ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 4.30pm

Membership

Cllrs M. Dixon, Donkin, Fagan, Foster, Guy (Vice Chair), Newey, Price (Chair), Reed, Scanlan, G. Smith and Watson.

ITEM		PAGE
1.	**Apologies for Absence.**	-
2.	**Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 13 January 2026** (Copy attached.)	1
3.	**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**	
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	**Business Improvement District (BID) Annual Update** Report of the Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator (copy attached).	9

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

5. **Cultural Sector Update** 27

Report of the Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture and Director of Economy, Culture & Sustainability (copy attached)

6. **Annual Work Programme 2025/26** 28

Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator (copy attached).

7. **Notice of Key Decisions** 30

Report of the Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator (copy attached).

Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions

No items.

E. WAUGH,
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,

City Hall,
SUNDERLAND.

2 February 2026

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026 at 4.30pm

Present: -

Councillor Price in the Chair

Councillors Dixon, Donkin, Guy, Newey, Reed and G. Smith

Also in attendance: -

Pamela Collins, Regulatory Compliance Manager
Philip Scott, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Manager
James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
Paul Wood, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Members of the Press

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 December 2025

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2025 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2025 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the additions below:-

   Councillor Lindsey Leonard, Portfolio Holder Environment, Transport and Net Zero informed the Committee on wider service improvements including the digitisation of the Play Team Inspection Forms, the optimisation of the Refuse collection routes by using the new Bartec software, accessing the collected refuse data to make routes/collections as efficient as it could be, and the Christmas Collection Dates which were included in the weekly newsletter as well as online.

   Councillor Leonard also referred to the recent Council Motion – ‘Cleaner streets for Sunderland’ and commented that the Environmental Services presentation/report received tonight included an update on what Council had asked Cabinet to do, and what actions had been taken. It was felt this was the most relevant Scrutiny Committee to consider feeding back to, and to being held to account regarding the Motion and consequent actions by

Cabinet and Officers. Councillor Dixon suggested that Area Committees could also give consideration.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Fire Safety in Hise Rise Building

The Assistant Director of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the fire safety in high rise building in the city.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pamela Collins, Regulatory Compliance Manager and Philip Scott, Principal Environmental Health Officer were in attendance to present the report along with PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

Councillor Guy queried if there was anything within the Mayoral Local Plan which stood out in terms of key highlights. Mr Scott advised that the Mayoral Plan aligned quite consistently with the National Plan and the targets set. This provided additional resource in the Authority to manage the process of remediation so there were no highlights that stood out as such.

Councillor Guy referred to Durham House in Washington and queried who would be in charge of any safety issues there. Mr Scott advised that if there were no residential properties within a building then the regulator for non residential high rise cladding issues etc would be the Fire Service. The regulator for work purposes would depend upon the activity being carried out.

In response to Councillor Reed's queries, Mr Scott advised that all 31 Buildings within Sunderland had been inspected and that the new elements that enforcement could be taken over included unreasonable delays for example and if a developer were to be seen to be dragging their feet on remediation works, they could then issue legal notices and then fines should there be non-compliance.

Councillor Reed enquired as to the Council tolerance levels. Mr Scott informed that they worked within the parameters of the guidance to give timelines and it is a reasonable period of time, based on the complexity of issues/works. As these could be complex cases which required a long time to resolve in comparison to smaller buildings.

Councillor Reed referred to the Grenfell tragedy and the issue highlighted in the recent documentary of undocumented people living within the buildings which the fire service had been unaware of and queried if there were any such concerns within the building in Sunderland. Mr Scott advised of fire risk assessments within the buildings and that whilst occupancy could change day to day the assessments process was there for the continued operation of the building.

In response to Councillor Donkin's query over the £100k Legal Proceedings grant given and if there was the potential to exceed this, Mr Scott advised that this was set up by the Government as a support fund to deal with the process and if the work cost less than the £100k, the difference would be returned. The budget was being monitored on a monthly basis and the full amount had not been reached as yet and they were waiting for the current costs. Ms Collins advised that it was difficult to predict the ultimate costs as they could not gauge what timeframes those involved responded to etc.

Councillor Dixon enquired if Officers met regularly with Gentoo to review work on High Rise Buildings. Mr Scott informed that they have inroads with the Safety Manager at Gentoo and the Fire Authority assess all high rise buildings so if something were to be flagged we would look to see what the plans for remediation were. With regards to partnership working Mr Scott advised that they had great links with both Gentoo and the Fire Service so were working well.

In respect of the three high rise buildings to be demolished, Mr Scott advised that this was purely a decision from Gentoo and the Council have had no input regarding this.

Councillor Newey referred to the constantly changing environmental regulations year on year and queried how Officers dealt with any changes and if this led to a constant level of inspections. Ms Collins commented that they had clear links with the Government and they find out quickly with advanced notice of any changes that could affect them so this allowed them to align processes and be up to speed on regulatory requirements.

In relation to communications with residents when any defects were discovered, Mr Scott advised that the duty holder, the landlord, was responsible to communicate with the residents and he understood that Gentoo were quite good in this area.

Councillor G. Smith enquired as to the help for disabled people during evacuations of high rise buildings. Mr Scott informed that as part of fire risk assessments there were personal evacuation plans which were the duty of the landlord to provide and review.

Councillor Donkin raised that the personal evacuation plans for Grenfell had advised residents to "stay put" and queried if the plans within Sunderland had been reviewed as a result of this and if they had been proven to be adequate. Mr Scott informed that in relation to the High Rise Buildings that the Council have a interest in, they had been reviewed and were determined to be adequate but he could not speak for Gentoo and their buildings.

There being no further questions, the Chairperson thanked the Officers for their report and it was then: -

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Regulation of the Privately Rented Housing Sector

The Assistant Director of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the regulation of the privately rented housing sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pamela Collins, Regulatory Compliance Manager and Philip Scott, Principal Environmental Health Officer were in attendance to present the report along with PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

In relation to Councillor Guy's query over the Category Rating System contained within the presentation, Mr Scott advised that Officers used their own judgement and then provided a numerical score, examples under Category 1 could include deficient heating systems whereas category 2 could be where a staircase didn't have a correct handrail for instance.

Councillor Guy commented that he had seen some shocking cases in his experience of student accommodation and he felt there was a pessimism amongst students when living in HMO's and that it was a very exploitative industry in terms of lack of repairs undertaken etc. Councillor Guy queried if Officers had undertaken any work with the Universities.

Mr Scott confirmed that they had worked with Sunderland University representatives and attended freshers fairs but had to be honest that the student take up for this had not been great, attendance wise.

Councillor Reed referred to the figures on minimum room sizes for licensing HMO's and if these were the national minimum room sizes and if we could add to these independently. Mr Scott confirmed that these were national minimum sizing but the Council could introduce their own policy for larger minimum sizes if they so wished, but these wouldn't apply to those properties already in place.

Councillor Reed queried if a landlord were found to fail a test on a specific property, could they then be rejected for any future applications for properties elsewhere. Mr Scott informed that the specifics on each individual case were considered independently and it could also depend on the nature of the previous failure and if they had been found guilty of exploitation etc or if it was terms of care/repair work.

In terms of inspecting all HMO's, these were all inspected at least once upon being licensed and then reinspected dependant on the risk of the properties and their potential vulnerability of residents for example.

Councillor Reed referred to some concerns from constituents regarding suspicions over more residents living within HMO's than stated and queried if it were possible to inspect all HMO's across the city to allay resident fears. Ms Collins commented that this was something they could consider but they currently used an intelligence based system to react when information was brought to light. They would have to give

careful consideration to city wide inspection and wasn't something they could commit to at this meeting.

Councillor Donkin wished to thank the Officers for agreeing to look at a case passed onto him via a constituent and he would provide details of this to Officers outside of meeting. Councillor Donkin referred to the 16 properties that required improvement and queried of these landlords, how many owned multiple properties and would this trigger an inspection of those other properties or would they monitor those.

Councillor Donkin also commented that in relation to HMO's, there appeared to be a scourge of Airbnb's popping up within the City and enquired if these were monitored as they seemed to be very fluid. Ms Collins agreed that these were very fluid and advised that as Airbnb's were not permanent residences they fell outside of the scope of these regulations but assured Members that should they have any concerns over a property, to let Officers know and they would have Council colleagues give it consideration.

Councillor Guy commented that he believed there was a possible bill being proposed in relation to Airbnb's at the moment.

In relation to the 16 properties that required improvement, Mr Scott advised that he would have to take a look at those but there were none that he could call to mind that were one owner of multiple properties.

Councillor Dixon commented that there was a massive concentration of HMO's around the Park Lane area and he felt that some random inspections of these would be good, especially with families coming in from other parts of the world, he was not sure what conditions they could be living in. Councillor Dixon also queried how Officers worked with the landlords on this. Mr Scott advised that under the Housing Act they had to notify the landlords before any inspection and once assessed any hazards, if these were Category 1 then a notice would be issued. Mr Scott added that the procedure wasn't a quick process, especially if there was limited contact from the landlord.

In response to Councillor Dixon, Mr Scott advised that it was between the Landlord and the tenants responsibility to rehome the tenant if work/repairs were needed.

Councillor Dixon referred to the empty homes policy and commented that it appeared there had been a reboot of this and that the previous work done on this had not been successful which concerned him and it felt like we were starting from scratch again. Ms Collins assured the Committee that it was more due to the Policy having been reviewed as it was at the end of its cycle and they were looking to build upon what they had done previously and applying additional skills and tools to deal with these more difficult cases so she hoped it would not appear a backward step and more of an improvement to compliment the existing process.

In response to Councillor Newey's query, Mr Scott advised that in terms of minimum room sizes, the cut off to determine a child's bedroom was age 10 and over that would be an adults bedroom size. In terms of notification of inspections, the landlord

and the tenant would be notified and the timeframes were to give a clear 24 hours but in practice a full week was given in order to cater for the postal service.

There being no further questions, the Chairperson thanked the Officers for their report and it was then: -

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Renters' Rights Act 2025

The Assistant Director of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the implications of the Renters' Rights Act.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pamela Collins, Regulatory Compliance Manager and Philip Scott, Principal Environmental Health Officer were in attendance to present the report along with PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

Councillor Guy commented that the Act seemed very positive and he was keen to see how it would go.

Councillor Reed referred to the costings for the additional enforcements and if this had been funded for. Ms Collins advised that they had received additional funding and they expected that once the database was in place and fees were being collected, the landlords percentage would be ringfenced for future use.

In response to Councillor Reed's enquiry as to any signs that landlords were evicting tenants or raising rents in preparation for this Act coming in, Mr Scott informed that they hadn't seen any examples of this and that there were already some protections in place now for this.

Councillor Reed cautioned that landlords may become more selective about their tenants if they are unable to evict anymore and queried if Officers would be keeping an eye on any negative effects this could have on young people for example. Mr Scott advised that the Housing Options Team record the reasons for claiming homelessness and this would be part of the discussions amongst the teams should it occur.

Ms Collins added that as well as working with the Options Team to monitor this, any eviction would have to be evidence based.

Councillor Donkin queried if there were any protections a tenant could have if a landlord claimed to sell a property purely in order to evict a resident. Mr Scott advised that if the tenant was made to leave a property which was not then sold, they could claim up to 24 months worth of rent back so this policy was self policing in effect.

Councillor Donkin commented that it felt there was a gap in the tools available in respect of landlords selling properties to another landlord and that he did find this concerning.

Councillor Dixon commented that this proposal had been on the cards for some time and the general consensus seemed to be that the legislation had more intensity and queried if the accredited landlords in the City had been consulted on this and what their reaction was. Ms Collins confirmed that they had consulted with the accredited landlords and they had already been sent a copy of the Act. The general feeling was that if they were good landlords, they were already doing what the legislation required.

Councillor Dixon requested Officer opinions on scrapping of Section 21 and strengthening Section 8. Ms Collins commented that the outcome was positive and they could implement with best endeavours and measure for themselves.

In response to Councillor Newey's query over what main impacts this Bill would have, Ms Collins advised that the enforcement powers would be very useful. Mr Scott added that there was the added need to produce evidence now and even bank information which gave them greater powers to investigate.

The Chairman wished to thank the Officers for a great presentation which had proved very valuable and enquired if they worked hand in hand with the Housing Options Team and Homelessness Team and if there was any overlap on this. Mr Scott confirmed that there was lots of overlap between the teams and regular conversations to assist on issues such as referrals of illegal practices and undue process reports for example.

There being no further questions, the Chairperson thanked the Officers for their attendance and it was then: -

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Annual Work Programme 2025/2026

The Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), for the Committee to consider and agree the work programme for the municipal year 2025/26.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Members' information and possible suggestions/comments.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report

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 17 December 2025 (copies circulated).

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

The Scrutiny Officer reminded Members to get in touch if they required further information on any of the items included in the notice.

In response to Councillor Dixon's query, the Chairperson advised that the Portfolio Holder had been invited to the meeting but unfortunately had been unable to attend on this occasion.

Councillor Newey wished to request if future presentations could be included in the agenda papers for Members to study before a meeting rather than receive these on the day. The Chairperson agreed that this would be more beneficial to allow Members to have more time to formulate questions for Officers.

It was agreed that Mr Diamond to obtain the following information as below:

25114/1032 – To seek approval for procurement of banking and pre-paid card services - For Councillor Reed

25/1208/1035 – To seek approval for the procurement of a marketing services framework – For Councillor Donkin

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

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

(Signed) J. PRICE
Chair

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 FEBRUARY 2026

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) - ANNUAL UPDATE

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide the Committee with a progress report on the work of the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) and provide an update on the economic challenges and opportunities facing the city.

2. Background

2.1 A Business Improvement District is a defined area in which a levy is charged on business rate payers for the development of projects in the local area.

2.2 The Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) was established in April 2014 for a five year period to March 2019. In November 2018, local businesses voted to renew the BID project for a further five years. Last year, it was announced that the BID had been reelected for a third term commencing in April 2024.

2.3 For its third term the BID extended its remit to also cover the Sheepfold area of the city. A second BID area covering Roker and Seaburn Seafront commenced in May 2025.

3 Current Position

3.1 Sharon Appleby (Chief Executive BID) will be in attendance to provide a presentation on the work of the BID, providing information on what has been delivered so far and the key projects for 2026/27.

3.2 A copy of the presentation is attached for information.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the update provided.

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond
Scrutiny Officer
T: 07485275256
E: james.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN.

#HAPPENINGINSUNDERLAND

sunderlandbid.co.uk

Sunderland's Business Improvement District

WHAT IS A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)?

A Business Improvement District is a partnership of local businesses in which businesses work together to invest in improvements to their trading environment.

BIDs have to be elected by the levy payers every 5 years and create a new business plan to continue their work.

BIDs only operate within a geographical area that is set in a ballot proposal.

We're celebrating over 20 years of BIDs in the UK.

341
BIDs in UK

1.5%
median levy rate

60
BIDs in development

134,098
represented businesses

£154m
invested into local economies

87%
ballot success rate

SUNDERLAND BID

“WE ARE CREATING A VIBRANT CITY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE.”

- We’re in our 3rd term
- 421 levy payers in our area
- £576,000 invested back into the city centre annually
- Operate within 3 key priority areas

CITY PRIDE

CITY VOICE

CITY PROMOTION

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN AT THE SEAFRONT.

Sunderland's Business Improvement District

SEAFRONT BID

- 45 heriditaments within the area
- Approx. 30 voters
- Estimated levy £75,000

WHY A SEAFRONT BID?

- Link up the key areas of Sunderland
- Attracting new businesses and investments
- Regional competitiveness
- Enhanced business connections
- Greater influence and visibility

“Life is better at our city by the sea.”

BALLOT RESULTS

90.9%

YES votes

95.3%

Rateable value

67.3%

Votes received

CLEANER, SAFER AND GREENER CITY.

CITY PRIDE

We will keep changing perceptions and building civic pride by ensuring our city centre is a welcoming, safe, clean, and attractive environment for everyone.

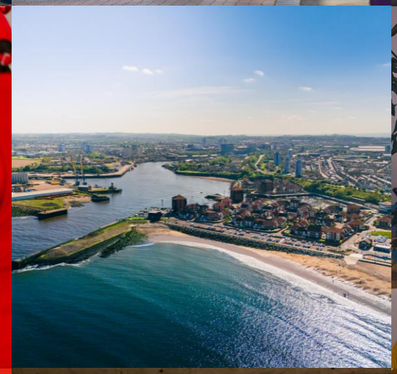
ATTRACTIVE STREETS
SR1 STREET RANGER
CRIME REDUCTION
PURPLE FLAG
A LOW-CARBON CITY

GET YOUR VIEWS HEARD AND INFLUENCE POSITIVE CHANGE.

CITY VOICE

We will provide a robust and collective voice for our businesses at the highest level to make good things happen to improve Sunderland City Centre's trading environment.

INFLUENCE
FUNDING STREAMS
PARTNERSHIPS
COMMUNICATIONS
ESG



OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY WITH EVENTS AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

CITY PROMOTION

We will continue to raise the profile of Sunderland regionally and nationally and create a year-round programme of City-wide marketing activities, high-profile events, and promotional campaigns.

BIG CITY EVENTS
STREET ANIMATION
SUNDERLAND GIFT CARD
PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS CHALLENGES

- Rates revaluation and transition relief
- Minimum wage increase again
- Cost of living challenges
- Global uncertainty

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

- City transformation and ambition
- Culture House opening
- Eye hospital opening
- New business openings and relocations e.g.
  - Just Eat
  - RTC North
  - Richard Reed
  - Civia Health
  - New Bridges occupiers
- Premier League status
- Major events
  - Radio 1 big weekend
  - Concerts
  - NYE
- More homes
- New office space
- Retail plan

ANY QUESTIONS?

#HAPPENINGINSUNDERLAND

Sunderland's Business Improvement District

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **10 FEBRUARY 2026**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SUNDERLAND CULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY, CULTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

CULTURAL SECTOR UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide a provide a report on the progress of the cultural sector and its impact on the local economy of the city.

2. Background

2.1 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to include in its work programme a report on the cultural sector.

2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the significant economic impact of the cultural sector for the city.

3. Current Position

3.1 Nick Malyan (Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture) and Catherine Auld (Director of Economy, Culture and Sustainability) will be in attendance to provide a presentation and answer questions as appropriate.

3.2 A copy of the presentation will be circulated to follow.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

5 Background Papers

None

Item 6

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **10 FEBRUARY 2026**

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026

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 2025-26 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 2025-26.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2025-26

REASON FOR INCLUSION	10 JUNE 25 (INFORMAL MEETING)	8 JULY 25	9 SEPTEMBER 25	7 OCTOBER 25	4 NOVEMBER 25	2 DECEMBER 25	13 JANUARY 26	10 FEBRUARY 26	10 MARCH 26	31 MARCH 26
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses										Scrutiny Annual Report
Scrutiny Business	Remit and Work Programme of Committee	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) Planning Enforcement (Marion Dixon/ Danielle Pearson/ Claire Foster) Section 106 Agreements (Marion Dixon/Danielle Pearson)	Highways Maintenance Programme (Graham Carr/Tim Smith/Michael Frost) Flood Management (Graham Carr)	Events Update (Marian Chapman) Regeneration – Sunniside and City Centre Update (incl City Hall Update) (Neil Guthrie/Anthony Crabbe/Kate Percival/Dan Hattle)	Affordable Housing (Housing Providers- Gentoo/Karbon/ Thirteen/Bernicia) Business Centres (Catherine Auld)	Environmental Services Update (Marc Morley/David Groark) Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld/Helen Peverley)	Renters Act 2025 – Implications for Private Renters (Pam Collins/Phil Scott) Regulation of Private Rented Sector (Pam Collins/Phil Scott) Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings (Pam Collins/Phil Scott)	Culture and Heritage Sector and the Local Economy (inc Screen Industries) (Catherine Auld/Nick Maylan) Sunderland BID – Update (Sharon Appleby)	Active Travel Schemes (Chris Ferry/Mark Wilson) Allocations Policy (Martin Bewick)	Siglion Update (Neil Guthrie) Events Update – Economic Impact (Marion Dixon)
Consultation Information and Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26 - Feedback	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 25-26

Issues Raised:

Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Catherine Auld/Gary Baker)
Northumbrian Road Safety Partnership/ Road Safety Update (Paul Muir)
Tourism Strategy (Paula James)- TBC

Sunderland City Council

Item No. 7

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 FEBRUARY 2026

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
07485 275256
james.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

28 day notice
Notice issued 14 January 2026

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
251017/1023	To seek approval to funding and procurement proposals to deliver the Sheepfolds Millennium Way Car Park.	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
251103/1030	To seek approval for a decision relating to land transactions to facilitate the improvement of Sunderland's schools	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	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	Democratic 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
251208/1034	To consider the consultative draft Digital Inclusion Strategy	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
251223/1041	To seek endorsement of South of Tyne and Wear Local Nature Recovery Strategy for adoption	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 March to 30 June 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
251223/1042	To seek approval of the Biodiversity Report for publication	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
251231/1043	Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2026/2027 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2029/2030	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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251231/1044	Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2025/2026	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
251231/1045	Capital Programme and TMPS 2026/2027 including Prudential Indicators	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260105/1046	To consider Crisis Resilience Fund proposals for implementation	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260105/1047	To consider acceptance of Sport England Funding Award	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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260106/1048	To consider a proposal for a Padel Tennis Facility at Silksworth Tennis Centre	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260106/1049	To consider the disposal of land and landowner collaboration agreement on land adjacent to Belford Close, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 February to 31 March 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260106/1050	To seek approval for the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to the Sheepfolds Neighbourhood of Riverside, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 February to 31 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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260106/1051	To consider the disposal of 15 and 16 Nile Street, Sunniside and award of grant funding.	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 February to 31 March 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260106/1052	To seek approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 February to 31 March 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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260106/1053	To consider an update on the regeneration of Sunniside and proposed appointment of development and master planning consultant	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 February to 31 March 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260106/1054	To consider the Area Committee Boundary Review	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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260106/1055	To consider an extension proposal in respect of the existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Contract	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	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 and 5 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) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public interest in maintaining these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260109/1056	To consider the Council Housing Rent Increase 2026/2027	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260112/1057	To seek approval to procure a supplemental Professional Design and Construction Related Services Framework for additional services to support the Council's residential and commercial development projects	Cabinet	Y	12 February 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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260112/1058	To seek approval to enter into grant funding agreements with developers and dispose of land at Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 March to 31 July 2026	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	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260112/1059	To seek approval of the procurement of key Sheepfolds infrastructure including Mobility Hub.	Cabinet	Y	In the period 1 March to 31 July 2026	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	Democratic 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 Democratic 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 Democratic 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 Democratic Services at the address given above.**

Who will decide;

Councillor Michael Mordey – Leader; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Deputy Leader & Health, Wellbeing and Safer Communities; Councillor Michael Butler – Children's Services, Child Poverty and Skills; Councillor Beth Jones – Communities, Culture and Tourism; Councillor Alison Smith – Corporate Services and Equalities; Councillor Lindsey Leonard – Environment, Transport and Net Zero, Councillor Kevin Johnston – Housing, Regeneration and Business.

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 14 January 2026