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**North East
Derbyshire
District Council**

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Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

To: **Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee**

Please attend a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at 10.00 am** in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

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

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

<u>Labour Group</u>	<u>Conservative Group</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat Group</u>
Councillor Stuart Fawcett - Chair Councillor Michael Durrant Councillor Graham Baxter MBE Councillor Richard Beech Councillor Nicki Morley	Councillor Pam Jones Councillor Carolyn Renwick Councillor Kevin Tait	Councillor Pam Windley

For further information about this meeting please contact: Tom Scott 01246 217045

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Notes of the Informal Meeting (Pages 4 - 6)

To endorse the notes of the Informal Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 14 July 2023.

4 The Council Tax Premium on Empty Homes Policy

Discussion on the Council Premium and Empty Homes Policy with the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer

5 The Problem of Damp and Mould

Presentation and Discussion with the Managing Director – Rykneld Homes Limited

6 Legislative Changes affecting the Housing Service

Presentation and Discussion on Legislative Changes affecting the Housing Service

7 Forward Plan of Executive Decisions (Pages 7 - 9)

To consider the Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet Decisions.

<https://democracy.norfolk.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=205&RP=1137>

8 Work Programme

To consider future items for the Committee's Work Programme.

(Governance Scrutiny Support)

9 Additional Urgent Items

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

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 15 November 2023 at 10.00 am.



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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 14 JULY 2023

Present:

Councillor Stuart Fawcett (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Michael Durrant (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE
Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor Carolyn Renwick

Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor Nicki Morley
Councillor Pam Windley

Also Present:

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources & (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
D Stanton	Senior Scrutiny Officer
A Maher	Governance Manager
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor K Tait.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Minutes of Former Committee

The minutes of the former Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday 14 April 2023 were noted.

4 Remit of the Committee

Members were informed that this would be an Informal Meeting of the Committee. They would be asked to consider the Communities Scrutiny Committee's proposed responsibilities and the specific ways in which it should carry them out.

Following on this Informal discussion, the first formal meeting of the Committee would be held in September 2023.

Committee was reminded that the Council had established new scrutiny arrangements at its Annual Meeting on Monday 22 May 2023. Briefly, there would be four new Committees, each aligned to the relevant aspects of the new Council Plan.

Committee received a presentation from the Managing Director on the new Plan, and how it was based on the goals identified by the new Administration, prior to

the local elections. Although further work would be required to develop the suite of performance information that would be required, the proposed Council Plan itself had now been drawn up and would be submitted to Council for approval at the end of July.

As part of the suggested approach, the Communities Scrutiny Committee would specifically be asked to focus on the Council Plan goals to promote (i) A Community with lifelong good health, (ii) A place to live that people value, (iii) A place where people enjoy spending time.

The Committee could use a range of specific powers to help assess progress against the Plan goals and objectives. It could: (i) Use its meetings to consider and question the decisions taken by the Council's Cabinet at its meetings (ii) Scrutinise proposed new policies and (iii) Identify new legislation or forthcoming projects, which might have an important impact on the Council and how it operates.

Members discussed the role of the new Committee and their hope that it should work in an Open, Transparent and Collaborative way. Members felt it important that the Committee make use of the wide range of financial and service performance information that would be made available, when assessing the Council Plan. They noted that an example of the sort of information that could be used would be presented later in the meeting.

Members then discussed how the Committee could make a valuable contribution by acting as a 'Sounding Board' for future policy development. And especially, the opportunity for Committee Members to help shape these policies by assessing the implications of proposed policy changes, identifying those aspects that might cause difficulties and suggesting ways in which they could be improved.

Members reflected on the challenges which all the scrutiny committees would face in undertaking their more performance-orientated roles. To help manage these challenges and to give Members the time to develop and to understand the performance data and its meaning, none of the Committees would be asked to carry out Service Reviews during the year. This would be a temporary change and that further Service Reviews would be carried out by the Committees later, in the next Municipal Year. Members agreed with this approach but asked that it be kept under review.

5 EXAMPLE - Medium Term Financial Plan

Committee then discussed the ways in which Members could use financial and service information to determine whether key goals and objectives had been achieved or are on target to be concerned. As part of this, Committee received a presentation the Medium Term Financial and how it, and similar information, might be used to help understand a range of services and specific issues, such as the incidence of damp and mould in housing. Committee agreed to consider the use of this performance information further at its next meeting.

6 Draft Work Programme

Committee considered an initial draft Work Programme for the year. Members

recognised that this would need to be developed further and that some further proposals would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee. Members were encouraged to make suggestions for this programme via the Chair of the Committee.

7 Additional Urgent Items

None

8 Date of Next Meeting

Members of the Committee asked that the suggested date for future meetings be moved to help prevent unavoidable diary clashes. Officers suggested that future meetings be held on Wednesday mornings – and that the first of these be Wednesday 20 September 2023, at 10am. Committee agreed to this.



North East Derbyshire
District Council

Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 August 2023 – 15 September 2023

This Forward Plan sets out all of the decisions that are expected to be taken over the next four months by either: (i) The Cabinet, or (ii) an officer on an Executive function of the Council.

Some of the decisions listed in this plan are 'Key Decisions'. A Key Decision is one that is likely to:

- (a) Result in the Council spending or receiving income of over £100,000 revenue or £250,000 capital, or
- (b) Have a significant impact on two or more wards in the Council's area.

At least 28 calendar days' notice must be given before they are due to be taken by the Cabinet or an officer under delegated powers.

The Cabinet can make urgent decisions which do not appear in the Forward Plan. A notice will be published at the District Council Offices and on the Council's website explaining the reasons for the urgent decisions. Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change.

The Forward Plan also lists those 'Exempt' Decisions which are going to be taken over the next four months. Exempt Decisions are those decisions which have to be taken in private. This is because they involve confidential or exempt information which cannot be shared with the public.

The contact details for the officers or senior employees responsible for producing the reports and reports for these decisions are included in the plan. Please contact them if you would like more information. If you have any queries about why something is a Key Decision or is going to be taken in private then please contact the Governance Team on 01246 217391 or email: alan.maher@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

Published under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Sarah Sternberg
Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Published on: 15 August 2023

Cabinet members and their responsibilities

Member	Portfolio of responsibilities
Councillor N Barker	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance
Councillor P R Kerry	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance
Councillor J Barry	Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets
Councillor J Birkin	Portfolio Holder for Council Services
Councillor S Pickering	Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place
Councillor K Rouse	Portfolio Holder for Health & Lesiure

DECISION TO BE TAKEN	DECISION-MAKER	DATE OF DECISION	KEY DECISION	EXEMPT DECISION (INCLUDING GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION)	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Funding to Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Support Organisations	Cabinet	21 Sep 2023	Key	Fully exempt Information relating to any individual. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Councillor Stephen Pickering	Jayne Dethick
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update	Cabinet	21 Sep 2023	Non-Key	Open	Councillor Jayne Barry	Director of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer
Brampton Parish Neighbourhood Plan	Cabinet	21 Sep 2023	Non-Key	Open	Councillor Stephen Pickering	Assistant Director - Planning
Medium Term Financial Plan Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24 (Qtr 1)	Cabinet	21 Sep 2023	Non-Key	Open	Councillor Nigel Barker	Director of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer