

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 4.30 p.m.

This meeting will be held remotely. Joining details will be emailed to all participants.

The meeting will be livestreamed for the public to view on the Council's YouTube channel, 'sunderlandgov' at :-
<https://youtu.be/U81-dCAM6Ww>

Membership

Cllrs Blackburn, Blackett, M. Dixon, Fagan, Foster, Jackson, Jenkins, Marshall, D E Snowdon, Taylor, Thornton (Vice Chairman) Turner (Chairman).

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1.	Apologies for Absence.	-
2.	Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 1st December, 2020 (copy herewith).	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-

Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses

Contact: Paul Wood Principal Governance Services Officer Tel: 561 1044
Email: paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk

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

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (SPD):-

(A) Draft Allocations and Designations Plan

(B) Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report

(C) Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.

Report of the Executive Director of City Development (copy attached).

Appendices to the report are available online on the link below:-

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm15/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/10260/Committee/1981/Default.aspx>

Part B – Scrutiny Business

5. **Housing Issues - Update** 10

Report of the Assistant Director of Housing Services (copy herewith).

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

7. **Notice of Key Decisions** 24

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

Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions

No items.

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

17th December 2020.

Item 2

At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held remotely on TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER, 2020 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Turner in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Blackett, M. Dixon, Fagan, Foster, Jackson, Jenkins, Marshall and Thornton

Also in attendance:-

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms Sharon Appleby, Head of Business Operations, Sunderland BID
Ms Natasha McDonough, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce in Sunderland
Mr Jonathan Walker, Policy Director, North East Chamber of Commerce

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd November 2020

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd November, 2020 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd November, 2020 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest made.

Business Improvement District (BID) Annual Update

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a progress report on the work of the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Sharon Appleby, Head of Business Operations presented the report along with a PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Blackett commented that he understood the Sunderland BID was funded by a 1.5% rateable value of the buildings of the business in the City Centre area and enquired, as it was such a difficult time financially for businesses at the moment, what sort of leeway did the BID allow for this and if there were any plans to reduce that charge as a temporary measure.

Ms Appleby advised that there were no plans to discount the levy charge at the moment as with their regulations they were not allowed to do so, because they would have to go to a reallocation ballot, which they were not able to.

Ms Appleby also wished to say that the businesses were getting tremendous value for money because the team had worked absolutely tirelessly all the way through the current circumstances. They had collected well over 60% of the levy anyway with several months still to go and they were working very hard with businesses on payment plans and give opportunities to pay.

In response to Councillor Taylors query over the current COVID situation and if businesses were keeping up with their rental payments, Ms Appleby advised that the National businesses were not particularly paying their rents, some refusing point blank to pay. However it was the independent businesses, seen through the local agents, the majority of these were paying their rent and trying really hard. Clearly the longer this situation goes on, the harder that becomes but overall within the City Centre, people had been paying their rent.

Councillor Taylor enquired what steps the Local Authority were taking to ensure that people did actually pay these rents. Ms Appleby advised that it wouldn't be the Local Authority's responsibility unless it was a local authority run building and there were safeguards in place for tenants around rent. There is some comfort in that landlords are working well with their tenants to come to some sort of conclusion.

Councillor Taylor commented that a great deal of people were now switching to online shopping and we now see these huge distribution centres being built on the outskirts of major towns and cities. The National Companies seemed to have started doing this but on a smaller scale diverting stock from national distribution centres to individual stores and Councillor Taylor enquired if any companies had done this within Sunderland so that staff were still being employed there but only dealing with online orders.

Ms Appleby advised that click and collect had taken off more this time around than last time with certain national and also independent retailers because it kept the communication with their customers going all the time. Retailers such as JD Sports, the Entertainer and Lush for example had all done this successfully.

In terms of retailers diverting orders from national distribution centres and sending out more locally, Debenhams have done this and people such as Aphrodite have a warehouse within the City Centre as do Designer Children's ware who were fulfilling orders globally.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired how it worked in terms allocating funding to Sunderland BID and if they met every year to discuss the amount and if this had remained the same for a while. Did the work they were required to do need more resource.

Ms Appleby advised that there was a five year term with the BID and at the very beginning of each term they would set out the operating agreement with the Council who were their collection agent. Letters and invoices go out from the Council and the BID has an agreement where the Council will pay them 80% of the projected levy for that 12 month period which was based on the rateable value of the building. This was paid evenly within the first 9 months of the year, they then generally collect 95% of the levy over the 12 months so it was balanced in the final quarter.

Ms Appleby informed that what they had done due to the current situation, they had budgeted on 65% collection, and had been able to deliver what they have, within budget, where they have already gained in additional resource has been through the reopening the high street safely fund and have been able to work with the Council on a number of initiatives going through that.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that it was obvious there was a close working relationship with the Council which was good. Councillor Dixon also enquired if the BID had reflected on their remit and if they felt it was wide enough or if they felt there were any areas they would like to cover that they currently weren't.

Ms Appleby commented that when they had the initial plan and the initial five years they had six priorities and what they tried to do was to be all things to all people and that was never going to work. The business plan was narrowed down so they could do a few things but do these very well and that has been achieved. The current situation had highlighted on the need for resource to engage with businesses on a personal level on a much more regular basis. This was crucial in moving forward and would be one thing that would continue.

Ms Appleby also commented that she would like to see some business engagement in the local areas as the BID only represents and is paid for by the City Centre businesses but actually there was really a need for the local businesses in the local areas to have a very good level of support. This took resource and capacity in terms of people, whilst the Business Improvement Team do an excellent job with that she felt there was still a need for more support.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired what the BID felt had been their greatest success over the last 12 months. Ms Appleby commented that the work done by the whole team over engaging with businesses was something she was very proud of, so an overall team effort rather than one specific initiative. There had been good engagement before but this had become even better now with the businesses and this had to continue.

Councillor M. Dixon informed that he had asked a question at the last meeting with regards to the Sunderland Partnership Board and why Sunderland BID was not on this and queried if they would like to be part of or was this a different remit to what they do. Ms Appleby commented that she did feel this was a different remit and she could attend so many different Boards for instance but she needed to go to those that would add real value to those that paid their wages, which was the businesses

in the City Centre and she felt there were other people better placed to be on the Partnership Board than her.

The Chairman enquired how they go about getting the young people involved and their views about the city. Ms Appleby advised that they work with the College and University really closely so they engage with young people in a number of different initiatives on a fairly regular basis and then on some of the other groups that they sit on such as the Vibrant City Board for example, there were people who represented the Young People's groups so they would encourage and ask for feedback in those forums.

In response to the Chairman's query over getting involved with the secondary schools, Ms Appleby advised that only Hudson Road school was within the BID boundaries so they wouldn't normally do that but the Chairman was absolutely correct that young people were the future so they did need to be engaged with and it was whether the BID engaged directly or others do so that they come in and enjoy what's happening within the City Centre or help us shape what happens in the Centre.

The Chairman queried what Ms Appleby felt the long term effect on the High Street would be from people using online shopping and how we could respond to that going forward. Ms Appleby commented that the investment in Riverside Sunderland was a real game changer for the city. We had been lagging behind for such a long time now that she felt this type of investment would be key. By encouraging more of the independents to come into the City Centre, more people living and working there did encourage more businesses to come and set up within the area.

The breaking news about Debenhams and Arcadia meant we probably wouldn't replace with like for like and we needed to be flexible to use those spaces in different ways and not just leave them empty. In terms of Sunderland's recovery in terms of COVID, Sunderland had returned to pre COVID levels of footfall very quickly and if used as a benchmark and then add in all other investment that is happening we were really raising the bar in Sunderland significantly and with that this will bring new opportunities.

Having fully considered the report, the Chairman thanked Ms Appleby for her attendance

2. RESOLVED that the Committee received the report and considered the progress of Sunderland BID

Chamber of Commerce - Update

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with a report from the Chamber of Commerce on the economic opportunities and challenges facing the city in the years ahead.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Natasha McDonogh, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce in Sunderland and Mr Jonathan Walker, Policy Director, North East Chamber of Commerce presented the report and were on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor M. Dixon queried how business friendly Sunderland was in comparison with other cities within the North East region. We heard of a lot of activity within the Tees Valley and such like but were we lagging behind or ahead of these other areas.

Mr Walker advised that it was a very difficult question to answer and he thought Sunderland very clearly had its strengths with South Tyneside and the automotive sectors, this was the obvious place for those businesses to go. There were other sectors such as Software being the obvious one where there was some great businesses within the Software Centre.

Mr Walker acknowledged that there was always more that could be done to improve the reputations of places within the North East and they have to challenge misconceptions or prejudices about our cities whilst acknowledging issues.

One area where there was clearly a gap in the region, was around devolution, the Tees Valley has garnered a lot of attention and headlines with a very active and high profile mayor. The North of Tyne was starting to get up to speed with this now and starting to see the combined authority and mayor there starting to have more influence. Discussions were taking place over increased devolution and this was where he could see a real opportunity for Sunderland.

Ms McDonough commented that the awareness within the business community around Sunderland was improving and conversations she had outside of Sunderland in relation to Riverside Developments for example were being noticed. We needed to have more jewels in the crown so the likes of the City Centre itself which now had Hays Travel, Ocado and Tombola, which were big national names we were gaining more of a reputation where people were wanting to travel work in the City Centre and potentially relocate to live and work in Sunderland.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired if there was anything more that could be done to encourage the SME's or if this was already happening specifically in Sunderland. Ms McDonough advised that there was quite a lot going on at present with the opening up of different office space and providing different kinds of virtual environments for people to come and start their businesses. From a professional services, the more larger organisations you have setting up in the City Centre the more likely you are to have a professional, creative and digital offer surrounding them also.

Ms Appleby commented that Sunderland had a really good route through now from pop up to start up to then expanding and moving into fit for purpose premises and as redevelopment happens, hopefully grow again. Before we hadn't seen the quality of accommodation that's required for businesses to do that and she did think that's starting to emerge with the likes of Mackie's Corner and opportunity around Blandford Street and Park Lane areas. There was also the Riverside Sunderland development where people can potentially start up and grow and grow.

Mr Walker commented on the importance of diversity of business space which was being explored, especially if there was a decline in demand for retail space then what other spaces could there be and there were some great examples across the country such as workshop spaces where you get more types of craft, artisan businesses who produce their items right within the heart of a City Centre. There are places within Sunderland and across the area where that could potentially be considered and how

we supported those people making products at an early stage, possibly within their homes and support them into moving into a business space.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired as to how confident the Chamber was that Members had managed to adhere to the COVID guidelines both for customers and their employees. Mr Walker informed that he did not have any data on this but he could say with a very high degree of confidence that the overwhelmingly majority of businesses that he spoke and interacted with have not only followed the guidance but in most cases gone above and beyond what was required of them because their primary interest was to keep their staff and customers safe.

Mr Walker advised that of course there may be a small number of exceptions but it was also worth noting that in the early days the guidance given by Government had not been as clear as it could have been so we had to acknowledge the constantly changing landscape that business had been working in.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the business rates and that it seemed to be a ponderous procedure through the valuation office and enquired if they were still looking at businesses on a one to one basis or were they able to do more of a broad-brushed assessment of an area or city, when there were applications coming in for business rates reductions or were we using the same procedures we've always had.

Mr Walker commented that he couldn't advise if they were able to change their processes but his understanding was that it was still on a case by case basis but Chambers right across the country had been lobbying for a fundamental reform of the business rate system for many years now and he thought the system was incredibly outdated with the system not reflecting a whole host of things such as the split between online and physical sales. It was probably something they could raise with the VOA but it was not something he could answer in more depth.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that it may be that under the current circumstances they could be pushed a bit harder to show some flexibility when they are looking at applications but this might be something for further down the line with National Government,

The Chairman commented that we often hear about a shortage of skills and enquired what area of our economy and what particular skills we had shortages of. Mr Walker advised that the perennial issues were around engineering and manufacturing and there had been a lot of investment in such things as apprenticeships which had started to close those gaps but of course these things take a long time to start and feed through to the sector.

Mr Walker commented that he tried not to use the language of skills shortages and more of skills opportunities because these would usually underpin the growth sectors. In a Sunderland context, something like Software and the more they could do to get young people skilled at coding and digital skills would result in businesses coming and growing. The work and opportunity to grow was there and Sunderland needed to get a bigger slice of that.

Mr Walker advised of a recent development on a piece of work they were doing which was almost fundamental digital skills for everybody, especially in current times where the use of Zoom and Microsoft Teams was so common. One of the concerns

they had was if this current environment were to stay and people were looking for employment opportunities or training and they weren't digitally knowledgeable or skilled then they could be at a significant competitive disadvantage to gaining that type of work which was reliant on home working etc. So there was work to do on tackling this, certainly within the more disadvantaged communities across the North East.

Ms McDonough referred to coding and if we could get more people interested in that, but this was also the case for older people or those who have lost their jobs there was definitely an opportunity to upskill or reskill people into new areas. This was definitely a need across the region and the United Kingdom.

Having fully considered the report, the Chairman thanked Ms McDonough and Mr Walker for their attendance.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2020-21

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report (copy circulated), to provide options, provide support and advise Members on the development of the scrutiny work programmes for 2020/2021

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer presented the report for Members information

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blackburn, Mr Diamond advised that he would make investigations into which officer would be providing the Environmental Services Update Report

4. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme for 2020-2021 be noted.

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 9 November, 2020 (copies circulated).

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

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer reminded Members to contact him if they required further information on any of the items included in the notice.

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

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. TURNER,
Chairman.

Item 4

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 8 DECEMBER 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (SPD):-

- (A) Draft Allocations and Designations Plan**
- (B) Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report**
- (C) Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.**

Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To set out for the advice and consideration of this Committee reports which were considered by Cabinet on 8 December 2020 to seek approval to undertake public consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan, the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report and the Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 8 December 2020, gave consideration to reports of the Executive Director of City Development to seek Cabinet approval to undertake public consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan, the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report and the Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2.3 In respect of the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan, the Cabinet:-
 - approved public consultation on the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan attached at Appendix 1, Policies Map as attached in Appendix 2 and supporting Evidence as listed in Appendix 5; and
 - delegated authority to the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to make any minor modifications to the Draft Allocations and Designations Plan and Policies Map in advance of consultation.
- 2.4 In relation to the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document Scoping Report, the Cabinet:-
 - approved public consultation on the Land East of Washington (Washington Meadows) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Scoping Report (Appendix 1); and

- delegated authority to the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to make any minor modifications to the Scoping Report prior to the consultation.

2.5 In respect of the Draft Development Management Supplementary Planning Document, the Cabinet

- approved public consultation on the Draft Development Management SPD attached at Appendix 1; and
- delegated authority to the Executive Director of City Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Dynamic City to make any minor modifications to the draft DM SPD prior to the consultation.

2.6 Copies of the 8 December 2020 Cabinet agenda are available online to all Members of the Council.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The reports are referred to this Committee for advice and consideration as part of the consultation process. The comments of this Committee will be reported to Cabinet when it receives further reports following the consultation exercises.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is invited to give advice and consideration on the attached reports of the Executive Director of City Development.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 8 December 2020.

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:-

<https://committees.sunderland.gov.uk/committees/cm5/Meetings/tabid/73/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/410/Meeting/10397/Committee/1953/Default.aspx>

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Item 5

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2021

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SERVICES

HOUSING ISSUES - UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an update report on a range of housing issues facing the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to include in its work programme an update report on housing issues within the city.
- 2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the importance of housing on the economic and social well-being of people living in the city.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Graham Scanlan (Assistant Director of Housing Services) will be in attendance to provide a presentation on a range of housing issues within the city.
- 3.2 A copy of the presentation is attached as an appendix.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

5 Background Papers

None

Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Housing Update



1

Our Strategic Housing Priorities

1. Maximising housing growth and increasing the choice of housing
2. Making the best use of existing homes and improving our neighbourhoods
3. Supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing



2

Net Additional Homes 2015-2020

Sunderland
City Council

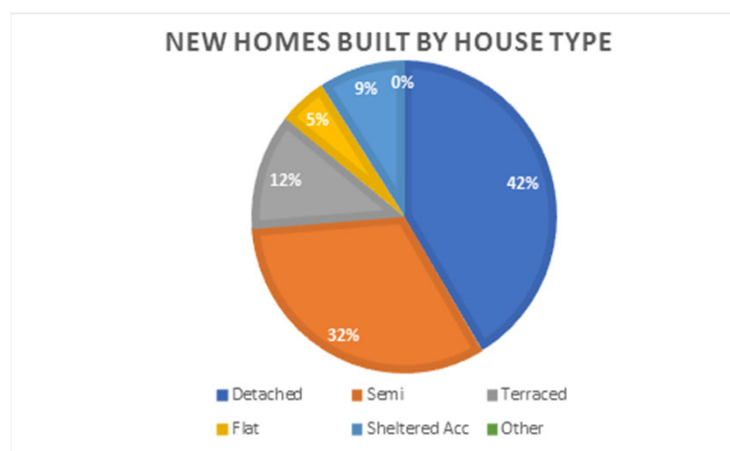
Year	Net Additional Dwellings	Housing Requirement	Cumulative Performance against Requirement
2015/16	889	745	144
2016/17	710	745	-35
2017/18	880	745	135
2018/19	706	745	-39
2019/20	813	745	68
Total	3998	3725	273

Out performing in the delivery of new homes in the City



3

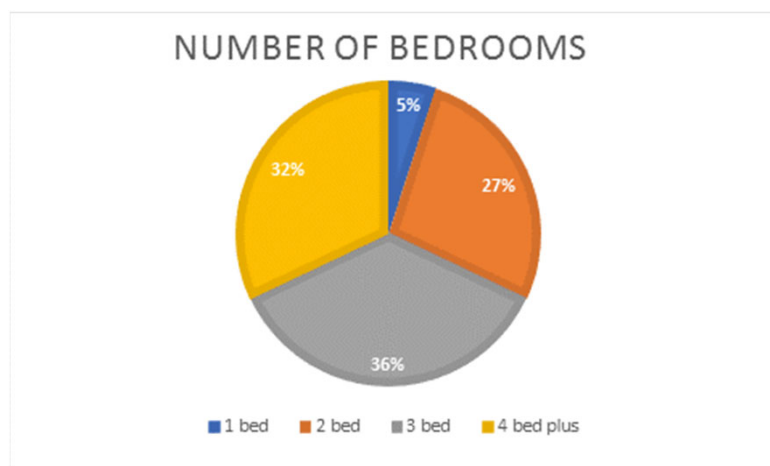
New homes built by house type 2015 - 2020



Strong mix of housing to ensure future housing needs are met across the City

4

New homes built number of bedrooms 2015 - 2020



Strong mix of housing and more larger homes being delivered to meet local need for families and preventing migration and encouraging inward migration

5

Affordable Housing Completions

Sunderland
City Council

Year/Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
January	7	0	10	10
February	0	7	7	7
March	5	3	9	9
April	0	6	33	5
May	3	8	1	10
June	20	15	16	7
July	3	13	10	21
August	2	10	18	9
September	3	7	13	6
October	7	16	4	18
November		12	1	83
December		13	0	15
Total	50	110	122	200

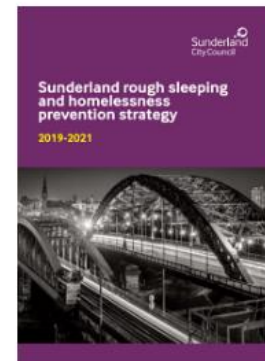


6

Homelessness (April 2020 – Nov 2020)



- Clients cases opened: 1326
- HRA cases opened - 1177
- Duty to Refer received – 166
- Those at Relief Stage – 842
 - those who present as street homeless / DV Cases / Prison Releases
- Those at Prevention Stage - 197
 - those who are threatened with homelessness
- Not Homeless within 56 days - 134
- Top 3 presentation reasons:
 - 252 - Family no longer willing to accommodate
 - 198 - (Escape) Domestic Abuse
 - 109 – Relationship breakdown
- Top 3 household types presenting
 - 608 – Single males
 - 214 – Single females
 - 213 – Lone parent with dependent children (female)



7

“Call before you Serve” Campaign



- Set up to help prevent evictions in the private sector once Covid eviction restrictions were lifted
- Over 5400 landlords were contacted by letter and email
- Received 55 referrals from landlords
- Wider positive impact beyond preventing homelessness
 - Offered landlords guidance and on best practice and working with tenants on benefits
 - Widened contact base with private landlords in the City

*Two evictions prevented
to date preventing two
homeless cases*



8

Homelessness Next Steps Accommodation programme



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

- Fund to reduce rough sleepers and homelessness
- Bid for short and long term funding
- Sunderland successful and secured:
 - £380,650 Total funding
 - £54,800 short term funding
 - £325,850 long term funding
 - Council match funded £255,000 of the long term capital funding to acquire 6 properties for move on accommodation
 - 4 properties acquired to date
 - 6 properties to be up and running for end March
- Floating Support Service with Oasis
- Additional support to Covid properties



*Future homeless can receive
additional support services*

9

Landlord Accreditation Scheme



- COVID impact in securing accreditations
- Over 74 properties awaiting accreditation
- 60 landlords have registered an interest in the scheme
 - Application packs issued
- 10 property inspections are pending due to Covid restrictions
 - Some virtual inspections undertaken
 - Landlords are preferring to wait post Covid to progress
- 17th December co-hosted a webinar with the National Residential Landlords Association

10

Council Housing Service



- Council became a Registered Provider of Social Housing in November 2019
- Council became an Investor Partner with Homes England in February 2020
- Council approved the 5 year Housing Delivery and Investment Plan of £59m in February 2020 to deliver new social housing across three areas:
 - Empty Properties
 - Bungalows
 - Supported Accommodation



11

Housing Delivery and Investment Plan



Delivery Category	Area	Area Total	
Empty Homes (Brought back into use)	East	106	
	West	74	
	North	68	
	Coalfields	64	
	Washington	50	362
Bungalows	East	29	
	West	22	
	North	13	
	Coalfields	20	
	Washington	33	117
Supported Accommodation	East	19	
	West	19	
	North	19	
	Coalfields	19	
	Washington	19	95
TOTAL UNITS		574	



12

Council Housing Service



- Housing Service restructured to enable delivery across all service areas
 - Housing Strategy and Policy
 - Development
 - Empty Properties
 - Environmental Health / Enforcement
 - Private Sector Housing
 - Housing Management
 - Financial Inclusion



13

Council Housing Service



- Housing team strengthened to tackle empty properties target empty homes acquisition and undertake enforcement
- Homes England grant secured for Council projects including empty home refurbishment and new build developments (£2.1m secured to date)
- Acquisition strategy with other RP partners
 - Back on the Map – acquiring properties in the Long Streets
 - Thirteen Group have extended the partnership into Hendon
- New Environmental Health Officers designated for housing on investigation and enforcement
- Proactive approaches to private landlords with empty homes to agree improvement and letting or sell



14

Empty Property refurbishment BEFORE

Sunderland
City Council



15

AFTER - Council refurbishment standards

Sunderland
City Council



<https://youtu.be/cOP3esJoc00>



16

Council's first tenant in 20 years



17

Cork Street, Hendon

- First Council new build development for nearly 40 years
- £3.95m project
- £765k Homes England Grant secured
- Tolent is delivering the project
- 17 bungalows
 - x16 fully adapted bungalows
 - X1 general needs bungalow
- New Day Centre for those with physical disabilities
 - Service delivery by NDRC
- Phase 1 on site now – to be complete Spring 2021 which will include the Day Centre and x8 bungalows
- Phase 2 programmed for completion March 2022



18

Amberley & Harrogate Street, Hendon



- Partnership with Thirteen Housing Group
- Cabinet Approval to enter into agreement to finalise feasibility
- Project will deliver 100 affordable new homes for rent
- The project will provide bungalows for older people and 2 and 3 bed family homes
- Initial surveys for feasibility - complete Dec 2020
- If feasibility is positive planning will be applied and start on site is estimated late spring 2021



19

Stanley Terrace, Shiney Row



- Council new build project
- £897,552 project value
- £195,000 Homes England grant
- To deliver 5 bungalows
- Tolent selected contractor
- Start on site – September 2020
- Completion – May 2021



20

Albert Place, Washington



- Council new build project
- £760,102 project value
- £172,000 Homes England grant
- To deliver 4 bungalows
- Tolent selected contractor
- Start on site – September 2020
- Completion – May 2021

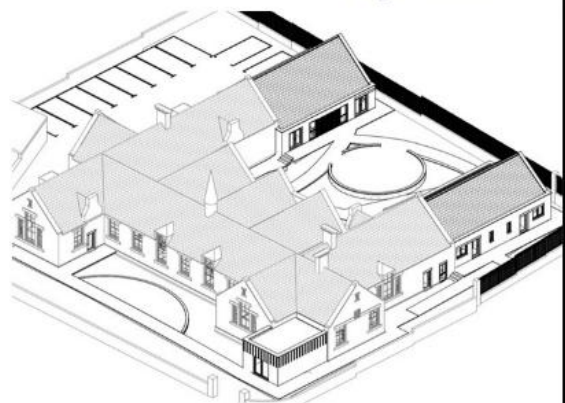


21

The Old School House, Albert Place, Washington



- Council new build and refurb project
- £1,930,268 project value
- £585,000 Homes England grant
- To deliver 15 one bed units
- Project for clients with Learning Disabilities
- SCAS to be service provider



22

Item 6

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2021

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO- ORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report sets out the current work programme of the Committee for the 2020-21 municipal year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.
- 2.2 The work programme is intended to be a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year, allowing it to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee can undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 In delivering its work programme the Committee will support the Council in achieving its corporate outcomes

3. Current position

- 3.1 The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme is intended to be a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2020-21.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme.

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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

REASON FOR INCLUSION	7 JULY 20	8 SEPTEMBER 20	6 OCTOBER 20	3 NOVEMBER 20	1 DECEMBER 20	12 JANUARY 21	9 FEBRUARY 21	9 MARCH 21	7 APRIL 21
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses			Homes of Multiple Occupation SPD Scoping Report (Catherine Auld) Riverside SPD (Catherine Auld)	Licensing Policy – Update (Steve Waring)		Development Management SPD (Catherine Auld) Allocations and Designations Plan (Catherine Auld) Land of East of Washington (Washington Meadows) SPD Scoping Report (Catherine Auld)			Annual Report (Jim Diamond)
Scrutiny Business	Covid 19 Business Support (Catherine Auld) Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor – Update (Mark Jackson)	Annual Road Safety Report (Mark Jackson) Work Programme - Consideration of Draft 20-21 (JD)	International Strategy (Catherine Auld)	Low Carbon Framework (Catherine Auld) Covid 19 Business Support Grants – Final Position (Catherine Auld/Paul Wilson)	Sunderland Chamber of Commerce – Update (Natasha McDonagh) Sunderland Business Improvement District (Sharon Appleby)	Housing Strategy – Update (Graham Scanlan)	Siglion Update (Helen Townsend) City Hall (Peter McIntyre) International Advanced Manufacturing Park (Mark Jackson)	Sunderland Cultural Sector/Events (Victoria French) Heritage Update (Dan Hattle) Environmental Services – Update (Ian Richardson)	Business Centres – Update (Catherine Auld) Sunderland Rail Station – Update (Mark Jackson) Local Flood Authority Update (Mark Jackson)
Consultation Information and Awareness Raising	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme of Committee – Proposed Process (JD)	Notice of Key Decisions	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 20-21

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

Contact Officer : Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
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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
201015/532	To approve the Sunderland City Council Low Carbon Action Plan.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 8 December 2020 to 31 March 2021.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
200914/515	To consider grant support for voluntary sector organisations.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 January to 28 February 2021.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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200914/513	To approve the updated business plan for Siglion LLP and related matters.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	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 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201202/539	To approve the Third Capital Review 2020-2021 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201202/540	To approve the Third Revenue Review 2020-2021.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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201202/541	To recommend to Council to approve the Council Tax Base 2021-2022.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201202/542	To recommend to Council to approve Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2021-2022.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201202/543	To approve the Revenue Budget 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 – Update and provisional Revenue Support Settlement.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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201124/544	To approve the disposal of land adjacent to Penshaw House, Station Road, Houghton-Le-Spring, DH4.	Cabinet	Y	12 January 2021	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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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201116/536	To agree to dissolve partnership agreement with Homes England and trigger right of pre-emption to acquire land at Sunnyside.	Cabinet	N	During the period 12 January to 31 March 2021.	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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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200813/494	To approve the establishment of a funding mechanism for the acquisition of residential properties.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 9 February to 31 March 2021	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 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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201109/536	Riverside Sunderland – To approve proposals for the detailed design, construction and letting of a new Development on the former Vaux site.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 9 February to 31 March 2021	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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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200902/500	To approve the acquisition of Bridge House, Bridge Street.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 9 February to 31 March 2021	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 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report contains 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 Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
200907/510	To consider consultation responses and whether to proceed to a statutory proposal in relation to the proposed discontinuance of Hetton le Hole Nursery School.	Cabinet	Y	9 February 2021	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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201012/521	To approve the introduction of an E-Scooter Pilot Trial.	Cabinet	Y	9 February 2021	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201201/537	To give approval to progress with the three schemes (Sunderland Station and Car park, Holmeside bus rationalisation and A690 corridor cycle provision) funded by the governments Transforming Cities Fund.	Cabinet	Y	9 February 2021	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201201/538	To give approval to progress with the Emergency Active Travel Funded cycle scheme on the Sea Front from the former tram stop to Roker café.	Cabinet	Y	9 February 2021	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
201013/526	To seek approval to a proposal to Amend the Sunderland Council's Code of Conduct for the Issue of Penalty Notices Relating to Unauthorised School Absences.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 9 February to 31 March 2021.	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

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170927/212	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	23 March 2021	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure. Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact 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 PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

***Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Governance Services at the address given above.**

Who will decide;

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Paul Stewart – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills; Councillor Geoffrey Walker – Healthy City; Councillor Linda Williams – Vibrant City; Councillor Rebecca Atkinson – Dynamic City.

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 December 2020