Sunderland City Council

Elaine Waugh Assistant Director of Law and Governance

City Hall Sunderland

11 January 2022

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Response from Scrutiny Coordinating Committee – 9 December 2021 – Capital Programme Planning 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 – Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Full description of decision:

To note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee that :-

"The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee has considered the capital resources and commitments as well as the additional project proposals and is satisfied with the report and has no further comments to make."

Reasons for decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:** 11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Response from Scrutiny Coordinating Committee – 9 December 2021 – Budget Planning Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022/2023 - 2025/2026 – Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Full description of decision:

To note the comments of the Scrutiny Committee that :-

"The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee acknowledges the information contained in the report and recognises the continuing budget pressures that the Council faces. The Committee also acknowledges that a number of funding uncertainties remain as well as the continued impact, on a number of budget areas, from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee is satisfied that it will continue to receive updates on the budget including the outcome from the budget consultation process.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank Members and Officers for their continued efforts in developing a balanced budget in these difficult times."

Reasons for decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

11 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Performance Report – Quarter 2 of 2021/22 – Report of the Chief Executive

Full description of decision:

To note and accept the performance information in relation to Quarter 2 performance of 2021/22.

Reasons for decision:

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

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended.

Contact Officer: Liz St. Louis

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision: 11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland City Plan 2019-2030 – Annual Assurance Process – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To consider the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and to recommend the proposed updates to the Plan and Timeline to Council for approval.

Reasons for decision:

Production of a corporate plan is required under the council's Constitution, as an Article 4 Plan.

The City Plan and Indicative Timeline are considered to fulfil the role of a corporate plan for the period 2019-2030 as the primary statement of the council's and the city's strategic direction and key priorities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Option 1. Do Nothing: This option was not considered appropriate. Evolving circumstances emphasise the need for the City Plan and Indicative Timeline to be the subject of an assurance process in order that they are fit for purpose to express the council's strategic direction and intentions for the years 2022-2030.

Option 2. Develop a new City Plan: This option was not considered appropriate. The City Plan and Indicative Timeline are intended as the long-term primary statement of the council's and the city's strategic direction and key priorities in the context of evolving circumstances.

Contact Officer: Beverley Poulter

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

11 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Independent Remuneration Panel and Members' Allowances Scheme - 2022/2023 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Full description of decision:

To recommended to Council:-

- (i) to note the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- (ii) to approve that the scheme of allowances remain unchanged for the following financial year, as it was considered that there should not be any increase to members' allowances at this time, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the financial pressures being faced by residents in the City.

Reasons for decision:

The Council must make a new Scheme before the beginning of each financial year.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options in respect of the adoption of a Scheme for 2022/2023, as this is a statutory requirement.

Contact Officer: Elaine Waugh

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme Third Review 2021/2022 (including Treasury Management) – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

- In respect of the third capital review for 2021/2022 to approve the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2021/2022 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the Capital Programme; and
- In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note the progress in implementing the 2021/2022 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Reasons for decision:

As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over capital spend and resources and receives quarterly reports to support this. This report notes the inclusion of additional capital schemes since approval by Cabinet on 12th October 2021.

Cabinet is also requested to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022, which is in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision:
11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Third Revenue Budget Review 2021/2022 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

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

Reasons for decision:

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2021/2022 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options are proposed

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Council Tax Base 2022/2023 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council:

- The report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2022/2023 be approved; and
- That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2022/2023, shall be 72,161 and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be 4,052.

Reasons for decision:

To comply with statutory requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

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

Full description of decision:

To recommend to Council that:

- (i) The current LCTSS for the City of Sunderland, the main features of which are set out at Appendix A, be amended from 1st April 2022 to incorporate any legislative changes to the prescribed requirements for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme (the Scheme) but that it be not otherwise revised or replaced; and
- (ii) The approved LCTSS for the financial year 2022/2023 be published on the Council's website and in any additional manner determined by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Cabinet Secretary.

Reasons for decision:

- (i) The Council must have its LCTSS approved by 11 March 2022, and the design of the scheme impacts upon the calculation of the council tax base which is considered elsewhere on today's agenda; and
- (ii) The proposed scheme, the main features which are as set out at Appendix A, reflects the experience of the impact of the scheme to date and is seen to be a fair and affordable scheme for low-income residents.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options proposed. There is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider, for each financial year, whether to revise its LCTSS or replace it with another scheme, with any revision or replacement scheme being determined by 11th March in the preceding financial year.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision:

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/2023 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To

- Note the update to the Government funding position, including the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement set out at section 4 of the report;
- Note the update on the 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 budget planning as set out at sections 5 to 11 of the report; and
- In relation to the Sunderland Schools' local funding formula, the Sunderland Schools' Forum recommended Cabinet be requested to approve the following in principle, subject to final modelling and verifying affordability, to be implemented for the 2022/2023 Sunderland local funding formula:
 - The National Funding Formula (NFF), made up of fifteen different funding elements, to be implemented with the following local adjustments, which were modelled in detail so as to give the most equitable settlement possible to all Sunderland schools whilst moving towards the NFF:
 - The Minimum Funding Guarantee applied at 2.0% in line with the NFF value;
 - A transfer of 0.5% (£950,582) to the High Needs Block in recognition of ongoing pressures; and
 - The Low Prior Attainment Indicator set at reduced rates of £920 per Primary pupil (NFF £1,130) and £1,500 per secondary pupil (NFF £1,710). It should be noted that alongside the Minimum Funding Guarantee, this proxy indicator does not reduce the funds available to schools for low prior attainment.

Reasons for decision:

To provide an update on the Government funding position, including the impact of Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the budget planning for 2022/2023 to 2025/2026.

To update the Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Planning in light of the latest information.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Economic Prosperity Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:20 January 2022

Date of decision:
11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland Heat Network - engagement and appointment of specialist drilling contractors – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Deputy Leader to procure and appoint a specialist drilling contractor on appropriate contractual terms to:

- Design and drill the required pilot borehole(s) subject to the confirmation of funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); and
- ii. Drill any subsequent required production borehole(s) as part of the construction phase subject to the outcome of the viability of the pilot borehole(s) and confirmation of further funding from BEIS.

Reasons for decision:

In line with June Cabinet report the Council has sought grant funding to support the cost of the next steps towards delivery of the Sunderland Mine Source Heat Network. An application to the BEIS Green Heat Networks Fund (GHNF) Transition Scheme for commercialisation funding was submitted. Following dialogue with BEIS there is an emerging funding condition relating to the pilot boreholes, which requires a formal quotation from the successful drilling contractor to be obtained and submitted to BEIS prior to end of this financial year.

This will continue progress towards delivery of a City Centre Heat Network, in support of the ambitions set down in the City Plan and Low Carbon Action Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to procure a drilling contractor. This option is rejected as the Council doesn't have the capacity and expertise to undertake this specialist work, nor would this option satisfy the emerging funding condition.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Economic Prosperity Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:20 January 2022

Date of decision:
11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement of a Contractor for Reconstruction Works to the Sea Defence Structure at Hendon Foreshore Barrier – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) approve the procurement of the required reconstruction works to the sea defence structure at Hendon Foreshore Barrier; and
- (ii) authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to approve the appointment of a contractor, and finalise the contract with the successful bidder.

Reasons for decision:

By undertaking the reconstruction of the sea defence structure at Hendon Foreshore Barrier the lifespan of the structure will be extended, NWG's wastewater treatment facility will be protected against future climate change and sea erosion, and the integrity and functionality of Hudson Dock will be maintained, thereby supporting Sunderland's economic growth and contributing positively to the City Plan objectives of a Dynamic and Healthy City.

The value of the contract will exceed £500,000, therefore in accordance with the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules, Cabinet approval is required prior to commencing the procurement process.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do Nothing: By undertaking no reconstruction of the existing sea defence structure the area would continue to remain unprotected against the future impact of climate change and coastal erosion, and vulnerable to the severe environmental impact from the potential release of untreated effluent into the North Sea, with the associated impact on the functionality of Hudson Dock.

To note Hendon Foreshore Barrier is regularly monitored to assess the risk of potential structural failure given its current state of repair. During December 2020 the council completed an emergency repair through the installation of 2000T of rock armour to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion. We will continue to monitor and assess the situation up to the commencement of the major repair works in 2023 to help prevent any public health risks.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Economic Prosperity Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

UK100 Pledge and Low Carbon Update – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:-

- i) approve the Council recommitting to the UK100 pledge (following its revision); and
- ii) note the outcome of the CDP submission on behalf of the city and progress in relation to emissions data.

Reasons for decision:

The decision is required to reaffirm the Council's recommit to the UK100 pledge which has been revised. By signing up to the revised UK100 Pledge, the Council will be committed to working towards net zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 as a Council and 2045 as a city. This builds on our existing commitments to work towards carbon neutrality as a Council by 2030 and as a city by 2040.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to not sign up to the revised UK100 pledge was considered, however this was not considered appropriate, as the Council signed up to the previous pledge and moving away from this commitment would not reflect the Council's ambition to reducing emissions appropriately.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: <u>peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk</u>

Is this a key decision:

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Economic Prosperity Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision:

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

International Advanced Manufacturing Park Interim Position Statement – Report of the Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To approve the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) Interim Position Statement (IPS)

Reasons for decision:

The IAMP IPS sets out the prevailing changes to planning policy, the economic context and low carbon commitments since the adoption of the IAMP Area Action Plan (AAP).

The decision is required for the Cabinet to approve the IAMP IPS, to ensure that these prevailing changes are taken into account as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications within the IAMP AAP boundary.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to not prepare an IPS was considered, however it was considered that this may make it more difficult for the prevailing changes to be taken into consideration in the determination of planning applications within the IAMP area. This was not considered appropriate as it may discourage appropriate inward investment into the IAMP area.

Contact Officer: Peter McIntyre

Email: peter.mcintyre@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillor G. Miller declared an interest as the Council appointed representative and Councillor Rowntree declared an interest as the Council appointed substitute representative on the Board of the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) LLP. Both Councillors withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Economic Prosperity Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision:

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement – Maximising social value-added and supporting the Sunderland Voluntary and Community Sector – Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To;

- agree that the Council, in partnership with the Sunderland VCS Alliance, maximises social value from Council procurement activity to support capacity building and sustainability of the Sunderland Voluntary and Community Sector;
- ii) authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Cabinet Secretary, to agree and implement amendments to the procurement social value toolkit; and
- iii) agree that regular communication with the voluntary and community sector and wider City Board members takes place, including an Annual Conversation chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, to share the innovative solutions and activities being delivered to grow Community Wealth across Sunderland.

Reasons for decision:

Sunderland's Community Wealth Building Strategy, in which the voluntary sector is an integral partner for outcome delivery, require additional support to increase their capacity and ensure their sustainability.

The Council have completed a significant community engagement exercise, supported by the voluntary sector, and responses received through the Sunderland Engagement Strategy - Let's Talk evidences that the sector continues to be key to delivering the Neighbourhood investment plans and Community Wealth Strategy.

In line with best practice, robust Voluntary Sector infrastructure support, via the Sunderland VCS Alliance, is required to deliver the ambitions of the Sunderland 2019 – 2030 City Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

There are no alternative options recommended as this proposal has been developed in collaboration with the Sunderland Voluntary and Community Sector, via the Sunderland VCS Alliance, in response to the sector's future requirements regarding capacity building and sustainability in order to maximise outcomes from social value-added measures as part of the delivery of the Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy.

Contact Officer: Fiona Brown

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Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:** 11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Award of grant funding to the Connected Places Catapult – Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods to award a grant of £80,000 to the Connected Places Catapult on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City.

Reasons for decision:

The proposed passporting of £80,000 of grant funding to Connected Places Catapult will supplement the funding already secured and provide an increased opportunity of testing a greater number of solutions which could make an impact in the fight against cold, damp and fuel poverty in the City, and through this holistic approach the delivery arrangements for managing the funding are more efficient. Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group have made a funding contribution to the Council of £80,000 on this basis. Given that the funding to be passported to the Connected Places Catapult exceeds £50,000 then Cabinet approval is required.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option is not to award the grant and instead for the Council to undertake procurement and contractual arrangements and management of the project separately leading to inefficiencies and additional resource implications. Consequently, this alternative option is not recommended.

Contact Officer: Fiona Brown

Email: Fiona.brown2@sunderland.gov.uk

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Cabinet Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny

Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022

Date of decision:

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Integrated Care System: Approach to Place-Based Partnership Arrangements – Report of the Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:-

- a. approve the approach to formalise Sunderland's place-based partnership arrangements as set out in the report; and
- b. authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to approve the Place Based Agreement that would underpin the collaborative working arrangements described in this report, once finalised.

Reasons for decision:

A formal place-based partnership will need to be in place in Sunderland from April 2022

Alternative options considered and rejected:

NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will cease to exist from 31 March 2022 and the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System will become a legal entity from April 2022 and as such there are no other options for consideration.

Contact Officer: Gerry Taylor

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Is this a key decision:

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Decision Taker: Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Cabinet Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

20 January 2022 **Date of decision:**

11 January 2022

Title and author(s) of written report:

Pension Guarantee Arrangement – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To approve the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

Email: jon.ritchie@sunderland.gov.uk

Is this a key decision:

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

Councillor P. Walker declared an interest as an employee of the organisation detailed in the report and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report.