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**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

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Date: Friday, 19 July 2024

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

Please attend a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Monday, 29 July 2024 at 3.30 pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2**, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, 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>Green</u>
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE Councillor Richard Beech Councillor Tony Lacey Councillor Fran Petersen Councillor Caroline Smith – Chair	Councillor Alex Dale Councillor Lilian Deighton Councillor Carolyn Renwick	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 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 5 - 7)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 21 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 Energy Performance - NEDDC Buildings

An overview on what the Council is doing to make their buildings more efficient.

David Broom, Facilities & Contracts Manager and Sylvia Moffatt, Sustainability Officer

7 Cabinet Business (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: [Cabinet](#)

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 '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.

10 Outcome of the Review on the Council becoming 100% Plant-Based

To receive an update on the outcome following the Review being presented to Cabinet.

Chair – Councillor Caroline Smith

11 Work Programme (Pages 14 - 19)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

12 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.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 9 September 2024 at 3.30 pm.



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ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 MAY 2024

Present:

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

Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Fran Petersen

Councillor Tony Lacey

Also Present:

A Bashir	Improvement Officer
G Halliwell	Service Manager - Commercial & Environment
P Denton	Team Manager - Environmental Protection
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer
J Hayden	Senior Scrutiny Officer

ESC/ Apologies for Absence

1/24-

25

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Baxter MBE, R Beech and A Dale.

ESC/ Declarations of Interest

2/24-

25

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ESC/ Minutes of Last Meeting

3/24-

25

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 19 February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

ESC/ Air Quality Monitoring

4/24-

25

The Service Manager (Commercial & Environment) and the Team Manager (Environmental Protection) informed Members of the Council's current position on air quality, and what the Council would be doing to monitor air quality in the District in the future. This information was delivered via a presentation and the 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report, which was circulated to the Committee before the meeting.

The presentation informed the Committee on types/sources of air pollution, Environmental legislation and the work already taking place to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide levels.

Members referred to the roads set out in the Air Quality Annual Status report, and enquired why the roads with air quality receptors were all A roads. Members were informed that if you place receptors on busier roads the figures would be skewed

due to fumes from HGV's and standing traffic, also Government have set guidance and that includes having one receptor on every A road, as A roads had more pollution to measure due to increased vehicles.

Members suggested putting receptors near schools, since these areas would see increased pollution. The Team Manager (Environmental Protection) explained that this would not be necessary because the Government were observing the air quality around schools.

Members enquired if the two officers felt as if use of polluting vehicles was decreasing. The Team Manager (Environmental Protection) stated that the general trend for usage was decreasing, because of the increase in electronic vehicles.

Members asked when the 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report would be available. The Team Manager (Environmental Protection) explained that the 2024 report would have to be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs by 29 June 2024, with a view to being published around November 2024. The Chair requested that the 2024 data is reported back to the Committee once it is available.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

ESC/ Performance Management

**5/24-
25**

The Improvement Officer presented a report which gave progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place that cares for the environment' for the period ending 31 March 2024.

The Improvement Officer explained some of the progress areas in Appendix 1 relating to the sub-categories of 'Increase biodiversity across the District' and 'Reduce carbon emissions and pollution across the District'.

RESOLVED – That progress against the Council Plan "A great place that cares for the environment" objective be noted.

ESC/ Cabinet Business

**6/24-
25**

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.

ESC/ Policy Development

**7/24-
25**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that at present, there were no developing policies to make Members aware of, but Directors would continue to be regularly asked about policies that would require the input of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

ESC/ Work Programme

**8/24-
25**

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.

RESOLVED – That the 2023/24 Environment Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be signed off as complete.

ESC/ Briefing Paper - 100% Plant Based Council Review

**9/24-
25**

Following a spotlight review on “Becoming a 100% Plant-Based Council” that had been undertaken at the previous meeting, the Senior Scrutiny Officer presented a briefing paper to the Committee outlining the findings and proposing three recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet. The three recommendations read as follows:

1. That as part of the annual Leisure survey, measure the demand for 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.

The Committee felt that the recommendations accurately captured the spotlight review and agreed to submit them to Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the three recommendations in the 100% Plant-Based Council Review briefing paper be submitted to Cabinet.

ESC/ Additional Urgent Items

**10/2
4-25**

None.

ESC/ Date of Next Meeting

**11/2
4-25**

The next meeting of the Environment 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 <i>Relevant to Services Scrutiny</i>	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 <i>Relevant to All Scrutiny</i>	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 <i>Relevant to Business Scrutiny</i>	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 <i>Relevant to Services Scrutiny</i>	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 systematic approach to Risk Management.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
23 May 2024	Adaptations Policy <i>Relevant to Communities Scrutiny</i>	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 <i>Relevant to Environment Scrutiny</i>	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 <i>Relevant to Environment Scrutiny</i>	Councillor C Smith, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee	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 <i>Relevant to Communities Scrutiny</i>	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.



North East Derbyshire
District Council

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 <i>Relevant to Services Scrutiny</i>	Cabinet	18 Jul 2024	Non-Key	Open	Councillor Jayne Barry	Director of Growth and Assets

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25
MONDAY/15:30HRS
CHAIR: CLLR CAROLINE SMITH
VICE CHAIR: CLLR FRANK ADLINGTON-STRINGER

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 29 July 2024		
Scrutiny – A Practical Overview	Overview of Scrutiny and remit of the Committee	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have a clear understanding of the role of Scrutiny</i>	
Update on Combined Authority	An update on the Combined Authority – who’s who and NEDDC’s role	Lee Hickin, Managing Director
	Outcomes: <i>To be better informed on the role of the CA</i>	
Energy Performance – NEDDC Buildings	An overview on what the Council are doing to make their buildings more efficient	David Broom, Facilities and Contracts Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To better understand what the Council are doing to improve energy performance across their buildings</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>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</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
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: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Outcome of the Review on the Council becoming 100% Plant-Based	To receive an update on the outcome following the Review being presented to Cabinet	Chair, Cllr Caroline Smith
	Outcomes: <i>To be aware of the Cabinet Decision made on the recommendations following the review</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 9 September 2024		
Grass Verge Cuttings and Flower Bed Planting Review	To get an understanding of what the Council is doing to attract wildlife to the area through Grass Verge Cutting and Flower Bed Planting across the District	Joy Redfern, Assistant Director of Streetscene / Darren Mitchell, Streetscene & Waste Services Manager - TBC
	Outcomes: <i>To have an understanding on what the Council is doing in terms of attracting wildlife to key areas including flower planting and mowing</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update	Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

	Outcomes: <i>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</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
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: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 11 November 2024		
Air Quality Monitoring Update	To receive an update on the current position and what we are doing going forward	Gill Halliwell / Ken Eastwood - TBC
	Outcomes: <i>To get an update on the monitoring process and understand what the Council are doing to improve air quality across the District</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update	Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	

Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>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</i>	
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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: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 17 February 2025		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update	Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

	Outcomes: <i>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</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
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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: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 12 May 2025		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update	Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>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</i>	

Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
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: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	

NOTES

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Schemes
- Actions taken to achieve Energy Efficient Homes (RHL)
- Waste Management & Disposal Update (New Legislation)
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Bio-Diversity Net Gain Update – David Thompson
- Bio-Diversity Net Gain – DWT?
- Net Zero Update
- Single Use plastics
- Fly Tipping / Abandoned Vehicles – assess the situation in the District, including measures we are taking to combat the issue, public feedback and reporting
- Local Area Energy Pilot – EM wide strategy – funded through EMCA