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Date: Friday, 1 September 2023

To: Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

Please attend a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Monday**, **11 September 2023 at 3.30 pm** in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Chesterfield S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Skenberg

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

Labour Group	Conservative Group	Green
Councillor Caroline Smith Councillor Graham Baxter MBE Councillor Richard Beech Councillor Tony Lacey Councillor Fran Petersen	Councillor Neil Baker Councillor Lilian Deighton Councillor William Jones	Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer

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 Last Meeting (Pages 5 - 6)

To note the notes of the Informal Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 17 July 2023.

4 <u>Energy Efficient Homes - Presentation and Discussion</u>

Presentation and discussion with the Director of Property Services and Development, Rykneld Homes Limited.

5 Climate Change Strategy - Overview and Review

To receive an overview of the Climate Change Strategy.

(Assistant Director of Regeneration and Programmes)

Forward Plan of Executive Decisions (Pages 7 - 9)

To consider the Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet Decisions:

https://democracy.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=205&RP=1137

7 Work Programme

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

(Governance Scrutiny Support)

8 Exclusion of Public

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 & 4, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

9 <u>Derbyshire County Council: Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and</u> Community Forest Proposals (Pages 10 - 134)

Briefing by the Assistant Director - Regeneration and Programmes.

10 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.

11 <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

The next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 13 November 2023 at 3.30 pm.



Access for All statement

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Agenda Item 3

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 JULY 2023

Present:

Councillor Caroline Smith (Chair) (in the Chair) Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Neil Baker Councillor Graham Baxter MBE
Councillor Richard Beech Councillor William Jones
Councillor Tony Lacey Councillor Fran Petersen

Also Present:

L Hickin Managing Director - Head of Paid Service

S Sternberg Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

T Frost Morris Chief Accountant
D Stanton Senior Scrutiny Officer

T Scott Governance and Scrutiny Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Remit of the Committee

Members were informed that this would be an Informal Meeting of the Committee. They would be asked to consider the Environment 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 on 11 September 2023.

Committee was reminded that the Council had established new scrutiny arrangements at its Annual Meeting on 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 on 31 July 2023.

As part of the suggested approach, the Environment Scrutiny Committee would specifically be asked to focus on the Council Plan goals to: (i) Reduce pollution

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across the District and (ii) Increase biodiversity across the District.

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 asked what the specific timeline would be for the Committee to consider the new Council Plan. The Managing Director explained that the Plan would be approved at Council on 31 July 2023, and after that point, it would be the Committee's role to scrutinise the undertakings that constituted each high-level target in the Plan.

4 **EXAMPLE - Medium Term Financial Plan**

Committee discussed the ways in which Members could use financial and service information to determine whether key goals and objectives had been achieved. As part of this, Committee received an example report on the Medium Term Financial Plan on how it, and similar information, might be used to help understand a range of services and specific issues.

5 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.

6 Additional Urgent Items

None.

7 <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

3.30pm Monday 11 September 2023.

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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	

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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

	Agenda Item 9
By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Governmen	t Act 1972.
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