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Date: Tuesday, 16 July 2024

To: Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee

Please attend a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber**, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Sheuberg

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

| Labour Group | Conservative Group | Liberal Democrat Group |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Councillor Graham Baxter MBE Councillor Richard Beech Councillor Michael Durrant Councillor Nicki Morley | Councillor Steve Clough Councillor Pam Jones 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 <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u> (Pages 4 - 7)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 8 May 2024.

4 Scrutiny - A Practical Overview

Overview of Scrutiny and remit of the Committee.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

5 Update on Combined Authority

An update on the Combined Authority – Who's who and NEDDC's role.

Lee Hickin, Managing Director

6 Leisure Activities for Young Children and Older Children/Teenagers

To receive a presentation on activities available at our Leisure Centres for Young Children and Older Children/Teenagers

Darren Ward, Centre Manager (Eckington & Killamarsh)

7 <u>Cabinet Business</u> (Pages 8 - 13)

To inform Committee of recent and forthcoming Cabinet business.

A digest of Cabinet decisions taken since 23 May 2024. This information is published by Cabinet meeting on the Council's website. Cabinet Agendas, Decisions and Minutes can be viewed at: <u>Cabinet</u>

The Forward Plan of Executive decisions.

Plans

These plans are updated to include new business.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

8 Policy Development

To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council.

9 <u>'Horizon Scanning'</u>

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.

10 Work Programme (Pages 14 - 19)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

11 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.

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

The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 18 September 2024 at 10.00 am.

North East
Derbyshire
District Council

Access for All statement

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2024

Present:

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

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE

Councillor Richard Beech

Councillor Pam Jones

Also Present:

F Green Community Safety Manager

D Parker Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer

A Bashir Improvement Officer
J Hayden Senior Scrutiny Officer

T Scott Governance and Scrutiny Officer

CSC/ Apologies for Absence

30/2

3-24 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Fawcett, C Renwick, K Tait, N Morley and P Windley.

CSC/ Declarations of Interest

31/2

3-24 None.

CSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting

32/2

3-24 <u>RESOLVED</u> – That the minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 28 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSC/ Community Safety

33/2

3-24 The Community Safety Manager delivered a presentation to Members about the North East Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership and what it had achieved in the last year. The presentation also included aims and challenges for the Partnership over the next year.

Members referred to the part of the presentation which stated the Partnership has purchased 10 covert cameras, and asked if these could be used to identify fly-tipping. Members were informed that Environmental Health officers have specialised fly-tipping detection cameras.

The presentation highlighted that activities were being offered to older children as a way to reduce anti-social behaviour. The Chair asked which activities were on offer for older teenagers. The Community Safety Manager explained that the Extreme Wheels events covered this, and the team behind the events also carried

out Laser Tag and Climbing Walls. However, the Community Safety Manager did explain that the current funding used for this was coming to an end and further funding would be required to be able to continue this.

Members referred to the part of the presentation which stated "public disorder has increased by over 68 crimes this year" and enquired exactly what this meant. The Community Safety Manager agreed to investigate the reasons behind the number.

Members asked if online forms to report incidents had been investigated into the Council website. The Community Safety Manager agreed to ask the Communications department about this.

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

CSC/ Policy Development

34/2 3-24

The Committee agreed to amend the order of the agenda to swap this item with the Performance Management item.

Members were given a briefing note and presentation about proposed amendments to the Council's Adaptations Policy. The Adaptations Policy needed to be amended due to a Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman complaint, which related to recent changes in case law. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer also made clear that this policy only applied to Council tenants.

Members asked that if there was a case of an adapted property which became empty and someone was applying, whether or not the Council would assist them. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer explained that the Council would offer that person the option of receiving it.

Members asked about the waiting list of people needing adapted properties. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer explained that the waiting lists were based on medical needs.

Members asked if tenants had found the Adaptions Policy helpful. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer advised that although the policy was in its early stages, feedback had been mainly positive. However, the Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer did state that due to the changes in the policy it would mean that adaptation costs were likely to rise in the future.

Members referred to "self-referrals" in Appendix A and asked where the funds for DFG applications came from. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer explained that Derbyshire County Council issued funds from a DFG pot to Councils, and although DFGs are open for anyone to apply whether it be a Council tenant or private tenant/owner occupier, this funding is only available to private homes and not Council owned properties. Environmental Health at the Council make the final decision on each application for private homes. Adaptations to Council tenants are funded through the Housing Revenue Account and are administered by Rykneld Homes.

The Chair requested that Rykneld Homes be asked about people waiting a long time for adaptions, specifically if there were any interim measures in place to help them, and how long it was taking at the moment on average. The Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer agreed to ask Rykneld Homes these questions.

The Chair also requested that the adaptation demand data (once the amended Policy is in place) be presented to the Committee in the future. The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that the adaptation demand data would be added to the Committee's Work Programme for 2024/25 to be considered in approximately 6 months' time, which would give the policy amendments time to be in place.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the amendments to the Adaptations Policy were noted.
- (2) That adaptation demand data would be added to the Committee's Work Programme for 2024/25 to be considered in approximately 6 months from now, which would give the policy amendments time to be in place.

CSC/ Performance Management

35/2

3-24 The Improvement Officer presented a report setting out progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place to live well' for the period ending 31 March 2024.

Members were updated on progress under the following objective sub-categories in Appendix 1 of the report:

- 1) A community with lifelong good health
- 2) A place to live that people value
- 3) A place where people enjoy spending time

Members referred to 'Operation Shango' in Appendix 1 and asked what this was. The Improvement Officer explained that it was an Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) initiative, but he would ask the Community Safety Manager for more information on it.

Members referred to the 5 Community Action Grants in Appendix 1, and enquired where the funding for this had come from. The Improvement Officer agreed to investigate the funding source from the department responsible for CAGs.

The Chair was also interested to find out further information on the grants the Council issues to voluntary groups. The Senior Scrutiny Officer stated that this could be added to the Committee's 2024/25 Work Programme if the Committee wished to progress it.

Members referred to the empty properties in the District and what the Council was doing to reduce this. The Improvement Officer agreed to find out this information from the relevant department.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That progress against the Council Plan "A great place to live well" objective was noted.
- (2) That information on the grants the Council issues to voluntary groups to be considered as part of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024/25.

CSC/ Cabinet Business

36/2

3-24 The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented a digest of Cabinet decisions taken since 29 February 2024. The digest set out key information for each decision.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that the digest was now presented in a new format, so that Members are now only seeing decisions made since the last round of Scrutiny meetings.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

CSC/ Work Programme

37/2

3-24 The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Work Programme 2023/24 for the Committee to consider. The Work Programme had now come to the end of the municipal year, and the Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that the Committee must confirm the Programme has been completed.

Members were informed that at the end of the Work Programme document, there were a list of suggested topics for the Committee to include in its new Work Programme, which will be discussed further with the Chair and Vice Chair, and then presented to the Committee for approval.

<u>RESOLVED</u> – That the 2023/24 Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be signed off as complete.

CSC/ Additional Urgent Items

38/2

3-24 None.

CSC/ Date of Next Meeting

39/2

3-24 The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place in the new Municipal Year.

CABINET DECISIONS 2024/25

| Date | Title | Portfolio Holder | Status | Decision | Reasons for Decision |
|-------------|---|---|-------------------|---|--|
| 23 May 2024 | People Strategy 2024 Relevant to Services Scrutiny | Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet approved the adoption of the People Strategy 2024 | 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. |
| 23 May 2024 | Council Plan Objectives – Update January to March 2024 Relevant to All Scrutiny | Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet noted the progress against the Council Plan 2023-2027 objectives. | This is an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the Council Plan objectives. |
| 23 May 2024 | North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Update Relevant to Business Scrutiny | Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet noted the content of the report. | To note progress of the activity funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund. |
| 23 May 2024 | Risk Management Strategy 2024 Relevant to Services Scrutiny | Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet approved the adoption of the new/reviewed Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2024. | The Council is committed to maintaining, developing and actively monitoring the operation of a formal and systeming approach to Risk Management. |

| Date | Title | Portfolio Holder | Status | Decision | Reasons for Decision |
|-------------|---|--|-------------------|--|--|
| 23 May 2024 | Adaptations Policy Relevant to Communities Scrutiny | Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet endorsed the amendments to the Adaptations Policy. | The Policy complies with legislation and provides a framework for administering adaptations funded through the HRA. The policy amendments are in line with the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman decision and is based on legislation and case law. |
| 23 May 2024 | Decision on the Shirland and Higham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Relevant to Environment Scrutiny | Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place | Non Key & Open | (1) That Cabinet accepted the 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 requires 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. | 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. |

| Date | Title | Portfolio Holder | Status | Decision | Reasons for Decision |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------|---|---|
| 20 June 2024 | Environment Scrutiny Committee Review into becoming a 100% Plant Based Council in the Procurement and Provision of Food Relevant to Environment Scrutiny | the Environment Scrutiny | Non Key & Open | That Cabinet approved the review of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's into becoming a 100% plant-based Council in the procurement and provision of food. | The Review will enable the Council to develop further its Plan Objective as being A Great Place that cares for the Environment. It highlights what the Council is already doing to provide food/drink options to customers and recognises the changing demand for vegan food. |
| 20 June 2024 | Corporate Property Estates Maintenance Contract 2023- 25 Relevant to Communities Scrutiny | Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets | Key & Exempt | That Cabinet approved the acceptance of the tender received and to award the contract to Gary Fletcher (Surfacing Ltd). | Agreeing to contract with the identified company will mean that a quality experienced provider can be commissioned to meet the objectives of the contract. |



Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 May 2024 – 30 September 2024

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 May 2024

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 & Leisure |

| DECISION TO BE TAKEN | DECISION- MAKER | DATE OF DECISION | KEY DECISION | EXEMPT DECISION (INCLUDING GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION) | RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DLUHC Productivity Plan Relevant to Services Scrutiny | Cabinet | 18 Jul 2024 | Non-Key | Open | Councillor Jayne Barry | Director of Growth and Assets |

Agenda Item 1

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 WEDNESDAY/10:00HRS

| AGENDA ITEM | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Meeting Date: 24 July 2024 | | | |
| Scrutiny – A Practical Overview | Overview of Scrutiny and remit of the Committee | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To have a clear understanding of the | role of Scrutiny | |
| Update on Combined Authority | An update on the Combined Authority – who's who and NEDDC's role | Lee Hickin, Managing Director | |
| | Outcomes: To be better informed on the role of the | he CA | |
| Leisure Activities for Young Children and Older Children/Teenagers | To receive a presentation on activities available at our Leisure Centres for Young Children and Older Children/Teenagers | Darren Ward, Centre Manager (Eckington & Killamarsh) - ACCEPTED | |
| | Outcomes: To get an understanding of what the Council offers in terms of activities for Children/teenagers in the District | | |
| Cabinet Business | Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due | | |
| | to be presented in the future, and determine if any Scrutiny | require further follow-up by | |
| Policy Development | To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council | Lead Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised p | policies and strategies | |
| Horizon Scanning | To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include | Lead Officer | |
| | legislation, regulation and key projects being | | |
| | undertaken by the Council, for example | | |

| | Outcomes: To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Work Programme | To consider the Committees' work programme | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the | year | | |
| Meeting Date: 18 September 2024 | 4 | | | |
| Performance Management | Council Plan Targets Performance Update | Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing | | | |
| Cabinet Business | Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to be presented in the future, and determine if ar Scrutiny | • | | |
| Policy Development | To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council | Lead Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised | policies and strategies | | |
| 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 | Lead Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To have considered and contributed operating environment that may arise | to potential changes in the | | |

| Work Programme | To consider the Committees' work programme | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the | year | | |
| Meeting Date: 13 November 2024 | | | | |
| Performance Management | Council Plan Targets Performance Update | Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing | | | |
| Cabinet Business | Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny | | | |
| Policy Development | To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council | Lead Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies | | | |
| 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 | Lead Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise | | | |
| Work Programme | To consider the Committees' work programme | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | |
| | Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the year | | | |

| Meeting Date: 26 February 2025 | | Trans I a | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| Performance Management | Council Plan Targets Performance Update | Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer | | | |
| | Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly tall performing | Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are | | | |
| Adaptations Policy Update | To receive an update on the implications of the changes made to the Adaptations Policy | Di Parker, Housing Intelligence and Assurance Officer - ACCEPTED | | | |
| | Outcomes: To get an understanding of the impless had on the Council | Outcomes: To get an understanding of the implications the changes to the policy | | | |
| Cabinet Business | Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | | |
| | Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny | | | | |
| Policy Development | To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council | Lead Officer | | | |
| | Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies | | | | |
| 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 | Lead Officer | | | |
| | | Outcomes: To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the | | | |
| Work Programme | To consider the Committees' work programme | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | | | |
| | Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the | Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the year | | | |

| Meeting Date: 14 May 2025 | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Performance Management | Council Plan Targets Performance Update | Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly targ performing | ets to date, and see how areas are | |
| Community Safety Partnership | To receive an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership | Faye Green, Community Safety Manager - ACCEPTED | |
| | Outcomes: To get an understanding of the CSP, including issues that may have arisen, and concerns going forward | | |
| Cabinet Business | Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny | | |
| Policy Development | To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council | Lead Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised | policies and strategies | |
| 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 | Lead Officer | |
| | Outcomes: To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise | | |
| Work Programme | To consider the Committees' work programme | Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer | |

Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the year

NOTES

- Housing Strategy Sept
- PCC to be invited to 2024/25 meeting.
- Charities to be invited to 2024/25 meeting.
- Activities for younger children/older children/teenagers incl. community activities and outdoor activities
- Affordable Homes/Social Housing proposed scheme at Stonebroom / purchase of units in Calow
- Five Year Housing Land Supply
- Full adaptations review due 2025 no date confirmed yet
- Engagement & Improvement Strategy end of 2024