

# Public Document Pack



**North East  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

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Date: Wednesday 12 June 2024

To: **Members of the Cabinet**

Please attend a meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **Thursday, 20 June 2024, at 4.00 pm in Meeting Room 3**, District Council Offices, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG.

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



Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

## **Cabinet Members**

Councillor N Barker (Chair)  
Councillor J Birkin  
Councillor S Pickering

Councillor J Barry  
Councillor P Kerry (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor K Rouse

**For further information about this meeting please contact Alan Maher 01246 217391**

### **Notice of Meeting to be held in Private**

It is intended that part of this meeting will be held in private under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. The matters to be considered in private are listed under the heading Private Session. The categories of exempt information that are likely to be disclosed during the discussion of these items, as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, are listed below each item.

No representations have been received requesting that these items be open to the public.

# **A G E N D A**

## **Public Session**

### **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 interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

### **3 Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)**

To approve as a correct record and the Leader to sign the attached Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 23 May 2024.

### **4 Environment Scrutiny Committee Review into becoming a 100% Plant Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food (Pages 9 - 15)**

Report of Councillor C Smith, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

### **5 Urgent Items (Public)**

To consider any other matter which the Leader is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the provisions of Statutory Instrument 2012 No 2089, Regulation 11.

### **6 Exclusion of Public**

The Leader to move:-

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006). [The category of exempt information is stated after each item].

## **Private Session**

### **7 Corporate Property Estates Maintenance Contract 2023-25 (Pages 16 - 41)**

Report of Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets.

Key Decision (Paragraph 3)

### **8 Urgent Items (Private)**

To consider any other matter which the Leader is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the provisions of Statutory Instrument 2012 No 2089, Regulations 5 and 11.

## **Access for All statement**

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- **BSL Video Call** – a three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call North East Derbyshire District Council with [Sign Solutions](#) or call into the offices at Wingerworth.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on [0800 500 888](tel:0800500888)– a free phone service
- **Visiting** our [offices](#) at Wingerworth – 2013 Mill lane, [S42 6NG](#)

## CABINET

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 23 MAY 2024

#### **Present:**

Councillor Nigel Barker (Chair) (in the Chair)

Councillor Pat Kerry (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Stephen Pickering

Councillor Kathy Rouse

#### **Also Present:**

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources & (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
D Thompson	Assistant Director of Planning
T Burdett	Programmes Manager
A Maher	Governance Manager
N Ellis-Hall	Temporary Senior Governance Officer
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer

#### **CAB/ Apologies for Absence**

1/24-

25 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Barry and J Birkin.

#### **CAB/ Declarations of Interest**

2/24-

25 None.

#### **CAB/ Minutes of the Last Meeting**

3/24-

25 RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024 were approved as a true record.

#### **CAB/ People Strategy 2024**

4/24-

25 The report to Members proposed that the draft People Strategy for 2024 be now approved and adopted by Cabinet.

Members heard how the proposed Strategy provided a Framework for the Council to develop further its employees, so that they could play a key role in helping to achieve the overarching objectives of the Council Plan and of achieving its vision of creating a Great Place.

Cabinet discussed the report. There was strong support for the draft Strategy, which embodied the Council's commitment to a 'One Team' approach. In this context, Members looked forward to the development of detailed action plans including timelines, resources and performance measures, for carrying forward the Strategy.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet approved the adoption of the People Strategy 2024

REASONS FOR DECISION - Developing our people and our organisation is integral to the successful delivery of our Council plan and strategic ambitions. We aim to provide an environment that produces a positive employee experience and through this helping us to further attract, develop and retain more people, talented and loyal people, at all levels throughout the organisation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED - To not have a strategy. This strategy makes a clear statement about how the Council values and treats its people, and the culture it adopts, nurtures, and promotes, to enable everyone to achieve. This strategy represents a commitment to our existing employees, potential employees, and the organisation's future.

**CAB/  
5/24-  
25** **Council Plan Objectives - Update January to March 2024**

The report to Cabinet updated Members on progress against the four Council Plan objectives for the period ending 31 March 2024. These objectives were to make the Council: a great place that cares for the environment, a great place to work, a great place to live well, and a great place to access good public services.

Cabinet discussed the content of the report. Members were reminded that all four Scrutiny Committees had considered the Plan and used it gauge performance against the specific Council Plan objectives which they have been asked to oversee. Cabinet welcomed this.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet noted progress against the Council Plan 2023-2027 objectives.

REASONS FOR DECISION - This is an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the council plan objectives.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED - Not applicable to this report as it is providing an overview of progress against the council plan objectives.

**CAB/  
6/24-  
25** **North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Update**

Cabinet received the latest update report on the implementation of the North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme. The report explained how the Council had continued to deliver the Investment Plan for the Programme across the eleven Investment Areas. Members were informed that there were no immediate concerns about underspends of the fund by its closure date in March 2025. Cabinet welcomed this and thanked officers for their work in helping to successfully progress the Investment Plan.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet noted the content of the report.

REASONS FOR DECISION - To note progress of the activity funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED - No alternative options are considered appropriate as the Investment Plan has been approved by DLUHC.

**CAB/ 7/24-25** **Risk Management Strategy 2024**

Cabinet was asked to approve and adopt the revised Risk Management Strategy 2024 and its Action Plan. The report explained that the revised Strategy had been prepared following on from a comprehensive external assessment of the Council's Risk Management Strategy. This assessment revealed that across a range of themes and out of a maximum score of 5, the Council was assessed at level 4 overall, with the Council scoring level 5 for its Culture and Leadership. This was the highest possible score and classed as transformational.

Given the outcome of this external review, much of the existing framework and process could remain unchanged. However, some amendments were made to explain better the changing risk environment and to update the Action Plan to reflect the continual improvement requirements that had been identified.

Cabinet welcomed the Strategy and the Council's high performance on addressing Risk Management. Members agreed to support the Strategy.

**RESOLVED** - That Cabinet approved the adoption of the new/reviewed Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2024.

**REASONS FOR DECISION** - The Council is committed to maintaining, developing, and actively monitoring the operation of a formal and systemic approach to Risk Management.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED** - Under relevant good practice and to facilitate the development of robust managerial arrangements, the Council is required to have in place a robust risk management framework - the alternative of not providing this was therefore rejected.

**CAB/ 8/24-25** **Adaptations Policy**

Cabinet was asked to endorse an amendment to the Adaptations Policy for Council-owned homes. The report explained that a court decision taken in 2020 stated that Disabled Facilities Grant for local authority housing tenants should be considered on the same basis as those for those in other tenures. Following on from this, the Policy had been amended to reflect the court's decision. The amendment would result in more adaptations being completed, as applicants would not be required to move into an already adapted property.

Members considered the Policy. They welcomed confirmation that the proposed amendment would bring it into line with legislation and case law.

**RESOLVED** - That Cabinet endorsed the amendments to the Adaptations Policy.

**REASONS FOR DECISION** - The Policy complies with legislation and provides a framework for administering adaptations funded through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The policy amendments are in line with the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman decision and are based on legislation and case law.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED** - An alternative option of not

amending the policy was rejected, as the Council would fail to comply with the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman decision and case law.

**CAB/ Decision on the Shirland and Higham Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

**9/24-  
25**

Cabinet considered a report on the proposed Shirland and Higham Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which had been subject to review by the Independent Examiner. The Independent Examiner, it was explained, had recommended specific modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan, including agreement with the majority of comments made by the District Council.

Members were recommended to agree to all of the changes put forward by the Independent Examiner. Consequently, these changes would now be put into a referendum version of the plan for the local community to vote on. If more than 50% vote in favour of it, then the Plan would have to be formally 'made' by the District Council. Cabinet was recommended to request that the Managing Director use his delegation to formally 'make' the Plan soon after a successful referendum.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That Cabinet accepted the Independent Examiner's report and recommended modifications to the Plan as set out in the Decision Statement at Appendix 1 in their entirety and the Plan, as amended, is taken forward to a referendum within the Parish as outlined in the report.
- (2) That Cabinet asks the Managing Director to exercise his existing delegation to make the Shirland and Higham Parish Neighbourhood Plan, if more than half of those voting in the referendum vote in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**REASONS FOR DECISION** - The Shirland and Higham Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to examination by an Independent Examiner. The Examiner's view is that subject to specified modifications, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other relevant legal requirements. Officers have considered each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's report and agree with the Examiner's findings in all cases.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED** - An alternative option would be to reject the Examiner's recommendations, but only if there is good reason to do so. The Examiner's recommendations align with Officers' views and as such there does not appear to be any justification for not making the Plan, subject to a positive outcome at Referendum.

**CAB/ Urgent Items**

**10/2  
4-25**

None.



## North East Derbyshire District Council

### Cabinet

20 June 2024

### Environment Scrutiny Committee Review into becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food

#### Report of Councillor C Smith, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Contact Officer: Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer (01246 217155 / [joe.hayden@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:joe.hayden@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk))

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#### **PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To ask Cabinet to approve the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's review into becoming a 100% plant-based Council in the procurement and provision of food.

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#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That, as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand specific foodstuffs, and in particular for plant-based vegan food.
2. That the findings of the surveys be assessed and responded to by the Leisure team in consultation with the Portfolio Holder i.e. Do we need a new approach as a consequence of growing public demand for vegan food, and if so, what should it be?
3. That the outcome of this survey work be shared with the Environment Scrutiny Committee as appropriate, and that the Committee be informed of and consulted on any proposed changes.

Approved by the Scrutiny Chair for Environment – Cllr Caroline Smith

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#### **IMPLICATIONS**

Finance and Risk: Yes  No

**Details:**

N/A

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**

Yes

No

**Details:**

N/A

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:**

Yes

No

**Details:**

N/A

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> 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:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Yes  Details:

**Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

Council Plan Objective: A Great Place that cares for the Environment.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Environment Scrutiny Committee was asked to look at this issue at the Council meeting on Monday 29 January 2024. At that meeting Council considered a motion moved and seconded by Councillor F Adlington Stringer and Councillor H Wetherall which called on the Council, in line with its Climate Change Strategy, to commit to:
1. Ensuring food and drink provided at all Council meetings and events is 100% plant-based.
  2. Prioritising plant-based menu options wherever the Council has influence, for example in leisure centres.
  3. Promoting and encouraging plant-based eating to residents through methods such as public awareness campaigns and the removal of meat and dairy advertising.
- 1.2 The Environment Scrutiny Committee complied with this request from Council at its meeting on Monday 19 February 2024. The Committee did this, in effect, by carrying out a 'Spotlight' review on the subject.
- 1.3 A briefing paper at **Appendix 1** sets out in more detail a synopsis of the review and the views expressed.

### 2. Details of Proposal

- 2.1 The recommendations are:
- 2.1.1 That, as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand specific foodstuffs, and in particular for plant-based vegan food.
  - 2.1.2 That the findings of the surveys be assessed and responded to by the leisure team in consultation with the Portfolio Holder i.e. Do we need a new approach as a consequence of growing public demand for vegan food, and if so, what should it be?
  - 2.1.3 That the outcome of this survey work be shared with the Environments Scrutiny Committee as appropriate, and that the Committee be informed of and consulted on any proposed changes.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The review process highlighted what the Council was already doing to provide food/drink options to customers, including regularly trialling different options to see whether there was a demand for certain food types.
- 3.2 Some Committee Members supported this customer focused approach to the provision of plant-based food to those who wanted it at the Leisure Centres, while still providing non vegan food for those who did not.

- 3.3 Members did not think it appropriate that the Council prioritise plant-based menu options in the Leisure Centres.
- 3.4 The Committee recognised that over time demand for vegan, plant-based food might increase and that if it did, the Council would have to respond to any changes.

**4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 N/A

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

Appendix No	Title
1	Briefing Note on the Environment Scrutiny Committee’s review into becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food
<b>Background Papers</b> (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

### Review by the Environment Scrutiny Committee into becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council in the procurement and provision of food.

#### Briefing Note for Cabinet

## INTRODUCTION

Environment Scrutiny Committee was asked to look at this issue at the Council meeting on Monday 29 January 2024. At that meeting Council considered a motion moved and seconded by Councillor F Adlington Stringer and Councillor H Wetherall which called on the Council, in line with its Climate Change Strategy, to commit to:

1. Ensuring food and drink provided at all Council meetings and events is 100% plant-based.
2. Prioritising plant-based menu options wherever the Council has influence, for example in leisure centres.
3. Promoting and encouraging plant-based eating to residents through methods such as public awareness campaigns and the removal of meat and dairy advertising.

The Minutes of the Council meeting and recording of Council's discussion on the motion can be accessed through the following link: [Agenda for Council on Monday, 29th January, 2024, 2.00 pm - North East Derbyshire District Council \(ne-derbyshire.gov.uk\)](#).

What became clear at the Council meeting was that the motion raised very significant issues. Some members were concerned that a blanket ban on non-vegan food and drink at Council meetings and events might go too far, by removing the right not to eat plant-based food. Other Members felt that providing plant-based options would be a good idea, which should be explored further. Council also reflected on whether it would be appropriate for the Local Authority to actively encourage plant-based or vegan eating, without first understanding what impact that this might have in terms of overall public health and the health of specific people.

Council accepted that these issues could not be resolved at the meeting. With this in mind an amendment to the motion was agreed so that the Environment Scrutiny Committee should be asked to consider the three proposed commitments, assess their advantages and disadvantages and, finally, to make any recommendations for action which the Committee thought would be appropriate.

## **THE REVIEW & KEY FINDINGS**

The Environment Scrutiny Committee complied with this request from Council at its meeting on Monday 19 February 2024. The Committee did this, in effect, by carrying out a 'Spotlight' review on the subject.

During the discussion some Members of the Committee felt that there was an untapped demand for vegan and vegetarian options, and that making the shift to plant-based food would benefit the health of residents and help reduce the carbon footprint of the food eaten in the District.

Other Members reiterated the concerns raised at the earlier Council meeting about whether the Local Authority should use its position to prevent people from eating meat, eggs, or dairy products. They questioned whether this would be a healthy diet and whether it would have a lesser carbon footprint than seeking to source a whole array of locally produced food, including meat and dairy products.

It was in this context that the Committee interviewed the Centre Manager and Duty Officer, both from Dronfield Leisure Centre. The officers gave an overview of the provision currently offered to customers, as well as details on previously trialled food initiatives and levels of demand.

In particular, they explained that the Leisure Centres currently offer low-fat options and also that some of the butter used in the sandwiches was plant-based. However, what food they offered was demand led. To date, there had not been a great deal of demand for vegan food. Despite this, plant-based options were still made available, often in response to specific requests from customers. A café user at the Dronfield Leisure Centre had, for example, asked for an oat milk substitute, which the café now provided for them.

Some Committee Members supported this customer focused approach to the provision of plant-based food to those who wanted it at the Leisure Centres, while still providing non vegan food for those who did not. Similarly, they felt that this choice-led approach should also apply to the limited number of events when the Council directly provides food to its Members and visitors.

They did not think it appropriate, therefore, that the Council prioritise plant-based menu options in the Leisure Centres. Apart from the practical contractual issues that would have to be addressed to procure this food from the existing suppliers, there would be a real danger that to do so might result in food being un-sold and wasted – as had occurred in other places which had tried this approach.

The Committee recognised that over time demand for vegan, plant-based food might increase and that if it did, the Council would have to respond to any changes. Members supported the introduction of regular surveys at the Council's Leisure Centres in order measure just how the demand for specific food and in particular, plant-based food, had changed, so that an evidence-based response could be developed.

Finally, the Committee as a whole did not feel that it could reach a conclusion about whether a vegan or plant-based diet was healthier than an omnivorous diet or was less carbon intensive than locally sourced meat and dairy food production. In this context, they did not request that the Council should actively seek to remove meat and dairy advertising either from its own properties or within the District as a whole.

## **CONCLUSION**

Given the discussions at the Environment Scrutiny Committee they agreed to make specific recommendations to Cabinet. These are:

1. That, as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand specific foodstuffs, and in particular for plant-based vegan food.
2. That the findings of the surveys be assessed and responded to by the leisure team in consultation with the Portfolio Holder i.e. Do we need a new approach as a consequence of growing public demand for vegan food, and if so, what should it be?
3. That the outcome of this survey work be shared with the Environment Scrutiny Committee as appropriate, and that the Committee be informed of and consulted on any proposed changes.

Joe Hayden  
Senior Scrutiny Officer

# Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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