

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor Burrell in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Fagan, Foster, Leonard and Scanlan,

Also in attendance: -

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms Victoria French, Senior Manager Health and Well Being Sunderland City Council

Councillor John Price, Portfolio Holder for Vibrant City, Sunderland City Council

Members of the Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dixon and Reed

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 12th September, 2023

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 12th September 2023 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 12th September 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

World Triathlon Championship Series Sunderland 2023 – Feedback

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide feedback on the World Triathlon Championship Series Sunderland which was held in the City on 29-30 July 2023

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Victoria French, Senior Manager Health and Well Being, presented the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Foster commented that it was disappointing to see that those who had tried to make a big issue of the sewage claims, which ultimately have turned out not to be true, did not give further clarifications when this became known.

Councillor Foster also advised that he had received great feedback from residents and the perception of the city had been excellent so wished to congratulate all involved.

Ms French advised that it was now about how the city builds upon the success and there had been a real buzz around people's comments on the perception of the City and the local businesses had also come out of it really well.

In response to Councillor Ali's query over breakdowns of the £2.1 million income generated, Ms French advised that this was the economic impact to the whole City and not just Council and was made up of spend in Restaurants, Coffee Shops and Hotels for instance.

Councillor Fagan referred to the statistics of 29,000 visitors/8,700 from outside the City and enquired as to how this data was obtained. Ms French advised that these figures had been obtained through the surveys and in further response to Councillor Fagan, Ms French advised that there had been 300 responses to the survey and these had been carried out face to face on the day.

In response to Councillor Fagan's query as to if any lessons had been learned over the water quality/sewage issue and if they would have done anything differently if the event were to occur again, Ms French informed the Committee that the relevant authorities were pulling a report together but early indications were that the illnesses were due to norovirus and not in relation to any water quality issue and that if the event were to take place again, the Council would not do anything differently from their perspective.

Councillor Price wished to thank Ms French for her presentation and for the fine work carried out by her, the team and all the volunteers. Councillor Price also wished to highlight the work put in with residents living in the area and that residents had been so supportive of the event.

At this juncture, the Chairman advised that Councillor Price had been invited to the meeting to give the Committee an overview of his Portfolio. Councillor Price briefed the Committee on the support for the Swim/Bike/Run programme, the Homelessness strategy and how they manage/distribute the Home Support Grant. Councillor Price suggested that this may be a worthwhile report for the Committee to receive information on in the future as well as items on Food Strategy/Food insecurities.

Councillor Price commented that it was a wide portfolio but if Members had any questions he would look to pick these up and come back to the Member on these.

In relation to Councillor Foster's enquiry over the Food insecurities item, and if this would include a list of Foodbanks for Members information, Councillor Price confirmed that this was something that could be included in a future presentation.

There being no further questions, Councillor Leonard wished to thank Ms French for the report and all the work that had been done. it was then:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2023-24

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), which set out the current work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Member's information and possible discussion.

The Chairman advised that it was proposed an extraordinary meeting had provisionally been arranged for Tuesday 21st November to invite the other housing providers in the City to attend and that an earlier start time of 3pm be given to allow each provider enough time. The earlier time of 3pm for the extraordinary meeting of the Committee was agreed.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 13th September, 2023 (copies circulated).

(For copy report and notice – see original minutes).

Mr Diamond reminded Members to get in touch if they required further information on any of the items included in the notice.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) M. BURRELL,
Chairman.