



North East Derbyshire District Council

Contact: Alan Maher
Tel: 01246 217391
Email:
Date: Friday, 21 July 2023

To: **All Members of the Council**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held on **Monday, 31 July 2023 at 2.00 pm in the District Council Offices, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6NG**

Group meetings will be arranged, where necessary, by the Group Leaders.

The meeting will also be live streamed from the Council's website on its You Tube Channel. Click on the following link if you want to view the meeting:

[North East Derbyshire District Council - YouTube](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Steuberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any items on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 9 - 19)

To approve as a correct record and the Chairman to sign the attached Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 22 May 2023.

4 Chairman of the Council's Announcements

5 Leader of the Council's Announcements

6 Public Participation

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period up to fifteen minutes. The replies to any such questions will be given by the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

No questions have been submitted under Procedure Rule No 8 for this meeting.

7 The Council Plan - 2023 to 2027 (Pages 20 - 43)

Report of Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council

8 The Council's Scrutiny Committees - Terms of Reference (Pages 44 - 53)

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

9 Values in the Constitution (Pages 54 - 56)

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

10 Schedule of Meetings 2023-24 (Pages 57 - 74)

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

11 Stonebroom Community Governance Review (Pages 75 - 121)

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

12 To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 to allow Members to ask questions about Council activities. The replies to any such questions will be given by the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

The following questions have been submitted.

Question 'A' – Cllr H Liggett to Cllr S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Are the Labour Group going to honour The Conservative groups commitment to carry on the emptying of the Green Bins on throughout the winter period i.e. 12 months of the year straight through?

Question 'B' – Cllr C Cupit to Cllr N Barker, Leader of the Council

Could you confirm your commitment to continuing the previous administration's pledged replacement of The Bungalows in Stonebroom with new bungalows in line with the agreed timeframes and plans?

Question 'C' – Cllr M Foster to Cllr J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Will the Portfolio Holder confirm that the new administration will honour the financial commitments already made by the Council in relation to its allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Investment Plan?

Question 'D' Cllr A Dale to Cllr N Barker, Leader of the Council

On 22 May, the Leader of the Council announced his new administration would, as a key priority, be looking at what other measures could be introduced to support residents with the cost of living challenges. Could he confirm what steps the administration has so far taken and meaningful progress made in this endeavour, other than appointing to the Community Outreach Worker posts which were created under the last administration?

Question 'E' Cllr W Jones to Cllr S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

With the increasing focus on climate change driven by the demonstrable change in the weather profile across the UK, including NE Derbyshire, and given the previous administration had committed to SPDs and other measures to support them, what pragmatic sustainability steps utilising the current planning legislation plus the Local Plan, do you intend to take to ensure all new build homes are environmentally sustainable and how will this be satisfactorily demonstrated to our residents ?

13 To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 10 to consider Motions on notice from Members. Motions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring

Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

The following Motions have been submitted.

Motion 'A' – Proposed by Cllr R Shipman

Council notes the rising number of empty homes in North East Derbyshire.

Recent figures from Action On Empty Homes show that 1.51% of all homes in North East Derbyshire (a total of 720) are either second homes or long term empty homes.

This means that 1 in 66 homes in our area are not available to local people as places to live.

The accelerating number of family homes being lost in our area is a matter of great concern for local residents who may be struggling to get their foot on the property ladder or find a secure home in the rented sector.

Council notes the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is on its passage through Parliament. This bill will grant councils in England new powers to incentivise bringing empty homes and second homes back into use as family homes.

These powers will include the option to add a 100% Long Term Empty Premium onto Council Tax for homes that have been empty for over a year. In addition Councils will be able to charge a higher rate of Council Tax for empty furnished properties – such as second homes.

The power to issue these extra charges is set to come into force from 1 April 2024.

Council believes we should do everything we can to encourage empty homes and second homes being brought back into residential use for local people. Council also believes the Government must provide local authorities with more powers to manage the issue of empty homes, second homes and holiday homes in their area.

This includes changing planning law to require a change of use permission to convert a family home into a holiday let, and for increased powers to issue Empty Dwelling Management Orders that are currently heavily restricted.

Council therefore resolves to:

Bring a report to the Communities Scrutiny Committee to explore how new powers will be implemented and further ways North East Derbyshire District Council can bring empty homes back into use, with a view to;

Committing to use new powers when they are introduced next year to charge a 100% Council Tax premium on Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes for the first year, 200% for the second year, and then 300% for 3 years onwards.

Motion 'B' – Proposed by Cllr D Hancock

Local public sport and leisure infrastructure across the country faces an extraordinary financial crisis due to the ongoing impacts from COVID-19, the cost of living and the energy crisis.

The concerns raised by the Local Government Association and hundreds of other organisations across the country to the Prime Minister citing “the failure to identify bespoke support for the sector (and schools operating sports facilities) as part of the Energy Bills Discount Scheme will be the final straw for many facilities and services – especially swimming pools.”

In North East Derbyshire District Council we have 4 leisure centres and 3 swimming pools. These facilities are at the heart of our community, helping people to be active, improving their health and wellbeing, and to meet other people in the community.

Millions enjoyed and have been inspired by the Lionesses’ Euro 2022 triumph and the recent Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games, which have given us a timely boost in terms of national pride. If we are to continue our successful record in medal winning, then we need to grow the athletes of the future.

Evidence gathered nationally from leisure providers shows that since 2019 energy bills have risen by 300 per cent. Our swimming pools have seen an increase in energy costs. Clearly, as the budget suggests, this is unsustainable, and the Council will be forced to consider the difficult decision to close facilities and/or reduce services.

In light of these pressures, North East Derbyshire District Council has significant concerns about the decision to exclude swimming pools and leisure centres from the list of sectors eligible for extra support under the Government’s Energy and Trade Intensive Industries scheme and the Energy Bills Discount Scheme.

North East Derbyshire District Council instructs the Leader to write to the Prime Minister, copied to Lee Rowley MP and Mark Fletcher MP urging the Government to act swiftly with three key measures:

Reclassify pools and leisure centres as an energy and trade intensive industry in the Energy Bills Discount Scheme so they can access the higher level of energy price discount.

Set out what tangible support it will provide to the wider sector – including gyms and sports facilities – to help navigate the energy crisis across 2023 so that service restrictions and facility closures can be minimised.

Set out a “plan for the growth” for the sector by aligning the proposed new Sports Strategy with the Autumn Budget to unlock the potential of the sector to support.

Motion ‘C’ – Proposed by Cllr P Windley

Council notes:

That during the cost-of-living crisis many local families are keeping their central

heating low or not on at all which is exacerbating problems with damp.

The tragic death of a two-year-old boy Awaab Ishak in the Borough of Rochdale, and the subsequent Coroner's report which ruled that living with prolonged exposure to toxic mould was a cause of his death.

The casework issues ward councillors have experienced in North East Derbyshire trying to get landlords, including social housing providers, to take swift action to tackle mould.

The culture of blaming tenants for mould problems in properties and the lack of practical support many tenants face in tackling mould.

With thanks, the work already carried out by officers and Rykneld Homes on housing issues and the powers that the authority has to issue improvement notices to landlords of properties to tackle damp problems.

Council calls for Services Scrutiny Committee to review the authority's response to tackling damp, and in doing so consider aspects such as:

The Council's ability to resource its Environmental Health services in light of continued cuts to local government funding.

The information provided to tenants and landlords on the best approaches to preventing and tackling damp.

The response of social housing providers in preventing damp in their properties and investing in capital projects to improve the stock of social housing within the Council area.

The Council's use of enforcement powers under the Housing Act 2004 to take action against Category 1 hazards including damp, mould and excessive cold.

For a report to be presented back to Council outlining the action to be taken to reduce damp in properties across North East Derbyshire.

Motion 'D' - Moved by Cllr C Cupit and Seconded by Cllr A Dale

Council recognises the climate emergency and the imperative to continue to act urgently to reduce both the Council and District's emissions. Council notes the significant progress already made, particularly in relation to emissions from housing and our leisure centres and that we have been ahead of many other authorities on these fronts, securing praise from organisations like Friends of the Earth, but must continue striving for further carbon savings and efficiencies.

At the same time, Council condemns the costly and disruptive actions of organisations like Extinction Rebellion and Just Stop Oil and the hugely detrimental impact they can have on residents and businesses who deserve the freedom to be able to get on with their lives.

Council also notes that as a rural District, car usage will continue to be a key

mode of transport for our residents for many years to come.

Therefore, Council pledges to:

- recognise the importance of car usage to residents in our rural District and, as a point of principle, to avoid planning or regeneration policies which could be seen as “anti-car” or hindering car usage;
- continue supporting car parking, which is key to the local economy of our town and village centres, by pledging to maintain free car parking where it currently exists in the district, whilst also looking to maximise EV charging points;
- form a cross-party working group to investigate how to improve planning policies to encourage town centre car parking;
- continue the previous administration’s car parking strategy by investing £280k from the HRA per year to improve parking provision in areas where there are acute problems and the Council is the primary landlord.

Motion ‘E’ – Moved by Cllr A Dale and Seconded by Cllr C Cupit

Council notes with significant concern:

The national Labour Party Leader’s recent statements in relation to housebuilding. In particular, in an interview with Times Radio reported on the 17th May, he outlined his pledge ‘to make Labour the party of housebuilding by relaxing planning restrictions and allowing more housebuilding on our Green Belt.’

The Labour Leader has also committed to reintroducing mandatory, top-down and nationally set housebuilding targets for local authorities, which were previously scrapped by the Coalition Government, flying in the face of localism.

The news reports of the 9th May 2023 that new local Labour council leaders would be meeting with the Party Leader and were being tasked with ‘reviewing local housing and development plans’, with a view to providing even more housing.

As a picturesque rural district, over half of which lies within the green belt, Council strongly opposes any attempts by the National Labour Party leadership to relax planning restrictions making it easier for development to happen on the green belt.

Council resolves to protect the green belt and green fields in any future Local Plan reviews, while maintaining an up to date Local Plan to prevent the risks of speculative development as evidenced previously in North East Derbyshire following the expiration of the last Local Plan in 2011.

Council believes our residents have a right to be fully informed well in advance if there are any plans to deviate from existing local planning policies and frameworks, as well as being able to play an active part in shaping the future of their communities as part of the planning process. Council therefore urges the administration to set out very clearly and publicly how it intends to review our local

housing and development plans, including how residents will be consulted and involved in the process to ensure their views are taken into account.

14 Chairman's Urgent Business

To consider any other matter which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Access for All statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as **large print** or **language** or contact us by:

- **Phone** - [01246 231111](tel:01246231111)
- **Email** - connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
- **Text** - [07800 00 24 25](tel:07800002425)
- **BSL Video Call** – a three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call North East Derbyshire District Council with [Sign Solutions](#) or call into the offices at Wingerworth.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on [0800 500 888](tel:0800500888)– a free phone service
- **Visiting** our [offices](#) at Wingerworth – 2013 Mill lane, [S42 6NG](#)