

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
08/Jun/2023**



Elaine Waugh
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall
Sunderland

08 June 2023

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

8 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Performance Report – Quarter 3 of 2022/2023 - Report of the Chief Executive

Full description of decision:

To note the performance information in relation to Quarter 3 performance of 2022/23.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure Cabinet is informed of the current performance position for the council against the City Plan 2019-2030.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended.

Contact Officer: Beverley Poulter

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Is this a key decision:

No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

16 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme Outturn 2022/2023 (including Treasury Management) –
Report of the Director of Finance

Full description of decision:

To:

- note the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2022/2023 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the Capital Programme;
- note the overall Capital outturn position for 2022/2023; and
- note the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators outturn position for 2022/2023.

Reasons for decision:

As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over capital spend and resources and receives quarterly reports to support this. This report notes the inclusion of additional capital schemes approved by Cabinet since the last capital review and confirms the overall Capital outturn for 2022/2023. The report also notes the outturn position in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Contact Officer: Paul Wilson

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

16 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget Outturn 2022/2023 – Report of the Director of Finance

Full description of decision:

To:

- Approve the budget transfers, contingency and reserve transfers proposed within section 3 of the report; and
- Note the overall outturn position of the Council.

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2022/2023 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised. This report sets out the revenue outturn position compared to the budget for 2022/2023.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Contact Officer: Paul Wilson

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:
Ground Investigation Works and Geotechnical Services Framework

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) approve the procurement and award of a new framework agreement for ground investigation works and geotechnical services; and
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Director of Finance to conclude the contractual arrangements.

Reasons for decision:

The Council has an ongoing requirement for Ground Investigation works on Council led schemes. A framework arrangement, with a number of suitable, pre-qualified providers, allows the Council to source services expeditiously at the lowest price and/or the most advantageous offer without undertaking a separate tendering exercise in each instance. The framework arrangement will enable the Council to monitor provider performance, quality and service delivery during the term of the framework.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The following options were considered and rejected.

Do nothing - This is rejected as it will add to timescales and increased cost through procuring separately on a scheme-by-scheme basis.

Utilise an existing framework – A similar framework is currently in use by Durham County Council - Framework for Provision of Civil and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation and Material Testing, this could be used by Sunderland. This option was discounted due to the short period of time length left on the framework.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

8 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revisions to Constitution – Area Committees – Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

Full description of decision:

To recommend Council to: -

- (1) Approve the changes to the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees together with the other ancillary changes as set out in the report, with immediate effect and
- (2) authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to make the associated amendments to the Constitution as set out in Annex 2 to the report, together with such other amendments as may be required to ensure consistency between the updated provisions and the remainder of the Constitution

Reasons for decision:

The proposed changes represent more clearly the role of Area Committees and particularly emphasise the key focus in terms of supporting residents and communities to maximise Community Resilience at an area level.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To leave the Constitution unchanged

This option was considered and rejected as the current Constitution does not fully reflect the role of Area Committees.

Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon

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Is this a key decision:

No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Housing Service Annual Review – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

Full description of decision:

To:

1. Acknowledge the updates provided
2. Note the emerging changes in the sector

Reasons for decision:

In February 2020, Cabinet approved to receive an annual report regarding the Housing Service. Also, doing so is required as part of the Council's wider Governance role as a provider of Social Housing

Alternative options considered and rejected:

That Cabinet does not receive an annual report on the Housing Service

This option has been considered and rejected as there is an approval by Cabinet to receive an annual report. Also, delivery of a report to Cabinet is required as part of the Council's wider Governance role as a provider of Social Housing.

Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:
Homes England Compliance Audit 2022-2023 – Update on Provider's
Acknowledgement of Report

Full description of decision:
To formally acknowledge the revised outcome of the Homes England
Compliance Audit

Reasons for decision:
Homes England requires the contents of the Homes England Compliance
Audit Report 2022-23 including all recommendations to be acknowledged by
the Provider Board's Chair or equivalent. Confirmation of this
acknowledgement must be recorded in the IMS Compliance Audit System by
the Compliance Audit Lead no later than three calendar months of the report
email notification being sent

Alternative options considered and rejected:
That the Council does not proceed acknowledge the Homes England
Compliance Audit Report 2022-23 - This option has been considered and
rejected as failure to acknowledge the report and its recommendations would
potentially jeopardise future grant funding

Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon

Email: Graham.Scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

16 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

NHS Commissioned Services funded via the Public Health Grant – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

Full description of decision:

To authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City:

1. to exercise the option to extend the existing contract for the provision of 0-19 Public Health Services in Sunderland for a further period of 24 months; and
2. to approve contractual uplifts and associated contract variations to Council contracts from time to time where appropriate arising from Agenda for Change pay awards for NHS staff, other agreed external funding pressures negotiated between the Council and providers and any uplifts to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) funding allocations on an annual basis for a period of up to 5 years.

Reasons for decision:

The terms and conditions of the current contract for the 0-19 Public Health Service include the option for the Council to extend the contract for a further period of up to 24 months, using 2 x 12-month extension periods. The exercise of this option to extend the contract will provide stability and enable continued delivery of the service for local residents.

Current delivery of the NHS Commissioned Services offers good levels of access and value for money; they also support a wide range of public health priorities in Sunderland.

Increasing Public Health contract prices in line with national Agenda for Change pay awards for those specific contracts which include staff who are subject to NHS Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions is consistent with the conditions of the Public Health Grant. It will also help ensure the stability and sustainability of those Public Health contracts in Sunderland.

Increasing the funding of PrEP within the sexual health service will ensure continued access amongst those at high risk, thereby helping to prevent transmission of HIV to ensure the continuity of PrEP services in Sunderland

Ensuring the viability of the NHS contracts will enable residents in Sunderland to continue to have access to the services provided. The services aim to improve public health outcomes and reduce inequalities by preventing ill health and providing accessible and targeted interventions to those with an identified need or those most likely to experience poor health outcomes.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The following option was considered and rejected:

Do nothing – do not extend the current 0-19 Public Health Service contract and/or do not authorise the variation of existing contracts to uplift prices to address external funding pressures, cover costs associated with increases to salaries of staff subject to NHS Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions or any future uplifts to HIV PrEP funding. This is not a viable option as the Council has responsibility for ensuring the provision of mandated public health services, recurrent responsibilities for funding increases to salaries and other associated funding pressures in accordance with national guidance and the terms of the Public Health Grant and the increased funding of HIV PrEP.

Contact Officer: Gerry Taylor

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Award of Interim Contracts for the provision of Social Care Services to Older Persons and Carers – Report of the Director of Adult Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Authorise the award of interim contracts to AGE UK Sunderland and Sunderland Carers Centre for a period of one year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 for such services and on such terms as set out in this report and such other terms as approved by the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy City and the Director of Finance; and
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Adult Services to, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health City and the Director of Finance, to undertake a procurement process at a future date for the award of the replacement contract(s) for the services as described in this report to commence following the expiry of the contracts referred to in (i) above.

Reasons for decision:

There is an immediate requirement for the relevant services to continue to be delivered to older people and carers. The Council is required to provide the services and functions within these contracts as defined within the Care Act and supports the delivery of these services by the organisations described within this report.

A lack of continued social care support would be detrimental for those older persons and carers within the City who require a locally based, accessible service.

The funding for these services provided by the Council, TfC and ICB contributes to the delivery of the services as defined by the Care Act and benefits from the wider service provision of these organisations. Without these contracts, the organisations would either need to reduce capacity, or cease to deliver elements of the support offered. The Council would be in breach of its duties under the Care Act to deliver these services to older persons and carers.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended. Given both organisations continuing involvement in the provision of these Services, it is considered that AGE UK Sunderland and Sunderland Carers Centre are the most appropriate providers of the Services during the interim period until a procurement process for the relevant services can be fully scoped, planned, undertaken and concluded.

Contact Officer: Graham King

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Children, Education and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Extension of Current Funding Arrangements for Family, Adult and Community Learning Provision for 2023/2024 – Report of the Director of Children's Services

Full description of decision:

To agree an extension to the current funding agreements for the delivery of community-based Family, Adult and Community programmes for a 1-year period to cover the academic year 1st August 2023 to July 2024 on such terms as approved by the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills and the Director of Finance.

Reasons for decision:

In line with the Adult Education Budget grant from the Education and Skills Funding Agency, a competitive process was carried out by the Council in August 2021 to identify providers to address the education, skills and training needs throughout Sunderland's communities.

Funding agreements were subsequently entered into with the successful providers to cover an initial period from 1st September 2021 to 31st July 2022.

In June 2022, Cabinet subsequently approved an initial 1-year extension of the relevant funding agreements to cover academic year 1st August 2022 to July 2023.

After due consideration it has been determined that the best way forward to ensure the continuance of the high level of educational and pastoral support to the most vulnerable and needy citizens and communities offered by the current services would be to extend the existing agreements for a further one-year period to cover the next academic year 2023/2024. A further one-year extension would align with the transition of Adult Education Budget to the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority in 2024 which will determine the new long term funding and delivery arrangements for the services. In the interim, the temporary extension of the existing agreements will provide stability and continuity of quality assured provision.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- The Council could choose to carry out a new competition with providers for 2023/2024. This is not recommended at this stage in the interests of proportionality until the long-term funding and delivery intentions are determined as current resources and pressures of Training Providers to complete a rigorous bid process are excessively stretched and at this stage may limit the number of applicants in a new competition, this in turn, has the potential to impact negatively on current delivery.
- The Council could choose to recruit and employ tutors to deliver training courses. While this would have some advantages relating to the contract management process, it could prove difficult to offer the wide range of courses which are required. In addition, should this course of action be adopted as a future model, it would need a full year to be planned and implemented effectively.
- The Council could withdraw from any future involvement in Adult and Community Learning delivery. This is not recommended as it would result in the loss of a significant amount of external funding for Sunderland designed to improve the social and economic position of the City through the delivery of education and skills training programmes.

Contact Officer: Jill Colbert

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

8 June 2023

Date of decision:

8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Gender Pay Gap Reporting – Report of the Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services

Full description of decision:

To endorse publication of the Gender Pay Gap Reports for 2022

Reasons for decision:

There is a statutory responsibility to report and publish the gender pay gap report each year.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There is no alternative option as it is a statutory requirement to report and publish the gender pay gap each year.

Contact Officer: Gillian Hunter

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Is this a key decision:

No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:
Disposal of land at Silksworth Lane – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:
To approve the disposal of land at Silksworth Lane, Sunderland.

Reasons for decision:
As set out in the Cabinet Report

Alternative options considered and rejected:
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

Contact Officer: Neil Guthrie

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	Yes
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:

Acquisition of the Former Thorney Close Inn and Award of Development Contract – Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

Full description of decision:

To approve the acquisition of Thorney Close Inn and associated land and to award a Development Agreement.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet Report

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet Report.

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Contact Officer: Graham Scanlon

Email: Graham.Scanlon@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 08/Jun/2023

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
16 June 2023

Date of decision:
8 June 2023

Title and author(s) of written report:
Culture House – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:
To update the Cabinet on progress with Culture House and approve the award of the building contract.

Reasons for decision:
As set out in the Cabinet Report

Alternative options considered and rejected:
As set out in the Cabinet Report.

Contact Officer: Anthony Crabb

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	Yes
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None