

## ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way,  
Sunderland on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

#### Membership

Cllrs Ali, Burrell (Chairman), M. Dixon, Edgeworth, Fagan, Foster, Leonard (Vice Chairman),  
Mordey, O' Brien, Reed, Warne and Watson.

| ITEM |   | PAGE |
|------|---|------|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies for Absence.</b>   | -    |
| 2.   | <b>Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2023</b><br><br>(copy herewith).   | 1    |
| 3.   | <b>Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)</b><br><br><b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b><br><br>No Items<br><br><b>Part B – Scrutiny Business</b> | -    |
| 4.   | <b>Empty Properties Update</b><br><br>Report of the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities (copy herewith).  | 9    |
| 5.   | <b>Annual Work Programme 2023/24</b><br><br>Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Co-ordinator (copy herewith).   | 10   |

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

Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request

6. **Notice of Key Decisions**

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

**Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions**

No items.

E. WAUGH,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,  
Civic Centre,  
SUNDERLAND.

3 July 2023.

**At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 at 4.30 p.m.**

**Present: -**

Councillor D. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Dixon, Fagan, Foster, Mordey, Reed and H. Trueman.

Also in attendance: -

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Mr Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Ms Gillian Robinson, Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council

Mr Neil Guthrie, Development Director, Sunderland City Council

Mr Anthony Crabb, Project Director, Sunderland City Council

Members of the Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Edgeworth, Laws, Scanlan and Warne

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and the last ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

A copy of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February and the last ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February and the last ordinary meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct records.

## **Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Siglion Progress Report**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the progress being made in delivering the regeneration of a number of key sites within the City

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Neil Guthrie, Development Director provided the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Foster commented that the presentation was excellent and the work couldn't be faulted but queried the exact location of the Potters Hill development and also referred to the Vaux housing development, raising concerns that this could become a playground for people using the scooters, causing antisocial behaviour.

Mr Guthrie advised that Potters Hill was situated in Ryhope/Doxford and was part of the South Sunderland Growth Area. In relation to the Vaux site Mr Guthrie informed that a strategy for the public realm was important to address such things and would be managed by the relevant people brought in. It was important to also get the Community involved so there was a real ownership of the area who would then look after the space.

Councillor Reed referred to the land ownership of the Seaburn Inn site and queried the rationale behind this and also as the land had been sold for such a low premium, how they intended to win the trust of the public. Mr Guthrie advised that this had gone through a competitive procurement process with valuations completed at that time. Siglion had been selected to take this forward and he would refer to recent responses given to Questions to Council for the detail on that. Mr Guthrie advised that he was speaking on behalf of Siglion and these matters were for the Council so he could not answer for them however an independent valuation process was done and whilst the public may have a perception, there was a clear audit process carried out.

In response to Councillor Dixon's query, Mr Guthrie informed that the Board of Siglion included the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive and that the mechanisms to scrutinise the decisions they took, included this Committee, there were business plans submitted through Cabinet which required approval and there was also an Audit process.

With regards to Councillor Dixons query on if they had greater involvement on Nile Street/Villiers and why things had been more quiet around the Seaburn area, Mr Guthrie advised that they had helped with the development strategy and the levelling up funding to drive the Nile Street/Villiers project on. In relation to Seaburn over the last 12 months the residential development had been provided and there was now the bedding in period for the Stack and surrounding developments and they were working with the Council on the seafront with the next stage being the leisure development on the former Seaburn Centre site but he did acknowledge that the pace was not as quick over the last 12 months.

Councillor Dixon referred to a recent event at Pop Recs and enquired if the consultancy firm had been actively involved. Mr Guthrie advised that there had been extensive engagement with developing conversations with the Police and new conversations coming in and the makings of a place analysis report. A set of working groups was to be created with lots of activity going on and he would get in touch with Members over this.

Councillor Dixon referred to the recent demise of Tolent and enquired if this had been something Siglion was aware of at the time and if there was any information they could give on their replacement. Mr Guthrie advised that they did have some

visibility on the issue when it occurred and were able to take steps in order to protect the Council. The work Tolent had been doing had been great up to that point and they were in discussions with 3 to 4 possible replacements that were going through the proper processes.

Councillor Ali commented that he had been impressed by all of the detail presented to the meeting and queried if with the collapse of Tolent, any monies had been lost due to them going into Administration and that he hoped if they had prior knowledge of the event that protections had been made. Mr Guthrie advised that due to confidentiality he could not say due to the possibility of compromising the administration process, however certain levels of protections had been put in place.

Councillor Ali commented that it was currently a very difficult time for construction companies due to the increase in costs for raw materials and queried if Siglion was having to reduce its profit margins as a consequence and how they were managing/dealing with this.

Mr Guthrie informed the Committee that inflation was putting huge pressures on the construction industry and every Local Authority and Developer was having to manage those pressures. In terms of Siglion, it was not set up in order to make profit margins as all monies made were then put back into regeneration and reinvestment into the area.

Councillor Ali commented that he believed the Seaburn Inn to be a brilliant facility and raised rumours of the Stack struggling as the smaller businesses within were dealing with the cost of living crisis and queried if we should be concerned. Mr Guthrie commented that the Stack would be the best people to answer this question but as far as he was aware the facility was very well attended.

Councillor H. Trueman referred to the Development of the Vaux area and queried how they would accommodate charging of electric vehicles with few charging stations around the area. Mr Guthrie advised that from a development perspective it was on the edge of the City Centre so they were aiming to create a medium density development and not everyone would have a car as we moved towards a sustainable community and transport model. The new multistorey car park along with St Marys Car Park were at the edges of the development which contained electric charging points along with the potential for the residential homes to have charging points also.

Mr Guthrie advised that they were looking at solutions and power availability and this was at the forefront of what they were doing along with the much bigger national challenge.

Councillor Fagan referred to the speed calming measures at Chapelgarth and queried why there had been a delay in implementation and also commented that Members had received very little feedback, they hadn't received the final designs and had been very much kept out of the loop which was disappointing.

Mr Guthrie advised that whilst it was due to be implemented in Phase 1 originally, it was felt that putting the infrastructure in at that point may damage the development. They had engaged with the Community and it was very much split between those for and against but now they have a scheme which the majority support. Mr Guthrie

also commented that now that an Officer was dealing with this it was hoped that Members would receive much more support now they were in place.

Councillor Mordey commented that it was great to see the progress made over the last couple of years and as someone who had been involved with Siglion previously he could state that they had all acted with the utmost integrity financially. In terms of the three priorities this company had been set up to achieve, the presentation showed that those objectives had been met and the regeneration had really accelerated thanks to Siglion and was a benefit to the City and taxpayers so he felt it was a job well done and he looked forward to the future to see how this progressed further.

In response to Councillor Dixon's query over Tolent and who inherited the building certificates etc and if there was anything Siglion had done with them where they had inherited any of their liabilities. Anthony Crabb, Project Director advised that he was not aware of any works within the City Centre where this were to be the case.

The Chairman referred to Section 106 funding and commented that this Committee had looked at this six years ago, on the structure behind it and set up a process where Members were supposed to be consulted with on how the s106 was to be spent. The Chairman advised that this didn't seem to be happening still and Members weren't getting the consultations agreed. Mr Guthrie advised that Section 106 monies was not within his remit but he would pass this on to the Planning Department.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Mr Guthrie for his report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Future High Street Fund Update**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update on the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and its implications for Sunderland

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Anthony Crabb, Project Director presented the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Reed commented that the Future High Street Fund was a fantastic initiative and queried if there was much engagement with existing businesses and if they had much communication with them. Mr Crabb confirmed that they did have ongoing conversations with the existing businesses and they also worked very closely with Sunderland BID. The challenge was being able to give as much info as possible in a timely manner whilst adhering to confidentiality etc.

Councillor Redd referred to the presentation and queried if the images of St Mary's Boulevard were current projections or artists impressions as there were a number of

current businesses omitted from the drawings. Mr Crabb confirmed that these were artists impressions of a future time and there was still detail to go through on these.

Councillor Reed commented that the projects were fantastic and in particular the works to the Elephant Tea Rooms which was sorely needed and thanked Officers for their work.

Councillor Ali also wished to comment that he felt the fund was being used very well and that he had been pushing for better brands to be pursued to come to the City and enquired as to what support was given to the Botanist in order for them to stay long term. Mr Crabb advised that they had signed a contract and the development was progressing and that this was a long term lease. The ambition of the City was giving businesses confidence to invest which was bearing fruit.

In response to Councillor Dixon's query of other examples of FHSF Cities being used, Mr Crabb confirmed that they did look at other cities models, such as Manchester, whose growth had been exponential so they were looking to provide the same quality of offer, they were keen to encourage new start businesses also.

The Chairman commented that as the City was one of only three cities to obtain the full £25 million funding, it said it all about the proposals we had and thanked officers for their work.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Mr Crabb for his report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Sunniside Working Group Findings**

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide feedback on the findings of the Sunniside Working Group

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman presented the report for Member's information and to comment on further, advising that a number of measures had already been started since the working groups investigations had started, including more police input and ship funding and more support in relation to the supported accommodation issues affecting the area.

Councillor Mordey, as a Hendon Ward Member wished to thank Members of the working group for their work on collecting all of the evidence which gave the Committee something to monitor and this was much appreciated.

Councillor Ali commented that the recommendations from the findings were brilliant but there were some issues which he would still like to be addressed in particular in reference to the supported accommodations issues as these would need to be tackled before we could attract people to live in this area.

Mr Guthrie acknowledged that this was a valid point however the Sunnyside area was a complex set of circumstances, which was why this Committee produced the report. It did have an over predominance of HMO's/Hostels which they did need to consider and they were working with colleagues in Health and Housing and on the Housing Support Strategy.

Mr Guthrie commented that it was about getting the support in the right places and moving those in supported accommodation out was one of the potential options but didn't always solve the problems. They did need to work closely with their stakeholders but this wouldn't be solved quickly and would be a long term fix.

The Chairman commented that the supported living in the area was supposed to be a short term solution, which did not happen and this was going to be looked at.

Councillor Dixon commented that a lot had happened since the start of this investigation of a complex area and there were no easy solutions however he found this to be a meaningful report which he was pleased to be a part of and the working groups had been chaired well by Councillor Snowdon and by the help of Mr Diamond.

Councillor Reed commented that there had been a good consultation over this and it had come up with a philosophy which was what the Committee should be about.

In response to Members queries Ms Robinson advised that in terms of what happens next, it was for the Committee to decide if they wished to monitor and receive further updates and she would need to take advice as to if this could be sent to Cabinet for their information. The Chairman suggested that this should be included on the future Work Programmes also.

There being no further questions or comments it was:-

4. RESOLVED that

- That a masterplan and vision for the Sunnyside area be prepared which involves all partners and the local community;
- That an implementation plan and delivery structure is put in place to ensure joint working between the Council and its partners;
- That the Council and its partners continue to develop strategies for dealing with the immediate problem of anti-social behaviour in the Sunnyside area, including the siting of additional CCTV cameras;
- That the Council continue to investigate options for improving the quality of Supported Accommodation and improving the housing mix in the Sunnyside area over the medium and long term;
- That the Council investigate the potential of using planning and licensing regulations to work with landlords to improve the quality HMOs in the area;



- That the Council work with partners to develop more local events such as food festivals/markets and the promotion of themed nights in local bars and restaurants to bring greater footfall into the area and improve levels of vibrancy;
- That the Council consider measures to improve linkages and the public realm to encourage greater footfall into the Sunnyside area;
- That the Council look to promote the development of a leisure offer in the city and seek to ensure that existing facilities are maintained and expanded upon;
- That the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor progress on the recommendations set out in the report and receive further update reports

### **Scrutiny Annual Report**

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to approve the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 that was to be presented to Council

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Member's information and requested if there were any further comments/amends which they wished to make.

The Chairman advised that he had received comments from Members that could not be here today and suggested that if there were any more suggestions that they be emailed to Mr Diamond.

In response to Councillor Mordey's query, Mr Diamond advised that the full Scrutiny report would be taken to Full Council rather than Cabinet.

There being no further questions or comments it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be approved for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23.

### **Annual Work Programme 2022-23**

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), to provide options, provide support and advise Members on the development of the scrutiny work programmes for 2022/2023

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Member's information

Ms Gillian Robinson, Area Co-ordinator advised that an extra session would be arranged to discuss the Work Programme for the upcoming year.

6. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme for 2022-2023 be noted.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 (copies circulated).

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

Mr Diamond reminded Members to get in touch if they required further information on any of the items included in the notice.

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

The Chairman wished to thank all involved for their hard work over the past year and thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,  
Chairman.

## **EMPTY PROPERTIES UPDATE**

### **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES**

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on long term empty properties across the city and the measures being taken to support and enable the reduction in the number of empty properties in the city, together with plans for the future.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive update reports on a range of housing issues affecting the city.
- 2.2 This report will provide a focus and review on long term empty properties across the city.

#### **3 Current Position**

- 3.1 Graham Scanlon (Assistant Director of Housing and Communities) will provide a presentation and update members on the current position regarding empty properties in the city.
- 3.2 The presentation will cover:
  - the current position with long term empty properties across the city
  - the approaches being employed to tackle long term empty properties
  - an outline of the challenges faced with tackling long term empty properties
  - future plans in tackling long term empty properties

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the report.

# Item 5

**ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 JULY 2023**

**ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24.

## **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 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to 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 The remit of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee covers the following:-  
  
*Any matter relating to the economic prosperity of the city and the performance of services to support that including physical infrastructure, sector growth and skills, economic vibrancy, safer Sunderland, licensing and trading standards, strategic transport, environmental services, libraries, heritage and tourism.*
- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review.
- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and Corporate Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Committee development sessions.

## **3 DETERMINING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 On 13 June 2023, the Committee held a workshop session to discuss potential items for inclusion in the work programme.

3.2 The table below provides details of the issues considered for inclusion in the work programme:-

| <b>Regular Work Programme Items</b>                                       |  |
|---|--|
| Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme<br><i>(Monthly)</i> | To receive the Committee's work programme outlining future meetings of the committee and the items scheduled for those meetings. |
| 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions<br><i>(Monthly)</i>                        | To consider the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions.  |
| <b>Single Item (Items to be scheduled when dates known)</b>               |  |
| Business Improvement District (BID)                                       | To consider the progress being made by the BID   |
| Economic Outlook  | To hear from the Sunderland Chamber of Commerce on the opportunities and challenges facing the local economy                     |
| Business Centres – Progress Report  | To consider the progress made by the Council's Business Centres (Evolve, the Software Centre and Washington Business Centre).    |
| Siglion Regeneration  | To consider and review progress of on the development and regeneration undertaken by Siglion.                                    |
| Sunniside Area Regeneration   | To monitor progress and the Committees recommendations. To consider the Masterplan for Sunniside                                 |
| Future High Street Fund   | To consider progress made with plans for developments funded through the Future High Streets Fund                                |
| UK Shared Prosperity Fund   | To hear more about the opportunities for the city arising from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund                                     |
| Screen Industries   | To update the Committee on progress in relation to the development of Screen Industries in the city                              |
| Planning Documents  | To seek the views of the Committee on planning documents   |
| Highways Maintenance Programme and Highways                               | Update on the programme and plans to improve communication   |

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Investment                            |  |
| Development of Cycling Infrastructure | To consider the development of cycling infrastructure in the city  |
| Food Law Plan                         | To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Food Law Plan  |
| Licensing Policy Review               | To seek the views of the Committee in relation to the forthcoming Licensing Policy Review  |
| Public Transport - Update             | Position of public transport transport in the region including bus services, rail, metro.  |
| Low Carbon Annual Report              | To consider the plans and progress being made to reduce the level of carbon emissions by the Council and its partners                              |
| City Heat Networks Projects           | To hear about progress in relation to the City Heat Network Project  |
| Housing Strategy                      | To consider progress on the implementation of the Housing Strategy including homelessness and empty and asylum seeks and refugees                  |
| Housing Provider Consultation         | Consult with gentoo and other local housing providers  |
| Environmental Services                | Update across a range of services including wase, recycling and street cleaning. Measures to improve recycling rates in the city                   |
| Events Update                         | To receive an update on plans for future events in the city and their contribution to the local economy  |
| Cultural and Heritage Sector          | To receive an update on developing the cultural offer in the city including an update on Culture House, Museum and Winter Gardens and Glass Centre |
| Annual Road Safety Report             | To provide latest information on the level of road traffic accidents and fatalities in the city  |
| Accessibility of the City Centre      | To considers measures to improve the accessibility of the city centre, particularly in relation to people with a disability                        |

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A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

- 3.4 It should be noted that the work programme is a 'living' document and can be amended throughout the course of the municipal year. Any Elected Member can add an item of business to an agenda for consideration (Protocol 1 within the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook outlines this process).

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees a draft Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Notes of the Development session held on 13 June 2023

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

| REASON FOR INCLUSION                                     | 1 JUNE 23<br>(INFORMAL MEETING)       | 11 JULY 23   | 12 SEPTEMBER 23  | 10 OCTOBER 23  | 7 NOVEMBER 23  | 5 DECEMBER 23   | 9 JANUARY 24  | 6 FEBRUARY 24  | 5 MARCH 24   | 9 APRIL 24  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b> |                                       |  |  | Food Law Plan (Marion Dixon)<br><br>Local Wildlife Sights (Catherine Auld)   |  |   |   | Licensing Policy Review (Marion Dixon)   |  | Scrutiny Annual Report  |
| <b>Scrutiny Business</b>                                 | Remit and Work Programme of Committee | Empty Properties (Graham Scanlan)<br><br>Work Programme 23-24 - Feedback | Sunniside Masterplan (Dan Hattle)<br><br>Road Safety Annual Report (Paul Muir) | Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld)<br><br>Events (Marion Dixon)<br><br>Highways Maintenance (Craig Mordue) | Housing Provider Consultation (Gentoo) (Other Housing Providers) | Environmental Services Update (Marc Morley)<br><br>Housing Update (Graham Scanlan)<br><br>Highways Maintenance (Craig Mordue) | Sunderland BID (Sharon Appleby)<br><br>Sunderland Chamber of Commerce (Natasha McDonough) | Culture Sector and the Local Economy (Rebecca Ball)<br><br>Screen Industries – Update (Catherine Auld) | Siglion (Anthony Crabb)<br><br>Future High Street Fund Programme (Neil Guthrie/ Anthony Crabb)<br><br>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) | Cycling Infrastructure (Craig Mordue)<br><br>Accessibility of the City Centre (Craig Mordue)<br><br>City Heat Networks (Peter Graham) |
| <b>Consultation Information and Awareness Raising</b>    |                                       | Notice of Key Decisions  | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24                            | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24  | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24              | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24   | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24                                       | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24  | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24  | Notice of Key Decisions<br><br>Work Programme 23-24   |

To Schedule:  
Public Transport Update (Craig Mordue)  
Business Centres (Catherine Auld)



# Item 6

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2023

## 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

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Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
0191 561 1396  
James.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk

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   |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 221006/744 | To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force Area. | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230215/785 | To approve the payment of financial assistance to a company in relation to the company's investment plans in Sunderland.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 210709/612 | To authorise the Executive Director of City Development to deliver the Washington F-Pit Museum Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvement project, including the procurement of consultants and contractors. | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 220207/690 | To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 220524/714 | To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.      | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 220712/722 | To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites. | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---|
| 220719/723 | To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre. | Cabinet   | Y                | 7 September 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 221110/753 | To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.  | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 221130/756 | To seek approval to procure a contractor and, enter into a build contract delivery of 55 nos. bungalows and apartments for over 55s at land at St Luke Road. | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230125/775 | To receive a progress update in relation to the Housing Innovation and Construction Skills Academy and approve the proposed next steps.                      | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230130/777 | To approve the Housing Delivery Investment Plan future strategic approach.   | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | Not applicable.  | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230130/778 | To approve the funding arrangements for the New Sunderland Eye Infirmary on Riverside and the award of the agreements for the construction and letting of the scheme. | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230213/783 | To make a decision relating to an exchange of land to facilitate to rebuild of St Patrick's RC Primary School (Ryhope).   | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | Not applicable   | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230313/788 | To seek approval of five Area Committee Area Plans for 2023-2026.                        | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | Not applicable                                | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>    |
| 230428/799 | To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030                         | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230428/801 | To agree proposals for partnership working with the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |



| 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   |
|------------|---|---|------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|---|
| 230505/805 | To seek approval to enter into a Development Funding Agreement (DFA) with Siglion Developments LLP ("Siglion") for the construction of a new play area, Lowry Rd, Seaburn | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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 Paragraph 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br>committees@sunderland.gov.uk |
| 230517/806 | To agree the procurement of framework agreement(s) with Voluntary and Community Sector organisations for the delivery of household support and other services,            | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br>committees@sunderland.gov.uk |

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| 230518/807 | To approve the Council contribution towards refurbishment works at Bowls Pavilion at King George V Playing Fields | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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 Paragraph 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230522/808 | To approve the adoption of revised Local Wildlife Site boundaries and designations                                | Cabinet   | Y                | September – December 2023   | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230522/809 | To seek approval to award funding to Third Sector organisations providing social care related services.           | Cabinet   | Yes              | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230522/810 | To seek approval to vary the contract term of all contracts for the provision of Care and Support at Home for Adults aged 18 years and over by a period up to 24 months from the 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Cabinet   | Yes              | 13 July 2023  | Y                   | This report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230523/811 | To approve a scheme for Structural Maintenance of A182 Bridges (Phase 3).   | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230525/812 | To agree to the extension of Public Health Services in Primary Care (Community Pharmacy)  | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230526/813 | To commission the Child Vision Screening Programme                       | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>    |
| 230531/814 | Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management) | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230531/815 | Revenue Budget First Review 2023/2024                                    | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | N/A   | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>Civic Centre<br>PO BOX 100<br>Sunderland<br>SR2 7DN<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230606/816 | To approve the procurement of a contractor and award a contract to deliver bungalows to Cato Street   | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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 Paragraph 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230606/817 | To approve the acquisition of the Sheiling to deliver five supported accommodation units  | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | 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 Paragraph 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   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |
| 230608/818 | To approve the commencement of a consultation process and the publication of statutory notices to increase Special Educational Needs school provision in Sunderland | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | NA  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

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| 230608/819 | Decision on the award of a grant to deliver additional play facilities | Cabinet   | Y                | 13 July 2023  | N                   | NA  | Cabinet Report   | Governance Services<br>City Hall<br>Plater Way<br>Sunderland<br>SR1 3AA<br><br><a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a> |

**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 Governance 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 Governance Services team City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to [committees@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto: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 Governance Services at the address given above.**

#### **Who will decide;**

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader & Clean Green City; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City; Councillor John Price – Vibrant City; Councillor Linda Williams – Children, Education and Skills.

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

14 June 2023