

Public Document Pack



**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 Steenberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

A G E N D A

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

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- 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](#)

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 22 MAY 2023

Present:

Councillor Diana Ruff (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP (Vice-Chair) (in the Chair)

Councillor Pat Antcliff	Councillor Neil Baker
Councillor Nigel Barker	Councillor Jayne Barry
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE	Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor Joseph Birkin	Councillor David Cheetham
Councillor Kathy Clegg	Councillor Stephen Clough
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Councillor Suzy Cornwell
Councillor Charlotte Cupit	Councillor Michael Durrant
Councillor Alex Dale	Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Peter Elliott	Councillor Michelle Emmens
Councillor Stuart Fawcett	Councillor Clive Fletcher
Councillor Mark Foster	Councillor Christine Gare
Councillor Kevin Gillott	Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Lee Hartshorne	Councillor Daniel Higgon
Councillor Pam Jones	Councillor William Jones
Councillor Pat Kerry	Councillor Carol Lacey
Councillor Tony Lacey	Councillor Heather Liggett
Councillor Gerry Morley	Councillor Fran Petersen
Councillor Stephen Pickering	Councillor Stephen Reed
Councillor Carolyn Renwick	Councillor Michael Roe
Councillor Kathy Rouse	Councillor Ross Shipman
Councillor Derrick Skinner	Councillor Caroline Smith
Councillor Christine Smith	Councillor Mick Smith
Councillor Richard Spooner	Councillor Lee Stone
Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Kevin Tait
Councillor Helen Wetherall	Councillor Richard Welton
Councillor Pam Windley	

Also Present:

L Hickin	Managing Director – Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth & Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance & Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer
A Maher	Interim Governance Manager
A Bond	Governance Officer
T Scott	Governance & Scrutiny Officer
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer

COU Election of the Chairman of the Council

/1/23

-24

The retiring Chair of the Council, Mrs Diana Ruff, called for nominations for the election of a new Chair of the Council for the 2023-24 Municipal Year. Councillor N Barker and Councillor P Kerry moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor M E Thacker MBE be elected as Chairman of the Council. The Motion was put to the vote and was agreed. Councillor D Skinner asked that it be recorded in the minutes that he did not support the Motion.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor M E Thacker MBE be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year (by acclamation).

COU Address of Gratitude to Members by the Newly Elected Chairman of the Council

/2/23

-24

Councillor M E Thacker MBE accepted his election as Chairman of the Council. He solemnly swore the Oath of Office to carry out, to the best of abilities, his duties and responsibilities as Chairman of the Council. And that in doing so he would bear true allegiance to His Majesty The King.

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor M E Thacker MBE, thanked Members for their support and for electing him to once again serve as Chairman of the Council. He made clear that he would carry out this role in the interests of the Council and Councillors as a whole, regardless of their party-political affiliation.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE confirmed that he intended to support Ashgate Hospice through his Charitable Appeal for the year. In this context he highlighted a programme of planned fundraising events over the coming months.

The Chairman of the Council indicated that he had appointed the Reverend Nick Green to be his Civic Chaplain for the year. The Reverend Green confirmed that he accepted the appointment and swore a formal Oath of Office to carry out the duties of this post.

The Chairman of the Council also appointed his Civic Cadets for the year and presented them with their Badges of Office.

COU Address of Gratitude to the Outgoing Chair of the Council

/3/23

-24

The Chairman of the Council thanked the retired Chair, Mrs Diana Ruff, for her services to the Council and the District during her term of office. He stressed that she had carried out her role with fairness and dignity at a time of great emotion and historical significance for the Community. These included mourning for her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Proclamation of his Majesty King Charles III and the District's celebration of the King's Coronation. He also drew attention to her work in the community, her support for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Families Association (SSAFA) through her Charitable Appeal and her commitment to the Armed Forces Community,

including the very successful Armed Forces Fun Day.

Councillor A Dale and Councillor N Barker also congratulated Mrs Diana Ruff on her successful term as Chair of the Council. They thanked her for the important contribution which she had made to the Council, to the Armed Forces Community and to the District as whole.

Councillor M E Thacker MBE presented Mrs Diana Ruff with the Past Chair of the Council medal as a token of appreciation.

Mrs D Ruff thanked Members for their kind words. She stressed that it had been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Council, especially at such an historic time for the Country as a whole. She also highlighted her Charitable Appeal in support of SSAFA and which was expected to have raised over £6,000. In this context, Mrs Ruff thanked all those who had helped her by organising community fund raising events. She gave special thanks to Councillors P Antcliff and H Liggett for their assistance.

Concluding her comments, Mrs Diana Ruff wished all Members and the Council as a whole, well during the four-year Term of Office which had now begun.

RESOLVED -

That Mrs Diana Ruff be thanked for carrying out the office of Chair of the Council during the 2022-23 Municipal Year (by acclamation)

COU Apologies for Absence

/4/23

-24 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Morley

COU Declarations of Interest

/5/23

-24 None

COU Minutes of the Last Meeting

/6/23

-24 RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 6 March 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.

COU Election of the Vice-Chair of the Council

/7/23

-24 Councillor N Barker and Councillor Christine Smith moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor G Morley be elected as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED –

That Councillor G Morley be appointed Vice Chair of the Council for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (by acclamation).

COU Election of the Leader of the Council

/8/23

-24

Councillor J Barry and Councillor T Lacey moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor N Barker be elected as Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED –

That Councillor N Barker is elected as Leader of the Council (by acclamation)

COU Address of Gratitude to Members by the Newly Elected Leader of the Council

/9/23

-24

Councillor N Barker thanked Members for electing him as Leader of the Council. He then thanked Councillor A Dale and C Cupit, the former Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, for their work during the previous Administration and especially for helping the Council to respond effectively to the Covid Pandemic. He also thanked the Council's staff for their hard work in successfully organising the District and Parish Council elections.

Councillor N Barker congratulated all Members on their election as Councillors for the 2023-27 term of office. He also gave thanks to the former Members for their contribution to the Council and their communities. He gave special thanks to former Councillor Bette Hill for her contribution to the Council. He asked Members to join with him in wishing her best wishes for the future. Council concurred with this.

The Leader of the Council informed Members of the recent death of former North East Derbyshire District Councillor, Pete Riggitt. Councillor N Barker mentioned the many contributions which he had made to the District, including his service as a Councillor, County Councillor and as the former Chair of Clay Cross Parish Council. Councillor N Barker expressed his condolences to former Councillor Riggitt's family. With the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Martin Thacker MBE, a minute's silence was observed in memory of former Councillor P Riggitt

Council heard that the new Administration would seek to work in an inclusive and transparent way. As part of this inclusive approach, specific positions would be appointed to on a cross party basis. These included the post of Chairman of the Council and the Vice Chairs of some of the committees.

The Leader of the Council also explained the new Administration's goals and objectives. He made clear that it would seek to tackle Climate Change locally, increase the number of affordable houses in the District and provide additional resources to help combat anti-social behaviour and promote Community Safety.

The Leader of the Council highlighted his commitment to combatting the impact of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on the District and especially on those who were most vulnerable. In this context he made clear that grant aid would now once again be provided to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre.

COU Composition of the Cabinet

/10/2

3-24

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, informed Council of the Cabinet Members and their Portfolios appointed for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

Councillor N Barker

Leader and joint Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance

Councillor P Kerry

Deputy Leader and joint Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance

Councillor J Birkin

Portfolio Holder for Council Services

Councillor J Barry

Portfolio Golder for Growth & Assets

Councillor S Pickering

Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place

Councillor K Rouse

Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure

RESOLVED –

That Council noted the Cabinet for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

COU Review of the Audit Committee Structure and Terms of Reference

/11/2

3-24

The report to Council set out the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants (CIPFA) updated Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities. Members were asked to agree several recommendations that would, it was explained, demonstrate that the Council had sought to meet the principles set out by the Chartered Institute in its Position Statement. In particular, Council was recommended to establish a specific Audit Committee, to provide an independent and high-level focus on the adequacy of governance, risk, and control across the Council.

This new Audit Committee, it was explained, would replace the existing Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee. It would not have a scrutiny function. Two independent Members from outside of the Council would also be appointed to the Committee.

Council discussed the proposed arrangements. At the conclusion of the discussion Councillor J Barry and Councillor J Birkin moved and seconded the recommendations as set out within the report. The Motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED –

That:

- (a) That in accord with the CIPFA position statement in their position statement on Audit Committees as detailed in the report and approved:
 - The separation of the audit and scrutiny functions
 - A refresh of the terms of reference for the Audit Committee in the Constitution
 - Recruitment of co-opted independents as required, taking account of the overall knowledge and expertise of the existing membership
- (b) The Assistant Director of Governance is given delegated in consultation with the Chair of Audit Committee to amend the Schedule of Meeting Dates to provide for appropriate dates for the new Audit Committee to meet over the 23/24 Corporate year.
- (c) The Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) is given delegated power in consultation with the Chair of Audit Committee to run the recruitment process for the co-opted independents, for the Council to then make the decision on their appointment.

COU Proposals for Scrutiny Committees

/12/2

3-24

The report to Council set out specific proposals to establish a new structure of four Scrutiny Committees. These committees would be:

- Business Scrutiny Committee
- Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Environment Scrutiny Committee
- Services Scrutiny Committee

The changed structure, it was explained, would help to align the committees to the developing Council Plan and to help provide ‘checks and balances’ on the effective delivery of the Plan.

Council discussed the proposed changes. The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, informed Members that the proposed Committees would allow for ideas to align with the emerging Council Plan and would give Members a chance to get more involved with the Council business.

Councillor A Dale queried how extensive the changes to the Scrutiny Committee structure would actually be.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councillors N Barker and J Barry proposed and seconded the recommendations as contained within the report. The Motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED –

- That Council agreed to the following Scrutiny Committees being established (with nine Councillors on each Committee):
 - Communities Scrutiny Committee
 - Business Scrutiny Committee
 - Environment Scrutiny Committee
 - Services Scrutiny Committee
- That delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer to appoint the Members to the four Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the proportionality rules and in consultation with the relevant group Leader and to appoint Members who are not in political groups.

COU /13/2 3-24 Proportionality of the Council and Appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups

Members considered the proposed appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups. As part of this, Council was asked to agree that the Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer be given the delegated authority to appoint Members to the vacant Committee positions in accordance with the proportionality rule and in consultation with the relevant Group Leaders.

Councillors N Barker and J Barry moved and seconded the proposals as contained within the report. The Motion was put to vote and was agreed.

RESOLVED –

That:

- The proposed Committees of Council and Advisory Group be established for the 2023-24 Municipal Year
- The size of the Committees and Working Groups as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed for the 2023-24 Municipal Year, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules
- The proposed appointment to Committees and Advisory Groups, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and updated at the meeting be agreed.
- That delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director Governance and Monitoring Officer to appoint the Members to the remaining vacant Committee positions in accordance with the proportionality rules and in Consultation with the Relevant Group Leader and to appoint Members who are not in political groups

COU /14/2 3-24 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

Council considered the report to appoint elected Members to serve as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Councillor R Shipman informed Members that he believed that the Chairs and

Vice Chairs of the Committees should not all be from the current administration.

Councillor R Shipman and Councillor D Hancock moved and seconded a motion to amend the report to the effect that the Chairs and Vice Chairs would be nominated on a proportionality basis.

The Monitoring Officer explained to Council that as the motion had been considered by Council within the last six months, it could not be raised again unless there was support from one third of Council.

Councillors N Barker and J Birkin proposed and seconded the recommendations as contained within the report. The Motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED –

That Council appoint elected Members to serve as the Chair and Vice Chairs of the specified Council Committees and Advisory Groups

COU Proposed Interim Schedule of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year

/15/2

3-24

The proposed interim schedule of meetings for May-July 2023 was set out to Council.

Members were informed that the proposed schedule of meetings had been developed and circulated to Members. However, it had now become clear that significant changes would be required. For this reason, it was proposed that Council agree an interim schedule of meetings for the May to July 2023 period.

Council heard that a revised schedule of meetings for the remainder of Municipal Year would then be prepared and submitted to Council for approval at its meeting on 31 July 2023.

Councillors N Barker and P Kerry proposed and seconded the recommendations as contained within the report. The motion was put to the vote and was agreed.

RESOLVED –

That:

- Council approved the proposed Interim Schedule of Meetings for May-July 2023
- The finalised Schedule of Meetings for the whole of 2023-24 Municipal Year be submitted to the July Meeting of Council for approval.

COU Appointments to Outside Bodies

/16/2

3-24

Council considered the list of Members to be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on other organisations for the 2023/24 Municipal

Year. The Leader of the Council explained that a review would now be undertaken to determine which other bodies it would be appropriate for the Council to be represented on.

Councillor N Barker and Councillor P Kerry proposed and seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED –

That Council appoint elected Members to serve as its representatives on other organisations for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

COU Review of the Council's Constitution

/17/2

3-24

The report asked Members to approve the proposed Constitution of the Council for the 2023-24 Municipal Year. The proposed Constitution, it was explained, had been produced following an extensive review by the Standards Committee. The purpose of the review was to make sure that the Constitution was up to date, that it was in line with current legislation and that it provides appropriate rules and a framework to ensure the good governance of the Council and how it co-operates with others.

Council discussed the report. Councillor R Shipman and Councillor D Hancock moved and seconded a Motion to remove Section 10.3 of the Council Procedure Rules, requiring that Motions to change any part of the Constitution should first be considered by Standards Committee and Section 10.4 of the Council Procedure Rules, that no Motions to change Council policy should be accepted for debate at a Council meeting, until they had first been considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, or by Planning or Licensing Committee if the policy was a regulatory one, from the Constitution. Councillor R Shipman and Councillor D Hancock argued that this would allow Committees to act as gatekeepers and restrict democracy.

Councillor A Dale contended that the proposed approach would prevent the Constitution from being altered on an ad-hoc basis and ensure that it was only altered in an appropriate and constructive manner. Councillor K Gillott considered that the proposals would allow for proper process and consideration to be given to all proposed motions and that this would not restrict democracy or prevent Members from proposing motions to Council.

Councillor R Shipman exercised his right of reply to argue that if a motion cannot be accepted for debate at a meeting of Council, then Members would be unable to table it to go to a Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The Motion was put to the vote and was defeated.

Cllr C Cupit raised concerns over section 16.1 of the Members (Councillors) Planning Rules, which would limit the number of speakers at Planning Committee. She argued that only on rare occasions did large numbers of speakers speak at a Planning Committee meeting and that, as such, it would not be appropriate to impose the proposed restrictions.

Councillor C Cupit and A Dale proposed and seconded a motion to defer section 16.1 of the Members (Councillors) Planning Rules until the Standards Committee had reviewed these changes further. Following on from this, specific proposals should then be submitted to Council on what changes, if any, should be made.

Cllr R Shipman and J Barry supported this approach.

Cllr N Barker considered that there should be a limit on the number of speakers at Planning Committee but that this should be a greater number than five.

The revised motion was put to the vote and was approved by Council.

Following on from this Councillors J Barry and N Barker proposed and seconded a motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report, subject to the above provision, be agreed.

The motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED –

That:

- Following on from the extensive review carried out by Standards Committee Council approves the proposed Constitution for the 2023-24 Municipal Year. Excluding section 16.1
- Section 16.1 of the Constitution be referred back to Standards Committee for review.
- Standards Committee be asked to undertake a further review of the Constitution, as part of its annual work programme for the 2023-24 municipal year and to make any necessary recommendations for change to Council, as appropriate.
- Delegated power be given to the Monitoring Officer to make changes to the Constitution arising from any new legislation, administration errors or conflicts in interpretation during the course of the Municipal Year

COU Scheme of Delegation

/18/2

3-24

Council considered the Scheme of Delegation as outlined in Section 22 of the Council's Constitution Scheme of Delegation.

Councillors N Barker and P Kerry moved and seconded a motion to approve Officers recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED –

That Council approved the Scheme of Delegation as set out in the Council's Constitution.

COU **Operation of Urgency Rules and Thresholds for Key Decisions**

/19/2

3-24 Council received the report on Operation of Urgency Rules and Thresholds for Key Decisions for consideration.

Councillors N Barker and P Kerry proposed and seconded a motion to approve officer recommendations as contained in the report.

RESOLVED –

That Council:

- Noted that no decisions have been taken over the past 12 months under Special Urgency Rules in the Council's Access to Information Rules
- Noted that no decisions taken over the past 12 months under the urgency provisions (called General Exception) in the Council's Access to Information Rules
- Agreed that the financial thresholds for key decisions be maintained at £100,000 (Revenue) and £250,000 (Capital).

COU **Chair's Urgent Business**

/20/2

3-24 There was no urgent business.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

31 July 2023

The Council Plan 2023 to 2027

Report of the Cllr Nigel Barker, Leader of the Council

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Lee Hickin, Managing Director

Contact Officer: Lee Hickin, Managing Director
lee.hickin@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To present to Council the draft Council Plan 2023 to 2027 for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the draft Council Plan for 2023 to 2027 is approved.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr Nigel Barker, Leader of the Council

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no direct costs, though there will be costs arising from the actions in the Council Plan.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

As the Council Plan is part of the Budget and Policy Framework, constitutionally it must be considered by Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees before being considered by Council. Along with the consultation with Cabinet Members and consideration by Cabinet, an overview of the process has been shared with all four Scrutiny Committees

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒
Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None significantly
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Leader and Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Scrutiny Committees.

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

Yes

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 Following the elections in May, a draft Council Plan has been produced.
- 1.2 This draft has been considered by the Leader, Deputy Leader and other Cabinet Members and each of the 4 Scrutiny Committees has received an overview.
- 1.3 In addition Cabinet considered the draft Council Plan at their last meeting.

1.4 It is the Council's leading policy document for the next 4 years.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The draft Council Plan 2023 to 2027 is attached to this report for approval.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To ensure that the Council's work is carefully planned and structured.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None – it is not only good practice to have such a document, but it also gives a clear strategic direction for the Council.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Draft Council Plan 2023 to 2027 – TO FOLLOW
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Council Plan

2023 - 2027

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Welcome

from the Council Leader

Our vision for North East Derbyshire District is simple: Putting strong community leadership at the heart of everything we do, we will create a Great Place...

A place where people can earn a decent living and have a comfortable home. A place where people can live a long, happy, and healthy life. A place where people feel safe within communities that are full of pride and a place that is conscious of and cares for its environment.

We are committed to achieving this by building and acquiring more affordable houses to rent and will be working closely with our housing delivery partner Rykneld Homes Ltd. (RHL) to do this. We will also be adding more resources to tackle ant-social behaviour and reviewing the way we look after our streets and public spaces in our district... and much, much more.

These are the things that our communities told us are most important to them...we listened and we pledged to deliver this. We are proud to have been tasked by the people of our District to translate these pledges into meaningful action.



*Cllr Nigel Barker
Council Leader*

Throughout this plan we will demonstrate our commitment to the residents of our District and give examples of some of the work we will be doing to meet our pledges. This plan is intended to be a dynamic plan however, one that will continue to grow throughout the next four-year term.

We will deliver this evolving and ambitious Council Plan in an inclusive and transparent way, with a spirit of effective collaboration for the benefit of our residents.

We also recognise that many of the challenges that we face cannot be delivered by a the Council alone and as such we are proud to work in collaboration with our local partners, other public sector organisations, businesses, the voluntary sector and our communities.

We hope you enjoy reading about our plans for the future. We aim to demonstrate through words and deeds our commitment to you and what we are doing to deliver and will keep you updated and informed regularly with the progress that is being made.

North East Derbyshire is our home, and together we will continue building a positive place that we can all share and enjoy...
A Great Place!

Nigel Barker
Leader of the Council

Foreword

from the Managing Director

The Council Planning process is always an interesting and exciting time for officers of the Council. A time when the ambitions of the organisation are mapped out for the next term, a time of new beginnings and new energy.

In delivering the Council Plan, the relationship between elected Members or Councillors and officers is an important one. The approach here at North East Derbyshire District Council is very much aligned to one of 'collaborative leadership' and whilst recognising that the roles of elected Members and officers are different, we are in essence all here to improve the outcomes for our District and help improve the lives of the people within.

From an officer perspective, our level of success relies heavily upon the organisations' capacity and ability to lead, manage,



*Lee Hickin
Managing Director*

and develop its single most important resource - its people. Our Council has a strong people-centric culture providing the sub-structure upon which everything else is built.

As an organisation we embrace innovation, creativity, new ideas and new ways of working to ensure our Council succeeds. We challenge functional barriers, encourage, coach, and empower our colleagues to engage, develop talent from within, create an environment where people want to be successful and take ownership and most importantly - be ONE TEAM.

As Managing Director, I truly believe that the adoption and development of our ONE TEAM ethos, coupled with our 'collaborative leadership' approach, sets the organisation up to succeed in 'collectively' delivering this exciting new Council Plan and in helping to shape the future of the communities that we serve.

Lee Hickin
Managing Director

About North East Derbyshire

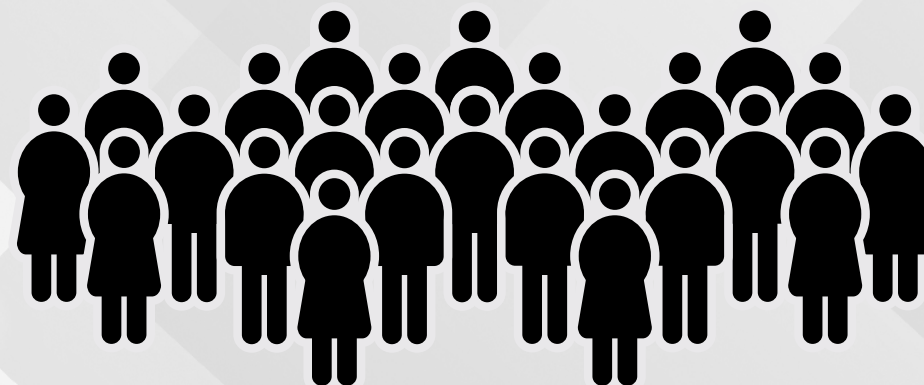
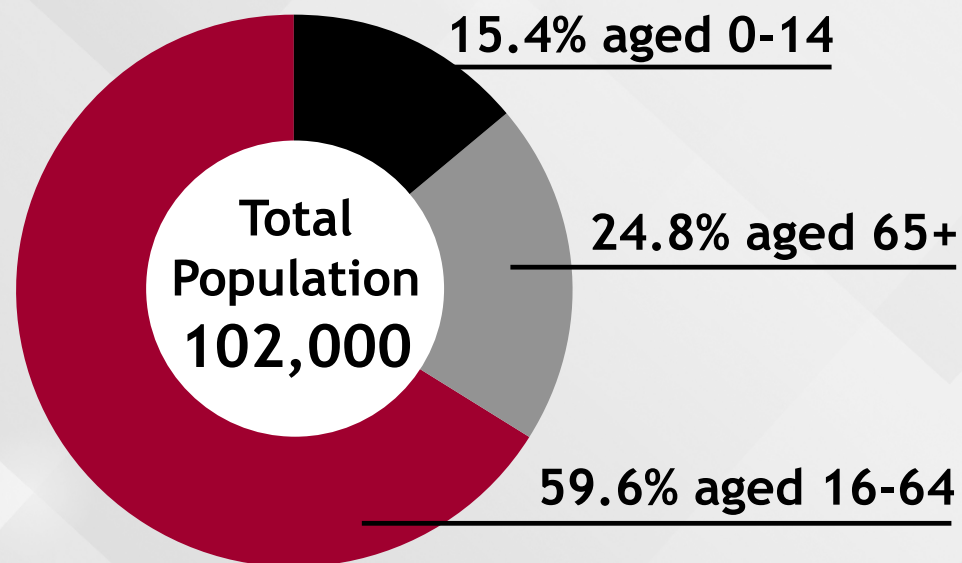
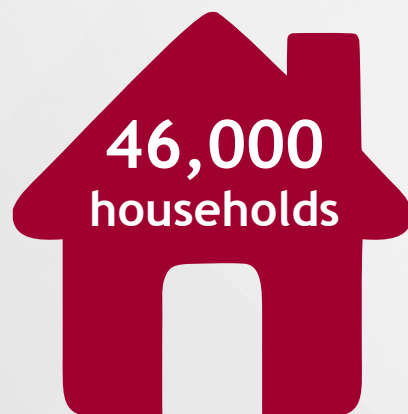
North East Derbyshire is a largely rural area, set within one of the most picturesque counties in England, and forms part of the border of the historic Peak District.

A district of contrasts, from thriving urban settlements to beautiful rural villages and countryside. It covers almost 106sq kilometres with the main centres being Clay Cross, Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh.

It has excellent national rail and road links, with close proximity to other regional towns and cities providing local residents with employment and leisure opportunities, and attracting day visitors.

The District has a rich rural leisure infrastructure and includes a country park in Grassmoor, Linacre Reservoirs nature area, greenways, and four local nature reserves.

It has a business base of over 4,700 businesses with micro enterprises (under 10 employees) forming the majority. The District is also home to some large nationally recognised businesses.



3% population growth since 2011

North East Derbyshire District in numbers



Population of
102,100



106
square miles



46,000
households



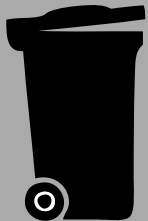
4,700
businesses



£286,500
average house
price



Average salary
£27,500



3.4 million
bins emptied
each year



Own
7,500
Council houses



75%
of working aged
residents in paid
employment



25%
of the population
aged 65 and over



Runs four leisure centres which
receive over
860,000
visits a year



Over
2,500
planning applications
received annually

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

Our Vision

Putting strong community leadership at the heart of everything we do we will create *A Great Place...*

Our Values

Our Values are:

- Be honest and accountable.
- Treat everyone fairly and with respect.
- Listen, involve and respond.
- Embrace change and innovation.
- Be collaborative, open and transparent.



A community with lifelong good health

- Maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity.
- Directly or in partnership, reduce health inequality, supporting Public Health, DCC and other partners to deliver targeted programmes in the district.
- Assist residents in ensuring their homes are suitable and meet their health needs.
- Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operations.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Invest in modern and accessible leisure facilities.
- Provide and facilitate good quality outdoor spaces for activity and socialising.
- Provide a diverse range of inclusive and well-maintained play provision.
- Ensure council housing is well maintained and meeting the health needs of residents in partnership with RHL.

And through our communications:

- Engage with landlords to improve the standard of private sector housing.
- Promote public footpath walking routes and district wide outdoor events.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles, helping to reduce risk of ill health and early death from major diseases like cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory illness and diabetes.
- Promotion of successful and high-profile enforcement activity to act as a deterrent to others.

A community with lifelong good health



• And through enforcement:

- Take action where private sector housing standards are not being met.
- Investigate and take necessary action on domestic pollution control.
- Enforce tenancy conditions through tenancy management.
- Investigate and take action where necessary on public health matters.
- Impose and enforce planning conditions.

And through delivery:

- Provide accessible and inclusive programme of activities for residents.
- Provision of advice and assistance to businesses, the general public and other public services.
- Inspections regime for food safety, workplace health and safety and animal welfare.



And through our partners:

- Promote and facilitate non traditional and emerging activities.
- Develop and deliver targeted national initiatives such as 'This Girl Can' and 'We are Undefeatable.'
- Support, empower and enable community-led litter picks.

And through our people:

- Fully trained and experienced staff to deliver rehabilitation, recovery and health intervention (e.g. Dementia, Parkinson's Disease, Cancer Rehabilitation).
- Education and information sharing for tenants and residents to support their lifestyles such as energy efficiency.

And through our policies:

- Liaise with public partners to secure Section 106 contributions for services that require additional resources.



- Protect and improve the Green Infrastructure Network and other linear recreation routes, cycle routes and greenways.
- Ensure high quality design and place-making which encourage active lifestyles.

A place to live that people value

- Develop and continually improve the quality and range of housing, providing comfortable homes for residents that meet their needs.
- Well maintained public spaces that connects our communities.
- Directly and with partners, improve where people live to ensure they are safe, clean, functional and attractive.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Explore housing development and regeneration opportunities.
- Asset rationalisation programmes.

And through our communications:

- Marketing and promotion of Council and partner services.
- Public consultation events and customer surveys.

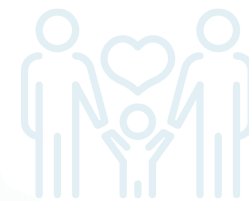
And through enforcement:

- Act to reduce empty homes.
- Targeted and proactive improvements to the appearance and maintenance land and buildings through the use of Section 215 action.
- Act to manage and sustain tenancies of council owned homes.
- Enforcement of fly tipping, litter and stray dogs.
- Take appropriate action against landlords not observing their duties.
- Serving community protection orders.

And through delivery:

- In partnership with RHL, delivery of housing services that meet Consumer Standards for social housing.
- Build, acquire and facilitate delivery of sustainable and affordable homes across the district.

A place to live that people value



And through delivery, continued:

- Ongoing delivery programme improving the energy efficiency and appearance of our council houses in partnership with RHL.
- Remove fly tipping deposits in line with targets.
- Provide and promote an effective and efficient waste collection service.
- Undertake regular safety inspection in our parks and open spaces.

And through improvement:

- Reduce the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation as homeless provision.
- Invest in the Community Safety provision to increase positive impact in local communities.
- Future use of Local Design Codes to improve the quality of our neighbourhoods.
- Review “Welcome to North East Derbyshire” gateway signage.
- Increase the number of sustainable and affordable homes across the district.

And through our partners:

- Enable housing growth across tenures to meet the housing need.
- Work with housing providers to facilitate supported housing to meet all needs.
- Consult on planning applications for new developments.
- Engage with partners across the County on community safety delivery.

And through our policies:

- Local Plan policies to ensure the housing delivered meets the needs of communities.
- Use of Local Design Codes to improve the quality of neighbourhoods.
- Produce a robust Green Infrastructure Strategy to connect settlements with their surrounding area and nature.



A place where people enjoy spending time

- Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time.
- Develop and promote the local 'offer' to ensure a diverse range of high quality activities and places to spend time.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- The new Clay Cross Active facility.
- Provide accessible facilities with an inclusive programme for residents.

And through our communications:

- Promote local attractions, accommodation and assets.
- Promote green social prescribing for mental health and wellbeing.
- Promote the local leisure offer and local events.

And through delivery:

Develop a skate park in Killamarsh to encourage more users.

- Develop programmes and activities that target residents who are less able and least likely to engage.
- Maintain good outdoor spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

And through improvement:

- Prepare a district wide heritage strategy to ensure the historic environment contributes to quality places.
- Create a local list of heritage buildings.

And through our partners:

- Support community focussed cultural activity such as "Live and Local" and community touring schemes.
- Promote the expansion of Chesterfield Canal.

- Develop collaborative initiatives through the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership.

And through our policies:

- Deliver beautiful, enduring and successful places in line with national design guidance. developments.



A community with growing commutable employment opportunities

- Support existing businesses (including the Council) to maintain and grow the workforce.
- Support new businesses to start creating employment.
- Attract new businesses to the area which bring new jobs.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Offer flexible terms and incentives for council rentals to encourage and support growth.
- Provide business accommodation to meet local needs.
- Unlock potential development sites.

And through our communications:

- Signpost to appropriate business support through a variety of media channels.
- Produce information to promote the District.

- Engage with and listen to businesses to understand their requirements.

And through delivery:

- Access and utilise external funding to develop local initiatives to support growth across the District.
- Support business networks and events.

And through our people:

- Support the talent pipeline through volunteering, work placements and planned workforce development.

And through our policies:

- Protect employment through the local plan.
- Through the Local Plan identify quality employment land in accessible locations and a high-quality housing offer.



A community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents

- Work with partners to match and develop local skills with local business employment needs.



We will work to achieve this through our communications:

- Signpost to appropriate workforce upskilling support through a variety of media channels.

And through our partners:

- Influence local skills provision by identifying gaps through business engagement.
- Promote the Tourism Hospitality Charter.

- Through Conservation and Heritage, work with local craftspeople to promote local building traditions and materials.
- Work collaboratively to understand skills needs and implement succession planning.

And through our people:

- Support workforce development through the Council's Talent Pipeline plan.
- Encourage adoption of the talent pipeline within the local business community.

Continually improve council services to deliver excellence and value for money

- Financially responsible and efficient.
- Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do.
- Listen to customers to improve services.
- Modernise and innovate services to continually improve.
- Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Effective management of our commercial property portfolio.
- Ensure all council assets are well maintained, efficient and fit for purpose, utilising external funding where available.
- Ensure the data we hold on our assets is up to date and used effectively.

And through our communications:

- Ensure financial information is clear timely and meaningful to aid effective decision making at all levels.

- Advocate transparency by publishing information of interest to customers.
- Regular customer satisfaction surveys across all services.
- Embed scrutiny and consultation.

And through delivery:

- Maintain sustainable and well managed budgets.
- Demonstrate financial resilience through reporting and policy.
- Comply with internal and external audits and inspections.

- Customers dealt with at first point of contact.
- Continuous review of customer accessibility to our services.
- 24 hour access to council services through digital platforms.



Continually improve council services to deliver excellence and value for money



And through improvement:

- Continually review the impact of cyber security, disaster recovery and business continuity.
- Improve our use of customer data to provide actionable insight and feedback.
- Develop and deliver the Talent Pipeline.

And through our people:

- Develop and embed the Talent Pipeline.
- Provide relevant and effective training for all staff.
- Invest in the physical and mental wellbeing of our employees.
- Regular engagement opportunities for all staff.

And through our policies:

- Apply the Council's Constitution to provide strong governance.
- Maintain strong financial governance policies.
- Effective scrutiny to ensure the objectives within the Council plan are being delivered.
- Adherence with key policies such as Information and ICT security policies and Transparency Code.

And through our supply chain:

- Follow the Procurement Strategy to achieve value for money, sustainability and economies in scale.
- Require businesses delivering procured contracts to have good employment practices.



Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the District

- Actively participate, nurture relationships and maximise benefits for residents in partnerships such as health, economy and resilience.
- Directly assist residents and businesses to access all available public services and support.
- Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Co-location of services with partners.

And our communications:

- Marketing and promotion of Council and partner services.
- Public consultation events and customer surveys through a range of platforms.

And through delivery:

- Diverse range of activities and engagement such as smoking cessation, weight management, digital skills, and social isolation.

And through enforcement:

- Encourage and engage in a multi-agency approach to enforcement.

And through improvement:

- Use the data we collect to provide more effective actionable insight and feedback.

And through our partners:

- Build strong partnership relationships, influence policy and create wider stakeholder involvement.
- Support partner initiatives which share our values and objectives.



Increase biodiversity across the District

- Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to improve biodiversity.
- Where appropriate utilise council assets to improve biodiversity.



We will work to achieve this through our assets:

- Review council land assets to identify suitable sites for biodiversity mitigation.

And through our communications:

- Lead by example.
- Share our successes with others.

And through delivery:

- Delivery of the Climate Change. Strategy Action Plan.
- Include plants attractive to pollinators in planting schemes.

And through improvement:

- Recruitment a dedicated Sustainability Officer to help deliver the Council's Climate Change Objectives.
- Review management of natural land assets such as re-wilding cut frequency and planting.

And through our partners:

- Develop the co-operation with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to provide advice and guidance.

And through our policies:

- Develop local policies to embrace legislation such as through the Environment Act and on Biodiversity Net Gain.

- Encourage re-wilding and wildlife corridors for public open spaces and wildflower verges to improve biodiversity.

Reduce pollution across the District

- Assist and influence other public partners, residents and businesses to reduce pollution.
- Develop policies and plans which encourage alternatives to car usage.
- Directly and with partners and residents, reduce litter and pollution from waste.



We will work to achieve this through our communications:

- Share best practice.
- Promote recycling.
- Promote the composting of food waste and garden waste.

And through enforcement:

- Regulate industrial processes.
- Identification and action against fly tipping and littering.

- Monitor and take action where appropriate to reduce dust, air pollution, odour, noise, light, insects and smoke.

And through delivery:

- Access and utilise external funding to develop local initiatives.

And through our policies:

- Deliver sustainable development through the Local Plan.

And through our partners:

- Work with the highways authority to influence the local transport plan and expand greenways network.



Have your say

We would very much welcome your views on our priorities within the Council Plan. If you would like to comment on it or require more information, please contact the Council at the address below.

North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices,
2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG. Tel: 01246 231111
www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

Equalities Statement

North East Derbyshire District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and when delivering the services it provides to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

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 FREE, three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on [0800 500 888](tel:0800500888). FREE phone service for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking.
- Visiting our [offices](#) at Wingerworth: 2013 Mill Lane, [S42 6NG](#).



North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

31 July 2023

The Council's Scrutiny Committees - Terms of Reference

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer** sarah.sternberg@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To present the Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference to Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the attached Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Protocol for the Scrutiny Committees are approved.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

The Scrutiny Committees are required to have Terms of Reference. As there has been a review of the Scrutiny function alongside the development of the Council Plan and the change to the Scrutiny structure, it has been necessary to review the Scrutiny Terms of Reference.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☒ No ☐

Details:

Not immediately

There is a need to review the capacity of the Senior Scrutiny Officer to work for 4 Scrutiny Committees instead of 3.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None significantly
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: as well as the four Scrutiny Committees

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

The Terms of Reference have links to all the objectives, strategies and tactics in the Council Plan.

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 As Members are aware from an earlier item on the agenda, a new Council Plan has been developed covering the next 4 years.

- 1.2 Part of the work on this has included a review of the Scrutiny Committees and their functions. As Members are aware, the structure of the Scrutiny Committees was reviewed and the new Scrutiny Committees were agreed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2023.
- 1.3 Terms of Reference for the new Scrutiny Committees were not at the time developed.
- 1.4 As part of the continuing development of the new Council Plan, the four Scrutiny Committees have been briefed on the emerging Council Plan and on their role in relation to it. This included consideration of the draft Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference and Scrutiny Protocol.
- 1.5 Standards Committee has also considered the new Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Protocol and recommended them for approval by Council.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Attached at the Appendix are the draft Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Protocol that have been informally presented to the four Scrutiny Committees and formally to Standards Committee.
- 2.2 These show the place the Scrutiny Committees will have in relation to the Council Plan and their role in the “connecting thread” in relation to the Council Plan and its implementation and monitoring the results.
- 2.3 These Terms of Reference also include a new enhanced role in policy development and review in relation to all policies which do not form part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. Traditionally it has not been the Scrutiny Committees role to play a significant role in policy development and review at the Council. The review includes putting this role firmly with the Scrutiny Committees.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In order that the Scrutiny Committees can function, it is necessary for them to have approved Terms of Reference. At the moment there are no Terms of Reference for these Committees.
- 3.2 The role of the Scrutiny Committees should be aligned with the Council Plan to ensure effectiveness of their contribution. However this would not prevent the Committees considering other issues outside the Council Plan where there is a proven need.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not to re structure the Scrutiny Committees to become part of the connecting thread with the Council Plan. This was rejected as Council had already approved the new structure for the Scrutiny Committees.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
	The draft Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference and Scrutiny Protocol
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

Section 21 of the Constitution: The Functions Scheme

Appendix 1 – Committee Terms of Reference

1. Scrutiny Committees

The Council has established four Scrutiny Committees, with nine Members on each. The Committees are:

- a) Communities Scrutiny Committee (responsibilities focussed upon housing, the public realm and leisure activities)
- b) Business Scrutiny Committee (responsibilities focussed upon our business and employment opportunities)
- c) Environment Scrutiny Committee (responsibilities focussed upon our environmental improvement and tackling climate change)
- d) Services Scrutiny Committee (responsibilities focussed on providing excellent services both ourselves and influencing partners)

In addition, Council has also established a special Joint Scrutiny Committee, consisting of the Members of the four Scrutiny Committees. The Joint Scrutiny Committee will meet as and when required to scrutinise cross-cutting issues, such as the Council's Budget.

All Councillors, except Members of the Cabinet, may be Members of a Scrutiny Committee. Members of the Scrutiny Committees will be appointed annually at the Annual Council meeting.

The Scrutiny Committees will operate in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, as set out in Section 10 of the Constitution. The arrangements for the Call-In of Key Decisions is set out on page 82 of the Constitution. Scrutiny's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The role of the Scrutiny Committees

The role of Scrutiny Committees in helping deliver the outcomes of the Council Plan are key – they will provide the 'checks and balances' on the effective delivery of the plan and undertake reviews and targeted work where necessary in support of the successful delivery of the plan. For this to best be achieved, alignment with the objectives of the plan and the Committees is established so that each Committee have a clear 'focus' individually and collectively, all Scrutiny Committees will ensure a comprehensive coverage and connection to all aspects of the Council Plan.

The new Council Plan is intended to be a 'dynamic' plan, a non-static plan, one that can flex and adapt to meet the challenges and maximise the opportunities of the day. With Scrutiny Committees being aligned to the Plan, there will be an additional 'connecting thread' running through the organisation from the 'frontline' right the way through to Council – this will complement the Performance

Management Framework, help with transparency and organisational clarity of purpose and add another source of momentum to the operating environment

This alignment to the Plan and the key objectives will allow the whole organisation to 'flex and change' as one system as and when we need to act or react. This organisational connectivity and agility will help ensure the Council is best placed to 'collectively' deliver the positive outcomes for the communities that we serve.

The main role of the Scrutiny function is to hold the Executive (the Cabinet) to account for its decisions and to monitor the overall performance of the Council. Scrutiny makes its own decisions in relation to its programme. However, as the Council's key policy is the Council Plan for the 4 year term, the Scrutiny Committees should be heavily involved in its development, review and the Council's performance against the Plan.

Protocol for Overview and Scrutiny in the Council

This Protocol sets out the role, purpose and operational arrangements for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

At its Annual Meeting on 22 May 2023 Council agreed to establish four Scrutiny Committees. These are:

- (a) The Business Scrutiny Committee
- (b) The Communities Scrutiny Committee
- (c) The Environment Scrutiny Committee
- (d) The Services Scrutiny Committee

Subsequently, Council also established a special Joint Scrutiny Committee, comprising the Members of all four Scrutiny Committees. This Joint Scrutiny Committee will meet as and when required, in order to scrutinise cross-cutting issues, such as the Council's Budget.

Council recognised that although it would be a matter for the Members of each Committee to determine their specific workloads, they should all seek to carry out their remit during the Municipal Year by:

- (i) Considering decisions taken by Cabinet and Council;
- (ii) Monitoring and seeking explanation of how specific Council and partner organisation services are performing as against the Council Plan
- (iii) Providing a 'Sounding Board' for proposed policy developments and an assessment of their likely contribution to delivering the Council Plan goals and specific targets; and
- (iv) 'Horizon Scanning' to consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council for example.

In undertaking this work, the Committees have been asked to keep the following in mind. The aim is that by doing so, the Committees will be able to use the

information which they have obtained to help answer the bigger questions about how we are performing as an organisation and whether the Council Plan is being delivered. The remits are aligned to the Committee's specific area within the Council Plan.

The Business Scrutiny Committee – Council Plan Responsibilities

A community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents

- Work with partners to match and develop local skills with local businesses employment need.

A community with growing commutable employment opportunities

- Support existing businesses (including the Council) to maintain and grow the workforce
- Support new businesses to start creating employment
- Attract new businesses to the area which brings new jobs

Key Questions for Scrutiny:

Does the committee have assurance that the strategies in the Council Plan are being delivered?

Prompts:

- What has been presented to demonstrate this?
- Is any data presented robustly evidenced?
- Is there, where appropriate, independent verification of the data and/or benchmarking data? *(this is a good "can opener" to help us measure ourselves against peers and the sector)*
- Is the right information available?
- Are there improvement recommendations for Cabinet to consider?
Is this feedback being listened to and acted on?

The Communities Scrutiny Committee– Council Plan Responsibilities

A community with lifelong good health

- Maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity
- Directly or in partnership reduce health inequality supporting public health DCC and other partners to deliver targeted programmes in the district
- Assist residents in ensuring their homes are suitable and meet their health needs
- Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operations

A Place to live that people value

- Develop and continually improve the quality and range of housing providing a nice home and area for all residents to meet all needs
- Well maintained public realm that connects our communities
- Directly and with partners improve where people live to ensure they are safe clean functional and attractive

A Place where people enjoy spending time

- Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time
- Develop and promote the local offer to ensure high quality diverse range of activities and place to spend time

Key Questions for Scrutiny:

Does the committee have assurance that the strategies in the Council Plan are being delivered?

Prompts:

- What has been presented to demonstrate this?
- Is any data presented robustly evidenced?
- Is there, where appropriate, independent verification of the data and/or benchmarking data? *(this is a good "can opener" to help us measure ourselves against peers and the sector)*
- Is the right information available?
- Are there improvement recommendations for Cabinet to consider?
- Is this feedback being listened to and acted on

The Environment Scrutiny Committee– Council Plan Responsibilities

Increase Biodiversity across the District

- Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to improve biodiversity
- Where appropriate utilise council assets to improve biodiversity

Reduce Pollution Across the District

- Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to reduce pollution
- Develop policies and plans which require/encourage alternatives to car usage
- Directly with partners and residents reduce litter and pollution from waste

Key Questions for Scrutiny:

Does the committee have assurance that the strategies in the Council Plan are being delivered?

Prompts:

- What has been presented to demonstrate this?

- Is any data presented robustly evidenced?
- Is there, where appropriate, independent verification of the data and/or benchmarking data? (*this is a good "can opener" to help us measure ourselves against peers and the sector*)
- Is the right information available?
- Are there improvement recommendations for Cabinet to consider?
- Is this feedback being listened to and acted on

The Services Scrutiny Committee– Council Plan Responsibilities

Continually improve council services to deliver excellence and value for money

- Financially responsible and efficient
- Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do
- Listen to customers to improve services
- Modernise and innovate service to continually improve
- Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district

- Actively participate, nurture relationships, and maximise benefits for NE residents in partnerships such as health economy and resilience
- Directly assist businesses and residents to access all available public services and support
- Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements

Key Questions for Scrutiny:

Does the committee have assurance that the strategies in the Council Plan are being delivered?

Prompts:

- What has been presented to demonstrate this?
- Is any data presented robustly evidenced?
- Is there, where appropriate, independent verification of the data and/or benchmarking data? (*this is a good "can opener" to help us measure ourselves against peers and the sector*)
- Is the right information available?
- Are there improvement recommendations for Cabinet to consider?
- Is this feedback being listened to and acted on

Policy Development

Scrutiny will have an especially important role to play as a 'Sounding Board' on Policy Development. In particular:

- Any policy which forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework will be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Committees by Cabinet for consideration before it is submitted to Council.

- The relevant Scrutiny Committees will be proactively engaged by Cabinet in the development of all major policies or to changes of policy for the Scrutiny Committee's area of responsibility. And
- All Council motions recommending a substantial change to policy will be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration **before** they are considered by Council. This will be done automatically in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.

The Budget and Policy Framework contains those policies which by law must be determined by Council following proposals by the Executive and consideration of the proposals by Scrutiny. These policies are listed below. The Council has chosen to add other policies to this list.

- MTFP, including borrowing, capital expenditure and investments
- Sustainable Community Strategy
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan.

Officers and Members Working Together to Support Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committees have a vitally important part to play in the life of the Council. In recognition of this Cabinet Portfolio Holders, Statutory Officers and Directors and the officers who make up the Council's Senior Management Team have all committed to working in a co-operative and productive way with the Scrutiny Committees. They will attend Committee meetings, when requested, provide appropriate advice and assistance, when this is needed and seek to always ensure effective scrutiny within the Council. Portfolio Holders and the Senior Management Team will be regularly informed of the work of the Scrutiny Committees.

The Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chairs and Members of the Committees have also agreed to conduct their meetings in an open, transparent, courteous and non-party political way.

Scrutiny is asked to provide a report annually to a meeting of Council which outlines their work over the course of the past Municipal Year.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

31 July 2023

Values in the Constitution

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

Contact Officer: **Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer** sarah.sternberg@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To introduce a fifth value into the Constitution

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approve the addition of the fifth value to the Constitution.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Committees

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
None

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 A draft Council Plan 2023 to 2027 has been produced and discussed with Cabinet Members and the 4 Scrutiny Committees. As part of these discussions, it was suggested that an extra value be added to the Constitution. There are currently 4 values included within the approved Council Constitution.
- 1.2 This report seeks agreement to the new value being added to the existing values in the Constitution.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 A presentation on the draft Council Plan has been given to Cabinet Members, SMT and the 4 Scrutiny Committees and by the time of this meeting, Cabinet will also have considered the draft Council Plan. As part of this presentation, it

was proposed that a new value be added to the existing 4 Values in the Constitution.

2.2 The existing Values can be found on page 8 of the Constitution and are:

- Honest, open and accountable;
- Treat everyone fairly and with respect;
- Listen, involve and respond; and
- Embrace change and innovation.

2.3 The following new Value is proposed. It represents the view of the new Leader and the new Labour administration that business should be dealt with as openly and transparently as possible. It is:

- Being collaborative, open and transparent

2.4 It is proposed that this is added to the existing Values section in the Constitution.

2.5 Standards Committee will have considered the matter and made a recommendation by the time of this meeting.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To ensure that the Values in the Constitution represent all aspects of the Council's values.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not to include. This would mean the Values in the Constitution did not represent all the values that underpin what the Council does.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Draft Council Plan 2023 to 2027	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

31 July 2023

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2023-24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Alan Maher, Governance Manager 01246 217391
alan.maher@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To set out the proposed Schedule of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approves the proposed Schedule of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☒ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Group Leaders

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
Good Governance

REPORT DETAILS

1 Proposed Schedule of Meetings

- 1.1 With the agreement of Standards Committee, the Council's different political groups were consulted on the draft Schedule of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year. This consultation was intended to reduce as far as possible the need for subsequent changes to meeting dates.
- 1.2 Although the proposed Schedule of Meetings was developed and circulated as part of the first iteration of the report, it became clear that significant changes would be required to the schedule in order to accommodate the various changes to the Council's Scrutiny and other Member decision making arrangements.
- 1.3 For this reason Annual Council agree an Interim Schedule of Meetings for the May to July 2023 period, with the aim that a fully revised Schedule then be prepared and submitted to Council for approval at its meeting on 31 July 2023. The proposed Schedule of Meetings for the August 2023 to May 2023 period is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Schedule can also be accessed

through the Calendar on the Council's website, along with the agendas and minutes for these meetings.

2 Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 To agree a Schedule of Meetings for the 203-24 Municipal Year.

3 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

3.1 None

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**POST RECESS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24**

<u>W/C: 7 AUGUST 2023</u>				
Monday – 7 August	Tuesday – 8 August	Wednesday – 9 August	Thursday – 10 August	Friday – 11 August
RECESS 1.30pm - Leadership	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
<u>W/C: 14 AUGUST 2023</u>				
Monday – 14 August	Tuesday – 15 August	Wednesday – 16 August	Thursday – 17 August	Friday – 18 August
RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
<u>W/C: 21 AUGUST 2023</u>				
Monday – 21 August	Tuesday – 22 August	Wednesday – 23 August	Thursday – 24 August	Friday – 25 August
RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS

W/C: 28 AUGUST 2023

Monday – 28 August	Tuesday – 29 August	Wednesday – 30 August	Thursday – 31 August	Friday – 1 September
RECESS BANK HOLIDAY	10am - Licensing Sub Committees (if required)			

W/C: 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday – 4 September	Tuesday – 5 September	Wednesday – 6 September	Thursday – 7 September	Friday – 8 September
10am – Planning Site Visits 1.30pm – Leadership	2pm – Planning Committee		10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group	

W/C: 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday – 11 September	Tuesday – 12 September	Wednesday – 13 September	Thursday – 14 September	Friday – 15 September
3.30pm - Environment Scrutiny Committee				

W/C: 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday – 18 September	Tuesday – 19 September	Wednesday – 20 September	Thursday – 21 September	Friday – 22 September
3pm - Business Scrutiny Committee 1pm - Chesterfield & District Joint Crematorium Committee	10am - Services Scrutiny Committee	10am – Communities Scrutiny Committee	4.00pm - Cabinet	

W/C: 25 SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday – 25 September	Tuesday – 26 September	Wednesday – 27 September	Thursday – 28 September	Friday – 29 September
2pm – Council		1pm - Joint Board 2pm – Standards Committee		3pm - Audit Committee

W/C: 2 OCTOBER 2023

Monday – 2 October	Tuesday – 3 October	Wednesday – 4 October	Thursday – 5 October	Friday – 6 October
10am – Planning Site Visits 2pm – Joint ICT Committee	2pm – Planning Committee			

W/C: 9 OCTOBER 2023

Monday – 9 October	Tuesday – 10 October	Wednesday – 11 October	Thursday – 12 October	Friday – 13 October
1.30pm - Leadership	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required)		10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group	

W/C: 16 OCTOBER 2023

Monday – 16 October	Tuesday – 17 October	Wednesday – 18 October	Thursday – 19 October	Friday – 20 October

W/C: 23 OCTOBER 2023

Monday – 23 October	Tuesday – 24 October	Wednesday – 25 October	Thursday – 26 October	Friday – 27 October
			4.00pm - Cabinet	2pm - Council Joint Consultative Group

W/C: 30 OCTOBER 2023

Monday – 30 October	Tuesday – 31 October	Wednesday – 1 November	Thursday – 2 November	Friday – 3 November

W/C: 6 NOVEMBER

Monday – 6 November	Tuesday – 7 November	Wednesday – 8 November	Thursday – 9 November	Friday – 10 November
10am – Planning Site Visits	2pm – Planning Committee	2pm – Licensing Committees		

W/C: 13 NOVEMBER 2023

Monday – 13 November	Tuesday – 14 November	Wednesday – 15 November	Thursday – 16 November	Friday – 17 November
1.30pm – Leadership 3.30pm - Environment Scrutiny Committee	10am – Licensing Sub- Committees (if required)	10am – Communities Scrutiny Committee 2pm - Standards Committee		

W/C: 20 NOVEMBER 2023

Monday – 20 November	Tuesday – 21 November	Wednesday – 22 November	Thursday – 23 November	Friday – 24 November
12.30pm – Chesterfield & District Joint Crematorium Committee 3pm - Business Scrutiny Committee	10am - Services Scrutiny Committee		4.00pm - Cabinet	

W/C: 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Monday – 27 November	Tuesday – 28 November	Wednesday – 29 November	Thursday – 30 November	Friday – 1 December
2pm – Council				

W/C: 4 DECEMBER 2023

Monday – 4 December	Tuesday – 5 December	Wednesday – 6 December	Thursday – 7 December	Friday – 8 December
10am – Planning Site Visits	2pm – Planning Committee		10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group	

W/C: 11 DECEMBER 2023

Monday – 11 December	Tuesday – 12 December	Wednesday – 13 December	Thursday – 14 December	Friday – 15 December
1.30pm - Leadership	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required)			

W/C: 18 DECEMBER 2023

Monday – 18 December	Tuesday – 19 December	Wednesday – 20 December	Thursday – 21 December	Friday – 22 December

W/C: 25 DECEMBER 2023

Monday – 25 December	Tuesday – 26 December	Wednesday – 27 December	Thursday – 28 December	Friday – 29 December

W/C: 1 JANUARY 2024

Monday – 1 January	Tuesday – 2 January	Wednesday – 3 January	Thursday – 4 January	Friday – 5 January
BANK HOLIDAY				

W/C: 8 JANUARY 2024

Monday – 8 January	Tuesday – 9 January	Wednesday – 10 January	Thursday – 11 January	Friday – 12 January
1.30pm - Leadership				

W/C: 15 JANUARY 2024

Monday – 15 January	Tuesday – 16 January	Wednesday – 17 January	Thursday – 18 January	Friday – 19 January
10am – Planning Site Visits	2pm – Planning Committee		10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group 2pm – Joint Scrutiny Committee	

W/C: 22 JANUARY 2024

Monday – 22 January	Tuesday – 23 January	Wednesday – 24 January	Thursday – 25 January	Friday – 26 January
3pm – Audit Committee	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required)		4.00pm – Cabinet	2pm – Council Joint Consultative Group

W/C: 29 JANUARY 2024

Monday – 29 January	Tuesday – 30 January	Wednesday – 31 January	Thursday – 1 February	Friday – 2 February
2pm – Council				

W/C: 5 FEBRUARY 2024

Monday – 5 February	Tuesday – 6 February	Wednesday – 7 February	Thursday – 8 February	Friday – 9 February
1.30pm – Leadership				

W/C: 12 FEBRUARY 2024

Monday – 12 February	Tuesday – 13 February	Wednesday – 14 February	Thursday – 15 February	Friday – 16 February
2pm – Joint ICT Committee				

W/C: 19 FEBRUARY 2024

Monday – 19 February	Tuesday – 20 February	Wednesday – 21 February	Thursday – 22 February	Friday – 23 February
10am – Planning Site Visits 3.30pm - Environment Scrutiny Committee	2pm – Planning Committee			

W/C: 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Monday – 26 February	Tuesday – 27 February	Wednesday – 28 February	Thursday – 29 February	Friday – 1 March
3pm - Business Scrutiny Committee	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required) 10am - Services Scrutiny Committee	10am – Communities Scrutiny Committee 2pm – Standards Committee	10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group 4.00pm – Cabinet	

W/C: 4 MARCH 2024

Monday – 4 March	Tuesday – 5 March	Wednesday – 6 March	Thursday – 7 March	Friday – 8 March
2pm – Council		2pm – Licensing Committees		

W/C: 11 MARCH 2024

Monday – 11 March	Tuesday – 12 March	Wednesday – 13 March	Thursday – 14 March	Friday – 15 March
1.30pm - Leadership			10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group	

W/C: 18 MARCH 2024

Monday – 18 March	Tuesday – 19 March	Wednesday – 20 March	Thursday – 21 March	Friday – 22 March
10am – Planning Site Visits 1pm – Chesterfield & District Joint Crematorium Committee	2pm – Planning Committee			

W/C: 25 MARCH 2024

Monday – 25 March	Tuesday – 26 March	Wednesday – 27 March	Thursday – 28 March	Friday – 29 March
	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required)	1pm - Joint Board	4.00pm – Cabinet	GOOD FRIDAY

W/C: 1 APRIL 2024

Monday – 1 April	Tuesday – 2 April	Wednesday – 3 April	Thursday – 4 April	Friday – 5 April
EASTER MONDAY				

W/C: 8 APRIL 2024

Monday – 8 April	Tuesday – 9 April	Wednesday – 10 April	Thursday – 11 April	Friday – 12 April
1.30pm - Leadership				

W/C: 15 APRIL 2024

Monday – 15 April	Tuesday – 16 April	Wednesday – 17 April	Thursday – 18 April	Friday – 19 April
3pm – Audit Committee				

W/C: 22 APRIL 2024

Monday – 22 April	Tuesday – 23 April	Wednesday – 24 April	Thursday – 25 April	Friday – 26 April
10am – Planning Site Visits 2pm – Council	2pm – Planning Committee	2pm – Standards Committee	10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group 4.00pm – Cabinet	

W/C: 29 APRIL 2024

Monday – 29 April	Tuesday – 30 April	Wednesday – 1 May	Thursday – 2 May	Friday – 3 May
	10am – Licensing Sub-Committees (if required)			2pm – Council Joint Consultative Group

W/C: 6 MAY 2024

Monday – 6 May	Tuesday – 7 May	Wednesday – 8 May	Thursday – 9 May	Friday – 10 May
BANK HOLIDAY	10am - Services Scrutiny Committee	10am – Communities Scrutiny Committee		

W/C: 13 MAY 2024

Monday – 13 May	Tuesday – 14 May	Wednesday – 15 May	Thursday – 16 May	Friday – 17 May
10am – Planning Site Visits 1.30pm – Leadership 3pm - Business Scrutiny Committee	2pm – Planning Committee		10am – Housing Strategic Partnership Group	

W/C: 20 MAY 2024

Monday – 20 May	Tuesday – 21 May	Wednesday – 22 May	Thursday – 23 May	Friday – 24 May
2pm – Annual Council	3.30pm - Environment Scrutiny Committee		4.00pm – Cabinet	

W/C: 27 MAY 2024

Monday – 27 May	Tuesday – 28 May	Wednesday – 29 May	Thursday – 30 May	Friday – 1 June
BANK HOLIDAY				

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council

31 July 2023

Stonebroom Community Governance Review

Report of the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Sarah Sternberg, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

The Council received a Petition for a Community Governance Review of Stonebroom in the middle of 2022. Consultation was undertaken and reported to Council in November 2022. Council asked for further consultation. This has been carried out and is now being reported to Council for a decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council considers making one of the following recommendations:
 - a) To establish a separate Stonebroom Parish Council or
 - b) Not to establish a separate Stonebroom Parish Council
2. This decision having been made, further consultation is carried out in accordance with the legislation and guidance reported back to Council on ...
3. That the following delegation Council previously given to the Managing Director is reconfirmed - that the Managing Director and Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer, be authorised to put in place the arrangements and timetable for undertaking the Community Governance Review.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

The creation of a new Stonebroom Parish Council will mean that the Council Tax will need disaggregating between the new Parish Council and the remaining Shirland and Higham Parish Council. However, there will be no direct cost to the District Council.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection):

Yes ☒

No ☐

Details:

A Community Governance Petition is a request to the Council to review a number of different matters in relation to Parish areas. Where this results in a change for example by the establishment of a new Parish Council, there are also other changes to be made such as changes to electoral arrangements for the area. In this case, a new Parish Council has been requested meaning that, if approved, there will be new arrangements for elections for the 2 new Parish Councils and the Council Tax issues referred to above.

Once a Community Governance Petition is received, the Council is statutorily required to consider the matter in accordance with the legislation, statutory and other guidance. If a new Parish Council is agreed at the end of the process, further elections will be held for both Parish Councils and the cost of these will be borne by the 2 Parish Councils

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing:

Yes ☐

No ☒

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	Shirland and Higham and Stonebroom.
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	N/a. This is a decision for Council Details:

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
None

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** (reasons for bringing the report)

- 1.1 In September 2022, the District Council considered the arrangements for the consideration of a Community Governance Review for Stonebroom. The Council decided to set up a Working Group consisting of 3 Councillors and to ask them to carry out the required consultation and formulate a decision for recommendation to the Council.
- 1.2 At Appendix 1 is the report of the Stonebroom Community Governance Review Working Party to Council on 28th November 2022. This outlined the consultation held, the conclusions drawn from these responses and recommended that a new Parish Council at Stonebroom is not formed.

- 1.3 This report also sets out the considerations that should be taken into account as outlined in the legislation, statutory Government guidance and AEA (Association of Electoral Administrators) guidance as follows:

The legislation covering this is the Local Government and Public Improvement in Health Act 2007. This sets out that the Council must ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and
- Effective and convenient.

The following “influential” factors must be taken into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

- 1.4 This report sets out the reasons why the recommendation was made including:

- The responses for the whole of Shirland and Higham (including Stonebroom) was 161 or 4 % of the population.
- Attendance at the public meeting on the 1st November 2022 held at Shirland Community Centre was around 50 people most of whom were in favour though there was opposition as well
- Comments made at the public meeting.
- Consideration of each of the principles above (set out in paragraph 1.3 above) in the light of the consultation responses
- Reasoning for the recommendation based on the above.

- 1.5 At the meeting of Council, it was decided that:

COU /55/2 2-23 Stonebroom Community Governance Review Members were reminded that the Council had received a valid Petition requesting that a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom should be established. Under Section 83 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, it was then required to carry out a Community Governance Review of the area. A Working Party had been established, which had put in place appropriate public consultation arrangements to find out the views of local people.

The report to Council set out the consultation arrangements These included leaflet drops, targeted social media posts and a public meeting. However, Members were informed that comparatively few people in the area had participated in the consultation. Based on this, the Working Group had concluded that although some people did strongly support a separate parish council for Stonebroom a significant proportion of the very limited proportion of local residents who had actually responded did not support change.

The Chair of the Working Group, Councillor M Foster and the other Members of the Group, Councillors D Ruff and R Welton all spoke about the review, the limited response to the public consultation and the Working Group’s conclusions that, given the low response to the consultation, the case for a

separate Parish Council for Stonebroom had not yet been established. In this context, Councillor R Welton highlighted a suggestion that the existing Shirland and Higham Parish Council might call a referendum to determine whether Stonebroom residents wanted their own Parish Council.

The Chair of Council briefly recessed the meeting, so that two people could address Members on the issue. Councillor Lomax of Shirland & Higham Parish Council spoke in favour of a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom. A local resident suggested that there were mixed views within the community and that residents required more information on the proposal and its implications.

Members discussed the report. During the discussion Councillors C Cupit, T Reader, K Gillott, D Hancock, R Shipman, J Funnell, M E Thacker MBE and J Barry expressed their reservations about the Working Group's recommendations. They felt that a separate Parish Council should be established, if there was significant community support for this.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councillor C Cupit and Councillor D Ruff proposed and seconded a Motion that the Working Group be asked to carry out further public consultation to determine the views of local people on whether to establish a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom.

The Motion was put to the vote and was approved.

RESOLVED (1) That based on the views of Council and the consultation responses received, the Council asks the Stonebroom Community Governance Working Group to undertake further, more extensive, consultation into the possibility of a separate Stonebroom Parish Council. That as part of this, the views expressed by Council be relayed to the consultees so that Council can re-consider the original petition.

- 1.5 The Working Party then undertook additional consultation.
- 1.6 The following further consultation was carried out in February/March 2023 and consisted of:
 - A public meeting held at Shirland Village Hall in February 2023. This meant that a meeting had been held both in Stonebroom itself and in Shirland.
 - An extended survey with more detailed questions and a requirement to give name and address
 - A further meeting with the Parish Council in March 2023
 - Further website and social media information.
- 1.7 At the public meeting in February 2023, the turnout was less than at the previous meeting in November 2022. Whereas around 50 people attended the public meeting in November 2022, the number in February was around 25. The opinions expressed were varied with a small number being in favour, with the rest being split between those against and those who didn't know.
- 1.8 The results of the 2023 survey have been analysed by The Performance Team. The number of responses was 121 (compared with 161 responses in 2022). To

give a comparison of figures, the electorate of Stonebroom is c1470 and c 4500 for the whole of Shirland and Higham Parish area.

1.9 The report is at Appendix 2. The Executive Summary states:

Executive Summary

- Of the 121 respondents who completed the survey, 69 people (57%) felt in principle there should be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area, with 52 respondents (43%) stating there should not be.
- By comparison, the November '22 survey result showed 73% in favour, 25% against and 2% did not know. So whilst the majority of respondents are still in favour of the proposal, the favourable responses has reduced by 16% from November 2022 to the March 2023 survey result.
- Of the respondents who favoured the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'local representation for the community', 'reflects the ideas and interests of the community' and 'more control over local services'.
- When asked if they would still be in favour of the proposal if there were financial implications to residents, 28 people (41%) said yes, 10 people (14%) said no, with a further 31 people (45%) stating it would depend how much.
- Of the respondents who opposed the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'adequately catered for by Shirland and Higham Parish Council', 'it may cost more in council tax' and 'the parish is too small to sustain its own parish council'.
- After reading the literature explaining the functions of a parish council that was provided to accompany the survey 83 people (69%) said the information confirmed what they previously thought in terms of their understanding of a parish council, 37 people (31%) found that a parish council could do more than they thought, with just 1 person (1%) finding that a parish council could do less than they thought.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council, 38 people (31%) felt it would not, with a further 34 people (28%) stating they did not know.
- 55 respondents (46%) felt that a separate Parish Council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the community, 44 people (36%) felt it would not, with a further 22 people (18%) stating they did not know.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt the proposals would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area, 29 people (24%) felt it would not, with a further 43 people (36%) stating they did not know.

1.10 At the meeting at the Shirland and Higham Parish Council in March 2023, the Parish Council requested an extension for sending their response. This was so that the new Parish Council following the elections in May 2023 could consider

the matter afresh. The Parish Council's view would then be that of the newly elected Parish Council rather than that of the Parish Council in its last few weeks of its term. Their response has been received and is at Appendix 3 and is that they will respect the wishes of Stonebroom and will abide by whatever decision is made.

- 1.11 Since the elections in May this year, the working party has not continued its work. However, the decision is still to be made by the Council. This report outlines the results of the consultation in order to allow Council to make a decision. In view of this situation, the Council is invited to choose between the 2 recommendations above.
- 1.12 Following the Council formally making a decision at this meeting, a further round of consultation on that decision will be carried out in accordance with the legislation and this will be reported to a future Council meeting with responses. If a separate Stonebroom Parish Council is the Council's decision, a Reorganisation Order will also be presented to the Council for approval at the same time. the Reorganisation Order is the official creation of the new Parish Council in Stonebroom and the smaller Shirland and Higham Parish Council.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 To consider the consultation responses (both the initial ones considered at Council in November 2022 details of which are contained in the November 2022 report to Council and the subsequent ones from February/March 2023), and determine if there should be a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The decision must be made on the basis of the outcome of the consultation exercises. This is not a numbers (quantative) issue. It is not where the largest body of opinion came from or the smallest. What the Council is looking for is the demonstration of whether or not there is a strong community feeling within the area, a community which is ready and wishes to have its own Parish Council.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 None. The Council must consider the Petition, the consultation responses and make a decision. There are 2 recommendations for the Council to choose between.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Report of the Stonebroom Community Governance Working Party to Council on 28 th November 2022. The attachments to the report are available in hard copy in the Members' room or on request electronically. This is due to the size of the report's attachments.
2	Report of outcome of 2023 survey
3	Response of the Shirland and Higham Parish Council.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

Appendix 1

North East Derbyshire District Council

Stonebroom Community Governance Review

Working Group Report to Council on 28th November 2022 including draft recommendations

Working Group:

Cllr Mark Foster (Chair)

Cllr Diana Ruff

Cllr Richard Welton

Introduction

The Stonebroom Community Governance Review Working Group was set up following Council on 12th October 2022 because a valid Petition had been received requesting a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom. North East Derbyshire District Council is required to carry out the review by virtue of Section 83 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Our role as a Working Party is to consider the consultation received in relation to the Petition request and make draft recommendations to Council.

The Council report and attachments are at Appendix 1 including the approved Terms of Reference.

Currently Stonebroom is one of the villages that constitutes Shirland and Higham Parish Council. The others are Shirland, Higham and Mickley. The Parish Council is unwarded and the current electorate is 4034 of which Stonebroom's electorate is 1472. These are the electorate figures at the time of deciding these draft recommendations. The electorate is predicted to grow to 5149 over the next few years. However this growth is not within Stonebroom itself where the electorate is predicted to be stable.

Consultation carried out

Whilst the Council has a statutory duty to consult, the legislation and statutory guidance do not specify how or who to consult. This statutory duty is to consult local government electors and any other stakeholder who appear to have an interest including other local authorities and councillors.

The guidance states that there is no need to write to every local government elector as the duty is to consult not to carry out a poll nor can we use the electoral register for such purposes.

The Working Group took the decision to have a very robust consultation exercise, doing more rather than less.

The consultation was:

Information on NEDDC Website including survey

Information on Shirland and Higham Parish Council website

FAQs on website

Targeted social media posts to Stonebroom residents and including reference to the survey

Public meeting on 1st November 2022 in Stonebroom

Leaflet including survey sent to all households in Shirland and Higham including Stonebroom

Second leaflet including the same survey hand delivered to all households in Stonebroom

The Guidance and legislative requirements for the review

There is guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This is dated 2010 and has not been updated since. We were reliant on this Guidance.

There is also practical guidance from the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA).

The legislation covering this is the Local Government and Public Improvement in Health Act 2007. This sets out that the Council must ensure that the community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and
- Effective and convenient.

We are also required to take into account the following “influential” factors

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

Accordingly we have had due regard to and considered the guidance throughout the review.

In addition we have taken external legal advice on 2 occasions from Weightmans solicitors to help ensure that the Working Party was on track with its approach and actions.

In considering these matters we are clear that this is a qualitative and not a quantitative review. It is not an informal vote where the highest numbers win. Having said that we do think it vital to have the backing of the community for arrangements.

Outcome of consultation exercises

Response rates

A total of 161 responses were received. Of these 89 gave addresses as follows:

- Stonebroom 67 of the 89 equating to 75% of named respondents

- The rest of Shirland and Higham 22 equating to 25% of named respondents.

In terms of the electorate for the whole of Shirland and Higham Parish Council area including Stonebroom and Mickley, this is $161/4034 = 4\%$ of the electorate who have responded.

The organisations to have responded included the Stonebroom Community Volunteer Group, Shirland and Higham Parish Council and St. Peters Church Stonebroom. No representations have been received from businesses or schools or other bodies.

The public meeting on the 1st November was attended by nearly 50 people, according to the attendance list that attendees were asked to sign.

The electorate for Stonebroom currently is 1472.

We have determined from these figures that there is no clear and substantial community desire for a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom. From a qualitative view there is a need to balance the arguments for and against a separate Stonebroom Parish Council as identified by the consultation responses.

Arguments put forward for a separate Stonebroom Parish Council.

The Petition itself did not outline arguments for a separate Stonebroom Parish Council so we were very dependent on the arguments put forward in the consultation and what we could find out ourselves.

The arguments put forward in the responses to the written consultation exercise are at Appendix 2.

The arguments put forward at the public meeting are in Appendix 3

Consideration

In looking at the first principal:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area

We have to look at community cohesion.

The government guidance is clear that people should feel they have a stake in the society and the local area where they live by having the opportunity to influence decisions affecting their lives. This may include what type of community governance arrangements they want in their area.

We need to ensure that our decision contributes to improving community cohesion.

Community Governance arrangements should reflect and be sufficiently representative of people living across the whole community and not just a discrete cross section or small part of it.

Any outcome to create a new Parish Council should not threaten Community Cohesion.

The decision is a balanced one in taking into account community cohesion as against the other factors.

The guidance also talks about there may well be a variety of different communities of interest within a parish and cite those representing age, gender, ethnicity, faith or life style groups. The guidance also refers to other communities which may exist with interests in schools or leisure pursuits.

Finally the guidance says that in considering the criteria, community governance reviews need to home in on communities as offering a sense of place and of local identity for all residents

Conclusion

The arguments put forward split into three groups. A fourth group (Other) did not contribute to the arguments on community identities. The three groups were arguments for the separate Parish Council, arguments against a separate Parish Council and unhappiness with the existing Shirland and Higham Parish Council.

We believe that arguments relating to the performance of the existing Parish Council and Parish Councillors are a matter for the electorate and do not reflect arguments for or against community identity and a separate Stonebroom Parish Council.

The arguments put forward have relatively strong evidence of a desire for a separate Parish Council. Clearly the relatively small number of respondents from the electorate feel strongly about this. Not all of the arguments were for a separate Parish Council even amongst this group, however as is shown in the consultation responses in Appendices 2 and 3.

The arguments mostly put forward were about Stonebroom residents having control over Stonebroom's affairs and that the geographical area for Shirland and Higham Parish Council was too great. We did not get much concrete evidence for the community identity which would be better represented by a separate Parish Council. At the public meeting when we asked for such concrete examples there was little supplied.

However we have concluded that the responses we have received do not show evidence of a strong existing community identity and how community cohesion and identity would be advanced by a separate Parish Council.

We reached this conclusion taking into account:

The fact that a petition had been triggered to carry out the review;

- 1) There were strong feelings supporting the proposal for a parish for Stonebroom from some residents;
- 2) The response to the consultation were limited to a very small proportion of local residents;
- 3) The responses were mixed with a significant number of those who did respond not supporting change.

Having considered and weighed up all of these factors we considered that community cohesion and identity would be best served by not establishing a new parish for Stonebroom.

- Effective and convenient

The guidance in relation to this point is that the parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative area of local government.

There is no size specified for a Parish Council, with the smallest being 50 electors.

One of the existing polling districts forms the boundary around the geographical area of Stonebroom and this could serve as the new Stonebroom Parish Council boundary.

The guidance states that the effectiveness and convenience of local government is best understood in the context of a local authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently and give users of services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.

The guidance also says that the general rule should be that the Parish Council is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is of a size which is viable as an administrative unit of local government.

Conclusion

As a Working Group we have no concerns on the viability of the area had it been demonstrated that community identity and community cohesion supported the establishment of a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom.

Draft recommendations

1 That the Council do not establish a separate Parish Council for Stonebroom for the reasons given above and to keep the existing arrangements/boundaries at the current time.

Next steps

The next step is for the draft recommendation to be consulted upon. This will be by using the websites of the District and Parish Councils, social media as previously.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to Council on 3rd October 2022.

Appendix 2 – Responses put forward to the written consultation exercise.

Appendix 3 – Arguments put forward at the public meeting.



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**North East Derbyshire District Council
Stonebroom Community Governance Review
Resident Survey - Response Report
March 2023 Survey**

Richard Shaw

25th Apr '23

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Methodology	03
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Respondent Profiling Information	05-06
Survey Response Detail	07-13
Appendices (Respondent Comments)	14-33

Distribution	Issue	Date
Sarah Sternberg	Final Report	25/04/23
Donna Jawad	Final Report	25/04/23
Kath Drury	Final Report	25/04/23

Introduction

The Council received a Petition for a Community Governance Review of Stonebroom and as a result needed to consider whether Stonebroom should have its own parish council and not be part of Shirland and Higham Parish Council any more.

The Council agreed Terms of Reference and an initial timetable for the review both of which could be found on the Council's website, Consultation was then carried out.

Following this initial consultation back in October/November 2022 and consideration of those views, the Council wished to further explore residents' views on whether they think there should be a separate parish council for Stonebroom or not and the reasons behind those views.

The results of both surveys will be considered as part of the review by the Council later in the year.

Methodology

A survey was created and this was made available to all relevant stakeholders with options to complete online, via the NEDDC website with a link to Snap surveys and also via leaflet drop-offs to parish households allowing them to handwrite responses and return via the post to the Council. The survey was open for 4 weeks with a closing date of Friday 31st March.

Response Summary

In total 121 valid responses to the survey were received prior to the return deadline, 21 of which were completed online and 100 were postal returns. Additionally 5 surveys were returned without name and address details and were therefore excluded from the results as it was not possible to verify these returns came from within the parish (this requirement was included clearly within the privacy notice within the survey).

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- Of the 121 respondents who completed the survey, 69 people (57%) felt in principle there should be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area, with 52 respondents (43%) stating there should not be.
- By comparison, the November '22 survey result showed 73% in favour, 25% against and 2% did not know. So whilst the majority of respondents are still in favour of the proposal, the favourable responses has reduced by 16% from Nov '22 to the Mar '23 survey result.
- Of the respondents who favoured the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'local representation for the community', 'reflects the ideas and interests of the community' and 'more control over local services'.
- When asked if they would still be in favour of the proposal if there were financial implications to residents, 28 people (41%) said yes, 10 people (14%) said no, with a further 31 people (45%) stating it would depend how much.
- Of the respondents who opposed the proposal, the most popular reasons were 'adequately catered for by Shirland and Higham Parish Council', 'it may cost more in council tax' and 'the parish is too small to sustain its own parish council'.
- After reading the literature explaining the functions of a parish council that was provided to accompany the survey 83 people (69%) said the information confirmed what they previously thought in terms of their understanding of a parish council, 37 people (31%) found that a parish council could do more than they thought, with just 1 person (1%) finding that a parish council could do less than they thought.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council, 38 people (31%) felt it would not, with a further 34 people (28%) stating they did not know.
- 55 respondents (46%) felt that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities, 44 people (36%) felt it would not, with a further 22 people (18%) stating they did not know.
- 49 respondents (41%) felt the proposals would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area, 29 people (24%) felt it would not, with a further 43 people (36%) stating they did not know.

Respondent Profiling Information

Key demographic information was captured in each survey to help build a respondent profile and assist with equalities monitoring. A table of results is included below together with the summary of key points below which compares this information to the District's profile taken from the 2021 Population Census.

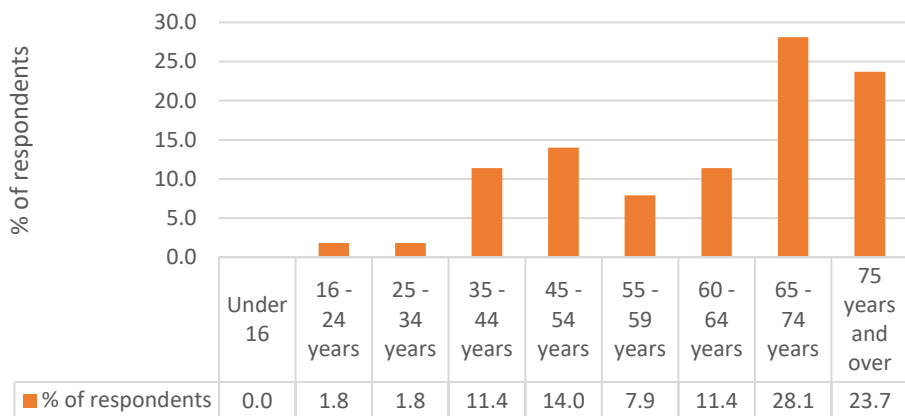
Respondent Characteristic	Overall Respondent Profile %	% Population Figures (2021 Census)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	54	49
Female	46	51
		-
<i>Age Group</i>		
		(age % as proportion of 2021 population aged 16+)
16-24 years	2	12
25-74	74	77
75 & over	24	11
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
White British or Irish	100	96
Ethnic Minority (including white- other)	0	4
<i>Disability</i>		
Yes, limited a lot	18	11
Yes, limited a little	19	11
No	63	78

The profile of respondents was over representative of males and under representative of females when comparing to % population 2021 census figures. The survey was over representative of the 75+ age category and under representative of the under the age of 24 years old category. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented within the survey, whilst people who stated they had disability limitations to a greater or lesser extent are over represented when benchmarked against the 2021 census.

Gender by Respondent %



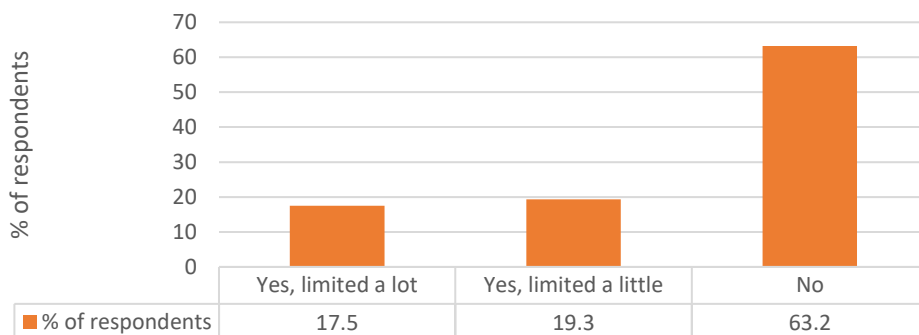
Age by Respondent %



Ethnicity by Respondent %



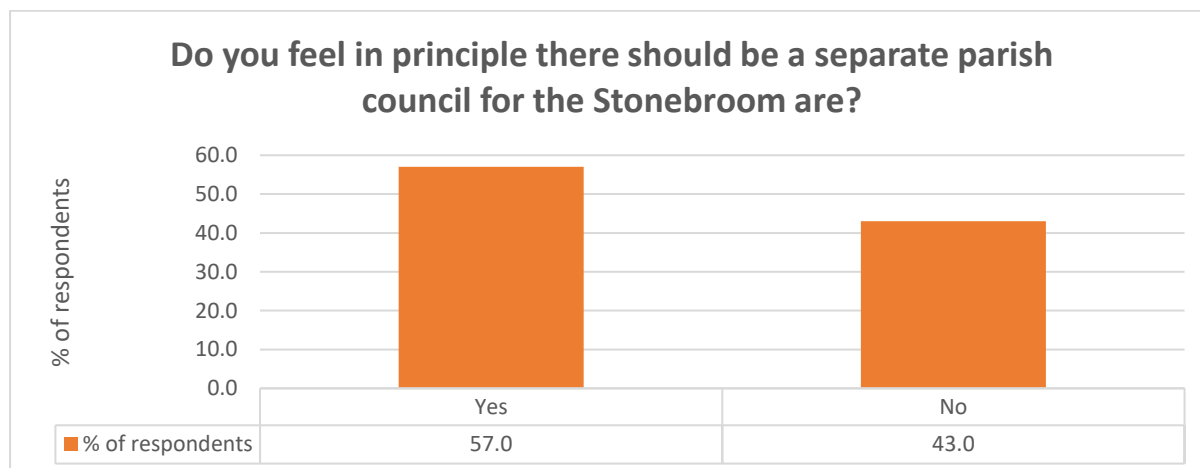
Day-to-day activities limited by Respondent %



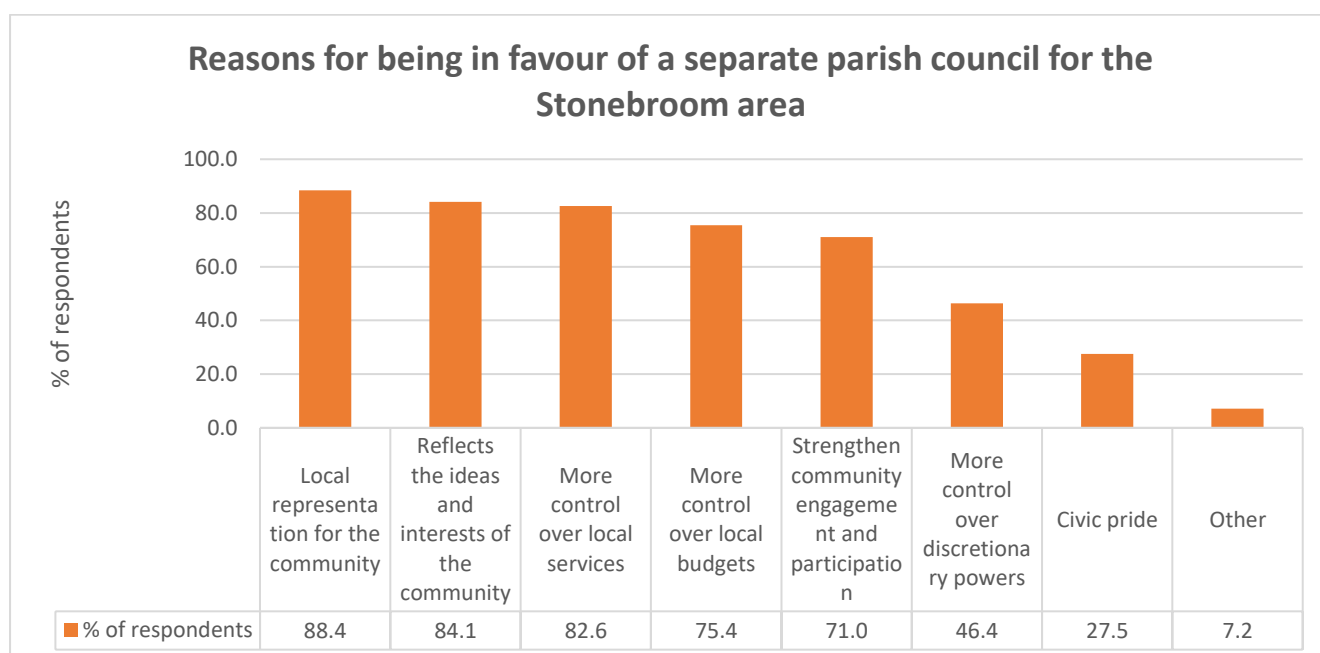
Survey Response Detail

In principle should there be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area

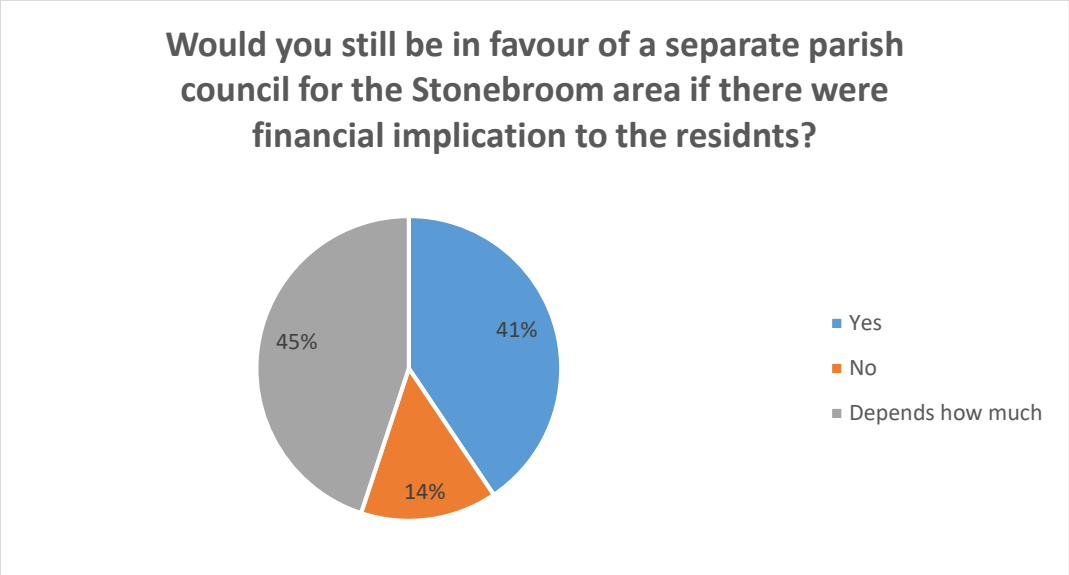
Of the 121 total respondents, 69 (57%) thought that in principle there should be a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area, with 52 respondents (43%) opposed to the proposal.



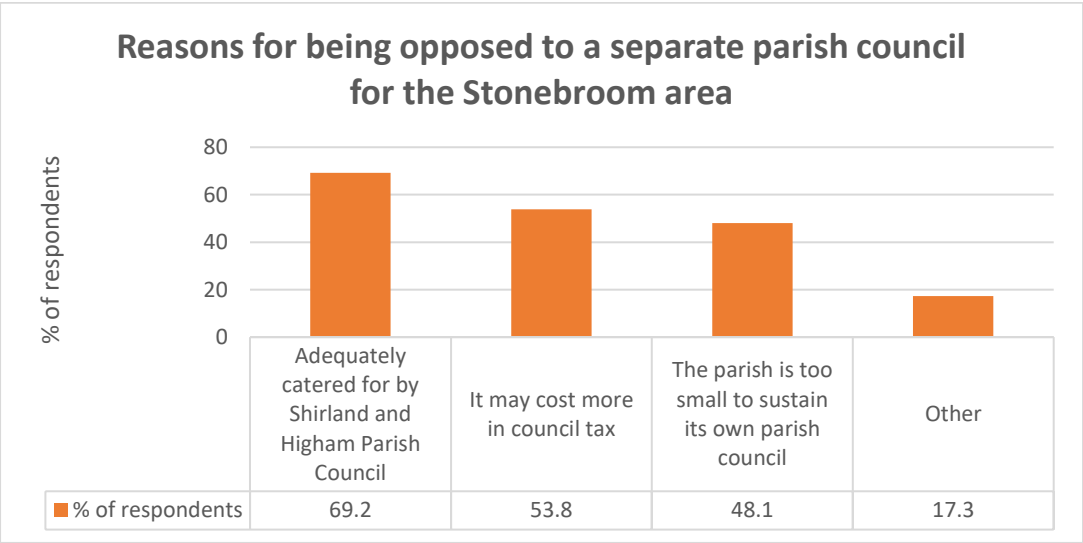
The 69 respondents who in principal were in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked to explain their reasons from a selection of options (respondents could select all they felt applied). The 3 most popular reasons being 'local representation for the community' with 88% choosing this option, followed by 'reflects the ideas and interests of the community' with 84% in agreement and 'more control over local services' with 83%. A full breakdown of responses is below, please see Appendix 1 for details of the 'Other' comments.



Additionally, the 69 respondents who in principal were in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked if they would still be in favour if there were financial implications to the proposals. 28 people (41%) said they would be in favour, 10 people (14%) said they would not be in favour, with a further 31 people (45%) saying this would depend how much.



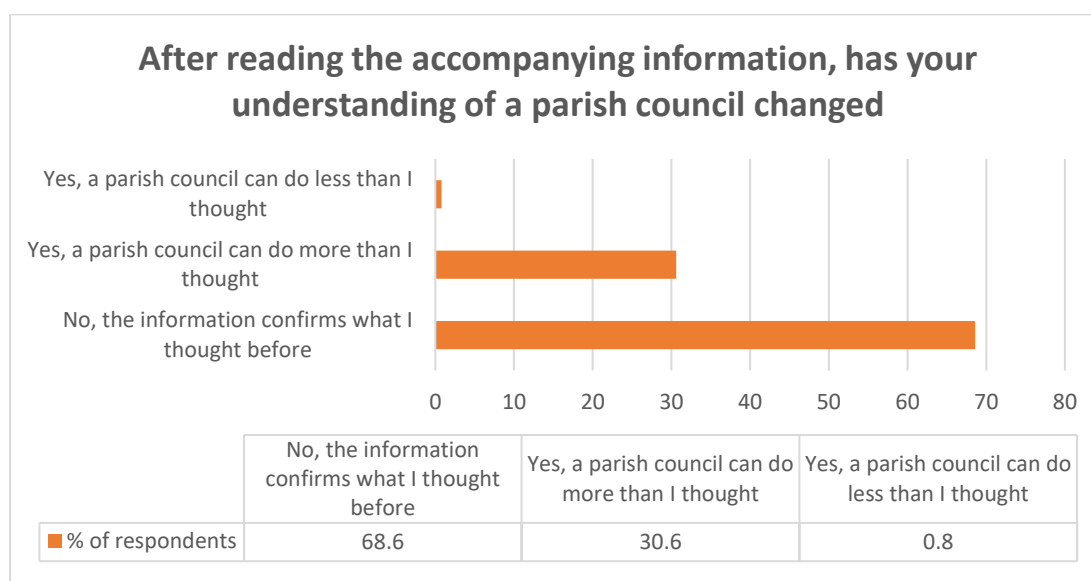
Of the 52 respondents who in principal were opposed to a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area were asked to explain their reasons from a selection of options (all they felt applied could be selected). The 3 most popular reasons being ‘adequately catered for by Shirland and Higham Parish Council’ with 69% choosing this option, followed by ‘it may cost more in council tax’ with 54% in agreement and ‘the parish is too small to sustain its own parish council’ with 48%. A full breakdown of responses is below, please see Appendix 2 for details of the ‘Other’ comments.



Understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council

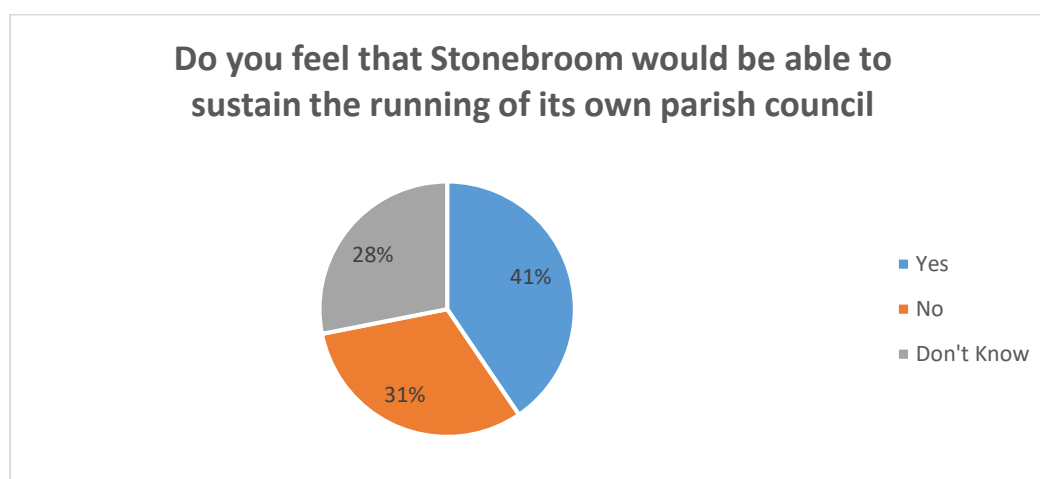
The respondents were questioned as to their understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council. The responses to this question can be found in Appendix 3.

In addition, the council provided an accompanying document with the questionnaire, explaining the functions and purpose of a parish council. The respondents were asked after reading the information, whether their understanding had changed. 83 people (69%) said the documentation confirmed what they already thought, 37 people (31%) said that a parish council could do more than they'd originally thought, 1 person (1%) felt a parish council could do less than they'd originally thought.



Would Stonebroom be able to sustain the running of its own parish council.

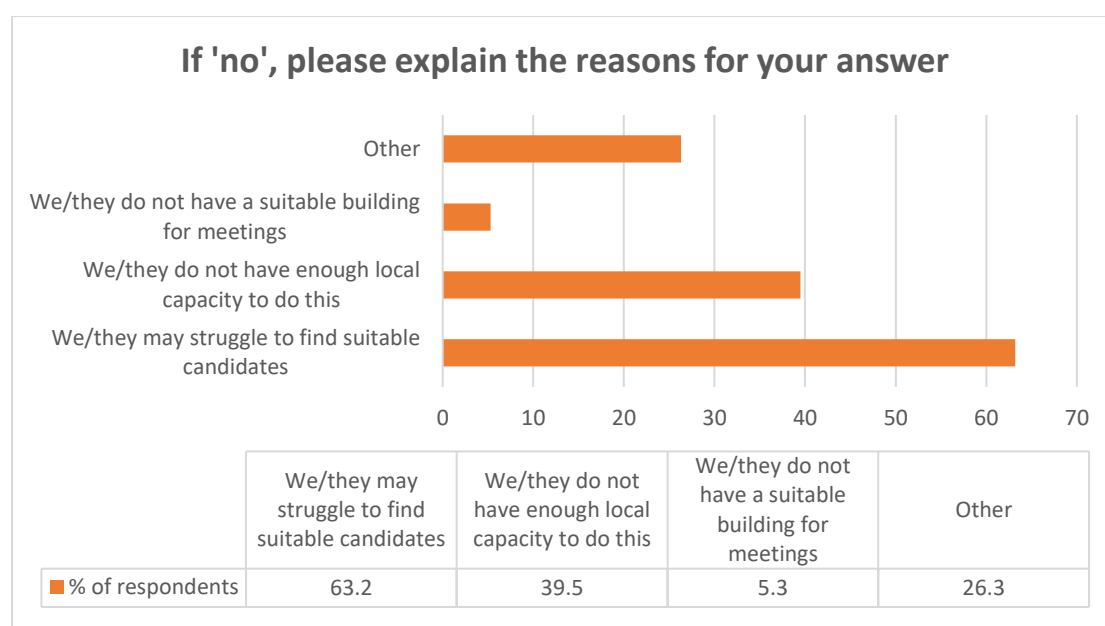
49 respondents (41%) felt Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council, 38 respondents (31%) felt it would not, with a further 34 respondents (28%) stating they did not know.



The 49 people who answered that they felt Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 4, these break down into the following categories:-

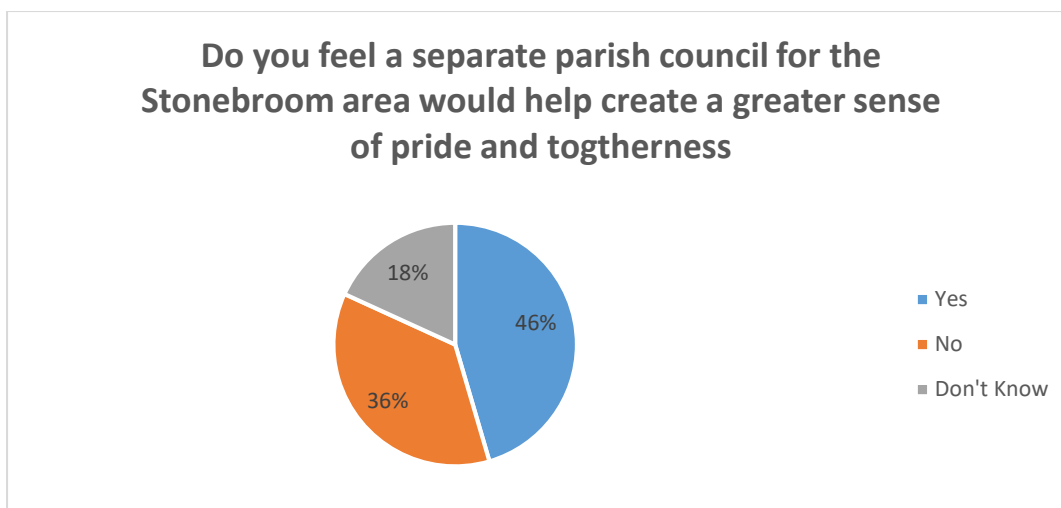
Plenty of interested residents' to get involved	37 comments
More control / autonomy / own voice	5 comments
Stonebroom area large enough to sustain	3 comments
Other	1 comment

In the same manner, the 38 respondents who answered that they felt Stonebroom would not be able to sustain the running of its own parish council were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. 24 people (63%) felt 'they may struggle to find suitable candidates', with 15 people (40%) saying 'they do not have enough local capacity to do this'. Full details can be found below and the 'Other' comments can be found in Appendix 5 of the report.



Would a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland & Higham

55 respondents (46%) felt the proposals would help with community pride and togetherness, 44 respondents (36%) felt it would not, with a further 22 respondents (18%) stating they did not know.



The 55 people who answered that they felt the proposals would create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 6, these break down into the following categories:-

More control / autonomy / own voice	13 comments
Focus on individual villages	11 comments
End to perceived inequalities	10 comments
Community spirit / pride / togetherness	10 comments
Less internal disputes	2 comments
Village growth	1 comment

In the same manner, the 44 respondents who felt the proposals would not create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. See Appendix 7 for these comments, these break down into the following categories:-

Proposal would create separation / division	14 comments
Community pride already exists	7 comments
Lack of enthusiasm to engage in the community	5 comments
Proposal would make no difference	5 comments
Proposal initiated by a small group	2 comments
Strength in numbers is better	2 comments
Lack of experience / numbers of potential councillors	2 comments

Would the considered changes create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area.

49 respondents (41%) felt it would create a drive to improve effectiveness, 29 respondents (24%) felt it would not, with a further 43 respondents (36%) stating they did not know.

Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area



The 49 people for answered that they felt the proposals would create a drive to improve effectiveness were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. The full list of comments can be found in Appendix 8, these break down into the following categories:-

More control / autonomy / own voice & local needs	26 comments
Increase local community engagement with parish council	12 comments
Increase local pride	6 comments

In the same manner, the 29 respondents who felt the proposals would not create a drive to improve effectiveness were asked to explain the reasons for their answer. See Appendix 9 for these comments, these break down into the following categories:-

Current parish council already effective	8 comments
Proposal would create separation / division	5 comments
Increased costs / less funding	3 comments
Not effective long term	1 comment
Stonebroom already separate	1 comment
Stronger together	1 comment
Proposal initiated by a small group	1 comment
Lack of general enthusiasm in parish council	1 comment

Additional comments in regards to the proposal

See Appendix 10 for the full list of respondent comments, which break down into the following categories:-

Proposal will better meet the needs of the local community	8 comments
Current parish council too large	6 comments
Villages have differing interests / requirements / needs	5 comments
Current parish council is fine – no need for change	5 comments

Lack of individuals prepared to get involved / general lack of interest	5 comments
Other comments	5 comments
Proposal would increase control / autonomy to villages	4 comments
Parish council needs to communicate with residents better	3 comments
Proposal would create separation / division	3 comments
Proposal initiated by a small group	3 comments
Proposal would increase costs / reduce funding	3 comments
Create a sense of local pride	2 comments
Proposal may not be successful	1 comment
General support	1 comment

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Please explain your reasons for being in favour of a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area – ‘Other’ comments.

If a separate parish council was awarded, the funds collected would be spent on Stonebroom, whereas now it is split between Shirland and Higham. We don't even mention Stonebroom in the parish council name.

This would be a more hands on situation at local level. Personally I experience long delays in correspondence with the current council.

Each village will have its own identity. Making P.C's bigger I believe will make villages lose their individuality.

The Stonebroom local councillors do the other areas of the parish down by being negative and unhelpful.

Can influence local planning applications.

Appendix 2 - Please explain your reasons for being opposed to a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area – ‘Other’ comments.

The 3 villages all run into each other. The existing parish council seems to do a very good job already, so why change.

Why mend something that isn't broken.

Stonebroom and Shirland are intertwined and one community, so is more effective for all to be combined.

Being together will help in any disputes.

We would have more power if all three joined and include Stonebroom in the name with equal representation and equal time on the agenda at meetings. We need to join communities and share challenges.

Too many people on councils claiming expenses as it is.

The group instigating it don't have enough people interested in standing for the roles e.g. councillors etc.

There is a lack of community leaders willing to step up in Mickley alone (from experience)

Appendix 3 - What is your understanding of the functions and purpose of a parish council – comments.

As per your informative leaflet that you kindly enclosed.

To administer the parish, keeping in mind the interests of local residents. To ensure the smooth running and safety of the local environment.

To represent the views of the residents. To manage and maintain parish facilities such as halls and play areas. To administer the precept for the benefit of the majority of the residents.

To work for the interests of all the community. To regulate future building on green field sites. Taking into account the schools and doctors capacity.

I have no idea, Shirland & Higham Parish Council are very poor in informing residents of what they are supposed to do and what they actually do.

Meeting locally to consider and engage with the local community on what services and budgets should be provided, for services they are locally entitled to provide.
Better since I've read your accompanying leaflet.
To make decisions for people in the parish. Represent views and concerns of people. To be responsible for the communities, parks, street lighting, litter, planning etc.
As per the accompanying information provided.
It would depend on the increase to council tax as to where the money would go to by informing the parish.
Act in interests of residents on local issues. Oversee planning applications and make comments. Point of contact for local issues to pass on through chain to district and county councils.
That they support the community by providing opportunities for entertainment etc.
To look after and maintain some of the facilities in their parish. Providing play areas. Looking after local planning. Keeping the villages clean.
Adding value to residents in the local area by providing events, group, support and services such as village halls, sports grounds and general village maintenance.
Responsible for local issues such as planning, also social events and issues for the community.
As per info.
To look after local residents needs and views.
They provide services to the local community.
Village matters.
To look after the needs of its parishioners.
I never gave it a lot of thought beyond them representing the needs of their local area.
A small group of local people meeting on a regular basis in the belief they have more influence and power than the entire western world.
To represent the interests of local people.
They are part of a three tier of local government. They have elections to appoint local parish councillors. They maintain the local village hall and provide the views and wishes of local residents. Can have views expressed when applications required in the local area. Provide local activities for residents to enjoy. Provide and run more activities for children in the area.
The parish council is a body that receives a precept from the district council to provide services at a local level.
To sort any issue concerning our local residency and hope to make it a happier place for everyone concerned.
To look after and maintain local facilities, also to improve and look to install new facilities.
As per the enclosed leaflet.
As per the attached leaflet.
Control of local services.
To improve and keep all amenities. To carry out canvassing of local views to ensure monies are spent well and not squandered on unpopular causes/items. To encourage local participation in meetings.

Local government. Provide community and a voice for taking action. They also manage their own budgets for the year.
To represent the people in the parish.
They look after village halls, public buildings, some give allotments to parishioners, maintain parks, cemeteries, churchyards, and other amenities.
Having been a parish councillor, my impression was that local consideration is on the agenda first hand and regardless of which political party is in power, they rarely or never considered parish council concerns.
As per enclosed information.
To have regular meetings, manage the budget set by the precept, to improve facilities and services for its community. Apply for funding such as grants and awards. To listen to the local community and try to fulfil their needs wherever possible. Represent the village at all levels and promote wellbeing and unity within the community.
Commenting on planning applications looks to be the big one.
To represent the people of the area. Make comments on planning applications. Provide and maintain a village hall. Maintain churchyards. Lights at Christmas. Plant bulbs in tubs etc. Provide allotments. Playgrounds etc.
Look after the local community and authorise and approve local initiatives and schemes. Maintain upkeep of local parks, village halls and sports pavilion. Providing and allocating allotments. Street light decor, e.g. hanging baskets, RBL poppies, Christmas lights and decorations.
I understand the role of a parish council because my wife is a Shirland & Higham Parish Councillor.
As outlined in your accompanying information.
Ideas and decisions for day-to-day running of Stonebroom.
Local democracy. Management of local services including funeral services and local halls.
Knowledge and understanding of the local area.
Very little
To make life more pleasant for the residents of the village. More control over illegal parking on High Street, i.e. extra-large van parked on the causeway, also difficult to see oncoming traffic when trying to get out of my drive.
To scrutinise planning applications. To improve the local area e.g. litter picking. To enhance the local environment.
To integrate the residents more into village life. Give benefits of floral display e.g. Christmas etc. To be independent on changes within the village.
A parish council is the first level of local government, having direction and control over the cemetery, tennis courts, children's play areas, football pitches, allotments, flower tubs and baskets, Christmas lighting, village hall and pavilion. Local observations on planning applications.
Provide services for the entire community, as outlined in the NEDDC pamphlet.
Servicing the needs of the community at a very local level.
To represent the views of local people and liaise back to district and thereby county authorities. To look after our wellbeing and to make relevant decisions on our behalf. They should communicate to and listen to the local community, that is not great here but we could work together to be more than we presently are.

They are knowledgeable about the area and can input on local issues. They provide a local link to the community and I think keep a local community going. They can help support with grants etc. Smaller P.C. means more personal to local village.
Providing local facilities.
Promotion of local community cohesion through provision of local amenities, support for community groups and initiatives and advocacy for the parish with wider bodies including district and county councils.
Sort things out.
To maintaining, improving the parishes they serve.
Parish Councils are responsible for an area in which decisions are made or services required for that area etc.
To manage / control issues affecting the parish.
To serve the people of Stonebroom, not just Shirland.
The main purpose is to improve facilities and services for the local area / village. Liaise with residents to understand community needs and manage the budget accordingly to provide the services required.
To fully represent all aspects of all residents within the parish as a whole. To allocate funds and resources fairly and proportionately.
I have been a parish councillor for many years and also on the district. I was Chair so have a full understanding.
Dealing with my local issues.
To support local people in local activities.
Talk a lot, do nothing, waste money.
To responsibly manage the allocated budget for the good of the local community. To endeavour to improve facilities and services for the benefit of the local population. To listen and respond to input from the immediate community re. services, wellbeing, state of the roads etc.
As per information sheet.
Look after / maintain community services and shared areas.
Providing a range of services for the community. In Shirland, mainly village hall and summer fate.
They provide local services.
To oversee how the budget is spent locally. To ensure that all local facilities and amenities are maintained safely. To listen to the views and requests of local residents. To ensure that necessary infrastructure is provided for growing community e.g. doctors, schools, safe places to meet and leisure facilities.
So we residents have more autonomy on immediate local issues.
Catering for the parishes interests.
I don't know.
To represent the views and make decisions for the people of the parish. To look after the best interests of the local community.
To decide how local government money is used within the parish to improve facilities for the local residents.
I have read the accompanying leaflet carefully, so everything mentioned on that.

Maintaining local amenities (village hall etc.), having a say in planning proposals, organising community events, bringing communities together.
To cater for the needs and help from a council of people who share the same problems.
Keeping churchyards tidy and cutting grass in and around graves. Making village halls fit for purpose. Providing allotments when possible and galas. I've stated in Q8 the parish council did more than I expected.
To look after the needs and interests of local people which we don't get now, for instance maintaining footpaths in the village.
Already a parish councillor.
To be responsible for managing a prescribed budget to support the parish area. Amenities such as play grounds dog bins halls small grants to voluntary groups. Fetes etc. etc.
Why is this question being asked? It makes no difference what a person's knowledge base is when voting in local elections therefore why is this vote any different? There is a danger of injecting bias into this survey by testing understanding rather than satisfaction levels. So if a person does not have a good understanding, does this make their opinion less valid?
To work for the benefit of the local residents.
In this case, I'm not sure. Presumably managing the burial grounds and cemeteries, there are only a few public buildings in Stonebroom, I think these can be adequately managed by the existing parish council.
To reflect the local needs for residents.
I believe that a parish council represents the community and is a voice for the parishioners and to oversee the facilities , buildings and land which at present the current council aren't doing a very good job
Maintain play areas Maintain village halls Maintain allotments Maintain burial grounds Maintain community areas
To provide local play areas for children, the upkeep of cemetery, responsibility for village hall, community centre and sports pavilion. To provide hanging baskets, flower beds for the parish.
Parish councils are like the governing boards of schools
As per the leaflet provided in the mailing
To work on behalf of the residents of the Parish.
They comment on planning applications, maintain the parish churchyard, provide allotments, maintain village halls, bus shelters etc. and keep the local area safe I.e. the new bridge at bottom of forest school (a footpath across to Morton). They are responsible for the Christmas lights on the lamp posts and hanging baskets in summer. They meet monthly and the public are welcome to attend with a 15 minute time allowed for questions or comments. The minutes from the previous meeting are freely available for the public to view, they also have a website. If a member of the parish has a problem in their parish they should bring it to the council's attention to be discussed at the next meeting.
Maintain village halls, churchyards, allotments. Comment on planning applications. Provide grit bins, hanging baskets in summertime and Christmas lights.
Maintaining village halls, graveyards and cemeteries, providing allotments.
I don't know because the parish council don't make themselves visible in the community

To look after and maintain aspects of the parish. To bring the residents of the village together and look out for the interests of all residents
Local democracy
Basic understanding but try to get to public meetings. Work permitting.
Maintain community buildings such as village halls Promote local interaction between villages Provide events for community engagement Be part of decisions on spending to benefit the community
Until recently I had little understanding of the role of the parish council. This was largely due to poor engagement with the community but the councillors.

Appendix 4 - Do you feel that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council – ‘Yes’ comments.

Plenty of interested residents’ to get involved – 37 comments

When talking to local residents and neighbours there seems to be sufficient interest in standing for election to the council.
There is a strong feeling in Stonebroom for a separate council and several people have stated that they would be councillors.
Stonebroom has a diverse population and is not just a mining village anymore. There are lots of people who work hard to make the village better and will continue to do so.
The residents of Stonebroom appear to be supportive of having their own parish council.
I feel there are enough voices in the parish to justify this.
Separation is by request of Stonebroom so implies that there is local interest.
The village have more than enough people who fit the criteria of my answer to Q7.
The couple of meetings that have been organised has attracted a favourable group of people and residents of the local area. I am sure that there will be potential councillors in Stonebroom that can represent the village.
I feel there are a good enough wide range of intellects, ages and abilities to act on these needs.
Stone broom’s population has expanded dramatically over the last decade and is more than capable of providing its own council.
I would be willing to be involved, as I know would many others.
The position of clerk has already been named, the enthusiasm for members is also evident.
The village have an active community group who have strong relationships with local residents within this group (and are always recruiting). We have experienced committee members who will work closely in a new parish council.
Residents in the local area would be ideal, I know of residents who would come forward.
People will get behind it if it's in our hands and will better the village.
Very active community volunteers, has a 'get up and go' attitude.
I'm sure people would be more than happy to contribute if progress could be seen.
Because this is something to benefit the whole of the village e.g. making financial decisions and running of projects.
The meeting held to discuss the issue was well attended.

The people interested in running Stonebroom Council are more than capable or they would not be interested.
The younger working generation have shown great enthusiasm and already spoken about being on the new council if formed.
There are plenty of people who are interested in local matters.
It will draw people together who care about the community they live in.
During the past year there has been great support from local people who have developed things for children e.g. Forest School summer activities and HAF providing food parcels and meals for the needy and now a food bank has been established by a group of local people.
I am a regular reader of local activities on the local social media Facebook site and the newsletter. There are enough enthusiastic, educated people on there who I'm sure would be keen to get involved.
Stonebroom already has its own quarterly magazine and volunteers organising day trips, school holiday activities, walking, litter picking, a food bank, table top sales, quiz nights etc.
There are groups up and running already who do a lot for the community.
Because of the strong feelings about the proposal in the community.
We've got a good community, with people willing to put themselves forward.
Enough people say the same as me when I'm out and about in the village.
The residents have organised many good examples of social action. There is a strong commitment to community and my understanding is high dissatisfaction levels of the support from the current Parish Council
I think there are several people that would love the job, though I don't know if they would add value to the existing situation.
I know of a lot of people in the community that would like a chance to make a positive difference
They have a community group who run events for the community of Stonebroom
There are people from Stonebroom already planning to stand for the existing parish council who have said they will support a Stonebroom parish council. There are several community groups developing in the village who are driven to improve the village
Appeared to be plenty of support at meetings.
I know of several people who are planning to run for councillor, and have expressed an interest in promoting the improvement of the Stonebroom community.

More control / autonomy / own voice – 5 comments

Stonebroom has for far too long been a low concern, deprived area and the 'big brother' Shirland and Higham Parish Council have only been interested in what benefits them, whereby the likes of Stonebroom remain the status quo.
They would have more control over Stonebroom parish and make decisions on their behalf.
Because this is something to benefit the whole of the village e.g. making financial decisions and running of projects.
Stonebroom seems to be the poor relations
To put the wishes of Stonebroom residents first and foremost

Stonebroom area large enough to sustain – 3 comments

Stonebroom is large enough to sustain its own parish council and would be better for local councillors.

Stonebroom is a big enough area to warrant its own council and be able to support it.

Stonebroom is a large area with many residents, it is continuing to grow.

Other – 1 comment

There's already ample trouble makers who would internally combust trying to be on their own council.

Appendix 5 - Do you feel that Stonebroom would be able to sustain the running of its own parish council – 'No' – Other Comments

Why add extra cost, there will not be any extra cash.

Together we are stronger.

It's not a short term commitment and those up for the challenge can soon 'fall away' when they realise what's involved.

It will be the same people, not necessarily the best people. Amalgamate the three names and recruit for new from all three areas.

I do not see why they need a separate parish, they are very well cared for under the present Shirland/Higham/Stonebroom council. If it isn't broke, don't fix it!

Economies of scale

Lots of monologue. Expenses again.

Increased costs.

I think there are just a minority who want to form a separate council and I believe it was the idea of a person recently moved to the parish. There are some fantastic voluntary groups in Stonebroom now but I'm not sure it's understood what running a Parish Council entails. I do have concerns there may not be suitable candidates or enough. I also understand that two of the Parish councillors currently on Shirland and Higham council (from Stonebroom) will leave to be on the separate Stonebroom council. I ask myself why?

Shirland and Higham Parish council cover Stonebroom and Mickley very well.

Appendix 6 - Do you feel that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland & Higham – 'Yes' comments

More control / autonomy / own voice – 13 comments

Within Stonebroom we would feel more in control of our future and therefore be more prepared to work towards achieving our goals.

I'm sure it would benefit the parish by having our own voice.

I think locals would be quite contributing with ideas.

At least we would have independence and freedom to negotiate better things to come, bringing back community spirit.

The new parish council will have Stonebroom at the heart of every discussion / action.
More local representation.
They will know the needs of Stonebroom people better than the Shirland Council.
So we residents have more autonomy on local issues.
Morton has benefitted greatly from having its own parish council and is a similar size. More control over things planned for Stonebroom.
Shared commitment, more opportunity for equitable financial support and a more dynamic response to community initiatives.
Stonebroom resident's wishes would be listened too.
It would enable more people who live in Stonebroom to be elected a have a say on how their village is administered.

Focus on individual villages – 11 comments

Because the parish councillors will be able to concentrate on just one village and will not have divided loyalties.
Separated parish councils will be able to focus expenditure / resources finely tuned to local area.
I feel by removing Stonebroom would give Shirland less responsibility and be able to concentrate on their own issues.
Gives a feeling of being individual.
At present Shirland and Higham struggles to feel like one community. Stonebroom adds to that sense of disjointedness.
People are very much concerned with problems in their close neighbourhood.
Because all the villages are very different so if they are governed locally each area can take pride in the things that are important to the distinct communities.
Knowing the parish council had the interests of our village and our village alone.
When I have asked on social media why Stonebroom doesn't have Christmas decorations or welcome to Stonebroom decorations the reply has always been there's 5 parishes to cater for and no funds.
I hope a Stonebroom parish council would better meet the needs of the residents of Stonebroom.
The demographics, population groups and affluence between Stonebroom, Shirland, Higham, Mickley and Toadhole furnace vary significantly. By having more distinctive parish areas the parish council will be able to deliver services that meet the needs of the local community whilst working collaboratively with the surrounding areas on projects of mutual interest.

End to perceived inequalities – 10 comments

Many comments expressed over the years seem to reflect the opinion that Stonebroom is always last in line for most things and it would help if it was felt that everyone was pulling together to improve our village.
We always seem to be the 'poor relations'.
Currently feels Stonebroom's local needs are side-tracked to Shirland & Higham.
Stonebroom people looking out for ourselves instead of being classed like we don't matter.

Current imbalance in parish council. Stonebroom has its own needs / aims.
Stonebroom has been deprived of a parish council.
Stonebroom seems to be the poor relation.
Stonebroom appears to get left behind in things, maybe will be better as a single parish.
Stonebroom feels like the poor relation currently.
Stonebroom have always felt left out by Shirland parish council.

Community spirit / pride / togetherness – 10 comments

In the past Stonebroom seemed to have a better community spirit than Shirland & Higham.
It would be nice to feel part of a community after only just moving to this area.
My experience of village life has shown that villages have a strong feeling of togetherness in their own village.
Pride in togetherness and pride in showing our local area.
Yes for Stonebroom, not sure about Shirland & Higham.
Bringing the villages together more.
More local people in the area makes a better community.
Each village has different needs and if Stonebroom is separate I feel it will motivate the community to take more pride and care of the village.
Because certain people already do so much for our community.
More and more are willing to help the local community whether that's for the children, the elderly or the general community.

Less internal disputes – 2 comments

2/3rds of the parish act fairly and respectfully. Stonebroom local councillors do not bring anything to the table.
There have been disagreements in the past about how the money has been used between the villages.

Village growth – 1 comment

Stonebroom has grown over the last few decades and should have its fair share of own money to spend in the local community.

Appendix 7 - Do you feel that a separate parish council for the Stonebroom area would help create a greater sense of pride and togetherness within the communities of Stonebroom and Shirland and Higham – ‘No’ comments.

Proposal would create separation / division – 14 comments

It would create separation and segregation where currently the villages come together and co-operate in one parish.
Separation does not foster togetherness.
I think it will divide communities more.

If there were two separate small councils, there would be constant disagreements between them.
It's difficult to get people to stand as councillors without fragmenting further.
Unlikely to increase togetherness, more likely to reduce it.
May cause divisions.
Divisive and spreads division, much misinformation has been put about in the community.
The opposite, it would split us up! We need to get together and talk and find out how we could work better together. Higham lacks community play space, all three lack green space and woodland.
I think it would divide us. Stonebroom are extremely well served by the present parish council, they even already have the benefit of the doctors surgery on their doorsteps.
I am not sure that most people think that way.
It would be divisive.
A separate parish council goes against togetherness.
I'm not sure how dividing the district will make us feel more proud.

Community pride already exists – 7 comments

I think people have pride and are community minded already regardless of whether Shirland, Higham or Stonebroom.
The two parishes seem to have a good sense of pride in helping each other already.
The current parish council already achieves this.
Already a good community spirit in Stonebroom.
Relationships between villages have worked over many years so why change.
Stonebroom and Higham are very different villages and already have pride in their communities. Lots of voluntary groups in Stonebroom now.
I don't think we need a separate parish council to have a sense of pride. We already have a sense of pride.

Lack of enthusiasm to engage in the community – 5 comments

Shirland and Stonebroom are both too small and have a high percentage of council houses and people don't contribute, to taking part or being part of most things.
People don't give two hoots about pride and togetherness, that's why all the pubs have closed, times have changed.
The majority of parishioners aren't interested.
No one is interested.
Only a few will be interested.

Proposal would make no difference – 5 comments

There has been no sense of 'pride and togetherness' in the 50+ years I have lived here and no parish council will ever improve that.
I don't think it would affect the togetherness of our area at all.

We're all squashed against each other anyway.
Nothing would change how the villages already interact with each other.
Nothing to change.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 2 comments

There are a small number of people who are in pursuit of glory for their own gains.
The proposal for a separate parish council came from a few individuals to enhance their own egos, or power, within the local community. It would not help most people, as the existing parish council is well run.

Strength in numbers is better – 2 comments

As in question 6, I think the parish is too small to carry any weight, strength in numbers is better I think.
Looking at the minutes and agendas for the current parish council there is ample time to consider any Stonebroom matters. Stonebroom is simply not big enough to need its own parish council. Would also impact effectiveness of Shirland and Higham PC.

Lack of experience / numbers of councillors – 2 comments

They may be too inexperienced to run a council.
I feel Shirland Stretton and Mickley will not have enough dedicated councillors.

Appendix 8 - Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area – 'Yes' comments.

More control / autonomy / own voice & local needs – 26 comments

If Stonebroom was in control of its own finances and decisions people would become more interested in what was happening.
Within Stonebroom we would feel more in control of our future and therefore be more prepared to work towards achieving our goals.
Greater focus on Stonebroom resident's needs, preferences and specific requirements.
Because they appear keen to manage their own affairs.
Because there will be ownership of decisions made.
They would have own parish councillors to improve the local community.
I think if locals run it is easier to keep check on proposals.
This would give Stonebroom the chance to prove their worth.
We would deliver / support local issues / projects / consultations at the centre of the community.
Giving local people more choice on local issues would instil the drive and pride to do more.
Maybe an element of competition as to who provides the best services.

Attention could be focussed more specifically in each area. The very process of change showed a renewed commitment to parish development.
Provide the opportunity to assess the needs of the community more thoroughly.
Gives other areas a fighting chance of fair representation.
Local representation with local representatives.
We would have our own autonomy.
They will have more control over their own immediate local area.
With council help they could do so much more so our community.
Because people involved would be more locally involved.
Local people would own more of the decisions. The social demographic is different for both areas and a separate council would ensure a more focussed approach to local government.
The elected Parish Councillors would work more effectively for Stonebroom.
This has been raised as a solution to an existing problem. I'm not sure what that problem is, as I have not followed the appropriate discourse, but this proposal should bring more attention to the concerns, whatever they were.
The parish as is, is far too big to accommodate all needs. Splitting it up would benefit everyone.
I think Shirland parish council would realise that it's not just for their village's benefit there is also Mickley Higham and Stonebroom
Because the current parish council is not effective in delivering services to the wide range of residents in the current parish area
The current parish council is trying to align the needs of a very diverse population, in terms of affluence and distribution of age in the community.

Increase local community engagement with parish council – 12 comments

I feel more people would take a greater interest in what the parish council where up to.
It has already made me look into the work, or lack of it, by the parish council.
The more 'ownership' the more people are willing to work towards making it work well.
Harness enthusiasm, local people solving local problems.
Working for the purpose of making the village residents feel 'special'.
As the people concerned live in Stonebroom they will know where improvements are needed.
People would feel supported and encouraged by a local council.
People would feel their voices are heard.
It will mean that more time to discuss problems, planning issues during council meetings as they are only dealing with issues in one village and all the councillors will live in the area affected.
I think it would attract a lot more volunteers
Whichever way this goes there will be pressure from local residents for more for Stonebroom
The current parish council is not fit for purpose, it does not engage with community members or make itself accessible to the committee or supposedly serves. They only hold their meetings in one village despite the pc covering 4 villages, meaning those without transport have limited access to attend. Also take for instance the

installation of play equipment at Stonebroom and Mickley. The equipment was ordered by the pc without any consultation with the residents, it was only a week before the equipment was due to be installed that the pc attendee the playing fields to gather the opinion of the children it was intended for, as part of the grant requirement. This action was just a box ticking exercise required as part of the grant which funded the equipment , with the results of this survey having no impact on what was installed as it was already ordered and planned for installation.

Increase local pride – 6 comments

A sense of pride in a once mining community's heritage.

Giving local people more choice on local issues would instil the drive and pride to do more.

Civic pride.

Yes it would, as the many successful groups within Stonebroom are already improving inclusiveness and participation in many activities and making Stonebroom a great place to live.

They would feel their needs are being addressed locally and this would help them feel a sense of pride in our village.

Self-pride.

Appendix 9 - Do you feel the considered changes would create a drive within the local community to improve the effectiveness of the parish council within the area – 'No' comments.

Current parish council already effective – 8 comments

The parish council already does this and Stonebroom has a greater take on funds as it is, and has never been denied requests for improvements.

The parish council is active as it stands for all of us.

We only need one parish council in the area.

The current parish council is already achieving this.

Don't see why it should, what's wrong in not wanting to be different in ideas to help the village.

Community groups already have support of pc.

There is nothing wrong as it is.

Already opportunities under current arrangement.

Proposal would create separation / division – 5 comments

No, just the opposite, it would create rivalry and bickering.

If there were two separate small councils, there would be constant disagreements between them.

Unlikely to increase togetherness, more likely to reduce it.

I do not believe it would create drive within the local community, only division.

I do not believe there exists a sense of belonging to a local community.

Increased costs / less funding – 3 comments

Both parishes would have increased bills and less funding than combined, so would not be beneficial.

It won't make any difference other than costing more.

We would be fighting for the same dwindling pots of money and competing, not working together.

Not effective long-term – 1 comment

Maybe it would create an initial drive but the long term response may not be effective.

Stonebroom already separate – 1 comment

I feel that Stonebroom is already considered as a separate village and community.

Stronger together – 1 comment

Together will pull us to improve all areas.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 1 comment

The proposal for a separate parish council came from a few individuals to enhance their own eyes or power within the local community. It would not help most people As the existing parish council is well run.

General lack of enthusiasm in parish council – 1 comment

No one is interested in a parish council.

Appendix 10 - Do you have any further comments to make in regards to the proposal.

Proposal will better meet the needs of the local community – 8 comments

I feel that smaller communities are better able to consider issues which directly affect them. Less interest is shown toward other villages when these issues arise.

I hope enough people in the local area come together to make it happen and we get representation in Stonebroom.

A local approach would more likely understand and meet the community's wants, desires and solutions, than an individual to report back from outside the area.

The people of Stonebroom have worked very hard to maintain the village and need support by a council who live locally and understand their requirements. We all need to work together to make our village a great place to live and work in. We need a strong team of local people to lead and guide us and show us what is available to improve our environment and make it a happy place to be proud of. A

council has the knowledge to help us to apply for grants and funding to improve the area.

Please listen to the voice of Stonebroom people. Their voice is important and the fact that there are so many people wanting to have their own council suggests that current arrangements are not working.

It will mean that Stonebroom will have a really local opinion on what happens to their village and how money should be spent on it.

Stonebroom has quite a few willing volunteers for different projects which all do well but I am sure would do even better with our own Stonebroom parish council just for Stonebroom.

I wish to see a parish council better representative of Stonebroom, for the betterment of Stonebroom and those within.

Current parish council too large – 6 comments

The Shirland & Higham parish council is one of the largest parish councils in the country, possibly making it unwieldy and unmanageable.

The present parish council is one of the largest in the country and is unwieldy trying to cater for the needs of several communities which differ widely in their requirements.

I believe that the present parish is too large to cope with at the moment, so for Stonebroom to have their own council would alleviate Shirland to concentrate on a smaller parish.

My personal opinion as a current councillor of Shirland and Higham Parish Council is that the parish is too large. Each village requires different facilities and needs. Surrounding parishes around Stonebroom i.e. Morton and Tibshelf have their own council and doing really well with the similar size village. At present the current parish council is not meeting everyone's needs as one box doesn't fit all, so to speak.

I don't think I've heard of anywhere else that has such a huge demographic to be called a parish. Most are run for the individual villages not for a small town as this existing parish is. Stonebroom needs to be able to decide for itself on what happens here to better its own community facilities.

It really is time to make a change the parish is too big and growing and each village needs different needs but currently we are all under the same rule , it's just not working , the current council is over run with Shirland councillors so they always have the majority when it comes to voting .

Villages have differing interests / requirements / needs – 5 comments

Historically and culturally, Stonebroom as an ex-mining village has had little in common with either Shirland or Higham and this division of interest continues to the present day.

Historically there are quite wide social differences between Shirland & Higham and Stonebroom and much of this difference continues today.

I'm new to the area so maybe I'm wrong, but Higham seems to have residents with a different lifestyle to Stonebroom, as does Shirland. A broad generalisation I

know, but look at the houses and cars! Perhaps of all three areas, Stonebroom is under represented currently if I consider it.

We would like (as Shirland and Higham have) proper bus shelters with digital running bus times. 30-speed limit signs along Birkinstyle Lane and High Street.

Each village needs different needs but currently we are all under the same rule, it's just not working, the current council is over run with Shirland councillors so they always have the majority when it comes to voting.

Current parish council is fine / no need to change – 5 comments

I have lived in Stonebroom for over 50 years and I'm satisfied with the Shirland and Higham Parish Council.

The parish as currently is works for all involved, so it shouldn't be split. Maybe different changes can be made to support rather than splitting the villages.

Stonebroom do very well out of our union. They not only have the doctor's surgery, but also the pavilion, allotments, a football field, new play equipment and have had lots of resurfacing. I do not understand how going alone would be of any benefit to any of the residents of either Stonebroom, Higham or Shirland. I can only assume this is about the profile for whoever has come up with this idea. Our union has worked well for 50 years plus, so if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

It's alright as it is.

Although Higham is a very different village to Stonebroom, Shirland and Mickley (They have no council houses and it is considered a more affluent area) I feel Shirland and Higham Parish council serve all the villages well.

Lack of individuals prepared to get involved / lack of general interest – 5 comments

People need to take more interest in what we have already.

To judge from the attendance at parish council meetings, I do not think enough people would devote themselves to work on a separate council. What would happen if the Stonebroom and/or Shirland Parish Councils failed?

We just need new councillors at the May elections. Never been to a meeting yet where there is a full team and people asleep and having to be prompted what to vote and when to put their hand up. So one person gets two votes, never right.

I just hope the residents that have made the effort to attend the pc meetings since the first public meeting was held now appreciate how hard it is running a pc. Also if Stonebroom does separate it will be under the same rules and regulations as every other pc.

Sometimes change is good but in this instance I really can't see how Stonebroom would be any better off. I've been to every Parish council meeting at Shirland in the last 6 months and there has never been more than 9 members of the public there. (Usually less than that, some of those being the ones who want to separate). Maybe those who want to separate should apply to be a councillor on Shirland and Higham Parish council?

Proposal would create more autonomy / control for villages – 4 comments

It is difficult to activate interest in your local area when it is felt that you have very little control over such things as finance.

It would be good to have our own parish so we can choose what goes on around us and to make our own decisions. Also we can be self-sufficient with the help of the council.

Current council does not fairly allocate resources. Local democracy starts with parish councils, Stonebroom deserves better.

Shirland and Higham is constantly getting more housing so will soon be able to function as a parish council on its own without Stonebroom. This will make the decision making about how monies are spent in the different communities much easier and stop any future conflict and disagreements.

Parish council to communicate with residents better – 3 comments

Whatever happens to these councils, pressure should be put on them to be more active, communicative and responsive.

Wish they would post when meetings are in the area, not only at the village hall, not everyone goes there.

Currently we experience very little feedback on council activity. Perhaps the attention of our councillors is too thinly spread.

Proposal would create separation / division – 3 comments

I suspect it will bring Stonebroom into more local engagement within that area, but it may lose togetherness and co-ordination with Shirland and Higham.

There are too many tiers of government in the UK already. This country has never been so divided and creating more divisions will make things worse. This country is broken and in my view it's beyond repair.

Three villages together will make a stronger community spirit, separation might lead to jealousy between villages that alone cannot be an ideal situation in today's economic climate ... haves and not haves.

Proposal initiated by a small group – 3 comments

This is just an ego trip for one man who has lost power and control of his small empire. No one has yet given a valid reason for this breakaway. He is responsible for blocking any financial support for structural repairs to the village hall, which is now in need of a new roof and yet Stonebroom have a new pavilion and meeting hub of which the costs are met entirely by the parish council. There's an old saying 'if it isn't broken, don't fix it', that applies here.

This idea seemed to come about in a hurried manner by a few and I wonder how much the community really understand how well they are supported by the current council

I think it's a select few who want Stonebroom to have a separate council. I've lived in Stonebroom 27 years and no one has implicated they'd like to separate as far as I'm aware in all those years.

Proposals would increase costs / reduce funding – 3 comments

Difficulty in splitting assets, where would the boundary be set. Another parish clerk would be an extra cost for parishioners of Stonebroom and I suspect that a true cost has not yet been made aware to the people that will end up paying for it.

Cost of living is high enough without increasing such likes as council tax.

Very unclear what the driver is for the suggested change. Insufficient financial resources as it is and pressure on council tax doesn't need the burden of another parish council to service.

Create a sense of local pride – 2 comments

Major changes are needed in this village to give it a feeling of pride very much lacking for years. People should take responsibility for their properties.

All three areas are struggling with disjointed thinking badly thought out developments and excessive housing with little or no investment in infrastructure. Our GP practice is struggling our schools are already overflowing traffic has increased especially large lorries through Stonebroom and the only evidence I see of parish is the same flower containers I see everywhere Obviously a job lot! We need to pull people together and decide what is best for all of us basically three small communities that could be powerful together.

Proposals may not be successful – 1 comment

It's a big thing to separate and it may not work out.

General support – 1 comment

I strongly support the petition for a Stonebroom parish council.

General disagreement – 1 comment

This is a total waste of time and money and it will not be supported by the majority.

Other comments – 4 comments

I think there should be a referendum.

I have personal and local issues with both DCC & NEDDC, in which I feel I am being totally disregarded, especially concerning the redundant Morton Colliery site and the transfer of public designated land to third parties with these two councils encouragement. Due to the past 3 years of seriously ill health and in my 89th year, I am disrespected or disregarded. I am now back on the scene and will be acting on these serious issues. The above councils are actually elected to be custodians of the public's assets, but they have overturned their professional capacity, in a situation where the public's employees are transferring their employers assets for self-gratification, in yet another example of 'the tail wagging the dog'. The two councils above are champions at time wasting, incompetence and misleading

rhetoric. At least if the situation could be handled at local parish council level, it would be quicker.

Top of tree politicians with a degree of corruption. Bottom of tree politicians the same but on a smaller scale.

This is the fourth survey I have completed. When is the wishes of Stonebroom residents finally taken into account? Or will this continue, until we get so fed up that we will just give up the fight for a separate parish council.

SHIRLAND AND HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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16 June 2023

Stonebroom Community Governance Review
North East Derbyshire District Council
2013 Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S42 6NG

Dear Sirs

Stonebroom Community Governance Review

At last night's Parish Council meeting Councillors discussed the review and reached a decision to reiterate the comment sent to yourselves back in October last year:

Shirland and Higham Parish Council respect the wishes of the residents of Stonebroom and we look forward to hearing the results of the various consultations taking place throughout the Parish and will abide by whatever decision is made.

Yours faithfully

HC Dowson

Helen Dowson

Clerk - Shirland and Higham Parish Council