

**Record of
Executive
Decisions
published
17/Jun/2021**



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Civic Centre
Sunderland

17 June 2021

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

25 June 2021

Date of decision:

15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Capital Programme Outturn 2020/2021 (including Treasury Management) –
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- note the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2020/2021 detailed at Appendix A, as a variation to the Capital Programme;
- note the overall Capital outturn position for 2020/2021; and
- note the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators outturn position for 2020/2021.

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 approved by Cabinet since the last capital review and confirms the overall Capital outturn for 2020/2021. The report also notes the outturn position in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options were proposed.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:

Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

Date decision in force:

25 June 2021

Date of decision:

15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/2021 – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To:

- Approve the budget transfers, contingency and reserve transfers proposed within Section 3 and 5 of the report; and
- Note the overall outturn position of the Council.

Reasons for decision:

As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over the Council's revenue budget and resources and receives quarterly reports to support this. This report sets out the revenue outturn position compared to the budget for 2020/2021.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No alternative options were proposed.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Energy Efficiency Grant Funding – Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

- (i) to note the receipt of funding for £2,219,000 for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and £1,750,000 for Green Homes Grant Local Programme from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and approve the funding arrangements for delivery of the Project and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.
- (ii) to approve the procurement of contractors to deliver the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Grant value £2,219,000) and the Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (Grant allocation £1,750,000).

Reasons for decision:

Funding for delivery of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Green Homes Grant Local Authority Phase 2 scheme has been secured through competitive bidding programmes. The schemes will deliver low carbon projects across the City with the objective of improving the energy efficiency of operational properties and existing housing stock and reducing carbon emissions. The projects will support delivery of the city-wide Low Carbon Framework, and the target for the Council and the City to become carbon neutral by 2030 and 2040 respectively.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative option would be to not progress the Projects. However, as set out above £3.969 million of external grant funding has been secured from BEIS by the Council, which would otherwise be lost if the Projects did not proceed.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposed Lease(s) at the Former Elemore Golf Course site, Easington Lane
– Executive Director of Corporate Services

Full description of decision:

To authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services to directly grant leases at the former Elemore Golf site in accordance with the terms of the Council's standard Community Lease and in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Secretary and the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods.

Reasons for decision:

Authorising the Executive Director of Corporate Services to grant leases at the former Elemore Golf Course site will facilitate the Council's vision for the site as a community asset that will provide a usable green space that protects the natural habitat for future generations.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options are:-

- To advertise the site openly.
- Not to authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Services to grant leases at the former Elemore Golf Course site leaving the site as open space.

Both options above are not recommended were not recommended for the reasons set out in the report.

Contact Officer: Jon Ritchie

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Panns Quay Collapse – Emergency Work – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Dynamic City Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery and completion of the reconstruction works to Panns Quay East after the collapse on the 16th March 2021, including the direct award of a contract to ARM Pipetek as Principal Contractor, and the award of any other necessary appointments to deliver the proposed works.
- (ii) Approve the funding arrangements for delivery of the proposed works and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.

Reasons for decision:

During the night of the 16th March 2021, a section of Panns Quay East collapsed into the river and the footpath along the top was washed away. Prior to the collapse investigative works were taking place by ARM Pipetek and the Councils Flood and Coastal Team to ascertain what was causing large cracking within surface of the footpath and therefore the area was safe and fenced off when the incident happened. The direct award of a contract for the reconstruction works described within the report will allow the Council to reconstruct the collapsed Quay as soon as possible and address any related health and safety issues to the public and surrounding buildings.

As ARM Pipetek are currently on site it is proposed to directly award the repair / reconstruction work to them to save on costs and time.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do-Nothing: Leaving the quayside exposed due to the absence of the original sheet pile wall would inevitably result in further erosion of the riverside footpath area and further collapse of the remaining sheet pile wall within the vicinity, together with the increased risk of washout/destabilisation of the adjacent university building foundations and a more significant cost. – not considered an option due to costs and health and safety issues.

Procure a contractor: This would require additional time for the tendering process and contractors to price and organise the works, leading to additional costs and potential risks associated with a delay in completing the works. – not considered an option due to additional time and health and safety

implications.

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

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15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland Heat Network – application for a Heat Networks Investment Project grant, and the appointment of a specialist team of consultants and contractors – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- i. note the outcomes from the work on the Sunderland Heat Network's Detailed Project Development and Outline Business Case;
- ii. authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Deputy Leader to submit a Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) grant application to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the next stages of the project and the delivery of Sunderland's Heat Network;
- iii. authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services to agree the detailed terms of any grant agreement for the HNIP funding, should the Council's application be successful;
- iv. subject to the Council securing further grant funding from BEIS, authorise the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Deputy Leader to procure and appoint of all necessary technical and specialist advisors to develop the project in order to progress the detailed design, Full Business Case and preparations for delivery of the heat network;
- v. authorise the Executive Director of City Development (in consultation with the Leader/Deputy Leader) to continue commercial discussions with the prospective off-takers of heat, including the negotiation of Heads of Terms for the long term supply of heat to key partners; and
- vi. agree to receive a further report to consider whether to progress beyond the commercialisation phase and deliver Sunderland's Heat Network including the proposed delivery model.

Reasons for decision:

The Sunderland Heat Network's Detailed Project Development (DPD) and Outline Business Case (OBC) concludes there is a potentially viable low carbon heat source in the mine workings of the former Wearmouth Colliery. The OBC also concludes that a sufficient financial return can potentially be achieved which will cover the cost of the Council's investment associated with

delivery of the scheme. Further work and due diligence is now required in support of the project.

The application for HNIP grant includes £2.22m of 'Commercialisation Funding' will fund the estimated cost of the required specialist consultant support and the drilling of boreholes required to prove the existence and accessibility of the heat source. As part of the commercialisation stage, the project team will develop a Full Business Case for the project and prepare a detailed specification to facilitate the procurement of a contractor to deliver and operate the Heat Network.

The decisions detailed above are required in order to continue progress towards delivery of a City Centre Heat Network, in support of the ambitions set down in the City Plan and the Low Carbon Action Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- i. Reject the findings of the current study, and not progress a City Centre Heat Network scheme. This option is rejected on the basis that the scheme has the potential to delivery significant carbon savings and is a strategic project within the City Plan and the Low Carbon Action Plan.
- ii. Not to submit a HNIP grant application to further support development. This option is rejected as the grant support is required to fund the next stage of the project and to ensure the overall project is viable.
- iii. Not to procure external support. This option is rejected as the Council doesn't have the capacity and expertise to undertake this highly specialist work.

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

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15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Development Management Supplementary Planning Document – Executive
Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Note the outcomes of the consultation set out in the Consultation Statement (Appendix 2) and Adoption Statement (Appendix 3); and
- (ii) Authorise the adoption of the DM SPD, as set out in Appendix 1, on 16 June 2021.

Reasons for decision:

The decision is required to allow for adoption of the DM SPD in accordance with Part 2 (Local Development) Section 23 (Adoption of Local Development Documents) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to proceed without adopting an SPD for Development Management purposes would limit the Council's ability to deliver well-designed development, implement updated parking standards and to ensure that advertisements are designed appropriately.

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Is this a key decision:

Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:

No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

None

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Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Housing Innovation & Construction Skills Academy – Progress Update –
Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- (i) Note the proposals for delivery of the HICSA as described in this report and approve the variation to the Capital Programme to reflect the latest budget and funding assumptions; and
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader of the Council, to take all necessary steps to procure the delivery of the HICSA up to (but not including) the award of building contract;
- (iii) Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader of the Council, to approve, finalise and (subject to the receipt of satisfactory external funding) enter into an agreement for lease with Sunderland College as the proposed tenant for the long-term letting of the HICSA following practical completion
- (iv) Subject to the receipt of external funding for the HICSA and execution of a lease agreement with Sunderland College, authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader of the Council, to thereafter award the building contract for the HICSA.

Reasons for decision:

The Council is creating a city-wide housing ecology which will support the delivery of the City Plan objectives of providing more and better housing, increasing the city centre population, and driving social and economic regeneration that results in better outcomes for local people.

The HICSA is a critical element of the ecology and will provide education, skills and training programmes for the housing professionals and housing workforce of the future, inspiring and creating employment opportunities for local people, and supporting supply chain growth in modern methods of construction, low carbon and digital technology.

The HICSA will be a critical link between academia and industry, establishing Sunderland as a regional and national hub for housing innovation, research and development. It will support the attraction and retention of local talent,

providing greater opportunities for young people from under privileged communities, and support the growth of Sunderland College as a business and technical centre of excellence.

Advancement of the HICSA design proposals and planning status will add credibility to the Council's grant application to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), which is being administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), which seeks to secure the third party funding required to supplement the provisions relating to HICSA within the Capital Programme.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options were:

- i. Not to deliver the HICSA
This will reduce the city's capability to deliver education, skills and training opportunities for local people and limit the growth of Sunderland College. It would leave a gap in the Council's housing ecology and the benefits achieved through housing innovation, adoption of MMC, low carbon and digital technology will take a lot longer to materialise
- ii. Delay progression of the HICSA design proposals until such time that third party funding is secured
This could restrict the opportunity to secure grant as awards are usually made to projects which are most advanced and can deliver the benefits in the most efficient timeframe

These options have been considered and rejected

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

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Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunniside Regeneration Update – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

Authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Leader of the Council, to:

- i) Note the proposals for regeneration of “the Site” as described in this report;
- ii) Grant an exclusivity agreement to a partnership (“the Partnership”) comprising TownDev Ltd (Town) and Create Streets Ltd (Create Streets) to produce a development proposal and funding strategy that will facilitate the delivery of high-quality new homes and workspaces;
- iii) Dispose of a leasehold interest in 177 High Street West, Sunniside (“the Property”) to Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust (TWBPT) for a nominal consideration of £1 (one pound), a price which is less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained in the market, on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of City Development; and
- iv) Make any further land and property acquisitions or disposals within “the Site” to facilitate the regeneration proposals, at a price which represents best consideration.

Reasons for decision:

The continued regeneration of Sunniside through the development of new and better homes, provision of new workspaces and establishment of a new community is a longstanding ambition of the Council and its partners and is aligned with the objectives of the City Plan.

Town and Create Streets have proven track records of delivering transformational regeneration through the development of high-quality new homes and establishment of socially and economically successful places. The granting of an exclusivity agreement will enable them to prepare a detailed development proposal, identify potential funding solutions, and support funding bids, and develop a delivery model that minimises any capital investment by the Council.

Disposal of “the Property” to TWBPT will ensure that a historically significant building is preserved and given a beneficial use that complements the Sunniside regeneration plans delivering economic, social and well-being

benefits as well as relieving the Council of an ongoing maintenance liability. The Council is currently preparing a bid for Levelling Up Fund (LUF) grant to support the redevelopment of “the Site” and delivery of new homes and workspaces. Agreement to the proposals within this report will strengthen and increase the credibility of the Council’s bid.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The alternative options were: -

- i) Not grant an exclusivity agreement to the Partnership and openly market the development opportunity.

Market advice and viability appraisals have shown there is likely to be little interest from commercial developers and an extremely limited pool of organisations which have the capability and experience to successfully deliver the regeneration objectives. Marketing the opportunity is unlikely to realise any additional benefits and is more likely to cause delay and additional cost for the Council. This option would also weaken the LUF bid as there would be a less clarity and lower confidence in the development proposals.

- ii) Not dispose of the Property to TWBPT.

Holding the property would lead to further deterioration and increased risk of substantial holding and repair costs and the Council and local community would not realise the benefits from its redevelopment.

- iii) Unconditional disposal of the Property for open market value
It is highly likely that unconditional disposal of the Property based on its existing use could result in the building being acquired by a developer speculating on market growth. This could result in the building remaining unoccupied with little maintenance, similar to several other buildings in private ownership in the immediate locality. This option would not realise the benefits from its redevelopment and would have a negative impact on the wider regeneration of the Site and in the immediate locality.

These options have been considered and are recommended to be rejected.

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Is this a key decision:	Yes
Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

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Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposed New Assessment and Ranking System for Minor Road Safety Schemes – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To approve the implementation of a new assessment and ranking system for minor road safety schemes as detailed in this report.

Reasons for decision:

The current system of minor road safety scheme assessment does not address the changing circumstances in accidents and collisions throughout the city and the reduction in their occurrence over the last 10 years.

In addition, the current assessment system which utilises strict evidence-based criteria, results in a “black or white” decision with no “grey” areas, and requests for service often being denied. This does not adequately meet the demands of elected Members and the communities they represent, nor the perceived road safety concerns they express.

The proposed new scheme assessment and ranking system is intended to better meet the road safety concerns/perceptions of communities and builds on the work that elected Members have carried out in support of these communities.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do Nothing – This will not meet the road safety concerns/perceptions of communities.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Proposed A183 Whitburn Road Two-Way Cycle Lane – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To:

- Approve the construction of a segregated on-road two-way cycle lane on the section of A183 Whitburn Road from the former Tram Stop at Seaburn, opposite Seaburn Recreational Ground, to the Bungalow Café, Roker. The scheme estimated to cost £1.250m to be funded from Sunderland City Councils allocation of £1.125m from the Government's Active Travel Fund (ATF) Phase 2. (Formerly the Emergency Active Travel Fund) and a £0.125m match from the Council's 2021/2022 LTP grant allocation.
- Approve the funding arrangements for delivery of the proposed works and approve the resultant variation to the Capital Programme.

Reasons for decision:

The construction of a two-way segregated on-road cycle lane on the section of A183 Whitburn Road from the former Tram Stop at Seaburn to the Bungalow Café, Roker, will help reduce the likelihood of pedestrian vehicle conflict and improve accessibility for all highway users (particularly members of vulnerable groups).

This is in line with the Government's vision to get the country more active and encourage people onto bikes and other sustainable modes of transport to get around the cities. In May they announced £2 billion of new funding for cycling and walking.

The Department for Transport (DfT) vision through "Gear Change" is set to get the country more active and encourage people onto bikes and other sustainable modes of transport to get around the cities.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way people are moving around the city. More daily journeys within Sunderland are being made by active and sustainable travel modes. Data from our Automatic Traffic Counter (ATC) has shown a 128% increase in cycling along the A183 Whitburn Road from the previous years.

Sunderland City Council has been presented with the opportunity and has been successful in securing funding from the DfT via the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) to improve the cycling facilities along the A183 Whitburn Road from the former tram shelter at Seaburn to the Bungalow Café at Roker.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Not to proceed with the scheme, which would not be in line with current government guidance, nor would not help address the need to continue improving road safety and make the highway a more accessible, attractive and safer place for all users. In addition, £1.125m of external funding secured from DfT would otherwise be lost.

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Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information:	No
Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

New Garden Waste Treatment Contract – Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To:

- i. approve the procurement and award of a contract for the Council's garden waste treatment to the supplier demonstrating the most economically advantageous tender by the STWWMP; and
- ii. authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for a Dynamic City and the Executive Director of Corporate Services to appoint the supplier and enter into the necessary contractual documents.

Reasons for decision:

The estimated annual contract value will exceed £250,000 for Sunderland. Whilst the contract is awarded by the STWWMP, formal approval by the constituent authorities is required. The procurement and award of a contract for garden waste treatment by STWWMP will deliver economies of scale for the participating councils and enable more efficient and effective contract management to be undertaken.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The Council could procure a Garden Waste Treatment Contract itself. This was rejected as by doing so would lose the economies of scale by not participating with other councils.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement of Tyres and Associated Services – Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To:

- i) approve the use of the North East Purchasing Organisation Framework for the supply of tyres and associated services; and
- ii) authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for a Dynamic City and the Executive Director of Corporate Services, to appoint supplier(s) and enter into the necessary contractual documents.

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that the Council has in place appropriate tyre and associated service arrangements for vehicles so that they can be maintained and operational quickly to ensure effective and efficient service delivery for residents across the City. In accordance with the Constitution, Cabinet approval is required as the contract value exceeds £250,000 in value

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To go out to tender for a separate contract - this option was considered and rejected as the NEPO framework offers the Council greater choice of tyre suppliers that are in the location of our existing depots and the set pricing of the individual tyres and services is more attractive and value for money.

Contact Officer: Fiona Brown

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

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Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2021-2025 – Executive Director
of Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

Cabinet is recommended to approve and publish the Joint Municipal Waste
Management Strategy 2021-2025 prepared by the South Tyne and Wear
Waste Management Partnership ('STWWMP')

Reasons for decision:

To ensure that the Council as part of its membership of the STWWMP has in
place an up to date strategy that covers the management of municipal waste

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No other options have been considered as is it deemed necessary to have
the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in place across the
partnership Local Authorities

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Children, Education and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Procurement of Family, Adult and Community Learning provision for 2021/2022 – Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To:

- Agree the annual procurement process to be followed that will enable the identification and selection of suitable providers to ensure the delivery of training outcomes that support the city's strategic priorities.
- Authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Learning and Skills, to undertake the procurement of FACL training courses in the academic year 2021/2022, as set out in the report, and subsequently to award the proposed contracts to the successful bidders

Reasons for decision:

- The Council receives Adult Education Budget grant under a contract with the Education and Skills Funding Agency annually to deliver locally responsive provision to adults aged 19+ to engage local communities, improve employability skills, improve skills for life, promote health and wellbeing and help people move closer to and into employment.
- The procurement specification is written so that it describes the broad outcomes that must be achieved, in support of the City Plan priorities, as well as the priorities of the five Area Committees and the North East LEP. This approach facilitates partnerships with local organisations, frequently within the Voluntary and Community Sector, who have a good track record of supporting "hard to reach" people, by delivering provision which is within their scope and using their existing tutor base. It builds on delivery partners' strengths to achieve social and economic improvements for Sunderland. This local partnership approach delivers added social value within the city, by helping to sustain and build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector.
- The benefits from delivery of the FACL provision have been proven through monitored outcomes as well as individual case studies. The curriculum and specification have been determined through a process informed by the requirements of the ESFA, the priorities of the City Plan and the North East LEP, as well as consultation with local VCS organisations, learning providers, DWP and Council Members. In response to this, we will commission a wide range of learning

programmes including English, Maths, Digital Skills, vocational qualifications, skills for employment, physical and mental health, wellbeing and resilience, environmental awareness, financial and budget management, volunteering, community engagement and therapeutic arts and crafts.

- The benefits of procuring delivery through the process described include: wide community engagement, especially in more disadvantaged areas, via local provider partnerships
 - inclusion of 'hard to reach' learners on programmes designed to change their lives for the better
 - people entering employment and contributing to the local economy as a result of the skills they have acquired
 - people entering volunteering and supporting local communities and charities
 - learners developing a taste for learning and progressing to further education and qualifications
 - people becoming more aware of health and fitness and how to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle
 - people learning how develop mental resilience to cope with stressful situations
 - people gaining the confidence and self-esteem to change their lives for the better
- The subcontracting model demonstrates best use of resources and secures value for money, creating maximum impact from the funding available.
- Awarding short contracts (1 year in length) means that new provision can be introduced relatively quickly and simply, enabling us to react to funding available from the ESFA as well as changing circumstances and local need. The Learning and Skills Service can, therefore, remain flexible and responsive, ensuring provision is always relevant and of high quality.
- The Council's Constitution requires that the procurement of services over the value of £250,000 are subject to Cabinet approval. Whilst individual grant awards to separate providers will not necessitate this step, the overall sum brings this process within scope.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- The Council could choose to recruit and employ tutors to deliver training courses. While this would have some advantages relating to the contract management process, it could prove difficult to offer the wide range of courses which are required. In addition, should this course of action be adopted as a future model, it would need a full year to be planned and implemented effectively
- The Council could choose to award contracts for a longer period (2-3 years) however this would mean the curriculum would not be sufficiently responsive and flexible to meet changing needs including different requirements of the ESFA and there is uncertainty with regard to the levels of funding that will be provided by the ESFA in future years.
- The Council could withdraw from involvement in Adult and Community Learning delivery. This would result in the potential loss to Sunderland of over £1.2m of funding and reduced influence in how any funding received

into the City was used to contribute to delivery of the Council's strategic vision for the City.

Contact Officer: Fiona Brown

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

The Improvement of Bereavement Services – Executive Director of
Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To:

- Approve the revised Cemetery and Crematorium Regulations and the implementation of obligatory conduct
- Approve the introduction of the Memorial Safety Policy
- Approve the introduction of new memorial locations, products and opportunities
- Authorise the extension of memorial benches and trees to all public areas
- Approve the development of a process for the management of historic memorials
- Authorise new fees and charges be introduced linked to service improvements

Reasons for decision:

The services offered by Bereavement Services have been traditional and conventional to date. The proposed service improvements, new policies and Regulations will ensure the service delivers a more appropriate service whilst maintaining high standards.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

1. The proposals relating to cemetery management and memorial safety testing respond to regulatory requirements and the effective running and maintenance of facilities and the meeting of health and safety requirements. As such no alternative options are proposed.
2. The option not to extend the memorial items, locations or opportunities and instead for the service to continue to deliver on its current offer. In doing so there would be a loss of potential revenue for the Council for service improvement, and residents would continue to have a limited range of memorial options. Resident feedback is clear that there is demand for increased opportunities therefore it would be inappropriate not to respond to this.
3. The option exists not to implement the proposed new fees and charges, but any increased fee income will help offer additional opportunities for residents and generate revenue to support service improvement.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Children, Education and Skills
Scrutiny Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Sunderland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education – Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Full description of decision:

To agree the revised Sunderland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which has been recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference of SACRE for adoption by Sunderland schools, with effect from 1 September 2021 for a period of five years.

Reasons for decision:

In order to comply with the Education Act 1996 and the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, Local Authorities are required to set up a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to develop an Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to approve the agreed Syllabus.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Failure to have/adopt an Agreed Syllabus would lead to a breach of the Local Authority's statutory duties in relation to religious education in schools.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: No

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:

Request for Financial Assistance – Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:

To approve a grant of subject to the terms as set out in the report and such other terms as to be determined by the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Leader and the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Reasons for decision:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the Cabinet report.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:
Energy Infrastructure Enabling Works – Executive Director of City
Development

Full description of decision:
To enter into agreements as 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: Peter McIntyre

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

Record of Executive Decisions Published: 17/Jun/2021

Decision Taker:
Cabinet

Appropriate Scrutiny Committee:
Economic Prosperity Scrutiny
Committee

Date decision in force:
25 June 2021

Date of decision:
15 June 2021

Title and author(s) of written report:
Appointment of a Property Management Agent at City Hall, Sunderland –
Executive Director of City Development

Full description of decision:
To authorise the Executive Director of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Leader and Cabinet Secretary, to appoint a Property Management Agent (“the Managing Agent”) for the City Hall on the terms set out in the report and such other terms as approved.

Reasons for decision:
As set out in the Cabinet report.

Alternative options considered and rejected:
As set out in the Cabinet report.

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Is this a key decision: Yes

Does the Decision contain Confidential/Exempt Information: Yes

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None