

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, subject to the coordinating role of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

- 2.2 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.

- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.

- 2.4 The remit of the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee covers the following:-

Any matter relating to the economic prosperity of the city and the performance of services to support that including physical infrastructure, sector growth and skills, economic vibrancy, safer Sunderland, licensing and trading standards, strategic transport, environmental services, libraries, heritage and tourism.

- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review.

- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and Corporate Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Committee development sessions.

3 DETERMINING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Recommendations

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

5. Background Papers

Notes of the Development session held on 13 June 2023

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