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**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Contact: Thomas Scott - Governance and
Scrutiny Officer

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Date: Friday, 29 August 2025

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

Please attend a meeting of the Business Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Monday, 8 September 2025 at 3.00 pm in the Meeting Rooms 1 & 2.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Skerberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

<u>Labour Group</u>	<u>Conservative Group</u>	<u>North East Derbyshire Independents Group</u>
Councillor Suzy Cornwell – Chair Councillor Clive Fletcher Councillor Christine Gare Councillor Lee Hartshorne Councillor Tony Lacey	Councillor Richard Welton Councillor Michelle Emmens Councillor William Jones	Councillor Pam Windley

**For further information about this meeting please contact: Thomas Scott -
Governance and Scrutiny Officer 01246 217045**

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 5 - 7)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Business Scrutiny Committee held on 28 July 2025.

4 Performance Management (Pages 8 - 14)

Council Plan Targets Performance Update.

Kath Drury, Information & Improvement Manager/Amar Bashir, Improvement Officer

5 High Streets - attracting businesses and footfall

An overview on how we are making our high streets more attractive to businesses as well as increasing visitors/footfall.

Steve Lee, Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes/Tris Burdett, Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager

6 Council Assets - Leisure Centres - how do we attract visitors/footfall

An overview on how we are making our Leisure Centres more attractive and increasing visitors/footfall.

Chris Mills, Assistant Director of Leisure/Sarah-Jane Roome, Business Improvement Coordinator

7 Local Plan Update

Update on the Local Plan.

David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning

8 Cabinet Business (Pages 15 - 17)

To inform Committee of recent and forthcoming Cabinet business.

A digest of Cabinet decisions taken since May 2025. This information is published by Cabinet meeting on the Council's website. Cabinet Agendas,

Decisions and Minutes can be viewed at: [Cabinet](#)

The Forward Plan of Executive decisions.

[Plans](#)

These plans are updated to include new business.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

9 Policy Development

To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council.

10 Horizon Scanning

To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example.

11 Work Programme (Pages 18 - 23)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

12 Reflection on the Council Plan

To reflect on what the Committee had done to help the Council achieve the goal of making the District a Great Place for our Community.

13 Additional Urgent Items

To consider any other matter which the Chair of the Committee is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Business Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 10 November 2025 at 3.00 pm.



North East Derbyshire District Council

Access for All statement

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BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28 JULY 2025

Present:

Councillor Suzy Cornwell (Chair) (in the Chair)

Councillor Richard Welton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Christine Gare

Councillor Tony Lacey

Also Present:

J Hayden

Senior Scrutiny Officer

T Fuller

Governance Officer

BSC Apologies for Absence

1/25-

26

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Emmens, M Fletcher, L Hartshorne, W Jones and P Windley.

BSC Declarations of Interest

2/25-

26

There were no declarations of interest.

BSC Minutes of Last Meeting

3/25-

26

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Business Scrutiny Committee held on 12 May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

BSC East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results

4/25-

26

Committee heard that the representative from East Midlands Chamber was unable to attend the meeting. Members heard that the presentation put forward majority positive results and it was suggested that the representative be invited back to present at a future meeting.

BSC Cabinet Business

5/25-

26

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented a digest of Cabinet decisions taken since the last Committee meeting in May 2025. The digest set out key information for each decision.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer also presented Members with the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period up to 15 July 2025.

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

BSC Policy Development

6/25-

- 26** The Senior Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that there were no major policies for Members to consider.

Some Members queried what was likely to come up as part of this item. Committee were informed of the sort of policies that would come to Scrutiny committee and the process of identifying which Scrutiny committee they are relevant to.

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

BSC **'Horizon Scanning'**

7/25-

26

The Senior Scrutiny Officer updated Members on potential significant changes in the Council's operating environment, including changes to national legislation and regulation.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer explained that there was nothing to bring to the attention of Members.

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

BSC **Work Programme**

8/25-

26

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Work Programme 2025/26 for the Committee to consider. Members were updated on the delay that had prevented Digital Connectivity being considered at this meeting. It was suggested that a representative from Derbyshire County Council be invited back to a future meeting to share the work that had been done in the area.

Committee discussed the topics that should be considered as part of the 2025/26 Work Programme. Some Members suggested that the Local Plan Update, that was due to be considered at the meeting in November, should have a particular focus on the employment sites that would be included in the new Local Plan.

Committee discussed the proposed item on the Clay Cross Town Centre Regeneration project. In this context, it was suggested that the committee considers how NEDDC is making its assets, particularly high streets and leisure centres, more attractive and how does that fit into urban regeneration. It was agreed that this topic would be added to the Work Programme to be considered at the appropriate meeting.

Committee also considered the most appropriate meeting to bring back the item on East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results. It was agreed that the representative would be invited to the November meeting.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Work Programme 2025/26 be approved.

BSC **Reflection on the Council Plan**

9/25-

26

The Chair of Business Scrutiny Committee explained that there was nothing to

bring to the attention of Members.

BSC **Additional Urgent Items**

10/2

5-26 None.

BSC **Date of Next Meeting**

11/2

5-26 The next meeting of the Business Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on 8 September at 3.00 pm.

North East Derbyshire Council

Business Scrutiny Committee

**Council Plan Objective – A Great Place to Work –
Update April to June 2025**

8th September 2025

Report of the Information and Improvement Manager

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Kath Drury, Information and Improvement Manager

Contact Officer: As above

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective - “A great place to work” for the period ending 30th June 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That progress against the Council Plan “A great place to work” objective be noted.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report 	No, not applicable
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details:

Links to Council Plan priorities; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
A great place to work council plan objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents. A community with growing, commutable employment opportunities.

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background**

The Council plan 2023-27 has four objectives:

- A great place to work.
- A great place to access good public services.
- A great place to live well.
- A great place that cares for the environment.

Information on the work undertaken this quarter under the work objective is contained at appendix one.

- 1.2 Under the work objective there are two strategies - A community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents and A community with growing, commutable employment opportunities. Underneath those sit tactics - our approaches to positively influence the strategies.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The appendix notes under each strategy and tactic the work that has been undertaken during this period.
- 2.2 Notable achievements include preparations for the Digital Skills project launch in 2025/26, aiming to train 40 individuals in areas such as AI and cybersecurity. The Derbyshire Accelerator Programme began with 44 businesses receiving non-financial support—towards an annual target of 60. Additionally, 44 enterprises have adopted new technologies or processes, already exceeding the yearly target of 20. Council and partner job vacancies were actively promoted to over 3,000 email subscribers with high engagement rates.
- 2.3 We continue to support local businesses through regular networking opportunities. In Quarter 1, we hosted two key events: the Clay Cross Business Network on 5 June, attended by 23 representatives from 16 businesses, and the Manufacturing Supply Chain Cluster on 6 May, with 12 attendees from 8 businesses. In addition, our Tourism Officer has engaged with 10 tourism-related businesses through ad hoc meetings and direct contact.
- 2.4 The report was taken to Senior Management team on 28th July 2025 for consideration and oversight.

3 **Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 This is an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the council plan objective for a great place to work.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Not applicable to this report as providing an overview of progress against the council plan objective for a great place to work.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	A summary of progress for the Council Plan objective – A great place to work – for the period ending June 2025
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)	



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for **A great place to work**
for the period April to June 2025





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.

- The Derbyshire Accelerator Programme for 2025/26 is now underway, with initial funding provided by East Midlands Chamber while the Council awaits UK Shared Prosperity Fund support. So far this year, 44 businesses have received non-financial support—towards an annual target of 60. Additionally, 44 enterprises have adopted new technologies or processes, already exceeding the yearly target of 20.
- Regular promotion of council and partner job vacancies to over 3,000 email subscribers. These updates consistently achieve open rates above 50%, showing strong interest and engagement from our subscribers.

• We continue to support local businesses through regular networking opportunities. In Quarter 1, we hosted two key events: the Clay Cross Business Network on 5 June, attended by 23 representatives from 16 businesses, and the Manufacturing Supply Chain Cluster on 6 May, with 12 attendees from 8 businesses. In addition, our Tourism Officer has engaged with 10 tourism-related businesses through ad hoc meetings and direct contact.



- We've welcomed a T Level student from Chesterfield College, who will be gaining hands-on experience and supporting our Engineering team over the next year as part of their placement.
- Establishing the £1m UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme for 2025/26 with internal stakeholders whilst awaiting the receipt of funding.

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

- Marketing of business units at Baileys Square, Clay Cross is ongoing in partnership with commercial property consultants Fisher Hargreaves Proctor. Three units are currently at the legal stage, two are progressing through Heads of Terms, and four others have registered interest. The goal is to have all units under offer by autumn 2025.

• We've developed and updated a standard lease agreement to support businesses using Council-owned facilities. This ensures a consistent, clear, and efficient process for setting up agreements—making it easier for businesses to access and use our spaces while ensuring legal and operational requirements are met.

Progress against our objective:



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

- Preparations for the next phase of the district-wide Shop Front Enhancement Scheme were carried out during this period in anticipation of receiving UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) support. Once funding is

received, the scheme will reopen for new applications—offering grants to help improve the appearance of high street shopfronts and business premises across North East Derbyshire.

A great place to work



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

- Digital Skills project to continue for 2025/26 when UK Shared Prosperity funding is received. Proposed target to deliver digital training to 40 people from new businesses. Training offer includes AI, digital marketing and cybersecurity.





Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 August 2025 – 15 September 2025

This Forward Plan sets out all of the decisions that are expected to be taken over the next four months by either: (i) The Cabinet, or (ii) an officer on an Executive function of the Council.

Some of the decisions listed in this plan are 'Key Decisions'. A Key Decision is one that is likely to:

- (a) Result in the Council spending or receiving income of over £125,000 revenue or £310,000 capital, or
- (b) Have a significant impact on two or more wards in the Council's area.

At least 28 calendar days' notice must be given before they are due to be taken by the Cabinet or an officer under delegated powers.

The Cabinet can make urgent decisions which do not appear in the Forward Plan. A notice will be published at the District Council Offices and on the Council's website explaining the reasons for the urgent decisions. Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change.

The Forward Plan also lists those 'Exempt' Decisions which are going to be taken over the next four months. Exempt Decisions are those decisions which have to be taken in private. This is because they involve confidential or exempt information which cannot be shared with the public.

The contact details for the officers or senior employees responsible for producing the reports and reports for these decisions are included in the plan. Please contact them if you would like more information. If you have any queries about why something is a Key Decision or is going to be taken in private then please contact the Governance Team on 01246 217391 or email: amy.bryan@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk.

Published under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Sarah Sternberg
Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Published on: 14th August 2025

Cabinet members and their responsibilities

Member	Portfolio of responsibilities
Councillor N Barker	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance
Councillor P R Kerry	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance
Councillor J Barry	Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets
Councillor J Birkin	Portfolio Holder for Council Services
Councillor K Gillott	Portfolio Holder for Local Government Reorganisation
Councillor S Pickering	Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place
Councillor K Rouse	Portfolio Holder for Health & Leisure

DECISION TO BE TAKEN	DECISION-MAKER	DATE OF DECISION	KEY DECISION	EXEMPT DECISION (INCLUDING GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION)	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Appointment of Facilities Management Contractor	Assistant Director of Property Estates and Assets	Not before 21 Aug 2025	Key	Open	Councillor Jayne Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets	Assistant Director of Property Estates and Assets
Simpler Recycling	Cabinet	11 Sep 2025	Key	Open	Councillor Stephen Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place	Assistant Director of Streetscene

BUSINESS SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

CHAIR: CLLR SUZY CORNWELL

VICE CHAIR: CLLR RICHARD WELTON

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 28 July 2025		
East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results	To be presented with the East Midlands Chamber Economic Performance and Prospects survey results	Scott Knowles DL — Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber —ACCEPTED **SENT APOLS DUE TO PERSONAL APPOINTMENT
	Outcomes: <i>To gain an understanding of views of businesses across the EM Region. ACTION:</i> <i>Invite to a future meeting (Nov)</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Learned about the Cabinet Decisions made to date and upcoming reports going forward to Cabinet</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Agreed a Work Programme going forward for the year</i>	

Meeting Date: 8 September 2025		
High Streets – attracting businesses and footfall	An overview on how we are making our high streets more attractive to businesses as well as increasing visitors/footfall	Steve Lee, Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes / Tris Burdett, Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To understand what is being done to attract businesses/visitors to our high streets</i>	
Council Assets – Leisure Centres – how do we attract visitors/footfall	An overview on how we are making our Leisure Centres more attractive and increasing visitors/footfall	Chris Mills, Assistant Director of Leisure / Sarah-Jane Roome, Business Improvement Coordinator – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To understand what is being done to attract businesses/visitors to our high streets and leisure centres</i>	
Local Plan Update	Update on the Local Plan	David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To hear about the Local Plan and any changes/issues that have arisen</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 1	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	

Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees’ work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 10 November 2025		
East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results	To be presented with the East Midlands Chamber Economic Performance and Prospects survey results	Scott Knowles DL – Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To gain an understanding of views of businesses across the EM Region</i>	
“How’s Business?” Survey Results	To receive the findings from the recent survey undertaken	Tris Burdett, Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gain an insight into the survey responses and understand any issues/concerns raised by local businesses</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 2	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	

Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 16 February 2026		
Digital Connectivity	To receive an update from Digital Derbyshire on connectivity across Derbyshire	Ian Stoddart, Digital Connectivity Manager, DCC – AGREED/INVITE SENT
	Outcomes: <i>To understand the works that have been done to identify areas of high and low Connectivity</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 3	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer

	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 11 May 2026		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 4	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
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	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	

Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	

NOTES

- Local Transport Consultation – EMCCA (keep track of when it goes out)
- EMCCA – to discuss growth, with particular reference to NED (Damien Dacey / Jamie Jordan) – 2026?
- UKSPF Update (following additional funding) – Poss May 2026
- Tourism
- Provision of business space
- Town Centre Support (advice, public realm, tourism)