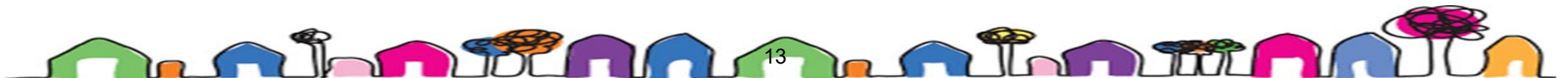
#Sunderland WarmSpaces

Providing warm and welcoming spaces that are:

| | |
|---|--|
|  Welcoming You'll always be given a warm welcome from staff and volunteers |  Respectful You'll always be treated with dignity and respect |
|  Safe You'll know the Warm Space is following safeguarding and other policies |  Non-judgmental You'll be treated the same no matter what your reason for needing a Warm Space |

Financial Wellbeing – Understanding Lived Experience

- Social Isolation, and issues arising from Covid 19, are still ongoing challenges.
- Community groups taking time to rebuild, there is some anxiety about support continuing in community spaces.
- Cost of living / financial wellbeing advice is often framed as individual ‘fixes’, not as a community issue. Welcoming Spaces particularly did help to make problems feel shared – hence move into Links for Life approach.
- There are acute, individual concerns for specific issues that affect people, but there is more a general, chronic sense of the impact on wellbeing due to the cost-of-living crisis
- A stigma around asking for help in community spaces. People accessing warm & welcome spaces were willing to ‘tell their story’, but they report a significant barrier to attending for the first time
- A concern around the ongoing crisis & increased demand this coming winter and uncertainty about capacity to support in the future
- Many community centres struggling to provide care *and* measure the impact they are having by providing feedback – due to low capacity or lack of skills in this area



Case Studies

Working Low Income Family

After paying priority household bills and debt repayment left with approximately **£12.15 per day** to buy food and other essentials



Unemployed Family

After paying mortgage, and priority household bills left with approximately **£10.50 per day** to buy food and other essentials and are unable to make any debt repayments



Single Unemployed person

After paying fuel they are left with approximately **£7** per day to buy food , essential items and pay all ot



Single Pensioner

After paying essential household bills they are left with approximately **£15** per day to buy food and other esse



Single Disabled Person

After priority household bills they are left with **£18** per day to buy food and other essentials



Grindon Church Community Project – Warm Space

Issue: Three generations of one family, Grandmother managing as primary carer for younger family members and struggling with finances as well as concerns for the mental health of family members.

Support: On visiting the Warm Space at Grindon Church so the grandchildren could socialise, Grandmother was connected with support for immediate needs – food and warm clothes, as well as benefits advice and counselling for family members

Benefit: Two adults now receiving mental health support and on pathways to training or employment. The whole family has improved their social network and know where to seek help.

The Difference: Warm Space allowed the family to go at their own pace and provided a safe space, building trust so the family felt able to disclose problems and accept help. **Vital where people have negative experience with ‘authority’.**

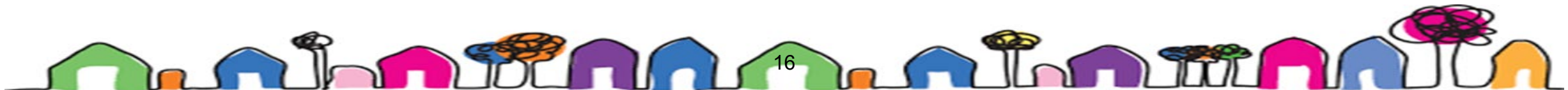


Household Support Fund 4 (HSF 4) www.sunderland.gov.uk/household-support-fund

- The Council, TfC and VCS partners are delivering HSF4 between April 23 and March 24 in line with plans agreed internally and with the DWP
- Council will be spending £5.35 million and making well over 40,000 awards by the end of March 24 (councils can only claim back money they have spent) .
- Support is staged and is being delivered in many different ways including
 - proactive awards based on data held by council services or TFC for FSM pupils
 - Application based support for September → November / mid December and January → March
 - Additional funding for Council Local Welfare Provision Scheme to help manage increasing demand
 - Additional funding for foodbanks / food aid providers and for advice provision for the same reasons
 - Award values vary – depending on type of support and household size



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Household Support Fund 4 (HSF 4) www.sunderland.gov.uk/household-support-fund

- The majority of HSF spend and awards will be made in the final 2 quarters when
 - the majority of applications will be awarded by the council and 9 contracted VCS providers (approximately approx. 7000 awards expected using £1.1 Million)
 - Proactive payments to some Pensioner and disabled households are made
- Councils are asked to follow DWP guidance and prioritise households for support that have not / will not receive the major Cost of Living Payments
 - This included the £900 being paid to Universal Credit , Pension Credit and 4 other means tested benefits / tax credits
 - Many households that have received support before will not be eligible this time – but low to moderate income households’ are being targeted instead
- The Portfolio Holder is updated on progress / plans via monthly meetings with the Assistant Director – Housing & Communities

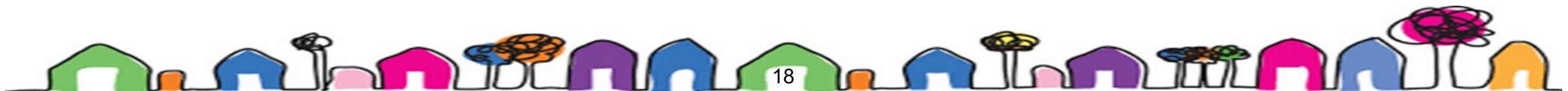


Department
for Work &
Pensions



SCC Schemes under pressure - Local Welfare Provision / Discretionary Housing Payments

- Both schemes aimed at low income households and that may be vulnerable . Pandemic and cost of living pressures have increased demand on both schemes
- **Discretionary Housing Payments** - for people on Universal Credit (Housing Costs) , or Housing Benefit
- Intended to provide short term help while people try to improve their financial , employment or housing situations
- 2200 applications processed last year and 1250 awards made – mainly to help with bedroom tax
- Council spent in excess of its DWP grant allocation of £269K – review underway to ensure support for those most in need from within available funding – Cabinet Report and revised policy due 2024
- Improvements to processes and communications already being made - consistent with current policy / reverting to current policy , and working with key stakeholders such as Gentoo
- **Local Welfare Provision – Crisis Support (CS) & Community Care Support (CCS)**
- **CS** : fuel (prepayment meters) or with food (where people unable to attend a foodbank)
- **CCS** : essential goods for home set up (very vulernable people) -or replacement items to relieve exceptional pressure
- Processed over 1200 CCS applications and made over 800 awards last year
- Council spend in excess of its £250K budget with agreement and to relieve pressures on residents
- Cabinet Agreement (2020) to move to financial contributions rather than goods delayed by pandemic but being built into scheme review and revised report and updated policy. (as for DHP due 2024)



Make your money go further

It doesn't matter how much money you have, in tough times, everyone should think about their budgets and how to make their money stretch further. Below we have outlined key information and advice to help you make your money go further.

Reducing costs

Affordable Credit

Energy Company Obligation
(ECO) and ECO Flex

Saving

Be informed - everyday
money

Be prepared

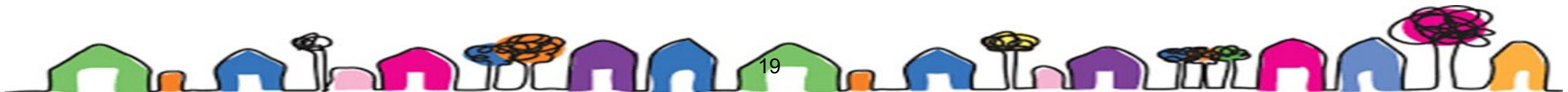
Be safe

School Uniform Support

Syndicated tools from Moneyhelper website
Selfserve option while still able to access information about local support

Foundation for future activity

- Targeted campaigns
e.g. Pension Credit





Providing warm and
welcoming spaces

#SunderlandWarmSpaces



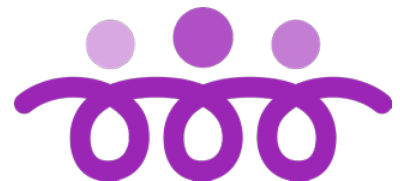
Providing
welcome spaces

#SunderlandWelcomeSpaces

Links for Life
Sunderland 

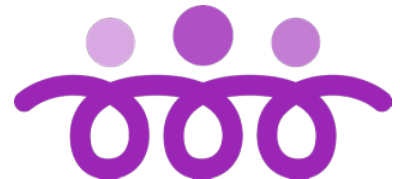
Learning from Warm & Welcome spaces

- Cost of living crisis – piling pressure on top of pressure – breaking point
- Working together and extending service offer
- Reaching out to residents – moving to welcoming warm spaces
- Short-term funding – but measuring impact
- Community Buildings – state of repair – looking to maximise funding
- UKSPF Community Digital Health Hubs



Links for Life – the Sunderland approach to social prescribing

- All organisations working together to ensure best outcome for the ‘resident’
- Making sure access is simple - entry points - service provision – ongoing sustained engagement in community life
- Links for Life identity developed – working on how we formally roll this out
- Digital Platform development in progress to make sure everyone has the information they need
- Charter development in partnership with VCS
- Looking for what works well and what we could do better – talking with VCS
- Working towards full implementation of the model by April 2024



If you're eligible for **Pension Credit** you could get support with housing costs, council tax or heating bills

Talk Money Weeks in November

- Encouraging money conversations and removing stigma
- Last year - Social media reach - 41,700 Residents' E-Newsletter circulated to 3800 (total)
- Make Your Money Go Further** event **19th October** to coincide with the 75th International Credit Union Day

The Moneywise Credit Union logo is in the bottom left, with 'Moneywise' in white on a blue background and 'Credit Union' in white on a teal background.

Pension Credit

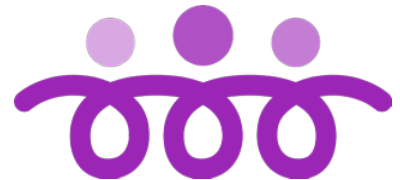
- £ City wide campaign to raise awareness of Pension Credit – social media reach **22,654** plus digital ad, GP and pharmacy screens
- £ Increase of **19.69%** claiming Pension Credit as result of campaign (from potential claimants identified from Council Tax data)

Increase understanding/ confidence of what financial wellbeing and develop skills to have a Financial Wellbeing conversation and signpost

The 'MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT' logo is in the bottom right, featuring the text in white inside a blue speech bubble.

Links for Life – working within communities

<https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40>



Ongoing challenges and issues

- As more households find it difficult to manage, many more will approach in crisis / repeated crisis due to low income, **this will get worse over winter**
- Overall, Crisis Support from council and partners may not be able to meet the level of potential need from people due to low and reducing incomes (rather than actual crisis event) - **benefits including help with housing costs has not increased in line with prices especially over the last decade**
- There is increasing pressure on Housing Services driven by the rising cost of living and its effect on all sectors of the housing market



Cost of Living - Ongoing activities

- Produced a Fuel Poverty Action Plan – covering advice, education, support to funding and other assistance
- Agreed partnerships with Utilita to deliver a boiler replacement “safety net” for those in crisis with no working boiler
- Delivering ECO Flex 4 and associated energy efficiency measures (to be reported to Cabinet in November)
- Creating capacity in the VCS via Links for Life to deliver more activities within communities that support health, wellbeing and resilience (Social Prescribing)
- Arranging a volunteer recruitment campaign
- Supported The Bread-and- Butter Thing to establish five venues across the city
- Provided training to staff across SCC and VCS organisations through the Sunderland Health Champion Programme;
 - Making Every Contact Count – Supporting emotional Health and Resilience
 - Financial Resilience
- Continued to provide a range of housing advice and support, including eviction prevention services
- Collating and using data to help identify the most vulnerable households
- Reinstated a project to review the approach to residents in debt to Sunderland City Council
- Published a strategy & strategic delivery plan to manage all activities that support residents in the short, medium and long-term
- Digital Poverty Strategy and action

Questions



Item 5

SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2023

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 31 October 2023 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) | Child and Adolescent Mental Health Schools Attendance/ Missing Education/Home Schooling Update (Simon Marshall) | SEND – Update (Pamela Robertson) SEND Educational Attainment School Attainment Update (Simon Marshall) | Adult Skills (Jill Colbert) |
| 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 | |

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) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) Events (Marion Dixon) | Sunderland BID (Sharon Appleby) Sunderland Chamber of Commerce (Natasha McDonough) Housing Update (Graham Scanlan) | Culture Sector and the Local Economy (Rebecca Ball) Screen Industries – Update (Catherine Auld) Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld) | Siglon (Anthony Crabb) Future High Street Fund Programme (Neil Guthrie/ Anthony Crabb) | 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)
 Sunnyside Masterplan (Dan Hattle)
 Public Transport Update (Craig Mordue)
 Road Safety Annual Report (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) North East Ambulance Service Update (Mark Cotton) | Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update (Gerry Taylor) Oral Health Improvements – New Strategy (Gerry Taylor) | GP Access Update incl. pilot schemes (Sunderland ICB) Annual Report (Nigel Cummings) |
| Performance / Service Improvement | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consultation/ Information & Awareness Raising | | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 | Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23 |

Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

| REASON FOR INCLUSION | | 13 JULY 23 D/L 3 JULY 23 | 14 SEPTEMBER 23 D/L 4 SEPT 23 | 12 OCTOBER 23 D/L 2 OCTOBER 23 | 9 NOVEMBER 23 D/L 30 OCT 23 | 7 DECEMBER 23 D/L 27 NOV 23 | 11 JANUARY 24 D/L 22 DEC 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) Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report (Stephen Laverton) | | | Annual Report (N Cummings) |
| Performance / Service Improvement | | Performance Management Q4 (Beverly Poulter) | Performance Management Q1 (Beverly Poulter) | | | Performance Management Q2 (Beverly 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 |

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 11 October 2023.

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 11 October 2023 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 11 October 2023 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 approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | N | Not applicable. | Cabinet report | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 210709/612 | To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to deliver the Washington F-Pit Museum Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvement project, including the procurement of consultants and contractors. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | N | Not applicable. | Cabinet report | Governance 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 |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 220207/690 | To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 220524/714 | To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance 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 |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 220712/722 | To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 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 | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance 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 |
|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 221110/753 | To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 230428/799 | To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030 | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet Report | Governance 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 |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 230717/826 | To seek approval to publish the 2022/2023 Low Carbon Annual Report | Cabinet | Y | During the period 1 September – 31 December 2023 | N | | Cabinet Report | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 230718/828 | To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership | Cabinet | Yes | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 230721/829 | To seek approval to procure care and support services that enable people to live independently at home. | Cabinet | Yes | 9 November 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet Report | Governance 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 |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 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 | 9 November 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet Report | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 230907/832 | To seek approval to provide grant funding in relation to the delivery of new housing | Cabinet | Yes | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance 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 |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|--|
| 230913/838 | To Seek Approval to the Leasing of Land at Crowtree Green, Sunderland. | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 231002/839 | To consider whether to consent to the making of the statutory order to create a new mayoral combined authority for the North East region and abolish the existing combined authorities (NTCA and NECA). | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet report | Governance 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 | 7 December 2023 | 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 | Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 231002/841 | Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 to 31 December 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet Report | Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 231002/842 | Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2027/28 | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 to 31 December 2023 | N | N/A | Cabinet Report | Governance 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 |
|------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 231003/843 | To seek approval for Housing Investment and Delivery Plan Housing Disposals | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | 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 | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 231003/844 | To seek approval to vary the contract term of all contracts for the Provision of Personal Care and Nursing Care within a Care Home | Cabinet | Y | 9 November 2023 | N | | Cabinet report | Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk |

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

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

11 October 2023