

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in Committee Room 1, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 4.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllrs Ali, M. Dixon, Edgeworth, Fagan, Foster, Laws, Mordey, Reed, Scanlan, D. Snowdon (Chairman), H. Trueman (Vice Chairman) and Warne.

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1.	Apologies for Absence.	-
2.	Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 6 th December, 2022	1
	(copy herewith).	
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-
	Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses	
	No Items	
	Part B – Scrutiny Business	
4.	Cultural Sector Update	10
	Report of the Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture (copy herewith).	
5.	Housing Strategy – Update	11
	Report of the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities (copy herewith).	
Contact:	Paul Wood Principal Governance Services Officer Email: paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk	

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

6. Annual Work Programme 2021/22

Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator (copy herewith).

7. Notice of Key Decisions

Report of the Scrutiny and Members Support Coordinator (copy herewith).

Part C – CCFA/Members Item/Petitions

No items.

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

22 December 2022.

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At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CITY HALL on TUESDAY 6^{TH} DECEMBER 2022 at 4.30 p.m.

Present: -

Councillor D. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Dixon, Edgeworth, Fagan, Foster, Laws, Reed, Scanlan, H. Trueman and Warne.

Also in attendance: -

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council Mr Paul Wood, Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council Ms Catherine Auld, Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration, SCC Mr Marc Morley, Director of Environmental Services, Sunderland City Council

Members of the Press

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ali and Mordey.

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8th November 2022

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8th November, 2022 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8th November 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Business Centre's

The Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the current position on the Council's three business centres - Evolve Business Centre, Sunderland Software Centre and Washington Business Centre - including an overview of the progress post pandemic,

the current challenges, financial and occupancy information and an update on progress in relation to the operational management of the centres.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Catherine Auld, The Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration presented the report and was also on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Dixon referred to the European funding for the Software Centre and enquired if this had now ceased if we were able to alter the types of use for the Centre and if there was more flexibility now. Ms Auld advised that the revenue contributions were towards staffing and that this project had now finished however the requirements for the types of use around technological sectors still remained indefinitely and the DWP agreement was an exception. In response to Councillor Dixon's further enquiry over how many DWP staff were working there, Ms Auld advised that she would have to check this statistic and get back to the Member with details of if they were existing or new recruits.

Ms Auld also advised that this was a one-off contract and that there were no similar types of arrangements planned.

Councillor Dixon referred to paragraph 3.6 of the report and the mention of the prospect of an improving wider market and enquired if the market didn't improve if this would leave the Software Centre "out on a limb". Ms Auld advised that anything was possible in the markets but the Software Centre was close to public transport/metro links and was more affordable than on the Riverside site so there absolutely was a place for it and they were working hard on the awareness of what the Centre had to offer.

Councillor Dixon commented that Car Parking had always been a concern over the years and queried if this had been a handicap to businesses taking up space in the Centre. Ms Auld advised that Parking had always been a challenge with the encouragement of more public transport use, the closeness to all transport links and the Centre was on the same journey as the City in trying to bring down the carbon footprint.

Councillor Dixon informed that the reception of the Centre had not been the friendliest of welcomes and commented that he was pleased to see the reshaping of staff roles to address this. Ms Auld informed that they had listened to feedback received and had changed the staffing from security to the core staff team being the first reception point of call.

In response to Councillor Law's enquiry, Ms Auld advised that the Software Centre and Evolve Centre were not comparable as the Software Centre was only focussed on Software companies, did not have parking and the Evolve Centre had free parking and was able to change the size of the meetings spaces with the moving of walls, they were comparable in the sense that they were both Council run spaces.

Councillor Laws commented that it appeared the Software Centre had more investment and had longer to get established yet the Washington Centre at its lowest recorded capacity was not dissimilar to the highest recorded for the Software Centre therefore queried if the Software Centre was providing value for money. Ms Auld clarified that the Washington Centre had been less expensive to build and run due to the specification required for the differing sectors therefore the break-even point was much lower for the Washington Centre and had as a result been able to reach this point quicker.

Councillor Fagan enquired what the barriers were for businesses not wanting to rent the Software Centre and if it was due to being in a niche market. Ms Auld advised that some of the possible barriers may be the lack of flexibility to move the walls/change the size of the spaces required ad hoc, free parking was also a factor along with a shift to the use of public transport as some businesses included shifts over the whole 24 hour period which did not suit a public transport model. Ms Auld also added that there was a shift in ways of working from the pandemic to more working from home.

In response to Councillor Fagan's query if there was any way to make the Software Centre more flexible, Ms Auld advised that there were ways, they could split the rooms in half but the capital cost for this would be quite high but was something that definitely could be done if there were a guaranteed business opportunity who were wishing for a smaller space.

With regards to Councillor Reed's query over what level of occupancy was required in each of the Centres in order to break even, Ms Auld advised that for the Washington Centre it was 68%, the Software Centre was 98% (before the agreement with the DWP was implemented) and the Evolve Centre was a lower figure than this but Ms Auld would need to check on that.

Councillor Reed referred to the Evolve Centre and commented that his main concern was that this had a greater maintenance cost to the building as it was 16 years old and as the other Centre's were only 6 and 8 years behind, that they would start to see the same costs being incurred in the near future and enquired as to what capital would be needed in that scenario.

Ms Auld advised that the maintenance costs had involved issues with heating, I.T, improvements to the Air Conditioning with the Data Centre located there and general things such as carpeting to staircases/glass screens etc but she would need to look at the records in order to give specifics.

Councillor Reed commented that his concern was that we did not want to fall into the same trap of leaving such maintenance to the point where it would be cheaper to scrap the buildings and replace with new rather than carrying out the repairs. Ms Auld assured the Committee that they were working with Property Services to be proactive in this regard.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that it had been a slow start for the Washington Centre before the pandemic and it was his concern that they would lose more businesses after the pandemic therefore it was worrying as to the future of all the Centres. Ms Auld advised that it was right to ask the questions of how the economy and the markets were changing and why businesses might choose to relocate. Ms Auld informed that with regards to the Software Centre, this was located in the City Centre that was expanding a greater food and drink offer also, therefore greater footfall. The Washington Centre was closer to the IAMP, Nissan and its supply chains so that area continued to grow. The Evolve Centre had free parking and was very much in demand in terms of meeting spaces and businesses may want to book collaboration spaces rather than rent permanent office space.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that there was a point where we had to look to move into modern ways of working and queried should we dispose of these Centre's as money became tighter and if we could continue with these as they were. The City did not have a great transport link and he felt this needed to be a high priority if we were to get people into the City Centre.

Councillor Dixon commented that this had been a problem long before the pandemic and Councillors had raised concerns on the losses being made by the Centres therefore enquired if there had been any discussions at a higher level over their sustainability.

Ms Auld advised that there had always been a concern over the Software Centre but they were in this for the long term and it was always acknowledged that it would take time to get this established. Ms Auld advised that she was not aware of any conversations taking place as to disposing of the Centre and looking at the numbers for this year it was in a stronger position to ride out the effects of the pandemic.

Councillor Laws referred to the new buildings being constructed on Riverside and enquired over the occupation of these and if they were let/partially let as of yet. Ms Auld informed that as they were still under construction, one building had been pre let and they were in discussions with commercial agents at present and were regularly in dialogue with businesses.

In response to the Chairmans enquiry over any feedback received from DWP using the Software Centre, Ms Auld advised that it seemed to be all going fine and there had been no specific feedback received and she was not aware of any issues.

The Chairman commented that it was nice to see small businesses included in the Case Studies of the report and that there was a number of varied businesses across the Centres. The Chairman also queried if the figures for the Centres now compared to pre pandemic showed that we were in a better place. Ms Auld informed that the Evolve Centre was not in the same place as pre pandemic levels yet but the Software Centre was in an improved position due to the arrangement with DWP.

The Chairman thanked Ms Auld for her attendance.

Having discussed the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report.

Environmental Services Update

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a update on a range of environmental services affecting the city and the plans for the future.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Marc Morley, Director of Environmental Services presented the report along with PowerPoint presentation and was on hand to answer Members queries. In response to Councillor H. Trueman, Mr Morley advised that if the blue recycle bin was to be contaminated, there was staff that could identify this and provide support/education to the resident.

Councillor Laws referred to the Electric RCV and enquired if it was performing to the same standards as the petrol/diesel vehicles. Mr Morley advised that the vehicle was performing no differently to the standard vehicles, we needed to see how it was affected during the bad winter weather but it was working well at the moment. The Team managed its route and schedule on a daily basis to get optimum performance.

Councillor Warne enquired as to the fleet procurement updates and when they expected to get the electric vehicles. Mr Morley advised that the point of trialling this electric vehicle was to see how well it performed first and if the numbers were positive before ordering more. Phase 1 of the new fleet workshop had been built and it was hoped to be fully operational around March.

Councillor H. Trueman enquired if discussions with other authorities were being had in regards to the fleet taking on their business also. Mr Morley advised that they would engage with other authorities as partners and something that would be explored in the future to provide a more commercial offer.

Councillor Laws suggested that the Committee visit the new fleet workshop as it was a £9 million pound investment to the City. The Chairman requested that this be considered and included in the schedule where possible. Mr Morley advised that the Committee was more than welcome to have a tour of the site.

Councillor Foster referred to his experience of issues with trees and residents concerns and advised that he did not feel he received any help and requested that when the planting of new trees was being considered that consultation with residents and ward members be carried out. Mr Morley advised that the City's trees had been planted in the 50's,60's and 70's and there hadn't been much consideration given to the types and locations of these, things had evolved and the species and right environment were given greater thought to and he understood that consultation was now taking place with Members as to where any new trees were to be planted but if this was not the case then for Councillors to please let him know.

Councillor Reed advised that Members were not consulted recently when trees had been cut back, which had agitated residents therefore requested that greater communication be undertaken when works were to be carried out. Mr Morley agreed that for planned work this would certainly be possible however emergency work for safety purposes etc may be more difficult but he would take these requests back to the team and respond directly to the Members.

Councillor Dixon acknowledged that he had recently been contacted by the Team about new trees planned for planting so he was happy with this and commented that he had been assured he would receive updates in relation to work at Back House Park.

Councillor Laws enquired if the staffing issues within Environmental Services raised previously had settled down now that they were in a new facility. Mr Morley informed that it was very early days and had only been in the facility 2-3 weeks but they were

keeping the staffs welfare under consideration as they were a valued workforce and they wanted to give them the best circumstances they could.

Councillor Edgeworth referred to the removal of the dog waste bins in the West Area, advising that the public were reluctant to dispose of their dog's waste in the normal waste bins therefore requested stickers be placed on the bins informing the public that they could be used for this purpose. Mr Morley commented that he would certainly look at this with the Team.

Councillor Foster commented that a great deal of effort had been made to improve the City and especially Hylton Castle which was superb but there now needed to be greater consideration of areas, particularly Castletown in order to bring it up to the same standards. Mr Morley advised that he would also look at this request.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that Roker Beach and its eateries were an excellent attraction for the City but felt the Roker Pods at the other end were an eyesore and enquired as to who owned these and who was renting them out. Mr Morley advised that he would investigate this further. Councillor Foster informed that he was due to have a meeting with Officers on this imminently.

Councillor H. Trueman referred to memorial benches and a particular bench that had been replaced in Springwell Village, which it had turned out to belong to the people of Springwell therefore had been stored, they were still waiting for this to be restored into Seldon Seen Park and requested if investigations could be had as to who could put this bench back. Mr Morley was to look to take this up with the team.

Councillor Laws informed that he had been contacted by a resident about acquiring a memorial bench and he had been given the impression that there was a massive backlog in this regards and enquired if this was still the case. Councillor Foster informed that he was aware that around 150 benches had been procured. Mr Morley advised that he would investigate further and provide a general wider update with regards to memorial benches.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Warne with regards to the ownership of the salt stores at Follingsby, Mr Morley advised that it used to be a joint site but this was a Gateshead only store now.

In response to Councillor Reed's enquiry, Mr Morley confirmed that not all of their vehicles had automatic weighing systems for the waste bags and there was a legal requirement not to overload the vehicles therefore staff did have to make an assessment, out of caution/safety they would always load under rather than over. Moving forward they could look at technology to retro fit the vehicles.

Councillor Reed referred to the use of Glyphosate and enquired as to what the effects of using this had been. Mr Morley advised that there were some concerns over it's affect on biodiversity and also concerns that it was a carcinogenic which was why they had adopted the trial of using alternatives. Mr Morley advised that whilst he was not an expert he was heeding the advice of scientists and hence the trial was being undertaken.

In response to Councillor Reed's request if extra vehicles could be obtained for the sweeping of tree debris that had caused excess flooding recently, Mr Morley advised

that this was a Highways function that would need to be raised via their operations but it may be possible.

With regards to Councillor Reeds enquiry over the free bin replacement scheme, Mr Morley advised that this was already happening and they were 7 month in so formulating the data on this to see what affect this had.

Mr Morley also responded to Councillor Reed regarding the New Pallion Yard and concerns raised from residents about being able to access/book a service via non electronic means. Mr Morley advised that whilst digital use was preferred, it was accepted that not all residents had access or wished to use digital services therefore they were able to ring the Customer Services Network to book a slot.

Councillor Reed referred to the Apprenticeships schemes and wellbeing mentors and commented that these were important schemes to keep up with and he welcomed their introduction.

In response to Councillor Fagan's enquiry over grass cutting, Mr Morley advised that this was weather dependant and if, like this year, having a really hot summer the grass didn't grow but the normal process was to cut between April-October. Mr Morley wasn't aware of any resourcing issues or any vacancies in positions that he was aware of but he would take this back for consideration.

Councillor Fagan raised the issue of Gentoo tagging the trees that were in their ownership and enquired if the Council were also undertaking this practice. Mr Morley advised that procurement was to be undertaken for inspection of our trees of issue.

Councillor Fagan referred to our Bereavement Services and a recent issue with a burial service needed within 48 hours for religious beliefs and as this had fallen on a Saturday it had been problematic for Officers and Councillors who didn't know who to contact therefore enquired if we had any steps in place for such a scenario. Mr Morley informed that he was sure arrangements would be in place for when Saturday burials where required but he would liaise with the Team over short notice burials and respond to the Members directly.

Councillor Dixon referred to improvements being made to the Bereavement Services and enquired as to what wasn't going right previously. Mr Morley informed that it was not necessarily about things not going right they were just trying to see what they could do to improve an already good service.

At the request of Councillor Dixon, Mr Morley agreed to provide more info on the 'pop-up' cafes the Bereavement support charities were holding. Mr Morley was also to have an Officer contact Councillor Dixon over his enquiry relating to the exit for cars from the crematorium leaving via Chester Road.

Councillor Fagan referred to the use of the City tip and an issue of booking appointments over the phone as the practice resulted in paper permits being sent out via post and due to the current Royal Mail issues, in many cases residents weren't receiving the paper permits in time for their appointment slots booked therefore suggested that the residents details be emailed to the reception/security at the tip rather than the need for a paper document. Mr Morley advised that at the previous authority he had worked at, security were given the details/lists of registration numbers for appointments and he would take this issue away for investigation as we should not be sending any paper out, paying postage etc in modern times.

In response to Councillor Fagan's enquiry over the Goss system, Mr Morley advised that this would be audited and automatic responses were issued to residents if a matter had been closed, if this was closed in error without having been satisfactorily dealt with, they could get in touch and the system was a lot more intuitive.

Councillor Dixon commented that he had personally experienced a lot of recent requests actioned a lot quicker and wished to thank officers for this. Mr Morley commented that this may be due to the new systems put in place and that he would take this compliment back to the team.

Councillor Reed requested if it was possible not to put the black bags in the waste bins in Back House Park due to their flammable nature. Mr Morley advised that if it was not possible for the staff to take their vehicles in then the removal of the bags would be difficult for operational reasons and due to the nature of the litter this was always flammable.

Councillor Reed wished to commend Nicky Raine as the Officer dealing with Cemetery improvements as she was doing a great job on some really sensitive work and she should be supported as much as possible on this. Mr Morley advised that they were thankful for the work Ms Raine was carrying out and he would take this back.

The Chairman thanked Mr Morley for the presentation.

Having discussed the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the Committee received and noted the report.

Annual Work Programme 2021-22

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

Councillor Dixon referred to the Housing Strategy Report and requested if the figures for the amount of Private Houses being built in the City could be included, overall figures etc. Mr Diamond advised that he would speak with Graham Scanlon to see if this could be included. The Chairman requested that Mr Diamond investigate the report on Environmental Enforcement and advised that the schedule was particularly busy therefore an extraordinary meeting may need to be slotted into the programme.

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

Notice of Key Decisions

The Scrutiny and Members Support Co-ordinator submitted a report providing Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 9th November, 2022 (copies circulated).

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

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

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. SNOWDON, Chairman.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SUNDERLAND CULTURE

CULTURAL SECTOR UPDATE

1. **Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To provide a provide a report on the progress of the cultural sector and its impact on the local economy of the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to include in its work programme a report on the cultural sector.
- 2.2 This item has been brought to the Committee in view of the significant economic impact of the cultural sector for the city.

3. Current Position

3.1 Rebecca Ball (Chief Executive of Sunderland Culture) will be in attendance to provide a presentation and answer any questions.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

5 Background Papers

None

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 10 JANUARY 2023

HOUSING STRATEGY – UPDATE

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek the views of the Committee on the draft housing strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee agreed to receive consultation on revised Housing Strategy.
- 2.2 An initial framework for the draft was submitted for the views and suggestions of the Committee at its meeting on 27 September. It was agreed that a further report should be submitted to a future meeting.

3 Current Position

3.1 Graham Scanlon (Assistant Director of Housing and Communities) along with relevant Service Officers will provide a presentation (attached) and update members on the draft strategy.

4. Recommendation

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





















ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2023

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023

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 2022-23 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 2022-23.

5 Recommendation

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

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

REASON FOR INCLUSION	14 JUNE 22 – (INFORMAL MEETING)	12 JULY 22	27 SEPTEMBER 22 (REARRANGED)	11 OCTOBER 22	8 NOVEMBER 22	6 DECEMBER 22	10 JANUARY 23	7 FEBRUARY 23	7 MARCH 23	4 APRIL 23
Policy Framework/ Cabinet Referrals and Responses			Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licence Policy (Steve Waring)							Scrutiny Annual Report
Scrutiny Business	Remit and Work Programme of Committee	Refugee Provision (Graham Scanlan) Port Visit – Arrangements (Matthew Hunt)	Housing Strategy/ Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy – Consultation (Graham Scanlan) Visit to the Port of Sunderland – Cancelled and Rescheduled to December)	Annual Low Carbon Progress Report (Catherine Auld)	Sunderland BID (Sharon Appleby) Events (Stephen Savage)	Business Centres (Catherine Auld) Environmental Services Update (Marc Morley) Visit to the Port of Sunderland (Matthew Hunt)	Culture Sector and the Local Economy (Rebecca Ball) Housing Strategy (Graham Scanlan)	Housing Provider Consultation (Gentoo) (Other Housing Providers)	Siglion (Neil Guthrie/Anthony Crabb) Future High Street Fund Programme (Neil Guthrie/Anthony Crabb) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Catherine Auld/James Garland) Screen Industries - Update	Annual Road Safety Report (Paul Muir) Public Transport Update (Mark Wilson) Cycling Infrastructure – Update (Mark Wilson)
Consultation Information and Awareness Raising		Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 23-23	Notice of Key Decisions Work Programme 22-23

City Heat Network Projects – Update (Peter Graham) - tbc E Scooter – Update (June 23) Accessibility (Stephen Dixon) - tbc

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Item 7

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2023

NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

3. CURRENT POSITION

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

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

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

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

• Cabinet Agenda

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

28 day notice Notice issued 21 December 2022

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
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> <u>.gov.uk</u>
220725/725	To approve the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	Ν	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .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
221121/734	To provide an update and to seek approval for the change in delivery approach in respect of the Sunderland Heat Network.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
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	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221026/748	To provide an update on the disposal of the former Civic Centre site	Cabinet	N	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221101/750	To consider the outcome of the review of the governance and contract arrangements for Together for Children Sunderland Limited and approve the recommended next steps.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221123/754	To seek approval to procure a contractor and negotiate and enter into a build contract for the delivery of 13 one bed apartments at James William Street.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221123/755	To seek approval to increase housing rents for Sunderland City Council tenants with effect from 3 April 2023.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221130/756	To seek approval to procure a contractor and, negotiate and enter into a build contract in the delivery of 55 nos. bungalows and apartments for over 55s at land at St Luke Road.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221201/757	To approve the Third Capital Review 2022/2023 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u>
221201/758	To approve the Third Revenue Review 2022/2023.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	<u>.gov.uk</u> Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221201/759	To approve the Council Tax Base 2023/2024.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	Ν 3 of 33	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u>

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221201/760	To approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023-2024.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221201/761	To approve the Revenue Budget 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221206/762	To approve the purchase of the property; 1 Nookside, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221207/763	To consider the Homes England Compliance Audit Report - Provider's Acknowledgement of Report.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221212/764	To approve a scheme of external and internal refurbishment works to Washington and Houghton Le Spring Library.	Cabinet	Y	19 January 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 2023 Page 2	Y 25 of 33	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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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220207/691	To approve the acquisition of strategic sites in the Commercial Road Area.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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220621/720	To approve funding options in respect of development at Nile and Villiers Street Sunniside.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
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	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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220822/736	To update Cabinet on progress of the New Wear Footbridge ("the Scheme") and seek approval to award the main works contract for the Scheme.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221018/746	To consider the acquisition of land and buildings at Cowies Way, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221018/747	To consider a disposal of land at Silksworth Road, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221212/765	To endorse the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan Enhanced Partnership and Scheme and to delegate to the Executive Director of City Development any last minute changes to the Plan and Scheme that arise through the consultation process.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221215/766	To seek approval of a framework of Tree Planting and Maintenance approved contractors.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 2023	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221216/767	To seek approval to acquire St. Cuthbert's Methodist Church and associated land to enable the build of 6 specialist supported bungalows and approval to procure a contractor and enter into a build contract for the delivery of the bungalows.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221216/768	To seek approval to acquire the former Halfway House Public House and, negotiate and enter into a build contract with Bright Ideas in the delivery of 8nos. 1-bed apartments for supported accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
221220/769	To approve the 2023 Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	2 February 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 <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk

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221220/770	To approve the carrying out of a procurement exercise in order to establish a framework for ground investigation works and geotechnical services. To delegate authority to the Executive Director of City Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to conclude the contractual arrangements.	Cabinet	Y	2 February 2023	Ν	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .gov.uk
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	During the period 19 January to 31 March 2023	Ν	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Governance Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA <u>committees@sunderland</u> .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 City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to <u>committees@sunderland.gov.uk</u>

*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 Louise Farthing – Children, Learning and Skills: Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Linda Williams – Vibrant City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – 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 Governance21 December 2022