

**CITY PLAN “SUNDERLAND 2019-2030” AND INDICATIVE TIMELINE
ASSURANCE PROCESS**

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Scrutiny Coordinating Committee’s consideration of the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.
- 1.2 Committee’s views will contribute to the assurance process and the finalisation of the updated Plan and Indicative Timeline.

2.0 Context

- 2.1 The City Plan is the council’s sole strategic plan. It is an Article 4 Plan subject to approval by Full Council.
- 2.2 The City Plan covers the period 2019-2030 and describes the Challenges, Themes and Commitments for the regeneration, growth and recovery of the city post the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.3 Following the City Plan’s and Indicative Timeline’s initial publication in 2019 it was intended that annual reviews would be undertaken of both.
- 2.4 The first review was undertaken last year as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic started to become apparent and resulted in revisions that are included within the current version of the City Plan, including:
 - The inclusion of a Covid-19 specific Challenge
 - Refinements to the wording of other Challenges
 - References to Smart City to recognise the globally significant developments taking place in Sunderland
 - Refinements to the wording of the Commitments
 - The updating of the Indicative Timeline of activities through to 2030

3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 Given the continuing emerging impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and other related socio-economic and structural changes impacting on the city, evidence has been collated to determine whether changes need to be made to the City Plan and Indicative Timeline this year, including:
 - The council’s quarterly performance reporting process
 - Responses to quarterly performance reporting to Scrutiny
 - Specialist analysis and considerations from council services and city partners
 - Analysis of wider socio-economic, demographic and deprivation data and intelligence.

- 3.2 Input from city partners is an addition to the process this year and going forward will help evidence more, for residents and stakeholders, how collective progress is being made towards achieving the City Plan vision.
- 3.3 Following analysis of the evidence, the majority of the City Plan remains relevant. But in considering the 'Challenges' and given the significant, current focus on tackling global climate change, it is proposed that a related Challenge (and associated additions to relevant Commitments) is included:

“Sunderland will play its role in tackling the global challenge of climate change, working together across the city to be carbon neutral by 2040”

- 3.4 The analysis also indicates that the Indicative Timeline requires updating to reflect the breadth and current status of key projects in the city that will contribute to delivery of the Plan.
- 3.5 A workshop was held with Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 30 November. The Committee's considerations at the workshop have been used to refine the final content of the updated Indicative Timeline.
- 3.6 The draft updated City Plan 2019-2030 and Indicative Timeline, at the time of the preparation of this report, are attached at Appendix 1. Any further, proposed changes as the assurance process continues, will be tabled at the meeting.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Subject to the Committee's considerations it is proposed that a report is presented to the 11 January 2022 Cabinet meeting with a view to the proposed updated City Plan 2019-2030 and Indicative Timeline being adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 26 January 2022.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is recommended to consider the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.

Appendix 1: Draft Updated City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” and Indicative Timeline