

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

**Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Plater Way,  
Sunderland on Thursday 13 July, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.**

#### Membership

Cllrs Burrell, Curtis, Dodds (Vice Chair), Guy, Hartnack, Jones, Leonard, Mason-Gage (Chair), Morrissey, Mullen, P. Smith, Thornton, Usher and Walton

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1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	-
2.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6 April 2023</b> (copy attached).	1
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)</b>	-
	<b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	
4.	<b>Reference from Cabinet – 13 July 2023 – Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management)</b>	7
	Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	
5.	<b>Reference from Cabinet -- 13 July 2023 – First Revenue Budget Review 2023/24</b>	23
	Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance (copy attached).	

## **Part B – Scrutiny Business**

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| 6. | <b>Performance Management Update – Quarter 4 of 2022/23</b>                      | 37 |
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| 7. | <b>Annual Work Programme 2023/24</b>   | 59 |
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| 8. | <b>Notice of Key Decisions</b>   | 64 |
|    | Report of the Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator (copy attached). |    |

## **Part C – Health Substantial Variations to Service**

No items.

## **Part D - CCFA/Members' Items/Petitions**

No items.

E. WAUGH,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,  
City Hall,  
SUNDERLAND.

5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**At a meeting of the SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D.E. Snowdon in the Chair.

Councillors Bond, Curtis, Doyle, Hartnack, Mullen, P. Smith, H. Trueman and Watson.

Also in attendance:-

Mr Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

Mrs Beverley Poulter, Senior Manager Corporate Strategy, Strategy and Corporate Affairs

Ms Gillian Robinson, Scrutiny, Mayoral and Members Support Co-ordinator, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Directorate

Mrs Christine Tilley, Governance Services Team Leader, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate

Mr Nik Marco, Local Democracy Reporter

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edgeworth, Mason-Gage and D. Snowdon.

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Councillor Mullen questioned the accuracy of the response on page 3, paragraph 3 given by Mr Davies as noted in the minutes and the Governance Services Officer was asked to check the notes made at the meeting.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above matter.

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

The Chair, Councillor D.E. Snowdon made an open declaration in relation to the Performance Management Update report as the Chair of Columbia Community Association which was taking part in the Warm Spaces Project.

## **Performance Management Update – Quarter 3 of 2022/23**

Mrs Beverley Poulter, Senior Manager Corporate Strategy, Strategy and Corporate Affairs submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 3 of 2022/23.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mrs Poulter took the Committee through the summary for the three key themes of Dynamic City, Healthy City and Vibrant City of the Sunderland City Plan, highlighting commitments, key achievements and progress made for each key theme, as well as performance against the additional Council indicators for good organisational health, strong financial management, productive and innovative working and a Council ready for the future.

The Committee raised a number of questions under each of the key themes as follows:-

### **Dynamic Smart City**

Councillor Mullen highlighted the declining figure in relation to NVQ L4 qualifications and the importance of a more robust skills strategy within the Council with more focus on developing high level skills. He asked for more information as to what was happening, what the reasons were behind this decline, what the Council was intending to do and how the devolution deal would affect this going forward.

Mrs Poulter stated that the issue was very much on the Devolution Agenda as well as the Council agenda and the Partnership agenda. It was a very difficult subject and area of work to get to grips with. Better measures were needed and this would be looked at. She offered to bring progress back on this to the Committee as to where they were at as a City, as the Council had fewer levers than the College or University for example.

Councillor Curtis asked in relation to the employment rate in Sunderland, if those people who were classed as disabled could be separated out to see whether they were being supported back into work.

Mrs Poulter said that she would take this away and ask whether this information could be provided and report back.

Councillor Watson commented that the number of completed affordable homes had declined in quarter 3 and that there was no mention of Social Housing in the report. She asked if the figures in relation to Social Housing could be included in future reports.

Mrs Poulter advised that there were increases in Social Housing targets and that she could bring back a separate report on this.

Councillor Watson referred to the plans for film studios in Sunderland and commented that greater training to carry out roles within the industry would be needed to help people secure the jobs there.

Mrs Poulter agreed with Councillor Watson and commented that the expectation was that there would be a myriad of jobs and opportunities available in the film industry.

Councillor Doyle enquired in terms of electrical vehicle usage via the rapid charging station, whether the Council was monitoring trends and usage taking into account the wider network not just one charging point.

Mrs Poulter advised that she would have a look at this and report back.

Councillor Hartnack referred to the decline in completed affordable homes from 16.4% to 6.3% for the current year and asked what the reasons were for this.

Mrs Poulter advised that she would get the information and provide a response on this.

The Chair, Councillor D.E. Snowdon: pointed out the graph in relation to Business Incubator Occupancy had some figures missing for Q3 2021/22 and Q3 2022/23.

Mrs Poulter undertook to provide the missing information to the Committee.

### Healthy Smart City

Councillor Bond commented on the rise in Teenage Pregnancy and asked if there could be some feedback provided in relation to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. He added that it would be good to see the national trend.

Mrs Poulter stated that information could be brought back on Teenage Pregnancy. She added that there had been a spike during COVID. There was a strategy in place and she would be pleased to bring a summary back to the Committee on this and would be able to supply comparative figures.

Councillor Hartnack commented that the amount of litter when coming into Sunderland was disgraceful. He asked for clarification as to what "the percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level" meant, which was in Q3 7.5% and what the Council could do to improve this.

Mrs Poulter provided an explanation of what the performance indicator actually meant and stated that she would send the definition to the Committee.

The Chair referred to the increase in the uptake of the National Healthy Start Programme in Sunderland to 81% and thanked the Communications Team for the work they had done in highlighting the programme. The Chair stated that she had promoted the programme and encouraged others to do so too.

Councillor Bond stated that he had asked for National comparator figures on household waste recycling, reuse and composting to be included in the report previously and was not happy that this had not happened. He referred to the fact that household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting had reduced in Quarter 3 to 26% and advised that the national comparator figure was 45%. The best Councils were achieving 64/65%. Out of 338 Councils Sunderland was ranked 311<sup>th</sup> for recycling waste.

Mrs Poulter reported that the comparative data previously requested was included in the narrative of the report, however if Councillor Bond would like to see this as a graphical representation that she would speak to the relevant Officers to provide this going forward.

## Vibrant Smart City

Councillors Curtis, Hartnack, P. Smith and Trueman highlighted a number of issues regarding policing including that the system for reporting crimes was broken in that it was difficult to get through on the telephone, there was a lack of Police resources within the city, peoples' perceptions and fear of crime was at a high level and that the City should be pushing politically for its fair share of policing resources.

Councillor Mullen enquired about the visitor numbers and overall spend in the City. He referred to the justification provided for scrapping the Airshow and its replacement with the Triathlon. He asked for a comparison to be made between the Airshow and the Triathlon to see which event brought more money into the City.

At this juncture, Councillor Doyle prepared to leave the meeting and as he was retiring from the Council and this was his last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, the Chair thanked him for his contributions to the work of the Committee and wished him well for the future.

Councillor Curtis welcomed a comparison being made to the two events detailed above.

Councillor Curtis commented that it was good to see the figures improving regarding Children in Need and Child Protection Plans.

Councillor Curtis asked if the Committee could be provided with a main overview of the Tourism Strategy.

Councillor Curtis also asked from the Warm Spaces Project, how many had continued.

Mrs Poulter advised that she could provide a summary of the main pillars of the Tourism Strategy and figures relating to the Warm Spaces Project.

## Organisational Health

Councillor Mullen commented that since moving into City Hall he had experienced difficulty in getting to speak to Officers on the telephone and he had also experienced problems with the Call Centre itself in getting calls answered and that there had been a long wait on the line; residents had told him of similar experiences.

Mrs Poulter stated that Officers should be still available and contactable whether working at home or in City Hall even though they no longer had a desk phone. If a Member of the Public needed to speak to an Officer, there should be a contact number so that the Contact Centre could route the call to them and this would be logged. Mrs Poulter stated that she would provide some data on calls.

Councillor Hartnack asked whether it was now time for a survey on how we operated as a Council and stated that he had a similar concern in not being able to get in touch with people.

Councillor Hartnack stated that the Committee needed national comparators to see how the Council was performing. He referred to sickness absence in the Council which seemed high and pointed out that the national average was 4.5 sick days per employee. He said the Committee needed to know what the reasons were for this high sickness rate and put pressure on the Leadership to reduce it. He asked what was being done to reduce this rate and what were the cases.

Mrs Poulter stated that she would provide more detail and national data where this was possible in future reports.

Councillor Smith commented that the Council had lost another 75 more staff and that this might be having an impact on the sickness rate for the staff who remained.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Mrs Poulter for her attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Annual Report 2022/23**

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) asking the Committee to approve the Scrutiny Co-ordinating 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 Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate presented the report advising that the full completed version of the Annual Report would be presented to the Committee's next meeting.

Councillor Watson referred to paragraph 2 of the report and questioned the wording where it stated that:-

“The Committee was **pleased** to note that the proposed rise in Council Tax will be one of the lowest in the Country.”

Councillor Mullen asked that as much notice as possible be provided to Cabinet Members so that they could attend future Scrutiny meetings when invited to do so.

Mr Cummings confirmed that this would be done and that Cabinet Members would also be invited to attend the Scrutiny workshops.

Following full consideration of the report it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be approved subject to the deletion of the word “pleased” from the wording detailed above and being amended to a form of words to acknowledge that the proposed rise in Council Tax will be one of the lowest in the Country.

### **Work Programme 2022/23**

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching, for Members’ information, the thematic Scrutiny Committee work programmes for 2022/23, together with the Committee’s own programme which provided an opportunity for review.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Mr Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance, Smart Cities and Enabling Services Directorate having presented the report updating Members on the current position regarding the Work Programmes of the Scrutiny Committees, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Committees’ work programmes for 2022/23 and the variations to these work programmes be noted, together with the current scrutiny budget position for 2022/23.

### **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Scrutiny, Mayoral and Member Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive’s Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Consideration having been given to the report, it was :-

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

The Chairman then closed the meeting, having thanked everyone for their work during the year and their attendance.

(Signed) D. E. SNOWDON,  
Chairman.



**REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 13 JULY 2023**

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME FIRST REVIEW 2023/2024 (INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT)**

**Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To set out for advice and consideration of the Committee the report on the Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).

**2. Background and Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 July 2023, will give consideration to a report of the Director of Finance. The report details the:-

- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2023/2024; and
- progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024.

- 2.2 As the report seeks approval to the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2023/2024 (detailed at Appendix A of the report) as a variation to the Capital Programme it is referred to the Committee requesting Members' views in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

- 2.3 The Cabinet is recommended to:-

- In respect of the first capital review for 2023/2024 to approve the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2023/2024 detailed at Appendix A;
- Note the increased cost pressures on the Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report; and
- In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note the progress in implementing the 2023/2024 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

- 2.5 An update on the comments and decision of Cabinet will be provided to the meeting.

### **3 Conclusion**

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments from the Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2023.

### **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to give advice and consideration on the report of the Director of Finance.

### **5 Background Papers**

- 1.1 Cabinet Agenda, 13 July 2023.
- 1.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Assistant Director of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

[Cabinet Agenda, 13 July 2023](#)

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## CABINET MEETING –13 JULY 2023

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management)

**Author(s):**

Director of Finance

**Purpose of Report:**

This report details:

- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2023/2024; and
- progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024.

**Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- In respect of the first capital review for 2023/2024 to approve the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2023/2024 detailed at Appendix A;
- Note the increased cost pressures on the Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report; and
- In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note the increase in borrowing interest rates, progress in implementing the 2023/2024 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?** Yes

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over capital spend and resources and receives quarterly reports to support this. This report notes the inclusion of additional capital schemes since approval by Council on 22nd February 2023.

Cabinet is also requested to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/2024, which is in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

No alternative options are proposed.

**Impacts analysed:**

Equality ☒ Privacy ☒ Sustainability ☒ Crime and Disorder ☒

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?** Yes

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?** Yes - additional capital spending detailed at Appendix B estimated to cost above £500,000.

**Is it included in the 28 Day Notice of Decisions?** Yes

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME FIRST REVIEW 2023/2024 (INCLUDING TREASURY MANAGEMENT)**

**Report of the Director of Finance**

**1. Purpose of Report**

**1.1** This report details:

- the outcome of the First Capital Review for 2023/2024; and
- progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2023/2024.

**2. Description of Decision:**

**2.1** Cabinet is recommended to:

- In respect of the first capital review for 2023/2024 to approve the inclusion of additional schemes or variations to existing schemes for 2023/2024 detailed at Appendix A;
- Note the increased cost pressures on the Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report; and
- In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Cabinet is asked to note the increase in borrowing interest rates, progress in implementing the 2023/2024 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

**3. Introduction**

- 3.1** The Capital Programme changes during the year as notifications of additional schemes and resourcing are received and the phasing of schemes is reviewed. Variations to the 2023/2024 capital programme since the 2022/2023 Capital Outturn report to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, are shown in section 4 of this report.
- 3.2** Performance in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy and adhering to the agreed Prudential Indicators is detailed in section 5 along with confirmation that the Council is operating within its agreed borrowing limits.

**4. Capital Programme First Review 2023/2024**

- 4.1** Since the Capital Programme was reported to Council in February 2023, there have been changes to the 2023/2024 Capital Programme both in terms of expenditure and resourcing. In June 2023 the Capital Programme Outturn position for 2022/2023 was reported to Cabinet, which included reprofiling of expenditure from 2022/2023 to 2023/2024 totalling £9.223m and a cost decrease of £6.204m in 2023/2024, resulting in planned investment of £271.420m for the 2023/2024 financial year. During the first quarter of 2023/2024 further reprofiling and other adjustments have been identified increasing the Capital Programme by £2.303m to £273.723m. These are summarised below:

- Reprofiled expenditure of £6.218m from 2023/2024 into future years;
- Additional schemes and scheme variations approved since the Capital Programme update, leading to a net increase of £8.671m in 2023/2024; and
- Technical adjustments, which decrease the Capital Programme in 2023/2024 by £0.150m.

4.2 Appendix A sets out the detail of the above changes to expenditure and resources for 2023/2024.

4.3 Capital Programme delivery has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020 and the Ukrainian war since Spring 2022. The Capital Programme Reviews reported to Cabinet since March 2020 had advised that industry commentators were indicating that uncertainties continue, with upward cost pressures on construction contracts being exacerbated by global supply issues for raw materials (both availability and the timing of supplies) alongside labour cost pressures, and that this may manifest itself in further increases in cost and delays. Both main contractor and supply chain challenges continue to be experienced. These pressures to the capital programme remain impacting on the cost and timescales of some projects. The impact on the capital programme continues to be closely monitored and will be reported to Cabinet as necessary.

## **5. Review of the Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/2024**

5.1 The Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 were approved by the Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 and are regularly reviewed to ensure that:

- the Council remained within its Authorised Limit for External Debt;
- treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with the Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Council Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement; and
- the Capital expenditure control framework operated locally is consistent with, and supportive of, local strategic planning, local asset management planning, and proper option appraisal.

5.2 Internal monitoring procedures track performance daily against the various prudential indicators agreed by the Council. The Council is operating within its Authorised Borrowing Limit, which is a statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003 and there are no areas of concern or any issues which require any review of the indicators as originally approved.

### **Borrowing Strategy – 2023/2024**

5.3 The Council's strategy for 2023/2024 is to continue to adopt a pragmatic approach in identifying the low points in the interest rate cycle at which to borrow to secure benefit for the Council. A benchmark financing rate of 4.50% for long-term borrowing was set in the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statement for 2023/2024, reflecting the views prevalent and interest rates at the time.

5.4 Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) interest rates have risen steadily since the Council last undertook borrowing in August 2022. Delays in capital programme activity have

not necessitated any further borrowing since then but borrowing rates will continue to be closely monitored and consideration given to various options, including utilising some investment balances, to fund the Council's borrowing requirements in 2023/2024 in order to minimise interest charges.

## **Investment Strategy – 2023/2024**

- 5.5 The primary aim of the Investment Strategy is the security of Council funds, then having regard to liquidity, i.e. the availability of cash to meet the Council's liabilities, and finally to secure a reasonable rate of return on its investments.
- 5.6 The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announced for a thirteenth consecutive meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 it had raised the Base Rate, with a 0.5% rise taking the rate to 5.00%. Notes from the meeting indicate the peak in rates is close but if there were to be evidence of more persistent price pressures, then further tightening in monetary policy would be required to return inflation to the BoE's target of 2%. The latest base rate increase followed the publishing of the CPI inflation figures for May which were higher than forecast, at 8.7%.
- 5.7 As at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 the Council achieved a rate of return on its investments of 4.37% during 2023/2024, compared with the benchmark rate SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) rate of 4.26%. Interest rates and hence returns remain volatile. Performance is above the benchmark rate, whilst still adhering to the prudent policy agreed by the Council, in what remains a very challenging market.

## **6. Reasons for Decision**

- 6.1 As included in the Council's constitution, Cabinet is required to exercise control over capital spend and resources, and as such receives quarterly reports to support this. This report notes the inclusion of additional capital schemes since Council on 22nd February 2023.
- 6.2 Cabinet is also requested to note the progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/2024, which is in line with the approved Treasury Management Policies.

## **7. Alternative Options**

- 7.1 No alternative options are proposed.

## **8. Impact Analysis**

- 8.1 Impact assessments will be undertaken by Directorates to ensure programmes are delivered within budget.

## **9. List of Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix A – Variations to the 2023/2024 Capital Programme.

## **10. Background Papers**

Capital Programme 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2023/2024, including Prudential Indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027.

Capital Programme Outturn 2022/2023.



## Variations to the 2023/2024 Capital Programme

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
<b>Deputy Leader and Clean Green City</b>						
Nobles Quay Replacement	2,600	(1,100)	0	0	1,500	Investigation works for the reconstruction of Nobles Quay commenced April 2023. However, the main works are not expected to start on site until January 2024 and complete in Winter 2025 resulting in a budget of £1.100m to be reprofiled from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025.
Play and Urban Games	605	0	100	0	705	Further play facilities citywide are to be installed, with funding provided through S106 developer contributions as well as a transfer of budget from the Parks and Open Spaces to align funding to works.
Parks and Open Spaces	1,412	0	751	0	2,163	The addition of new programmes and delivery priorities for further investment into parks and opens spaces across the city has resulted in an amended programme of £2.163m in 2023/2024, an increase of £0.751m. Funding to meet the additional investment is primarily from the transfer of funding from the Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme (NCIP) allocations approved by Area Committees, and the Planned Property Capital Maintenance (PPCM) capital scheme to align funding with delivery of works. NCIP will support works at Thompson, Harraton Play, Princess Anne and Usworth parks, and PPCM will support works at Roker, Penshaw, Usworth and Doxford Parks.

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Trees Planting Programme	0	0	310	0	310	Funding has been secured to plant trees over 11 sites in the City. The total amount of funding is £0.310m available through Trees for Climate, Local Authority Treescape Fund and Trees for Cities.
Other Projects	54,213	0	0	0	54,213	No variations.
<b>Total Deputy Leader and Clean Green City</b>	<b>58,830</b>	<b>(1,100)</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58,891</b>	
<b>Cabinet Secretary</b>						
Smart Cities Project	3,387	0	576	0	3,963	On 8th December 2022 Cabinet approved the Sunderland Advanced Mobility Shuttle Project funded by a grant from Innovate UK, being a share of £84m funding as part of the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Connected and Automated Mobility Programme. This will be delivered through the Smart Cities project. £0.576m funding was approved for the Council with further funding approved for several partner organisations, however, the partners will receive their funding direct and not via the Council as lead grant applicant. The project will trial three self-driving zero emission shuttles, transporting passengers from Park Lane Interchange, past the main University Campus and to the Sunderland Royal Hospital.
Planned Property Capital Maintenance	2,870	0	1	0	2,871	The schedule of Planned Property Capital Maintenance works continues to be reviewed in line with the Council's needs and priorities. There is £0.299m funding available from the Salix recycling reserve to be utilised to support the delivery of heat pumps and LED lighting at the Council's ICT building at Moorside. In addition, this budget continues to be used to support wider works on other capital projects including £0.298m transferred to the Parks & Open Spaces project as a contribution to various parks works.

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Other Projects	5,985	0	32	0	6,017	No variations.
<b>Total Cabinet Secretary</b>	<b>12,242</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,851</b>	
<b>Children, Learning &amp; Skills</b>						
Thorney Close Primary School New Build	994	(384)	0	0	610	Due to reprioritisation of wider Council projects, construction of the new Thorney Close Primary School is now scheduled to commence in the final quarter of 2023 with an expected completion date of September 2025. This will result in £0.384m budget to be reprofiled from 2023/2024 into future years.
School's Asset Management Unallocated	4,695	0	(1,679)	0	3,016	The Schools' Condition Allocation for 2023/2024 has been confirmed at £1.500m, a decrease of £0.014m to the provision already in the Capital Programme. The unallocated school's asset management grants budget is held for unforeseen winter and other emergencies e.g. heating failure and storm damage, as well for condition works such as roof and boiler replacements and also for contributions to major schools conditions projects. It is proposed to allocate £1.415m to planned school condition works in 2023/2024 (below), as well as £0.250m towards further costs at Hetton Primary and Barnes Junior schools (see below), leaving a current unallocated balance of £3.016m for further emerging priorities.
School Condition Works	461	0	1,415	0	1,876	A total of £1.415m is proposed to be allocated from the unallocated schools capital grants scheme to various school condition works including Albany Village Primary roof replacement and asbestos removal works – see above.

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Hetton Primary School - new build	0	0	180	0	180	The new Hetton Primary School buildings became operational in November 2022. All works are now complete at an additional cost of £0.180m more than previously anticipated. This will be funded from unallocated school capital grants – see above.
Barnes Junior School Refurbishment	522	0	70	0	592	Additional work is required to repair the external structural of the building which is more efficient to be delivered within this scope of works. The £0.070m estimated cost will be funded from unallocated school capital grants – see above.
Lombard Street Family Hub	0	0	246	0	246	<p>The Council is one of just 75 authorities participating in the high-profile Family Hubs initiative sponsored by the Government. Of the five Family Hubs, which are geographically spread across the city, one will be provided in Lombard Street, Sunderland. This property was identified early in the Family Hubs initiative and requires capital works to make it fit for purpose.</p> <p>The costs of the capital works are estimated to be £0.246m and will be funded from, Department for Education Family Hub capital grant funding (£0.104m) and available Council resource (£0.142m).</p>

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Children's Residential Homes	409	0	142	0	551	<p>The investment from the £1.3m approved budget for the creation of new children's residential facilities through the acquisition and / or development of assets is progressing well. Outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nook Lodge Children's Home. Following the completion of planned amendments and registration with Ofsted the home opened October 2020 and has since been home to three young people who have been brought back to the local area having been in external accommodation. One young child has successfully returned home to be replaced by another from external accommodation. The operational costs are approximately £0.220m per annum less than the costs of external placement.</li> <li>• Maple Cottage purchase. The home has been amended and is now awaiting Ofsted registration approval. Two young people currently in costly external accommodation will move into the home which will reduce costs by c. £0.200m per annum.</li> <li>• 1 Nookside purchase. From initial inspection it was considered that suitable amendments costs would be nominal. However, following further examination of the building there are additional works required to make the home suitable for the young person, resulting in an increase in these renovation costs. There will though be a full year reduction in costs of c. £0.620m that will be achieved through moving the young person from unregulated external accommodation to this home.</li> <li>• 1 Marlow Drive purchase. Following refurbishment and registration as a children's home this will drive significant benefits to the young person who will initially live in the home. There is an increase to the estimated costs of renovation but will be more than offset through cost avoidance given the young person is currently in unregulated expensive external accommodation.</li> </ul> <p>The sum of the additional costs outlined above is estimated to be up to £0.142m. This will be funded through available capital resources.</p>

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Other Projects	8,722	0	0	0	8,722	No variations.
<b>Total Children, Learning &amp; Skills</b>	<b>15,803</b>	<b>(384)</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,793</b>	
<b>Dynamic City</b>						
Highways Maintenance Programme	4,879	0	787	0	5,666	The Department for Transport confirmed in March 2023 additional Pot Hole funding of £0.734m for the 2023/2024 financial year. In addition, there has been £0.053m Community Chest funding approved by Area Committees for various highways maintenance works.
On street Residential Chargepoint Scheme	17	0	309	0	326	The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles, on behalf of the Department for Transport, had confirmed addition LEVI (Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) grant of £0.309m in March 2023. This will deliver a further 49 on street electric vehicle charging facilities in 20 locations in partnership with Connected Kerb who will directly match fund with £0.206m for this infrastructure. This is over and above a further £0.184m LEVI funding that supported installation of wall mounted charge-point sockets at the new Riverside multi-storey car park.
Replacement of Road Safety Vehicle	33	0	33	0	66	A replacement road safety vehicle has recently been purchased. However, due to updated technology that is now available the current aged technology equipment is no longer compatible and there is a need to replace this equipment. The additional cost of £0.033m can be funded from available capital resource.

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Inspiring Futures Programme	6,582	(4,734)	0	0	1,848	The Inspiring Futures Programme will provide accommodation and support for those who are homeless, have complex needs and require support to move forward with their lives towards independent living. There have been six one bed properties acquired for homelessness where funding has been received to support the developments under the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme from Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC). There are two development sites identified but which are within early stages of planning and consultation. Once secured, funding from DLUHC will be requested to support the developments. This has resulting in £4.734m budget to be reprofiled from 2023/2024 into future years.
Other Projects	152,536	0	0	0	152,536	Minor fully funded variances.
<b>Total Dynamic City</b>	<b>164,047</b>	<b>(4,734)</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>160,442</b>	
<b>Healthy City</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>No variations.</b>
<b>Vibrant City</b>						
Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme (NCIP)	1,706	0	(402)	0	1,304	Neighbourhood Capital Investment Plan schemes across the 5 geographical areas are determined and approved by Area Committees. Approvals can, and do, include contributions to other schemes in the Council's capital programme, and there is to be a budget transfer of £0.402m to the Parks and Open Spaces capital project to align with works within that project including at Thompson Park, Harraton Play Park, Princess Anne Park and Usworth Park.

Portfolio / Project	Latest Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000 **	Reprofiling of Expenditure 2023/2024 £'000	Additional Schemes and Cost Variations to Existing Projects 2023/2024 £'000	Technical Adjustments 2023/2024 £'000	Revised Budget 2023/2024 £'000	Comment
Festival of Light	150	0	0	(150)	0	The refresh of the lighting offer for the Festival of Light in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 will be provided through hiring rather than purchasing lights and equipment. The £0.150m funding provided for this in the Capital Programme, along with £0.150m for next year, will therefore be used to support those revenue costs.
Culture House	7,000	0	5,800	0	12,800	Cabinet had approved on 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 to progress with the next steps for the project including the award of the construction contract and a capital programme variation that also included the audio visual and immersive technologies package of works. The capital programme budget variance has been profiled over 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 to align with project timescales.
Other Projects	2,518	0	0	0	2,518	Minor fully funded variances.
<b>Total Vibrant City</b>	<b>11,374</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,398</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>16,622</b>	
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>271,420</b>	<b>(6,218)</b>	<b>8,671</b>	<b>(150)</b>	<b>273,723</b>	

**\*\* Note – Reconciliation to Original Approved 2023/2024 Capital Programme**

<i>Cabinet 8th June 2023 – Capital Programme Outturn 2022/2023</i>	(3,019)					<i>2022/2023 Outturn: Reprofiling of expenditure between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, and cost variances in 2023/2024, reported to Cabinet 8th June 2023.</i>
<b>ORIGINAL 2023/2024 CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>268,401</b>					<b>Original Capital Programme approved by Full Council 22nd February 2023</b>



**REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 13 JULY 2023**

**FIRST REVENUE BUDGET REVIEW 2023/2024**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

**1. Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 To set out for advice and consideration of the Committee the report on the First Revenue Budget Review 2023/2024.

**2. Background and Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 July 2023, will give consideration to a report of the Director of Finance. The report details the outcome of the Revenue Budget First Review for 2023/2024 including proposed contingency transfers.
- 2.2 The contingency transfers proposed are set out at Section 3.4.
- 2.3 Copies of the 13 July 2023 Cabinet agenda can be accessed electronically on the Council website by all Members of the Council.
- 2.4 The Cabinet is recommended to:-
- Note the contents of the report; and
  - Approve the contingency transfers proposed at Section 3.4.
- 2.5 An update on the comments and decision of Cabinet will be provided to the meeting.

**3 Conclusion**

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments from the Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 7 September 2023.

**4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to give advice and consideration on the report of the Director of Finance.

## **5 Background Papers**

5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 13 July 2023.

5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from the Assistant Director of Law and Governance or can be viewed on-line at:-

[Cabinet Agenda, 13 July 2023](#)

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## CABINET MEETING – 13 JULY 2023

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

First Revenue Budget Review 2023/2024

**Author(s):**

Director of Finance

**Purpose of Report:**

The report advises Cabinet of the overall Revenue Budget position following the first revenue review for 2023/2024 including proposed contingency transfers.

**Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

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

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?** Yes

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2023/2024 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

No alternative options are proposed

**Impacts analysed;**

Equality  Privacy  Sustainability  Crime and Disorder

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?** Yes

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?** Yes

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?** Yes

**FIRST REVENUE BUDGET REVIEW FOR 2023/2024****Director of Finance****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report advises Cabinet of the overall Revenue Budget position following the first review for 2023/2024 including proposed contingency transfers.

**2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

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

**3. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/2024****3.1 Overall Position**

- 3.1.1 The budget for 2023/2024 was approved by Council in February 2023. A full review has been undertaken for each Portfolio, together with contingency allocations proposed for the first quarter.
- 3.1.2 At this early stage in the financial year the forecast outturn position reflects the challenge the Council faces in delivering savings approved by Council in order to balance the budget, known areas of pressure, and the impact of elevated inflation levels which is driving the cost of living crisis. The financial consequences of the latter are factored into the position where known, but a degree of caution should be noted at this early stage in the financial year.
- 3.1.3 The overall forecast outturn position for 2023/2024 is a deficit £0.404m which can be met from the earmarked Energy and General Inflation reserve. The position is summarised in the table below, with further detail provided within Appendix A, Appendix B, and the remainder of Section 3 below.

Area of Variance	Para reference	Variance Underspend / (Overspend) £m
Delegated Forecast Outturn	3.3	(2.304)
Pay Pressure	3.1.6	(2.500)
Energy	3.1.8	0.900
Contingency Transfers	3.4	0.000
Debt Charge Savings	3.6	2.000
Treasury Management Savings	3.6	1.500
<b>Forecast Outturn position</b>		<b>(0.404)</b>
Use of Energy and General Inflation Reserve		<b>0.404</b>
<b>Forecast Outturn position (after use of reserve)</b>		<b>0.000</b>

- 3.1.4 The Council's financial position is being adversely impacted by pressures of continued high inflation which is compounding the cost of living crisis, and also from the legacy impact from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council's social care services continue to experience both demand pressures, challenges around complex cases and cost increases from providers looking to mitigate inflationary pressures they are experiencing. An average fee increase in the region of 12% has recently been agreed with adult social care providers for 2023/2024, with the shortfall beyond the amount included within the base budget being drawn from the contingency provision.
- 3.1.5 Other council services continue to experience inflationary pressures through service contracts and the costs of acquired goods and materials.

#### Pay Pressures

- 3.1.6 The pay award for the 2023/2024 financial year is still to be agreed. In February 2023 a formal pay offer for Local Government was made which proposed an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points. The offer equates to a pay increase of 9.42% for employees on the national pay point 2 and everyone on the NJC pay spine would receive a minimum 3.88% pay increase. All three Trades Unions have rejected the offer and balloting for industrial action is underway. A pay award offer of 3.5% for JNC Chief Officer employees was accepted in May 2023. The pay award offer for Chief Executives has been rejected.
- 3.1.7 Provision for a 5% pay award was factored in to the 2023/2024 approved budget. Based upon the current pay offer, this would create an additional cost of c.£2.500m for the Council and its wholly owned companies, beyond that included in the Council's 2023/2024 revenue budget.

#### Energy

- 3.1.8 As widely reported, the Russian invasion of the Ukraine created significant uncertainty in the global economy, particularly in the energy markets. Higher than expected global energy and goods prices have already led to an unavoidable increase in the cost of living in the UK through significant rises in inflation levels.
- 3.1.9 During the preparation of the 2023/2024 budget, significant increases were provided for in respect of the Council's energy requirements, based on the forecast prices at the time. In recent months wholesale prices have reduced, leading to a revised, lower, forecast cost for 2023/2024. At present an underspend of £0.900m is anticipated.

#### General Pressures

- 3.1.10 It should be noted that the financial impact of the cost of living crisis on the City's residents and businesses could result in a deficit position on the council tax and / or business rates collection funds. Any deficit will not impact on the current year's general fund position but would need to be taken into account in the budget setting process for 2024/2025.

## Public Health Grant

- 3.1.11 At the time of setting the budget for 2023/2024 the Public Health grant allocation was still to be confirmed. Allocations were announced by the Department of Health and Social Care in March 2023, with Sunderland's allocation increasing by £820,552 to £25,977,652. This ringfenced grant will be utilised for public health activity.

### 3.2 Budget Transfers

- 3.2.1 Budget transfers undertaken at the first review primarily reflect the need to realign budgets to ensure correct accountability of the approved budget. These are set out in Appendix A.

### 3.3 Portfolio Budgets – Overall Summary

- 3.3.1 Details of the forecast major variations for each portfolio, are set out at Appendix A. In overall terms there is currently a forecast delegated net service pressure of £2.304m, inclusive of the savings plan position detailed at Section 3.3.2 below.

- 3.3.2 Progress in the implementation of the £13.379m approved savings plans for 2023/2024 has continued and overall shows positive progress. The position is positive for this stage of the financial year given the demands and pressures services are experiencing. Portfolio holders and Directors continue to take the necessary action to mitigate any delays in implementation and, as such, the position is expected to improve as the year progresses.

- £7.906m (59%) of the savings have been fully realised to date.
- £3.411m (26%) of reductions where good progress is being made, with a good prospect that full savings will be achieved.
- £2.062m (15%) is in respect of areas where delays and issues have been encountered, hence where corrective actions or alternative options are being considered, which require close attention to ensure a positive outcome and timely delivery of savings. For budget monitoring purposes these are included as a forecast outturn pressure within the delegated budgets if appropriate.

- 3.3.3 Transitional reserves continue to be held to meet any profiling delays in the implementation of the 2023/2024 savings plans and any additional pressures arising.

- 3.3.4 The forecast position for the Local Authority Controlled Companies is included within the delegated budget outturn within the relevant portfolio at Appendix A, and budgetary issues highlighted as required.

### 3.4 General Contingency Transfers

- 3.4.1 Transfers from the general contingency fund take place on a quarterly basis to reflect expenditure actually incurred in respect of approved provisions. First quarter contingency transfers, totalling £5.779m have been enacted as follows:

- Adult Social Care Inflation (£5.774m)  
Drawdown from provision to meet the impact of inflationary increases from service providers.
  - Levies (£0.005m)  
Drawdown from provision to increase the North Eastern Fisheries and Conversation Authority Levy budget. The requirement for 2023/2024 has been confirmed since setting the original budget.
- 3.4.2 Based on the forecast use of contingencies, at this early stage in the financial year the general contingency provision is prudently anticipated to be fully utilised.
- 3.5 Transitional costs
- 3.5.1 The potential need to utilise capital receipt flexibility to fund transitional costs arising in 2023/2024 will be confirmed at outturn, in light of the overall resources position at that time. At this stage, no unbudgeted transitional costs are forecast to be incurred during 2023/2024.
- 3.6 Debt Charge and Treasury Management Savings
- 3.6.1 Net one-off savings on debt charges of £2.500m are anticipated at this stage. This reflects the position reported in the Capital Programme First Review, elsewhere on the agenda, which confirms the reprofiling of expenditure for some schemes. It is proposed that any savings at outturn be utilised to support the overall Council position and Capital Programme.
- 3.6.2 Additional Investment income of £1.500m, is forecast to be achieved. The rates of return available in the investment market in 2023/2024 have increased further following the more recent increases and forecast increases in the Bank of England base rate. As a consequence, greater investment returns are being generated above the budget for this financial year.
- 4. Review of Existing Reserves**
- 4.1 Following a full review of planned usage, the Council's reserves are forecast to decrease by £64.003m in 2023/2024 to £149.672m as reserves are utilised for their agreed purpose, including in support of the capital programme.
- 4.2 With the exception of the General Fund, useable reserves are earmarked for specific purposes and commitments, and are subject to regular review.
- 5. Collection Fund**
- 5.1 Business Rates  
The budget sets out a Local Business Rate requirement of £46.925m. As reported when setting the budget, a further Retail, Hospitality and Leisure reliefs scheme was announced by Government for 2023/2024, this has reduced the collectable business rates for this year. However, the Council will be fully compensated for this reduction through Section 31 grant. Collection is as expected for this stage in the financial year and a balance budget currently

forecast. The position will be kept under review, and further updates provided in future review reports.

**5.2 Council Tax**

The budget sets out a Council Tax requirement of element of £120.584m. Based on current forecasts a balanced budget is anticipated. As with Business Rates, should a shortfall arise, this would manifest itself as a deficit to be taken into account in setting the 2024/2025 budget. The position will be kept under review, and further updates provided in future review reports.

**6. Reasons for Decision**

- 6.1 To respond to variations in expenditure and income which have arisen in 2023/2024 and enable effective budgetary control to be exercised.

**7. Alternative Options**

- 7.1 No alternative options are proposed.

**8. Impact Analysis**

- 8.1 Impact assessments of Directorate actions to ensure the achievement of savings targets and a balanced budget position will be undertaken within Directorates as each action is developed.

**9. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

- 9.1 None

**10. List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Major Variations 2023/2024  
Appendix B - Overall Position 2023/2024  
Appendix C - Major Earmarked Reserves

**11. Background Papers**

None



**Cabinet Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Major Variations 2023/2024**

Portfolio	Original Budget (Budget Book) £m	Contingency Transfers £m	Budget Adjustments £m	Current Revised Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Forecast Variation Under / (Over Spend) £m	Reason for Variation
Leader	0.715	0.000	0.412	1.127	1.080	0.047	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forecast £0.047m underspend on staffing due to vacancies and flexible working.</li> </ul>
Deputy Leader and Clean Green City Portfolio Holder	47.969	0.000	0.002	47.971	47.420	0.551	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Investment - (£0.045m) shortfall primarily linked to Business Centres income.</li> <li>Local Services - (£0.576m) service delivery cost pressures and unachievable staff turnover savings.</li> <li>Waste Collection and Recycling - forecast overspend of (£0.391m) primarily due to additional staff costs and service delivery cost pressures.</li> <li>Waste disposal – forecast underspend of £1.535m through the Materials Recovery Facility contract and reduced tonnages through the Waste Disposal Partnership facility.</li> <li>Public Protection and Regulatory Services £0.111m forecast salary underspend partially reduced by income shortfalls.</li> <li>Other minor variations on a number of service areas have created a forecast overspend of (£0.083m).</li> </ul>
Cabinet Secretary	34.442	0.000	(0.133)	34.309	34.307	0.002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor under and overspends across a number of service areas totalling a net £0.002m underspend.</li> </ul>

Portfolio	Original Budget (Budget Book)	Contingency Transfers £m	Budget Adjustments £m	Current Revised Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Forecast Variation Under / (Over Spend) £m	Reason for Variation
Children, Learning and Skills	88.706	0.000	0.000	88.706	90.453	(1.747)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together for Children (TfC) - The TfC Board is responsible for monitoring the financial position of the company, with updates provided to the Council through the established contract performance monitoring arrangements. At this early stage in the financial year (£1.800m) of pressures have been identified linked to savings plans still in development. This position will be subject to continuous monitoring and an update provided at the second review.</li> <li>• Other minor underspends totalling £0.053m.</li> </ul>
Dynamic City	28.158	0.000	(0.042)	28.116	28.003	0.113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure and Transportation £0.750m underspend linked to increased forecast income of £0.400m from bus shelter advertising and £0.350m forecast staffing underspend from vacancies.</li> <li>• Parking Services – forecast shortfall on income collection of (£0.472m) based on recent usage trends and inclusive of known provision changes.</li> <li>• Access to Housing – forecast overspend of (£0.108m) from a lower level of Homelessness Prevention Grant (£0.080m) and (£0.028m) linked to Housing Strategy activity.</li> <li>• Other minor net overspend totalling (£0.057m)</li> </ul>
Healthy City	120.710	5.774	(0.237)	126.247	127.651	(1.404)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Social Care - net overspend of (£1.516m) resulting from demand related cost pressures of (£1.534m) from packages of care, (£0.167m) delayed efficiency relating to CHC Commissioning role with Health, partially offset by staffing underspends of £0.185m.</li> <li>• Strategic Commissioning staffing underspends of £0.112m</li> </ul>
Vibrant City	15.300	0.000	(0.002)	15.298	15.164	0.134	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecast staffing underspends across a number of service areas including: Environmental Enforcement, Heritage and Arts and Creative Development.</li> </ul>
Total Service (Delegated) Outturn	336.000	5.774	0.000	341.774	344.078	(2.304)	

**Cabinet Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Overall Position 2023/2024**

	Original Budget £m	Budget Adjustments £m	Current Budget £m	Forecast Outturn £m	Variance Under / (Over) Spend    £m
Leader Portfolio	1.124	0.003	1.127	1.080	0.047
Deputy Leader and Clean Green City Portfolio Holder	47.969	0.002	47.971	47.420	0.551
Cabinet Secretary Portfolio	34.033	0.276	34.309	34.307	0.002
Children, Learning and Skills Portfolio	88.706	0.000	88.706	90.453	(1.747)
Dynamic City Portfolio	28.158	(0.042)	28.116	28.003	0.113
Healthy City Portfolio	120.710	5.537	126.247	127.651	(1.404)
Vibrant City Portfolio	15.300	(0.002)	15.298	15.164	0.134
<b>Total Service (Delegated) Expenditure</b>	<b>336.000</b>	<b>5.774</b>	<b>341.774</b>	<b>344.078</b>	<b>(2.304)</b>
Provision for General Contingencies	20.439	(5.779)	14.660	14.660	0.000
Unfunded Pay Pressure	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.500	(2.500)
Energy Saving	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.900)	0.900
Capital Financing Costs	26.821	0.000	26.821	23.321	3.500
Transfer to / from Reserves	(9.374)	0.000	(9.374)	(9.374)	0.000
Technical Adjustments	(61.952)	0.000	(61.952)	(61.952)	0.000
Levies	16.820	0.005	16.825	16.825	0.000
Hetton Town Council	0.072	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.000
Less Grants	(81.656)	0.000	(81.656)	(81.656)	0.000
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>247.170</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>247.170</b>	<b>247.574</b>	<b>(0.404)</b>
Revenue Support Grant	(32.471)	0.000	(32.471)	(32.471)	0.000
National Non-Domestic Rates / Retained Business Rates	(46.925)	0.000	(46.925)	(46.925)	0.000
Top Up Grant	(47.190)	0.000	(47.190)	(47.190)	0.000
Council Tax Requirement	(120.584)	0.000	(120.584)	(120.584)	0.000
<b>Net Revenue Pressue</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>0.404</b>	<b>(0.404)</b>
Energy and General Inflation Reserve	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.404)	0.404
<b>Forecast Outturn (after use of reserve)</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>(0.000)</b>	<b>0.000</b>

**Cabinet Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Major Earmarked Reserves**

Reserves	Purpose of the Reserve	Opening Balance 01.04.2023 £m	Forecast Movement in 23/24 £m	Opening Balance 01.04.2024 £m	Forecast Movement in 24/25 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2025 £m	Forecast Movement in 25/26 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2026 £m	Forecast Movement in 26/27 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2027 £m
General Fund	General Fund of the Council	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000
School Balances	Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	7.188	(1.634)	5.554	(0.016)	5.538	(0.001)	5.537	(1.500)	4.037
<b>Earmarked General Fund Reserves – Capital</b>										
Riverside Transfer	Reserve established to fund capital works associated with the Homes and Communities Agency land transferred to the Council.	9.033	(8.934)	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.000	0.099
Capital Priorities Reserve	A reserve established to address some of the Council's key capital developments and strategic priorities.	5.642	(2.947)	2.695	(2.695)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Section 106 Reserves	Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, developers make financial contributions to the Council relating to affordable housing, public open spaces including allotments and locally equipped play parks, educational facilities, highways and public transport improvements, sports and recreational facilities and environmental improvements.	11.672	(1.057)	10.615	0.364	10.979	(1.750)	9.229	(1.750)	7.479
Strategic Investment Reserve (Capital)	A reserve established to address some of the Council's key developments, strategic priorities and address other major liabilities.	1.437	(1.437)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Commercial and Economic Development Activity	Reserve established to take advantage of commercial and economic development opportunities that will meet priorities of the Council.	0.730	(0.423)	0.307	(0.307)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Culture Development	To support a range of cultural developments in the city centre, utilising smart cities technology and immersive technologies.	3.000	0.000	3.000	(3.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other Earmarked Capital Reserve	Funding set aside to fund future capital projects previously approved.	2.078	(0.095)	1.983	0.167	2.150	0.220	2.370	0.298	2.668

## Appendix C (continued)

Reserves	Purpose of the Reserve	Opening Balance 01.04.2023 £m	Forecast Movement in 23/24 £m	Opening Balance 01.04.2024 £m	Forecast Movement in 24/25 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2025 £m	Forecast Movement in 25/26 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2026 £m	Forecast Movement in 26/27 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2027 £m
<b>Earmarked General Fund Reserves – Revenue</b>										
Medium Term Planning Smoothing Reserve	This reserve has been established to address any potential impact arising from increased risk and uncertainty with the Business Rate Retention Scheme. It is being used to smooth the impact of government funding uncertainties.	34.601	(9.000)	25.601	(9.000)	16.601	(9.000)	7.601	(7.601)	0.000
Strategic Regeneration Reserve	A reserve to support the Council's regeneration ambitions, specifically to smooth any revenue impact of projects until they become self-sustaining.	10.557	(0.500)	10.057	(2.350)	7.707	(0.800)	6.907	(0.300)	6.607
Strategic Investment Reserve (Revenue)	A reserve established to address some of the Council's key developments, strategic priorities and address other major liabilities.	5.558	(0.856)	4.702	(3.657)	1.045	0.000	1.045	0.000	1.045
Insurance Reserve	This reserve has been established to provide for potential future claims or claim increases.	6.236	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.236
Street Lighting and Highway Signs PFI Smoothing Reserve	The reserve was established to smooth the financial impact to the Council across the 25 years of the contract life.	4.121	(0.734)	3.387	(0.706)	2.681	(0.604)	2.077	(0.619)	1.458
SIB Reserve	A reserve held to fund future allocations through the Strategic Initiatives Budget.	4.499	(1.000)	3.499	(1.000)	2.499	(1.000)	1.499	(1.000)	0.499
Public Health Grant	Ringfenced Public Health grant funding, to deliver future public health initiatives.	6.277	(1.000)	5.277	(2.000)	3.277	(2.871)	0.406	(0.406)	(0.000)
Smart Cities	This reserve was established to set aside revenue funding to cover 8-10 years, to support 5G and Wireless connectivity within the city.	3.894	(0.500)	3.394	(0.500)	2.894	(0.500)	2.394	(0.500)	1.894
Streetscene and Open Space	A reserve to enhance the city's recovery from the covid pandemic and ensure that the full benefit can be made of the regeneration activities across the city. This reserve will fund a range of streetscene and open space projects.	6.762	(3.030)	3.732	(1.852)	1.880	(1.155)	0.725	(0.725)	(0.000)
HCA Stadium Park	Reserve established to fund ongoing maintenance of Homes and Communities Agency land transferred to the Council.	3.109	0.000	3.109	0.000	3.109	0.000	3.109	0.000	3.109

## Appendix C (continued)

Reserves	Purpose of the Reserve	Opening Balance 01.04.2023 £m	Forecast Movement in 23/24 £m	Opening Balance 01.04.2024 £m	Forecast Movement in 24/25 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2025 £m	Forecast Movement in 25/26 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2026 £m	Forecast Movement in 26/27 £m	Opening Balance 1.04.2027 £m
Transformation Reserve	To support the changes that are likely to be required over the next 12-18 months to address financial pressures and MTFP challenges.	1.715	(1.715)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Education Redundancy Reserve	The reserve was established to meet the anticipated costs of redundancies as a result of falling pupil rolls within maintained schools.	2.353	(0.182)	2.171	(0.100)	2.071	(0.100)	1.971	(0.100)	1.871
Sandhill Centre PFI Smoothing Reserve	The reserve was established to smooth the financial impact to the Council across the 25 years of the contract life.	2.151	(0.692)	1.459	(0.470)	0.989	(0.351)	0.638	(0.217)	0.421
Low Level Family Support	Reserve to support activities with families and individuals to address the challenges of recovering from the pandemic.	3.496	(1.751)	1.745	(1.344)	0.401	(0.282)	0.119	(0.119)	0.000
Collection Fund Surplus Reserve	Reserve established as part of 2018/19 budget setting to smooth the collection fund surplus benefit into future years.	1.533	0.000	1.533	(1.533)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Housing Benefit Smoothing Reserve	This reserve has been established to smooth any potential impact of outstanding debtors as housing benefit is subsumed within universal credit.	1.296	(0.250)	1.046	(0.250)	0.796	(0.250)	0.546	(0.250)	0.296
Airport Smoothing Reserve	Reserve established to smooth any delayed airport loan interest payment that may arise.	1.253	0.000	1.253	0.000	1.253	0.000	1.253	0.000	1.253
Events	Reserve established to support a bid to secure a multi-year arrangement with British Triathlon to host triathlon events in the City.	1.200	(0.550)	0.650	(0.200)	0.450	(0.200)	0.250	(0.200)	0.050
Riverside Transfer	Reserve established to fund ongoing maintenance of Homes and Communities Agency land transferred to the Council.	0.997	(0.115)	0.882	(0.105)	0.777	(0.105)	0.672	(0.104)	0.568
House Sale Income	The reserve relates to the sale of client's homes that will be utilised to support future support needs of those clients.	1.390	(0.204)	1.186	(0.204)	0.982	(0.204)	0.778	(0.204)	0.574
Health and Social Care Reserve	Additional external income from in-year Health funding to support health and social care services in Sunderland in the short to medium term.	10.520	(5.271)	5.249	(3.226)	2.023	(2.023)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Energy and General Inflation	Reserve established in response to significant inflationary pressures expected to impact council services in the short to medium term	9.371	(0.404)	8.967	(8.967)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Member Recovery Fund	Members Covid Response fund	1.000	(1.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other Earmarked Revenue Reserves	Numerous small revenue reserves less than £1m which are set up for specific purposes.	20.562	(8.786)	11.776	(5.070)	6.706	(1.866)	4.840	(0.998)	3.842
<b>Total General Fund Reserves</b>		<b>197.231</b>	<b>(54.067)</b>	<b>143.164</b>	<b>(48.021)</b>	<b>95.143</b>	<b>(22.843)</b>	<b>72.300</b>	<b>(16.295)</b>	<b>56.005</b>
Capital Receipts Reserve	Balance of capital receipts held, pending use to fund the capital programme.	10.743	(4.235)	6.508	(1.821)	4.687	(0.954)	3.733	(3.733)	0.000
Capital Grants Unapplied	Balance of capital grants held pending expenditure on capital programme.	5.701	(5.701)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>		<b>213.675</b>	<b>(64.003)</b>	<b>149.672</b>	<b>(49.842)</b>	<b>99.830</b>	<b>(23.797)</b>	<b>76.033</b>	<b>(20.028)</b>	<b>56.005</b>

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATE – QUARTER 4 OF 2022/23**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 4 of 2022/23.
- 1.2 The Senior Manager – Corporate Strategy will attend the meeting to respond to questions.

**2. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

- 2.1 A key element of the Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is to present, on a quarterly basis, an update to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on key performance information for consideration and discussion.
- 2.2 The Council's Corporate Performance Management Framework is aligned to the Sunderland City Plan.
- 2.3 The City Plan covers:
  - A Vision for the city which provides the focus for the council's activity
  - Three Key Themes – Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City - which are used to organise the council's aims
  - A set of Commitments for each Key Theme under which the council's Activities are aligned
  - A Timeline of Activities illustrating the council's actions across all of the Key Themes.
- 2.4 The Corporate Performance Report is aligned to the three key themes of the City Plan (*Dynamic Smart City, Healthy Smart City and Vibrant Smart City*) as well as including additional Council indicators for organisational health / productive & innovative working, financial management and a council ready for the future.
- 2.5 The report sets out the progress made to the end of Quarter 4 of 2022/23, against the City Plan 2019-2030.
- 2.6 Following the City Plan's publication in 2019, an annual review and assurance process has been undertaken each year, to ensure that delivery remains focused on achieving the plan's vision & commitments, whilst taking account of the changing context of the world in which we live.

- 2.7 The first review was undertaken following the conclusion of performance for 2019/20, as the impacts of Covid-19 started to become apparent. The refreshed plan was adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The second assurance concluded that the plan remained relevant, but given the significant focus on tackling global climate change, a related challenge to support the council's and city's commitments in respect of carbon neutrality was included. The refreshed plan was adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The latest assurance, developed in consultation with this committee, recognised the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and a need to focus on resilience within our plan. It also recognised the significant achievements that have made on the delivery of the plan through the completion of the plan's Timeline Activity, and therefore the planned activity has been substantially refreshed to deliver outcomes to 2035.
- 2.8 The refreshed plan will be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This report relates to activity and performance to the end of March 2023.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the information provided in the report.

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# DYNAMIC SMART CITY

A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all – more and better jobs – more local people with better qualifications and skills – a stronger city centre with more businesses, housing, and cultural opportunities – more and better housing.

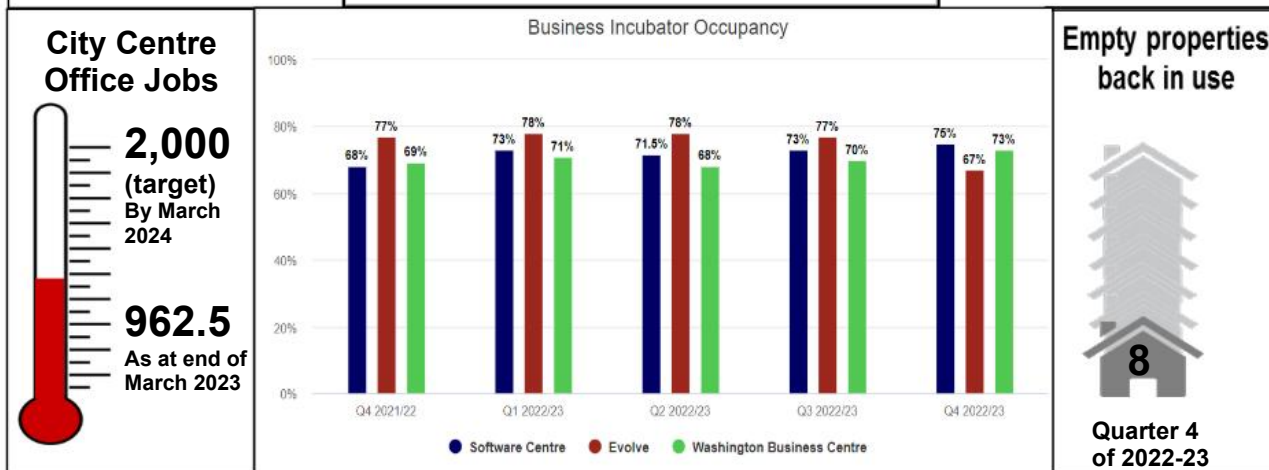
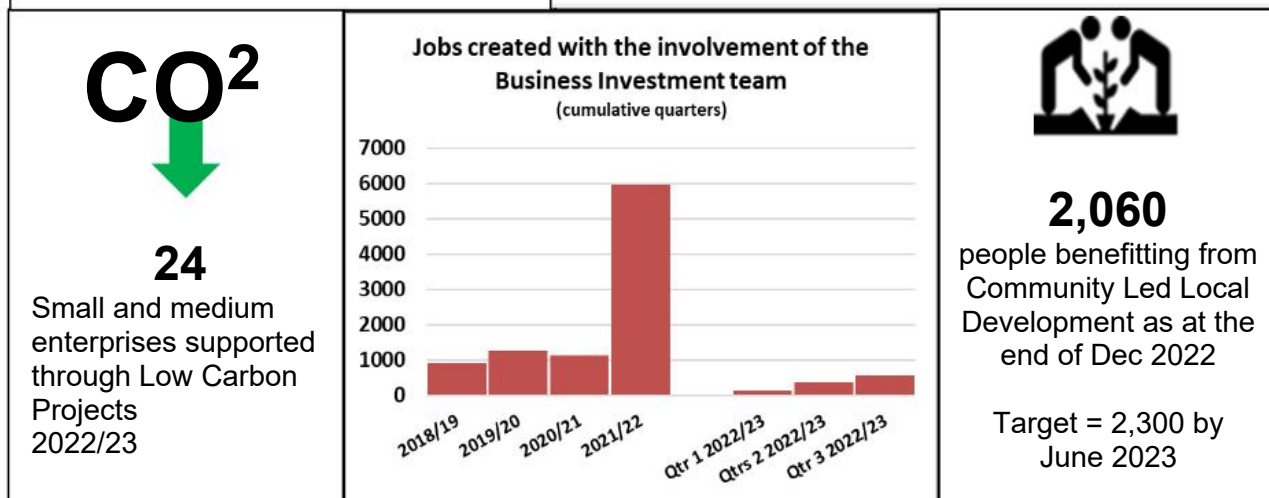
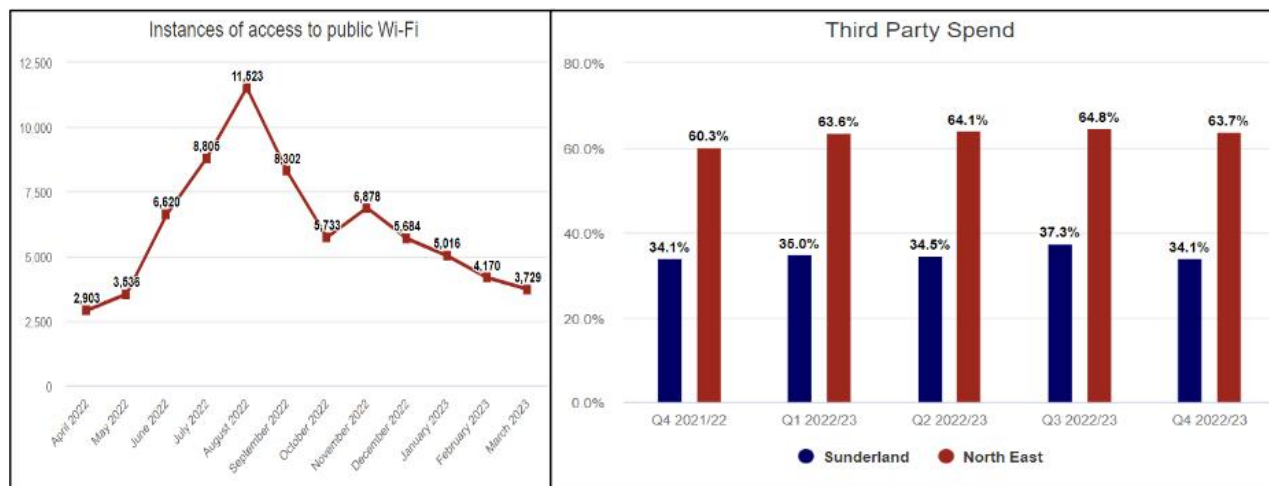


## CITY CONTEXT

CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
% of properties with ultrafast broadband March 2023: 74.6%	UK 74.9%	Improving (March 2022: 65.3%)
CO2 emissions estimates for Sunderland (per capita) 2020: 3.7 tonnes	NE 4.7, England 4.3	Improving (2016: 4.7 tonnes)
Employment rate Jan - Dec 2022: 71%	NE 70.5%, GB 75.6%	Improving (Jan – Dec 2021 68.9%)
Proportion of workers earning below Living Wage Foundation rates 2020/21: 17.4% (provisional).	NE 19.6%, GB 17.2%	Improving (2016/17: 21.5%)
Median wage workers 2022: £540.90	NE £575.20 GB £642	Improving (2018: £517.20)
% Population NVQ Level 4 qualification 2021: 24.7%	NE 34.4% GB 43.5%	Declining (2017: 27.3%)
GCSE - % achieving a grade 4-9 in Maths & English 2021/22: 62.3%	NE 65.8%, England 71.7%	N/A (previous years not comparable due to changes in assessment)
Level 3 (A level & equivalent) attainment by age of 19 in 2021/22: 49.7%	NE 53.9% England 60.7%	N/A (Exams & Teacher Assessed not comparable)
City Centre new homes Qtr. 4 2022/23: 0	N/A	No change (Qtr. 4 2021/22: 0)
People employed in the City Centre 2021: 14,141	N/A	Increasing (2017: 11,373)
Population of the City 2021 Census: 274,200	N/A	N/A (Census figure not comparable with 2020 mid-year estimate of 277,846)
Net Internal Migration 2020: -403	N/A	Declining (2016: -381)
New homes-built Qtr.4 2022/23: 204	N/A	Declining (Qtr.4 2021/22: 258)
Completed affordable homes Qtr.4 2022/23: 41	N/A	Declining (Qtr.4 2021/22: 54)

# COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2022/23 Timeline	Status
Deliver connected, automated logistics project	Completed
Complete development of Hillthorn Business Park (Phase 1)	Progressing for completion in 2023/24
The Yard Business Hub Opens	Completed
Continued Advanced Digital Infrastructure Deployment	Completed
Sunderland Station South Entrance Open	Progressing for completion in 2023/24



## **A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all**

Our ambition is to lead the way on digital transformation to make Sunderland a Smart City, and through our Smart Cities Strategy we will deliver a range of use cases for smart working and living - with high speed and resilient digital connectivity central to our plans. In 2022/23 there has been continued advances in our digital infrastructure and this will continue further into 2023/24. In Quarter 4 road temperature sensors were deployed to support winter gritting as one of the ways in which smart sensors are being used across the city. Progress has been made on the City Fibre ring build with full completion expected around September 2023. Following on from the successful automated logistics pilot, in Quarter 4, Sunderland was awarded funding to pilot a self-driving shuttle bus service.

At the end of Quarter 3, the proportion of Sunderland properties with ultrafast broadband has increased to 74.6% (from 65.3% at the end of Quarter 4 of 2021/22). Although instances of access to public Wi-Fi appear to have fallen in Quarter 4, this may be reflective of a potential seasonal trend – though it is not possible to conclude this whilst the scheme continues to develop and expand. A substantial increase in the figures will be seen in Quarter 1 of 2023/24 as Sunderland's smart city infrastructure sees a huge expansion with the number of access points tripling as the roll out continues (with the area in which the service is available expanding by an extra 1.5 square kms, with a denser coverage across the city). Work is progressing on Wi-Fi extension to Riverside Car Park and plans are in place for Wi-Fi expansion to other key development schemes as they progress.

Sunderland City Council, along with partners across the city, is committed to playing its part in tackling the global challenge of climate change and to become a carbon neutral city by 2040. Previously published figures showed that progress is being made, with the latest CO2 emissions estimate for Sunderland per capita (tonnes per resident) at 3.7 for 2020 – reduced from 4.2 in 2019, and over the longer term from 4.7 in 2016. The Sunderland figure is also lower than both the North East and England (at 4.7 and 4.3 tonnes per resident).

The Council is committed to becoming net zero as an organisation by 2030, across all greenhouse gases, in addition to becoming carbon neutral. Latest (previously reported) data on tonnes of CO2 emissions from LA operations for 2021/22 at 7,405 tonnes, was up slightly from 7,094 in 2020/21 (during which reductions were likely accelerated due to Covid restrictions). Over the longer term, the figure has been significantly reduced, from 22,000 tonnes (recorded in 2017/18). 2022/23 figures are expected to be published in the Low Carbon Annual Report around September.

The Council's Low Carbon Action Plan (first published in January 2021) was updated and published in July 2022. The updated Action Plan identifies a series of over-arching objectives under each of the strategic priorities of: Our Behaviour, Policies and Practices, Built Environment, Renewable Energy Generation and Storage, Low Carbon and Active Transport & Reducing Consumption & Waste. The identified actions are wide ranging and align with the City Plan priorities across Dynamic, Healthy & Vibrant City.

Sunderland Council's drive towards becoming carbon neutral moved up a gear with the completion of the re-built Washington Parson's Depot. The depot and its workshops (a hub for the council's 450 vehicle fleet) has been updated through the re-build, with new low carbon features. These include 25 fast charging and five rapid charging points for electric vehicles (that can be charged up with energy from roof mounted solar panels) - serving the increasing proportion of council vehicles that are now electric. Through our rapid charging station, we continue to support the wider use of electric vehicles in the city. There were 2,211 transactions at electric vehicle rapid charging units in Quarter 4 taking the total to 8,883 – 3,647 more than in 2021/22 (at 5,236).

Phase 1 of the local authority energy efficiency Digital Catapult pilot project has been completed (2 sites). A further 12 sites are to be installed with the technology as part of Phase 2 with the

Smart City Joint Venture partnership, connected to the city-wide Lorawan network in order to monitor and reduce energy use/carbon emissions.

We are supporting increased business take-up of low carbon initiatives through the delivery of the Sunderland City Council (SSC) and Northeast (NE) Low Carbon projects. Through the Sunderland element, 7 SMEs have been supported in Quarter 4 (taking the total to 24 for the year 2022/23).

In Quarter 4 the Green Champions Network was launched following on from initial engagement in Quarter 3.

### **More and better jobs**

Our focus in the City Plan was on increasing the number of well-paid jobs in the city by promoting growth in key sectors including automotive and advanced manufacturing, financial and customer services, digital and software, as well as increasing professional services in the city centre, and port related activity.

As the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, and persisted into 2021, businesses and employment were impacted, and our focus in 2022/23 has been to ensure that the city and its residents emerge from the pandemic in a strong and competitive position. The employment rate for Sunderland, at 71% (125,300 aged 16+) for the year 2022, has risen compared 2021 (at 68.9%). The Sunderland figure continues to be above the North East rate (at 70.5%). The rate for Great Britain, for the same period is 75.6%.

We continue to work to encourage and enable target employment sector growth. This includes growth in the media and communications sector with a partnership to support the building of Crown Works Studios – high end TV and film studios that are expected to create around 8,450 jobs.

The Port continues to focus on increasing its economic activity, with a turnover of £1.622m and 187,271 tonnage processed in Quarter 4. The trading position of the Port is reported to the Port Board and incorporated within the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports to Cabinet. The Port generated a trading profit of £683,000 in 2022/23.

The Yard Business Hub building was handed over from the construction company to the developer in December 2022 and is now open. Phase 1 of Hillthorn Business Park is progressing, however, due to construction delays the first buildings are now expected to be completed by November 2023.

We continue to ensure that our Council activity supports the local economy where possible. In Quarter 4, 63.7% (£73.038m) of all Council third party spend was within the regional economy, and £979,708 of social value was secured through our procurement projects.

### **More local people with better qualifications and skills**

Through the City Plan, the aim is to ensure that residents' skills and qualifications enable them to secure good jobs that match the needs of employers in key sectors thereby reducing the gap in the median wage between Sunderland residents and Sunderland workers.

Previously released provisional data for the median weekly wage showed that the gap between Sunderland residents and Sunderland workers reduced from £29.30 in April 2021 to £4.30 in April 2022. Figures for both (residents and workers) however, remain above the North East and Great Britain with the median weekly wage for residents at £537 (NE £580, GB £642) and for workers at £541 (NE £575, GB £642).

Previously published data showed an increase to 17.4% (in the tax year ending April 2021) in workers living below the Living Wage Foundation rate, when compared with the tax year ending 2020 (at 16.1%). Overall, however, the figure represented an improvement in the long term, with the figure for the tax year ending April 2017 at 21.5%. Local data shows there are 23 accredited real Living Wage employers with headquarters in Sunderland (as well as further employers with a branch in Sunderland) and 8,876 employees employed by Living Wage employers with a HQ in Sunderland. At the end 2023, the operational delivery team is in place to drive accreditation and we have achieved our intention to recruit and secure as anchor organisations 5 large employers and 20 community and voluntary sector organisations.

As the city and its residents emerge from the pandemic, we will seek to ensure residents have the skills to be in a strong and competitive position to access employment. We will continue to focus on tackling the barriers for those least able to access employment through initiatives such as Community Local Led Development (CLLD). 2,060 people had benefitted from CLLD as at the end of March 2023.

Previously published data showed that 24.7% of the Sunderland population had a Level 4 qualification in 2021 (compared with the North East at 34.4% and Great Britain at 43.5%). These statistics are sourced through the Annual Population Survey to produce an estimate. For the year of 2022, the sample size has been deemed too small to produce a reliable estimate for Sunderland and therefore figures are not available. Validated GCSE results (published February 2023) for the academic year 2021/22 show that in Sunderland 62.3% of students achieved a grade 4-9 in Maths & English, lower than the North East at 65.8% and England at 71.7%. Validated results for summer 2022 showed Level 3 (A-level and equivalent) attainment by the age of 19 at 49.7%, lower than the North East at 53.9% and England at 60.7%. GCSE and Level-3 results for summer 2022 are not directly comparable with previous results due to changes in the way GCSE examinations were awarded due to Covid.

### **A stronger city centre with more business, housing, and cultural opportunities**

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic our aspiration is that Sunderland city centre will drive transformational economic growth with Riverside Sunderland clearly demonstrating our investment ambition. In the long term there will be more people living and working in the City Centre.

Through Riverside Sunderland we aim to create a vibrant new city centre residential community of 1,000 sustainable new homes, promoting more city centre living (previously published figures showed the City Centre residential population at 3,089 mid 2020). Alongside the delivery of new homes, Expo Sunderland will provide events and experiences to engage visitors in new and sustainable ways of living.

Riverside Sunderland will also comprise of 1 million square feet of modern offices, commercial premises, and other employment space, creating new sites for businesses to grow and with the aim of workspace for 8,000 – 10,000 quality jobs. Progress has been made on the new Eye Hospital development on Riverside with the tender evaluation undertaken as at the end of Quarter 4. Previously published figures for 2021 show 14,141 people employed in the city centre, an increase on the figure of 13,348 in 2020. At the end of Quarter 4, 962.5 new city centre office jobs have been created since April 2019.

We continue to progress our plans for a range of physical developments in the city centre - such as Sunderland Station. Construction of the South Entrance of the new station commenced in May 2022 and contractor works are expected to complete in summer 2023.

### **More and better housing**

Through our City Plan we seek to ensure that Sunderland offers the opportunities that families and individuals need to achieve their ambitions – with a housing offer that reflects the homes

that people aspire to live in. This includes larger family homes as well as more affordable homes. This will be achieved through the delivery of key housing sites.

Figures previously published for out-migration showed a slowing from a net of -511 in 2019 to -403 in 2020 (latest available data). Whilst the figure is higher than the five-year long-term trend figure of -381 for 2016, the 2016 figure was the lowest figure reached before figures declined substantially in 2017 (to -748) and then began reducing year on year.

In Quarter 4, there were 259 additional homes in the city (including new and conversions) - of which 144 are in council tax bands C-G. There were 204 homes that were newly built in Quarter 4 taking the total for the year to 1,037. Although the figure for Quarter 4 of 2022/23 is lower than Quarter 4 of 2021/22 (at 258), the figure for the full year of 2022/23 is higher than the figure for the year of 2021/22 (at 912). In Quarter 4 progress was made on the South Sunderland Growth Area with the Ryhope to Doxford link road completed.

There have been 41 completed affordable homes in Quarter 4, taking the total for 2022/23 to 178. Although the figure for Quarter 4 of 2022/23 is lower than for Quarter 4 2021/22 (at 54) the total for the year in 2022/23 is more than the total for 2021/22 (at 150). It should be noted that some previous figures have been adjusted with further information on affordable homes becoming known at the end of the year (resulting in an increased number). There were 47 social houses delivered in 2022/23.

Alongside more homes, we are also committed to ensuring that the housing we have is of quality. 8 empty properties were brought back into use in Quarter 4, taking the total for 2022/23 to 67. 207 privately rented properties were inspected for hazards in Quarter 4, taking the total for 2022/23 to 866.



# HEALTHY SMART CITY

Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives – access to equitable opportunities and life chances – people enjoying independent lives – a city with great transport links – cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods.



## CITY CONTEXT

### CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE) COMPARATIVE DATA

#### Healthy Life Expectancy at birth

2018-2020 as at 2021/22:

Female: 56.9 yrs.

Male: 56.1 yrs.

England 63.9 yrs. NE 59.7 yrs.

England 63.1 yrs. NE 59.1 yrs.

### SUNDERLAND TREND

Declining (2014-2016: 59.3 yrs.)

Declining (2014-2016: 58.8 yrs.)

#### Admission episodes alcohol-related 2021/22: 2,668

(Broad, Persons, per 100,000 pop)

England 1,734, NE 2,323

N/A

(Not comparable due to change in methodology)

#### Smoking prevalence 2021: 15.2%

England 13%, NE 14.8%

Improving

(2017: 22.7%)

#### The proportion of adults living with overweight or obesity 2020/21: 69.1%

England 63.5%, NE 67.7%

Declining

(2016/17: 67.7%)

#### Prevalence of overweight (incl. obese) among children in Year 6 2021/22: 45%

2021/22

England 37.8%, NE 40.9%

Declining

(2017/18: 40.9%)

#### % Of people that are fairly active / active (Active Lives – Public Health) 2021/22: 75.5%

England 77.7%, NE 75%

Improved

(2017/18: 72%)

#### Women who smoke at time of delivery Qtr. 3 2022/23: 14.3%

England 8.6% NE 11.8%

Improving

(Qtr. 3 2021/22: 15%)

#### EYFSP Good level of development 2021/22: 63.7%

England 65.2%, NE 64.1%

Declining

(2017/18: 71.2%)

#### Teenage pregnancy (under 18 conception rate) rolling year: Qtr. 3 2021/22: 26.4

England 13.1, NE 19.8

Declining

(Qtr. 3 2020/21: 21.7)

#### Proportion of people (18+) living independently (without social care services) Qtr. 4 2022/23: 98.2%

N/A

Stable

(Qtr.3 2021/22 98.2%)

#### Litter - % of relevant land & highways with deposits that fall below an acceptable level Qtr. 4. 2022/23: 18.2%

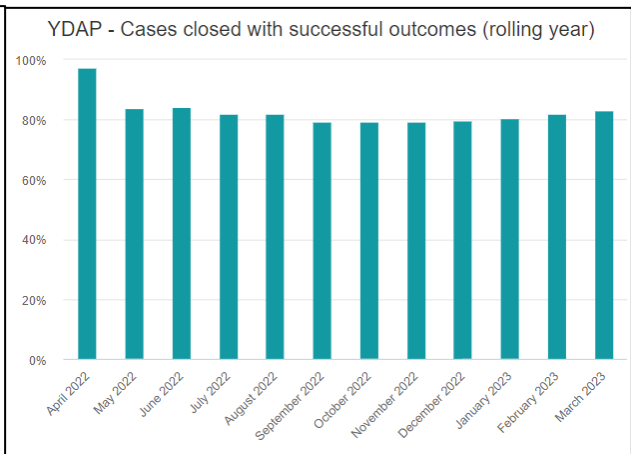
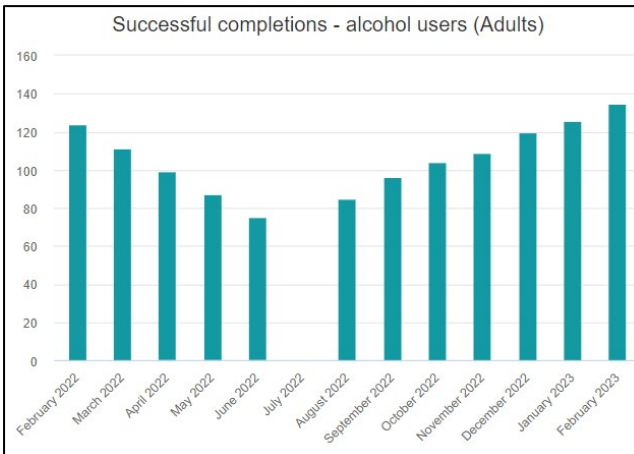
N/A

Declining

(Qtr.4 2021/22: 16.4%)

# COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2022/23 Timeline	Status
Better walking and cycling routes linking communities to riverside and sea front and green spaces	Progressing
Reduction in smoking in the city	Completed
More people physically active	Completed
Improvement in household recycling rates	Completed
More people enjoying independent lives	Completed
Digital Catapult affordable warmth testbed delivered	Completed



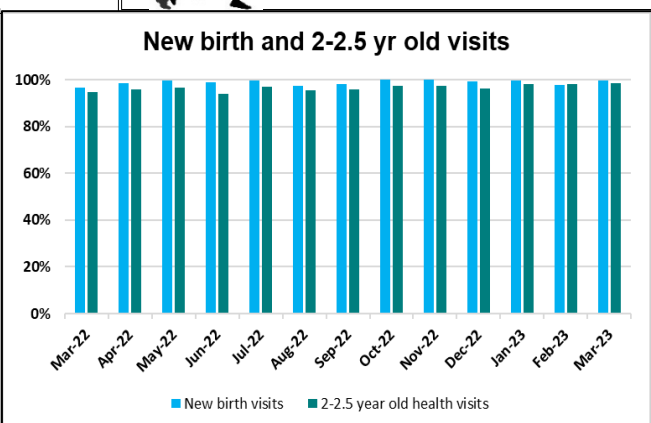
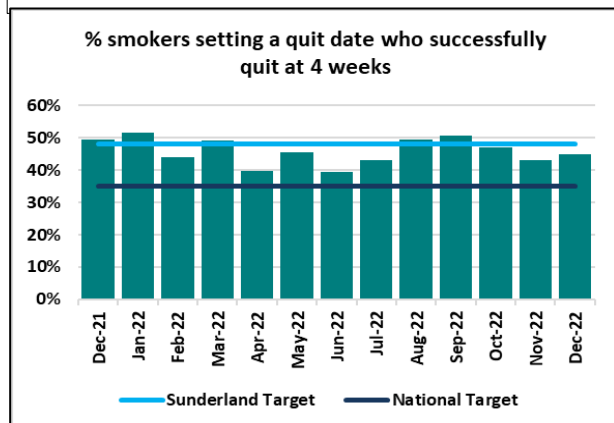
**3,379** homes with assisted technology supporting independent living as at the end of March 2023.



**8,425**

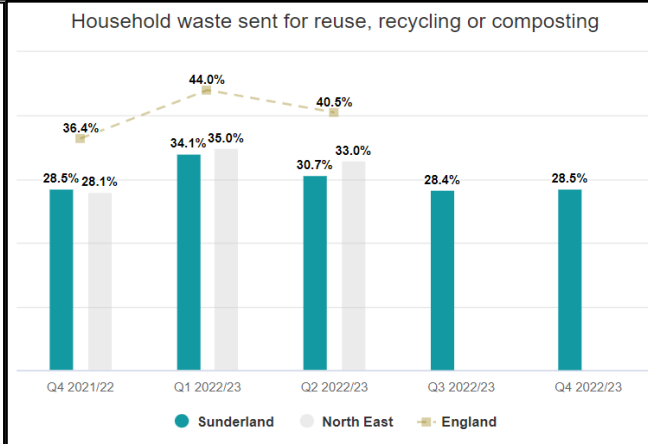


Individuals took part in Active Sunderland BIG events in 2022/23.



**2,146**

place enforcement activities completed in Quarter 4



Initial provisional figures may be adjusted in subsequent quarters.

**New adopted roads, footpaths, and improved cycleways**

**3,208m** Roads

**5,929m** Footpaths

**3,860m** Cycleways

2022/23





## Reduce health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives

Our City Plan recognises the need to ensure that health and wellbeing outcomes are significantly improved, with previously published healthy life expectancy at birth in Sunderland (at 56.1 years for males and 56.9 for females 2018-2020), lower than the North East and England and declining. The Healthy City Plan is our Health & Wellbeing Board's joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy through which we will address health inequalities. Health integration is being progressed through a road map for the establishment of integrated place-based arrangements. The partnership and place level collaborative agreements are in place and joint committee arrangements have been formally established with VCSE, patient and public involvement.

Hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (broad) were at 2,668 (episodes per 100,000) for Sunderland for 2021/22 (North East average 2,323, England 1,734) – an increase on the previous year figure (longer term trend comparison not applicable due to changes in how the statistics have been compiled). The rate for the three-year period 2018/19-2020/21 for under 18s alcohol admissions per 100,000 was 76 for Sunderland - an improvement on the previous rate of 82.4, (North-East rate 52, England rate of 55.4). Latest available figures for successful intervention completions for Adults Services for alcohol, and for the Youth Drug and Alcohol programme (all substances) are shown in the charts (data not collected in July each year for adults, a new performance framework comes into effect for Adults Services from April 2023).

A new Drug and Alcohol Strategy has been developed and is now in place. In 2022/23 we set out to integrate Changing Futures into the Drug and Alcohol Strategy and this has now been completed. The Changing Futures programme aims to change the way we support people with complex needs (including substance misuse) who often come into repeat contact with a range of agencies and struggle to break their cycle of disadvantage. By working together to change systems and change services the programme aims to change the futures of the most disadvantaged adults in our communities. Additionally, in 2022/23 a range of intervention projects /programmes have been delivered through the Year 1 Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant. In Quarter 4, the annual national Dry January campaign, which encourages people to take a break from alcohol for the month of January, was once again supported in Sunderland. Communications promoting the campaign were shared with colleagues through various internal channels and with residents through social media, resident newsletters and key partner networks. The social media campaign achieved 9.1k views.

The previously published figure for smoking prevalence confirmed a reduction in smoking from 22.7% in 2017 to 15.2% in 2021 (there have been some adjustments to figures due to changes in counting rules in the period). In the same period the gap between Sunderland and England has reduced from 7.8 to 2.2 percentage points and the gap with the North-East reduced from 6.5 to 0.4 percentage points.

In Quarter 3 of 2022/23 (latest available data) 45% of smokers setting a quit date successfully quit at 4 weeks (111 successful quitters of 247 quit attempts). This combines Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS) and Universal NHS Stop Smoking Services data. Quit rates for the SSSS were higher than the Universal services. A new provider commenced managing the SSSS from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, the service will provide high-quality, evidence-based specialist support to smokers to quit and acts as a single point of contact for all stop smoking services in Sunderland. The refreshed service specification includes an enhanced role for the SSSS to mentor the Universal NHS Stop Smoking Service providers and support with quality assurance and increasing their capacity, leading to better outcomes for their clients. From April 2023 there will be a renewed focus on targeting high prevalence priority groups and a lead practitioner approach will be introduced to strengthen leadership across the system and support key partners within the NHS, Children's Services and beyond. Sunderland and South Tyneside Foundation Trust are working closely with partners on their roll out of Treating Tobacco Dependency Services for inpatients and pregnant women as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Previously published figures for the proportion of adults who are overweight, or living with obesity, showed a reduction from 73.5% in 2019/20 to 69.1% in 2020/21 (though figures remained above the Northeast and England).

Covid 19 impacted on the delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme at a local level, for the academic year 2020/21 (thus local figures not available). Nationally, in 2020/21 there was a sizeable increase, however, the latest figures show a reduction nationally with a move back towards pre-covid rates. Figures for the most recent period (academic year 2021/22) include local level data. In Sunderland 45% of children in Year 6 were overweight (including obese) - a deterioration from the 36.9% recorded in 2019/20 and the 2016/17 long-term trend figure of 40.9%. Sunderland's prevalence is higher than both the England and North East averages. Prevalence in 2021/22 in the North East was 40.9% and in England 37.8%, with both increased in comparison to the 2016/17 long-term trend figure.

A range of programmes, projects, services are being delivered by the city council and partners, as part of a long term, 'systems wide approach' to healthy weight. In 2021 Sunderland secured funding to deliver a Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Service – commencing August 2021 and funded to December 2022. The programme was evaluated, and public health funding has been agreed to continue for a further 2 years, targeted at 3 geographical areas each year, where need is greatest (people will be able to access from across the city). Figures for the re-commenced programme will be available from Quarter 2 of 2023/24. Alongside this there has been the ongoing delivery of the Change for Life Programme. In Quarter 4, the Change for Life Programme delivered 114 school sessions with 4,508 school children benefitting. There were 14 Change for Life programmes delivered with a 95% successful completion rate. The Omega Healthy Eating and Growing programme recommenced in the Spring and engagement figures for this year's programme will be available later in the year.

Data for 2021/22 now published by Public Health England, shows that 75.5% of people in Sunderland were active or fairly active – an increase of 1.5 percentage points on the previous 2020/21 figure of 74% and an increase of 3.5 percentage points on the long-term trend comparison period of 2017/18. Sunderland is now better than the North East figure of 75% (England 77.7%). The figures show that we have achieved our aspiration for more of our resident population to be more active and we continue to have a range of projects and programmes in place, including national and international events, and targeted community schemes to keep people more active going forward. Active Sunderland delivers a number of sport festivals, events and a weekly walking programme to inspire people to become more active. There were 555,100 Leisure Centre attendances in Quarter 4, and 370 participants in Active Sunderland Big Events (taking the total to 8,425 for 2022/23). In Quarter 4 there were 156,952 visitors through the turnstiles of Football Hubs. New additional activity programmes are starting in 2023/24 and will be reported from Quarter 1.

Previously published validated data for the three-year period of 2019-2021, showed the suicide rate for Sunderland reduced to 14.2 per 100,000 (age 10+) from 14.4 (for 2018-2020), though it remained above the England rate of 10.4 and Northeast rate of 13. The suicide prevention action plan is currently being refreshed, to ensure priorities continue to be evidence based and address local priorities. The Public Health Practitioner post for Public Mental Health has been appointed to, commencing in May 2023. The Public Mental Health Concordat for Sunderland was endorsed and signed off by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in January 2023 - this framework and action plan will support work to improve mental health wellbeing, which will contribute to the suicide prevention agenda. A new programme of suicide prevention training (A Life Worth Living) has been commissioned, with the contract awarded for 4 years from 1st December 2022. This training is available to people who live and work in Sunderland and is provided by Washington Mind. Signage on bridges has been updated and additionally further Samaritans signage has been erected at key points on both sides of Wearmouth Bridge, promoting the helpline number and the message 'Talk to us, we'll listen'.

We continue to support the Better Health at Work Award. The programme is targeted at reducing health inequalities within our working population in Sunderland, in line with key

priorities within the Healthy City Plan. Currently, 47 workplaces in the city are actively participating in the award.

### Access to equitable opportunities and life chances

We are taking a life course approach to health and wellbeing starting with the early life stages of preconception to early years and adolescence under this commitment. In Quarter 3 (latest available data) the proportion of women smoking at time of delivery was 14.3% (89 smokers of 621 maternities). This is higher than the North-East at 11.8% and England at 8.6%, though lower than the same period in the previous year (at 15%). Reducing the rates of tobacco dependency in pregnant women is a high priority for the Sunderland Smokefree Partnership and within the Best Start in Life work stream, and partners are working closely together to embed the Treating Tobacco Dependency pathway as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The Public Health 0-19 service are following the regional pathway and a pilot is being undertaken to roll out CO monitoring at all mandated visits.

The proportion of infants being breastfed, at 25.5% for Quarter 4 of 2021/22 (latest available previously reported data) remains below the England position of 48.9% (Northeast figures unavailable). Latest local (unvalidated) data from the health visiting service shows that breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks was 30%, with a prevalence of 33.3% for 22/23. The provider has been undertaking work to ensure any data quality issues are addressed. The indication is that the rates being reported in Sunderland should soon start to show an improvement. In 2022/23 the 0-19 Public Health Service have been working towards UNICEF UK Baby Friendly level 3 status and were assessed in April 2023 with good feedback received overall.

99.5% of new birth visits and 98.3% of 2.5-year-old checks have been carried out in timescale. Validated national statistics shows performance was better than for England and the North-East.

Previously published 2021/22 results for the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) Good Level of Development showed that in Sunderland 63.7% of children achieved a good level of development – lower than the North East (at 64.1%) and England (at 65.2%). In Sunderland and across the North East and England fewer children achieved a Good Level of Development in comparison to the pre pandemic figures. The 2019/2020 and 2020/21 academic years publications were cancelled due to Covid-19.

The rate of under 18 conceptions (teenage pregnancy rate based on conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 -17) for Sunderland was 26.4 in Quarter 3 of 2021/22 (latest available data) – up on the same period in the previous year (at 21.7). This is above the England and North-East rates (of 13.1 and 19.8 - for Quarter 3 of 2022/2023). The rise was anticipated from local intelligence following reductions during Covid. The programme in place to support this area of work includes: ongoing offer of the C-Card for young people (from age 13), sexual health advice and support (including pregnancy testing, access to condoms and emergency contraception via the school nursing service), targeted sessions delivered in schools, provision of access to free emergency contraception through pharmacies in Sunderland and via the specialist sexual health service, provision of access to free long acting contraception with further work ongoing to widen choice for point of access, a young person's contraceptive nurse (specialist sexual health service), providing in clinic and outreach services (including emergency access) and an Options Advisor. Outreach and education for young people aged 11-18 is being provided in Sunderland (delivered by Brook), with a focus on promoting healthy relationships and an understanding of acceptable behaviours and attitudes in relation to relationships and sexual health, alongside pregnancy choices. Upon introduction of statutory relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) in schools, a dedicated 2-year resource was implemented to support quality assurance of delivery.

## People enjoying independent lives

98% of people aged 18+ in the city live independently (without social care services, based on mid-year population estimates) and we remain committed to ensuring people in the city can enjoy independent lives. However, the implementation of Social Care Reform, planned for October 2023, may impact on these figures. With the roll out of the assistive technology in the home offer, 3,379 homes had the technology by the end of March 2023.

76% of people who use services have control over their daily lives based on latest figures for 2021/22 (North East 79.2%, England 76.9%).

We recognised the significant role in Carers in enabling people to live independently. Following on from the previous Carers bi-annual survey, Let's Talk Carers engagement was initiated. The consultation enabled us to receive feedback from Carers to inform the design of the Carers Strategy with actions being taken to improve and co-produce services based on input from those with lived experience. In Quarter 4 the Carers Strategy was finalised.

Latest available published data on the rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ (per 100,000), showed a decrease from 3,164 in 2020/21, to 2,710 for 2021/22 for Sunderland though figures remain above the North East (at 2,531) and England (at 2,023). Although the Sunderland figure decreased over the last year, the North East and England figures increased in the same period.

## Great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all

Our emphasis within this City Plan commitment is about ensuring that people can move around the city with ease through improved transport routes - enabling access to key employment sites. Alongside vehicle transport routes, great travel links is also about having the necessary infrastructure to enable active travel. In 2022/23, there were 1,174m of adopted roads, 1,526m of adopted footpaths and 1,910m of new or improved cycleways (taking totals for 2022/23 to 3,208m adopted roads, 5,929m adopted footpaths and 3,860m improved cycleways).

Progress has been made on a new smart pedestrian bridge crossing the River Wear. In Quarter 4 the construction contract was awarded, and the construction phase has now commenced on site with enabling works and mobilisation of the site compound on the north bank.

We are encouraging take-up of active, sustainable travel options through a range of schemes. In Quarter 4, there were 118 new sign-ups to the Sunderland Step-up App encouraging walking.

2,198 children have taken part in cycle training and 4,982 school children have taken part in pedestrian training in 2022/23. In March 2023, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel took place which aims to inspire pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

## Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods

Our focus here is on promoting environmental responsibility amongst residents to achieve a cleaner and more attractive city.

The City Plan Timeline activity of an improvement in household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting was confirmed as completed in Quarter 2, as performance reached 34% (above the target set of 32%). In Quarter 4, the proportion (provisional figure) has fallen to 26% (7,437 tons recycled, reused or composted of 26,075.8 tons of total household waste) however, this is consistent with performance in the same period in the previous year and follows a seasonal trend in which there are lower levels of recycling / composting over the winter months reflecting lower levels of garden waste. Work has been ongoing to improve the recycling rates across the

city through a programme of education and enforcement. Comparator figures are shown in the chart.

At the end of Quarter 3, the percentage of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level was 18.2%, higher than the Quarter 3 figure of 7.5% and higher than the same period in the previous year (at 16.4%).

Within quarter 4 there is a seasonal trend around higher levels of litter at that time of year, due to factors including; vegetation dying back to its furthest point exposing previously hidden and trapped litter, some highspeed roads will not have been accessed due to the fact grass cutting won't have taken place since Quarter 2 thus we are unable to litter pick, the seasonal task of leaf fall removal is at its most prevalent, winter maintenance activities during the period can impact upon sweeping and litter picking frequencies and staff sickness during quarter 4 is generally higher than any other period.

However, steps have been taken to address the season trend, which include: an extensive review of the large mechanical brush programme has been undertaken and new routes implemented, ensuring the most effective use of the resource whilst covering more of the City's network. In addition, a recent recruitment process has seen a further dedicated brush driver introduced meaning our brushes are now operating more consistently day and night, 7 days per week. A training plan has also been developed to upskill the winter maintenance technicians to allow them to undertake a wider variety of tasks whilst on duty including both large mechanical brush and precinct sweeper duties when weather conditions permit. It is envisaged that these service developments will progressively improve standards realising greater capacity to deal with the additional pressures quarter 4 can present.

In terms of the purpose of this monitoring, this is a national standard which means we are proactive in assessing the environmental standards of the City and look to deal with any issues arising. Our response to areas identified is to look at frequencies of cleansing but also whether a mechanical brush is needed instead of a manual litter pick. In addition to this local services and enforcement colleagues work closely together to ensure hotspots are on the radar for enforcement patrols. The figures provided represent a snapshot in time of one operative's visit to an area and their assessment/record means that the location is not left in that condition should it be found to be below the acceptable level. Further, the snapshot doesn't indicate that the location has been in an unacceptable condition for a considerable period of time and all efforts are made to improve the condition of locations moving forward. There is a city wide response team that can be deployed to target significant issues.

Work is also underway to relaunch the littering campaign in the coming months.

The % of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having levels of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level was 0.7% and graffiti was 4.2%.

We are issuing sanctions where appropriate following enforcement investigations. In Quarter 4, 2,146 enforcement activities had been carried out (taking the total for the year to 8,416). The enforcement activities in Quarter 4 were: 299 investigations, 1140 warning letters, 8 Community Protection Warnings, 4 Section 47 notices (businesses) and 192 Section 46 notices (residents). Both section 46 and 47 notices relate to the storage, disposal and presentation of waste under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Sunderland is one of six local authorities in the North East joining forces with environment organisations to plant trees across the region as part of the North East Community Forest – improving the natural environment and creating healthier and happier places. The North East Forest initiative aims to plant up to 500 hectares of trees by 2025, with a long-term goal to increase canopy cover across the north east to 30% by 2050 – almost double the current national average. Contributing to this, we set out to deliver 13 hectares of new tree planting in Sunderland in the 2022-23 planting season. At the end of the year this has been exceeded with 21.9 hectares planted. A Tree management strategy is in place with the award of a 3-year contract ensuring arrangements for inspection regimes, timely identification of hazards, response to complaints and other tree monitoring and management requirements.



# VIBRANT SMART CITY

More resilient people – more people feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods – more residents participating in their communities – more people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities.

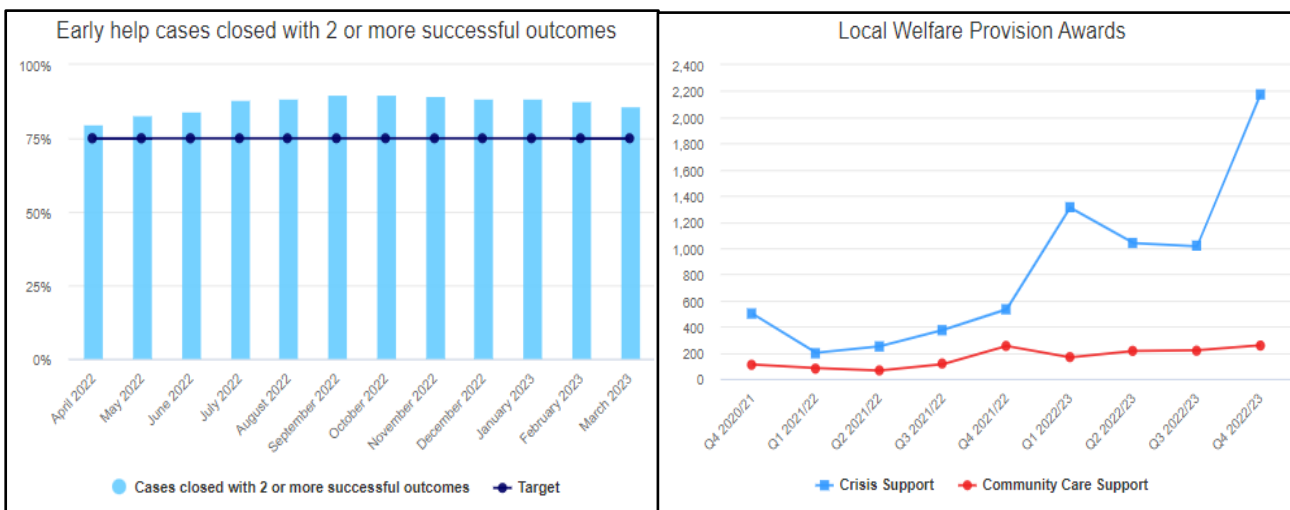



## CITY CONTEXT

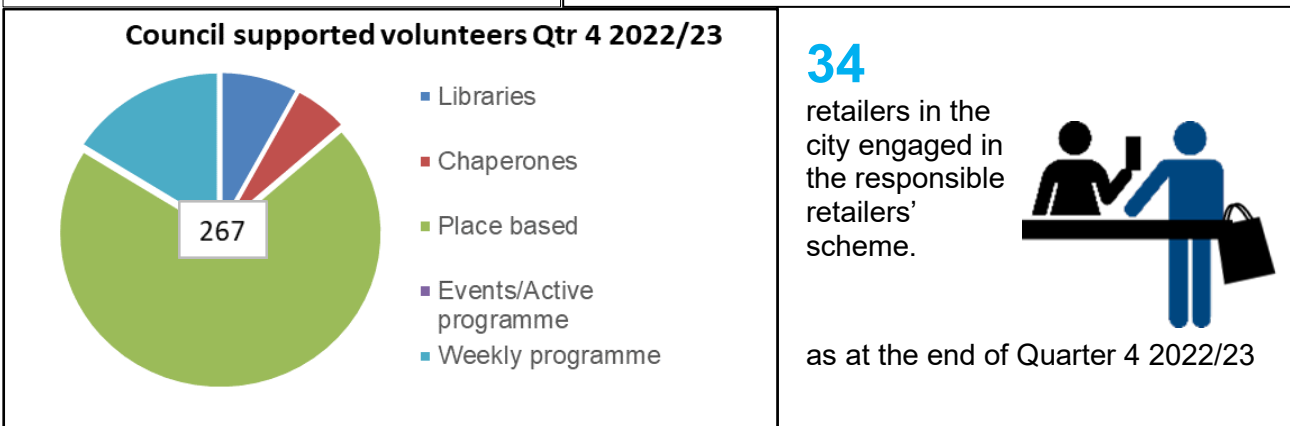
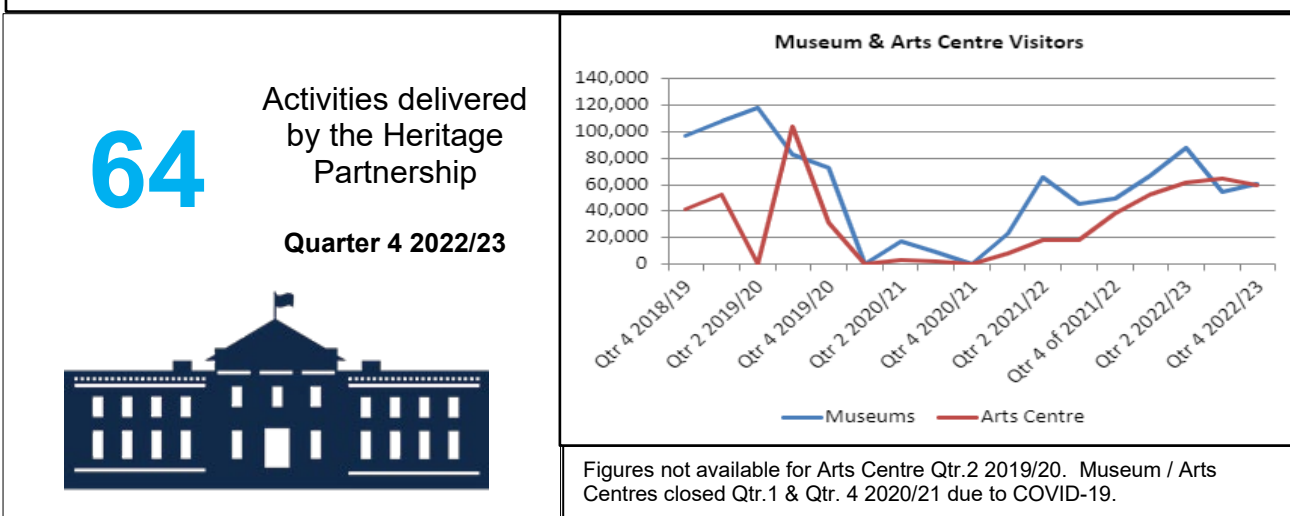
CURRENT DATA (LATEST AVAILABLE)	COMPARATIVE DATA	SUNDERLAND TREND
Rate of cared for children (per 10k) Mar 2023: 93.3	England 70 NE 110 SN 111.8	Improving (Mar 2022: 100.6)
Rate of CYP subject to a child protection plan (per 10k) Mar 2023: 55.2	England 42.1 NE 62.6 SN 59.4	Improving (Mar 2022: 60.2)
Rate of Children in Need (per 10k) Mar 2023: 370.4	England 334.3 NE 470.7 SN 452.9	Improving (Mar 2022: 388.1)
Residents supported by food banks Qtr.4 2022/23: 9,893	N/A	Declining (Qtr. 4 2021/22: 5,817)
Crime (recorded incidents) 2022/23: 29,198	N/A	Declining (2021/22: 27,982)
Residents' feelings of safety (local) 2022/23: 94%	Northumbria Force 95%	No change (2021/22: 94%)
The proportion of people who use services who feel safe 2021/22: 72.5%	England 69.2% NE 73.8% SN 71.1%	Declining (2017/18: 78.6%)
Number of visitors to the city 2021: 5,730,000	N/A	Declining (2017: 8,760,000)
Overall spend of visitors to the city 2021: £314m	N/A	Declining (2017: £429m)

# COUNCIL LED ACTION & PROGRESS

2021/22 Timeline	Status
Launch new domestic abuse services model	Completed
New national/international events including British Triathlon Super Series	Completed
World Class music events staged in the city	Completed




**59 Events** facilitated by the Council, on Council land / in council buildings in 2022/23



## More resilient people

We will support families to enable them to be resourceful to respond to challenges and achieve the best possible outcomes for their children. The rates of children in need, children subject to a Child Protection Plan, and Cared For children, have continued to reduce in Quarter 3 compared with the same period in the previous year.

At the end of Quarter 4, 85.8% of early help cases closed with successful outcomes (target 75%), 8.1% of Cared for Children have experienced 3+ placements within the last 12 months (target 10% or less) and 97.7% of Cared for Children had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan (target 90%).

Through support to families with children in need, and intervention in families with children subject to a child protection plan, we seek to increase resilience in families and monitor how often worries are raised about children that we have already tried to help. At the end of Quarter 4, 24% of referrals to TFC were re-referrals within 12 months (target 23%), an increase on the same period in the previous year (at 19.7%). 14.9% of children subject to a child protection plan had a repeat plan within 2 years (within target of 15%), an increase on the same period in the previous year (at 6.9%).

We know that our communities have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with hardship continuing for some in the face of challenges presented by the rise in the cost of living. The number of residents supported by food banks has risen continually over the last two years, reaching 9,893 in Quarter 4 – 4,076 more than in the same period in the previous year (at 5,817).

In Quarter 4 there were 2,157 Crisis Support Awards made taking the total to 5,537 for 2022/23 – 4,184 more than the 1,353 awards made in 2021/22. In recent periods, however, the figures for Crisis Support Awards have included awards made under the Council's Household Support Fund. This is for people struggling with energy and food costs and Household Support Fund awards are considered before Crisis Support Awards are made. In Quarter 4 there were 257 Community Care Support Awards made taking the total for 2022/23 to 855 (there were 514 Community Care Support Awards made in 2021/22).

In mid October 2022, a Cost-of-Living Hub went live, giving information on how to access a range of advice and support to cope with the cost of living including: government help available, help with energy costs, coping with debt and dealing with finances, warm spaces, food support services and more. To the end of March 2023 there were 13,813 page views in total (7,130 unique page views).

There were 67 Warm and Welcoming spaces open as at the end of March 2023, with 25,128 people accessing them during January – March 2023.

The 'Bread and Butter Thing' aims to mitigate food poverty through a community led food club that intercepts surplus food and redistributes at a low cost to households and individuals. Between January and March, the Public Health and Communications Teams worked with the team at 'The Bread and Butter Thing' to promote the opening of four affordable food hubs. Promotional posters and videos were produced and shared through various channels to raise awareness of the offer. Social media posts resulted in 2000 clicks, reaching 100.2k social media accounts with 311 shares and retweets.

## More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods

This commitment relates both to people feeling safe from crime and vulnerable adults who use our services feeling safe.



The percentage of residents who felt very or fairly safe was consistently above 95% between 2012/13 to mid-2020 when figures fell slightly to 95% (based on the Northumbria Police Survey). For the 12-month period to the end of March 2023 the figure is 94%, 1% below the Northumbria Force wide figure of 95%. Crime for April 2022 to March 2023 (at 29,198 recorded incidents) has increased when compared with the same period in the previous year (27,982 incidents).

A holistic Domestic Abuse Services model was successfully launched in April 2022. The service provides: safe accommodation with specialist onsite support, specialist outreach support for victims, survivors and children, early intervention, perpetrator intervention and support, a sanctuary scheme and a complex needs dispersed accommodation and support service. The service is now entering its second year, and a review of the contract is underway, ensuring the council can meet its statutory obligations outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Service performance measures have been established for reporting from the end of Quarter 1 of 2023/24.

We are committed to disrupting criminal and anti-social behaviour through intervention and enforcement with 23 intelligence led pro-active disruption activities carried out in relation to licensing in Quarter 4 (taking the total for 2022/23 to 80).

We hope to engage 100% of retailers in the city in our Responsible Retailers Scheme - with a further 7 retailers signing up in Quarter 4, there were 34 retailers signed up at the end of 2022/23. In 2023/24 the co-ordination of efforts through Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing will enable increased exposure of the scheme. Trading Standards will carry out visits following receipt of a complaint about an under-age sale or illicit tobacco / alcohol and will engage the business, in addition to project work where visits to a specific (unlicensed) sector selling age-restricted products will be targeted. Licensing and Environmental Health will visit businesses and engage when a new application for a license is received (or following receipt of a variation to an existing licence). The focus will be on small to medium sized independent retailers as intelligence suggests this is where there are the problem traders with regards to under-age sales.

### More residents participating in their communities

This commitment is about residents, including children and young people, being able to engage with and participate in their communities and feeling proud of where they live. In Quarter 4, there were 267 active volunteers across a range of volunteering activities including Libraries, Volunteer Chaperones, Events & Active Sunderland and other weekly programme activities (based on recorded volunteer participants). The greatest proportion in Quarter 3 was volunteers engaged in place-based volunteering (at 188).

Chatty Benches have been rolled out across the city working in partnership with our voluntary and community sector, as well as with Sunderland BID. The purpose of the bench is to encourage residents to take a seat if they'd like to talk or engage – benches are located outside of community buildings and within local parks to ensure volunteers are able to attend the bench, if a resident engages.

'Crowdfund Sunderland' enables people to financially support local projects and causes through an online platform. At the end of 2022/23 there have been 15 projects supported through Crowdfund Sunderland' raising £366,335.

We continue to engage people through Sunderland UK social media channels. Our audience continues to grow with 29,588 Facebook and 42,054 Twitter followers as at the end of 2022/23. Through our external communications we can increase awareness of the activities and opportunities in Sunderland that enable individuals to engage in their communities. Throughout 2022/23 we have been sharing and celebrating the stories of the people and places that make Sunderland through the #WeAllMakeSunderland Civic Pride communication campaign. An evaluation of the campaign found that recall of the campaign stories was high (at 49%) and 62% of those who saw the campaign acted as a result. This included visiting the website for more

information, sharing the campaign stories on social media and speaking to others. The evaluation found that those who saw the campaign were prouder to live in Sunderland (at 69%) and more likely to recommend Sunderland as a place to live (at 73%).

### More people visiting Sunderland and more residents participating in cultural events, programmes, and activities

Prior to 2020, the number of visitors to the city (and associated spend) showed a continued upward trend (visitor numbers increased from 8.24m in 2016 to 9.49m in 2019 and spend from £399m to £500m in the same period). As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in early 2020 however, cultural venues and events were particularly impacted due to the greater challenges of ensuring social distancing and safe delivery. In 2020, visitor numbers reduced to 4.38m and visitor spend to £219m. With Covid continuing to impact across 2021 (latest available data), figures remained low but improved, at 5.73m visitors and £314m visitor spend.

Following on from the two-year post-covid Tourism Recovery Plan, a now 10-year Tourism Strategy is in development. The first strategy stakeholder session has taken place to develop the shared vision and the strategy will be steered by further stakeholder events. Alongside this, a three-year project (*the Global Destination Sustainability Index*) will support the strategy through developing insights on *sustainable* development. In Quarter 4, Tourism Week (17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March), provided an opportunity to promote Sunderland as a destination for residents and visitors, highlighting our venues and visitor attractions such as Hylton Castle and Washington Old Hall, as well as the opportunities to get out and about on our seafront and via cycle routes and through other activities. 40 tourism related social media posts were shared during the week. In 2022/23 a refreshed programme of events was developed including new national / world series events and events to attract a new audience. World class music events were also staged in the city.

Sunderland Empire Theatre re-opened its doors on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, following Covid-19 restrictions with 212,237 visitors in 2021/2022. In Quarter 4 there were 81,322 visitors taking the total for the year to 320,649 with figures exceeding the two years prior to Covid (with visitor numbers at 266,440 in 2019/2020 and 304,314 in 2018/19).

The Museum and Winter Gardens and Washington Arts Centre re-opened mid-way through Quarter 1 of 2021/22 and received 184,979 in the year 2021/22. In 2022/23 there were 270,954 visits (60,962 of which were in Quarter 4). Funding was secured through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the development of a Delivery Bid for the redevelopment of the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. Following permission to start in March 2023, the development phase (anticipated to cover the period April 2023 to May 2024) has commenced, with appointment of a Project Manager and a Collections Care Development Manager. Procurement of an Architect led team along with an Activity and Business Planner is underway.

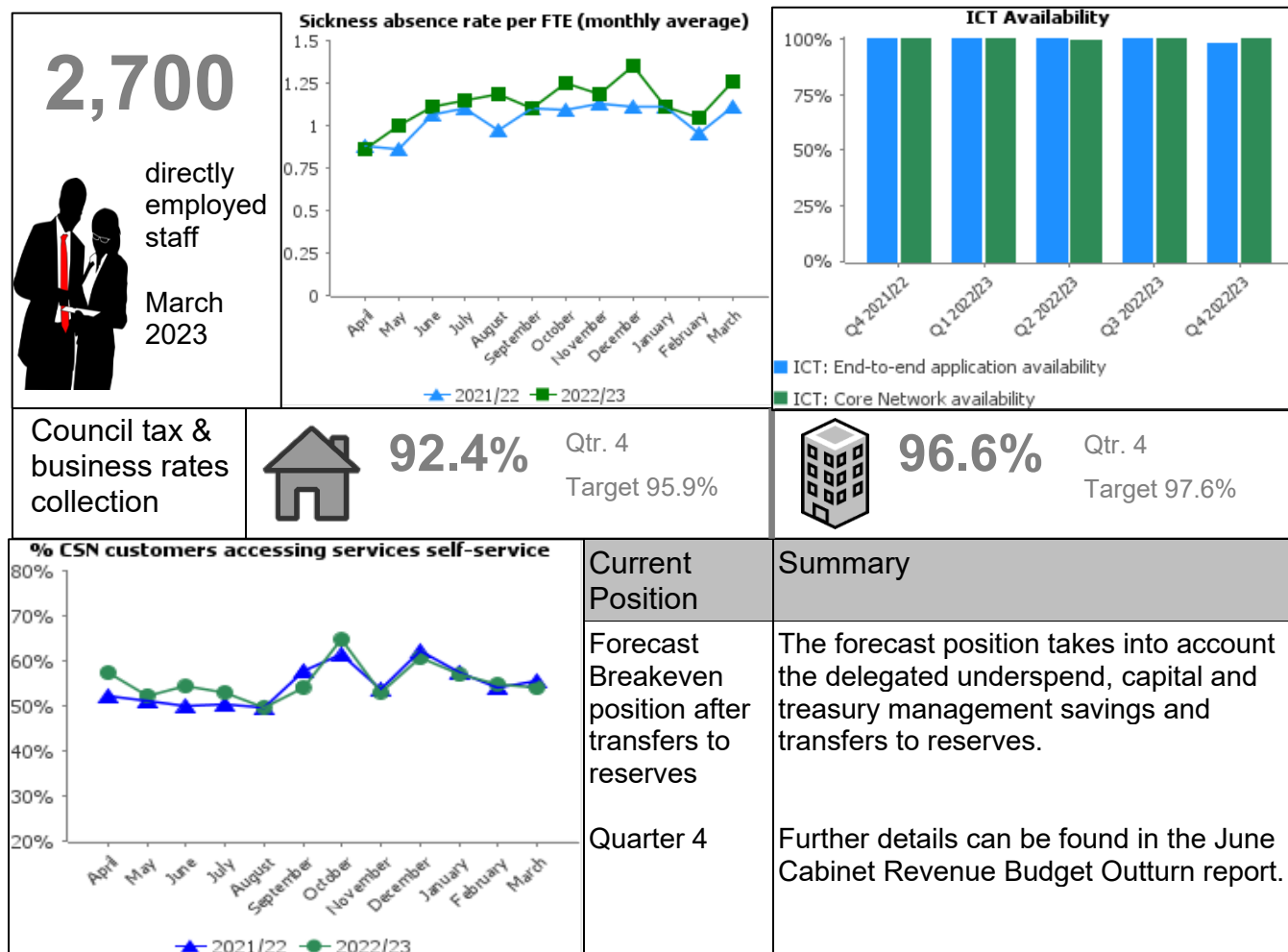
At the end of 2022/23, there were 179 organisations engaged in the Heritage Partnership Practitioners Network - an increase of 119 on the 60 engaged at the end of 2021/22. In Quarter 4 there were 64 activities delivered by the Heritage Partnership (taking the total to 121 activities in 2022/2023). In 2022/23 there has been increased promotion of the heritage offer through the Heritage Sunderland Partnership including heritage open days, collaborative projects, events and other shared programme and promotional opportunities.

The National Glass Centre received 35,088 visitors in Quarter 4, taking the total for the year to 153,944.

There were 47,226 library issues (including physical books, eBooks / e-Audio and e-Magazine) in Quarter 4, taking the total for 2022/23 to 186,851. In Quarter 4 there were 325 new adult members, 29,305 digital subscriptions and 398 interactions with the Books at Home delivery service.

# ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH

Good organisational health – strong financial management – productive and innovative working – a council ready for the future



## Good organisational health and strong financial management

We will ensure good organisational health through well planned services (set out through service planning arrangements) that are clearly aligned to our overall vision and ambitions, as set out in our City Plan. We will ensure that this is supported through the delivery of effective corporate functions including those relating to governance, health & safety, effective business processes (such as information management), digital adoption and ICT.

Through strong financial management we will ensure we are in a good and sustainable budget position, maximising external funding and financing opportunities aligned to the City Plan. We have in place efficient income collection arrangements ensuring that the council has access to all the maximum available resource to deliver services.

At the end of Quarter 4, there were 2,700 directly employed staff (90 fewer than in Quarter 4 of 2021/22) and a forecast break-even budget position.

In previous periods the impact of Covid-19 became evident in Business Rates and Council Tax collection levels. Whilst our targets reflect the high levels of collection we aimed for pre-

pandemic, we recognise there are ongoing challenges for our residents and going forward in 2023/24 we seek to achieve a level no lower than within 5% of the target. At the end of Quarter 4, the Business Rates collection was 96.6% (target 97.6%) and Council Tax collection 92.4% (target 95.9%).

In Quarter 4, £7,976,693 has been secured through funding bids for approved projects and programmes supported by the following funding initiatives: £204,296 for Sunderland through the regional bid to the Capacity and Ambition Fund (the revenue part of the Active Travel Fund, DfT), £744,676 (provisional grant) for the joint TfC/council bid to the Short Breaks Innovation Fund (DfE), £349,153 for urgent repair works at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (Arts Council England - Museum Estate Development Fund), £60,000 for Farringdon Row Site Investigation works (Opportunity Development Fund, One Public Estate), £5.5m from Government to support the Studio Development project; £540,000 from the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit to support the Focused Deterrence Model, £493,568 for the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure pilot, £80,000 from Homes England to support the Sheepfolds Masterplan and £5,000 award to the Sustainable Food Partnership from Food for the Planet's small grant programme.

There were no reports to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by the Council in Quarter 4.

### **Productive and innovative working and a council ready for the future**

As a council we continue to deliver on the organisational changes required to optimise productive and innovative working, and ensure we are a council ready for the future. In pursuit of this we are committed to thinking differently to embrace new ways of working, with our values at the heart of everything we do: *'We innovate, We enable, We respect'*. We want to support our employees to be as healthy and happy as they can be, and therefore able to be their most productive and innovative in delivering services to the communities of Sunderland.

The monthly sickness absence rate per FTE at the end of 2022/23 is higher than at the end of 2022/21. For 2023/24 arrangements are in place to ensure a collaborative, coordinated and focused approach across the organisation to reducing levels of absence, with quarterly review meetings within each service to ensure absence is being actively managed within the Attendance Management Policy. Work is also commencing within the region to agree indicators which may be useful as comparators. We will promote health and wellbeing for our employees through our three-year Employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2025) which is underpinned by an employee needs assessment and annual action plan. In support of the strategy there are now 48 Wellbeing Mentors across the Council supporting two-way communication on health & wellbeing. In Quarter 4 there were 336 attendances at healthy choice sessions delivered by the Council's Employee Wellness Coordinator. The Council continues to be Maintaining Excellence in the North East's Better Health at Work Awards.

We continue to develop a new operating model to ensure that the council is as customer focused and effective as it can be. Alongside this, the adoption and enhancement of digital technologies continues, for smart working focused on efficient and effective customer outcomes. In Quarter 4, 53.9% (76,395) of our Customer Service Network customers accessed services through self-serve – exceeding the target of 46%.

**ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24****REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY, MAYORAL 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.
- 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 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee covers the following:-

*To review and scrutinise the functions of the Council relating in particular to the budget, corporate plan, external assessments, performance monitoring, quality standards and value for money, property and facilities management, information technology, organisational development, workforce strategy, governance, customer service and communications. To act as the designated scrutiny committee for statutory purposes for crime and disorder and flood risk.*

- 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 (where necessary).
- 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 City Plan and issues raised during the development session held on 15 June 2023.

**3. DETERMINING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 Topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme will vary from single issue items for consideration such as policy and performance reports through to regular updates on issues that the committee have adopted a more focused monitoring role.

- 3.2 The table below summarises the relevant single item issues which are likely to be a regular feature of the work programme for 2023/24. The table also summaries a number of issues and topics that members of the committee have discussed at its recent development session. These items will be programmed into the work programme at relevant dates in discussion with the appropriate officers.

<b>Regular Work Programme Items</b>	
Performance Management (Quarterly)	To receive performance management information on a quarterly basis based around three key priorities of City, People and Council.
Compliments, Complaints and Feedback (Quarterly)	To receive a quarterly report detailing the compliments, complaints and feedback received by the Council in relation to the services it provides.
Council Budget Reports	To review and scrutinise the various budget reports before agreement by Cabinet and Full Council.
Scrutiny Coordinating Committee and the three thematic scrutiny committee work programmes (Monthly)	To receive the committee's work programme outlining future meetings of the committee and the items scheduled for those meetings. Also to receive the three thematic scrutiny committees work programmes as part of the coordinating role of the committee.
Review of Scrutiny	To continue to monitor and develop actions in respect of the recommendations from the independent review of scrutiny.
28 Day Notice of Key Decisions (Monthly)	To consider the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions which contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the executive, a committee of the executive, individual members of the executive, officers, area committees or under joint arrangements in the course of the discharge of an executive function during the period covered by the plan. All decisions, where appropriate, are also subject to call-in.
<b>Single Issue Items (Items to be scheduled as appropriate)</b>	
Safer Sunderland Partnership	To receive the annual report from the Safer Sunderland Partnership outlining the previous year's work and the priorities for 2023/24.

Smart Cities Update	A further update on developments around the Smart City agenda including reviewing some of the innovative developments implemented in the City.
Cyber Security	A briefing for the Committee on the work undertaken around cyber security and how the Council looks to keep services safe from the threat of cyber-attack.
Strategic Advice Service	A report to provide an update on the cost-of-living crisis, how this is impacting on Sunderland residents and the work and support being provided to those most in need.
Residents Survey	A report on the most recent resident's survey highlighting key findings and areas of success and concern.
Land Acquisitions and Disposals	Proposed land transactions above the relevant financial threshold or which are proposed to be considered in private as "Part II" items are published in the Council's 28 Day Notice of Key Decisions and where appropriate subject to call-in procedures. It is recommended that specific transactions are considered via that process as appropriate.
<b>Potential Task and Finish Working Topics</b>	
Health and Wellbeing of Workforce	Looking at how council policies and initiatives support good mental and physical health to enhance the wellbeing of the organisation's workforce and improve sickness rates including key achievements, impacts and outstanding issues.
Customer Service Network	An in-depth look at the customer Service network including the physical and digital front door, contact centre, telecare etc. How CSN deals with customers and the process for dealing with calls and requests.
Equality Framework	To support the process of developing an Equality Framework for the organisation by providing challenge to the process and contributing to the development of policy and practical / operational procedures that deliver relevant improvement activity.



- 3.3 A draft Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 is attached as **Appendix 1**, which following discussions with the Committee and officers will see the work programme populated further.
- 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).
- 3.5 It should also be noted that in terms of task and finish working we will look to run groups successively to manage member and officer capacity and ensure that each working group is completed prior to starting any further groups.
- 3.6 The Committee also has a coordinating role to avoid duplication, make best use of resources and to provide a corporate overview of the scrutiny function. As such the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will also receive, on a monthly basis, the work programmes of the three thematic Scrutiny Committees. This will commence with the September 2023 agenda, following discussions taking place at the relevant committees.

#### **4. Dedicated Scrutiny Budget**

- 4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committees to deliver the agreed Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes. The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will monitor the scrutiny budget on a regular basis through reports received at this committee.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 That the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee consider the range of topics and issues in the development of the work programme for 2023/24, including task and finish topics, and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year.

#### **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

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Work Programme Items to be scheduled:

REASON FOR INCLUSION		13 JULY 23 D/L 3 JULY 23	14 SEPTEMBER 23 D/L 4 SEPT 23	12 OCTOBER 23 D/L 2 OCTOBER 23	9 NOVEMBER 23 D/L 30 OCT 23	7 DECEMBER 23 D/L 27 NOV 23	11 JANUARY 24 D/L 22 DEC 24	8 FEBRUARY 24 D/L 29 JAN 24	7 MARCH 24 D/L 26 FEB 24	11 APRIL 24 D/L 1 APRIL 24
<b>Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>		Capital Programme First Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson)  First Revenue Budget Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson)		Budget Planning Framework 2024/25 and Financial Strategy (Paul Wilson)  Capital Programme Second Review 2023/24 (Paul Wilson)		Capital Programme Planning 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)  Budget Planning Framework and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)		Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)  Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 (Paul Wilson)		
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>			Task and Finish Working Group Scope and Remit (N Cummings)	Cost of Living (Strategic Advice Service)	Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Report (Stephen Laverton)		Smart Cities Update (Liz St Louis)			Annual Report (N Cummings)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>		Performance Management Q4 (Beverley Poulter)	Performance Management Q1 (Beverly Poulter)			Performance Management Q2 (Beverley Poulter)				Performance Management Q3 (Beverly Poulter)
<b>Consultation / Information &amp; Awareness Raising</b>		Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24	Notice of Key Decisions  Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24

**NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS****REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS'  
SUPPORT COORDINATOR****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 for the 28-day period from 14 June and 20 June 2023.

**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 for the 28-day period from 14 June and 20 June 2023 is attached marked **Appendix 1 & 2**.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee 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 for the 28-day period from 14 June and 20 June 2023 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet Agenda

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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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

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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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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
230526/813	To commission the Child Vision Screening Programme	Cabinet	Y	13 July 2023	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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
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 City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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

28 day notice  
Notice issued 20 June 2023

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
230620/820	Proposed award of call-off contract for the provision of a Social Care Case Management System	Director of Adult Services	Yes	Between 19 July 2023 – 28 July 2023	N	N/A	Report of the Director of Adult Services	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <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.

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**Who will decide:** Director of Adult Services

Elaine Waugh,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

20 June 2023



# **PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A SOCIAL CARE CASE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**20 June 2023**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES**

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

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed contract renewal of a Social Care Case Management and Information System.

### **2. Background and Proposal**

- 2.1 In 2016, the Council appointed Liquidlogic to implement a Social Care Case Management and Information System. To support the functions across the Council, the following Liquidlogic systems have been implemented:
  - LCS (Children's Social Care System)
  - LAS (Adult's Social Care System)
  - EHM (Early Help Module)
  - ContrOCC (Social Care Finance)
- 2.2 Both LCS and LAS provide case management systems for local authorities, which support all aspects of social work for children and adults, which are crucial for the day-to-day operation within these business areas.
- 2.3 The original contract was for a period of 7 years, which is now due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 2.4 It is intended that the forthcoming procurement exercise will be undertaken utilising the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) Software Application Solutions (1095) Framework, which allows the Council to undertake a direct call-off to renew the contract with Liquidlogic, in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, but without undertaking a new competitive procurement process.
- 2.5 It is intended the direct call-off procurement process will be completed and the contract awarded in mid-July. It is anticipated the contract value will be approximately £2,300,000 over a seven year-period (5-year initial period, with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 months).
- 2.6 The rates provided by Liquidlogic for each of the components over the contract duration will be in-line with the published pricing structure of Lot 12 of the YPO Framework. The annual charge will increase each year in line with RPI, and Liquidlogic have confirmed that the RPI increase for years 2 – 5 will not exceed 7% i.e., should the published RPI be greater than 7%, then the contract price increase would be capped at 7%.

- 2.7 The cost of the contract will be funded through provision in the revenue budget within the ICT service.

### **3. Reasons for the Decision**

As the current contract is due to expire and the above system support underpins the day-to-day functions within Adults and Children's Services, the proposed contract renewal with Liquidlogic is considered the most efficient and appropriate means of continuing to support the effective operation of these key Council services.

### **4. Alternative Decisions**

The alternative options are:

- not to proceed with the renewal of the social care case management system. However, this option is not recommended as the existing system underpins the day-to-day-functions within Adults and Children's Services.
- complete a full procurement exercise for a new system. This option is not recommended given we are working successfully with the current solution, and the Council would incur significant costs associated with the procurement and implementation of a new system.

### **5. Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that the Director of Adult Services approves the renewal of the social care case management system via the proposed direct call-off procurement process, to ensure the continued use of the current Liquidlogic system.