ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 4.30pm

Membership

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

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

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7. **Notice of Key Decisions** 17

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.

20 March 2026

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026 at 4.30pm

Present: -

Councillor Price in the Chair

Councillors Dixon, Donkin, Fagan and G. Smith.

Also in attendance: -

Councillor Lindsey Leonard, Portfolio Holder Environment, Transport and Net Zero
Martin Bewick, Senior Manager Homeless & Vulnerable People
Paul Muir, Transport Development Group Engineer
Chris Ferry, Highways Design and Infrastructure 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 Foster, Guy, Newey, Reed, Scanlan and Watson

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 February 2026

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2026 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2026 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest

Review of Housing Allocations Policy

The Executive Director of Public Health & Wellbeing submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek the views if the Committee on the draft review of the Council's Housing allocations policy

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Martin Bewick, Senior Manager Homeless & Vulnerable People, was in attendance to present the report along with PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

In response to Councillor Dixons queries, Mr Bewick advised that instances of Domestic Abuse were in Category 1 and if the case was severe it could be an exceptional circumstance. There were other agencies which looked after such people also, with Wearside Women in Need being one of the biggest organisations in the region.

Councillor Dixon commented that he had previously visited the Oasis facility and enquired as to what Category those people would be. Mr Bewick advised that these were typically single persons but of the most complex cases usually.

In response to Councillor Fagan's queries, Mr Bewick advised that they do require proof/evidence for cases of Domestic Abuse and this would include things such as Police statements or documents showing Organisational support.

In relation to the public consultation carried out on the changes to the Policy, Mr Bewick advised that every person on the list was contacted and provided with an email link to the survey in which they could also supply comments.

Councillor Donkin wished for his thanks to be passed onto the Team for their help in dealing with recent constituent issues and enquired as to what requirements there were of landlords of properties in relation to the rules such as fly tipping and maintenance of waste bins etc. Mr Bewick commented that it was difficult and you had good and bad landlords so they were learning which ones worked and which did not but the landlord should take action when there are instances of ASB etc and for the maintenance of the property.

In terms of absentee landlords it was very tricky in managing these and they tried not to use these if possible or only when needed.

Councillor Donkin enquired if the tenant would be monitored when in the property. Mr Bewick confirmed that officers monitored the tenant and would be in contact with them every day.

Councillor Smith referred to a recent constituents son who had been moved into a property within Whitley Bay. Mr Bewick advised that they did use hotels and B&B's outside of Sunderland and there were around 13-14 people out of the area. This was not ideal but they did not have an endless supply of available hotel rooms within the City.

The Chairperson wished to congratulate the team on their work, stating that they were doing a sterling job and queried as to how big the team was now. Mr Bewick advise that they had 36 staff, with 4-5 current vacancies at present.

Councillor Dixon suggested there may be some merit in the Team having a meeting with all Councillors to discuss the options available. Mr Bewick agreed that it may be

worth getting back in a room with Members and having a conversation to advise of the current circumstances.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairperson thanked Mr Bewick for his attendance and it was then: -

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Road Safety Partnership Update

The Assistant Director Transport and Infrastructure submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the work of the Northumbria Road Safety Partnership.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Paul Muir, Transport Development Group Engineer and Councillor Lindsey Leonard, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport and Net Zero were in attendance to present the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

In response to Councillor Dixons query over the decision to only meet twice a year, Councillor Leonard advised that they had originally pushed back on this to increase the meeting to biannual rather than just annually but they did meet as and when needed.

Councillor Dixon commented that it did suggest a lack of urgency by the lead authority and queried Gateshead's work in this regard. Councillor Leonard advised that given some Authorities had stressed urgency this had moved the process on and now that the money was coming in it had started to speed up progression and partners were now refocussed. Mr Muir also advised that Officers had a steering group which met on a monthly basis.

Councillor Dixon enquired as to how involved the Police were as partners. Councillor Leonard informed that the Police were keen on the campaign side of the work and that they would be needed for the enforcement.

Councillor Dixon raised a question on behalf of Councillor Reed who had unfortunately had to submit apologies to the meeting, this related to the last meeting in which the subject had been considered and that there would be a replacement of the old cameras before new locations were sought. Mr Muir advised that this was for new sites and the existing cameras were to be looked at for how to be maintained and possibly refreshed.

Councillor Donkin requested clarification that there were currently 8 cameras, some working and some not and that there would be an additional 2 cameras. Mr Muir advised that there were currently 15 cameras in total but they were looking at new locations where there were the greatest amount of incidents.

Councillor Donkin queried in relation to the spot cameras and if these would be moved around and how many more they were getting. Mr Muir informed that the two cameras they were getting would be fixed and the Police would continue with the mobile van enforcement.

In response to Councillor Donkin's request for consideration of the A19, particularly around Hylton Castle, Mr Muir commented that he hadn't heard of anything being considered but he could raise this as an issue with National Highways as he had regular meetings with them.

With regards to an issue raised by Councillor Smith over the ASB of scooter users in Pallion Park and the removal of the camera there, Councillor Leaonard suggested that if residents reported the incidents to the Police, they could build intelligence as to where they were going after the park.

The Chairperson queried if Gateshead were in sole charge of the media campaign as the lead authority. Mr Muir informed that the steering group had agreed that the Police would lead on all messaging in this regard. Moving forward on next steps It was expected that the Police Communications would share a statement between all Local Authorities for agreement before going out to the press to announce the appointment of the camera operator.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairperson thanked Mr Muir for his report and it was then: -

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Active Travel Development Update

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the progress being made regarding the development of the City's Active Travel schemes.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Chris Ferry, Highways Design and Infrastructure Manager was in attendance to present the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and to answer any Member queries.

Councillor Dixon referred to a previous meeting on Ryhope Road in which timescales had been advised of September 2027 and now the presentation was stating an earlier start time of May/June. Mr Ferry informed that grant funding had been received earlier than expected so they were now looking at design tweaks so that they could start planning earlier. In relation to if resident objections were made, these would go to the Planning and Highways Committee as part of the TRO process but hopefully the tweaks made would address those residents concerns.

With regards to the parking bays further down on Ryhope Road, Mr Ferry advised that he would speak with the Team and get back to the Member on this.

Councillor Fagan referred to the implementation of floating bus stops and advised that concerns had been raised by the society of the blind. Mr Ferry advised that there was to be hazard paving installed and cyclists were to give way, so bus users would have priority across that space but he noted that he would consult with the society for the blind to hear their concerns.

Councillor Donkin queried if the new JustEat robots were allowed to use the cycle lanes. Mr Ferry advised that this was a good question which he would need to seek guidance on but he presumed as the robots maintained the same speed as walking that they would use the footpaths.

In regards to a query from Councillor Smith in relation to the white line markings/widened pavement at Pennywell Road, Mr Ferry advised that he would take this away to speak with the team to find out their purpose.

The Chairperson commented that with regards to the cycle lanes, the challenge was getting the public and local residents on board and there was a need for better engagement/consultation, particularly in the Houghton area where there had been a lot of concerns with issues over emergency services etc and queried if there were any way of reviewing how things were working.

Mr Ferry informed that he needed to reach out to the Emergency Services and in relation to consultation, the Team had changed how they operated and now held public events for residents to talk to officers as well as giving the opportunity to explain in more detail what was proposed.

Councillor Leonard commented that they had learned a lot of lessons from the Ryhope Road proposal consultations and it was an evolving process.

Councillor Dixon wished to thank Councillor Leonard for attending the meeting commenting that it seemed to benefit the Committee for the Portfolio Holder to attend.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairperson thanked Mr Ferry for his report and Councillor Leonard for attending the meeting, 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.

Councillor Dixon wished to thank Mr Diamond for the prompt response in providing the information he had previously requested.

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 25 February 2026 (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.

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 **31 MARCH 2026**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To approve the Economic Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2025/26 that is to be presented to Council.

2. Background

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

3. Current position

3.1 The draft Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee report is attached at appendix 1 for member's consideration. The report provides a summary of some of the main work undertaken by the Committee during 2025/26. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Committee has delivered another ambitious work programme in 2025/26, which is reflected in the annual report. The Committee has worked with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the work programme and has tackled a number of key issues throughout the year.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Members approve the Economic prosperity Scrutiny Committee report for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2025/26.

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr John Price
Vice Chair: Cllr Logan Guy

Committee Members: Councillors Michael Dixon, Steven Donkin, Heather Fagan, Stephen Foster, David Newey, Lyall Reed, Lynda Scanlan, George Smith and Sue Watson

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

In October, the Committee received an update report on the regeneration and development of the city centre. We heard that the redevelopment of Riverside Sunderland will result in 1,000 new homes to rent or buy in four neighbourhoods of the city (West Park, Vaux Housing, Farringdon Row and Sheepfolds) and lead to a doubling of the resident population of the city centre to around 5000 people. There will also be 1,000sq feet of modern offices in a new central business district and 8,000-10,000 additional city centre jobs. The Riverside development will include a range of civic, public and cultural assets including the City Hall, the Eye Hospital and the Culture House. The Keel Crossing footbridge will strengthen walking and cycling networks and improvements have been made in terms of public realm, public art and lighting.

One of the key drivers of economic development within the city is Siglion and toward the end of the year we received a comprehensive progress report on its work. We heard that the main priorities for Siglion was to improve the concentration of new economic activity in the city centre, create a city centre that supports higher value job creation, bring back into use dormant areas, offer a wider choice of housing to the market and position Sunderland as a place to invest. The Committee heard about progress on the developments at Riverside Sunderland, Seaburn, Potters Hill and Sunniside.

In 2021, the Committee set up a Working Group to consider the regeneration of the Sunniside district, and we have continued to monitor the progress being made. Kate Percival, Development Manager attended the Committee to update us on the latest position. It is recognised that the challenges facing Sunniside are highly complexed and we are still in a relatively early stages of the redevelopment journey. Much will depend on continuing to access external funding. However, there are a number of positives and opportunities which should help provide the foundations for its long-term redevelopment.

Following on from previous years, we received an update on the schemes funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, from which Sunderland received £16.57m over three years from 2022/23 – 2024/25. The funding has supported a range of projects across three investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills. We heard in detail about the development of the programme in Sunderland which has reflected the priorities set out in the City Plan, the processes by which funds have been allocated and an assessment of the impact to date.

The Committee received an update on the progress being made by the city's three business centres in encouraging growth in the IT and software sectors. It was recognised that the pandemic period had seen a fall in occupancy levels across the three centres. While measures have been taken to stabilise the situation, there has not been a sustained improvement in the financial or occupancy position. We heard that a Managing Agent was being procured to deliver a customised range of services across the centres. This is expected to bring in specific expertise and experience and potentially increase revenue and reduce expenditure.

Sharon Appleby of the Sunderland Improvement District (BID) updated us on the work of the BID in supporting local businesses. This included events and promotional activities; environmental improvements and measures to reduce anti-social behaviour. Sharon highlighted a number of challenges facing businesses in the city, including the rates revaluation, the increase in costs resulting from a rise in the minimum wage, the cost of living crises and continuing uncertainty in the global economy. However, on a positive note, it was felt that many opportunities existed as a result of the transformation of the city centre, new business openings, the economic knock-on effect of the football clubs premier league status and the impact of major events such as the Women's Rugby World Cup and the Radio 1 Big Weekend.

Nick Maylan, Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture and Catherine Auld attended the Committee to provide an update on the contribution made by the cultural sector to the economic prosperity of the city. In terms of Sunderland Culture, key objectives include growing the city's cultural economy, improving health and well-being, creating connectivity amongst our communities and building confidence and aspiration in our young people. Looking ahead, the focus would be on continued progress towards establishing Glassworks:Sunderland, working closely with the University of Sunderland on an expanded Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art exhibition programme, developing new city-wide partnerships and exploring collaboration with Culture House Sunderland.

The Committee also received an update on Culture House Sunderland, the development of Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens and the F Pit and Albany Park Regeneration Project. We heard that the opening of the Culture House and the Museum redevelopment should substantially improve the cultural offer in the city. A central feature of their work was to ensure that residents and communities can better connect with the cultural offer. It was also important to better market what is on offer in the city and look to hold on to visitors longer.

The Committee received an update on a wide range of events organised in the city, including the Women's Rugy World Cup, the Expo Screen in Keel Square and the Music City. It was noted that, moving forward, a greater emphasis would be placed on facilitating smaller community-based events with a wider geographical spread, which were often more cost effective. The Council was also looking to maximise resources by working more closely with local communities, the voluntary sector and partners such as the BID.

The Committee met with representatives from a range of social housing providers including Gentoo, Thirteen Group, Karbon Homes and Bernicia to discuss the provision of affordable housing in the city. It was noted that demand for affordable

housing in Sunderland was very high, as was the case across the whole of the North East. The planned demolition of Lambton, Lumley and Londonderry Towers would require a large number of residents to be rehomed, creating further pressure on available housing. Right To Buy policies had also resulted in a falling social housing supply that had not been replaced with new build.

The social housing providers noted that the relationship with Sunderland Council was very strong. Relationships with planning officers were good and the Council was considered one of the most positive and helpful authorities to deal with. It was felt that a strong constructive relationship was an important determinant of future investment. There was a consensus that it will be very challenging to achieve the national homes target and issues remained around skills shortages and the difficulty in attracting contractors.

The Committee was consulted on the review of the Council's Allocations Policy which sets out the rules on how the council prioritises and nominates applicants on the Housing Register for social rented homes in the city. The review reflects the increased demand for social housing and the need to ensure those in the highest housing need are prioritised. The main changes include the introduction of a local connection for those wishing to join the Housing Register, which should help to prioritise the city's residents. It will also include an Exceptional Circumstances clause which aims to assist those at serious risk where there is a detrimental impact to health and wellbeing. The Committee welcomed the changes set out in the Council's revised housing allocations policy.

The Committee received an update on the Renters' Rights Act 2025 which aims to enhance tenant rights and protections and professionalise landlord practices by offering clear advantages to responsible landlords who provide quality homes and a reliable service to tenants. It was felt the Council was well prepared for the implementation of the Act. Clear roles across departments and strong regional cooperation should ensure a consistent application of the Act, staff training was ongoing and a public awareness campaign will start in April 2026. The Committee welcomed the introduction of the Act.

The Committee received a report on the regulation of the private rented sector. While the private rented sector provides access to flexible housing, it can pose risks where properties fail to meet standards. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure safe privately rented accommodation and operates under a robust legislative framework. Houses of Multiple (HMO's) are inspected at least once upon being licensed and then reinspected as part of a targeted risk-based inspection programme taking into account complaints and stakeholder information.

In relation to empty properties, the Council targets those causing public health or community issues, working with owners or using enforcement if needed. The Council is currently reviewing its Empty Homes Policy. The Committee was keen that the Council continue to proactively address the issues of empty homes in the city and that any review of Empty Homes policy should look to build on previous work.

The Committee also received a report on fire safety in medium and high-rise buildings located in the city. Since the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, major reforms have been

implemented to enhance building safety regulations, increase regulatory oversight and prioritise residents' involvement in safety management. The Committee heard that the Council is committed to ensuring that all medium and high-rise buildings in the city meet stringent fire safety standards, through a combination of strong partnerships, proactive monitoring and robust enforcement. The Council is taking a collaborative but firm approach to ensure compliance and where necessary enforcement powers would be used.

The Committee received an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Council's Planning Enforcement Team and the approach taken in response to breaches of planning control. The Committee also received an update on the consultation arrangements in place with Ward Councillors in relation to Section 106 Agreements. We heard that the complexity of planning law often resulted in enforcement action being a slow process. While the emphasis was on negotiation, where this failed to bring about the desired resolution, formal enforcement action was initiated. The Committee encouraged all Member of the Council to take up the offer of training around the operation of Section 106 agreements as this was an important but complex area.

In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee asked for an update on operation of Environmental Services within the city and its plans for the future. The issues raised included local services, arboriculture, the preparation for response to winter weather, service improvements, bereavement services and refuse and recycling. We heard that the Pallion Household Waste & Recycling Centre had now opened and was proving a great success. The Refuse Electric RCV had begun operations, and the fleet service had introduced 24 new refuse collection vehicles. Cemetery regulations have been improved and remedial works to cemetery lawn sections were ongoing. The Committee thanked the service for its hard work during the year.

The Committee received a report on the progress being made by the new Road Safety Partnership, which involves the northeast local authorities, Northumbria Police and the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner. The Partnership works to improve road safety and compliance with existing speed limits; collectively procure and consider the deployment of digitalised fixed speed cameras; develop information and intelligence processes and formualte joint media plans. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Partnership and looked forward to it having a significant impact on improving road safety in the area.

The Committee was also updated on the progress in relation to cycling infrastructure in the city. The Committee emphasised the importance of thoroughly consulting with local communities before such works are undertaken.

The Committee received an update on the progress with regard to the Council's planned Highway Maintenance Programme 2025/26. The Committee again referred to the importance of communication with public in advance of work being undertaken and thanked the Team for the progress made during the year.

In March 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency. In response, a city-wide 2030 Shadow Board was established, bringing together partners from across the city,

with the ambition of the city becoming carbon neutral by 2040 and the Council carbon neutral by 2030. The Committee received a report on the progress being made on the Low Carbon Framework and Action Plan that reflected the importance of fully involving partners from throughout the city if the goals are to be achieved.

Climate change can significantly impact flood risk in various ways including changing weather patterns, increased rainfall density and sea level rise. The Committee heard about the progress of remedial action being taken through the Council's Flood Alleviation and Capital Maintenance Programme 2020-27. This follows the Council's allocation of around £28 million in funding from the Government to support 39 schemes over a seven-year period. Since April 2020, a total of 551 properties have been moved from a high risk of surface water flooding to a low risk. The Committee received details of the works planned for the remainder of the programme and commended the service for taking a proactive rather than reactive approach.

All in all, it has been a very busy and productive year for the Committee. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Committee, and everyone else involved for their hard work and commitment, together with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holders who attended and contributed to the meetings during the year.

Councillor John Price
Chair of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Item 5

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **31 MARCH 2026**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

SIGLION – PROGRESS REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To receive an update from Neil Guthrie (Director of Development and Property) on the progress being made by Siglion in delivering the regeneration of a number of key sites within the city.

2. Background

2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive a further progress report from Siglion on the regeneration of a number of sites within the city.

2.2 The Committee also asked for an update on new housing developments being undertaken in the city and plans for the future.

2.3 The priorities for Siglion are to:-

- Improve concentration of new economic activity in the city centre
- Create a city centre that supports higher value job creation
- Bring dormant areas such as the former Vaux site back into use
- Offer a wider choice of housing to the market
- Position Sunderland as a place to invest

3. Current Position

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

4. Recommendations

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

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **31 MARCH 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 (Catherine Auld/Nick Maylan) Sunderland BID – Update (Sharon Appleby)	Active Travel Schemes (Chris Ferry) Northumbrian Road Safety Partnership (Paul Muir) Housing Allocations Policy (Martin Bewick)	Siglion Update (Neil Guthrie)
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

Sunderland City Council

Item No. 7

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 31 MARCH 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 25 February 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	26 March 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	26 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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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
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

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260106/1048	To consider a proposal for a Padel Tennis Facility at Silksworth Tennis Centre	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260106/1049	To consider the disposal of land and landowner collaboration agreement on land adjacent to Belford Close, Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	26 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	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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260106/1051	To consider the disposal of 15 and 16 Nile Street, Sunniside and award of grant funding.	Cabinet	Y	26 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	26 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	26 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
260112/1058 260112/1059	To seek approval to enter into grant funding agreements with developers, procurement of key Sheepfolds infrastructure and enter into contracts and/or professional appointments to procure all necessary resources to deliver the Sheepfolds 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
260115/1060	To seek approval for the Housing Allocations Policy	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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260127/1061	Street Lighting PFI Expiry and Future Service Delivery	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260127/1062	To consider the final Digital Inclusion Strategy	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260130/1063	To seek approval of NECA transition funding and delivery arrangements for a 2026/2027 city wide business support programme.	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260202/1064	To seek approval to update the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy	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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260202/1065	Creative Mayoral Development Zone: Crown Works Update	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260204/1066	To seek Cabinet's approval of the Sunderland Healthy Weight Strategy 2026–2031 and to authorise implementation of the strategy and action plan.	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260209/1067	To seek approval for the proposed maintained school admission arrangements for the academic year September 2027-28	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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260210/1068	To seek approval to procure and appoint a management company/agent for Jopling's House	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260211/1069	Procurement of a management company and subsequent award of contact in respect of City Hall and The Beam.	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260212/1070	Area Committee Area Plan Priorities for 2026-2027	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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260212/1071	Consideration of a proposal to extend and vary the Service Delivery Contract with Together for Children Sunderland Ltd and related matters	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260212/1072	To recommend to Council the making of the new Port of Sunderland Byelaws 2026	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260213/1073	To seek approval to grant an option to purchase land at Pallion Industrial Estate	Cabinet	Y	26 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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260216/1074	Subject to the award of external funding, to consider and approve delivery arrangements for an autonomous research and development project	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260216/1075	To seek Cabinet's approval to implement a number of changes to parking charges as a result of a service review in accordance with the Parking Strategy.	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260217/1076	Highway Maintenance (Including Bridges) and Integrated Transport Capital Programme 2026-2027	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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260218/1077	To consider proposals to award or vary grants that will support the development of educational resources across the city	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260218/1078	To consider an update on significant national changes to drug and alcohol funding and confirmation of the Council's protected allocation within the consolidated Public Health Grant, together with approval for commissioning and contract variation actions.	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA committees@sunderland.gov.uk
260218/1079	To consider a Grant Award to South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trust to appoint an Oral Health Promotion Worker, jointly funded with South Tyneside Council	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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260218/1080	To consider the award of a contract for the provision of Integrated Sexual Health Services in Sunderland	Cabinet	Y	26 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
260219/1081	To seek approval for the acceptance of a Grant Award from the North East Combined Authority for Adult Skills Funding for the 2026/2027 funding year 1st August – 31st July	Cabinet	Y	26 March 2026	N	N/A	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 25 February 2026

Supplementary Notice to 28 day notice issued 25 February 2026

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decision intended to be considered at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 26 March 2026:-

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
260225/1082	To consider an update on the regeneration of Sunniside, 15 – 16 Nile Street and proposed appointment of development and master planning consultant *Note: This item has been included on a previous 28 day notice as a confidential report.*	Cabinet	Yes	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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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.

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***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 25 February 2026