

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
14 July
2022**



Elaine Waugh
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall
Sunderland

14 July 2022

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Improvement of Bereavement Services – Report of the Chief Executive

Full description of decision:

To:

- i) approve the revised Cemetery and Crematorium Regulations;
- ii) agree that the Service implements the sensitive management of historic Regulation breaches;
- iii) agree the Service implements management of historic memorial items; and
- iv) approve the implementation of extended access at Sunderland Crematorium for memorial purposes.

Reasons for decision:

The services offered by Bereavement Services have been in a process of review and improvement for 18 months. The implementation of the further service improvements and Regulation changes will further enhance the services available.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- a) The option not to amend the Cemetery and Crematorium Regulations has been considered and rejected, as the proposed amendments respond to regulatory requirements and the effective running and maintenance of facilities in meeting health and safety requirements. The amendments provide necessary detail to the existing policy to support service delivery and as such no alternative options are proposed.
- b) Consideration has been given not to manage historic regulatory breaches and this option has been rejected as the management of both ongoing and historic regulatory breaches is required to support the terms of the existing policy and prevent future service issues specifically in cemeteries. No alternative options are recommended
- c) The option not to implement management for historic memorial items has been considered and rejected. A single management process for all memorials is required to provide a consistent approach to all memorial sponsorship, resolving any misinterpretation in the terms of original sale. The option exists not to implement the management arrangements of historic memorial benches however this would not resolve the demand issues in seafront locations and will result in future issues as benches are removed as part of any routine replacement programme.

- d) The option not to expand the Bereavement Services to include Memorial Days and bereavement support has been rejected. As a service enhancement which offers additional opportunities for residents as well as support to the bereaved is not offered by any other authority in the Northeast and can be delivered at minimal cost.

Contact Officer: Sandra Mitchell

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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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Management of Trees and Plantations on Council land – Report of the Chief Executive

Full description of decision:

To:

- i) approve the Tree Management Policy and Delivery Plan;
- ii) agree to procure specialist arbor services to support delivery of the plan;
- iii) note the intention to bring forward a Tree Strategy which considers the overall approach to trees including the contribution to our Carbon Management Strategy, how we consider trees in the context of planning and development and how we manage our tree stock; and
- iv) note the intention to bring forward a Parks and Open Spaces strategy which will be consistent with the Tree Management Policy.

Reasons for decision:

A formal policy for the management of Council owned trees is required and will form part of the wider Tree Strategy. As part of this tree management there is a need to commission specialist support to ensure the Delivery Plan can be achieved.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Whilst there is no statutory requirement to have a tree management policy it is considered good practice. In relation to the Delivery Plan, it is possible to delay implementation of increased management and to continue to respond reactively, however this approach will lead to increased unplanned works, resident dissatisfaction and increased risk.

Contact Officer: Sandra Mitchell

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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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme First Review 2022/2023 (including Treasury Management) – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

- In respect of the first capital review for 2022/2023 to approve the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2022/2023 detailed at Appendix A; and
- In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note the progress in implementing the 2022/2023 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

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 since approval by Council on 2nd March 2022.

Cabinet is also requested to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/2023, which is in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

First Revenue Budget Review 2022/2023 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- Note the contents of the report; and
- Approve the contingency transfers proposed at Section 3.4.

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.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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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: 14/Jul/2022

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Cabinet

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Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Local Council Tax Support Scheme – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- i. approve the commencement of consultation on the LCTSS for the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and
- ii. authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary to determine the LCTSS models to be consulted upon.

Reasons for decision:

The Council must have its LCTSS for 2023/2024 approved by 11 March 2023 and any fundamental changes to the LCTSS must be consulted upon prior to consideration by Cabinet and approval by Council.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options proposed. There is a requirement for the Council to consult upon changes to the LCTSS.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

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Title and author(s) of written report:

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply – Endorse the submission process for Sunderland’s investment plans and approve the Council’s role as Lead Authority for the management and administration of both programmes – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- I. Endorse the submission process for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan and authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader, to submit the plan by the deadline of 1 August 2022;
- II. Note the submission process for the Multiply investment plan which was submitted by the earlier deadline of 30 June 2022;
- III. Approve the Council’s role as the Lead Authority (“Accountable Body”) for the UKSPF and Multiply during programme implementation, delivery and monitoring from April 2022 until March 2025, and through to programme completion and closure in 2025/26;
- IV. Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive of Together for Children / Director of Children’s Services (for the Multiply programme), Leader and Cabinet Secretary, to accept the terms of the Funding Agreements with associated conditions from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”) and Department for Education (“DfE”) and to enable delivery of both programmes;
- V. Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive of Together for Children / Director of Children’s Services, Leader and Cabinet Secretary, to agree the terms of Local Funding Agreements or contracts with project delivery organisations whose projects are selected for support through the UKSPF or Multiply programmes (“the projects”);
- VI. Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services and/or the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to execute all necessary legal agreements in order to give effect to (iii) and (iv) above; and
- VII. Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive of Together for Children / Director of Children’s Services and Cabinet Secretary, to take all necessary action on behalf of the Council as Accountable Body for the UKSPF and Multiply based on the terms set out in this report including entering into individual project funding agreements and the procurement and award of all necessary contracts.

Reasons for decision:

The UKSPF and Multiply programmes require the Council to perform the role of an Accountable Body, coordinating the development of both investment plans, managing calls for projects and commissioning activities, entering into local funding agreements and contracts with projects and overseeing monitoring, financial claims and other reporting requirements. When the UKSPF and Multiply programme guidance was published in April 2022, investment plans could only be submitted by local authorities acting as Lead Authorities.

The delivery of the programmes will lead to significant investment in business support, community activities and capacity-building for the voluntary and community sector, and skills, training and employability support for residents and the existing workforce. It is expected that both investment plans will be approved by Government in September/October 2022, with the first projects commencing activities from this point onwards. Both programmes have been allocated a provisional three-year allocation which ends in March 2025. Final benefits and outcomes will be summarised in programme and project evaluation reports at the end of the funding period.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There is no alternative option recommended. A decision not to proceed would mean that significant investment in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills, in Sunderland would be lost and the outcomes of the two programmes would not be delivered.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

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14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Approach to Equalities and Socio-Economic Considerations – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- i. Approve the governance arrangements in relation to the discharge of the Council's equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the adoption, as set out in this report, of socio-economic considerations in its decision making;
- ii. Agree the draft equality objective for 2022-26: *"Progress equality performance through the Equality Framework for Local Government"*;
- iii. Approve the use of an Integrated Impact Assessment; and
- iv. Receive annual updates on progress in relation to points ii and iii above, with an interim report in the first year of implementation to provide assurance and approve further detail on the objective

Reasons for decision:

To ensure the Council remains compliant with the Public Sector Equality Duty; and goes beyond compliance to progress work in relation to equalities and socio-economic considerations.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for consideration.

Contact Officer: Jane Hibberd

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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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
14 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Acceptance and award of grant funding to the Sunderland BID Limited -
Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to accept a grant award of £70,000 from SCCG and award a subsequent grant of the same amount to Sunderland BID on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary and the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Reasons for decision:

The acceptance of the external funding offer from the SCCG and the allocating of the same to the Sunderland BID will enhance the events programme in the city centre. It will be used to put on a range of events with a health focus which will enable residents from all areas of the city and from all demographic backgrounds to come to the city centre and enjoy what is on offer. The events will be targeted to address some of the health inequalities that exist in Sunderland.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are:

- (i) not to accept the grant funding offer from SCCG which would result in the loss of the opportunity to promote health improvement and mental wellbeing. Consequently, this alternative option is not recommended.
- (ii) Not to allocate the funding to Sunderland BID. However, given the intention to utilise the funding to deliver a range of city centre public events as devised by Sunderland BID, they are the most appropriate recipient of the funding to order to deliver the resulting public benefits. Consequently, this alternative option is not recommended.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision: No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillors G. Miller and C. Rowntree declared interests as the Council's representatives on Sunderland BID Limited and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

22 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Low Carbon – Progress Report and Action Plan – Report of the Executive
Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Note the level and nature of activity to date in relation to Low Carbon; and
- (ii) Approve the updated City Council Low Carbon Action Plan.

Reasons for decision:

Sunderland City Council is committed to playing its part in tackling the global challenge of climate change. Significant work has been undertaken since the Low Carbon Action Plan was initially prepared when the city-wide Low Carbon Framework was developed. This includes having developed a more detailed understanding of the Council's emissions. In addition, the Council has committed to more ambitious targets as a result of signing up to the renewed UK100 Pledge. The Council is now committed to becoming net zero as an organisation by 2030, across all greenhouse gases, in addition to becoming carbon neutral. This is in parallel to the city as a whole working to become carbon neutral by 2040 and net zero by 2045 or as soon as possible. It is therefore considered appropriate that the Council reviews and updates its Low Carbon Action Plan to take on board the learning to date and ensure continued alignment with the City Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option would be to continue with the initial Low Carbon Action Plan which was adopted in January 2021 and not to adopt the updated Action Plan. This would not facilitate the necessary acceleration and focus which is required to enable the Council to progress in relation to its ambitious targets. In addition, this would not support the Council in being able to continue to demonstrate the necessary community leadership with partners as Sunderland works towards its city-wide target which requires active engagement by all.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
22 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:
Integrated Transport Block: Structural Maintenance of Bridge Number 015.00
Newcastle Road Bridge - Report of the Executive Director of City
Development

Full description of decision:

- i. Subject to the completion of the relevant funding agreement with the North East Joint Transport Committee, to authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery and completion of the Newcastle Road Bridge Structural Maintenance scheme, including the procurement and award of the construction contract.
- ii. Authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to complete all necessary legal agreements, including those with Network Rail and Nexus, in order to give effect to the above.

Reasons for decision:

Approval will enable the procurement of an experienced and skilled main contractor to allow for the successful delivery of the Newcastle Road Bridge Structural Maintenance project.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

An option not to progress with the project may put the Council at risk of damaging Network Rail/Nexus Infrastructure and ultimately of losing a vital link in the transport corridor.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Children, Education and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
22 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposed Lowering of the Age of Admission at Thorney Close Primary School
– Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Full description of decision:

To:

Authorise the Director of Children’s Services to commence pre-publication consultation and, subject to the outcome of that process, publish a statutory notice to:

Lower the age range of Thorney Close Primary School from 3 – 11 years of age to 2 – 11 years of age with effect from 1st January 2023.

Reasons for decision:

Thorney Close Primary School currently offers statutory early years provision for children from the age of three. The school’s current offer focuses on the delivery of the statutory 15-hour entitlement. Lowering the age of admission at the school would allow the extension of this provision to include 2-year-old children and would enable the delivery of the free early years entitlement available to disadvantaged families.

Lowering of the age of admission would ensure the ongoing sustainability of early years provision for 2-year-olds in the area. It would also enable parents with both two-year-old children and older children who may already attend the school to drop their children at one single setting instead of multiple settings across the area, therefore making 2-year-old provision more convenient and accessible to an increased range of families.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- Retain the current age of admission at Thorney Close Primary School

This would not enable parents of both 2-year-old and school age children to have the opportunity to access provision from a single setting. Additionally, the opportunity to provide sustainable nursery places within the new build (planned for 2025) will ensure that early years provision can be safeguarded in the Sandhill Ward in future years.

Contact Officer: Jill Colbert

Email: jill.colbert@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Children, Education and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
14 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Youth engagement across the city: response to Council resolution – Report of the Director of Children's Services

Full description of decision:

To agree the outlined approach for the Council to engage and consult with children and young people.

Reasons for decision:

A Motion to Council in January proposed that a shadow young person's board should be established to enable consultation activity. In order to respond a review of the current arrangements has been undertaken and evidences a significant amount of existing consultation activity. What is less apparent is how the feedback from children impacts on decision making in some areas. A process is recommended in this report to improve that.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To leave the arrangements as they are risks limiting the benefit of feedback from children and young people and risks dis-engagement from them, as they may well feel that the engagement is a token and not a meaningful opportunity to influence.

Contact Officer: Jill Colbert

Email: jill.colbert@sunderland.gov.uk

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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
22 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:
Strategic Property Acquisitions in Sunnyside, Sunderland – Report of the
Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:
To:

- i. Approve the acquisition of the long leasehold interest of the property, shown edged bold on the plan at Appendix 1 for a purchase price detailed in the report; and
- ii. Authorise the Executive Director of City Development to agree the final terms of the proposed arrangements set out in (i) and (ii) above in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:
As set out in the Cabinet report.

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

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@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: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:

14 July 2022

Date of decision:

14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Disposal of the South West Lodge, Mere Knolls Cemetery, Dovedale Road,
Sunderland – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To agree to the disposal of the Property shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1, to the purchaser and at a price detailed in the report or on terms otherwise to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Leader and Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 14/Jul/2022

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
14 July 2022

Date of decision:
14 July 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

The letting of Unit 6, International Drive, IAMP, Washington, SR5 3HX –
Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- i. Approve the letting of the Property, edged red on the plan attached at Appendix 1, to the company detailed in the report, on the terms set out in the report; and
- ii. Authorise the Executive Director of City Development to agree the final terms of the lease in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader, and Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

No

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillors G. Miller and C. Rowntree together with Peter McIntyre, Executive Director of City Development, declared interests as members on the board of IAMP LLP. As the Council is the long leasehold owner of the relevant unit and this is a letting decision by the Council, not the LLP, they were permitted to remain and participate in the meeting.