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North East Derbyshire District Council

Contact:	Torin Fuller
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Date:	Wednesday, 19 February 2025

To: **Members of the Cabinet**

Please attend a meeting of the Cabinet to be held on **Thursday, 27 February 2025, at 4.00 pm in the Executive Meeting Room,** 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 Barry Councillor S Pickering	Councillor P Kerry (Vice-Chair) Councillor J Birkin Councillor K Rouse

For further information about this meeting please contact Torin Fuller 01246 217375

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 Last Meeting** (Pages 4 - 8)

To approve as a correct record and the Leader to sign the attached Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 23 January 2025.

4 **Council Plan 2023-2027 Performance Report - Update October to December 2025** (Pages 9 - 31)

Report of Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance.

5 **Treasury Management Strategy Update April to December 2024 (Q 1 to Q3)** (Pages 32 - 52)

Report of Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance

6 **Medium Term Financial Plan - Budget Monitoring Report April to December 2024 (Q3)** (Pages 53 - 65)

Report of Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance.

7 **North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme 2025-26** (Pages 66 - 80)

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

8 **Urgent Items**

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.

9 **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

10 **The Management of Corporate Debt - Write Off of Outstanding Amounts** (Pages 81 - 85)

Report of Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance.

(Paragraph 3 & 5)

11 **Urgent Items**

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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- **Visiting** our *offices* at Wingerworth – 2013 Mill lane, *S42 6NG*

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2025

Present:

Councillor Nigel Barker (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Pat Kerry (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Jayne Barry
Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor Stephen Pickering
Councillor Kathy Rouse

Also Present:

M Durrant	Chair of Communities Scrutiny Committee
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)
A Smith	Legal Team Manager
S J Roome	Leisure Business Improvement Co-ordinator
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
D Thompson	Assistant Director of Planning
A Bryan	Governance Manager
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer

CAB/54/24-25 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

CAB/55/24-25 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor J Birkin informed Cabiet that in relation to the Agenda Item titled 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2028/29', he rented a property from Rykneld Homes.

CAB/56/24-25 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2024 were approved as a true record.

CAB/57/24-25 **Urgent Items**

None.

CAB/58/24-25 **Communities Scrutiny Review on Leisure Activities for Older Children/Teenagers**

The Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Committee presented a report to Cabinet outlining the findings of the Communities Scrutiny Committee's review into leisure activities for older children/teenagers. The report made 5 recommendations to Cabinet, based on the Committee believing that the cost for children/teenagers to access the Council's leisure facilities was slightly high, most of the marketing appeared to be targeted towards adults, and more work was required to target older children/teenagers.

Cabinet discussed the report and thanked the Leisure staff who had participated in the review. Members agreed with all 5 of the recommendations because they would all develop the Council Plan Objectives as being a Great Place to Live Well and a Great Place to Access Good Public Services. Members were pleased to see that some of the recommendations in the report had already begun to be implemented by Leisure Centres.

RESOLVED - That the recommendations of the review into leisure activities for older children/teenagers by the Communities Scrutiny Committee be approved as set out below:

(1) Review fees and charges around young person activities to ensure activities are inclusive and accessible for all young people, reporting the outcome to committee.

(2) Increase the offering to open up the membership to allow access to more activities such as Tag Active, soft play or access to other fitness classes.

(3) Increase engagement with older children/teenagers, this includes targeting non-users as well as current users, by way of questionnaire/survey out to schools within the District and using social media channels. Reporting the outcome back to Committee.

(4) Targeted promotion of the activities we have on offer to children, specifically older children/teenagers.

(5) Encourage young people to engage in sports and leisure activities, not just within our Leisure Centres but also outside the Leisure Centres such as Extreme Wheels, Climbing Walls, outdoor sports i.e. football and running.

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Review had enabled the Council to develop further its Plan Objectives as being a Great Place to Live Well and a Great Place to Access Good Public Services.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED - N/A.

CAB/59/24-25 **Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 - 2028/29**

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the Current Budget for 2024/25 and Original Budget for 2025/26 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan covering the years 2024/25 to 2028/29. The report made a number of recommendations proposing to be taken by Council on 27 January 2025.

RESOLVED – That the following recommendations are made to Council on 27 January 2025:

(1) That the view of the Director of Finance Resources, that the estimates

included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2028/29 are robust and that the level of financial reserves are adequate at this time, be accepted.

(2) That officers report back to Cabinet and the Services Scrutiny Committee on a
quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets.

General Fund

(3) A Council Tax increase of £6.29 will be levied in respect of a notional Band D property (2.99%).

(4) The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved as the Current Budget 2024/25, as the Original Budget 2025/26, and as the financial projections in respect of 2026/27 to 2028/29.

(5) That the shortfall in the General Fund budget for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 be met from reserves at this time.

(6) That the General Fund Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 be approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2024/25, and as the Approved Programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

(7) That any under spend in respect of 2024/25 be transferred to the Resilience Reserve to provide increased financial resilience for future years of the plan.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

(8) That Council sets its rent levels for 2025/26 in consideration of the Social Housing Rent Standard increasing rents by 2.7% from 1st April 2025.

(9) The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of this report be approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2024/25, as the Original Budget in respect of 2025/26, and the financial projection in respect of 2026/27 to 2028/29.

(10) That the HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 be approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2024/25, and as the Approved Programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

(11) That the Management Fee for undertaking housing services at £12.81m and the Management Fee for undertaking capital works at £1.1m to Rykneld Homes in respect of 2025/26 be approved.

(12) That Members note the requirement to provide Rykneld Homes with a 'letter of comfort' to the company's auditors and grant delegated authority to the Council's Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council to agree the contents

of that letter.

REASONS FOR DECISION – . Cabinet sought to recommend budgets to Council in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – The Council is required to set a budget each year. There are no alternative options being considered at this time.

CAB/60/24-25 **Housing Strategy**

Cabinet considered a report proposing approval of the draft Housing Strategy, which had been developed by the Council along with external specialist consultant ARC4, and set out the strategic framework for meeting the Council's housing priorities within the Council Plan.

Cabinet discussed the draft Housing Strategy, and agreed that the document was positive and ambitious.

RESOLVED - That Cabinet agreed to adopt the Housing Strategy for implementation.

REASONS FOR DECISION – The Housing Strategy provides a strategic framework for meeting the districts housing needs and sets out a clear plan of how this will be implemented.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED - Not to have a Housing Strategy. This was rejected because without such a document, opportunities may be missed resulting in the loss of new homes including homes for our most vulnerable residents.

CAB/61/24-25 **Private Sector Housing Strategy**

Cabinet considered a report proposing approval of the draft Private Sector Housing Strategy, which supported the Council's over-arching Housing Strategy by setting out detailed plans for both home ownership and private rented housing. This would be the first Strategy of its kind by the Council.

Cabinet discussed the report, and agreed that the draft Strategy met the Council Plan objective of 'A Place To Live That People Value'.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet adopted the Private Sector Housing Strategy for implementation.

REASONS FOR DECISION - The Private Sector Housing Strategy provides a strategic framework and sets out a plan which considers the different solutions the council may be able to offer to support private sector households and landlords.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – To not to have a Private Sector Housing Strategy. This was rejected as the Strategy will inform the public, landlords and stakeholders of our commitment to provide good quality sustainable housing.

CAB/62/24-25 **Derbyshire County Council Preparation of Consultation Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

Members considered a report which included information on the proposed consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for De4rbyshire, and how it related to North East Derbyshire District. The report proposed that the Council raise no objection with Derbyshire County Council about its content and how it had been prepared.

Cabinet agreed that the draft Strategy produced by Derbyshire County Council was bio-diverse and were pleased that officers had consulted with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on the contents of the Strategy.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the update on the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire set out in the report be noted;

(2) That Cabinet agrees to raise no objection with Derbyshire County Council about:

a) the proposed consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire; or

b) their preparation of the proposed consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire, including the extent to which the responsible authority has involved the supporting authority in that preparation.

REASONS FOR DECISION – The proposed consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire is considered to set out appropriate priorities and proposals with regard to North East Derbyshire District to help nature to thrive and provide wider environmental benefits in the future.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED – To raise an objection with Derbyshire County Council under the relevant provisions contained within the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023, or to not respond during the required period. Firstly, it is considered that the proposed consultation draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire is appropriate and that there are no suitable grounds to raise an objection. Secondly, it is considered that the District Council should respond and demonstrate its commitment to Local Nature Recovery and respond accordingly.

North East Derbyshire Council

Cabinet

Council Plan 2023-2027 Performance Report - Update October to December 2024

27 February 2024

Report of Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Kath Drury, Information and Improvement Manager

Contact Officer: As above

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report progress on the objectives underpinning the Council plan for the period October to December 2024 (quarter 3).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That progress against the Council Plan 2023-2027 objectives be noted.

Approved by The Leader

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes☐** **No ☒**
Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): **Yes☐** **No ☒**
Details

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes☐** **No ☒**
Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £125,000 ☐ Capital - £310,000 ☐** ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	N/A
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken • Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	N/A - information only report
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken • Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	No, not applicable
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader ☐ Cabinet ☐** **SMT ☒ Relevant Service Manager ☐** **Members ☐ Public ☐ Other ☐**	Yes Details: SMT – 27/01/25 Scrutiny committees x 4 – February 2025

Links to Council Plan priorities; • **A great place that cares for the environment** • **A great place to live well** • **A great place to work** • **A great place to access good public services**
The report links to all Council Plan 2023-27 objectives and priorities.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 The attached appendix contains the performance updates by objective as of end of December 2024.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The appendix details what has been achieved and progressed by objective, strategy, and tactic.

2.2 A Great Place to Live Well

2.2.1 The appendix notes under each strategy and tactic the significant work that has been undertaken during this period together with a suite of metrics.

2.2.2 Notable achievements include completion of Dronfield Active swimming pool refurbishment, over 160 families taking part in the Winter walking trail in Clay Cross as part of the collaborative active neighbourhood pilot work, a successful litter prosecution in Clay Cross and the award of an additional £35,970 to Walking into Communities to extend the project for 4 years.

2.2.3 Regarding the challenging target to bring six long term empty properties back into use during 2024/25, the Empty Homes Officer after a long period of collaborative work has supported four empty properties back into use this quarter.

2.2.4 Regarding metric exceptions – four out of the five metrics are at exception this quarter:

- Leisure participation is down this quarter affected by a 2-week closure of the gym at Eckington and a 6-week closure at of the pool at Dronfield both for refurbishment.
- Community-based activities has been affected by a long-term staff absence which impacted on pupil participation numbers.
- The number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out and number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling continue to be at exception from Q2 due to staffing issues. Whilst a new employee has now started in role it is unlikely that these targets will recover by the financial year end.

2.3 A Great Place to Work

2.3.1 The appendix notes under each strategy and tactic the significant work that has been undertaken during this period.

2.3.2 Notable achievements include 15 businesses completing the Green Skills project UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) and 45 individuals completing the Digital Skills programmes.

2.3.3 Positive updates on recruitment from leisure services with 10 vacancies filled across a variety of roles and securing of a free Food Safety Level 2 course through Derbyshire County Council. 12 members of staff from Clay Cross Active will go on the course at the Adult Education Centre in Clay Cross on 20 February 2025.

2.3.4 Largely positive and informative updates received on the Vision Derbyshire Start Up and Derbyshire Accelerator programmes.

2.4 **A Great Place to Access Good Public Services**

2.4.1 The appendix notes under each strategy and tactic the significant work that has been undertaken during this period together with a suite of metrics.

2.4.2 Notable achievements include the reduction in homelessness and the associated spend on bed and breakfast, another set of great satisfaction results for Leisure Services, Dronfield Active swimming pool improvements and the significant improvement in formal complaints handling.

2.4.3 Regarding targeted metrics all are within or above targets.

2.4.4 Regarding the three metrics for trend monitoring, all are showing improved trends from Q2.

2.5 **A Great Place that Cares for the Environment**

2.5.1 The appendix notes under each strategy and tactic the significant work that has been undertaken during this period.

2.5.2 Notable achievement include Dronfield Active receiving Substantial Assurance for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Financial Audit, securing solar panels on the roof of a new community facility approved in Stonebroom and upgrades made at Dronfield Active including new pool covers, variable speed drives on pool pumps and triple glazed widows on swimming pool.

2.5.3 An informative and largely positive update received on the Clay Cross Low Carbon Challenge fund.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 This is an information report to keep Cabinet informed of progress against the council plan objectives.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not applicable to this report as providing an overview of progress against the council plan objectives.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

<table>
<tr><th>Appendix No</th><th>Title</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>A summary of Council plan progress for the period October to December 2024</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Background Papers (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)</td></tr>
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North East Derbyshire District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for the period October to December 2024 (Q3)

A great place to live well

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with lifelong good health***

Maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity

- **Over 160 families participated in the Winter walking Trail in Clay Cross** as part of the collaborative active neighbourhood pilot work.

- 12 district wide teams and 74 participants took part in the Killamarsh Kurling tournament.
- Active and Healthy Lifestyles target of 4800 not met this quarter (3939 outturn). A long term sickness absence has impacted on pupil particpation. However on course to meet the annual target at the end of March 2025. 189 new participants attending activities this quarter. 3 new volunteers recruited supporting walk Derbyshire. 4 new sessions created this quarter one of which is an ongoing activity.
- Leisure centre participation levels - 152,925 visits recorded for this quarter which is slightly below the target due to 2-week gym closure at Eckington Active and 6-week pool closure at Dronfield Active. Still on track to meet the annual target of 689,000 with 505,184 visits to date..

- **Dronfield Active swimming pool refurbishment completed** Dec 2024 (pool re-line, filtration, controls and pool cover).

- Council supported the annual Volunteer Awards with a sponsored award.
- Clay Cross Christmas Market included activities for local children which were delivered by First Art. Estimated 1-2,000 attendees during the day.
- Planning permission granted for upgrade of facilities at Holymoorside Tennis Club (planning permission ref. 24/00940/FL).
- Scrutiny Committee has completed a review of Leisure Activities for Older Children/ Teenagers. The recommendations will be submitted to Cabinet in January 2025.

Directly or in partnership, reducing health inequality supporting Public Health, DCC and other partners to deliver targeted programmes in the district

- Supported promotion of National Vegetarian Week and supplied more vegetarian options during this week at the leisure centre cafes. Also supported County's cold and flu vaccination programme and Healthy NED partnership grants.

- **Through the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership, the Walking into Communities (led by NEDDC Leisure) has been awarded an additional £35,970 to extend the project for 4 years.** Open grants round to reduce social isolation, called Social Connectedness, took place during this quarter and the successful applicant, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, will received £50,000 for 2025/26 to help reduce social isolation and build community capacity across the District.

- Planning permission granted for 3G pitch as part of Clay Cross Active development (planning permission ref. 24/00349/FL).

- **Annual grants to Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Support Organisations** - provisional offer letters sent to Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Law Centre, Rural Action Derbyshire, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and Volunteer Centre, totalling £135,377 to support core funding costs. Support to residents and vulnerable households across the District included benefits, debt, energy, housing, legal and employment advice, and volunteering roles.

- Community Action Grants (CAG) - 12 now awarded during 2024/25 totalling £4,586.74. During Q3 2 Community Action Grants awarded both for £500. Warm Spaces grant (part of CAG) launched in December and will run until 31/01/25.

Assist residents in ensuring their homes are suitable and meet their health needs

- 5 adaptation inspections (disability) and one Decent Homes inspection carried out by the Engineers Team.

- **Rykneld Homes continue with the decarbonisation programme:** 47 homes in progress of which 13 to be completed before the end of the financial year. 228 completed to date.

- Approved application for change of use of 3 dwellings to supported living accommodation in New Tupton (planning permission ref. 24/00549/FL).
- Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) on behalf of County is experiencing an increase in the waiting list for Occupational Therapist assessments which may impact on DFG referrals being received. No promotion of DFG currently taking place. County have decided to cease the Disability Design Team which assist in delivery. As such the Council is exploring alternative emergency arrangements.
- Landlord Forum held and well attended. Environmental Health have taken action under the Housing Act including an emergency prohibition order to protect tenants. Also taking part in a Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government project on damp and mould and will be applying any learning from that in future years.

Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operations

- Communication campaigns - Promotion of successful fly-tipping prosecution and three fixed penalty notices, and dark nights campaign to protect against burglaries by highlighting measures residents can take to deter.
- Liaison with Yorkshire water to deal with ongoing sewage flooding incidents.
- Securing noise mitigation measures as part of planning permission for new community facility in Stonebroom (ref. 24/00642/FL).
- During the past quarter Environmental Health have issued 14 Infectious Diseases notifications.
- Environmental Health have given general advice and assistance to business and public on the following topics – Pest advice 19; animal licensing advice 3; HMO (Homes in Multiple Occupation) advice 1; Housing advice 8; Planning advice 10; Miscellaneous Food advice 20; H&S advice 11. 32 New Food Registrations; 6 Food Hygiene Training Level 2 and 9 Food Hygiene Training Level 3.

- **Successful littering prosecution (Clay Cross) with a £200 fine.**

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a place to live that people value***

Develop and continually improve the quality and range of housing providing a nice home and area for all residents to meet all needs

- **The Housing Strategy is currently in the process of being renewed and residents and stakeholders have been consulted on its' content to ensure that it helps to meet their needs.**

- Facilitated regeneration in Stonebroom through providing pre-application advice on estate redevelopment and approving 2 applications to begin this process (24/00642/FL and 24/00601/FL)

Directly and with partners, improve where people live to ensure they are safe, clean, functional, and attractive

- As part of Anti-Social Behaviour week Streetscene undertook a litter pick with Rykneld Homes.
- Graffiti Project – to counter a problem with offensive graffiti in the underpass at Dronfield we are working as a partnership with County, Police, MP, Councillors, Schools and Police and Crime Commissioner to undertake an arts project working with young people to design an arts wall within the underpass.
- Disabled Persons Project / School Project - We are investigating a project within schools to look at Scams and highlighting this within schools for young people as well as working with those people who are disabled / elderly and "lonely" who are susceptible to Scams – we are working with DCC and Scam watch.
- Pentland Road Shop Project - this is a shoplifting / ASB project in and around Pentland Road shops. We are working with the Local SNT (Safer Neighbourhoods Team) to eradicate / reduce this. The project is in its infancy, but we are looking at a series of drop ins, work with local employer to empower staff as well as staff training.
- Meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner to showcase Extreme Wheels and our approach to antisocial behaviour and young people. Extreme Wheels being held 3 times a week in Holmesfield, Clay Cross and Killamarsh.
- A Private Landlord Forum was held at NEDDC where 30 landlords attended and had presentations on forthcoming legislative changes, support available through Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) for both landlords and tenants and advice on dealing with Fire Safety and Damp and Mould issues.

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a place to live that people value***

- The Supported Accommodation Review Team have continued working with and advising supported housing providers in the district to improve the standard of accommodation and service to residents. We have specifically offered advice and guidance to The Way, a new provider with 8 bedroom supported accommodation in Clay Cross.

- **The Empty Homes Officer has continued to work with Revenues, Planning and Legal to reduce the number of homes classed as empty. A review found 20 homes that were incorrectly classified. This has been reclassified and are now eligible for Council Tax as either second homes or occupied. The reclassification of properties does not contribute to the "bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year" indicator. However, during this period four long term properties have been brought back into use following continued efforts and collaborative work by the Empty Homes Officer.**

- Instruct annual report on Wingerworth Lido (raised reservoir) and carry out urgent repairs.
- 24 businesses supported this quarter through the UKSPF Shopfront Enhancement Scheme. the scheme is now closed to new applicants. 57 businesses have benefitted in total.

Well maintained public realm that connects our communities

- Public realm works are complete at Dronfield Active which have resulted in improved entrance to the facility with bench seating and new digital display screen.

- **Dronfield Public Realm Improvements project now in final phases with main elements having been delivered. Car park resurfaced, bus shelter in place.**

- Supported the delivery of equipped open space as part of the development at Hanging Banks Wingerworth (planning permission ref. 24/00508/OL).

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a place where people enjoy spending time***

Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time

- **Clay Cross Christmas Market attracted 1-2,000 attendees during the day.** The media campaign ran 9 social posts and received 44,403 views, Website views 1285, email campaign sent to 8440 subscribers of which 3961 opened the communication. The Clay Cross Christmas window competition had 21 participants.

- Continued promotion of the Leisure facilities in line with priorities identified in the Marketing plan.
- Extended hours of use of restaurant at Woodseats Hall Barlow (planning permission ref. 24/00620/FL).

- **We have started delivering the Exploring the District project.** The aim of the project is to promote the District and it's cultural offer to residents and visitors through social media and campaigns which in turns promote the profile of North East Derbyshire.

Develop and promote the local 'offer' to ensure a diverse range of high-quality activities and places to spend time

- Promotion of leisure memberships and leisure wider offer across all channels including the new leisure website and Instagram account.
- There are now 33 businesses on the Food and Drink Trail - 4 added this quarter and 2 removed as no longer in business. Food and drink social media posts and walking posts sent weekly. 12,341 interactions on Instagram this quarter promoting the Food and Drink Trail, Walking and Christmas activities.

Metric	Target	Quarter 3 Value	RAG
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year.	172,000	152,925	
Achieve 1600 monthly attendance through community-based activity.	4800	3939	
Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.	6 per annum	4	
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	36	17	
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling.	4	1	

Metric	Comments
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year	152,925 visits recorded for this quarter which is slightly below the target due to 2-week gym closure at Eckington Active and 6-week pool closure at Dronfield Active. Still on track to meet annual target.
Achieve 1600 monthly attendance through community-based activity	Pupil participation figures affected by a long term staff sickness absence. On course to meet the annual target at the end of March 2025.
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	Team has been affected by 2 longer term absences and 1 vacancy. The vacancy should be filled soon.
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling	Reactive work will need to take priority during this time.

A great place to work

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with growing, commutable employment opportunities***

Support existing businesses (including the Council) to maintain and grow workforce

- Communication campaigns this quarter:
  - Christmas window display campaign communicated and promotion of small and independent businesses on the food and drink trail.
  - Advertising and Sponsorship policy amended to include mitigation of allowing alcohol promotion where it supports small and independent businesses.
- **Significant recruitment taking place through 2025 for Clay Cross Active workforce.** We have completed our internal recruitment with 10 vacancies filled across a variety of roles (Duty Officer, Head Attendant, Swim Teachers, Leisure Attendants and Gymnastics). We are looking to recruit approximately 30 new members of staff.
- Expansion of Bluebell Industries premises in Stonebroom and at The Old Sawmills, Pilsley.

Attract and support new businesses to the area which bring new jobs

- Bailey's Square, Clay Cross – Facilitated workshops held to understand requirements for new units, letting of the Square's commercial units continues. Terms have been agreed for 3 businesses to take 6 of the new units.
- **Vision Derbyshire Start Up programme:**
  - 6 entrepreneurs assisted this quarter (target 25, 52 achieved so far).
  - No. of business non-financial support, 3 this quarter (target 53, 37 achieved so far).
  - No. of grants approved, 5 this quarter (target 5, 10 achieved so far).
  - No. of new businesses created (target 5, 13 achieved so far) .
  - No. of jobs created (target 8, 11 achieved so far).
  - No. of businesses adopting new technologies (target 10, 11 achieved so far).

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents***

Work with partners to match and develop local skills with local business employment need

- Derbyshire Accelerator Programme:
  - E23 (strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems) businesses receiving non-financial support – 72 (target 100).
  - E29 (supporting decarbonisation) businesses receiving non-financial support - 17 (target 37).
  - Decarbonisation plans - 7 (target 20). Agreed for East Midlands Chamber of Commerce (EMC) to go to businesses directly from January 2025 to meet targets.
- Green Skills project UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) - 15 businesses completed with 23 in the pipeline (target 50).

- **Digital Skills - 45 completed with 2 in the pipeline (target 50). (Driving interest was supported by Customer Services who contacted local businesses on behalf of Economic Development).**

- **Leisure have secured a free Food Safety Level 2 course through Derbyshire County Council.**
  12 members of staff from Clay Cross Active will go on the course at the Adult Education Centre in Clay Cross on 20 February 2025.

- Granted planning permission for construction of new training facility at I K O Polymeric, Clay Cross.
- Creation of recruitment flyer for promoting recruitment opportunities at the Council with contact details to access our vacancies.

A great place to access good public services

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district***

Actively participate, nurture relationships, and maximise benefits for NEDDC residents in partnerships such as Health, Economy, Resilience, etc.

- **Through the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership, the Walking into Communities (led by NEDDC Leisure) has been awarded an additional £35,970 to extend the project for 4 years.** Open grants round to reduce social isolation, called Social Connectedness, took place during Q3 and the successful applicant, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, will received - £50,000 for 2025/26 to help reduce social isolation and build community capacity across the District.

- Annual grants to Voluntary and Community Infrastructure Support Organisations - provisional offer letters sent to Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Law Centre, Rural Action Derbyshire, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and Volunteer Centre. Grants totalling £135,377 awarded to support core funding costs to these organisations that support residents and vulnerable households across the District. This included benefits, debt, energy, housing, legal and employment advice as well as supporting volunteering opportunities.
- 28 business attended the Business network events in Dronfield and Clay Cross in quarter 3.
- 5 business attended the Tourism networking event and 5 business attended the Manufacturing Supply Chain Cluster meeting.
- 5 businesses and 6 support organisations attended the Baileys Square business.

Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements

- HUQ average weekly footfall data is showing a lower footfall this quarter compared with the same time in 2023 - Clay Cross 2457 (-1004) Eckington 618 (-816) Killamarsh 2240 (-994) Dronfield 3303 (+577).

- **Residents' Survey red and amber priorities for improvement reviews completed by end of December** - 79 actions listed in total (not unique actions as some appear in several reviews). Work commenced on You Said, We Did informing document.

Progress against our objective:

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district***

Directly assist residents and businesses to access all available public services and support

- Implementing new GovTech online portal with the Revenues and Benefits team to improve the customer experience and introduce additional automation for processing of Council Tax.
- Monthly business ezine sent to 2896 each month and the weekly recruitment ezine was sent to 2900 each week.

A great place to access good public services

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money***

Fiscally responsible and efficient

- Budget has been revised to reflect unavoidable delays to the opening of Clay Cross Active. Some of this has been offset by the increase in income from other leisure sites.
- **B&B spend is £30k down as at the same time last year with further savings expected. (As at 31.12.24 there was only one applicant in B&B and only 13 in total in temporary accommodation).**
- Overseen several grant agreements to external organisations providing a variety of service including on benefits, debt, energy, housing, legal and employment advice as well as reducing social isolation.
- **Continue to oversee UKSPF programme and monitoring financial profiles to ensure spend is on track. No underspend expected, full programme value is £2.568m.**

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money***

Listen to customers (Residents and Businesses) to improve services

- Customer Services community events finished in this quarter and were well received. More will be scheduled in 2025/26 due to demand.
- The new Housing Strategy has been out to consultation with the public and stakeholders and feedback incorporated into the final document.

- **Leisure Customer satisfaction survey completed and achieved a score of 89.07% which is above the 80% target.**

Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do

- Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) completed and £15k funding received. Updated ICT Information and Cyber Security policy and published on the intranet. Replacement of old devices ready for Windows 11 upgrades progressing well. New web-based firewalls installed to improve security.
- The revised budget 2024/25 (General Fund and HRA) was presented to Cabinet in November. The Annual Financial Resilience review was presented to Scrutiny in November.
- Two enquiries received from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO). One has been closed down as the LGSCO have determined that they will not be investigating the complaint, the other is still being reviewed.

- **Significant improvement achieved this quarter in handling formal complaints within timescale - 98% compared with 80% in the previous quarter.**

- 123 Freedom of Information requests received this quarter, all except one was administered within the statutory timescale.
- Standards Committee has started the process for the annual review of the Constitution to ensure it is up to date and user friendly. This is on track for completion and presentation at the Annual Meeting in May.

Modernise and innovate services to continually improve

- New core switch infrastructure procured and being configured to improve network performance. Improving mailboxes and email to provide additional resilience and improved features. New Servicedesk tool being configured to improve the ICT service customer experience.
- Transfer of Coney Green Business Centre's telephony to new supported telephony in progress.

- **Swimming Pool upgrades have been completed at Dronfield Active to include pool tank refresh, new drain covers, décor and refurbishment of pool plant filters to improve water quality.**

- Manager Essentials Programme launched and Brilliant at the Basics library continues to be progressed.

- **Reception Re-vamp - Ongoing and on schedule, due to be completed by 31.01.2025.**

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money***

Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

- Housing Options & SART Team are involved in reflective practice training funded via County. This is a 4-month long programme and will help the team's resilience and ability to deal with often challenging circumstances.

- **Housing Options Team performance regarding outcomes for clients remains in the top 3 of all local authorities in England.**

- Economic Development Team held an away day to update their service plan, discuss projects and upcoming workshop.
- Brilliant at the Basics – a project being coordinated by a small number of Service Managers to deliver an information resource for new managers has started in this quarter.
- Employee appraisals and review undertaken in this quarter. Service review discussions taking place with developing career pathways within service areas as a priority.
- One Team Christmas engagement event took place with over 100 employees in attendance, positive feedback received from the Leader, Senior Management Team and employees.

The following progress has been made on ***increasing biodiversity across the district***

Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to improve biodiversity

- Held a Heat Hub event at Dronfield Active, communications supported with news release and social media promotion for attendance.
- Article published on website which raised awareness of creating hedgehog highways in gardens to help with biodiversity.
- Call for sites underway inviting the submission of land to be used for biodiversity offsetting.

Where appropriate, utilise Council assets to improve biodiversity.

- Sustainability officer communicated internal blogs called HUGS which were successful and highly read. Communicated the Hedgehog Highway campaign via digital channels highlighting how to help create wildlife corridors for wildlife across the district.
- Wingerworth Lido – Notice to Quit now served on CCDAA to vacate the site on or before 30th June 2025. The plan is to promote the site as a destination in the district as a bio-diversity hub.
- **Staff allotment project commenced.** Aim to encourage staff (to be known as the Green Thumbs Group) to use re-purposed beds in the courtyard at Mill Lane to grow vegetables and plants. Anticipated planting to commence in March.
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) list provided to Planning and Estates team for possible sites to plant up to offset developments.

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***reducing carbon emissions and pollution across the district***

Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.

- Communicated recycle week across our channels, highlighting how to recycle, what you can and can't recycle and what happens to your recycling.
- Submission of Expression of Interest to Warm Homes Scheme for 3-5-year programme of between £22-36m to retrofit approximately 4,500 homes. Outcome expected Spring 2025.

- **Clay Cross Low Carbon Challenge Fund** - 23 applications approved this quarter with 25 enterprises supported. Total spend to date £528,197.
- Regarding targets for this fund:

  Targets exceeded:

  - Floor space with improved carbon performance (M2) - Target 6,000 - Achieved 16,351.
  - Sites generating electricity from renewable sources - Target 2 - Achieved 10.

  Targets not yet achieved:

  - Enterprises receiving grant support - Target 37 - Achieved 22.
  - Enterprises with improved energy consumption - Target 37 - Achieved 22.
  - Innovative projects developed - Target 5 - Achieved 1.

- Climate Change communications plan in place. Articles on Halloween and Christmas sustainability and raising awareness of creating hedgehog highways in gardens to help with biodiversity.
- Community Action Grants - 12 now awarded during 2024/25 totalling £4,586.74. During this quarter 2 grants awarded both for £500, one was for tree planting.
- Streetscene taking forward tree planting scheme on key sites until March 25 funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- Sustainable construction methods required by conditions on planning permissions e.g. Hanging Banks, Wingerworth. Facilitated changes to original approval for development of solar park at Manor House Farm.

Continually reduce the Council's own carbon emissions

- This is currently being reviewed as part of the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 due to go live on 24 February 2025.

- **Upgrades made at Dronfield Active following £70k funding from Sport England.** Improvements include: - New Pool Covers, VSD (variable speed drives) on pool pumps and triple glazed widows on swimming pool.

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***reducing carbon emissions and pollution across the district***

- Dronfield Active decarbonisation is due to complete January 2025 including commissioning of the Air source heat pumps (ASHPs) and removal of Gas boilers (subject to successful commissioning / resilience testing).

- **Public Sector Decarbonation Scheme Financial Audit for Dronfield Active signed off - Substantial Assurance rating received.**

- Dronfield Active poolside glazing works completed December 2024. Installation of triple glazing will reduce heat loss from the pool hall and subsequently reduce the heating demand.
- Sustainability policy for Leisure Centres produced and published on the Council's website.
- Carbon Disclosure Project (benchmarking project) - NEDDC completed disclosure questionnaire, along with other Derbyshire Borough's and District's. Once results are published, areas for improvement will be analysed.

- **Secured solar panels on the roof of new community facility approved in Stonebroom.**

Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce pollution

- Approval of ground mounted solar panels at High Ashes Farm, Ashover.
- Rykneld Homes Ltd continue with the decarbonisation programme: 47 Homes in progress: 228 completed: 13 to be completed before the end of the year.

Develop policies and plans which require and encourage alternatives to car usage

- Sustainable Travel Plan approved as part of major residential development.

Directly and with partners and residents, reduce litter and pollution from waste

- Ran a dog fouling campaign highlighting the responsibilities of dog owners with the darker nights and how to report littering. Also a sustainable Christmas campaign in December aiming to help residents re-use and recycle at the festive time of year when people are buying more gifts and have more potential recyclable material.
- Undertaken a litter pick with Rykneld Homes Ltd as part of Antisocial Behaviour week in November 2024.
- Article on how to be sustainable during Halloween and Christmas produced for residents.
- Issued EIA (environmental impact assessment) screening opinion to facilitate application for development of a Battery Energy Storage System in Calow.

Metric	Target	Quarter 3 Value	RAG or Trend
Average Time to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	20	14.29	
Average time to process change in circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	6	3.58	
Council Tax collected %.	Annual target 96.14%	83.65%	
NNDR Collected %.	Annual target 96.66%	82.38%	
Total number in Temporary Accommodation.	Decrease	13	↓ Q2 - 18
Total number in Bed & Breakfast.	Decrease	1	↓ Q2 - 5
% of Customers dealt with at first point of contact.	80%	79%	Q2 - 77%
% of formal complaints responded to within 15 working days.	100%	98%	Q2 - 80%
% of internal reviews responded to within 20 working days.	100%	100%	Q2 - 70%
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£).	Increase	£391,000	↑ Q2 - £147,000

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

27 February 2025

Treasury Management Strategy Update April – December 2024 (Q1 to Q3)

Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council with responsibility for Finance

Classification:	This report is public
Report By:	**Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance and Resources (S151 Officer)**
Contact Officer:	**Jayne Dethick**

PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To present to Cabinet a summary of the Treasury Management position for the first three quarters of 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet note the report concerning the Council's Treasury Management report for Quarter 3.

Approved by Cllr P Kerry, Deputy Leader with responsibility for finance.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes**☒ **No** ☐

Details:

These are detailed in the attached report.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): **Yes**☐ **No** ☒

Details:

There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes**☐ **No** ☒

Details:

There are no staffing issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £125,000 ☐ Capital - £310,000 ☐** ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	No, not applicable, report for noting.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	No, not applicable
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader ☐ Cabinet ☐** **SMT ☐ Relevant Service Manager ☐** **Members ☐ Public ☐ Other ☐**	No Details:

Links to Council Plan priorities; • **A great place that cares for the environment** • **A great place to live well** • **A great place to work** • **A great place to access good public services**
All

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 In January 2023, the Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.

1.2 As per the Code requirements, quarterly reporting of the treasury management indicators and the prudential indicators is now mandatory.

1.3 Whilst treasury management updates have been provided for many years alongside the quarterly revenue and capital monitoring reports, requirements of the Code now need to include detailed reporting. Therefore, to meet these requirements a separate treasury management update is now presented quarterly alongside the monitoring.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

Treasury Management

2.1 The treasury management function covers the borrowing and investment of Council funds. All transactions are conducted in accordance with the Council's approved strategy and the CIPFA Code of Practice. Good treasury management plays an important role in the sound financial management of the Council's resources.

2.2 The Council approved the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy at its meeting on 29 January 2024. **Appendix 1** identifies the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first three quarters of 2024/25. This includes reporting on the treasury management indicators as required by the Code such as the maturity structure of borrowing.

Prudential Indicators

2.3 Since 1 April 2023 there has been a requirement that monitoring of prudential indicators should be reported quarterly. Prudential Indicators are a means of demonstrating that capital expenditure plans are affordable to aid decision making. **Appendix 2** identifies the impact on the Prudential Indicators from the treasury management activity in the first three quarters of 2024/25.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To ensure that the Cabinet is kept informed of the latest position concerning treasury management.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 This report is concerned with monitoring the position against the Council's previously approved treasury management strategy. Accordingly, the report does not set out any options where a decision is required by Members.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	**Title**
Appendix 1	Treasury Management Monitoring Q3 2024/25
Appendix 2	Prudential Indicators Monitoring Q3 2024/25

Background Papers (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)

None

Appendix 1

Treasury Management Report - Quarter 3 2024/25

Introduction

In January 2023, the Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve treasury management semi-annual and annual reports. This quarterly report provides an additional update.

This report includes the new requirement in the 2021 code, mandatory from 1st April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators.

The Council's treasury management strategy for 2024/25 was approved at a meeting on 29th January 2024. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

External Context

Economic background: The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered her Autumn Budget at the end of October. Based on the plans announced, the Office for Budget Responsibility reported they would provide a short-term boost to GDP growth before weakening it further out and push inflation higher over the medium-term. This change to the economic and inflation outlook caused financial markets to readjust expectations of Bank of England (BoE) Bank Rate and gilt yields higher. The council's treasury management advisor, Arlingclose, also revised its interest rate forecast upwards in November, with Bank Rate expected to eventually fall to 3.75%.

UK annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation remained above the Bank of England (BoE) 2% target in the later part of the period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported headline consumer prices rose 2.6% in November 2024, up from 2.3% in the previous month and in line with expectations. Core CPI also rose, but by more than expected, and remained elevated at 3.6% in November against a forecast of 3.5% and compared to 3.3% in the previous month.

UK economy GDP registered no growth (0.0%) between July and September 2024 and 0.4% between April and June 2024, a further downward revision from the 0.5% rate previously reported by the ONS. Of the monthly GDP figures, the economy was estimated to have contracted by 0.1% in October, following the same size decline in September.

The labour market continued to loosen, but the ONS data still require treating with some caution. Recent figures reported the unemployment rate rose to 4.3% (3mth/year) in the three months to October 2024 and economic inactivity fell to

21.7%. The ONS reported pay growth over the same three-month period at 5.2% for both regular earnings (excluding bonuses) and for total earnings.

The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.75% at its December 2024 meeting, having reduced it to that level in November and following a previous 25bp cut from the 5.25% peak at the August MPC meeting (5-4 vote to cut). At the December meeting, six Committee members voted to maintain Bank Rate at 4.75% while three members preferred to reduce it to 4.50%. The meeting minutes suggested a reasonably dovish tilt to rates with the outlook for economic growth a concern among policymakers as the Bank downgraded its Q4 GDP forecast from 0.3% to 0.0%.

The November Monetary Policy Report (MPR) showed the BoE expected GDP growth to pick up to around 1.75% (four-quarter GDP) in the early period of the forecast horizon before falling back. The impact from the government's Autumn Budget pushed GDP higher in 2025 than was expected in the August MPR, before becoming weaker. The outlook for CPI inflation showed it rising above the MPC's 2% target from 2024 into 2025 and reaching around 2.75% by the middle of calendar 2025. Over the medium-term, once the near-term pressures eased, inflation was expected to stabilise around the 2% target. The unemployment rate was expected to increase modestly, rising to around 4.5%, the assumed medium-term equilibrium unemployment rate, by the end of the forecast horizon.

Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would continue to fall from the 5.25% peak. From the first cut in August 2024, followed by the next in November which took Bank Rate to 4.75%, February 2025 is deemed the likely month for the next reduction, with other cuts following steadily in line with MPR months to take Bank Rate down to around 3.75% by the end of 2025.

The US Federal Reserve continued cutting interest rates during the period, reducing the Fed Funds Rate by 0.25% at its December 2024 monetary policy meeting to a range of 4.25%-4.50%, marking the third consecutive reduction. Further interest rate cuts are expected into 2025, but uncertainties around the potential inflationary impact of President-elect Trump's policies may muddy the waters in terms of the pace and magnitude of further rate reductions. Moreover, the US economy continues to expand at a decent pace, suggesting that monetary policy may need to remain more restrictive in the coming months than had previously been anticipated.

The European Central Bank (ECB) also continued its rate cutting cycle, reducing its three key policy rates by 0.25% in December. Euro zone inflation rose above the ECB 2% target in November 2024, hitting 2.2% as was widely expected and a further increase from 2% in the previous month. Inflation is expected to rise further in the short term, but then fall back towards the 2% target during 2025, with the ECB remaining committed to maintaining rates at levels consistent with bringing inflation to target, but without suggesting a specific path.

Financial markets: Financial market sentiment was generally positive over the period, but economic, financial and geopolitical issues meant the ongoing trend of bond yield volatility very much remained. In the last few months of the period, there was a general rising trend in yields due to upwardly revised interest rate and inflation expectations, causing gilt yields to end the period at substantially higher levels to where they began.

Over the period, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started at 3.94% and ended at a high of 4.57%, having reached a low of 3.76% in mid-September. While the 20-year gilt started at 4.40%, ended at a high of at 5.08% and hit a low of 4.27% in mid-September. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 5.01% over the period to 31st December.

Credit review: In October, Arlingclose revised its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on most banks on its counterparty list to six months. Duration advice for the remaining five institutions, including the newly added Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets, was kept to a maximum of 100 days.

Fitch revised the outlooks on Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest Markets PLC, and National Westminster Bank to positive from stable, while affirming their long-term ratings at A+.

Moody's upgraded the ratings on National Bank of Canada to Aa2 from Aa3, having previously had the entity on Rating Watch for a possible upgrade. Moody's also upgraded the ratings on The Co-operative Bank to A3 (from Baa3) and downgraded the ratings on Coventry Building Society to A3 (from A2) and Canada's Toronto-Dominion Bank to Aa2 (from Aa1).

S&P also downgraded Toronto-Dominion Bank, to A+ from AA-, but kept the outlook at stable.

Credit default swap prices were generally lower at the end of the period compared to the beginning for the vast majority of the names on UK and non-UK lists. Price volatility over the period also remained generally more muted compared to previous periods.

Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Council's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

Local Context

On 31st March 2024, the Council had net borrowing of £127.4m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance Sheet Summary

	31.3.24 Actual £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m
General Fund CFR	21.7	40.1
HRA CFR	177.3	189.1
Total CFR	**199.0**	**229.2**
Less: *Other debt liabilities	0	(0.8)
Borrowing CFR	**199.0**	**228.4**
External borrowing**	(142.8)	(157.0)
Internal borrowing	56.2	71.4
Less: Balance sheet resources	(70.2)	(81.4)
Net	**14.0**	**10.0**

* finance leases, PFI liabilities and transferred debt that form part of the Council's total debt
** shows only loans to which the Council is committed and excludes optional refinancing

The treasury management position at 31st December and the change over the quarter is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Treasury Management Summary

	31.3.24 Balance £m	Movement £m	31.12.24 Balance £m	31.12.24 Rate %
Long Term Borrowing – PWLB	142.8	7.7	150.5	3.91
Total Borrowing	**142.8**	**7.7**	**150.5**	**3.91**
Short-Term Investments	(14.0)	(4.0)	(18.0)	(4.77)
Cash and cash Equivalents	(1.4)	(3.3)	(4.7)	(4.65)
Total Investments	**(15.4)**	**(7.3)**	**(22.7)**	**(4.74)**
Net Borrowing	**127.4**	**0.4**	**127.80**	

Borrowing strategy and activity

As outlined in the treasury strategy, the Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. During the period short term interest rates have been higher than long term interest rates.

After substantial rises in interest rates since 2021 many central banks have now begun to reduce their policy rates, albeit slowly. Gilt yields were volatile but have increased overall during the period. Much of the increase has been in response to market concerns that policies introduced by the Labour government will be inflationary and lead to higher levels of government borrowing. The election of Donald Trump in the US in November is also expected to lead to inflationary trade policies.

The PWLB certainty rate for 10-year maturity loans was 4.80% at the beginning of the period and 5.40% at the end. The lowest available 10-year maturity rate was 4.52% and the highest was 5.44%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.01% to 5.87% during the period, and 50-year maturity loans from 4.88% to 5.69%.

Whilst the cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities spiked to around 7% in late March 2024, primarily due a dearth of LA-LA lending/borrowing activity during that month, as expected shorter-term rates reverted to a more market-consistent range and were generally around 5.00% - 5.5%. Rising rates were seen towards the end of the period in the LA-LA market.

CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes. The Authority has no new plans to borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

On 31st December the Council held £150.5m of loans, an increase of £7.7m since 31st March 2024, as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years' capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 31st December are summarised in Table 3A below.

Table 3A: Borrowing Position

PWLB Borrowing **Term**	**Maturity Profile 31 March 2024 £'000**	**Net Movement £'000**	**Maturity Profile 31 December 2024 £'000**
12 Months	6,109	(5,906)	203
1 - 2 years	9,000	800	9,800
2 - 5 years	10,284	2,400	12,684
5 - 10 years	28,326	4,000	32,326
10 - 15 years	42,000	400	42,400
Over 15 years	47,090	6,000	53,090
Total PWLB Debt	**142,809**	**7,694**	**150,503**

The Council's borrowing decisions are not predicated on any one outcome for interest rates and a balanced portfolio of short-term and long-term borrowing was maintained.

There remains a strong argument for diversifying funding sources, particularly if rates can be achieved on alternatives which are below gilt yields + 0.80%. The Council will evaluate and pursue these lower cost solutions and opportunities with its advisor Arlingclose.

The National Wealth Fund (formerly the UK Infrastructure Bank) is one alternative source of funding which offers funding at gilt yields + 0.40% (0.40% below the PWLB certainty rate) and the possibility of more flexible funding structures than the PWLB. Funding from the National Wealth Fund is generally only available for certain types of projects that meet its criteria of green energy, transport, digital, water and waste. The minimum loan size is £5 million.

Treasury Management Investment Activity

CIPFA revised TM Code defines treasury management investments as those which arise from the Council's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances which need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.

The Council holds invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the year, the Council's investment balances ranged between £10.0 and £29.0 million due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: Treasury Investment Position

Bank Name	Duration of Loan	B/Fwd 01/04/24 £000's	Amount Invested 2024/25 £000's	Amount Returned 2024/25 £000's	Balance Invested 31/12/24 £000's	Interest Received 31/12/24 £000's
Federated Fund 3	Call	3,000	20,604	(18,604)	5,000	(104)
Aberdeen Standard	Call	0	7,007	(7,007)	0	(7)
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	1 Day Call	0	11,524	(8,524)	3,000	(24)
Aviva	Call	0	28,122	(23,122)	5,000	(122)
Invesco	Call	1,000	5,016	(1,016)	5,000	(16)
JP Morgan	Call	0	0	(0)	0	(0)
Goldman Sachs	Call	0	0	(0)	0	(0)
SSGA	Call	0	5,007	(5,007)	0	(7)
Lancashire County Council	12 Months	5,000	163	(5,163)	0	(163)
Aberdeen County Council	12 Months	5,000	197	(5,197)	0	(197)
Total		**14,000**	**77,640**	**(73,640)**	**18,000**	**(640)**

Overnight Investments

The balance of the daily surplus funds can be placed as overnight investments with the Councils bank which is Lloyds. The maximum amount invested with Lloyds in the first three quarters of the financial year was £4.788m. There has been no breach of the £5m limit set in the Treasury Management Strategy. For clarity, this limit relates to the amount invested and doesn't include interest accruing as a result. The interest earned from daily balances up to 31 December 2024 is £77,420.44.

Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Authority expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different asset classes and boost investment income.

Bank Rate reduced from 5.25% to 5.00% in August 2024 and again to 4.75% in November 2024 with short term interest rates largely being around these levels. Money Market Rates ranged between 5.25% and 5.25%.

The progression of risk and return metrics are shown in the extracts from Arlingclose's quarterly investment benchmarking in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Investment Benchmarking – Treasury investments managed in-house

	Credit Score	Credit Rating	Bail-in Exposure	Weighted Average Maturity (days)	Rate of Return %
31.03.2024 31.03.2024	5.35	A+	25%	34	5.58
Similar Las/All LAs	4.62	A+	60%	52	4.92

*Weighted average maturity

Statutory override: In April 2023 the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. A further consultation on the override was included in MHCLG's annual consultation on the provisional local government finance settlement published in December 2024: the consultation closes on 15th January 2025 with the outcome expecting to be published in February 2025. So far the override has been extended until 31st March 2025; whether the override will be extended beyond this date is unknown but commentary from both consultations suggests an extension is unlikely. The Council has set up a reserve of £0 to mitigate the impact of the statutory override not being extended and unrealised losses on pooled investment funds are required to be recognised.

ESG policy: Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are increasingly a factor in global investors' decision making, but the framework for evaluating investment opportunities is still developing and therefore the Council's strategy does not currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at an individual investment level. When investing in banks and funds, the Council will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.

Non-Treasury Investments

The definition of investments in CIPFA's revised 2021 Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Authority as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).

Investment Guidance issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Welsh Government also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.

The Council also held £15.853m of such investments in

- Loans to Rykneld Homes Ltd £6.501m
- Loans to Mypad £9.352m

The Council held £21.8m of investments made for commercial purposes

- Directly owned property £21.8m

These investments generated £0.449m of investment income for the Council after taking account of direct costs, representing a rate of return of 2.06% as at 31st December 2024.

Treasury Performance

The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6: Performance

	Actual £m	**Budget £m**	**Over/ under**	**Actual %**	**Benchmark %**	**Over/ under**
PWLB Borrowing	150.5	157.0	Under	3.91	5.69	Under
Total borrowing	150.5	157.0	Under	3.91	5.69	Under
Total debt	150.5	157.0	Under	3.91	5.69	Under
Investments (see table 4)	18.0	10.0	Over	4.74	4.25	Over
Total treasury investments	18.0	10.0	Over	4.74	4.25	Over

<u>MRP Regulations</u>

On 10th April 2024 amended legislation and revised statutory guidance were published on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The majority of the changes take effect from the 2025/26 financial year, although there is a requirement that for capital loans given on or after 7th May 2024 sufficient MRP must be charged so that the outstanding Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) in respect of the loan is no higher than the principal outstanding less the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) charge for that loan.

The regulations also require that local authorities cannot exclude any amount of their CFR from their MRP calculation unless by an exception set out in law. Capital receipts cannot be used to directly replace, in whole or part, the prudent charge to revenue for MRP (there are specific exceptions for capital loans and leased assets).

<u>Compliance</u>

The S151 Officer reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the quarter complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 7 below.

<u>Table 7: Investment Limits</u>

	2024/25 Maximum per counterparty	31.12.24 Actual	2024/25 Limit	Complied?
The UK Government	Unlimited	£0m	n/a	Yes
Local authorities & other government entities	£5m	£0m	Unlimited	Yes
Secured investments	£5m	£0m	Unlimited	Yes
Banks (unsecured)	£5m	£0m	Unlimited	Yes
Building societies (unsecured)	£5m	£0m	£20m	Yes
Registered providers (unsecured)	£5m	£0m	£20m	Yes
Money market funds	£5m	£18.0m	Unlimited	Yes
Strategic pooled funds	£5m	£0m	£20m	Yes
Real Estate Investment Trusts	£5m	£0m	£20m	Yes
Other investments	£5m	£0m	£20m	Yes

Compliance with the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 8 below.

Table 8: Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

	Q1 2024/25 Maximum £m	31.12.24 Actual £m	2024/25 Operational Boundary £m	2024/25 Authorised Limit £m	Complied?
Borrowing	157.0	150.5	234.2	239.2	Yes
Total debt	**157.0**	**150.5**	**234.2**	**239.2**	Yes

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

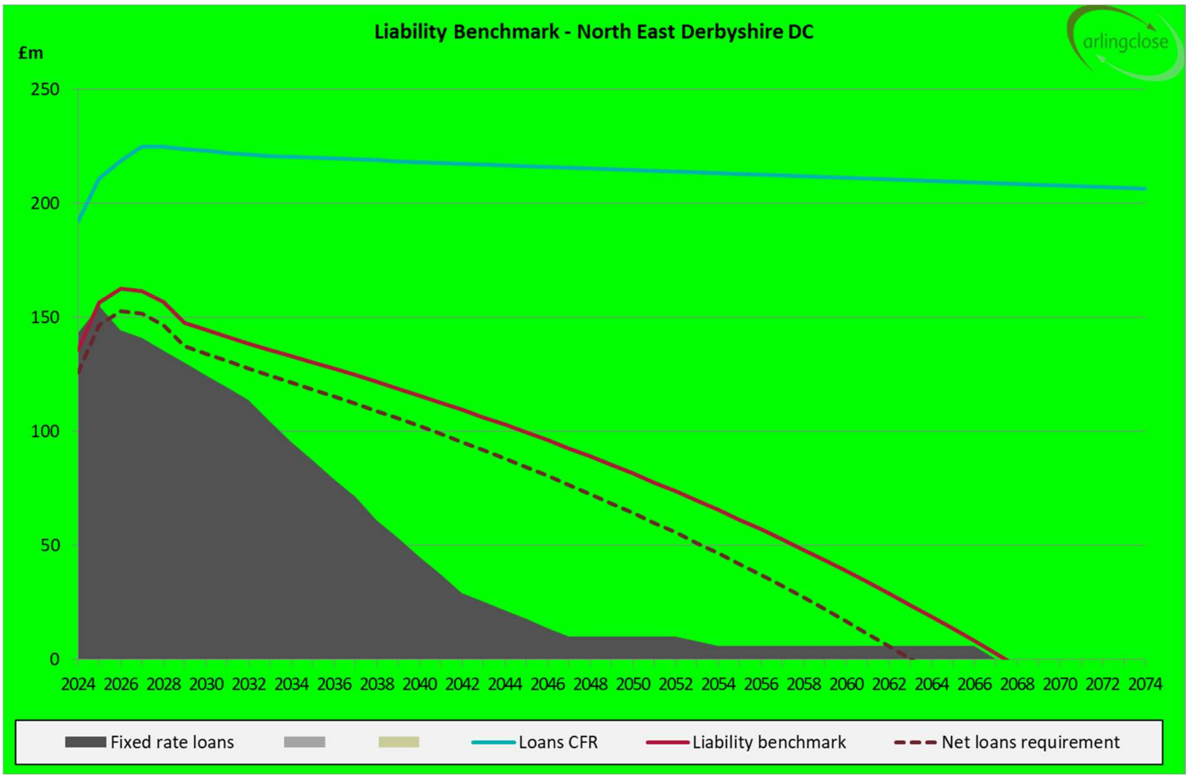
As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Council monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

1. Liability Benchmark**:**

This new indicator compares the Council's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £10m required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

	31.3.24 Actual	31.3.25 Forecast	31.3.26 Forecast	31.3.27 Forecast
Loans CFR	199.0	229.2	233.8	236.6
Less: Balance sheet resources	(73.7)	(81.4)	(87.2)	(90.3)
Net loans requirement	**125.3**	**147.8**	**146.6**	**146.3**
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Liability benchmark	**135.3**	**157.8**	**156.7**	**156.3**
Existing borrowing	**142.8**	**157.0**	**156.0**	**155.9**

Following on from the medium-term forecast above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of £18.5m in 2024/25, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 50-year asset life. This is shown in the chart below together with the maturity profile of the Council's existing borrowing.



Whilst borrowing may be above the liability benchmark, strategies involving borrowing which is significantly above the liability benchmark carry higher risk.

2. <u>Maturity Structure of Borrowing</u>**:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of all borrowing were:

	Upper Limit	**Lower Limit**	**31.12.24 Actual**	**Complied?**
Under 12 months	20%	0%	0.13%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	20%	0%	6.51%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	8.43%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	21.48%	Yes
10 years and above	90%	0%	63.45%	Yes

Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

3. <u>Long-term Treasury Management Investments</u>**:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are:

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£20m	£20m	£20m	£20m
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£0m	£0m	£0m	£0m
Complied?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds, real estate investment trusts and directly held equity but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

Additional indicators

Security**:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

	2024/25 Target	31.12.24 Actual	Complied?
Portfolio average credit rating	<3.0	1.00	Yes

Liquidity**:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing / it can borrow each period without giving prior notice.

	2024/25 Target £m	31.12.24 Actual £m	Complied?
Total cash available within 3 months	10.0	18.0	Yes

Interest Rate Exposures: This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk.

Interest rate risk indicator	2024/25 Target	31.12.24 Actual	Complied
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	£1.5m	£0.0m	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	(£1.5m)	(£0.0m)	Yes

For context, the changes in interest rates during the half year were:

	31/03/24	31/12/24
Bank Rate	5.25%	4.75%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.36%	5.19%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.68%	5.10%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.74%	5.40%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.18%	5.84%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	5.01%	5.66%

The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at new market rates.

Appendix 2

Prudential Indicators - Quarter 3 2024/25

The Council measures and manages its capital expenditure, borrowing and commercial and service investments with references to the following indicators.

It is now a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code that these are reported on a quarterly basis.

Capital Expenditure:

The Council has undertaken and is planning capital expenditure as summarised below.

	2023/24 actual £m	**2024/25 forecast £m**	**2025/26 budget * £m**	**2026/27 budget £m**
General Fund services	£15.429	£33.430	£8.084	£2.004
Council housing (HRA)	£30.387	£35.601	£27.276	£24.717
Capital investments	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000
Total	**£45.816**	**£69.031**	**£35.360**	**£26.721**

* £0m of capital expenditure in arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent cash expenditure.

The main General Fund capital projects to date have included General Asset Refurbishment Schemes, Mill Lane Asset Refurbishment Scheme, Coney Green Telephony System Replacement, Vehicle Replacement, Clay Cross Towns Fund Projects and the rebuilding of Sharley Park Active Community Hub. HRA capital expenditure is recorded separately and to date includes capital works on Council Dwellings, North Wingfield New build Project and Stonebroom replacement housing and a stock purchase programme.

Capital Financing Requirement:

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP/loans fund repayments and capital receipts used to replace debt.

	31.3.2024 actual £m	31.3.2025 forecast * £m	31.3.2026 budget £m	31.3.2027 budget £m
General Fund services	£21.697	£37.264	£35.930	£31.745
Council housing (HRA)	£177.291	£189.773	£198.326	£205.320
Capital investments	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000	£0.000
TOTAL CFR	**£198.988**	**£227.037**	**£234.256**	**£237.065**

* £0.285m of the CFR increase in 2024/25 arises from a change in the accounting for leases

Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement:

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short term. The Council has complied and expects to continue to comply with this requirement in the medium term as is shown below.

	31.3.2024 actual £m	31.3.2025 forecast £m	31.3.2026 budget £m	31.3.2027 budget £m	Debt at 31.12.2024 £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	£142.809	£159.300	£168.500	£175.103	£150.503
Capital Financing Requirement	£198.988	£227.037	£234.256	£237.065	

Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary:

The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the Authorised Limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

	Maximum debt Q3 2024/25 £m	Debt at 31.12.24 £m	2024/25 Authorised Limit £m	2024/25 Operational Boundary £m	Complied?
Borrowing	£156.995	£150.503	£239.200	£234.200	Yes
Total debt	**£156.995**	**£150.503**	**£239.200**	**£234.200**	Yes

Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.

Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream:

The Council's income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of its net revenue stream has been and is expected to be as indicated below.

	2023/24 actual £m	2024/25 forecast £m	2025/26 budget £m	2026/27 budget £m
Total net income from service and commercial investments	1.247	1.120	0.970	0.820
Proportion of net revenue stream	7.97%	5.92%	4.96%	4.15%

Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream:

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue.

The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

	2023/24 actual	2024/25 forecast *	2025/26 budget	2026/27 budget
Financing costs (£m)	(0.791)	(0.270)	0.720	1.100
Proportion of net revenue stream	(5.06%)	(1.45%)	3.68%	5.56%

* £0m of the increase in financing costs in 2024/25 arises from a change in the accounting for leases and does not represent additional cost to the Authority.

Treasury Management Indicators:

These indicators (Liability Benchmark, Maturity Structure of Borrowing, Long-Term Treasury Management Investments) are within the TM Appendix 1 Treasury Management Q3 Monitoring 2024/25.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

27 February 2025

Medium Term Financial Plan

Budget Monitoring Report April – December 2024 (Q3)

Report of Cllr P Kerry Deputy Leader with responsibility for Finance

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer)

Contact Officer: Jayne Dethick

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To update Cabinet of the financial position of the Council following the third quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Cabinet note the report and make any comments that they believe to be appropriate with regards to the budget monitoring position outlined.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr Kerry, Deputy Leader with responsibility for Finance

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IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes**☒ **No** ☐

It is important that the Council maintains robust budgetary control and monitoring processes in order to safeguard both its reserves and financial resilience.

The issue of financial risk and resilience is covered throughout the report. In addition, it should be noted that not achieving a balanced budget is outlined as a key risk within the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

Members should note that the budgets against which we have monitored the 2024/25 quarter one position were those agreed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): **Yes**☐ **No** ☒

There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes☐** **No ☒**

There are no staffing issues arising directly from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £125,000 ☐ Capital - £310,000 ☐** ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken • Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	No, not applicable, report is for noting only.
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken • Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	No, not applicable.
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader ☒ Cabinet ☐** **SMT ☐ Relevant Service Manager ☐** **Members ☐ Public ☐ Other ☐**	Yes Details:

Links to Council Plan priorities; • **A great place that cares for the environment** • **A great place to live well** • **A great place to work** • **A great place to access good public services**
All

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 To update Cabinet on the financial position of the Council following the third quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, Housing Revenue account, and the Capital Programme.

2. General Fund

2.1 The position in respect of the General Fund as at 31 December 2024 is summarised in **Appendix 1** attached to the report. The appendix shows the Original Budget that was set in January 2024, together with the Current Budget compared to the 31 December position.

2.2 As at quarter three the overall forecast is for the General Fund to underspend by £0.383m. Variances of note by Directorate are detailed at 2.4 - 2.6 below. **Appendix 2** provides a more detailed breakdown by directorate.

2.3 The budget approved by Council in January 2025 increased the required contribution from the Resilience Reserve from £0.101m to £0.664m, as detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan Report. Further, the report stated that subsequent underspends be transferred to the Resilience Reserve to 'pay back' contributions this year, increasing resilience for future years. Based on the quarter three forecasts the underspend of £0.383m reduces the use of the reserve to £0.263m at outturn this year. This will depend on the actual financial performance out-turning in line with the budgets as the year progresses.

2.4 The Organisation and Place Directorate is £0.134m lower than the original forecast. The main variances are in relation to fuel underspend of £0.074m, and underspend on waste collection and recycling costs totalling £0.072m. There is also an underspend on members allowances of £0.046m and grounds maintenance costs of £0.015m which is offset by a £0.060m overspend on Transport materials. Income variances include greater income than budgeted for legal and land charges (£0.020m) and Cemeteries (£0.010m) offset by a reduction MOT testing fees of £0.026m.

2.5 The Finance and Resources Directorate is £0.047m lower than the original forecast. The main variances are in relation to salary underspend of £0.066m and underspends on mobiles and telephones totalling £0.010m. These underspends are offset by an overspend of £0.015m for an increased contribution to the Apprenticeship Levy and £0.014m less income than budgeted from Crematorium Fees.

2.6 The Growth and Assets Directorate is £0.202m lower than the original forecast. The main variances are in relation to a salary underspend of £0.158m, (of which £0.078m is leisure services), and underspend on utilities of £0.100m. There is also an underspend of £0.040m in relation to equipment purchases across the directorate. These underspends are partially offset by lower income than forecast of £0.017m and £0.019m for Midway Business Centre and Coney Green Business Centre respectively. Income is also lower than forecast by £0.083m across leisure services, however this is offset by the salary underspend noted above.

Financial Reserves

2.7 Transfers from Earmarked Reserves

The use of earmarked reserves is 2024/25 to date is £1.279m comprising:

- £1.017m from revenue grants.
- £0.525m from earmarked reserves

The transfers from earmarked reserves also relates to resilience reserves, see 2.11 below.

2.8 Transfers to Earmarked Reserves

The transfers to earmarked reserves to date is £1.029m, wholly transferred to revenue grant reserves.

2.9 There are ongoing commitments against the earmarked reserves which will continue in 2024/25 and future years. Should any of the reserves prove unnecessary in the light of subsequent events then they will be moved back into unallocated General Fund resources.

Invest to Save

2.10 The Invest to Save Reserve had an opening balance of £2.554m at 1 April 2024. Commitments already made against this reserve for 2024/25 and future years amount to £0.484m leaving £2.069m uncommitted and available for future innovations and spend to save initiatives.

Resilience Reserve

2.11 The Resilience Reserve had an opening balance of £2.514m at 1 April 2024, and planned commitments in the current financial year were forecast to reduce this to £2.413m. However, the revised budget increased the use of this reserve to £0.664m. The quarter three forecast underspend will reduce the use of the Resilience Reserve to £0.263m depending on actual outturn. This reduction will help to provide financial resilience to the General Fund in future years as required by the Medium Term Financial Plan.

General Fund Balances

2.12 The level of General Fund Balances has been maintained at £2.000m. The General Fund balances are considered to be at an acceptable level rather than generous. The General Fund balance needs to be considered against the background of ongoing reductions in the level of Government funding together with the range of risks facing the Council. With only a limited level of General Fund reserves it is crucial that the Council continues to maintain robust budgetary control while securing its ongoing savings targets in order to safeguard both its reserves and its financial sustainability.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

2.13 Appendix 3 shows the HRA position at quarter three. To date the HRA has remained relatively stable with income above budget by £0.080m and expenditure slightly below budget by £0.011m resulting in an overall income position of £0.091m. The income variance is mainly due to lower than forecast right to buy sales meaning a small increase in rental income received. The expenditure variance includes £0.037m underspend in across repairs and maintenance offset by overspend of £0.026m in supervision and management which mainly relates to pay.

Capital Investment Programme

2.14 Appendix 4 shows the capital position at quarter three which is currently £13.154m lower than the forecast.

2.15 The HRA capital programme is £2.977m under the profiled budget at quarter three largely due to the North Wingfield New Build project (£1.111m) and the stock purchase programme (£1.261m) but this budget is committed.

2.16 The general fund programme is lower than forecast by £10.177m at quarter three. The Clay Cross Town programme and Low Carbon Challenge funds are £5.773m and £1.101m lower than profile respectively and but they are expected to be on track by the end of the year. There are also delays in the vehicle replacement programme (£0.704) and Clay Cross Active 3G Pitch (£0.718m) against budget profile. As is the norm with capital budgets, any underspends remaining at year end will be rolled into 2025/26 to meet future committed spend.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The report summarises the financial position of the Council following the first quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 This report is concerned with monitoring the position against the Council's previously approved budget. Accordingly, the report does not set out any options where a decision is required by Members.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	General Fund Summary Monitoring Q3 2024/25
2	General Fund Detail Monitoring Q3 2024/25
3	HRA Monitoring Q3 2024/25
4	Capital Expenditure Monitoring Q3 2024/25

Background Papers
None

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT - SUMMARY BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25 (QUARTER 3)

	Original Budget 2024/25 £	Current Budget 2024/25 £	Q3 Profiled Budget 2024/25 £	Actuals £	Variance £
Organisation & Place Directorate	8,270,273	8,798,973	7,158,812	7,024,424	(134,389)
Finance & Resources Directorate	4,917,782	4,823,504	4,168,062	4,120,964	(47,098)
Growth & Assets Directorate	3,021,457	3,196,142	(1,569,086)	(1,771,155)	(202,069)
Recharges to Capital and HRA	(618,350)	(618,350)	(463,825)	(463,763)	63
Net Cost of Services	**15,591,162**	**16,200,269**	**9,293,963**	**8,910,470**	**(383,493)**
Investment Properties	(465,220)	(465,220)	(363,182)	(380,454)	(17,272)
Bad Debt Provision	40,000	40,000	30,000	30,000	0
Interest	(616,538)	(686,118)	(514,658)	(514,658)	0
Debt Repayment Minimum Revenue Provisi	56,000	56,000	42,000	42,000	0
Parish Precepts	3,556,306	3,835,198	2,876,399	2,876,399	0
Transfer To Earmarked Reserves	0	1,028,571	1,028,571	1,028,571	0
Transfer From Earmarked Reserves	(471,367)	(1,279,503)	(1,279,503)	(1,279,503)	0
Transfer Shortfall From Resilience Reserve	(100,850)	(664,057)	(664,057)	(263,292)	400,765
Total Spending Requirement	**17,589,493**	**18,065,140**	**10,449,533**	**10,449,533**	**0**
Business Rates	(5,948,100)	(6,148,100)	(4,611,075)	(4,611,075)	0
New Homes Bonus	(600,583)	(600,583)	(450,437)	(450,437)	0
3% Funding Guarantee	(389,000)	(389,000)	(291,750)	(291,750)	0
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - Council T	(139,347)	(139,347)	0	0	0
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit - NNDR	0	0	0	0	0
NEDDC Council Tax Requirement	(6,952,912)	(6,952,912)	(5,214,684)	(5,214,684)	0
Parish Council Council Tax Requirement	(3,556,306)	(3,835,198)	(2,876,399)	(2,876,399)	0
Council Tax Requirement	**(17,586,248)**	**(18,065,140)**	**(13,444,345)**	**(13,444,345)**	**0**

		Revised Budget 24/25 £	Q3 Actuals 24/25 £	Variance £
	Organisation & Place Directorate			
	Managing Director & Head Of Paid Service			
4500	Managing Director - Operations & Head of Paid Service	128,196	126,395	(1,801)
5720	Supporting PA's	82,381	82,374	(7)
		210,577	208,769	(1,808)
	Assistant Director Environmental Health			
3400	Environmental Protection	150,809	173,066	22,257
3401	Food, Health & Safety	108,255	104,695	(3,560)
3402	Environmental Enforcement	130,727	123,731	(6,996)
3403	Community Outreach	18,436	21,916	3,480
3404	Licensing	67,133	65,110	(2,023)
3405	Pollution	124,840	117,943	(6,897)
3407	Pest Control	34,164	29,212	(4,952)
3408	Home Improvement	25,575	25,749	174
3409	EH Technical Support & Management	277,846	274,954	(2,892)
3410	Private Sector Housing	82,072	78,078	(3,994)
3419	Destitute Funerals	1,413	1,588	175
3420	Fly Tipping	3,000	0	(3,000)
3426	Covid Enforcement Team	5,861	5,861	0
3427	Private Water Supply Contract	0	1,501	1,501
3429	Joint Assistant Director Environmental Health	50,881	50,825	(56)
3726	Works In Default	(1)	4,412	4,413
		1,081,011	1,078,641	(2,370)
	Assistant Director Streetscene			
3174	Street Scene	253,982	221,351	(32,631)
3227	Materials Recycling	504,170	444,198	(59,972)
3282	Eckington Depot	146,911	143,788	(3,123)
3285	Dronfield Bulk Depot	2,880	3,842	962
3511	Hasland Cemetery	(27,100)	(31,367)	(4,267)
3513	Temple Normanton Cemetery	(3,438)	(2,782)	656
3514	Clay Cross Cemetery	(43,942)	(48,857)	(4,915)
3516	Killamarsh Cemetery	(15,026)	(17,946)	(2,920)
3918	Dog Fouling Bins	(59,468)	(59,468)	(0)
3921	Street Cleaning Service	478,042	473,129	(4,913)
3922	Gully Emptying Service	25,940	25,940	(0)
3943	Transport	593,933	715,762	121,829
3944	Grounds Maintenance	380,215	327,700	(52,515)
3945	Domestic Waste Collection	1,393,903	1,387,065	(6,838)
3946	Commercial Waste Collection	(348,429)	(364,878)	(16,449)
3947	Assistant Director Streetscene	70,038	69,766	(272)
		3,352,611	3,287,243	(65,368)
	Assistant Director Planning			
4111	Applications And Advice	(466,564)	(485,771)	(19,207)
4113	Planning Appeals	26,860	26,860	0
4116	Planning Policy	377,191	377,228	37
4119	Neighbourhood Planning Grant	(15,387)	(15,387)	(0)
4311	Environmental Conservation	37,670	37,670	0
4511	Assistant Director Planning	69,657	68,921	(736)
4513	Planning	551,606	535,075	(16,531)
4515	Building Control	(270)	0	270
		580,763	544,597	(36,166)
	Assistant Director Governance			
1121	Member's Services	415,623	368,817	(46,806)
1123	Chair's Expenses	5,327	2,579	(2,748)

1131	District Elections	17,214	34,102	16,888
1133	Parish Elections	0	(0)	(0)
1134	Combined County Authority Mayoral Election	0	(32,571)	(32,571)
1137	Parliamentary Elections	277,143	277,143	0
1138	Police & Crime Commissioner Elections	104,795	104,795	(0)
1139	County Council Elections	0	0	0
1231	Corporate Training	48,233	51,186	2,953
1259	Corporate Groups	1,466	8,057	6,591
1311	Human Resources	226,437	223,440	(2,997)
3121	Health & Safety Advisor	58,934	56,690	(2,244)
5273	Brass Band Concert	0	0	0
5313	Register Of Electors	135,555	140,847	5,292
5321	Assistant Director Governance	83,838	82,397	(1,441)
5353	Legal Section	256,667	322,833	66,166
5354	Land Charges	33,015	11,628	(21,387)
5392	Scrutiny	34,967	35,091	124
5711	Democratic Services	234,636	218,140	(16,496)
		1,933,850	1,905,174	(28,676)
	Total for Organisation & Place Directorate	**7,158,812**	**7,024,424**	**(134,389)**
	Finance & Resources Directorate			
	Director of Finance & Resources			
1312	Payroll	87,848	87,240	(608)
1315	Design & Print	102,437	101,545	(892)
1321	Communications & Marketing	102,722	102,558	(164)
1323	NEDDC News	19,125	18,312	(813)
1329	Corporate Web Site	0	0	0
3135	Drainage	11,089	7,716	(3,373)
3512	CBC Crematorium	0	14,000	14,000
5113	Unison Duties	9,397	77	(9,321)
5611	External Audit	135,671	135,671	0
5615	Bank Charges	108,763	104,249	(4,514)
5621	Contribution to/from HRA	0	0	0
5713	Audit	73,371	73,356	(15)
5714	Financial Support Services	2,250	912	(1,338)
5715	Procurement	27,826	24,041	(3,785)
5716	Director of Finance & Resources	50,507	49,916	(591)
5721	Financial Services	282,110	285,011	2,901
5724	Insurance	412,545	411,275	(1,270)
5725	Apprenticeship Levy	33,753	48,377	14,624
5727	Cost Of Ex-Employees	98,385	96,572	(1,813)
5728	Covid-19 Response	0	0	0
5745	Covid New Burdens	0	0	0
		1,557,799	1,560,827	3,028
	Assistant Director ICT			
5215	Telephones	15,900	10,394	(5,506)
5216	Mobile Phones and Ipads	20,693	16,950	(3,743)
5701	Joint ICT Service	3,332	3,332	(0)
5734	NEDDC ICT Service	506,010	483,656	(22,354)
5735	Cyber Security	1,512	2,016	504
5736	Business Development	169,092	183,512	14,420
5737	Corporate Printing Costs	12,526	9,780	(2,746)
		729,065	709,640	(19,425)
	Assistant Director Communities			
1218	Community Safety	68,276	71,662	3,386
1220	Assistant Director Communities	34,717	34,642	(75)
3165	Housing Options Team	292,952	260,733	(32,219)
3176	Pool Car	0	0	0
3740	Strategic Housing	195,909	159,294	(36,615)
3745	Household Support Fund	0	0	0

3746	Homelessness Prevention Grant	0	0	0
3747	Homeless Temp Accomodation	28,785	28,640	(145)
3748	Homelessness Grant	(8,942)	(8,942)	(0)
3749	Empty Properties	1,125	242	(883)
3750	Housing Growth	0	1,270	1,270
3754	Rough Sleepers	(85,034)	(85,034)	0
3756	Supported Housing Improvement Programme	(28,033)	(28,033)	0
3759	Emergency Welfare Assistance Grant	37,872	37,872	(0)
3760	Asylum Dispersal	(76,500)	(76,500)	0
5221	Customer Services	305,437	312,166	6,729
5223	Franking Machine	35,927	41,623	5,696
5224	Hybrid Mail	12,752	10,944	(1,808)
5741	Housing Benefit Service	518,182	522,964	4,782
5742	Test & Trace	0	(0)	(0)
5747	Debtors	51,832	51,856	24
5751	NNDR Collection	91,513	93,352	1,839
5759	Council Tax Administration	404,428	422,835	18,407
5775	Council Tax Rebate	0	0	0
5778	Energy Bills Support AF	0	0	0
5825	Concessionary Bus Passes	0	(1,091)	(1,091)
		1,881,198	1,850,497	(30,701)
	Total for Finance & Resources Directorate	**4,168,062**	**4,120,964**	**(47,098)**

Growth & Assets Directorate

	Director of Growth & Assets			
1283	Emergency Planning	0	0	0
4600	Director of Transformation	99,821	99,230	(591)
		99,821	99,230	(591)
	Assistant Director Property, Estates & Assets			
3172	Engineers	73,397	51,004	(22,393)
3241	Car Parks	46,243	37,743	(8,500)
3247	Street Names/Lights	11,624	3,969	(7,655)
3249	Footpath Orders	(301)	(1,000)	(699)
3265	Dams And Fishing Ponds	3,190	(1,433)	(4,623)
3281	Clay Cross Depot	0	(10)	(10)
3283	Northwood	0	980	980
4412	Midway Business Centre	(62,634)	(42,031)	20,603
4425	Coney Green Business Centre	(64,525)	(46,741)	17,784
4519	The Avenue, Wingerworth	0	0	0
4523	Estates Administration	163,812	137,479	(26,333)
4525	Miscellaneous Properties	13,465	12,772	(693)
5204	Assistant Director Property, Estates & Assets	69,897	69,403	(494)
5205	Mill Lane	521,439	519,467	(1,972)
5206	Mill Lane Land	80,012	80,012	0
5209	Facilities Management	160,266	153,037	(7,229)
5210	Pioneer House	181,167	173,863	(7,304)
		1,197,052	1,148,513	(48,539)
	Assistant Director Regeneration & Programmes			
1255	Strategy and Performance	134,696	136,148	1,452
1256	Corporate Consultation	0	0	0
1331	Strategic Partnerships	182,973	171,825	(11,148)
1333	Healthy North East Derbyshire	(7,161)	(7,161)	0
1336	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(1,534,008)	(1,534,008)	0
3284	Wingerworth OPE	0	0	0
4211	Tourism Promotions	33,464	27,419	(6,045)
4238	Working Communities Strategy	57,454	56,839	(615)
4351	Alliance	2,795	3,725	930
4443	Elderly Peoples Clubs	3,001	1,358	(1,643)
4512	Growth Agenda	15,750	8,261	(7,489)

4517	Economic Development	188,994	193,716	4,722
4520	Killamarsh/Eckington OPE	3,312	4,413	1,101
4524	New Towns Fund - Clay Cross	(3,248,939)	(3,248,939)	0
5748	Ukranian Guests	2,028	2,753	725
5750	Assistant Director Economic Development, Regeneration & Housing	74,592	73,963	(629)
5785	Contributions	130,316	126,591	(3,725)
		(3,960,733)	(3,983,099)	(22,365)
	Assistant Director Leisure			
4561	Leisure Centre Management	135,599	117,181	(18,418)
4720	Sportivate	(25,424)	(25,424)	(0)
4722	Physical Inactivity Fund	0	0	0
4723	Generation Games	3	799	796
4724	Walking into Communities	(22,408)	(22,408)	(0)
4726	Walking For Health	(13,333)	(13,334)	(1)
4727	Five 60	5	1,084	1,079
4729	Active Neighbourhood Pilot	0	(636)	(636)
4730	Seated Dancing for Health	0	(1,600)	(1,600)
4731	Promotion Of Recreation And Leisure	27,974	27,930	(44)
4732	Schools Promotion	6	2,078	2,072
4736	Derbyshire Sports Forum	0	0	0
4740	Parkinsons UK Physical Activity Programme	436	580	144
4742	Arts Development	1,931	945	(986)
8441	Eckington Swimming Pool	8,545	416	(8,129)
8445	Eckington Pool Cafe	7,307	17	(7,290)
8451	Dronfield Sports Centre	(2,948)	(40,516)	(37,568)
8455	Dronfield Café	(10,499)	(8,889)	1,610
8461	Sharley Park Sports Centre	761,628	683,572	(78,056)
8465	Sharley Park Sports Centre Outdoor	(751)	(435)	316
8466	Sharley Park Sports Centre Café	9,081	0	(9,081)
8471	Killamarsh Leisure Centre	217,197	242,404	25,207
8475	Killamarsh Outdoors	(13,229)	(14,523)	(1,294)
8476	Killamarsh Café	13,654	14,959	1,305
		1,094,775	964,201	(130,574)
	Total for Growth & Assets Directorate	**(1,569,086)**	**(1,771,155)**	**(202,070)**
	Corporate Charges			
5790	Savings Target	0	0	0
0001	Recharges to Capital and HRA	(463,825)	(463,763)	63
	Total for Corporate Charges	**(463,825)**	**(463,763)**	**63**
	Net Cost of Services	**9,293,963**	**8,910,470**	**(383,493)**
	Investment Properties			
4411	Stonebroom Industrial Estate	(40,635)	(43,324)	(2,689)
4413	Clay Cross Industrial Estate	(63,795)	(87,711)	(23,916)
4415	Norwood Industrial Estate	(168,315)	(168,092)	223
4417	Eckington Business Park	2,776	3,765	989
4418	Rotherside Court Eckington Business Unit	(29,288)	(28,669)	619
4423	Pavillion Workshops Holmewood	(69,808)	(65,568)	4,240
4432	Miscellaneous Properties	5,883	9,146	3,263
	Total for Investment Properties	**(363,182)**	**(380,454)**	**(17,272)**

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT: SUMMARY 2024/25 APPENDIX 3

	Current Budget 2024/25 £	Profiled Qtr 3 Budget £	Actuals with Accruals £	Variance £
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	(35,732,575)	(26,803,006)	(26,881,165)	(78,159)
Non-Dwelling Rents	(527,835)	(395,939)	(382,379)	13,560
Charges for Services and Facilities	(62,250)	(46,697)	(62,296)	(15,599)
Contributions Towards Expenditure	(50,000)	(37,500)	(37,500)	0
INCOME TOTAL	**(36,372,660)**	**(27,283,142)**	**(27,363,339)**	**(80,197)**
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs & Maintenance	6,013,769	4,510,911	4,473,559	(37,352)
Supervision and Management	8,804,223	6,604,062	6,630,191	26,129
Rents, Rates & Taxes	113,000	84,761	84,761	0
Capital Charges - Depreciation	8,555,485	6,417,471	6,417,471	0
Provision for Bad Debts	250,000	187,500	187,500	0
Debt Management Expenses	11,500	8,625	8,625	0
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	**23,747,977**	**17,813,330**	**17,802,107**	**(11,223)**
NET COST OF SERVICES	**(12,624,683)**	**(9,469,812)**	**(9,561,232)**	**(91,420)**
Corporate & Democratic Core	185,450	139,088	139,088	0
NET COST OF HRA SERVICES	**(12,439,233)**	**(9,330,725)**	**(9,422,145)**	**(91,420)**
Interest Payable	7,439,050	5,580,031	5,580,031	0
Interest Receivable	(2,722,974)	(2,042,504)	(2,042,504)	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	7,299,615	5,475,441	5,475,441	0
Contribution to Development Reserve	448,730	336,593	336,593	0
Contribution to/(from) Resilience Reserve	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Insurance Reserve	50,000	37,505	37,505	0
Capital Grant	0	0	0	0
Water Litigation Liability (Reducing)	(75,188)	(56,399)	(56,399)	0
(Surplus)/Deficit on HRA Services	**0**	**(58)**	**(91,478)**	**(91,420)**

Project/Scheme	Current Programme 2024/25 £000	Profiled Budget £000	Actual and Commitments £000	Variance £000
Housing Investment				
HRA Capital Works	21,677	16,258	16,335	77
Garage Demolitions	40	30	32	2
Parking Solutions	0	0	0	0
Stonebroom Regeneration Project	598	449	101	(348)
North Wingfield New Build	9,455	7,091	5,980	(1,111)
Stock Purchase Programme	3,831	2,873	1,612	(1,261)
Private Sector Spending	894	671	334	(337)
Total Housing Investment	**36,495**	**27,371**	**24,394**	**(2,977)**
Other Capital Projects				
Asset Refurbishment - General	604	453	251	(202)
Asset Refurbishment - Mill Lane	481	361	15	(346)
Dronfield LC Carbon Efficiencies Programme	100	75	97	22
Coney Green Telephony System	103	77	10	(67)
Fuel Island Project	450	338	47	(291)
Clay Cross Active 3G Pitch	1,000	750	32	(718)
Lottery Funded Schemes	9	7	0	(7)
Replacement Vehicles	4,325	3,244	2,540	(704)
Contaminated Land	42	32	0	(32)
ICT Schemes	525	394	136	(258)
CX Town Market Street Regeneration	10,824	8,118	2,345	(5,773)
CX Town Sharley Park Active Community Hub	10,875	8,156	7,472	(684)
CX Town Low Carbon Housing Challenge Fund	1,724	1,293	192	(1,101)
CX Town Rail Station Feasibility	44	33	0	(33)
CX Town Programme Management	361	271	209	(62)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	1,069	802	879	77
Total Other Capital Projects	**32,536**	**24,402**	**14,225**	**(10,177)**
Total Capital Expenditure	**69,031**	**51,773**	**38,619**	**(13,154)**

Housing Investment Funding				
Major Repairs Reserve	(16,445)	(12,334)	(15,368)	(3,034)
HRA Capital Investment Reserve	(397)	(298)	152	450
Usable Capital Receipts	(3,273)	(2,455)	(124)	2,331
External Grant	(3,005)	(2,254)	0	2,254
Prudential Borrowing	(12,481)	(9,361)	(8,720)	641
	(35,601)	(26,701)	(24,060)	2,641
Private Sector Spending				
Disabled Facilities Grant	(894)	(671)	(334)	337
Total Housing Investment Funding	**(36,495)**	**(27,371)**	**(24,394)**	**2,977**
Other Capital Projects Funding				
Prudential Borrowing	(14,269)	(10,702)	(8,742)	1,960
External Grant	(14,823)	(11,117)	(3,658)	7,459
RCCO	(584)	(438)	(25)	413
Useable Capital Receipts	(2,860)	(2,145)	(1,800)	345
Other Capital Project Funding	**(32,536)**	**(24,402)**	**(14,225)**	**10,177**
Total Capital Financing	**(69,031)**	**(51,773)**	**(38,619)**	**13,154**

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

27 FEBRUARY 2025

North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan 2025-26

Report of Cllr J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Classification:	This report is public
Report By:	Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes
Contact Officer:	Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

For Cabinet to endorse the North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan allocations. The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has approved an allocation of £1,050,067 to the Council to deliver a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme for the District between April 2025 and March 2026, with Investment Plan allocations to reflect the District's approach to aligning with the UK Government's UKSPF investment priorities and EMMCA's regional policy priorities. To also seek approval to maintain the role as accountable body for a multi-Authority business support programme and to request Cabinet's authority to delegate to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer the responsibility, in consultation with the Leader and Managing Director, for signing off the final iteration of the Investment Plan should EMCCA require this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the proposed North East Derbyshire 2025-26 UKSPF programme.

2. That approval of variations to the final Investment Plan is delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets and Managing Director, should amendments be required by EMCCA.

3. Agree that NEDDC remains the accountable body for the multi-Authority Derbyshire Accelerator contract for 2025-26, subject to receiving a 4% administrative contribution from participating Local Authorities.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Barry, Cabinet Member for Growth & Assets

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IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes☒** **No ☐**

Details: The Council is responsible for managing the process of allocating £1,050,067 through direct delivery, commissioning external provision or competitive open grant schemes.

4% of the allocation will be used to support the administration and operating costs of the programme, such as publicity, promotion and engagement.

If the Council remains the accountable body for the Derbyshire Accelerator contract, a further 4% of the contract value will be received to cover administration costs.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): **Yes☐** **No ☒**

Details: All programme activities, procurement and funding agreements will be compliant with Council and UKSPF regulations.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes☒** **No ☐**

Details: Existing Officers will support the delivery of the programme and specific activity that aligns with established departmental responsibilities.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: **NEDDC:** **Revenue - £125,000** ☒ **Capital - £310,000** ☒ ☒ *Please indicate which threshold applies*	Yes
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	Yes
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken • Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	Yes, superseded by stage 2
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken • Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	Yes, appended.
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader** ☒ **Cabinet** ☒ **SMT** ☒ **Relevant Service Manager** ☒ **Members** ☐ **Public** ☐ **Other** ☒	Yes Details: Meetings and correspondence

Links to Council Plan priorities; • **A great place that cares for the environment** • **A great place to live well** • **A great place to work** • **A great place to access good public services**
Links to all priorities.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 North East Derbyshire was allocated of £2,568,204 to deliver a programme that supported projects and interventions based around the following priority areas between October 2022 and March 2025:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

The Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) has advised that any funds not sent and delivering its outcomes by 31 March 2025 must be returned to Government; any risks for underspend have been mitigated. Whilst the current programme has almost completed, the Council retains the capacity and experience within the Programme Management Team to deliver future programmes should funding become available.

1.2 The Government has announced that 2025-26 is a transition year for UKSPF before it determines how its successor programmes will be delivered; confirmation of this is expected in June 2025. EMCCA has been designated Lead Funding Authority for the regions £25.17m 2025-26 UKSPF monies, who in turn agreed at its 10 February 2025 Board meeting to distribute a proportion of the funds to Local Authorities based on the national funding formula. This allocation has been supplemented with £6.54m capital funds, whilst £2.4m revenue has been top-sliced for cross-region inward investment and business support and visitor economy work to be commissioned by EMCCA.

1.3 As a result, the 2025-26 UKSPF local allocation for North East Derbyshire is £1,050,067 (£460,060 capital and £590,007 revenue) from the £24,770,820 regional shared budget. 4% of the total NEDDC allocation can be utilised for project administration (£42,002). To allocate this funding a North East Derbyshire Investment Plan is being presented to Cabinet for consideration.

1.4 Details and timescales of how EMMCA will be approving proposed Plans and contracting with Local Authorities have yet to be finalised, with discussions to commence imminently. Due to any potential amendments required by EMCCA, delegation to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets and Managing Director of necessary amendments to the final Investment Plan submission is proposed.

1.5 EMCCA elected not to regionalise the management of the generic business support programme currently delivered by East Midlands Chamber through the Accelerator programme. NEDDC is the accountable body of the current 2023-25 service on behalf of most Derbyshire District/Borough Councils and is in the best position to extend this for a further year to avoid any service gaps due to procurement processes, with discussions underway with the other Local Authorities. This extension would be procurement compliant, and it has been noted that NEDDC would expect a contribution towards the administration and re-contracting costs, at the 4% rate set by Government.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 Whilst the UKSPF priorities of Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills will be retained, greater focus will be placed on Themes and Sub-Themes which link back to the Government's Missions (**Appendix 1**) EMCCA has also approved its own focus in the priorities on 10 February 2025 (Board Papers Item 8, Sections 2.7-2.9; **Appendix 2**).

2.2 The exercise to develop a £1,050,067 North East Derbyshire Investment Plan has been informed by proposals and discussions held with departments and some external partners. The proposed programme is based on deliverability within the financial year and compliance with new and existing scheme priorities and rules, with the 4% administration allowance to be utilised for activities including project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and stakeholder engagement. The funding to be allocated is therefore £1,008,065.

2.3 Due to the timescales involved in the allocation this Plan has had to be delivered at pace. Budgets in some areas are still being finalised whilst costs are awaited and therefore the proposed Investment Plan is to follow as **Appendix 3** as soon as possible before the Cabinet meeting. The UKSPF Priorities of Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills have been addressed within the Plan, although due to the modest funds and timescales not all of the new Themes and Sub-Themes can realistically be covered.

2.4 The priority areas which will be detailed in Appendix 3 and will be linked to the UKSPF Themes and Sub-Themes include:

- District Parks, Play Areas and Open Space
- Strategic Public Realm Improvements
- Safer Communities (including youth engagement and crime reduction)
- Exploring the District (visitor economy, promotions and events)
- Inclusive Communities (support to residents on issues including cost of living, energy efficiency, money and debt advice and community participation)
- Shopfront Enhancement Scheme Grants
- Business Advice
- Skills development (including digital skills)

2.5 The Plan is subject to review and approval by EMCCA, who will continue to hold discussions with its Local Authority partners about how the funding will be received and to ensure that they have sufficient clarity for how the funding is being deployed locally. Further detail is pending in terms of what details and process EMCCA required from the Local Authority partners before 1 April 2025.

2.6 EMCCA will manage the UKSPF through its Devolution Leadership Group in consultation with the Section 73/151 Officer group. It is therefore recommended that sign-off of any necessary Investment Plan amendments required by EMCCA is delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets and Managing Director.

2.7 Each receiving Authority will receive the funding as a grant from EMCCA once it has been received from the Government. EMCCA will not be forward funding the local allocations although each receiving Authority may forward fund projects at their own risk and with the expectation that procurement rules and subsidy controls will be properly applied as required.

2.8 UKSPF reporting has been simplified at the national and regional level, with 6 monthly reporting (rather than the current quarterly reporting) listing each project by UKSPF sub-theme. EMCCA require an initial forecast before the funding period starts on 1 April 2024 before reporting commences.

2.9 With EMCCA determining that generic business support should be commissioned at Local Authority level, all District and Borough Councils across Derbyshire and Derby City Council have been in discussions whether the current Derbyshire Accelerator support contract managed by NEDDC and delivered through East Midlands Chamber could be extended. The current contract and procurement procedures allow for this, which would allay concerns that procurement of new services would create delivery gaps and service fragmentation across most of the County, significantly destabilising the support available to local businesses.

2.10 At a time of heightened global economic pressures, it is therefore proposed that the current arrangement is extended for a further year to provide stability and support to the business community. It has been noted that NEDDC would expect a contribution towards the administration and re-contracting costs from participating Councils, at the 4% rate set by Government.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Approval of the Investment Plan will enable timely submission of a balanced programme of activity that can respond at pace to meet the needs of the District and accesses additional investment of £1,050,067 UKSPF resources for local determination.

3.2 Delegating responsibility to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Managing Director, to approve any amendments to the final Investment Plan submission enables any requirements raised by EMCCA to be addressed at pace.

3.3 Extending the Councils leadership of the Derbyshire Accelerator contract ensures continuity of the business advisors and programme currently working in the localities, derisking the concern that skilled and experienced support will be lost to the local business base.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not to approve the proposed Investment Plan. The Plan has been developed and based upon engagement with officers and stakeholders in terms of what activity can realistically be delivered at pace and ensure appropriate positive impact within the 12-month operational period. Budget allocations are based upon experience and identified costs. Approving the Investment Plan would enable access to UKSPF resources for local benefit.

4.2 Not to delegate the authority to approve necessary amendments to the Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Managing Director, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets and Leader of the Local Authority, would result in delivery delays which could impact the success of activity currently being mobilised subject to final approval by EMCCA. The UKSPF Investment Plan will support cross-District, cross-Portfolio activity and be compliant with established financial regulations. It is prudent that the Section 151 Officer has this responsibility should it be required.

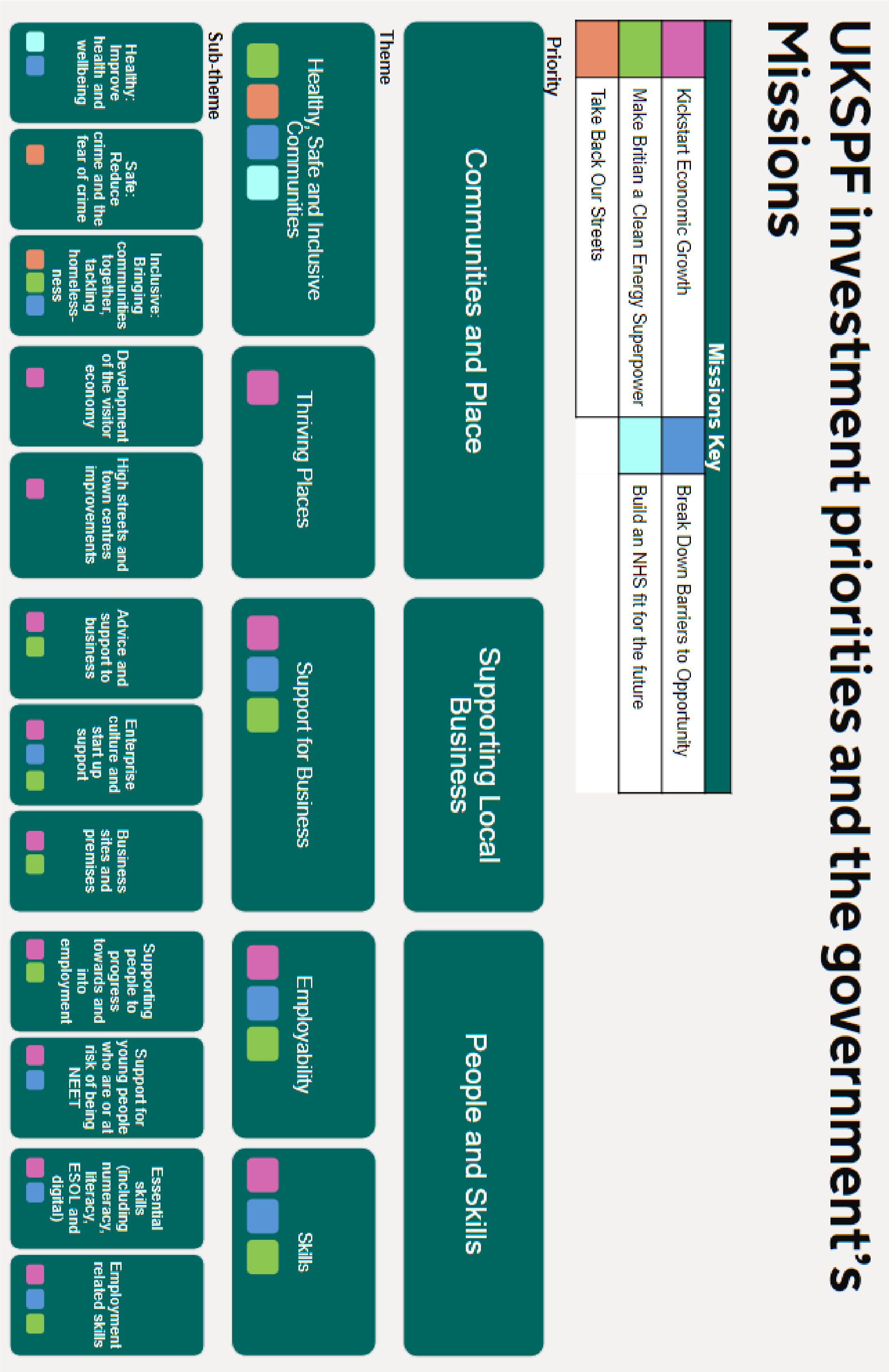
4.3 To withdraw the Council's role as accountable body for the Derbyshire Accelerator would destabilise the continuity of quality business support at a time when it is particularly required by the sector.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	National UKSPF Investment Priorities and the Government's Missions
Appendix 2	EMCCA Devolved UKSPF Priorities
Appendix 3 **To Follow**	Proposed North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan 2025-26
Appendix 4	EIA Stage 2
Background Papers (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)	
Not applicable.	

Appendix 1

National UKSPF Investment Priorities and the Government's Missions



Appendix 2

EMCCA Devolved UKSPF Priorities: Taken From EMCCA Board 10th February 2025

Within the **communities and place** investment priority, we recognise the opportunities to use UKSPF to restore and improve our green spaces, city and town centres and high streets, and how culture, creative and heritage assets, organisations and events can re-animate our centres to create exciting places residents and visitors want to visit and business wants to locate. This sits alongside the importance of supporting a strong and sustainable VCSE across the region. Therefore, we plan to focus funding on activities:

a. To support communities to address cost of living.
b. To support growth in the visitor economy (with reference to the priorities of the emerging Destination Management Plans).
c. To improve access for communities to services.
d. To support capacity building and infrastructure for local civil society.

Within the **supporting local businesses** investment priority, we recognise the importance of supporting the business environment to create jobs and improve living standards. Therefore, we plan to focus funding on activities:

a. To support a broad and more coherent business support offer.
b. To stimulate enterprise and growth.
c. To create new, attractive spaces for businesses to innovate and grow across our cities, towns and growth locations.
d. To accelerate R&D and innovation.

Within the **people & skills** investment priority, we recognise the opportunity to do more on the important agenda for strategic investment into skills and support to the labour market across the region. Only around 20% of current UKSPF funding was spent under this heading in the previous programme. Therefore, we plan to focus funding on activities:

a. To support pathways to and access the benefits of economic participation and reduce barriers to work.
b. To support adults to acquire the necessary skills they need to adapt to changing employer needs, from those newly entering employment through to retraining more skilled workers in their careers.
c. To support young people leaving education and training to be ready to succeed in the labour market.
d. To promote and build the skills base needed to support the clean energy economy.

Appendix 3: Proposed NED UKSPF Programme April 2025 – March 2026

NEDDC Theme/ Project	Activity	UKSPF	National Theme, Sub-Theme and EMCCA Priority
National Priority: Communities and Place			
1.1 Pride in the Public Realm	• To support improvements to town and village centres • Capital works and enabling costs • Welcome To North East Derbyshire signage • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£140,000** £90,000 capital £50,000 revenue	• Thriving Places - High Streets and town centre improvements • EMCCA C&P c: To improve access for communities to services
1.2 Quality Parks and Play Areas	• Developing attractive parks, play areas and open spaces • Enhancing priority District Council parks • Installation of trees, orchards and bulbs and enhancements to local biodiversity • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£160,060** All capital	• Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities - Healthy: Improve Health and Wellbeing • EMCCA C&P c: To improve access for communities to services
1.3 Feeling Safer and Reducing Crime	• Youth engagement activities • Community cohesion activity (art project) • Enhanced monitoring of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime (mobile wildlife CCTV cameras) • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£49,505** All revenue	• Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities - Safe: Reduce crime and the fear of crime • EMCCA C&P c: To improve access for communities to services
1.4 Explore the District	• Promoting the District and its cultural offer to residents, visitors and inward investors • Enhanced dedicated officer time • Additional promotions, events and town centre activities • Launch event for Clay Cross Baileys Square • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£78,500** All revenue	• Thriving Places - Development of the visitor economy • EMCCA C&P b: To support growth in the visitor economy
1.5 Inclusive Communities	• Grants for voluntary-led social inclusion support (e.g. cost of living and energy advice, money/debt advice, volunteering, social networks/ young people's prescribing)	**£210,000** All revenue	• Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities - Safe: Inclusive: Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness • EMCCA C&P a. To support communities to address cost of living
National Priority: Supporting Local Business			
2.1 Derbyshire Accelerator	• Dedicated business advisor and support programme (one-to-one support, one-to-many workshops and growth vouchers) • procurement compliant extension of existing contract	**£86,251** All revenue	• Support for Business - Advice and support to business • EMCCA SLB a: To support a broad and more coherent business support offer
2.2 Shopfront Enhancement Scheme	• Grants for high street shopfronts and premises improvements • To utilise existing NEDDC Design Guide	**£210,000** All capital	• Support for Business - Business sites and premises • EMCCA SLB b: To stimulate enterprise and growth
2.3 Sector Development Support	• Development of networks and engagement for key business sectors • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£3,749** All revenue	• Support for Business - Advice and support to business • EMCCA: To stimulate enterprise and growth
National Priority: People and Skills			
3.1 Enhancing Digital Skills	• Courses to develop the skills of the local workforce in digital technologies and opportunities • External procurement	**£50,000** All revenue	• Skills - Employment related skills • EMCCA: P&S b: To support the necessary skills to adapt to changing employer needs
3.2 District-led Vocational Skills	• Vocational skills for residents and potential workforce • Direct NEDDC delivery and external procurement	**£20,000** All revenue	• Skills - Employment related skills • EMCCA: P&S b: To support the necessary skills to adapt to changing employer needs
4% Programme Management & Administration	• Administration and running costs (project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and engagement) • Direct NEDDC delivery	**£42,002** All revenue	
	Total NED UKSPF Allocation	**£1,050,067**	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Equality Impact Assessment

Carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will help the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duties (Equality Act 2010).

The duties which need to be considered when making decisions are to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

Failure to assess the equality impact may increase the risk of making an unfair decision which could potentially be discriminatory. It also prevents us from identifying opportunities to promote equality and therefore leaves the Council open to potential legal challenge.

Using this EIA template will help to ensure that a decision is made in a fair way, based on evidence. It provides a clear and structured method to assess the potential impact on protected groups.

For more information how to complete this form please refer to the Guidance which can be found at S:\Customer Service and Improvement\Improvement\PUB\2. Equality Sharing File\2. Equality impact assessments

Title of policy or proposal	North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan 2025-26
Briefly describe the aims of the policy change, decision or proposal, the likely outcomes, and the rationale for it	To allocate resources within the North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan. The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has approved an allocation of £1,050,067 to the Council to deliver a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme for the District between April 2025 and March 2026, with budgets required to reflect the District's approach to aligning with the UK Government's UKSPF investment priorities and EMMCA's regional policy priorities. To also maintain the Council's role as accountable body for a multi-authority business support programme.

Consider the potential impact on any member of staff or member of the public with the following protected characteristics:

Age, Disability, Gender identity/Gender reassignment, Race, Religion or belief, Sex, Sexual orientation, Women who are pregnant or have recently had a baby.

Also, for issues affecting staff, consider employees who are married or in a civil partnership.

What information is already held, or have you obtained through consultation or engagement activity? (For each protected characteristic: What do you know about our employees, service users or anyone else who potentially could be affected by the proposal? Who has been consulted? If you have gaps in your evidence or data, you may need to carry out targeted engagement activity and/ or consider information from local or national research.)	Leadership, SMT, and Service Managers potentially involved in delivery have been consulted. As a de facto extension of the existing UKSPF Investment Plan, the approach will adhere to the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy for Service Delivery. As a funding programme with set funding priorities but no projects yet identified, it is for the applicants and project leads to confirm to the Programme Management Team that their proposals will make appropriate recognition of engagement and mitigation for protected groups when seeking to access the funds through direct delivery (internal NEDDC) or grants and commissioning (external).
After considering the information, which protected groups may potentially be affected? (Delete those not likely to be affected)	**None**

Using the information you have, give details of any potential positive and negative impacts on protected groups likely to be affected by the policy change, decision, or proposal (For each protected characteristic where there could be a potential impact, consider the following: Could people from any protected groups be positively or negatively affected? Could anyone's ability to take part in public life be affected? Could this policy change, decision or proposal affect public attitudes towards any protected group? Could any groups become more or less likely to be at risk of harassment or victimisation because of this policy change, decision, or proposal? Are there opportunities to create positive impacts?*) (remember that the law permits disabled people to be treated equally or better than other groups to enable reasonable adjustments to be made).*	As a funding programme with set funding priorities but no projects yet identified, it is for the applicants and project leads to confirm to the Programme Management Team that their proposals will make appropriate recognition of engagement and mitigation for protected groups when seeking to access the funds through direct delivery (internal NEDDC) or grants and commissioning (external). The nature of the programme is to extend support to vulnerable and isolated people. Ensuring accessibility to services through mitigation will be an element of the assessment of grant application and service design. It is not envisaged there would be occasion where supported projects would negatively affect protected groups.
Give details of any actions that can be taken to promote equality or to lessen any potential adverse impact on protected groups.	Contracting to project leads with assurance that they will work to the Council's equalities standards (this is already part of existing contracts).
What plans are there to monitor and review the actual impact of the policy change, decision, or proposal on equality of opportunity?	Projects will be monitored at least six monthly and discussions held regarding customer/service user/participant feedback in terms of ensuring appropriate delivery.
When will follow up review be done?	At least six monthly from the start of the UKSPF programme.

Based on a consideration of all the potential impacts, mark one of the following as an overall summary of the outcome of this assessment:	
✓	The equality analysis has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.
	The equality analysis has identified risks or opportunities to promote better equality; the change, decision or proposal will be adjusted to avoid risks and ensure that opportunities are taken.
	The equality analysis has identified risks to equality which will not be eliminated, and/or opportunities to promote better equality which will not be taken. Acceptance of these is reasonable and proportionate, given the objectives of the change, decision or proposal, and its overall financial and policy context.
	The equality analysis shows that the change, decision, or proposal would lead to actual or potential unlawful discrimination or would conflict with the Council's positive duties to an extent which is disproportionate to its objectives. It should not be adopted in its current form.
Explain how the judgement above was reached and action plan what will be taken to reduce any negative or to enhance any positive impacts on equality	Initial assessment of applications, signing of contract and ongoing monitoring with projects will work to avoid and mitigate any negative or to enhance any positive impacts on equality.
Name(s) and job title(s) of person (people involved in) carrying out this assessment	Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes
Authorising Director or Assistant Director	Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Programmes
Date authorised	19.02.25
The completed equality impact assessment <u>must</u> be attached to the report that will be considered by the decision maker or decision makers to enable them to give due regard to the impact of the policy, decision, or proposal on protected groups. Also send a copy to Amar.Bashir@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk	

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted