

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,
Sunderland on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 4.30 p.m.**

Membership

Cllrs Ali, M. Dixon, Edgeworth, Fagan, Foster, Laws, Mordey, Reed, Scanlan, D. Snowdon (Chairman), H. Trueman (Vice Chairman) and Warne.

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence.	-
2.	Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 27th February and;	1
	Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 7th March, 2023	9
	(copy herewith).	
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Siglion Progress Report	15
	Report of the Executive Director of City Development (copy herewith).	

Contact: Paul Wood Principal Governance Services Officer
Email: paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request

5.	Future High Street Fund Update	16
	Report of the Executive Director of City Development (copy herewith).	
6.	Sunniside Working Group Findings	17
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Co- ordinator (copy herewith).	
7.	Scrutiny Annual Report	29
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Co- ordinator (copy herewith).	
8.	Annual Work Programme 2022/23	34
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Co- ordinator (copy herewith).	
9.	Notice of Key Decisions	36
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members Support Co- ordinator (copy herewith).	

Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions

No items.

E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

27 March 2023.

At a extraordinary meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor D. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Dixon, Edgeworth, Fagan, Mordey, Reed, Scanlan, Trueman and Warne.

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

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

Louise Bassett, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Gentoo

Susie Thompson, Executive Director Housing, Gentoo

Joanne Gordon, Development Director, Gentoo

James Haste, Director of Property Maintenance, Gentoo

Members of the Press and Public

Also in attendance

Councillors Guy, F. Miller and Usher

Mr Graham Scanlon, Assistant Director of Housing Services, Sunderland City Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ali, Foster and Laws.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Housing Providers Consultation

The Scrutiny and Members Services Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which welcomed discussions with a number of housing providers on the housing issues facing the city.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Louise Bassett, Interim Chief Executive Officer was in attendance to represent Gentoo along with colleagues Susie Thompson, Executive Director Housing, Joanne Gordon, Development Director and James Haste, Director of Property Maintenance.

Representatives provided a PowerPoint presentation and stopped to take questions and queries after each section.

Ms Barrett provided an update on the challenges facing Gentoo tenants, the interim leadership structure/Board and Committee Members, their core purpose and tenant satisfaction levels for April 22 to January 23.

Councillor H. Trueman raised the issue that of late he was receiving many complaints from residents about the poor communication from Gentoo workers on the ground, in particular relating to the demolition of garages in Washington which was giving Members great concern.

Ms Bassett commented that she was sorry to hear this and Councillor Trueman raised a valid point. Communication was one of the biggest barriers they faced and they would take this back and try to do better in future. In relation to the demolition of garages, Ms Bassett advised that meetings had taken place and if there were any outstanding issues that Members had, then she would follow up on those.

Mr Haste informed that a new Officer had been recruited, heading up the Tenant Voice Team to pick up on such issues and whilst agreed they have a lot to improve upon with their systems it was being tackled with a lot of work ongoing.

Councillor Mordey referred to the number of MP referrals/complaints statistics and queried if they had any similar statistics for Councillors as they had frustrations over the appearance of a two-tier system where MP's queries were being dealt with more efficiently than Councillors and if it were possible for Councillors to have a dedicated email address they could use to forward on residents issues.

Ms Thompson advised that this issue had been raised and there was a dedicated email address already created for Councillors which they could circulate again to Members. Ms Bassett advised that they did respond to MP enquiries differently as they would not have come through the regular channel which have systems in place for recording, so they did not provide a different service intentionally and they were trying to tackle all enquiries the same now.

Councillor Dixon referred to the attendance of Ms Bassetts predecessor at a previous meeting of the Committee in which he had informed of a plan and enquired if this was to be deviated from and if there had been any changes in personnel since he had left and also requested if Officer could expand on what their statement of business as usual meant.

Ms Bassett advised that the Operating Director had left the organisation at the end of January but other than that the structure remained the same and that business as usual referred to the types of service that would be available to tenants.

Councillor Dixon commented that there was no radical change then and he found the previous report to be interesting and reassuring so he was pleased to see this work would be continuing.

Councillor Warne commented that the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators were the first point of contact for tenants and he had found that they were bereft of information pertaining to their own backyard and that in relation to the demolition of garages in Donwell, only half of the people owning these were being consulted with and the

neighbours were also not being informed. There was generally a lack of decent communication and the tenants had a right for far more expansive consultations.

Ms Bassett commented that communication was a constant challenge and she took full responsibility for this not being good enough and acknowledged that they may not communicate enough with their Neighbourhood Coordinators but they were working on changing this and to improve.

Councillor Warne advised that he would be grateful if Officers could include Neighbourhood Coordinators into their thinking so that they were better informed and also wished to raise the issue of the bungalows in Springwell Village which had been repaired and modernised, yet the repairs had been a disgrace and the residents who were retired, some with a level of infirmity had been dealt with very poorly by Gentoo. Ms Barrett advised that they would go back and look at the bungalows mentioned for further investigation.

Councillor Fagan enquired as to who monitored the email address given to Councillors as she was yet to receive replies or any feedback on issues that she had raised and suggested if an automated reply could be implemented. Ms Bassett apologised that a reply had not been received and advised that all tenants were supposed to receive contact within 24 hours of a complaint being made. The complaints were tracked so she would find out why Councillor Fagan's messages had not been responded to.

Councillor Usher advised that he experienced the same problems in the Redhill Ward and informed that the reporting system for the Council fed into Gentoo when it was within their jurisdiction, however he had given up on the system as Members didn't receive any feedback, the tenants received no feedback and there was no confirmation when jobs were completed. Councillor Usher commented that as a Software Engineer he was appalled at the systems used and there was a need for these to be sorted out.

Councillor Usher also commented that there were a great deal of changes of staff on the ground which nobody informed Members so there was no continuity when dealing with issues and there needed to be responsibility taken on this and a better way of communicating. Ms Bassett commented that it was clear their communication wasn't good enough in these regards.

Councillor Reed wished to highlight that the Neighbourhood Coordinator he had dealt with in his area was great and enquired as to Gentoo's policy for when tenants got in touch multiple times during a complaint and if they only responded once the issues were rectified. Ms Bassett advised that this would depend on the issue and its priority/urgent repair for example. Complaints should receive a call within 24 hours of when they were made.

Ms Thompson provided a section of the presentation on the Cost of Living, the task force created to offer support on this and the strategic partnerships with energy companies that had been implemented or had ongoing discussions about.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that it was great what Gentoo was doing to tackle this but it was awful that people were getting into this position and enquired what the

proposed rent increase was from Gentoo. Ms Thompson advised that it was the same as the Councils proposal of 7% increase.

Councillor Dixon enquired how Gentoo dealt with rent arrears and if they could explain the procedure. Ms Thompson advised that every person and case was dealt with individually based on its own merits and Officers would make sure that the individual was receiving all the external support that was available to them and their Money Matters Teams could look at reprofiling debts. They did take a more harsh stance with those tenants that refused to engage or ignored their Officers but they did do all they could to work with tenants.

Ms Thompson also informed that it was very costly to go through court proceedings so they would only take this approach as a last resort if the tenant was refusing to work with them.

In response to Councillor Dixon, Ms Thompson advised that if someone was struggling to pay their rent, Gentoo couldn't reduce this as it was a legally binding contract but they could change the amount paid to arrears etc and each case was considered on its own merits. In terms of trends, debts had not significantly changed from previous years and this may be down to the levels of support that were being given such as the implementation of Universal Credit Champions so the income collection hadn't taken any big hit.

The Chairman enquired if the Money Matters Team had seen an increase in demands for their services. Ms Thompson confirmed that there had been an increase in demand and they were operating a triage service now. 84% of people knew of the service with 64% of those answering yes to having to use the service in the next six months.

In response to Councillor Mordey query that if energy companies could wipe off debt, would Gentoo cancel rent arrears, Ms Thompson advised that if it was former tenant debt this could be, if it couldn't be recovered.

Councillor Reed referred to the data on complaints and queried if this could be broken down into geographical areas and also queried if those residents in Washington using the District Heating System were struggling more under the Heating costs issues than others.

Ms Thompson advised that it was across the board that people were struggling with energy concerns, not just one area and they had helped with additional top ups of credit where needed. Mr Haste advised that they could look at the geographical data and it was something that they were doing. Councillor Reed welcomed the work on this.

In relation to the presentation and work done on Anti-social behaviour, Councillor Edgeworth requested if Officers could expand on the funding of initiatives to deal with youth disorder and how it was determined in where they tackled instances. Ms Thompson advise that she sat on both the HALO and SARA boards and decisions were taken depending on where the issues were occurring. There were issues in the Hetton/Houghton area at present so this was where the Police were focussing their attention but there was no one size fits all approach as it depends on the issue so they work on anything where they can have an impact upon.

Councillor Edgeworth referred to the Thorney Close area in which a particular Officer had been visiting with Members to discuss what could be achieved in relation to youth activities etc however this person was moved on and enquired if the post still existed. Ms Thompson informed that she believed that such roles still existed and she would investigate this further.

Ms Bassett informed of the Young Person Team and that they struggled with engagement so if Members had any ideas they were most open for any suggestions.

In relation to Councillor Scanlan's enquiry on how successful they were in receiving rents direct from those tenants who were dependant on alcohol/substances. Ms Thompson advised that if the tenant was on Housing Benefit the rent would go straight to Gentoo but if they were moved over to Universal Credit then the tenant got the payment directly. If the tenant was drug/alcohol dependant and considered vulnerable then Gentoo could request that the payments be sent directly to them but the tenant had to be agreeable to this request.

In response to Councillor Fagan's enquiry, Ms Thompson advised that they did take references from previous landlords on new tenants for information such as if tenants had paid rent on time, if they had breached their tenancy in any way or if there had been any instances of ASB but they did accept that the references may not always be honest.

Councillor Reed queried how Gentoo defined anti-social behaviour and if this included more minor things such as parking disputes etc. Ms Thompson commented that parking issues caused a great deal of upset but they did not record these as they didn't own the roads and had no powers or control over this and tenants were not breaching their agreements. If tenants were causing a nuisance such as blocking drives then yes this would be dealt with but if creating an annoyance such as loud vehicles, this would be dealt with as a noise complaint and they would work in conjunction with environmental health within the Council.

At this juncture Mr Haste gave an update on the Damp/Mould situation and the work ongoing to tackle this. Mr Haste commented that he was aware that the issue had not been cracked yet and they still had a lot of work to do but he felt it was important to share what they were doing well and not so well on. There was still a big backlog of repairs being managed by the group.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that Washington as a new town was 53 years old and the build of the houses were quite unique with no double glazing for example, The providers were trying to get on top of this but there was the problem that sealing the properties up now more than ever with cavity wall insulation for example was creating a major problem in terms of mould etc.

Mr Haste agreed that the sector in general realised there was a balance between heating homes and ventilation which was a predicament that they understood they had a role to play in this until the issues were remedied.

Councillor Mordey enquired how Gentoo prioritised areas for their 5 year programme and that Hendon still had properties with old single glazed doors and tenants would see residents elsewhere getting improvements made to their properties and become frustrated

Mr Haste advised that their asset team prioritised based on building safety and a risk basis. A lot of work goes into how they pick properties as well as consideration of how they could get the most performance out of the money they had to spend so they were taking a more holistic approach now more than they ever had before.

Councillor Mordey enquired if there was any way that Members could feed into this process as they had a unique understanding and knowledge of their wards. Ms Bassett commented that they would like feedback on what they do as this was the only way they could get better and she was more than happy to set up a meeting to build this relationship further.

Councillor Mordey queried what the average time was from a complaint being submitted to a repair/completion. Mr Haste advised that this would be dependant on the tenant and if they were vulnerable for instance so they wouldn't like to give an exact timeframe as they had backlogs and they were tailoring their services knowing they have a backlog. Ms Bassett acknowledged that their systems were shockingly poor and they were working to fix these.

In response to Councillor Mordey's query over how long they expected clear to the backlogs, Mr Haste advised that he would like to send the information out on what they were doing to address this and explain what the business as usual should look like if Members were agreeable.

Councillor Mordey referred to the backlogs and queried if the causes of this had been due to Covid, the storms and then the emerging damp/mould issue. Mr Haste confirmed that these were indeed the causes and in addition they had experienced trade problems with difficulties in managing to backfill posts to carry out the work being a challenge.

Councillor Dixon referred to the tragic death of the child in Rochdale due to mould and enquired if the work Gentoo was doing was as a result of that or had this work been ongoing regardless. Mr Haste confirmed that they were already doing this work but that incident had realigned their priorities/refocussed their minds and made them want to understand where there were any vulnerabilities in their service.

Ms Bassett commented that damp and mould had always existed but the tragic news had heightened the issue across the whole sector and naturally they wanted to respond and address any problems.

In response to Councillor Dixons; query if they were generally happy with the standard of their properties, Mr Haste commented that most of the problems were low levels with one or two where they feel they could do better on but those instances they have relocated the tenants. They were adamant that they get better but the majority of cases were just low level repairs. Ms Bassett advised that they carried out half a million visits a year so they should be able to raise the alarm if any issues arose. Mr Haste added that the level of training provided to officers carrying out the visits was impressive and he was confident that they had a high level of competency in carrying out their role.

At this Juncture the Committee went on to consider the update on the Stock Condition section of the presentation and Councillor Mordey referred to the

investment to individual properties and queried if any assessments had been carried out on estates as some were coming up to 130 years old and if they were looking to clear estates.

Ms Thompson informed that they had a sustainability matrix which they fed the data on estates into every year, these were then ranked but didn't necessarily mean that the top ones were to be demolished and at this stage there were no plans for any estates to be demolished.

Ms Gordon advised on the need to be mindful that whilst they continued to lobby Homes England for a Regeneration Budget they didn't have one at present.

Councillor Warne wished for clarity that he could inform his constituents in Washington that all the eligible gentoo properties would have the double glazing installed by December 2023 as stated in the presentation. Ms Bassett confirmed that this was the intention and the only issue that may arise would be if the contractors ran into difficulties as we had seen recently with Tolent which would require sourcing alternatives, however they did have plans in place if such a scenario were to occur. In response to plans for Barmston/Sulgrave, Ms Bassett advised that she would come back to the Member with information on these.

Councillor Edgeworth raised the issue of garden fences still being down in the Grindon/Thorney Close area which was causing residents frustration and enquired when they could reasonably expect the new fences to be erected. Mr Haste advised that he would provide a detailed response to Members on this.

Councillor Fagan commented that residents were becoming frustrated as they had been told the delay in having their fences repaired was due to lack of resources but they were witnessing neighbouring estates being built by Gentoo with perfect new fences in the vicinity and enquired if these resources could not be used also.

Ms Gordon informed that unfortunately the resources were procured differently between Regeneration and Internal works. Ms Bassett commented that the length of time the fences had been down was not acceptable and she could understand residents frustrations so they would take this away for consideration but the demand had been incredible. They had a plan to deal with this and they would come back on this issue.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he was not surprised fencing had become an issue as in previous years where budgets had to be tightly monitored, other priorities will have been higher than fencing which has meant it has been neglected in order to ensure other works were carried out.

The Chairman referred to the double glazing installs and enquired if tenants would also receive education on controlling damp/mould issues. Ms Bassett commented that she would investigate and pick up on this to make sure it was happening.

In response to the Chairman's query over how well the houses at Cherry Tree Gardens/Normandy Crescent had held up, Ms Thompson advised that the only issue that had occurred was around the technology and as it was cutting edge, once broken down it took longer to get repaired due to the parts taking longer to procure.

At this juncture Ms Gordon provided the Committee with a presentation on Gentoo's Affordable Housing offer.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Dixon on if Gentoo planned to carry on the modern constructions used in Ryhope, Ms Gordon advised that they continued to work with the Sector and once they could meet their design requirements and costs came down then they would look at carrying out this practice again.

Councillor Dixon referred to the collapse of Tolent and enquired if this had come as a surprise. Ms Gordon informed that it had as Gentoo used Credit Safe which highlights cause of concern and nothing had come through in this regard. The team were experienced in dealing with such scenarios so they had engaged with the sector as quickly as they could and the sites underway that had been affected had already passed their inspection stage.

In response to Councillor Edgeworth's queries, Ms Gordon advised that the Gartland Road proposal was still a scheme that was proposed to be brought forward but it was just not in the next steps and in terms of an update on proposed builds, there was a more modest proposal for 732 homes this year and 900 over 5 years due to costs at present.

The Chairman referred to shared ownership properties and enquired if there had been any reduction in interest for this due to the increase in mortgage rates. Ms Gordon advised that they were still seeing interest and uptake but it was just that people were buying a smaller tranche.

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

1. RESOLVED that the information from Gentoo be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked Gentoo Officers and Members for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,
Chairman.

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 7TH MARCH 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor D. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Dixon, Edgeworth, Foster, Laws, Mordey, Reed and Warne.

Also in attendance: -

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

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

Ms Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration, Sunderland City Council

Mr James Garland, Principal Funding and Commercial Officer, Sunderland City Council

Members of the Press and Public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Fagan, Scanlan and H. Trueman

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February 2023

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February 2023 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7th February 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Update

The Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and its implications for Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration and James Garland, Principal Funding and Commercial Officer provided the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and were on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Edgeworth enquired as to what involvement they'd had with the Community Voluntary Sector in terms of commissioning, if they'd been considered for the Panel and what funding would be available to them. Ms Auld advised that they had been involved with the VCS and in terms of the Panel, the Sunderland Partnership was to put forward representatives and there would be a mechanism in place to deal with conflict of interest etc. In terms of funding for the VCS, Open Calls for Projects would be through open processes in terms of attracting the appropriate people to bid and they would all be assessed through the Panel so the VCS could apply for funding as well as any organisation in the City that met the qualifying criteria.

Councillor Edgeworth enquired if this would change if the Regional Mayor proposal was to be introduced. Ms Auld informed that Sunderland had a commitment for a three year period and they didn't expect that to change during that time.

Councillor Edgeworth queried if the VCS had been asked for expressions of interest and feedback, commenting that he had received concerns that their ideas had been taken for use by the Council without any feedback or consultation. Ms Auld commented that anyone within the City could express an interest and she was sorry that certain people may have felt this way however it was a very intensive piece of work to be able to provide feedback to all and it had not been compulsory to do this, however if some people were unhappy she certainly wanted to have a conversation with those.

Councillor Dixon enquired how this funding, given by Central Government and the procedures involved compared to that of previous funding provided through European funding. Was it better, worse or no different in terms of systems.

Ms Auld commented that it was difficult to say. European funding had been a regional allocation where everyone within that region had to apply for, whereas the Government funding was specific for Sunderland which was a positive. They were both relatively similar in terms of a lot being required in due diligence and responsibilities.

Mr Garland advised that it was still early days but in terms of priorities there was a broader range of interventions so more flexible and as it was early days on monitoring, the level of evidence projects would have to monitor was still to be determined so there was a degree of balance still to strike. Mr Garland also advised that the volume of guidance was less than the European funding to date and as it was still early days he could not say whether they had to report back with more frequency with this scheme.

Councillor Dixon referred to the presentation and the bullet point E5. Built and landscaped environment to design out Crime and queried if this was to be undertaken in the Sunnyside area. Ms Auld advised that there was a clear focus on ASB and they would look to see what came forward in that area of businesses.

In response to Councillor Dixons request for officers to expand on the response to the Cost of Living Crisis priority Mr Garland advised that they had been keen to

identify this priority with a plan that had an emphasis on households struggling to pay their bills, the VCS were dealing with these and it was about potential providers coming together to provide advice, building and expanding upon the work Citizens Advice were already doing. It was about looking for new ideas to build upon the work already being done.

In response to Councillor Reeds query over priority E1, Mr Garland advised that there had been a set list of 41 interventions and the criteria had been where the most impact could be had and identified strategic areas.

Councillor Reed queried the stated purpose of the divide between Capital and Revenue. Mr Garland informed that there had been no explanation by the government on the split but this was consistent nationally and there wasn't the level of EDRF Capital funding as this came through in other programmes such as levelling up etc.

Councillor Reed referred to Strategic Objective 3.1: Supporting economically inactive people and those furthest from labour market to overcome barriers to accessing sustainable work and learning and queried how this would work in practice and if the Council would be doing this in house.

Ms Auld advised that there would be a Call for projects and if the Council felt they could deliver this they would be involved in a bid or lead a project but ultimately, they were expecting organisations/most appropriate people to come forward on this.

Councillor Ali queried what level of businesses/criteria they would be dealing with as sometimes the smaller businesses got side-lined by the criteria. Ms Auld informed that in relation to the Community and Place Priority they had tried to put a minimum project size on and they were spending less money on lots of different projects so they were aiming at the smaller businesses working as consortiums for the larger sums.

Mr Garland commented that in terms of eligibility of who could apply, the Call for Project documents made clear who could apply and also took into account the nature of the activity/procurement. Businesses were to apply on a cost basis with no commercial gain and they had to build in compliance issues on the applications.

Councillor Dixon queried if there were enough officers to deal with all of this work as it appeared to be a vast programme. Ms Auld advised that it was a big piece of work and was challenging resources but they were working closely with Paul Wilsons Team and it was being kept under review as a priority.

The Chairman referred to previous European funding which had included a lot of paperwork which took time away from dealing with the actual people trying to help and queried if this scheme had taken that away. Mr Garland advised that the onus on financial reporting was still the same but the output reporting on activities was less so it was slightly more positive however monitoring was still evolving so in the future this may change.

The Chairman enquired if there was more or less money involved in this scheme in comparison to European funding. Mr Garland advised that it was difficult to say as European funding was based over a longer period, usually 7 years so there had

been more certainty albeit as part of a bigger geographical area. Ms Auld advised that there were broader issues that this money could be used on so it was difficult to compare.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked the Officers for their report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Screen Industries – Update

The Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the development of screen industries in the City within the context of the North East Screen Industries Partnership.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration presented the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Laws commented that this was quite an exciting announcement that was potentially massive for the region but queried if the footprint of the proposed studio and the largeness of its scale and its impact had been considered against the City's Low Carbon agenda.

Ms Auld advised that an assessment had not yet been made and this would be considered when the proposal came before the Planning process. In terms of the City's low carbon agenda there was a framework across the City and each individual partner was responsible to set out its targets and there was an expectation for them to take into consideration carbon omissions.

Councillor Laws referred to skills and in particular the Arts Centre Washington and enquired what way they could link up those groups with the massive productions companies and to attract the talent that already existed in the area. Ms Auld commented that there were mailing lists and she could certainly plug such groups into communications.

Councillor Laws suggested that with the creative change ongoing in the City, it was a perfect opportunity for a documentary to record the work underway.

Councillor Reed queried how much the BBC Screen Industries had spurred on the massive development of Pallion Shipyard and if they'd had any involvement in it. Ms Auld advised that it was difficult to answer as Screen Industries had meant to be a catalyst as it was a growth sector and we were very attractive in terms of the sector. Fulwell 73 had set up a regional office and people started looking at the region more so there was no direct cause and effect but we certainly became more attractive.

Councillor Reed enquired as to how the Screen Industries feed into the Government. Ms Auld advised that Hartlepool's was through the levelling up fund and that process was led by individual authorities/combined authorities but these Sunderland proposals were private led investments. Ms Auld added that overall they were

making sure they were working together with Hartlepool and Teesside University and the Screen Industries supported this bid.

In response to Councillor Dixon's query as to how Officers see their role as the Council on this and if it was about creating the right conditions, Planning/land ownership etc, Ms Auld commented that it was about enabling and creating the right environment by understanding their aspirations and seeing which parts of the jigsaw they can enable.

Councillor Dixon enquired how Officers felt we were doing in comparison to other North East Authorities and if we were ahead of the game. Ms Auld commented that we were in a very strong position with two major investment opportunities at the moment and a number of small production companies but different Local Authorities were doing different things so whilst we have had enormous progress in the last 18 months she was always cautious to make comparisons.

Councillor Laws referred to the major developments proposed and queried what had made them want to come to Sunderland rather than other areas. Ms Auld stated that she could not speak for those Companies and they would advise of their reasons for choosing Sunderland.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Ms Auld for her report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2022-23

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), to provide options, provide support and advise Members on the development of the scrutiny work programmes for 2022/2023

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Member's information

In response to Councillor Edgeworth's request that Nexus be invited to the meeting discussing Public Transport Update, Mr Diamond advised that Officers were waiting for the reply from DfT on proposals and as this hasn't been to Committee yet and suggested once this had that Transport North East be invited.

The Chairman commented that there was a great deal happening around Devolution at the moment also.

Councillor Edgeworth commented that it may be one for next year but there were serious questions for Nexus to be raised. Councillor Mordey suggested that Network Rail should be invited to the same meetings. Councillor Laws commented that Integrated Transport should be included as there was a wide range of issues to discuss.

Councillor Edgeworth raised the issue of the Glass Centre and requested consideration on how Members could ask questions on behalf of their residents. The Chairman informed that he knew Councillor Edgeworth had contacted David Bell on this and as it was a College/University Building it was important to give them time to obtain all the options, and to give them time to work on those before inviting them to Committee.

In response to Councillor Edgeworth's request for a way to submit questions, The Chairman suggested that Members forward these onto Mr Diamond who could write to the University and see what response is given.

4. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme for 2022-2023 be noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 15th February, 2023 (copies circulated).

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

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

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

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,
Chairman.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

SIGLION – PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a progress report from Neil Guthrie (Development Director) on the progress being made in delivering the regeneration of a number of key sites within the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive a further progress report from Siglion on the regeneration of a number of sites within the city.
- 2.2 The priorities for Siglion are to:-
- Improve concentration of new economic activity in the city centre
 - Create a city centre that supports higher value job creation
 - Bring dormant areas such as the former Vaux site back into use
 - Offer a wider choice of housing to the market
 - Position Sunderland as a place to invest

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Neil Guthrie (Development Director) will provide a presentation on the progress being made to date.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Item 5

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND – UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update report on the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and its implications for Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Future High Street Fund is a Government initiative intended to renew and reshape town and high streets in order to drive growth, improve user experience and ensure sustainability.

- 2.2 In 2021 the Council was awarded £25m through the fund; one of only three cities to be awarded the maximum award.

- 2.3 The funding will contribute to a number of strategic goals of the city centre; namely:-

- Consolidating: the prime retail pitch
- Enriching and Diversifying: the city centre experience
- Animating: Keel Square as the hub of the city centre
- Placemaking: reconnecting the city centre to the river and the landscape

- 2.4 The Council will look to take the following approach:-

- A targeted approach using the funding where it will make most difference
- The flagship projects including the Culture House and Crowtree Place
- Contributions to other key projects (including St Mary's Boulevard, Elephant Tea Rooms and Keel Square hotel fit out)
- The projects will act as a catalyst for change in the rest of the city

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Anthony Crabb (Project Director) will provide an update to members on the current position.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

SUNNISIDE WORKING GROUP – FINDINGS

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide feedback on the findings of the Sunnyside Working Group.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 During 2022, the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee set up a working group to look at the issues and challenges facing the regeneration of the Sunnyside area. Membership of the Group comprised Councillors David Snowden, Michael Dixon, Paul Edgeworth and Stephen Foster.
- 2.2 As part of its work, the Group met with a wide range of partner organisations. These included local businesses, the police, local ward Councillors, the Business Improvement District (BID) and officers from across the Council. A list of those involved is included in the final section of the report.
- 2.3 Based on its discussion, the Group has produced a report which is attached as an appendix.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and approve the report.

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SUNNISIDE WORKING GROUP - FINDINGS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During 2022, the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee set up a working group to look at the issues and challenges facing the regeneration of the Sunnyside area. Membership of the Group comprised Councillors David Snowdon, Michael Dixon, Paul Edgeworth and Stephen Foster.
- 1.2 In examining this issue, the Group chose not to fix a strict geographical boundary. However, it was agreed that the area in question basically comprised the eastern area of the city centre, bounded to the west by Fawcett Street, to the south by Borough Road and to the northeast by the inner ring road.
- 1.3 During our work, the Group met with a wide range of partner organisations. These included local businesses, the police, local ward Councillors, the Business Improvement District (BID) and officers from across the Council. A list of those involved is included in the final section of the report.
- 1.4 During the course of our review a number of new initiatives and developments relating to the Sunnyside area have been introduced. We welcome these and have sought to incorporate them into our report.
- 1.5 This paper is based on the issues raised during our discussions.

2 ISSUES AND RESPONSES

Background

- 2.1 The Sunnyside area was traditionally the historic business centre of Sunderland and there remains a longstanding professional sector attracted by its proximity to the city centre and its low rateable values.
- 2.2 While the area saw a decline in the 1990's, in the early 2000's Sunnyside was the subject of a major regeneration initiative. In 2007, Sunnyside Gardens was developed and substantial improvements made to the environment and public realm and the area saw the opening of new bars, retail and entertainment establishments and an emerging cultural sector.
- 2.3 However, despite the progress made during this period, there is a perception that the development of Sunnyside has, to an extent, stalled and a concern that the area could be left behind by the major regeneration initiatives on going at the Riverside and other parts of the city centre.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 2.4 During our discussions with representatives from the business sector, several expressed the view that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour makes the

Sunniside area feel unsafe for staff and visitors and could result in some businesses choosing to relocate. At the very least, it was felt that anti-social behaviour was having a negative impact on the perception of Sunniside and the city centre itself. There was also concern at the potential impact this could have on the regeneration of the area around Sunderland Rail Station and the impression it could have on people using one of the main entry points to the city..

- 2.5 Moreover, it was contended that while issues of crime and anti-social behaviour were not uncommon in major cities, in Sunderland there was a particular problem with these issues being focused on an area immediately adjacent to a business district.
- 2.6 Some businesses we spoke to also contended that the Police and Council were not doing enough to tackle this problem; leading to a feeling of frustration at what was seen as a lack of action.
- 2.7 As a result of these discussions, the Group conducted a tour of the Sunniside area hosted by the Police, to view the issues at first hand. During the visit, the Police expressed concern at the significant level of resource having to be directed to the area, particularly in the summer months when numbers of people congregated in the streets. It was felt that this level of resource was not sustainable in the long term and that more deep-rooted solutions were needed to tackle the issues facing the area. It was also noted that because many of the people congregating in the streets lived in the area itself, there was often very little the Police could do in terms of dispersing or moving people on.
- 2.8 In terms of a response, we heard that additional resources had now been directed to the Sunniside area. These included additional street wardens and the launch of the SAIL Team (Sunderland Altogether Saving Lives); a dedicated multi agency team working from a city centre located hub.
- 2.9 We also heard that there were regular opportunities for liaison and discussion between the Police and local business, including Pub Watch, Shop Watch, City Watch and Business Breakfast events. All of these play an important role in promoting a shared understanding of the issues affecting the area and helping to reassure the business community that their concerns are being listened to.
- 2.10 However a key theme highlighted during our review has been that while it is important to tackle the immediate issue of anti-social behaviour, any long term sustainable improvement of the area will require deep rooted social and economic change and substantial support and intervention.

Supported Accommodation

- 2.11 During our review, frequent concerns have been expressed at the number of supported accommodations in the Sunniside area. On our visit with the local Police, we heard about the issues arising from the high concentration of such accommodation; many of whose residents have complex needs and drug/alcohol issues.

- 2.12 There was also a concern that some tenants are not being provided with adequate long-term support. While supported accommodation is intended to be a short-term measure, there was concern that, in some cases, residents are staying in supported accommodation for a considerable period without their problems being properly addressed.
- 2.13 The Group feel that it is vital that targeted interventions are on offer for those with complex problems such as drug and alcohol dependency. We need more pathways and targeted solutions for the people with complex needs living in the area. Over the medium and long term, it was also felt that measures be considered to reduce the concentration of supported accommodation in the area.

Concentration of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's)

- 2.14 The Sunnyside area is marked by a high number HMO's; some of low-quality. During our discussions, it was made clear that it is difficult for the Council to prevent or control the numbers and siting of HMO's due to existing planning regulations and control over change of use.
- 2.15 However, we were informed that the Council had recently received additional SHIP funding which will enable it to appoint three officers to inspect and provide support and guidance to the owners of Supported Accommodation. This should hopefully improve the support available to residents.
- 2.16 We feel that the Council should continue to explore any avenues available to reduce the number of HMO's in the area, ensure that there are no abuses of the housing benefit system and look to support landlords in providing a better standard of accommodation.
- 2.17 In the longer term, the Council should look at measures to drive up the value of property in the area in order to encourage and secure its better use.

Housing

- 2.18 The Sunnyside area is underpopulated. This results in a lack of economic activity and vibrancy, low footfall and a low demand for goods and services.
- 2.19 At the present time there exists a number of void and poor quality properties, particularly around Borough Road, Suffolk Street, Nile Street and Villiers Street. Any long-term regeneration of the Sunnyside area will therefore hinge on the provision of more housing, of a better quality and mix of tenure.
- 2.20 During our discussions we heard about plans to improve the housing offer in the Sunnyside area. This is vital if we are to repopulate the area and improve the quality and mix of housing on offer. It will also be central to raising demand and footfall in the area.

- 2.21 We heard about plans to develop Nile and Villiers Street into a new creative residential community, with proposals which will see the streets turned into homes with adjoining workspaces that will lend themselves to artists and creatives looking for studio-properties where they can live and work. The designs will feature modern methods of construction, low carbon and renewable energy solutions and will be surrounded by green, community spaces which will complement the public realm already existing in Sunnyside. It is anticipated that works will start on site late 2023/early 2024.
- 2.22 Sunnyside should also benefit from the new housing planned for the Riverside and Sheepfolds areas which will help to repopulate the city centre and draw in greater demand and footfall.
- 2.23 During our discussion, we heard about the importance of looking to focus interventions on a number of key spaces in Sunnyside. This would involve making the most of already available assets, encouraging local activity and working with local community groups to create cluster of activity on which to build out from.
- 2.24 We also heard that the Council has been acquiring properties in the Sunnyside area that are at risk of unsuitable development. We support this where it is appropriate. It is important that we look to increase land and property values in the area to encourage better quality use in the future.

Vibrancy

- 2.25 A key theme of the review has been the need to bring greater vibrancy and footfall into the Sunnyside area in order to secure its long term and sustainable regeneration.
- 2.26 It was noted that while a number of cafés and restaurants are operating quite successfully, there is a lack of visible activity in the area and a lack of footfall, particularly on an evening which can make the area sometimes feel unwelcoming.
- 2.27 During our review we heard about a number of measures being taken to improve this situation, through planning for more local events and festivals, building on existing events such as Pride, as well as developing more market days. It was noted that Sunnyside is an important area for the LGBT+ community in Sunderland with the organisers of Sunderland Pride having their offices and a café in the area.
- 2.28 For example, Food and Drink North East will host five Local Hero Food and Drink markets in Sunnyside throughout 2023 and Sunderland BID have applied for £250,000 of Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) to activate Sunnyside and drive footfall to the area.
- 2.29 As part of the review, the Group met with Sharon Appleby of the Business Improvement District (BID) and discussed its contribution to the economic vibrancy of Sunnyside and the city centre as a whole. This included events such

as the Summer Food and Drink Festival and the March Restaurant Week, together with the summer programme of family activities.

- 2.30 We also feel that while quite a few hospitality businesses already have pavement licences, the concept of outdoor dining could be further encouraged where appropriate. Greater cooperation among hospitality and leisure businesses and more consistent opening hours could also help, though it was recognised that this was largely dependent on levels of demand. A further suggestion during our discussions was the introduction of themed promotions, concentrating on one or two nights a week which could encourage people to visit the area on an evening and grow the available offer.
- 2.31 Clearly, the issue of vibrancy in Sunnyside is a difficult one. The area needs more footfall to attract more retail, hospitality and leisure businesses – but it also needs a wider offer to attract such additional footfall. In many ways Sunnyside lacks a residential community. The long-term solution will be to repopulate the area and encourage the development of more, better quality housing.
- 2.32 However, in the short term we need to work with retail, hospitality and leisure businesses to improve the offer in the area by making better use of the open space and encouraging markets and local events.

Linkages with Rest of City

- 2.33 There is a need to improve the linkages between Sunnyside and the rest of the city centre. This should help to encourage greater footfall and allow the area to benefit from the regeneration initiatives taking place elsewhere. This would translate into making walkways more attractive, improving public realm, improving lighting and making the area feel more welcoming and accessible.
- 2.34 During our review there was some discussion about the options available to draw more of the student population into the area and improving its attractiveness as an evening destination – along the lines of the development of Ouseburn. It was felt that, while at the present time the area lacked a sufficient weight of attractions, it was an interesting comparison to bear in mind for the future.

Emerging Cultural Sector

- 2.35 During our review, frequent reference was made to the emergence of a growing arts and cultural sector in the Sunnyside. It was noted that a number of artists were operating in the area - though their presence was not immediately visible.
- 2.36 The area has also experienced a growing demand for space from early stage businesses and creative businesses, with a number of developments being brought forward by organisations such as Morengo Estates Ltd, which has been active in buying properties and developing them into artists' studios and space for new and growing businesses.

- 2.37 The emergence of this sector clearly has great potential to improve the Sunnyside area and transform its perception and we look forward to its further development in the future.

Leisure Offer

- 2.38 Our discussions have highlighted the importance of the leisure offer to the economic vibrancy of the city centre and therefore the future of Sunnyside. It is vital that we continue to develop the leisure offer and make Sunderland an attractive destination for people to live and work.
- 2.39 During the review, members highlighted the importance of retaining and expanding upon existing leisure and cultural amenities. Concern was expressed at the current lack of activity around the cinema area, with several businesses close by remaining vacant. This is in sharp contrast with the activity surrounding the Sunderland Empire. On a positive note, encouraging developments are taking place, including at Mackie's Corner, Pop Recs and the opening of several restaurants which should help to build regeneration of the area.
- 2.40 We also heard about further investment from British Esports in a new multi-site venue and gaming accommodation based in the Sunnyside area. Providing accommodation for up to 25 people, the fully self-contained properties will feature separate living and leisure areas, plus a cutting-edge digital performance and gaming room, kitted out with the very latest in gaming and creative technology.
- 2.41 During the review concerns were expressed about the potential loss of facilities such as the areas cinema. It was noted that the cinema now has a long term lease and that the Council own the building. We feel that the city should look to ensure a cinema is retained in the area and the Council build on its existing leisure offer and amenities moving into the future.

Masterplan for Sunnyside

- 2.42 Toward the end of the review, we heard details of a pilot project (Partnerships for People and Place) being led by the Department of Levelling Up, Homes & Communities. As part of this project, the Council has recently commissioned a consultant team, Town and Create Streets, to develop a Masterplan and vision for Sunnyside. As part of our review, the Group met with a representative from Town and Create Streets to discuss their work.
- 2.43 The Masterplan is intended to bring a collective vision for the Sunnyside area and an implementation plan that can be developed into short term actions. The project will run throughout 2023 and is intended to bring a new approach to making the right kind of change happen in the Sunnyside area. It will to be guided by the many stakeholders in Sunnyside.
- 2.44 As part of this work, there will be an assessment of property and shops in the area and what is required for their improvement. This should provide the basis for a detailed improvement plan. A working group will also be established

including the Council, public health, housing, neighbourhoods, licensing which should help to secure coordinated action and maintain momentum.

- 2.45 In order to support the Masterplan, we heard that the Council is looking to access various sources of funding and maximise what is available. For example, the Levelling Up Fund will bring in £4.5m earmarked to the Sunnyside area. Use will also be made of The Future High Street Fund and available Heritage Funds. While this does not represent a vast amount of money, it should help to provide impetus and hopefully draw in other sources of investment into the area.
- 2.46 We feel that it vital to involve and consult with the local community about the future of the area and the development of plans and strategies. If regeneration is to be sustainable, it needs to be community and stakeholder led. For example, we heard about plans to establish a community hub facility and use Nile/Villiers street as a basis for events which can tie in with Sunnyside Gardens.
- 2.47 We also heard of community-based initiatives from social enterprises based in the area such as Pop Recs, Alessa's Boutique and Sunshine Cooperative. Such initiatives can provide important building blocks to improve the perception of the area and encourage more investment.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The challenges facing Sunnyside are complex and deep rooted. The area has a high level of poverty and deprivation. Existing housing provision is often of low quality; with a high number of HMO's. The area has a concentration of Supported Accommodation, housing a number of people with complex problems and needs.
- 3.2 The area is underpopulated and this contributes to the low level of economic activity and low footfall. The area has on ongoing problem with anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime.
- 3.3 There is no easy or single solution to the issues facing Sunnyside. Any long-term sustainable improvement will depend on progress across a range of fronts.
- 3.4 However, there are a number of positives and opportunities. The area has the potential for improvement. It is an attractive area close to the city centre, possessing an attractive historic core. Over the years, a great deal of work and investment has gone into maintaining and improving the historic buildings. It is a small area in which resources can be targeted. It is proving attractive to social enterprise, early-stage businesses and an emerging cultural and creative services sector.
- 3.5 As a starting point, we need a long-term vision to build on these strengths and support the regeneration of the area. A vision that all partners and residents can buy into and drive forward and one that is community and stakeholder led. In regenerating the area, we need to look at what will work best given the size,

location and make-up of the area. It is important any Masterplan is ambitious - but also realistic and achievable.

- 3.6 The regeneration of Sunnyside is taking place against the backdrop of a major regeneration of the city centre with major developments such as the new at the Riverside and the new Sunderland Rail Station. We need to be clear about the role of Sunnyside as part of this overall development and the Masterplan must reflect this. It is important that Sunnyside is recognised as an integral part of the overall regeneration of the city centre.
- 3.7 Clearly, many of the immediate challenges in Sunnyside relate to the issue of anti-social behaviour. At meetings with local businesses, they highlighted the scale of the problem involved. Dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour is vital if we are to build up confidence in Sunnyside as a place to work and do business. We have also heard concerns about the impact this could have on the regeneration of the area around the new Rail Station which will be a major point of entry into the city and influence the perceptions of people traveling to the city.
- 3.8 It is therefore important for the Council and its partners to develop immediate solutions such as the recent launch of the SAIL Team. Hopefully, these will have an impact in improving levels of anti-social behaviour and the perception of the area as a safe place to live and work. Regular opportunities for liaison between local business and the Police should help to promote a common understanding of the challenges and action being taken in the area.
- 3.9 However, we also the need to look to address the deep-seated issues facing the area if we are to achieve long term improvements. Simply devoting additional policing is not sustainable in the long term.
- 3.10 There is a need to repopulate the area, in order to promote economic growth and vibrancy, encourage higher footfall and help to change its character and perception. We need to look to improve the quality of housing and diversify the housing offer. It is vital to get more people living in the Sunnyside area if we are to stimulate demand and improve vibrancy.
- 3.11 While the Council is limited in the measures it can take to tackle the number of HMO's, we must look to make best use of our licensing and regulatory powers to limit the number of HMO's where possible but also improve the quality of the offer available and support private landlords.
- 3.12 We should also look at measures to improve the quality of Supported Accommodation and diversify the housing mix. We need to ensure that people in Supported Accommodation are having their needs addressed.
- 3.13 It is also important that we have effective pathways for people with drug and alcohol issues living in the area. We need to look to avoid the situation where people are receiving no real help if we are to break the cycle. Although, it is recognised that there is no easy, short-term solution to a problem that will have considerable resource implications.

- 3.14 We heard that the Council has been acquiring properties in the Sunnyside area that are at risk of unsuitable development. We support this where it is appropriate. It is important that we look to increase land and property values in the area to encourage better quality use in the future.
- 3.15 We are also seeing growth in the cultural and creative sector which demonstrates great potential to be developed into the future. New funding and residential development should strengthen this.
- 3.16 We need to make Sunnyside as accessible as possible for visitors in terms of public realm, lighting and infrastructure and encourage more quality retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in order to bring more people into the area.
- 3.17 We need to improve the links between Sunnyside and the city centre to encourage movement between the two. More bars and restaurants will bring a greater vibrancy to the area. We need to develop a critical mass of activity to encourage people to visit and stay and think of ways of better promoting the area, perhaps through the promotion of themed nights at local bars and restaurants.
- 3.18 We need to work with the local cafés and restaurants to improve the offer and make better use of the available outdoor space, where appropriate. We need to increase footfall in the area and make sure that people feel secure and safe.
- 3.19 We need to think about where the leisure and entertainment centre in the city is located. During our study concerns were expressed about the existing leisure offer in the city. We need to build up the concentration of the leisure offer and make the city centre a more attractive destination.
- 3.20 On a positive note, we feel that there exists a growing energy and momentum around the regeneration of Sunnyside and a commitment among partners to work together and make the most of the funding and resources available. It is important that we maintain this and that the Council, its partners and the local community buy into the vision.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- That a masterplan and vision for the Sunnyside area be prepared which involves all partners and the local community;
- That an implementation plan and delivery structure is put in place to ensure joint working between the Council and its partners;
- That the Council and its partners continue to develop strategies for dealing with the immediate problem of anti-social behaviour in the Sunnyside area, including the siting of additional CCTV cameras;
- That the Council continue to investigate options for improving the quality of Supported Accommodation and improving the housing mix in the Sunnyside area over the medium and long term;
- That the Council investigate the potential of using planning and licensing regulations to work with landlords to improve the quality HMOs in the area;
- That the Council work with partners to develop more local events such as food festivals/markets and the promotion of themed nights in local bars and restaurants to bring greater footfall into the area and improve levels of vibrancy;
- That the Council consider measures to improve linkages and the public realm to encourage greater footfall into the Sunnyside area;
- That the Council look to promote the development of a leisure offer in the city and seek to ensure that existing facilities are maintained and expanded upon;
- That the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor progress on the recommendations set out in the report and receive further update reports

Thanks To:

Sharon Appleby – Sunderland BID
Inspector Jamie Southwell
Cllr Lynda Scanlan – Ward Councillor
Cllr Usman Ali – local business sector
Mario Jaconelli (Lofthouse and Partners)
Mark Black (MD Adavo)
Phil Moir (Richard Reed)
Helen Wall (Bradley Hall)
Neil Guthrie – Development Director
Stephen Savage – Project Director
Martin Bewick – Senior Housing Manager
Michelle Coates – Safer Communities Officer
David Gustard – Strategic Property Manager
Jodie Gillespie – Senior Business Investment Officer
Phil Scott – Environmental Health Officer
Dan Hattle Regeneration Manager

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the Economic Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2022/23 that is to be presented to Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 As previous municipal year's the annual report will be a single combined report of all four scrutiny committees. The annual report will outline the development in the scrutiny function and provide a snapshot of its work during the last 12 months.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The draft Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee report is attached at appendix 1 for member's consideration. The report provides a summary of some of the main work undertaken by the Committee during 2021/22. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee has delivered another ambitious work programme in 2022/23, which is reflected in the annual report. The Committee has worked with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the work programme and has tackled a number of key issues throughout the year.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members approve the Economic prosperity Scrutiny Committee report for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23.

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
(tel 07485275256)

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr David Snowdon

Vice Chair: Cllr Harry Trueman

Committee Members: Councillors Usman Ali, Michael Dixon, Paul Edgeworth, Heather Fagan, Stephen Foster, Sean Lawes, Michael Mordey, Lyall Reed, Lynda Scanlan and James Warne

During the year, the Committee's work programme has focused on a range of issues affecting the economic prosperity of the city and the opportunities and challenges we face in the future.

In relation to regeneration, the Committee received an update on the progress being made by Siglion on a number of sites within the city. We heard that the main priorities for Siglion were to improve the concentration of new economic activity in the city centre, create a city centre that supports higher value job creation, bring back into use dormant areas such as the former Vaux site, offer a wider choice of housing to the market and position Sunderland as a place to invest.

We also heard about two major sources of funding available for the regeneration of the city; the Future High Street Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is intended to replace the previous European Structural and Investment Funds. The total amount of funding allocated to Sunderland is £16.57m over three years from 2022/23 – 2024/25. The funding will support projects across three investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills. As the lead designated authority, the Council is responsible for the development, management and monitoring of the Fund. We heard in detail about the development of the programme in Sunderland which will reflect the priorities set out in the City Plan and the processes by which funds will be allocated.

The Future High Street Fund is a Government initiative intended to renew and reshape high streets in order to drive growth, improve user experience and ensure sustainability. In 2021, the Council was awarded £25m through the Fund; one of only three cities to be granted the maximum award. We heard that the Council has taken a targeted approach, using the funding where it will make most difference and act as a catalyst for change for the rest of the city. This includes flagship projects such as the Culture House and Crowtree Place and contributing to other key projects including St Mary's Boulevard, Elephant Tea Rooms and Keel Square hotel fit out.

In 2021, the Committee set up a Working Group to consider the regeneration of the Sunnyside area. The Group considered that the challenges facing Sunnyside were highly complexed and deep rooted and that there was no single solution to the issues faced. Any long-term sustainable improvement would depend on progress across a range of issues; including tackling antisocial behaviour, improving the quality and mix of housing, repopulating the area and increasing footfall and economic activity.

However, the report did highlight a number of positives and opportunities. The area has the potential for improvement. It is an attractive area close to the city centre. It possesses an attractive historic core. It is a small area in which resources can be

targeted. It is proving attractive to social enterprise, early stage businesses and an emerging cultural and creative services sector. The Group considered that recent work to develop a Masterplan for the area will be central to its improvement and we look forward to reviewing progress in the years ahead.

Rebecca Ball, Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture outlined the important contribution of the cultural sector and its major venues to the economic prosperity of the city. For the future, we heard that the opening of the Culture House and the Museum redevelopment should substantially improve the cultural offer in the city, though it could be several years before we see attendance figures back up to pre covid levels.

At the start of the year the Committee asked for a report on development of screen industries in Sunderland. We heard that early in 2021, the BBC had announced that it would invest up to £25m in the region, with regional partners seeking to commit £11.4m over a five year period. A new North East Screen Industries Partnership (NESIP) has been developed and with the support of North East Screen (formerly Northern Film and Media) a number of new productions have been developed or filmed in Sunderland. The Committee also heard about exciting plans for the potential development of Crown Works Studios at Pallion. Though still at an early stage, the further development of a screen industry in Sunderland clearly has considerable potential for future growth and we look forward to hearing more in the future.

In November 2022, Sharon Appleby of the Sunderland Improvement District (BID) updated us on their work in supporting local businesses in the city. This included events such as the Summer Food and Drink Festival and the March Restaurant Week, together with a summer and seasonal programme of family activities. It was hoped that following the Covid pandemic, footfall and retail spending in the city centre would begin the process of recovery and that the proposed development of Sunderland Riverside would provide an impetus for the growth of the independent retail sector. Ms Appleby commented that 2024 would be a key year with major developments such as the Culture House coming to fruition.

The Committee also received an update on major events in the city; an area that had been adversely affected by the Covid pandemic during the last few years. It was noted that in future greater emphasis would be placed on smaller community based events with a wider geographical spread, that were less at risk at cancellation and were often more cost effective. The Council would also look to work closely with the BID in making the most of the resources available.

In December 2022, members visited the Port of Sunderland to meet with the Port Director, Matthew Hunt and discuss plans for the future. These included the major development of the East Shore and a number of new businesses attracted over the past 12 months, the most recent being Scandinavian energy start-up Wastefront. It was hoped that this latest expansion, together with the development of the Hendon Sidings site will help make the Port an even more attractive proposition for investors.

The promotion of new business start-ups plays a significant part in securing the city's long-term prosperity and diversifying the local economy. We heard about the progress being made by city's three business centres in encouraging growth in areas of the

economy, such as IT and software. It was recognised that the pandemic period had seen a fall in occupancy levels across the three centres. Whilst the business centres operated at an overall loss during 2021/22, the current projection for 2022/2023 was for a significantly reduced deficit. We also heard about the measures being taken to promote the centres and improve their marketing, operation and efficiency.

In terms of the development of housing in the city, the views of the Committee were sought on a refresh of the Council's Housing Strategy. The new Strategy sets out three priorities for housing in the city; maximising housing growth and increasing the choice of housing; making the best use of existing homes and supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing. The Committee was also consulted on the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which has been developed across four strategic pillars – the prevention of homelessness, intervention when homeless, recovery to reduce repeat homelessness and partnership working across the city.

The Committee met with representatives of gentoo, Thirteen Group and Bernicia to consider the challenges facing the city and discuss any operational issues relating to housing management. The key issues raised included the treatment of and responsiveness to complaints, the effect on residents of the cost of living crises, anti-social behaviour, stock condition and damp and mould. We heard that increases in building costs had also had an impact; it was now considerably more expensive to build houses and it was becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain skilled workers. Substantial investment was being made in the sustainability agenda, with there being a drive for greater energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.

Members stressed the importance of ensuring clear lines of communication between housing associations and their tenants and also between housing associations and local councillors. It was noted that partnership working between housing associations was good and that the Council's housing team was now holding formal group meetings in order to discuss housing issues in the city.

The Committee received a report on the refugee provision available in the city. We heard that this provision presented a challenge for the Council in terms of resourcing and staffing. Considerable effort was made to support the people involved and help them to settle into the local community. The Committee commended staff on their hard work in what was a very challenging situation.

In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee asked for an update on operation of environmental services within the city and its plans for the future. We heard that the Covid pandemic had proved a major challenge but that the situation was now beginning to return to normal. The Pallion Household Waste & Recycling Centre had now opened and was proving a great success. The Refuse Electric RCV had begun operations and the fleet service had introduced 24 new refuse collection vehicles during the year. Cemetery regulations have been improved and remedial works to cemetery lawn sections were ongoing.

The Committee was consulted on proposed changes to the Council's Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licence policy; including the introduction of a new code of conduct for licensed drivers, a driver improvement programme, a revised convictions policy and changes to the current arrangements regarding vehicle age

limits and emissions standards. We heard that there had been a significant fall in the number of drivers operating in the sector and noted the measures that were being taken to try to encourage the entry of new drivers.

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.

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

Item 8

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO- ORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out the current work programme of the Committee for the 2022-23 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee can 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.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2022-23.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.
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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

REASON FOR INCLUSION	14 JUNE 22 – (INFORMAL MEETING)	12 JULY 22	27 SEPTEMBER 22 (REARRANGED)	11 OCTOBER 22	8 NOVEMBER 22	6 DECEMBER 22	10 JANUARY 23	7 FEBRUARY 23	7 MARCH 23	4 APRIL 23
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses			Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licence Policy (Steve Waring)							Scrutiny Annual Report
Scrutiny Business	Remit and Work Programme of Committee	Refugee Provision (Graham Scanlan) Port Visit – Arrangements (Matthew Hunt)	Housing Strategy/ Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy – Consultation (Graham Scanlan) Visit to the Port of Sunderland – Cancelled and Rescheduled to December)	Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld)	Sunderland BID (Sharon Appleby) Events (Stephen Savage)	Business Centres (Catherine Auld) Environmental Services Update (Marc Morley) Visit to the Port of Sunderland (Matthew Hunt)	Culture Sector and the Local Economy (Rebecca Ball) Housing Strategy (Graham Scanlan)	Housing Provider Consultation (Gentoo) (Other Housing Providers)	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) Screen Industries – Update (Catherine Auld)	Siglion (Neil Guthrie) Future High Street Fund Programme (Anthony Crabb) Sunniside WG - Report
Consultation Information and 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

City Heat Network Projects – Update (Peter Graham) - TBC
E Scooter – Update (June 23)
Annual Road Safety Report (Paul Muir) (June 23)
Public Transport Update (Mark Wilson) (June 23)
Accessibility (Stephen Dixon) (June 23)

Item 9

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 APRIL 2023

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

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.

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 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 or relevant Scrutiny Panel 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 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
0191 561 1396
James.diamond@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
221121/734	To provide an update and to seek approval for the change in delivery approach in respect of the Sunderland Heat Network.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220822/736	To update Cabinet on progress of the New Wear Footbridge ("the Scheme") and seek approval to award the main works contract for the Scheme.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221101/750	To consider the outcome of the review of the governance and contract arrangements for Together for Children Sunderland Limited and approve the recommended next steps.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221123/754	To seek approval to procure a contractor and negotiate and enter into a build contract for the delivery of 13 one bed apartments at James William Street.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221216/767	To seek approval to acquire St. Cuthbert's Methodist Church and associated land to enable the build of 6 specialist supported bungalows and approval to procure a contractor and enter into a build contract for the delivery of the bungalows.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221216/768	To seek approval to acquire the former Halfway House Public House and, negotiate and enter into a build contract with Bright Ideas in the delivery of 8nos. 1-bed apartments for supported accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221220/769	To approve the 2023 Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230117/772	Changing Places Toilets Programme – Approval of Grant Agreement to enable funding and installation of CPTs in key leisure venues across the city.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230123/773	To approve The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy – Updates and Amendments	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230127/776	To approve a Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2028.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230201/779	To Seek approval for the acquisition of a Property on John Street, Sunnyside, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230207/781	To approve the Highway Maintenance (Including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme 2023-2024.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230208/782	To apply uplift to Public Health contracts where staff are employed on NHS Agenda for Change terms and conditions, in line with Public Health Grant conditions for 2022/23.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230213/784	To approve the disposal of land at Farrington Row, Sunderland for a proposed residential scheme.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230215/786	To seek approval for the realignment of property interests at Keel Square.	Cabinet	Y	16 March 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221006/744	To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area.	Cabinet	Y	16 March to 30 June 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230215/785	To approve the payment of financial assistance to a company locating in Sunderland in relation to the company's own investment plans.	Cabinet	Y	16 March to 30 June 2023 (published on the Notice dated 15 February 2023).	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
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	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221018/747	To consider a disposal of land at Silksworth Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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221130/756	To seek approval to procure a contractor and, negotiate and enter into a build contract in the delivery of 55 nos. bungalows and apartments for over 55s at land at St Luke Road.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
221220/770	To approve the carrying out of a procurement exercise in order to establish a framework for ground investigation works and geotechnical services. To delegate authority to the Executive Director of City Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to conclude the contractual arrangements.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
230123/774	To update Cabinet on progress on the Riverside Infrastructure Project ("the Scheme") and seek approval to commit funds to a programme of projects under this Scheme.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230125/775	To receive a progress update in relation to the Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy and approve the proposed next steps	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230130/777	To approve the Housing Delivery Investment Plan future strategic approach.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230130/778	To approve the Financial and Lease Agreement details for the New Sunderland Eye Infirmary on Riverside.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230213/783	To make a decision relating to an exchange of land to facilitate to rebuild of St Patrick's RC Primary School (Ryhope)	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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230309/787	To consider the purchase of 1 Marlow Drive, Moorside, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 30 th June 2023.	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
230313/788	To seek approval of five Area Committee Area Plans for 2023-2026.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 1 st to 31 st July 2023.	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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

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

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

***Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Governance Services at the address given above.**

Who will decide;

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader & Clean Green City; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor 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

15 March 2023