

DYNAMIC SMART CITY

A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all – more and better jobs – more local people with better qualifications and skills – a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing, and cultural opportunities – more and better housing.

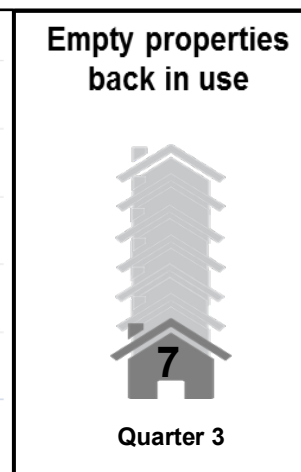
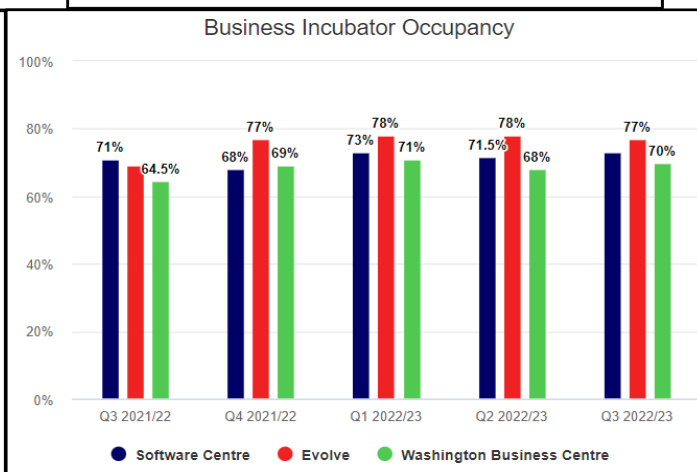
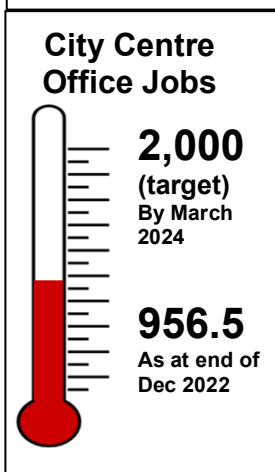
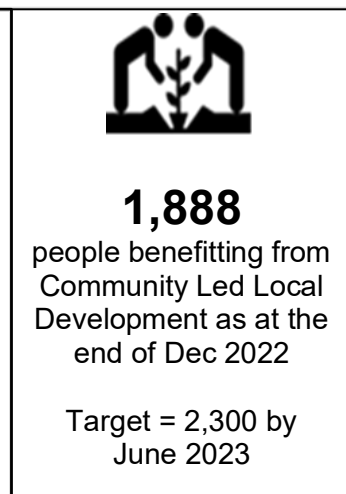
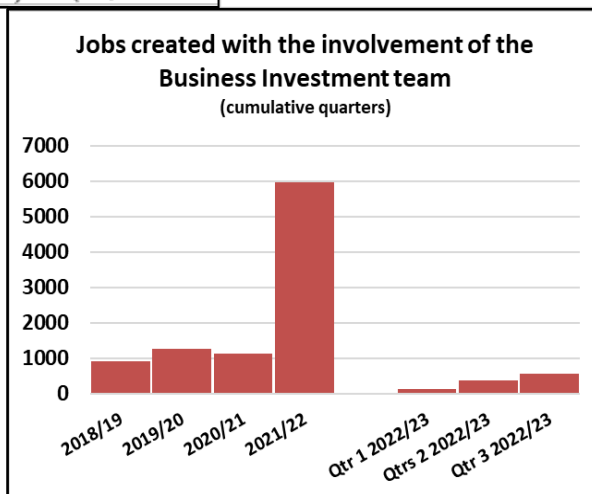
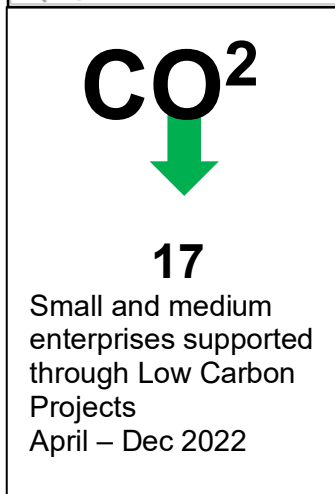
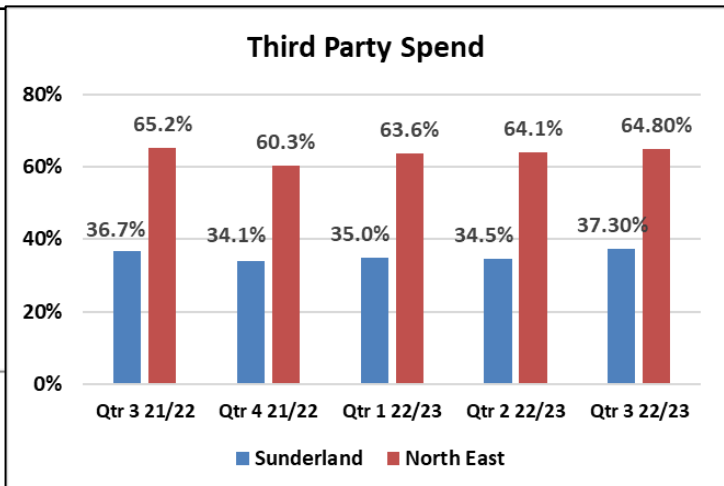
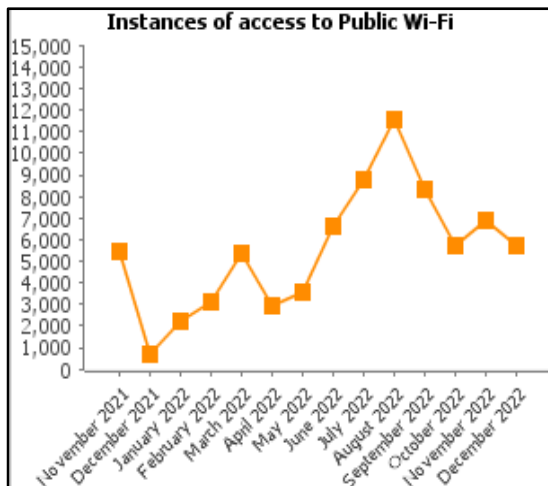


CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
% of properties with ultrafast broadband December 2022: 72.1%	UK 72.5%	Improving (December 2021: 63.5%)
CO2 emissions estimates for Sunderland (per capita) 2020: 3.7 tonnes	NE 4.7, England 4.3	Improving (2016: 4.7 tonnes)
Employment rate Oct 2021 - Sept 2022: 72%	NE 71.3%, GB 75.6%	Improving (Oct 2020 - Sept 2021: 65.9%)
Proportion of workers earning below Living Wage Foundation rates 2020/21: 17.4% (provisional).	NE 19.6%, GB 17.2%	Improving (2016/17: 21.5%)
Median wage workers 2022: £540.90	NE £575.20 GB £642	Improving (2018: £517.20)
% Population NVQ Level 4 qualification 2021: 24.7%	NE 34.4% GB 43.5%	Declining (2017: 27.3%)
GCSE - % achieving a grade 4-9 in Maths & English 2021/22: 62.3%	NE 65.8%, England 71.7%	N/A (previous years not comparable due to changes in assessment)
Level 3 (A level & equivalent) attainment by age of 19 in 2020/21: 50.3%	NE 53.5% England 59.8%	N/A (Exams & Teacher Assessed not comparable)
City Centre new homes Qtr. 3 2022/23: 0	N/A	No change (Qtr. 3 2021/22: 0)
People employed in the City Centre 2021: 14,141	N/A	Increasing (2017: 11,373)
Population of the City 2021 Census: 274,200	N/A	N/A (Census figure not comparable with 2020 mid-year estimate of 277,846)
Net Internal Migration 2020: -403	N/A	Declining (2016: -381)
New homes-built Qtr.3 2022/23: 282	N/A	Improving (Qtr.3 2021/22: 231)
Completed affordable homes Qtr.3 2022/23: 18	N/A	Declining (Qtr.3 2021/22: 38)

COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2022/23 Timeline	Status
Deliver connected, automated logistics project	Completed
Complete development of Hillthorn Business Park (Phase 1)	On Track
The Yard Business Hub Opens	On Track
Continued Advanced Digital Infrastructure Deployment	On Track
Sunderland Station South Entrance Open	Progressing for completion in 2023/24



A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all

Our ambition is to lead the way on digital transformation to make Sunderland a Smart City, and through our Smart Cities Strategy we will deliver a range of use cases for smart working and living - with high speed and resilient digital connectivity central to our plans.

At the end of Quarter 3, the proportion of Sunderland properties with ultrafast broadband has increased to 72.1% (from 63.5% at the end of Quarter 3 of 2021/22). Instances of access to public Wi-Fi (at 18,295) have also risen compared with the same period in the previous year (at 12,044).

Sunderland City Council, along with partners across the city, is committed to playing its part in tackling the global challenge of climate change and to become a carbon neutral city by 2040. Previously published figures showed that progress is being made, with the latest CO2 emissions estimate for Sunderland per capita (tonnes per resident) at 3.7 for 2020 – reduced from 4.2 in 2019, and over the longer term from 4.7 in 2016. The Sunderland figure is also lower than both the North East and England (at 4.7 and 4.3 tonnes per resident).

The Council is committed to becoming net zero as an organisation by 2030, across all greenhouse gases, in addition to becoming carbon neutral. Latest (previously reported) data on tonnes of CO2 emissions from LA operations for 2021/22 at 7,405 tonnes, was up slightly from 7,094 in 2020/21 (during which reductions were likely accelerated due to Covid restrictions). Over the longer term, the figure has been significantly reduced, from 22,000 tonnes (recorded in 2017/18).

The Council's Low Carbon Action Plan (first published in January 2021) has been updated (published July 2022). The updated Action Plan identifies a series of over-arching objectives under each of the strategic priorities of: Our Behaviour, Policies and Practices, Built Environment, Renewable Energy Generation and Storage, Low Carbon and Active Transport & Reducing Consumption & Waste. The identified actions are wide ranging and align with the City Plan priorities across Dynamic, Healthy & Vibrant. In Quarter 3, the Council published its Low Carbon annual report and delivery of the updated actions in the Low Carbon Action Plan have continued to progress. This included delivery of the Ecofest (a festival of sustainability) that took place in October where the people of Sunderland were able to learn more about the environment and climate change and families could participate in fun activities. At the end of December 2022 there were 52 school sites seeking to deliver both healthy and sustainable food, with the Bronze *Food for Life Served Here* achievement.

Throughout December in the run up to Christmas we sought to further engage families in the city in the Low Carbon agenda with a festive Elf on the Shelf low carbon communications campaign. Our elf gave families tips on how they could reduce their carbon footprint and help the environment around Christmas. The campaign proved to be hugely popular reaching 34.2K social media accounts with 34.7k views.

We are supporting increased business take-up of low carbon initiatives through the delivery of the Sunderland City Council (SSC) and Northeast (NE) Low Carbon projects. Through the Sunderland element, 4 SMEs have been supported in Quarter 3 (taking the total to 17 for April to December 2022).

Through our rapid charging station, we continue to support the use of electric vehicles in the city. Transactions have risen consistently over the last year and were up from 2,088 in Quarter 2 to 2,712 in Quarter 3, (and up from 1,572 transactions in Quarter 3 of 2021/22).

More and better jobs

Our focus in the City Plan was on increasing the number of well-paid jobs in the city by promoting growth in key sectors including automotive and advanced manufacturing, financial and customer services, digital and software, as well as increasing professional services in the city centre, and port related activity. As the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, and persisted into 2021, businesses and employment were impacted, and our aim now is to ensure that the city and its residents emerge from the pandemic in a strong and competitive position.

The employment rate for Sunderland, at 72% (122,600 aged 16+) for the period October 2021 to September 2022, has risen compared with October 2020 to September 2021 (at 65.9%). The Sunderland figure is above the North East rate of 71.3%. The rate for Great Britain, for the same period is 75.6%.

The Port continues to focus on increasing its economic activity, with a turnover of £1.974m and 193,366 tonnage processed in Quarter 3. The trading position of the Port is reported to the Port Board and incorporated within the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. Taking into account the December 2022 information, the Port is forecasted to generate a trading profit of £480,000 in 2022/23.

We continue to ensure that our Council activity supports the local economy where possible. In Quarter 3, 64.8% (£82.692m) of all Council third party spend was within the regional economy, and £7.521m of social value was secured through our procurement projects.

Following a short delay, the developer advised that The Yard Business Hub building was on track to be completed early in 2023. Phase 1 of Hillthorn Business Park is progressing with the first building expected to be completed by end of March 2023.

More local people with better qualifications and skills

Through the City Plan, the aim is to ensure that residents' skills and qualifications enable them to secure good jobs that match the needs of employers in key sectors thereby reducing the gap in the median wage between Sunderland residents and Sunderland workers.

Previously released provisional data for the median weekly wage showed that the gap between Sunderland residents and Sunderland workers reduced from £29.30 in April 2021 to £4.30 in April 2022. Figures for both (residents and workers) however, remain above the North East and Great Britain with the median weekly wage for residents at £537 (NE £580, GB £642) and for workers at £541 (NE £575, GB £642).

Previous published data (provisional) shows there has been an increase to 17.4% (in the tax year ending April 2021) in workers living below the Living Wage Foundation rate, when compared with the tax year ending 2020 (at 16.1%). Overall, however, the figure represented an improvement in the long term, with the figure for the tax year ending April 2017 at 21.5%. Local data shows there are 23 accredited real Living Wage employers with headquarters in Sunderland and a further 45 with a Sunderland branch (68 in total). There were 8,876 employees employed by Living Wage employers with a HQ in Sunderland (total employee figures unavailable and figures adjusted to reflect a clarification on the parameters used for the geographical area of Sunderland).

As the city and its residents emerge from the pandemic, we will seek to ensure residents have the skills to be in a strong and competitive position to access employment. We will continue to focus on tackling the barriers for those least able to access employment through initiatives such as Community Local Led Development (CLLD). 1,888 people had benefitted from CLLD as at the end of December 2022.

Previously published data showed that 24.7% of the Sunderland population had a Level 4 qualification in 2021 (compared with the North East at 34.4% and Great Britain at 43.5%). In the

summer of 2022 pupils once again sat exams at A-level & GCSE after Covid disruption resulted in previous years exams being replaced by teacher assessment. Validated results for Level 3 (A-level and equivalent) attainment by the age of 19, are not expected to be published until April 2023. Validated GCSE results (published February 2023) for the academic year 2021/22 show that in Sunderland 62.3% of students achieved a grade 4-9 in Maths & English, lower than the North East at 65.8% and England at 71.7%. Figures over recent years are not directly comparable due to changes in the way GCSE examinations were awarded due to Covid.

A stronger city centre with more business, housing, and cultural opportunities

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic our aspiration is that Sunderland city centre will drive transformational economic growth with Riverside Sunderland clearly demonstrating our investment ambition. In the long term there will be more people living and working in the City Centre.

Through Riverside Sunderland we aim to create a vibrant new city centre residential community of 1,000 sustainable new homes, promoting more city centre living (previously published figures showed the City Centre residential population at 3,089 mid 2020). Alongside the delivery of new homes, Expo Sunderland will provide events and experiences to engage visitors in new and sustainable ways of living.

Riverside Sunderland will also comprise of 1 million square feet of modern offices, commercial premises, and other employment space, creating new sites for businesses to grow and with the aim of workspace for 8,000 – 10,000 quality jobs. Office premises are now established onsite and in December 2022 a new hotel opened on Keel Square. Planning is now in place for the new Eye Hospital at Riverside. Previously published figures for 2021 show 14,141 people employed in the city centre, an increase on the figure of 13,348 in 2020. At the end of Quarter 3, 956.5 new city centre office jobs have been created since April 2019.

We continue to progress our plans for a range of physical developments in the city centre - such as Sunderland Station. Construction of the South Entrance of the new station commenced in May 2022 and contractor works are expected to complete in summer 2023.

More and better housing

Through our City Plan we seek to ensure that Sunderland offers the opportunities that families and individuals need to achieve their ambitions – with a housing offer that reflects the homes that people aspire to live in. This includes larger family homes as well as more affordable homes. This will be achieved through the delivery of key housing sites.

Figures previously published for out-migration showed a slowing from a net of -511 in 2019 to -403 in 2020. Whilst the figure is higher than the five-year long-term trend figure of -381 for 2016, the 2016 figure was the lowest figure reached before figures declined substantially in 2017 (to -748) and then began reducing year on year.

In Quarter 3, there were 214 additional homes in the city (including new and conversions) - of which 122 are in council tax bands C-G. There have been 18 completed affordable homes in Quarter 3. In Quarter 3 construction commenced on new residential units on the New Ashbrooke housing site with groundworks taking place. Progress was also made on the South Sunderland Growth Area with the practical completion of construction of City Way.

Alongside more homes, we are also committed to ensuring that the housing we have is of quality - with 7 empty properties brought back into use in Quarter 3 and 196 privately rented properties inspected for hazards.

HEALTHY SMART CITY

Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives – access to equitable opportunities and life chances – people enjoying independent lives – a city with great transport links – cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods.



CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE) COMPARATIVE DATA

**Healthy Life Expectancy at birth
2018-2020 as at 2021/22:**
Female: 56.9 yrs.
Male: 56.1 yrs.

England 63.9 yrs. NE 59.7 yrs.
England 63.1 yrs. NE 59.1
yrs.

**Admission episodes alcohol-
related 2020/21: 2,401**
(Broad, Persons, per 100,000 pop)

England 1,500, NE 1,979

Smoking prevalence 2021: 15.2%

England 13%, NE 14.8%

**The proportion of adults living with
overweight or obesity 2020/21:**
69.1%

England 63.5%, NE 67.7%

**Prevalence of overweight (incl.
obese) among children in Year 6
2021/22: 45%**

2021/22
England 37.8%, NE 40.9%

**% Of people that are fairly active /
active (Active Lives – Public Health)
2020/21: 74%**

England 76.6%, NE 74.4%

**Women who smoke at time of
delivery Qtr. 2 2021/22: 11.7%**

England 9.1% NE 12%

**EYFSP Good level of development
2021/22: 63.7%**

England 65.2%, NE 64.1%

**Teenage pregnancy (under 18
conception rate) rolling year: Qtr. 2
2021/22: 27.4**

England 12.8, NE 19.5

**Proportion of people (18+) living
independently (without social care
services) Qtr. 3 2022/23: 98.2%**

N/A

**Litter - % of relevant land &
highways with deposits that fall
below an acceptable level Qtr. 3
2022/23: 7.5%**

N/A

SUNDERLAND TREND

Declining (2014-2016: 59.3 yrs.)

Declining (2014-2016: 58.8 yrs.)

N/A
(Not comparable due to change in
methodology)

Improving
(2017: 22.7%)
Declining
(2016/17: 67.7%)

Declining
(2017/18: 40.9%)

No change
(2016/17: 74%)

Improving
(Qtr. 2 2021/21: 14.2%)

Declining
(2017/18: 71.2%)

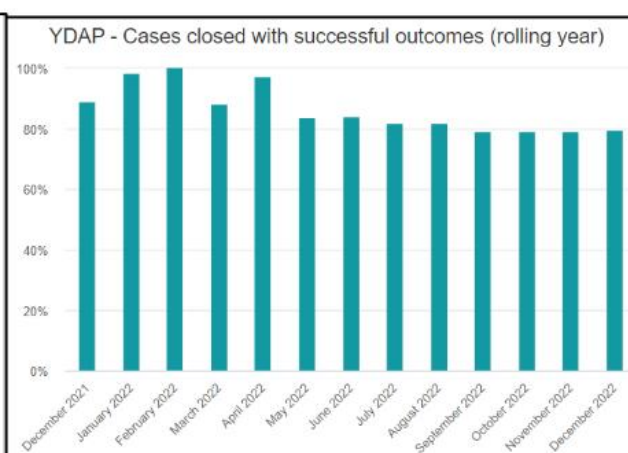
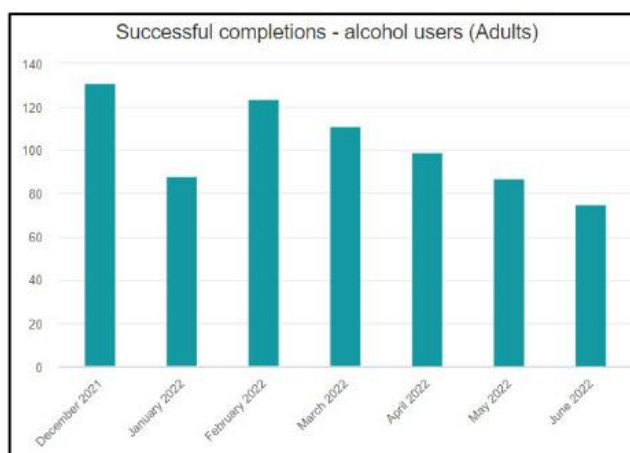
Declining
(Qtr. 1 2020/21: 18.8)

Stable
(Qtr.3 2021/22 98.3%)

N/A
(Qtr.3 2021/22 not available)

COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2022/23 Timeline	Status
Better walking and cycling routes linking communities to riverside and sea front and green spaces	On Track
Reduction in smoking in the city	Completed
More people physically active	On Track
Improvement in household recycling rates	Completed
More people enjoying independent lives	On Track
Digital Catapult affordable warmth testbed delivered	Completed



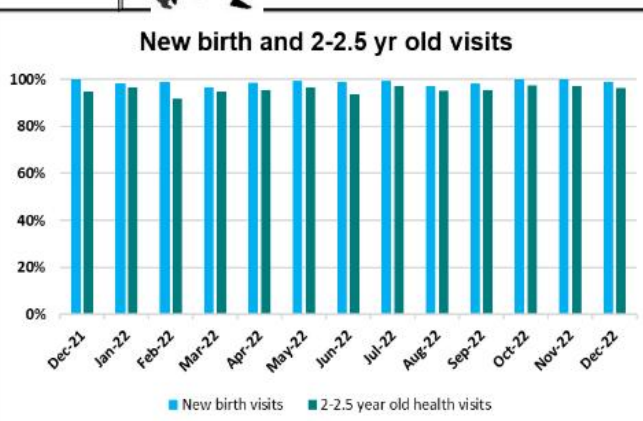
3,158 homes with assisted technology supporting independent living as at the end of Dec 2022.



8,055



Individuals took part in Active Sunderland BIG events in 2022/23 as at the end of Quarter 3.

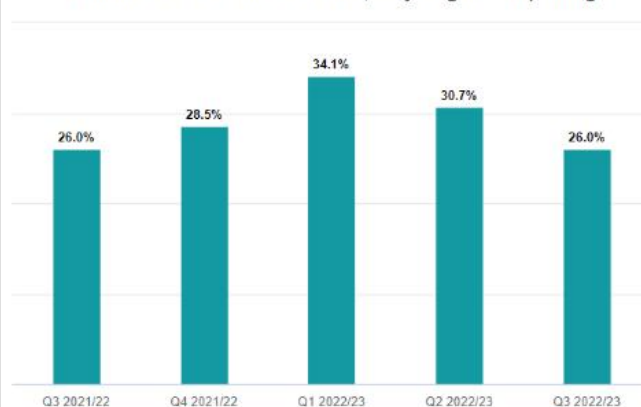


1,850

place enforcement activities completed in Quarter 3



Household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting



Initial provisional figures may be adjusted in subsequent quarters.

New adopted roads, footpaths, and improved cycleways

2,034m Roads
4,430m Footpaths
1,950m Cycleways

1st April – 31st Dec 2022



Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives

Our City Plan recognises the need to ensure that health and wellbeing outcomes are significantly improved, with previously published healthy life expectancy at birth in Sunderland (at 56.1 years for males and 56.9 for females 2018-2020), lower than the North East and England and declining. The Healthy City Plan is our Health & Wellbeing Board's joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy through which we will address health inequalities and health integration is being progressed through a road map (submitted to the ICB in October 2022) for the establishment of integrated place-based arrangements.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, brought a new health challenge to the city. In addition to the impacts of infection, we know that the pandemic will have had wider health implications in relation to behaviours that can cause harms to health such as smoking, alcohol consumption, inactivity, and poor diet. With residents now facing the cost-of-living crisis, there may also be other health impacts as residents struggle with the costs of heating, food and other necessities.

Previously published figures for hospital admissions (adults) due to alcohol were 2,401 for Sunderland for 2020/21 (North East average 1,979, England 1,500). Although the figures suggest a reduction (improvement) for Sunderland in comparison to previous figures - due to changes in how the statistics have been compiled, figures are not directly comparable with previous trends. The previously published rate for the three-year period 2018/19-2020/21 for under 18s alcohol admissions per 100,000 was 76 for Sunderland - an improvement on the previous rate of 82.4, (North-East rate 52, England rate of 55.4). Latest available figures for successful intervention completions for Adults Services for alcohol, and for the Youth Drug and Alcohol programme (all substances) are shown in the charts. Cabinet have recently agreed a new alcohol strategy.

The recently published figure for smoking prevalence confirms a reduction in smoking has been achieved - from 22.7% in 2017 to 15.2% in 2021 (there have been some adjustments to figures due to changes in counting rules in the period). In the same period the gap between Sunderland and England has reduced from 7.8 to 2.2 percentage points and the gap with the North-East reduced from 6.5 to 0.4 percentage points. The Sunderland Health Related Behaviour Survey for the same year (2021) found that smoking rates were lower amongst young people compared to the previous survey in 2019. In the 2021, 5% of Year 10 (aged 14 to 15 years) boys reported that they smoke occasionally or regularly compared to 13% in 2019 and 12% of Year 10 girls reported that they smoke occasionally or regularly compared to 15% in 2019.

In Quarter 2 of 2022/23 (latest available data) 47% of smokers setting a quit date successfully quit at 4 weeks (120 successful quitters of 255 quit attempts), with performance improving across the quarter from 43.2% in July 2022 to 50.5% in September 2022 (above the national target of 35% and local stretch target of 48%). In December 2022, Swap Smoking Sunderland was launched. This is a three-year pilot that will provide targeted stop smoking advice and enhanced support to social housing tenants. In addition to the standard stop smoking 12-week programme of behavioural support and access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), tenants will also be offered use of a free e-cigarette/vape as a stop smoking aid. Regular monitoring and evaluation will take place throughout the course of the pilot. Results will be used to make recommendations to inform future commissioning intentions.

Previously published figures for the proportion of adults who are overweight, or living with obesity, showed a reduction from 73.5% in 2019/20 to 69.1% in 2020/21 (though figures remained above the Northeast and England).

Covid 19 impacted on the delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme at a local level, for the academic year 2020/21 (thus local figures not available). Nationally, in 2020/21 there was a big increase, however, the latest figures show a reduction nationally with a move back towards pre-covid rates. Figures for the most recent period (academic year 2021/22) include local level data. In Sunderland 45% of children in Year 6 were overweight (including

obese) - a deterioration from the 36.9% recorded in 2019/20 and the 2016/17 long-term trend figure of 40.9%. Sunderland's prevalence is higher than both the England and North East averages. Prevalence in 2021/22 in the North East was 40.9% and in England 37.8%, with both increased in comparison to the 2016/17 long-term trend figure.

Uptake of the National Healthy Start programme in Sunderland has increased to 81%. The Healthy Start scheme aims to provide a nutritional safety net and improving access to a healthy diet for low-income families. The scheme allows those on a low income who are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four, to help to buy milk, fruit and vegetables, pulses and baby formula. A range of programmes, projects, services and new ways of working have been implemented within the city council and with partners, including: the healthy weight declaration as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to healthy weight, health literacy to enable residents to make informed healthier choices ensuring clear and comprehensive healthy eating and physical activity messages are consistent with government guidelines, and working with partners to provide services delivered within communities that are tailored to provide lifestyle support for children, young people and families. Delivery of a Tier 2 Weigh Management Programme has been piloted and there has been the ongoing delivery of the Change for Life Programme. In Quarter 3, the Change for Life Programme delivered 109 school sessions with 3,930 school children benefitting, 421 families engaged and 633 participants in community events. 10 schools were engaged in the Omega Healthy Eating and Growing programme (either through a full support package or through forums & training) with a further 4 expressing an interest.

Latest available data published by Public Health England, shows that 74% of people in Sunderland were active or fairly active in 2020/21, in line with the Northeast figure of 74.4% (2 percentage points behind England at 76%). There were 499,265 Leisure Centre attendances in Quarter 3, and 210 participants in Active Sunderland Big Events (taking the total to 8,055 for 2022/23). There were 139,090 visitors through the turnstiles of Football Hubs with 2,255 games played.

Previously published validated data for the three-year period of 2019-2021, showed the suicide rate for Sunderland reduced to 14.2 per 100,000 (age 10+) from 14.4 (for 2018-2020), though it remained above the England rate of 10.4 and Northeast rate of 13. Local intelligence (unvalidated data provided by Northumbria Police) indicates an improvement from 15.7 in 2020 to 10.2 in 2021, and 8.8 in 2022. In Quarter 3, the Council applied to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health which included an action plan for local delivery. We have since been notified that the application was successfully accepted, with feedback that it was a strong application. Washington Mind were successful in securing the new contract for suicide prevention training, this offer is available now for people who live and work in Sunderland. Work is progressing with the installation of additional crisis signage in areas surrounding Wearmouth Bridge.

We continue to support the Better Health at Work Award. The Award provides workplaces with a structured set of criteria to achieve. The criteria aims to support employee health and wellbeing in a structured way based on the health needs of staff within any given workplace. The programme itself is targeted towards reducing health inequalities within our working population in Sunderland, in line with key priorities within the Healthy City Plan. Most notably, to 'create fair employment and good work for all' Currently, 47 workplaces in the city are actively participating in the award. Specifically for the city council we continue to further promote health in our own employees with a three-year Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy due to be introduced. This will support us to deliver our vision of a happy, healthy, safe workforce. Between August and November 2022 there were 527 attendances at healthy choice sessions delivered by the Council's Employee Wellness Coordinator.

Access to equitable opportunities and life chances

We are taking a life course approach to health and wellbeing starting with the early life stages of preconception to early years and adolescence under this commitment. In Quarter 2 (latest

available data) the proportion of women smoking at time of delivery was 11.7% (74 smokers of 631 maternities). This is better than the North-East at 12% (England 9.1%), and 2.5% points lower than the same period in the previous year.

The proportion of infants being breastfed, at 25.5% for Quarter 4 of 2021/22 (latest available previously reported data) remains below the England position of 48.9% (Northeast figures unavailable). Sunderland Maternity Services have registered intent to work towards achievement of Level 1 of the Unicef Baby Friendly Standards to promote sustained breastfeeding in the community and for the the best outcomes for mothers and babies.

98.1% of new birth visits and 96.3% of 2.5-year-old checks have been carried out in timescale. Validated national statistics shows performance was better than for England and the North-East.

The 2021/22 results have now been published for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) Good Level of Development (the 2019/2020 and 2020/21 academic years publications were cancelled due to Covid-19). In Sunderland 63.7% of children achieved a good level of development – lower than the North East (at 64.1%) and England (at 65.2%). In Sunderland and across the North East and England fewer children achieved a Good Level of Development in comparison to the pre pandemic figures (Sunderland at 72.6%, North East 71.8% and England 71.8% for 2018/19).

The rate of under 18 conceptions (teenage pregnancy rate based on conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 -17) for Sunderland rose to 27.4 in Quarter 2 of 2021/22 (latest available data) – up from 25.1 in Quarter 1 of 2022/23 and up on the same period in the previous year (at 18.8). This is above the England and North-East rates (of 12.8 and 19.5) for Quarter 2 of 2022/2023. The rise had been anticipated based on local intelligence. The Children and Young People's Sexual Health Services enhanced offer is in place to provide access to contraception and pregnancy advice options as part of a wider strategy to reduce teenage conceptions.

People enjoying independent lives

98% of people aged 18+ in the city live independently (without social care services, based on mid-year population estimates) and we remain committed to ensuring people in the city can enjoy independent lives. However, the implementation of Social Care Reform, planned for October 2023, may impact on these figures. With the roll out of the assistive technology in the home offer, 3,158 homes had the technology by the end of December 2022.

76% of people who use services have control over their daily lives based on latest figures for 2021/22 (North East 79.2%, England 76.9%).

We recognised the significant role in Carers in enabling people to live independently. Following on from the previous Carers bi-annual survey, Let's Talk Carers engagement was initiated. The consultation enabled us to receive feedback from Carers to inform the design of the Carers Strategy with actions being taken to improve and co-produce services based on input from those with lived experience. Further consultation took place in Quarter 3 during Carers Week linked with International Carers Day. The Strategy will be finalised for adoption through the Health & Wellbeing Board and launch at a Carers Celebration event planned for late spring / early summer time.

Newly published data on the rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ (per 100,000), showed a decrease from 3,164 in 2020/21, to 2,710 for 2021/22 for Sunderland though figures remain above the North East (at 2,531) and England (at 2,023). Although the Sunderland figure decreased over the last year, the North East and England figures increased in the same period. Over the last year a strength and balance activity programme has been delivered and a new Falls Strategy is in development for implementation from April 2023.

Great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all

Our emphasis within this City Plan commitment is about ensuring that people can move around the city with ease through improved transport routes - enabling access to key employment sites. Alongside vehicle transport routes, great travel links is also about having the necessary infrastructure to enable active travel. In Quarter 3, there were 583m of adopted roads, 632m of adopted footpaths and 650m of new or improved cycleways (taking totals for 1st April to 31st December to 2,034m adopted roads, 4,430m adopted footpaths and 1,950m improved cycleways).

We are encouraging take-up of active, sustainable travel options through a range of schemes. In Quarter 3, there were 175 new sign-ups to the Sunderland Step-up App encouraging walking. Through the Love to Ride scheme (cycling) we have supported the Winter Wheelers in Quarter 3. The scheme aimed to promote continuation of cycling during the winter months, providing hints and tips on winter cycling and a cycling challenge for encouragement. The communications campaign reached 12.6K social media accounts, with 16.7k views and 64 clicks into the links for further information. There were 86 registrations for the Winter Wheelers with rides covering 3,314 miles and 159 transport trips.

1,623 children have taken part in cycle training and 3,723 school children have taken part in pedestrian training from April to December 2022.

Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods

Our focus here is on promoting environmental responsibility amongst residents to achieve a cleaner and more attractive city.

The City Plan Timeline activity of an improvement in household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting was confirmed as completed in Quarter 2, as performance reached 34% (above the target set of 32%). In Quarter 3, the proportion has fallen to 26% (7,254.9 tons recycled, reused or composted of 27,889.9 tons of total household waste) however, this is consistent with performance in the same period in the previous year and follows a seasonal trend in which there are lower levels of recycling / composting towards the end of the year – particularly in relation to lower levels of garden waste. The latest available confirmed national comparator figure is 36.4%, and the confirmed regional comparator is 35%, however, the national and regional figures follow the same seasonal trend, thus it is anticipated that the national and regional performance will also drop when the confirmed Quarter 3 benchmarks become available. Work has been ongoing to improve the recycling rates across the City through a programme of education and enforcement aligned to the introduction of a *No Side Waste* policy from January 2023. In Quarter 3, there was a focus on education in respect of Christmas waste and recycling with information shared via social media, residents printed and e-newsletter and with our workforce (many being Sunderland residents). The social media communications reached 19.9k social media accounts with 29.9K views. 241 social media viewers clicked the links for further information.

At the end of Quarter 3, the percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level was 7.5%. Figures are not available for the single quarter of Quarter 3 2020/22 for comparison (due to information system issues), and due to seasonal variations comparisons with other periods are not ideal, however, the figure of 7.5% is within target levels. The % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having levels of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level was 0.66% and graffiti was 2.8%.

We are issuing sanctions where appropriate following enforcement investigations. In Quarter 3, 1,850 enforcement activities had been carried out – 306 more than in the same period in the previous year (at 1,544). The enforcement activities included 303 investigations, 972 warning letters, 15 Community Protection Warnings, 6 Section 47 notices (businesses) and 258 Section 46 notices (residents). Both section 46 and 47 notices relate to the storage, disposal and presentation of waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In Quarter 1, a pilot commenced to trial the removal of Glyphosate in weedkilling. At the end of Quarter 3, the pilot was completed with a report compiled with recommendations for next steps for consideration.

VIBRANT SMART CITY

More resilient people – more people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods – more residents participating in their communities – more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities.

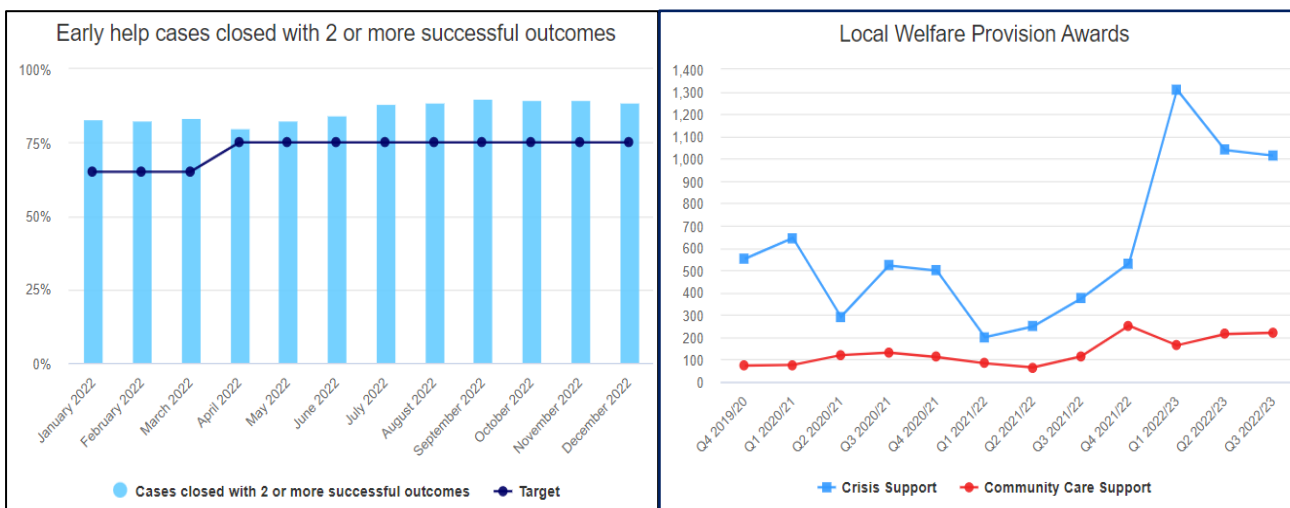



CITY CONTEXT

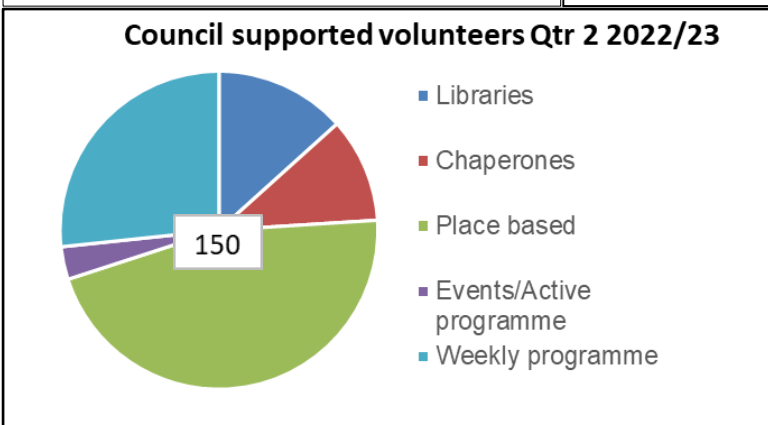
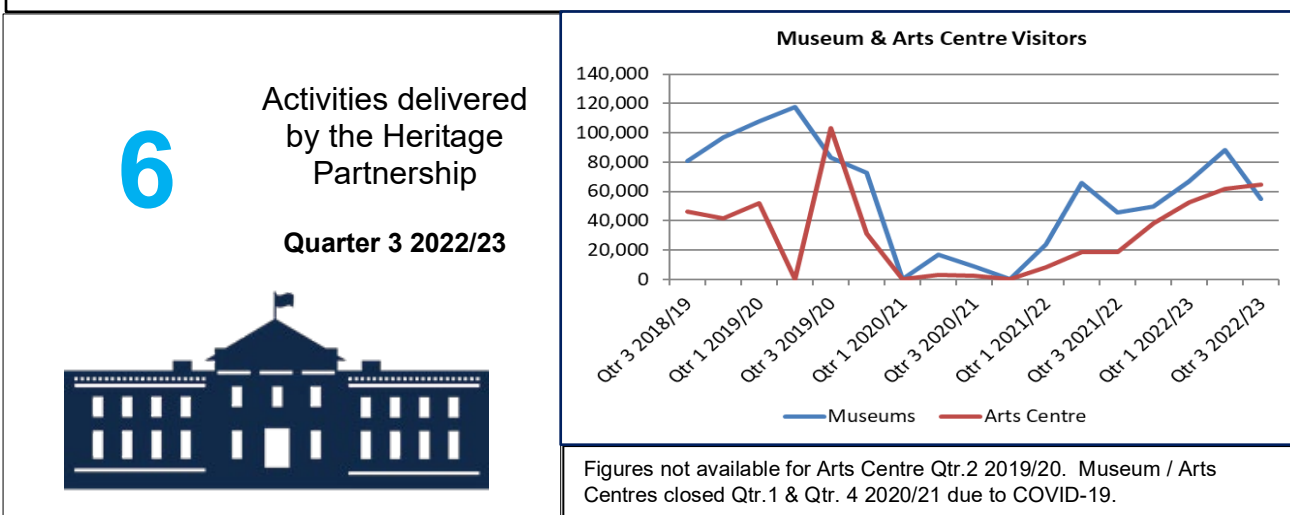
CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Rate of cared for children (per 10k) Dec 2022: 92.6	England 70 NE 110 SN 111.8	Improving (Dec 2021: 101.3)
Rate of CYP subject to a child protection plan (per 10k) Dec 2022: 43.2	England 42.1 NE 62.6 SN 59.4	Improving (Dec 2021: 59.7)
Rate of Children in Need (per 10k) Dec 2022: 344.1	England 334.3 NE 470.7 SN 452.9	Improving (Dec 2021: 390.2)
Residents supported by food banks Qtr.3 2022/23: 8,151	N/A	Declining (Qtr. 2 2021/22: 5,908)
Crime (recorded incidents) Apr-Dec 2022: 21,814	N/A	Declining (Apr-Dec 2021: 20,842)
Residents' feelings of safety (local) Qtr.3 (Jan – Dec 2022): 93%	N/A	Declining (Qtr.3 2020/21: 94%)
The proportion of people who use services who feel safe 2021/22: 72.5%	England 69.2% NE 73.8% SN 71.1%	Declining (2017/18: 78.6%)
Number of visitors to the city 2021: 5,730,000	N/A	Declining (2017: 8,760,000)
Overall spend of visitors to the city 2021: £314m	N/A	Declining (2017: £429m)

COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2021/22 Timeline	Status
Launch new domestic abuse services model	On track
New national/international events including British Triathlon Super Series	Completed
World Class music events staged in the city	On track



 **16 Events** facilitated by the Council, on Council land / in council buildings in Quarter 3 of 2022/23



24 retailers in the city to be engaged in the responsible retailers' scheme.



More resilient people

We will support families to enable them to be resourceful to respond to challenges and achieve the best possible outcomes for their children. The rates of children in need, children subject to a Child Protection Plan, and Cared For children, have continued to reduce in Quarter 3 compared with the same period in the previous year.

At the end of Quarter 3, 84.9% of children in need assessments were completed in timescale (target 85%), 88.8% of early help cases closed with successful outcomes (target 75%), 10.8% of Cared for Children have experienced 3+ placements within the last 12 months (target 10% or less) and 99.5% of Cared for Children had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (target 90%).

Through support to families with children in need, and intervention in families with children subject to a child protection plan, we seek to increase resilience in families and monitor how often worries are raised about children that we have already tried to help. At the end of Quarter 3, 23.4% of referrals to TFC were re-referrals within 12 months (target of 23%), an increase on the same period in the previous year (at 18.9%). 14.8% of children subject to a child protection plan had a repeat plan within 2 years (within target of 15%), an increase on the same period in the previous year (at 6.6%).

We know that our communities have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with hardship continuing for some in the face of challenges presented by the rise in the cost of living. The number of residents supported by food banks has risen continually over the last two years, reaching 8,151 in Quarter 3 – 2,243 more than in the same period in the previous year (at 5,908).

Crisis Support awards rose steeply in Quarter 1 to 1,309 (from 532 in Quarter 4 of 2021/22) and remained at this higher level in Quarter 2. The figure has reduced slightly in Quarter 3 (to 1,014), however, is more than treble the number in the same period in the previous year. Alongside Crisis Support awards, Community Care Support continues to be awarded, increasing from 164 in Quarter 1 of 2022/23, to 214 in Quarter 2 and 220 in Quarter 3. In recent periods the figures for Crisis Support Awards have included awards made under the Council's Household Support Fund. This is for people struggling with energy and food costs and Household Support Fund awards are considered before Crisis Support Awards are made.

In mid October 2022, a Cost-of-Living Hub went live, giving information on how to access a range of advice and support to cope with the cost of living including: government help available, help with energy costs, coping with debt and dealing with finances, warm spaces, food support services and more. To the end of December there were 8,727 page views in total (4,432 unique page views). 55 warm spaces were opened in Sunderland by the end of Quarter 3, providing spaces for residents that are heated, safe, friendly and free to use and these are being regularly reviewed to inform future resilience planning. The Bread and Butter Thing aims to mitigate food poverty through a community led food club that intercepts surplus food and redistributes at a low cost to households and individuals. Our strategy, and subsequent action for responding to the cost-of-living crisis and supporting our residents to be resilient at this time, is informed by insight work carried out in Quarter 3 that draws on the lived experience of residents in our communities. To support this work, an engagement worker has been recruited to commence in post in Quarter 4, and a project group has been set up looking at work underway across the Council and best practice from elsewhere.

More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods

This commitment relates both to people feeling safe from crime and vulnerable adults who use our services feeling safe.

The percentage of residents who felt very or fairly safe was consistently above 95% between 2012/13 to mid-2020 when figures fell slightly to 95% (based on the Northumbria Police Survey). In Quarter 2 of 2022/23 the figures fell further to 93% and remains at this lower level at the end of Quarter 3 (covering the 12-month period to the end of December 2022). Crime for April 2022 to December 2022 (at 21,814 recorded incidents) has increased when compared with the same period in the previous year (20,842 incidents).

We are committed to disrupting criminal and anti-social behaviour through intervention and enforcement with 3 intelligence led pro-active disruption activities carried out in relation to licensing in Quarter 3. We hope to engage 100% of retailers in the city in our Responsible Retailers Scheme and at the end of Quarter 3, there are 24 retailers signed up.

At the end of Quarter 3, the new domestic abuse services model contract was in place and the service is now fully mobilised.

More residents participating in their communities

This commitment is about residents, including children and young people, being able to engage with and participate in their communities. In Quarter 3, there were 150 active volunteers across a range of volunteering activities including Libraries, Volunteer Chaperones, Events & Active Sunderland and other weekly programme activities (based on recorded volunteer participants). The greatest proportion in Quarter 3 was volunteers engaged in place-based volunteering (at 69).

'Crowdfund Sunderland' enables people to financially support local projects and causes through an online platform. At the end of Quarter 3 there have been 10 projects supported through Crowdfund Sunderland'

We continue to engage people through Sunderland UK social media channels, with 26,029 Facebook and 41,635 Twitter followers as at the end of December 2022. Through our external communications we are able to increase awareness of the activities and opportunities in Sunderland that enable individuals to engage in their communities. In Quarter 3, we continued our '*We all Make Sunderland*' Civic Pride communication campaign that will continue to run into the new year - when we will seek to understand the impact (e.g. engagement rate).

More people visiting Sunderland and more residents participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities

Prior to 2020, the number of visitors to the city (and associated spend) showed a continued upward trend (visitor numbers increased from 8.24m in 2016 to 9.49m in 2019 and spend from £399m to £500m in the same period). As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in early 2020 however, cultural venues and events were particularly impacted due to the greater challenges of ensuring social distancing and safe delivery. In 2020, visitor numbers reduced to 4.38m and visitor spend to £219m. With Covid continuing to impact across 2021, figures remained low but improved, at 5.73m visitors and £314m visitor spend.

Following the conclusion of the two-year post-covid Tourism Recovery Plan we are now entering the next phase in reinvigorating the tourism offer in Sunderland. The new three-year Tourism Strategy is a reset project that lays out a strategic direction for Sunderland through a series of new aims and objectives. It will act as a statement of intent for the management of the visitor economy with clear actions and allocation of resources.

Sunderland Empire Theatre closed its doors in March 2020 due to the first Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and re-opened its doors on 2nd September 2021. Following re-opening, visitor numbers gradually increased, with 126,778 visitors in Quarter 3 of 2022/23 (an increase on the 80,621 visitors in Quarter 3 of 2021/22). The Museum and Winter Gardens and Washington Arts Centre re-opened mid-way through Quarter 1 of 2021/22. Visitor numbers were 64,555 in Quarter 3 of 2022/23 (an increase on the 18,611 visits in Quarter 3 of 2021/22). Funding has been secured through the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the development of a Delivery Bid for the redevelopment of the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.

In Quarter 3, there were 146 organisations engaged in the Heritage Partnership Practitioners Network and 6 activities delivered by the Heritage Partnership. In 2022 there has been increased promotion of the heritage offer through the Heritage Sunderland Partnership including heritage open days, collaborative projects, events and other shared programme and promotional opportunities. In 2023 the Heritage Sunderland Partnership and Heritage Forum will merge and further the offer through its 2023 work plan including developing a brand, a heritage app, website, tourist offer and more events.

The National Glass Centre received 33,019 visitors in Quarter 3.

There were 45,316 library issues (including physical books, eBooks / e-Audio and e-Magazine) with 236 new adult members in Quarter 2. There were 28,267 digital subscriptions and the Books at Home delivery service saw 335 interactions.

ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

Good organisational health – strong financial management – productive and innovative working – a council ready for the future



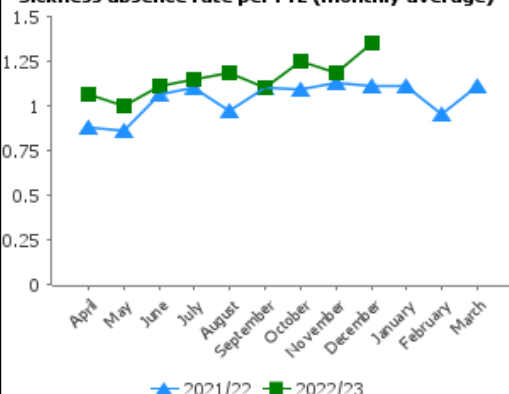
2,673

directly
employed
staff

Dec 2022



Sickness absence rate per FTE (monthly average)



ICT Availability



**Council tax &
business rates
collection**



76.2%

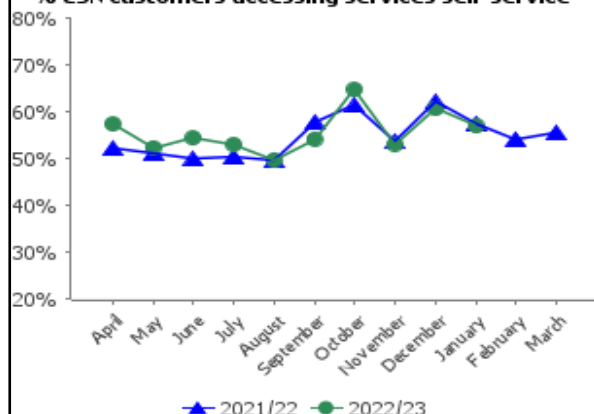
Qtr. 3
Target 95.9%



81.6%

Qtr. 3
Target 97.6%

% CSN customers accessing services self-service



**Current
Position**

Forecast
Breakeven
position

Quarter 3

Summary

The forecast position takes into account delegated overspends including ongoing covid-19 cost impacts and grant funding and the use of the of the Energy and General Inflation reserve.

Further details can be found in the January Cabinet Third Revenue Budget Review report.

Good organisational health and strong financial management

At the end of Quarter 3, there were 2,673 directly employed staff, 75 fewer than in Quarter 3 of 2021/22. Although the monthly sickness absence per FTE for the month of December 2022 (shown in the chart) was higher than the previous year, overall the sickness absence rate, based on a 12-month forecast (to account for seasonal trends) was lower than the previous year (11.1 days per FTE December 2022, 12 days December 2022).

In previous periods the impact of Covid-19 became evident in Business Rates and Council Tax collection levels, and in Quarter 3 both are below target. Business Rates collection was 81.6% (target 97.6%) and Council Tax collection 76.2% (target 95.9%).

We are committed to maximising external funding and financing opportunities. In Quarter 3, £21,049,251 has been secured through funding bids for approved projects and programmes supported by the following funding initiatives: £14,936,161 for Sunderland's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan (DLUHC); £1,943,657 for remediation of the Sunderland Civic Centre Site (Brownfield Land Release Fund/DLUHC/One Public Estate); £182,143 for the

Create Growth Programme (DCMS) - a £1.275m regional project involving all LA7 partners and led by North of Tyne Combined Authority; £85,000 from the LUF Parks Fund for the regeneration of Barley Mow Park (DLUHC); £60,000 from the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (DEFRA) - a regional project led by the North East Community Forest team. £2,994,061 for the Sunderland Advanced Mobility Shuttle (Innovate UK - CCAV programme); £299,425 for the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens - Development Phase (National Lottery Heritage Fund); £478,804 for the Sunderland - Supported Housing Improvement Programme (DLUHC - SHIP) and a £70,000 award as part of a wider bid by the North-East Community Forest partnership to the Local Authority TreescapE Fund (DEFRA).

The largest award outlined above, relates to confirmation of the approval of Sunderland's UKSPF Investment Plan (submitted in July 2022) and approved by government in December 2022. This enables the council to proceed with calls for projects and contracting under the 3 key investment priorities of UKSPF: (1) Communities and Place; (2) Supporting Local Business; (3) People and Skills.

There were no reports to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by the Council in Quarter 3.

Productive and innovative working and a council ready for the future

As a council we continue to deliver on the organisational changes required to optimise productive and innovative working, to counteract financial uncertainty and ensure we are a council ready for the future. We are committed to thinking differently to embrace new ways of working, with our values at the heart of everything we do: We innovate, We enable, We respect.

We want our employees to be as healthy and happy as they can be, and therefore able to be their most productive and innovative in delivering services to the communities of Sunderland. Through our Employee Wellness Programme, employees are able to access advice and support on health and wellbeing and participate in a range of workplace-based health and wellbeing activities. Just as Covid-19, and now the cost of living, has impacted on our communities, we understand this has impacted our workforce too. We previously carried out a workforce health survey and a workforce cost of living survey to understand key concerns – particularly where these relate to working life. From these we are developing and delivering targeted communications and support, aimed at enabling our employees to be as resilient as possible, with knowledge of how to access support where needed. In Quarter 3, over 400 employees participated in a Teams Live event on cost of living and there have been over 510 unique views of the cost-of-living support page on the Hub.

We continue to develop a new operating model to ensure that the council is as customer focused and effective as it can be. Alongside this, the adoption and enhancement of digital technologies continues, for smart working focused on efficient and effective customer outcomes. In Quarter 2, 59.9% (217,713) of our Customer Service Network customers accessed services through self-serve – exceeding the target of 46%.