

## **SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held in the City Hall (Committee Room 1), Plater Way, Sunderland on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### **Membership**

Cllrs Butler, Doyle, Hartnack, Heron, Hodson, D. MacKnight (Chairman), N. MacKnight, Mann, Mullen, O'Brien, P. Smith, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon (Vice Chairman) and Thornton

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2.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022</b> (copy attached).	1
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	<b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	
	No items	
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Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support  
Co-ordinator (copy attached).

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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.

30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

**At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2022 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D.E. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Doyle, Hartnack, Heron, N. MacKnight, Mann, P. Smith, D. Snowdon and Thornton

**Also in attendance:-**

Mr Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate

Mr Matthew Jackson, Principal Governance Services Officer, Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate

Mr Nic Marko, Local Democracy Reporter

Ms Julie Parker-Walton, Public Health Consultant, Public Health Directorate

Ms Beverley Poulter, Senior Manager Corporate Strategy, Corporate Affairs, Corporate Services Directorate

Ms Elaine Waugh, Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Corporate Services Directorate

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted the importance of everyone present continuing to wear face coverings to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hodson, Mullen and D. MacKnight together with Jon Ritchie, Executive Director of Corporate Services.

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

**Item 4 – Complaints and Feedback**

Councillor Thornton made an open declaration in respect of SCAS as a Council appointed member.

**Item 5 – Performance Management Update – Quarter 3 of 2021/22**

Councillor D.E. Snowdon made an open declaration as a trustee of Washington MIND.

## **Item 7 – Notice of Key Decisions**

Councillor Doyle made an open declaration on item number 210728/613 due to his employer being involved in land acquisition relating to the matter on the notice regarding Sunnyside Regeneration Scheme.

### **Complaints and Feedback**

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with information regarding compliments, complaints and feedback received by the council.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Ms Elaine Waugh, Assistant Director of Law and Governance briefed the Committee on the report advising that it was the report for Quarter 3 of the financial year April 2021 to March 2022 and presented an overview across the full range of complaints and feedback received by the Council. There were no trends to highlight as a cause for concern and she suggested that it would be useful to look back at the figures in another year or two to see whether there was a spike post Covid. There had been an increase in complaints relating to refuse collection however it was important to consider the number of complaints against the volume of service provided; it was an extremely small percentage of the total number of customer contacts.

Councillor Doyle referred to the increase in complaints regarding council tax and the explanation that this had been due to the recommencement of enforcement action following the suspension of enforcement during the pandemic. He raised the issue that residents had contacted him to advise that they had received bills for empty properties which had been issued at the wrong time resulting in them having to settle the full years amount in only a couple of months; he asked whether any enquiries could be made into this issue as well as asking how this had occurred and what was being done to ensure that it would not happen again.

Ms Waugh stated that she would feed this back to the appropriate department and Mr Cummings advised that there would be a report relating to this matter brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Hartnack referred to the complaints against environmental services and asked what learning took place as a result of complaints in order to reduce complaints and improve the service in the future.

Ms Waugh advised that she would ask the department to provide feedback and stated that the number of complaints was very small when considering the volume of service provided by the department.

Councillor Mann referred to the breakdown of environmental services complaints by ward. There were some wards with a higher number of complaints than average; she queried whether there was a reason for this such as there being different crews working in those areas and also questioned whether there was best practice could be shared from the Coalfield area where there was a much lower than average volume of complaints.

Ms Waugh agreed to refer this to the department.

Councillor Butler stated that sharing best practice was key to improving services and he also expressed his complements for SCAS for the work they had done during the pandemic; together with those who had been provided with care he could not thank SCAS enough for their hard work.

Councillor N. MacKnight commented that it would be useful to be able to see the information on complaints over a longer period as there were normal variations between quarters whereas information over a few years would allow the identification of any longer-term trends. He suggested that this could be incorporated into the year end report.

Ms Waugh agreed that longer term information would make it easier to see trends however there needed to be a balance between being able to see long term trends and also sudden changes between quarters.

Councillor Hartnack commented that it would be useful when looking at complaints to know the outcomes of the complaints as it was possible that there could be numerous unsubstantiated complaints made.

Councillor Mann referred to the SCAS Customer Satisfaction Consultations and the lack of response received. She felt that this was due to the format of them; she had received one and had looked at it but not had time to complete it due to the complexity of it; she felt that a simpler tick box survey would be easier for families to complete which would then mean more responses would be received.

Ms Waugh agreed to report these concerns back.

Councillor Butler suggested that the methods of collecting information needed to be looked at; he was a fan of digital surveys such as Survey Monkey being used.

The Chair expressed her thanks for the hard work done by Environmental Services; it was not often that praise was given for the number of complements received but she felt it was important to highlight that 73 complements had been received by the service which was the second highest number of all departments.

2. RESOLVED that the information provided regarding compliments, complaints and feedback received by the Local Authority and that responses to the issues raised above be obtained and forwarded to the Members concerned.

### **Performance Management Update – Quarter 3 of 2021/22**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 3 of 2021/22.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Beverley Poulter presented the report and advised that a lot of work had been done to ensure that the delivery plans fit in with the overall city plan and to ensure that the performance monitoring would provide information on whether the aims delivery plans were being met. She provided an overview of the progress made against the performance indicators during the quarter.

The Chair took questions from the Committee on each of the Themes in turn starting with the Dynamic Smart City theme.

Councillor Doyle referred to the Deliver connected, automated logistics project and its connections to the agenda for increasing access to ultrafast broadband; there had been a reduction in the percentage of properties with access to ultrafast broadband and he questioned whether this was as a result of newly built properties not being connected to ultrafast broadband.

Ms Poulter agreed to find out the details of this.

Councillor Doyle then referred to the outage in publicly accessible Wi-Fi in December and asked what the cause of the outage was and also what was being done to improve resilience to ensure that outages would not happen again.

Ms Poulter advised that increasing resilience was a priority and that she would find out the details of the outage.

Councillor Doyle then referred to the 106 empty properties brought back into use and queried what the medium-term goal was.

Ms Poulter advised that there was a target and that the work was currently on track to meet this goal, she would find out the specifics of the target.

Councillor Mann then referred to the Carbon Neutral goals and commented that the reduction over the period was excellent, especially as it was the highest reduction in the north east.

Prior to taking questions relating to the Healthy Smart City theme the Chair invited Julie Parker-Walton to provide an update on this theme.

Ms Parker-Walton advised that there were figures available now for the alcohol related hospital admissions; which had reduced by over 2,400 to around 1,500; it was positive to see this improvement, but the figure was still higher than comparison authorities. There was a new service provider for alcohol treatment and work was being done to re-establish the drug and alcohol harm reduction partnership. It was hoped that people would come into the service at an earlier stage to further reduce the hospital admissions. Wear Recovery was also working closely with the hospital. Work was being done around responsible retailing with all retailers being encouraged to adopt challenge 25 policies.

Work was being done around suicide prevention and Sunderland had seen the biggest reduction in the north east in 2021; there was a regional dashboard which included real time information updates from Northumbria Police. There was work being done to refocus the work of the Suicide Prevention Partnership and a new 2-year action plan was being developed. Work was being done in conjunction with the CCG and the Primary Care Trust and training around mental health and suicide prevention was being done by Washington MIND. Work was being done with VCS partners to support resident's wellbeing during the pandemic.

Councillor N. MacKnight recommended that everyone should undertake the Life Worth Living training and Councillor Mann echoed this having undertaken the training as a Covid champion. Councillor N. MacKnight then stated that overall everything was moving in the right direction but he did have concerns over the life expectancy having reduced since last year. It was encouraging to see that the figures relating to harm caused by alcohol were reducing.

Councillor Butler stated that he was also pleased to see the work taking place on suicide prevention and reducing alcohol harm. Suicide harmed families as well as the wider community and he knew of the harm that was caused having lost friends in this way. He stated that he had been involved in the setting up of a men's mental health group however this had not been well attended as men did not want to sit around and discuss their feelings.

The Chair added that Washington Football Club and Washington MIND were doing a lot of work around men's mental health but there still needed to be more work done.

Councillor D. Snowdon expressed concerns that some of the indicators did not provide sufficient information. The metric around smokers quitting gave a percentage but did not give actual numbers and there was no detail on the number of visits that had been undertaken for new births and 2.5 year olds. The household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting did not show a tonnage. He felt that for the next update this information needed to be provided.

Ms Poulter advised that she would look at getting this information provided for future updates.

Councillor Heron advised that work had been ongoing around teenage pregnancies for a long time. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had undertaken a review on this subject and there had been a presentation to the meeting last night. young men's mental health was a concern; there was an event held which had raised £13,000 for Washington MIND and which had highlighted this issue. The Men's Sheds projects had done good work around improving mental health for men in the area as it had given an opportunity for people to come together and talk while engaging in activities. The Chat Benches were also helping to improve mental health by helping people to have the opportunity to speak to others. Councillor N. MacKnight agreed that the Men's Sheds were excellent.

Councillor P. Smith commented that there needed to be a focus on reducing drug use as this would then impact on all of the other issues being discussed today.

Ms Parker-Walton agreed to look at this further.

Councillor Doyle referred to the Council resolution which had been passed in 2019 that messages of hope be installed on the Wearmouth Bridge; this had not yet happened.

Ms Parker-Walton advised that the lead practitioner on mental health, the Samaritans, and the bridge engineers had been in discussions and new signage around mental health services had been installed.

The Chair asked that Mr Cummings follow up on the actions from the Council's resolution.

Councillor Doyle then asked that the new and improved cycle ways be separated into two separate measures in future reports.

Councillor Hartnack stated that there had been discussions at the North Sunderland Area Committee regarding the use of CCTV on bridges for suicide prevention; there was only the Queen Alexandra Bridge which was not covered. He queried whether the CCTV control room staff had training on looking for people who were potentially suicidal.

Ms Poulter agreed to find out the answer to this.

Councillor Butler added that he lived near to the Wearmouth Bridge and had seen three people who were in need of help on the bridge; he had seen the fantastic response from the police and fire service. He had seen the fire service use some equipment to strap the person into place to keep them safe and he queried whether this was something the police could be equipped with as well.

Councillor Hartnack agreed that this should be explored; there were a lot of people who would threaten or attempt suicide from the bridge each month.

Councillor Mann then referred to the Sunderland Weight Management programme which had commenced in August 2021; it was good to see that such a large number of people had been referred to the programme. The pandemic had got people into the habit of eating fast food which was a difficult habit to break; there was a need for the healthy eating message to be got across to people. She asked what was being done to signpost people to this programme and other related activities. She felt that the 78 new users signing up to the Step Up Sunderland app was not good enough; there needed to be an examination of what was being done to promote the app and to encourage people to engage. She also referred to the lack of an update on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and asked for information on why the data release had been cancelled; it was important to ensure that this did not slip through the net. She then referred to Environmental Enforcement action; this was a difficult area and there was a need to ensure that everything possible was being done; the number of Section 46 notices was quite low considering the rate of incidents. She asked what was being done to improve this.

The Chair agreed that there was a need to encourage all Councillors to sign up to the Step Up app.

Ms Poulter advised that she had taken on board all of these points.

The Chair then moved onto questions relating to the Vibrant Smart City theme.

Councillor Doyle commented that there was a need to look at the number of museum visitors over a longer time so that more context could be given as to whether these current numbers were typical attendances or if they had been affected by the pandemic. He felt that there needed to be changes to the opening hours of museums and also targeted interventions to increase visitor numbers.

Ms Poulter agreed to bring back the strategy and would also look at providing information on the long-term trends.

Councillor D. Snowden referred to the spike in welfare provision awards and stated that he would expect this to increase further. People were depending on the additional support, especially now that there was a further cost of living increase with the increasing fuel costs. He referred to the work on social prescribing in conjunction with the VCS Alliance and advised that he worked within such a project and that it worked well however there was a need to ensure that when there were different organisations there was joined up working to ensure that the different organisations were working together effectively.

Councillor N. MacKnight stated that it was reassuring to see that residents felt safe despite the negativity that was often seen on social media. He commented that people were struggling; especially the working poor who were being forced to use foodbanks; he felt that a national policy change was needed to address this. He asked for assurances that there was resiliency within the food bank system within the city.

Ms Poulter agreed to find out the answer to this.

Councillor Heron stated that it was sad that food banks were now the norm and also expressed concerns over the impact of increases in gas and electricity costs.

The Chair added that it was the increased daily standing charges for utilities which would hurt the most given that this was increasing bills even if residents were reducing consumption.

Councillor Mann referred to the new indicator relating to responsible retailers and asked whether this would include all retailers including takeaways; betting shops and off licences. She asked what the scheme would involve and whether it would be used to tackle underage sales.

Ms Poulter agreed to get this information.

Councillor Thornton queried the number of residents participating in volunteering and asked what would happen going forward.

Ms Poulter advised that there had been around 1000 new volunteers recruited at the start of the Covid19 pandemic. The existing volunteers had often been within vulnerable groups so had been unable to participate during the pandemic while the new volunteers were often furloughed workers who had now returned to work.

The Chair commented that she had been speaking with volunteers at the Nightingale hospital/vaccination centre and they were now looking for new ways to participate in volunteering activities.

Councillor Hartnack queried how the data around museum visitors was collected and whether there was information on whether visitors were repeat visitors and also whether they had come from within the city or from outside of the area.

Ms Poulter agreed to find this out.

Councillor Hartnack then referred to the information around feelings of safety; in the past he had seen more information on this which had shown that there had been a low number of people surveyed; he stated that the British Crime Survey provided more accurate information. He had experience of residents telling him that they did not feel safe.

Councillor Hartnack then stated that he had worked with the foodbank operated by SNYPP and also with the soup kitchen; he was concerned that some of the most needy people might not be accessing the support offered due to either lacking the courage to go to the service or due to people who were not truly needy taking advantage of the service; he had witnessed people visiting takeaways one day and then the food bank the next.

Councillor Butler acknowledged that some people may take advantage however he felt that people should be able to have luxuries such as takeaways even if they were poor.

Councillor D. Snowdon stated that the number of people who abused the system was very small and that in his experience the people who regularly used the services were worked with to try and help identify the issues resulting in them using the food banks.

Councillor Mann commented that she had worked with food banks during the pandemic; it had been upsetting to see that some people had been too frail to be able to attend the food banks while others were attending and only taking crisps, biscuits and other unhealthy foods. She felt that education on healthy eating was important. She stated that the food banks could not decide who was needy or most deserving and should help everyone who attended looking for support.

The Chair agreed that it was important not to risk letting the needy go hungry and stated that a lot of providers would work with service users to ensure that they were accessing all of the support and benefits that they were able to.

Councillor P. Smith stated that there should not be any need for there to be food banks and levelled the blame at the benefits system.

Ms Poulter advised that she would report these issues back to colleagues to ensure that they were aware of the issues raised.

The Chair then invited questions on the Organisational Health theme.

Councillor Doyle queried whether the transition to Teams had been completed and asked for more information on the decommissioning of the traditional network shared drives.

Ms Poulter advised that the transition had been completed and advised that the previous network drives had been moved onto Microsoft 365 cloud based storage and during this transition the opportunity had been taken to remove any unnecessary or duplicate data.

Councillor Doyle then referred to the new retention schedule for emails. He had been told that the 3 months retention schedule was to encourage better practice with storage of ongoing work which worked fine for officers but for councillors' issues often took longer to be completed and emails therefore needed to be retained for longer; he asked that the retention policy be looked at again.

Ms Poulter agreed to refer this back for consideration.

Councillor Doyle then commented that people were expressing fatigue over using virtual meetings and he asked what strategy was in place for face to face meetings to be held for people who were feeling the strain of virtual meetings and who were finding their mental health affected. He did not feel that there needed to be a return to full time office working for all staff but there needed to be an appropriate balance.

Ms Poulter advised that there was a strategy in place and there was hybrid working with people spreading their time between working from home and in the office. The move of staff into City Hall was underway and while there was no requirement for most staff to be in the office every day there would be work done between individuals and their managers to ensure that individual needs were met. She agreed to bring back more detail on how the new way of working would look.

Councillor Butler agreed with the email retention policy not allowing emails to be kept for long enough. There was a current planning application which he had been consulted on over a year ago which he could now no longer access the emails for.

Councillor D. Snowdon queried whether the axis on the graph for sickness absence was per day per employee.

Ms Poulter agreed to check this.

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

3. RESOLVED that the information provided on corporate performance in the report and the comments made, be received and noted and responses be provided to the questions raised, as detailed above.

## **Work Programme 2021/22**

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching, for Members' information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2021/22 and providing an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2021/22.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Councillor Doyle queried the procedure for inviting Cabinet Members to the Scrutiny Committees, as had been referred to by the Leader of the Council at the last meeting of the full Council.

Mr Cummings advised that the Committee could invite Cabinet Members to the Committee to answer questions; should the Committee wish to call in a decision then there was a different process to follow. These processes were set out in the Scrutiny Handbook which he would forward to Members. Discussions took place around the fact that Cabinet Members had attended meetings in the past; there had been a time when the relevant Cabinet Member had attended every meeting however the Committee members had asked them not to attend unless invited to do so.

Councillor Hartnack queried what the Scrutiny budget could be spent on.

Mr Cummings advised that this was used to support the work of the Committees by, for example, allowing experts to be paid to attend to provide information on policy reviews or to pay for transport for Members to visit sites related to policy reviews.

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

4. RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committees' work programmes for 2021/22 and the variations to these work programmes be noted, together with the 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 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

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

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

(Signed) D. E. SNOWDON,  
Chairman.

## COUNCIL TAX – EMPTY HOMES PREMIUM

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORE OF CORPORATE SERVICES

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium and its application within Sunderland.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Council Tax Billing authorities in England, Scotland and Wales have the power to increase council tax on properties which have been '**unoccupied and substantially unfurnished**' for a long period of time. This is known as the 'empty homes premium'. In England, billing authorities were able to charge up to 150% (i.e. 50% extra) on properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for over two years. Cabinet approved the application of this premium in January 2013 effective from 1st April 2013.
- 2.2 At the November 2017 Budget, the Chancellor announced the Government's intention to legislate to bring the maximum in England up to 200% (i.e. 100% extra). The Government's intention was to strengthen the incentive for owners of empty homes to bring them back into use.
- 2.3 The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 brought in this power with effect from the 2019/20 financial year and included additional provisions covering properties that were empty for very long periods. The Act provides for maximum additional rates of:
  - 100% extra (for properties empty for 2 to 5 years) [commencing 1st April 2019]
  - 200% extra (for properties empty for 5 to 10 years) [commencing 1st April 2020]
  - 300% extra (for properties empty for 10+ years) [commencing 1st April 2021].
- 2.4 Cabinet at its meeting on 16 January 2019 approved the application of the premium consistent with the legislation which resulted in:

For the financial year beginning 1st April 2019 the additional premium is:

- 100% for properties that have been empty for at least two years.

For the financial year beginning 1st April 2020 the additional premiums are:

- 100% for properties that have been empty for at least two years; and
- 200% for properties that have been empty for at least five years or more.

For the financial year beginning 1st April 2021 the additional premiums are:

- 100% for properties that have been empty for at least two years;
- 200% for properties that have been empty for at least five years but less than ten years; and
- 300% for properties that have been empty for at least ten years.

- 2.5 The number of properties subject to the Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium is taken into account when Cabinet agrees the Council Tax Base each year which is then utilised in determining the council tax level as part of the annual budget process.

### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 In 2019/2020 there were 503 properties that were subject to the Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium. At the time of writing this report, 215 of those properties remain subject to the Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium a reduction of 288 properties.

- 3.2 The table below sets out the current number of properties that are subject to the Council Tax - Empty Homes Premium:

	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	Change
2 years but less than 5 years	383	463	+80
5 years but less than 10 years	135	154	+19
More than 10 years	61	60	-1
Total	579	677	+98

- 3.3 In addition to the premium acting as a financial incentive to reduce the number of empty properties, the Council's housing service works to bring empty properties back into use in line with the Empty Homes Strategy for Sunderland 2020-2025 and the Housing Strategy 2017-2022. The Empty Properties and Private Rented Sector teams have a suite of products and initiatives available to work with and support property owners to reduce the number of long term, problematic empty homes across the City including:

- Advice and assistance: The Empty Properties team will liaise with owners and support them to bring the property back into use via a range of measures, in some cases selling the property to the Council under the Purchase and Repair programme.
- Empty Homes Loans and Grants: as part of the Financial Assistance Policy owners are able to access loans up to £15,000 and grants up to

£10,000 (dependent on eligibility) to improve properties in order to bring them back into use.

- Private Sector Leasing: Landlords are able to lease their property to the Council in two ways – lease and manage or lease and repair. Landlords receive an income whilst the Council manage and/or improve their property for an agreed time.
- Tenant Passport: Landlords can receive up to £750 deposit guarantee from the Council by taking a tenant who has undergone tenancy training and asked for support in finding private rented sector accommodation.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the information included in this report, and to consider and comment on the contents.

#### **5 Glossary**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Background Papers**

- 6.1 None

# **SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**15 APRIL 2021**

## **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**

### **REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the scrutiny annual report 2021/22 that is to be presented to Council at a future date.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 As in previous municipal years the annual report will be a single combined report of all four scrutiny committees. The annual report will provide an overview of the scrutiny function by detailing the work and outcomes achieved during the last 12 months.

#### **3. Current position**

- 3.1 The proposed report is attached at appendix 1 for member's consideration. The report provides a brief overview of some of the main work undertaken by the committees during 2021/22. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the respective Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.
- 3.2 The annual report is divided into a number of chapters including:
  - Foreword
  - Scrutiny Arrangements
  - Individual Committee Pages
  - The Year Ahead
  - Scrutiny on a Page.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The scrutiny committees have continued to deliver their work programmes against the backdrop of a global pandemic. The work programmes for 2021/22 focused on key issues and topics relevant to Sunderland and its communities. The Scrutiny Committees have continued to work well and develop relationships with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver these work programmes.

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That Members comment on the content, suggest amendments and clarifications before agreeing to final approval of the Annual Report 2021/22.

## **6. Glossary**

n/a

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**Contact Officer:** Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer  
(0191) 561 1006  
[nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk)

## Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Scrutiny Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the work of scrutiny during 2021/22 and sets out the contribution it has made to the good governance of the Council and the challenges we face moving into the year ahead.

The year has again been one dominated by the Covid 19 pandemic and this has been reflected in the work programmes of our Committees; both its immediate impact but also the longer term implications for the people of the city.

We have therefore looked at the action being taken by the Council and its partners to maintain vital services, as well as the range of measures designed to help our residents. This includes measures to maintain children's and social care services and educate our young people and ensuring that our care homes are safe and that we protect our most vulnerable residents. We have also heard about the wide range of support being provided to local businesses, many of which are administered by the Council, including vital support available to the voluntary service through the Local Support Scheme (LSS).

Throughout the pandemic we have received regular updates on Covid 19 infection rates in the city, the action being taken by our colleagues in health to combat its spread and more recently the roll out of the vaccination programme. However, it is clear that the aftermath of the pandemic will leave us with a legacy for the future; not least the long term health of our residents, the effect on the local economy and the impact on child poverty, educational attainment and equalities. All major issues that will need to be addressed in the years ahead.

Nevertheless, we have had some positives during the year. We have heard repeatedly of how the Covid pandemic has helped to forge greater joint working between partner organisations. We have also heard numerous examples of the hard work and commitment shown by staff across all sectors, the resilience and spirit shown by our young people and their families and the considerable progress being made on a range of regeneration projects in the city; including the development of Sunderland Riverside and the former Vaux site, the International Advanced Manufacturing Park and the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor.

In the years ahead, the Council will need to operate within an ever-tighter regime of financial constraint, while demand for our services continues to grow. With the Council and our partners required to deliver ever greater financial savings, the need for robust, evidence-based scrutiny becomes ever more pressing. To help meet these demands we will look to adapt and improve the scrutiny function through the review that has taken place during the year.

Sunderland continues to be involved in a number of joint scrutiny arrangements for health provision across the area. Members are also actively involved in the joint arrangements that cover the North East and North Cumbria, looking at the Integrated Care Systems and Integrated Care Boards that will replace Clinical Commissioning Groups later in the year. These joint arrangements will remain of key importance over the coming year as both are concerned with service reconfiguration and development and how services are delivered across Sunderland and the North East.

Scrutiny in Sunderland has also made a significant contribution to regional scrutiny arrangements. Throughout the year, we have represented the Council on the NECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee which looks at matters of significant importance to residents across the region, focusing particularly on economic development and transport issues.

Finally and most importantly, the Committee would like to place on record its thanks to all those staff within in the Council and in our partner organisations who have worked tirelessly in support of our local communities.

No doubt, the next twelve months will bring further challenges. However, I do believe that with the cooperation of fellow members, partners and the support of our officers we will rise to meet these challenges in the year ahead.

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<PHOTO & SIGNATURE>

**Councillor Doris MacKnight**  
**Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee**

## **SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Cllr Doris MacKnight**

**Vice-Chair: Cllr Dianne Snowdon**

**Committee Members: Michael Butler, James Doyle, Michael Hartnack, Juliana Heron, Niall Hodson, Neil MacKnight, Pam Mann, Anthony Mullen, Stephen O'Brien, Pat Smith, David Snowdon, and Melanie Thornton.**

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee has continued to operate through the challenging situation the pandemic has presented to normal life. This summary provides a brief overview of the work of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee during the past 12 months. Certainly, things have moved on since the last annual report and we have now been able to resume face-to-face meetings which, I am sure, has helped to spark more healthy debate between Members. We have also held our first meetings in our new home, City Hall, that will serve the Council and the City for many years to come.

As with previous years a key focus of the Committee's work programme is around the financial and budgetary position and proposals for the Council. Members continue to scrutinise a variety of budgetary information including the capital programme, budget planning framework, revenue budget and proposed Council Tax for 2022/2023. There remains a good level of discussion and debate around the various financial reports provided to the Committee and comments continue to be provided back to Cabinet from the Committee on a regular basis.

A key remit for the Committee continues to be the monitoring of the Council's performance, achievements and progress against key priorities and performance indicators. The pandemic has impacted a number of aspects of performance but as we have moved out of restrictions the Committee has focused on the recovery in relation to the three key themes of the City Plan. One such aspect was around the rise in mental health issues as a result of the pandemic and the suicide rates in the City, The Committee invited public health officers to attend and provide further information around these issues. Members raised a number of issues including the importance of training and highlighted the 'A Life Worth Living' as an excellent resource in mental health training, and if it would be worthwhile providing this training to our CCTV operatives. The Committee also provides critical feedback on the way information is presented, looking at ways to improve, clarify and simplify the performance report.

Alongside the quarterly performance reports the Committee also receives a compliments, complaints and feedback report, providing analysis into how Council services are performing from the customers perspective. Members have throughout the year been interested in how feedback, both positive and negative, is used to improve services and standards in service delivery. A key area for discussion throughout the year has revolved around Environmental Services complaints, especially missed bin collections, and while the number of complaints in comparison to the volume of activity in the service area represents only approximately 0.03%, Members were still interested in receiving ward by ward data and to analyse if there were any trends or patterns to the complaints. The Economic Prosperity Committee also received an update during the year on Environmental Services and Members from this Committee were invited to attend.

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee also acts as the designated Scrutiny Committee for crime and disorder matters and was updated on the work of the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) during 2020-21 through the Partnership's annual report. The report provided an overview of a number of key issues across Sunderland including on neighbourhood enforcement, domestic abuse, road traffic accidents, motorcycle disorder and city centre youth violence.

Members discussed a wide range of issues related to the annual report including how the police and Council share data on road traffic accidents, the excellent work of the SARA Project and the importance of detached youth work in tackling youth disorder. Members also raised concerns over the 101 non-emergency number and the poor service it provided, this would be reported back to Northumbria Police along with a number of other queries and responses circulated to Members. There was also the potential for further work into road traffic issues and this would be considered in work programming for the next municipal year.

Members received for consideration details of the proposed updating of the City Plan and indicative timeline including the assurance process. The Committee had previously held a workshop to look at the City Plan and this had helped to refine the final content and indicative timeline. Members acknowledged the move to be a carbon neutral city by 2030 but suggested that activities be scheduled into the timeline to highlight, and evidence progress to this goal. This was noted by officers as a useful way for residents to understand the difference they could make leading up to 2030. The City Plan remains a key Council document and any updates and amendments of interest to this Committee.

An update on the European Union (EU) exit was also received by the Committee during the year. This was an issue that had been discussed in the previous municipal year and a follow up progress report was agreed at the Members work programming session. Members were informed of import border control processes and issues around haulage and the demand for more drivers. Members raised issues around the contingency plans for food supplies with particular relevance to schools and care homes. Members were also assured that Sunderland was sharing information and experiences with Central Government, on the impact of the EU exit on Sunderland, as part of the Key Cities network.

During this year the Council has moved from its familiar Civic Centre site across the city into the new purpose-built City Hall. Prior to this move Members requested information be supplied to the Committee on the meeting spaces that would be available in City Hall. A presentation was provided looking at meeting room resources, collaborative meeting spaces, new technologies and the booking system. Members raised a number of queries around capacity, demand for desks and policies for visitors in the building. Following discussions visits were to be arranged for Members to look around City Hall and see the facilities that had been discussed at the meeting.

The Committee were also, during the year, updated on the Smart Cities delivery programme and the opportunities afforded by the recent BAI Communications joint venture in the City as well as opportunities around culture, sports, city experience and social value. The roll of 5G in innovative technology was highlighted as well as concerns around the proliferation of 5G masts and Members were informed of the intention to reduce the number of masts by working with operators and providing a digital platform ensuring all providers could use the same masts.

The work around assistive technologies in the healthcare field were also highlighted as a benefit and Members were informed that a detailed report had been submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on this issue. The Committee also raised the potential opportunities to be had from the greater utilisation of street lighting as part of the Smart City agenda. Members were informed that a strategy was being developed, that as part of it would include street lighting columns, to develop and harness such opportunities and this would come back to this committee or the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

Members have also been involved in the review of scrutiny and the final report and recommendations have been received from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. There will be further discussions around the development of scrutiny based on these recommendations and Members will be involved in agreeing and overseeing the implementation of changes in the next municipal year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my scrutiny colleagues for their cooperation, diligence and fairness throughout the year. I would also like to put on record the Committee's gratitude to council officers and partners for their continued support and contribution to our work programme.

**Councillor Doris MacKnight**

**Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee**

## **Children, Education & Skills Scrutiny Committee**

**Chair: Cllr Pat Smith**

**Vice Chair: Cllr Joshua McKeith**

**Committee Members: Councillors Margaret Crosby, Tracey Dodds, Richard Dunn, Paul Gibson, Sam Johnston, Katherine Mason-Gage, Karen Noble, Alex Samuels, Lynda Scanlan, Philip Tye.**

**Co-opted Members: Ann Blakey (Roman Catholic Diocese) and Jackie Graham (Church of England Diocese)**

Once again, the year has been dominated by the Covid pandemic and a good deal of our work has been directed at the long-term implications for the children and young people of the city.

In order to monitor the effect of the pandemic, the Committee has received regular reports across a broad spectrum of children's services. Of particular concern has been the consequences on child mental health. We heard from Sunderland CCG that children and young people's mental health providers have continued to deliver services through a mix of online and face to face interventions. Additional funding has been secured for extra staff resources and a service redesign project is underway to develop an improved service delivery model. However, there remains uncertainty over the potential long term impact of the pandemic on child mental health and the future demand for services. This is clearly an issue that will need to be closely monitored in the years ahead.

A further concern has been the effect of the pandemic on our schools and the use being made of Government funding to help children and young people catch up on missed learning. We heard from a local head teacher about the support being provided, including that made available through the National Tutoring Programme. We also heard about the measures being taken to improve primary and secondary school transitions, particularly for children with SEND. This has included the establishment of a transition working party of headteachers to help facilitate discussions and share best practice. While the impact of the pandemic will be with us for many years, it is felt that one of the positives has been to encourage a greater level of joint working between schools and it is hoped that this can be built upon in the years ahead.

The Committee paid tribute to the hard work of teachers and the school's sector generally for keeping schools open and continuing to provide an education for our children and young people during the intense challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Of continuing concern for the Committee has been the increase in elective home education. While parents have the right to home educate, we are concerned at the potentially detrimental effect on some children. At present, local authorities have only limited powers in this area and we feel that more powers should be made available. We also feel that more detailed, up to date information needs to be kept on elective home education and children missing from education.

The Committee places great importance of listening to the views of young people. At the start of the year, the Committee heard from a range of young people's representative bodies to discuss their priorities for the future. As a result of this session, a Members Working Group was established to allow for continued but more informal discussions. These meetings should

play an important part in helping to shape the Committees work programme in the future and addressing any issues raised.

The Committee also received a report on the outcome of a survey into the health related behaviour of young people which contained a particular focus on the effect of the Covid pandemic on their lives. The survey sought the views of young people on a wide range of topics and highlighted their main concerns, including having enough money in the family, having enough food to eat, being lonely and struggling with schoolwork. The Committee was pleased to hear that the information derived from this survey will be shared with key stakeholders and will help inform the planning and delivery of future services. The information will also be useful to the Committee in planning its work programme for the years ahead.

The Committee heard more about two new engagement programmes that took place during the year. During the summer holidays, the Holiday Activity and Food Programme offered the opportunity for children from disadvantaged families to access nutritious food and a range of organised out of school activities. The Wear Here 4 You Mobile Prevention Bus project brought together staff from Together for Children and other partners to give advice and support to young people and their families. Feedback from both programmes has been very positive and the Committee thanked all involved for their efforts. It was felt that such activities are a highly effective way engaging with young people and their families across the city.

In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee was keen to consider the effect of Covid pandemic on incidences of anti-social behaviour. To this end, the Committee received an update report on the work of the Youth Offending Service. We heard that during the pandemic the YOS has continued to deliver services and remained in contact with all young people. This has often been through face-to-face visits, though a range of virtual methods of working directly with young people have been developed.

In response to concerns over the impact of Covid on levels of domestic violence, the Committee received a report on the delivery of domestic abuse service, together with planned improvements for the service. The Committee was provided with several individual case studies which graphically demonstrated the effect of domestic violence on children and families. The report highlighted the importance of this service for the city and again it was felt important that the long term effect of the pandemic is closely monitored.

Last year, the Council established a Regional Adoption Agency with Durham County Council and Cumbria County Council based on a host authority model comprising the areas of Sunderland, County Durham and Cumbria and working in partnership with five Voluntary Adoption Agencies. The Committee received a report on the progress made to date.

A further area of concern arising out of the Covid pandemic has been its long-term effect on apprenticeships and employment opportunities for young people. To discuss these issues, the Committee met with Principal of Sunderland College, the main provider of apprenticeships in the city. Clearly, the College is committed to working with the business sector and helping to provide our young people with the skills to meet the job opportunities that will be needed in the future. We were interested to hear about the work going on in schools to provide career advice for young people and raise the profile of apprenticeships. An on-going problem for the city has been the relatively high numbers of young people not in education, employment or work (NEET). It is important as a city that we are able to equip our young people in what will be a very challenging employment market. It was also important to raise the take-up of apprenticeships among employers within the city.

However, it would be wrong not to recognise some of the positives we have seen during the year. We have heard repeatedly of how the Covid pandemic has helped to forge greater joint

working between partner organisations in the city. We have also heard numerous examples of the hard work and commitment shown by staff across all sectors. But perhaps most importantly we should also recognise the achievements of our young people who have lived through a year of considerable challenge and adversity.

At the start of the year, the Committee received the feedback on the Ofsted Inspection of Children Services. We were delighted to hear that the service had received an outstanding rating; made all the more remarkable by being achieved during the Covid pandemic. The Committee would like to place on record its thanks and appreciation to all the staff involved. We look forward to the level of improvement being maintained and will continue to monitor the progress through our overview of performance monitoring information.

During the year, the Committee also received the findings of the Joint Ofsted report into SEND services in the city. Several areas for improvement were highlighted in the report. The Committee heard that an Action Plan for improvement had been developed and it was agreed that we should receive regular updates. The initial reports show good progress being made and we look forward to this continuing in the year ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their contributions and to thank all the officers and witnesses who gave up their time to attend and provide insights into the services they provide and the challenges they face.

**Councillor Pat Smith**

**Chair of the Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee**

## **Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**

**Chair: Cllr David Snowdon**

**Vice Chair: Cllr Melanie Thornton**

**Committee Members: Councillors Usman Ali, Michael Dixon, Paul Edgeworth, Heather Fagan, Helen Greener, Stephen Foster, Sean Lawes, John Price, Tony Taylor and James Warne.**

During the year, the Committee's work programme has focused on a range of issues including the effect of the Covid pandemic on the local economy and the action being taken to help alleviate the situation. We have also continued to monitor progress on a range of regeneration initiatives going on in the city, many of which have continued to make good progress despite the effects of the pandemic.

In terms of the impact of Covid on the local economy, we received an update on the support provided to local businesses, many of which are administered by the Council, including the Small Business Grant Fund, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund and the local authority Discretionary Fund. The Committee would like to place on record its thanks to all those staff within the Council who have worked tirelessly to support of the business and voluntary sectors in the city.

We also heard from the Sunderland Improvement District (BID) on their work to support local business. It was hoped that following the Covid pandemic, footfall and retail spending in the city centre should begin the process of recovery and that the proposed development of Sunderland Riverside should provide an impetus for the growth of independent retail sector.

Jonathan Walker from the North East Chamber of Commerce outlined for us the considerable long term economic challenges facing the city arising from the pandemic, as well as the UK's exit from the European Union and the nationwide downturn in the high street retail sector. However, he noted that moving forward, the Sunderland economy retained strong foundations and that many opportunities existed, particularly in the engineering, manufacturing and the software sectors.

The promotion of new business start-ups will play a significant part in securing the city's long-term prosperity. We heard about the role of the city's three business centres – the Evolve Business Centre, Sunderland Software Centre and the Washington Business Centre – in encouraging growth in expanding areas of the economy, such as IT and software and in helping to diversify the local economy. We also heard about the measures being taken to improve their operation and efficiency.

In relation to the regeneration of the city, the Committee once again received an update on the progress being made by Siglion. It is pleasing that the regeneration of the Riverside is progressing well and should deliver high quality office accommodation, together with residential, retail and leisure use.

The delivery of the Future High Street Fund Programme and the Levelling Up Fund will play a key part of the ongoing regeneration of the city centre. We heard that the Council would take a targeted approach, using the funding where it makes most difference, in order to act as a catalyst for change. We also received an update on the upgrade to Sunderland Rail Station which should help to deliver wider connectivity for the city to national and international infrastructure and ultimately lead to an increase in passenger numbers.

An ongoing piece of work has been a Working Group set up to look at the challenges and opportunities for the regeneration of the Sunnyside area. This is an ongoing piece of work which should report back early in the next municipal year.

In terms of the development of housing in the city, we heard about the progress being made on the Council's housing strategy, including the measures to increase housing growth and maximise choice of housing, make the best use of existing housing stock and support vulnerable people to access housing. We also heard from gentoo about the challenges they face as the main provider of social housing in the city and discussed a wide range of operational issues.

The Committee received an update on environmental services and environmental enforcement. This included the effect of Covid pandemic on refuse collection, preparations for response to winter weather, fly tipping, maintenance of trees and plans for future improvements. The Committee's views were also sought on the proposed revision of the Replacement Bin policy. The Committee supported proposals to end the replacement charge in particular circumstances.

Everyone Active provided a presentation on the impact of the Covid pandemic on the delivery of leisure services in the city and future initiatives to improve access to sport and physical activity. We heard that the aim was to enable children and young people to have the best start in life and form good habits; support families and communities that are benefiting from being active and deliver a range of events and activities. Moving forward, the Committee looked forward to the growing take up leisure services in the city particularly in those areas of the city where take up was relatively lower.

The Committee received an update on the current position about the Review of Cumulative Impact Assessment; a tool for licensing authorities to limit the growth of licensed premises, both on and off trade, in problem areas. We heard that this issue would be readdressed following the impact of the Covid pandemic. Our views were also sought on the Council's Draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 and we referred to the limited powers available to local authorities to control problem gambling which was increasingly moving on-line.

At the start of the year, the Committee asked for an update on public transport in the city. The Committee heard about the main challenges facing public transport during the Covid pandemic and the continued challenges moving forward. This included the implications of the North East Enhanced Bus Partnership which provides a detailed partnership plan for future improvements.

The Committee also received feedback on the E Scooter pilot operated by Neuron Mobility, in partnership with the Council, which has been operating in the city for the past year. The trial is about providing the city with an environmentally friendly transport option.

The Committee was also consulted on the Draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which represents long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks. The aim is to enable the City Council to develop a city-wide plan for cycling and walking and a programme of infrastructure improvements.

In March 2019, Sunderland City Council declared a climate emergency. In response, a city-wide 2030 Shadow Board was established, bringing together partners from across the city, with the ambition of the city becoming carbon neutral by 2040 and the Council carbon neutral by 2030. The Committee received a report on the progress being made on the Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan that reflected the importance of fully involving partners from throughout the city if the goals are to be achieved.

As an example of the progress being made, we also received a report on proposals for a City Heat Network for the city. The scheme involves a distribution system of insulated pipes taking heat from a mine source at the former Wearmouth Colliery and delivering heat to local buildings. The scheme should reduce the city's carbon footprint, promote energy security and deliver employment and economic growth.

All in all, it has been a very busy and productive year for the Committee. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Committee and everyone else involved for their hard work and commitment.

**Councillor David Snowdon**  
**Chair of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Chair: Cllr Neil MacKnight**

**Vice-Chair: Cllr Michael Butler**

**Committee Members: Councillors Chris Burnicle, Michael Essl, Martin Haswell, Juliana Heron, Shirley Leadbitter, Barbara McClennan, Dominic McDonough, Julia Potts, Mel Speding and Michael Walker.**

I am pleased to present this year's annual report for the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as we continue to operate against a backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the herculean efforts of health and voluntary sector organisations, as well as the local authority, in dealing with it. The committee has continued to monitor this situation very closely throughout the year as well as looking at several other important health-related issues.

The Covid-19 pandemic has once again dominated the committee's work programme. The Director of Public Health has continued to keep Members updated on Sunderland's handling of the pandemic in terms of our position, changes to legislation, social restrictions and covid variants, as well as the key public health advice and messages. Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has also provided regular updates on performance, winter pressures and the vaccine programme for the city. These updates have provided valuable information to the committee and afforded opportunities for Members and Officers to share knowledge, highlight concerns and provide assurances to the public over vaccine rollouts, initiatives employed to drive up vaccination rates and create a shared understanding on the evidence related to vaccination.

The committee has also continued to monitor the winter planning measures and protocols. The All Together Better Alliance has continued to support the out of hospital care and promote partnership working across health and social care services particularly during these times of significant pressures on all aspects of service delivery.

The pandemic has also had a major impact on the routine running of hospitals across the country and to the services they provide. As a committee we were interested to understand what pressures had been put on services and how backlogs were to be addressed. The committee received a report from the Divisional Director of Surgery for South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust on the hospital situation and were informed that, at the height of the pandemic, elective care had been suspended with key staff transferred to critical care. Members were also informed of the work being done to address a number of issues resulting from the impacts of the pandemic and the significant effort that had been made in collaboration with partners to reduce the waiting times for patients. As the Trust has started to resume its normal services Members continue, through CCG and Trust updates, to monitor the performance and pressures on such areas as referrals to treatment, diagnostic testing, and cancer services.

The Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board annual report is a regular item received by the committee. Members were pleased to welcome the independent chair of the board to the committee who discussed a number of the strategic priorities that underpinned the Board's local actions to safeguard adults in Sunderland. Members made a number of observations around the report, seeking assurances and further information around issues including incidents of abuse, vaccinations in care homes and safeguarding training.

The health landscape is also set to change significantly later this year when we see the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) to be replaced by Integrated Care Boards who will be directly accountable for NHS spending and performance, subject to changes in

legislation. Sunderland will be part of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS). Members provided comments back to Cabinet on the proposals and highlighted a number of points. These included the importance of clear and defined roles and responsibilities between the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), Integrated Care Board and Health and Wellbeing Boards to avoid becoming another layer of bureaucracy within the health system.

The committee also raised the importance of ensuring that local overview and scrutiny committees still had the same cooperation and contribution from the ICS and ICP that currently exists with CCG's so there remains that important accountability and transparency in decision making at the local level.

Members were also concerned that with the North East and North Cumbria ICS being the biggest in the country there was the potential for the consolidation of treatment services and looked for reassurances that services currently provided in Sunderland would not be moved further away, disadvantaging Sunderland residents. This highlighted the importance of establishing place-based arrangements to identify and address the needs of Sunderland's communities. Finally, Members were also interested in the make-up of the Integrated Care Board and what considerations would be given to local representations in terms of elected members.

As a committee we have also continued to receive updates on the development of a new eye hospital for Sunderland. The Sunderland Eye Infirmary is a renowned centre for excellence in ophthalmics and eye surgery both regionally and nationally, with the current facility being built during the Second World War and before the creation of the NHS. Representatives from the NHS Trust provided Members with a detailed breakdown of the engagement work that had been undertaken including public engagement events (including an additional event requested by the committee), targeted focus groups, online surveys and widespread media activity to encourage involvement.

Members were pleased to note the in-depth engagement that had taken place and more importantly that comments from service users and groups, including the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), had been considered and included in the new development proposals. Members raised concerns around the reduction in overnight beds and sought further assurances over this reduction in the new development, the NHS Foundation Trust provided further data to support the move. The Trust also provided assurances that treatments would not be cancelled in the new hospital due to a lack of bed space. The committee looks forward to further updates and discussions on the development of the new eye hospital that will provide a modern patient friendly facility.

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were also provided with information relating to the future of Monument Surgeries in Pennywell and the concerns about its ongoing viability. A public consultation took place from October 2021 through November 2021 to gather the views of patients on a number of issues and options including closure. A decision to close the practice was taken by Sunderland CCG in February 2022. Members raised their concerns over transport and travel issues for patients who would need to travel further to access GP services following the closure of Monument Surgery in Pennywell and would look to work with the CCG and GP Alliance to lobby transport groups. Members of the committee also wanted to see the mobilisation plans, following the decision to close the practice, and provide input as well as offering support in ensuring that all patients move to another practice and that no one was left behind. The Committee remains concerned around the general issue of the recruitment and retention of GP's and its effects on practice provision across Sunderland.

Members also received the draft Sunderland Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Support Services Strategy for comment. Members provided some useful comments including around ensuring there was an engagement strategy with LGBTQ+ organisations and also how engagement with BAME groups would be undertaken to provide an inclusive and approachable service. The Committee highlighted the importance that as a Council there was a clear public health message to continue addressing the issues through a joined up working approach and that this strategy supported this approach.

The importance of a healthy workplace and the promotion of the health and wellbeing of staff has never been more important as we continue to deal with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the Committee were pleased to receive a report on the work of the Sunderland Workplace Health Alliance and Members recognised the value of the initiatives that had been undertaken.

The Committee also received a report around accessibility in Sunderland and the approaches being taken to ensure that the city and surrounding areas are accessible by those who have mobility issues be that through disability, old age or temporary mobility issues. The Committee recognised that planning sustainable communities with high quality infrastructure has long-term positive impacts on the wider determinants of health, and further exploration of this issue was proposed in conjunction with the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

Looking back over the year provides an opportunity to not only reflect on the work of the committee but also on the sheer breadth of activity that is taking place across Sunderland to improve and develop services. Members have also received information and reports on diagnostic centre in South Tyneside, proposed improvements to Monkwearmouth Hospital, North East Ambulance Service performance, the rise in the use of assistive technology and sexual health provision in Sunderland. The Committee continues to witness the innovation of health services and the dedication of health providers across the area. We do not always agree with the decisions that are taken, but we do value the importance of understanding the rationale behind those decisions and seeking assurances for the people in our communities.

Finally, I would like, on behalf of the committee, to thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee over another very challenging year. The committee is committed to supporting, wherever possible, the work of health and social care providers as we look forward to further improvement and innovation across Sunderland's Healthy City landscape.

**Councillor Neil MacKnight**  
**Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

## The Year Ahead

Overview and scrutiny is an integral part of the Council's governance and decision making structure contributing to the Council's budgetary and policy making function as well as holding the executive to account for its actions. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the last year and recognise the challenges we face in the year ahead.

Clearly, the next few years will continue to be challenging for the Council; operating as it does in an environment of diminishing resources and increasing demand for services. This represents a major challenge for us all. For scrutiny it is important that we help the Council to make the best use of the resources available and ensure that frontline services are delivered to the highest possible standards.

We have heard throughout this year's report about the effect of the Covid 19 pandemic on the city. Moving forward we will need to address its longer term implications and challenges. These include the impact on adult and child mental health, the effect on educational attainment and its consequences for health and economic inequalities. There will also be the long term effect of the pandemic on the economy of the city; including its effect on economic growth, employment prospects, household incomes and the decline of the high street retail sector. We feel that these challenges can only be faced if the city develops a clear plan for building back after the pandemic and one that takes full account of the particular issues facing our young people.

Other key issues facing scrutiny in the year ahead will be the effect on the local economy of leaving the EU, the future reform of the NHS and its implications for health and social care in the city and the effect of Covid on the way our services are delivered, with greater use of on line delivery offering the prospect of greater flexibility for the future.

Scrutiny will also continue to play an active role in the changing delivery of health services across Sunderland and the region. It is certainly an area that will continue to be determined by financial, social and environmental factors that will continue to drive change in the sector. We will continue to monitor and challenge health partners through our own Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with South Tyneside and also regionally through the North East Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Through these joint arrangements we are able to represent the concerns and needs of the Sunderland population and ensure that Sunderland residents views are represented and considered in looking at service reconfigurations.

During the year we have, with the help of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, conducted a review of the Scrutiny process in Sunderland. The proposals and action plan deriving from this review should better equip scrutiny for the challenges it faces in the years ahead. This will include the development of more robust scrutiny work programmes that are directed at the key issues facing the city and its residents. We will also look to monitor the progress being made in implementing the Council's new City Plan for 2019-2030 and the measures being taken to make Sunderland a more dynamic, healthy and vibrant city. A key to this will be our ability to work closely and collaboratively with our partners and make the most of the resources available in the city.

Once again, I would like place on record our thanks to everyone who contributed to the work of scrutiny over the last twelve months and look forward to having another productive year ahead.

## **SCRUTINY ON A PAGE**

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, the three thematic scrutiny committees, North East Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee (NECA) and the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) tackle a large range of issues over a municipal year. In order to fully appreciate the variety and breadth of the subjects covered. Below is an extensive, though not exhaustive, summary of the work of scrutiny in Sunderland.

Accessibility Across the City  
Assistive Technology  
Better Health at Work  
Budget Reports  
Change Council - Consultation  
Child Health Update  
Children at Risk  
Children Services Customer Feedback  
City Plan Refresh  
Compliments, Complaints and Feedback  
Corporate Parenting Review  
Covid-19 Updates  
Covid Business Support Grants  
Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan  
Domestic Violence Update  
Diagnostic Centre  
Economic Challenges  
Engagement and Participation with Young People  
Environmental Enforcement  
Environmental Services Update  
Future High Street Fund Programme  
Future of Monument Surgeries  
Gambling Act 2005  
Holiday Fund – Operation  
Housing Strategy Update  
ICS-CCG Transition  
Impact of Covid-19 on Child Mental Health  
Impact of EU Exit  
Internal Communications  
Licensing Policy Review  
Leisure Centres  
Low Carbon Framework  
NHS Dentists in Sunderland  
North East Ambulance Service Update  
Ofsted Feedback  
Performance Management  
  
Safe Accommodation Strategy (Draft)

Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report  
SEND Monitoring  
Sexual Health Provision in Sunderland  
Schools Update  
Smart City Progress  
Sunderland BID  
Sunderland Eye Infirmary  
Sunderland Rail Station Update  
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service  
Waiting Lists, Times and Access  
Winter Planning

**WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22****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 2021/22 and provides an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for 2021/22.

**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 29 March 2022 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	£3,500.00
Member Development	Nil
Policy Review Development	Nil
<b>Total Expenditure to Date</b>	£3,500.00
<b>Budget</b>	£15,000.00
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	£11,500.00

## 6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee:

- (a) notes the variations to the Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes for 2021/22 and to its own work programme; and
- (b) notes the current scrutiny budget position for 2021/22.

## 7. Background Papers

7.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

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Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings  
Tel: 0191 561 1006  
[Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk)

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 21	JULY 21 (CANCELLED)	9 <sup>TH</sup> SEPT 21	7 <sup>TH</sup> OCT 21	4 <sup>TH</sup> NOV 21	2 <sup>ND</sup> DEC 21	3 <sup>RD</sup> FEB 22	9 <sup>TH</sup> FEB 22	3 <sup>RD</sup> MARCH 22	31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH 22
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										Scrutiny Annual Report – 21/22
Scrutiny Business	Corporate Parenting Review		Elective Home Education (Elaine Matterson)	Engagement and Participation with Young People (Jane Wheeler)	Domestic Violence Update (Karen Davison)  Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy (Gerry Taylor)	Child Health Update (Lorraine Hughes)  Holiday Fund – Operation (Jane Wheeler)	Schools Update (incl support for lost education catch up and transition from primary to secondary (Simon Marshall)  Change Council – Consultation (JD)	Impact of Covid 19 on Child Mental (CCG)  SEND Monitoring Report (Jill Colbert/Dave Chandler)	Children At Risk:(incl Youth Offending, Drug Use and Child Exploitation/ Missing Children (Karen Davison)  Wear Here 4 You – Update (Jane Wheeler)	Apprenticeships and Employment Opportunities (Sunderland College)  Regional Adoption Agency (Paula Gibbons)  Youth Council – Consultation
Performance / Service Improvement	Ofsted Focused visit to Children's Services - Feedback		Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services – Feedback (Jill Colbert)	Inspection of SEND - Feedback (Jill Colbert)	Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Jill Colbert)  Children Services Customer Feedback (Jill Colbert)				Together for Children – Performance Monitoring Report (Jill Colbert)	
Consultation / Awareness Raising	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

REASON FOR INCLUSION	15 JUNE 21 – (INFORMAL MEETING)	13 JULY 21	14 SEPTEMBER 21	12 OCTOBER 21	9 NOVEMBER 21	7 DECEMBER 21	11 JANUARY 22	8 FEBRUARY 22	8 MARCH 22	5 APRIL 22
<b>Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>			Licensing Policy Review (Steve Wearing)	Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles (Steve Wearing)						Annual Report
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>	Remit and Work Programme of Committee	Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service (Catherine Auld)	Covid Business Support Grants (Catherine Auld)	Future High Street Fund Programme (Peter McIntyre)  Sunderland Rail Station Update - (Peter McIntyre)	Sunderland BID (Sharon Appleby)  Economic Challenges - North East England Chamber of Commerce (Jonathan Walker)  Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (Mark Wilson)	Business Centres (Catherine Auld)  Environmental Enforcement (Michelle Coates)  Environmental Services Update (Sandra Mitchell/Graham Scanlan)	Leisure Centres (Martin Miles Active Sunderland)	Annual Low Carbon Progress Report/ International Strategy (Catherine Auld)  City Heat Network Projects (Mark Jackson)	Housing Strategy Update (Graham Scanlan/gentoo)  Replacement Bin Policy (Graham Scanlan)  Siglion (Neil Guthrie)	Annual Road Safety Report (Mark Jackson/Paul Muir)  Public Transport Update (Mark Jackson/David Marshall)  E Scooter – Pilot Feedback (Mark Jackson/Vikki Tubman)
<b>Consultation Information and Awareness Raising</b>		Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 21-22

SSTC and Port – Visit – Date to be confirmed (Matthew Hunt/Mark Jackson)

Environmental Services Update

Events Update

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

## To Be Scheduled

Adult MH Provision (Sunderland CCG)  
Health Protection Arrangements (Public Health)

REASON FOR INCLUSION	9 JUNE 21 D/L: 28 MAY 21	7 JULY 21 D/L:25 JUNE 21	8 SEPTEMBER 21 D/L:27 AUGUST 21	6 OCTOBER 21 D/L: 24 SEPT 21	3 NOVEMBER 21 D/L: 22 OCT 21	1 DECEMBER 21 D/L: 19 NOV 21	5 JANUARY 22 D/L: 21 DEC 21	2 FEBRUARY 22 D/L: 21 JAN 22	9 MARCH 22 D/L: 25 FEB 22	6 APRIL 22 D/L: 25 MAR 22
<b>Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>										
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>	<p>Covid-19 – Update (Gerry Taylor, CCG, Graham King)</p> <p>Path to Excellence Phase 2 Update (Nigel Cummings)</p> <p>Work Programme Overview (Nigel Cummings)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Update (Gerry Taylor, CCG, Graham King)</p> <p>Sunderland Eye Infirmary – update</p> <p>NHS Dentists Sunderland (NHS Improvement)</p> <p>Path to Excellence Phase II Update (Nigel Cummings)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update (Gerry Taylor, CCG, NHS FT)</p> <p>Diagnostic Centre (NHS FT)</p> <p>SSAB Annual Report (Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update</p> <p>Winter Planning (Sunderland CCG)</p> <p>Urgent Care Update (Sunderland CCG)</p> <p>Future of Monument Practice (Sunderland GP Alliance)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update</p> <p>Monkwearmouth Hospital (NTW)</p> <p>Waiting Lists, times and access – Recovery from the Pandemic (NHS FT)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update</p> <p>Better Health at Work (Public Health)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update</p> <p>ICS-CCG Transition (Sunderland CCG)</p> <p>Accessibility across the City (Stephen Dixon)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Update</p> <p>Future of Monument Surgeries – Update (Sunderland GP Alliance)</p> <p>Assistive Technology (G King)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Recovery Update</p> <p>Monument Surgeries – Mobilisation Update (Sunderland GP Alliance)</p> <p>Sexual Health Provision (Public Health/NHS FT)</p> <p>Annual Report (Nigel Cummings)</p>	<p>Covid-19 Update</p> <p>Patient Engagement (Sunderland CCG)</p> <p>Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (Gerry Taylor)</p> <p>North East Ambulance Service Update (Mark Cotton)</p> <p>Automated External Defibrillators (Jon Ritchie)</p>
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>										
<b>Consultation/ Information &amp; Awareness Raising</b>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>	<p>Notice of Key Decisions</p> <p>Work Programme 21-22</p>

Inequalities – Impact of the Pandemic (Public Health)

Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

REASON FOR INCLUSION	17 JUNE 21 D/L 7 JUNE 21	15 JULY 21 D/L 5 JULY 21	16 SEPTEMBER 21 D/L 6 SEPT 21	14 OCTOBER 21 D/L 4 OCTOBER 21	11 NOVEMBER 21 D/L 1 NOV 21	9 DECEMBER 21 D/L 29 NOV 21	13 JANUARY 22 D/L 4 JAN 22	10 FEBRUARY 22 D/L 31 JAN 22	10 MARCH 22 D/L 28 FEB 22	7 APRIL 22 D/L 28 MARCH 22
<b>Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	Revenue budget Outturn 21/22 (Jon Ritchie)	Capital Programme First Review 21/22 (incl. treasury management) (Jon Ritchie)  First Revenue Budget Review 21/22 (Jon Ritchie)		Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 (Jon Ritchie)		Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (Jon Ritchie)  Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 (Jon Ritchie)		Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2021/22  Capital Programme 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2021/2022, including Prudential Indicators for 2021/2022 to 2024/2025  Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2021/2022 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/2022 to 2024/2025		
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>		Scrutiny Review (Gillian Robinson)		Impact of EU Exit (Paul Davies/Jon Beaney)  City Hall Meeting Rooms (Helen Townsend)	Internal Communications (Jill Laverick)	City Plan Refresh (Jon Beaney)	Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report (Stephen Laverton)	Smart City Progress Update (Liz St Louis)		Annual Report (N Cummings)  Council Tax Charges on Empty Properties (Jon Ritchie)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>	Performance Management Q4 (Liz St Louis)  Compliments, Complaints & Feedback Annual Report including Q4 (Marie Johnston)		Compliments, Complaints & Feedback Q1 including Ombudsman's Annual Letter (Marie Johnston)  Performance Management Q1 (Liz St Louis)			Performance Management Q2 (Liz St Louis)  Compliments, Complaints & Feedback Q2 (Marie Johnston)			Performance Management Q3 (Liz St Louis)  Compliments, Complaints & Feedback Q3 (Marie Johnston)	
<b>Consultation / Information &amp; Awareness Raising</b>	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22

**NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS****REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY, MAYORAL 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 21 February 2022.

**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 21 February 2022 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 21 February 2022 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet Agenda

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Contact Officer : Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer  
0191 561 1006  
[Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto: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
210510/588	To approve the receipt of external funding for the public sector decarbonisation scheme and green homes grant local programme and the procurement of the necessary contractors to deliver the schemes.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211005/641	To agree the proposed development strategy for Northern Spire Park and the recommended next steps	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
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	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
210728/613	To seek approval for strategic land acquisitions in Sunnyside, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
210920/640	To approve land and property acquisitions within the Riverside Sunderland area.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211105/656	Subject to the outcome of the Warm Homes Fund application, to authorise the Council to enter into Funding and Partnership Agreements for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and to authorise entering into associated funding and delivery arrangements in relation to the proposed decarbonisation programme.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
211110/657	To seek approval to the lettings of the ground floor commercial units at Keel Square.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211215/670	To agree to the terms of lettings at Hillthorn Farm.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	Y	This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
211215/671	Following the report taken to September 2021 Cabinet, to authorise the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order over land at Washington Road, Sunderland, and to authorise the necessary land acquisitions by private treaty.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211215/672	To seek approval for the sale of Penshaw House, Penshaw.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220106/681	To approve a proposed variation to the Vaux Housing Development Funding Agreement with Siglion Developments.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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 Paragraph 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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
170927/212	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	22 March 2022.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211203/668	Subject to the outcome of the Link Together Heritage Fund application, to authorise entering into associated funding and partnership agreements in relation to the proposed green infrastructure improvements within the Coalfield area.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
211217/673	To seek approval to widen the scope of the Housing Delivery and Investment Plan to enable Private Property acquisitions	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220111/683	To seek approval for the development of the Waste Management arrangements and associated Policies as they are developed and including the Bin Replacement Policy.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
220126/684	To grant an Option Agreement over land at Newcastle Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220127/685	To seek Cabinet approval for the Letting of Unit 6, International Drive, IAMP, Washington, SR5 3HX.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
220127/686	To consider the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Holmeside Bus Rationalisation (Highway Improvement Scheme).	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220128/689	To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to deliver the Levelling Up Fund Project for 177 High Street West, 1-2 Villiers Street and 15-16 Nile Street and enter into a funding agreements with third parties for the delivery of the relevant works.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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
220210/693	To provide an annual update on the Council's Housing Service, review successes and regulatory and compliance requirements.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220210/694	To seek approval to procure and award a contract for a provider for Refuse Bins and Waste Containers.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220210/696	To consider a proposal to publish Notice of Statutory Proposals to increase the capacity of and establish satellite sites and a resourced provision for the City's Pupil Referral Unit and to procure and award contracts for Capital Works to support the proposals.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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220210/697	To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2023-2024 and to describe proposed amendments to published admission numbers (PANs) for the academic year 2022-2023, where it is necessary to provide additional places.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220214/698	To seek approval to award funding to Third Sector organisations providing social care related services.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220214/699	To seek approval to the planned Highway Maintenance (including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Programme for 2022-2023 and approve amendments (additions/deferrals) to the 2021-2022 Programme.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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220128/687	To agree the proposed implementation and funding arrangements in relation to the North East Screen Industries Partnership and associated regional Memorandum of Understanding with the BBC.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220218/700	To provide an update on New Wear Footbridge, including an officer delegation to place advance orders of materials where appropriate	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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220207/692	To approve the budget for fit out costs for the Beam and to authorise the procurement of the works.	Cabinet	Y	22 March 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220106/682	To give consideration to the Draft Bus Enhancement Partnership Plan and Scheme	Cabinet	Y	During the period 22 March to 30 June 2022	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220207/691	To approve the acquisition of strategic sites in the Commercial Road Area.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 May to 30 June 2022	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  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**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](mailto: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; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Linda Williams – Vibrant City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City.

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

21 February 2022