



**North East  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

Contact: Amy Bryan - Governance Manager  
Tel: 01246 217391  
Email: amy.bryan@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk  
Date: Friday, 4 July 2025

To: **Members of the Council**

Please attend a meeting of the Council to be held on Monday, 14 July 2025, at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG.

The meeting will be live streamed from [The Council's YouTube Channel](#).

Yours sincerely

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

**Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

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

## **3 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 6 - 16)**

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the attached Minutes of the Annual Council and Ordinary Council meetings held on 19 May 2025.

## **4 Chair of the Council's Announcements**

## **5 Leader of the Council's Announcements**

## **6 Public Participation**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 8 to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period up to fifteen minutes. The replies to any such questions will be given by the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

No questions have been submitted under Procedure Rule No 8 for this meeting.

## **7 The Increase in Capacity for Cabinet and LGR (Pages 17 - 21)**

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

## **8 Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2024/25 (Pages 22 - 66)**

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

## **9 Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2024/25 (Pages 67 - 92)**

Report of the Chairs' of the Scrutiny Committees.

## **10 Standards Committee Annual Report 2024/25 (Pages 93 - 100)**

Report of the Chair of Standards Committee.

## **11 To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 9.2 to allow Members to ask

questions about Council activities. The replies to any such questions will be given by the Chair of the Council or relevant Committee or the appropriate Cabinet Member. Questions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

The following questions have been received.

**Question A – Proposed by Councillor S Cough to Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council**

Noting their critical importance towards a local say in planning, will the Leader of the Council write to the relevant Secretary of State to ask them to reconsider their recent announcement, withdrawing support for Neighbourhood Plans.

**Question B – Proposed by Councillor C Renwick to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

What has been the attendance at the local plan meetings/early drop in sessions and what is the council doing to ensure residents are receiving meaningful and timely notification of the new local plan consultation?

**Question C – Proposed by Councillor N Baker to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

Given the long period which has now elapsed since Covid restrictions were lifted, is it not now time that Planning Committee site visits are carried out in person, instead of continuing them virtually, in order to allow Committee Members to acquaint themselves, more fully, with the nuances and details of each site they are being asked to consider?

**Question D – Proposed by Councillor C Cupit to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

Many residents have contacted me to express concern that the current local plan consultation online response form is extremely complicated and technical in nature. How does the Council therefore intend for ordinary residents to be able to respond in a meaningful way particularly where concerns they only centre around one or two aspects or sites?

**12 To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 10 to consider Motions on notice from Members. Motions must be received in writing or by email to the Monitoring Officer by 12 noon twelve clear working days before the meeting.

The following Motions have been submitted.

**Motion A – Submitted by Councillor N Baker**

Council notes the results of the recent consultation regarding the proposal for highway alterations and the installation of new signals at the A61-Mill Lane junction in Wingerworth.

Council notes that the proposed scheme is sponsored by this Council, following the receipt of grant funding by the regional Mayor to unlock more new homes and a new depot on The Avenue regeneration site.

Council also notes the many views that have been expressed towards these proposals during that consultation by local residents and stakeholders, particularly raising concerns in relation to road safety, turning right at the Nottingham Drive junction and traffic flow on the A61 in that vicinity.

Council therefore resolves to respect and fully publish the results of the consultation and commits to not pushing ahead with the scheme until those concerns have been properly addressed.

Council also resolves to undertake any further design work on the proposals, which the consultation responses have highlighted are necessary, and then to re-consult residents and other stakeholders on any revisions to the proposed scheme, in that area, before any work begins and undertakes to ensure that the final design of the scheme fully reflects local concerns for highway safety, suitability and usability and is not just based on cost savings and maximising housing number delivery.

### **Motion B – Submitted by Councillor A Dale**

This Council believes that fly-tipping is a blight on our district. It is unsightly, damages our beautiful countryside and rural landscape, and places an unfair financial burden on local taxpayers who must ultimately foot the bill for its clean-up.

Council reaffirms its commitment to a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and believes that a strong deterrent strategy is required. This must include:-

- High profile prosecutions to demonstrate consequences;
- The use of powers to seize and, where appropriate, destroy vehicles used in fly-tipping offences;
- Continued and increased use of CCTV cameras in known hotspot areas; and
- The application of significant financial penalties to offenders.

Council therefore welcomes the recent purchase of additional CCTV cameras made possible through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), as well as the successful prosecution relating to a fly-tipping incident in Marsh Lane, which serves as an important example of enforcement in action. Council is also extremely grateful for the ongoing work of our Environmental Health and Streetscene teams in seeking to prosecute flytippers and keep our District clean and tidy.

To go further and strengthen the deterrent, Council resolves to:-

1. Increase fly-tipping fixed penalties to the latest national maximum as set out in the most recent Government regulations;



2. Review the use of mobile CCTV units to ensure rapid deployment in response to community reports and intelligence;
3. Explore the introduction of public-facing “Caught on Camera” communications, where legally permissible, to raise awareness and encourage reporting;
4. Refer this issue to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to consider the above as well as working with partners and wider stakeholders (including the Po0lice, Environmental Agency, local landowners, Parish Councils and community groups) to explore what more we can do together to tackle this scourge on our countryside.

Council believes that these additional steps will help send a clear message: fly-tipping will not be tolerated in North East Derbyshire.

### **13 Chair's Urgent Business**

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

---

### **Access for All statement**

You can request this document or information in another format such as **large print** or **language** or contact us by:

- **Phone** - 01246 231111
- **Email** - [connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)
- **Text** - 07800 00 24 25
- **BSL Video Call** – a three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call North East Derbyshire District Council with [Sign Solutions](#) or call into the offices at Wingerworth.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on 0800 500 888 a free phone service
- **Visiting** our offices at 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, S42 6NG

## COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025

#### **Present:**

Councillor Christine Smith (Chair) (in the Chair)  
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor Neil Baker	Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Jayne Barry	Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor David Cheetham	Councillor Kathy Clegg
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Suzy Cornwell	Councillor Alex Dale
Councillor Lilian Deighton	Councillor Michael Durrant
Councillor Peter Elliott	Councillor Clive Fletcher
Councillor Mark Foster	Councillor Christine Gare
Councillor Kevin Gillott	Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Lee Hartshorne	Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor William Jones	Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Carol Lacey	Councillor Tony Lacey
Councillor Heather Liggett	Councillor Nicki Morley
Councillor Fran Petersen	Councillor Stephen Pickering
Councillor Stephen Reed	Councillor Carolyn Renwick
Councillor Kathy Rouse	Councillor Ross Shipman
Councillor Derrick Skinner	Councillor Caroline Smith
Councillor Richard Spooner	Councillor Jessica Stokes
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP
Councillor Richard Welton	Councillor Helen Wetherall

#### **Also Present:**

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
A Smith	Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Bryan	Governance Manager
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer
T Bamford	Civic Administration Assistant

Chair of the Council, Councillor Christine Smith, stated that it had been a roller-coaster of a year. Councillor Smith stated that Councillor G Morley had been elected Chair of the Council on 20 May 2024, but sadly within two weeks he had been taken poorly and he died on 13 July 2024. Councillor Smith, as Vice Chair of the Council had stood in for Councillor Morley almost from the start of last year and formally took the office of Chair on 23 September 2024. Councillor Smith said that it had been a great privilege to represent North East Derbyshire and she had tried to get to as many local groups as possible to represent the Council and let them know that the Council was there for them. She gave her heartfelt thanks for the many volunteers who gave their time to help others. Councillor Smith thanked the Governance Team and the Senior Leadership Team, for their help

during her time as Chair of the Council. She also wished to thank Councillor G Baxter MBE for his support as Vice Chair of the Council, and the caretakers for all their work. Councillor Smith reported that she had raised £1,600 which would be distributed to local groups, as was the wish of Councillor G Morley.

**COU    Election of the Chair of the Council**

**/1/25**

**-26**    The retiring Chair of the Council, Councillor Christine Smith, sought nominations for the election of a new Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. Councillor T Lacey and Councillor N Barker moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor L Hartshorne be elected as Chair of the Council.

RESOLVED – That Councillor L Hartshorne be elected Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor Lee Hartshorne (Chair) (in the Chair)

**COU    Address of Gratitude to Members by the Newly Elected Chair of the Council**

**/2/25**

**-26**    Councillor L Hartshorne, Chair of the Council, stated that he had never expected to ascend to the role of Chair, and noted that this was due to the untimely passing of Councillor G Morley. He thanked Councillor Christine Smith for stepping into the role of Chair and rising to the task.

Councillor Hartshorne stated that he took the responsibility of being Chair of the Council seriously and would represent the Council positively and with fairness.

**COU    Address of Gratitude to the Outgoing Chair of the Council**

**/3/25**

**-26**    Councillor A Dale noted the significant loss to Council following Councillor G Morley's death, and that Councillor Christine Smith had stepped up very ably to the role and attended lots of events and supported lots of community groups and championed the district well during her time as Chair. He also noted that she had chaired Council meetings fairly and congratulated her on the funds raised for local groups.

Councillor N Barker noted that Councillor Christine Smith had done very well as Chair, starting in difficult circumstances, and thanked her for all her hard work.

Councillor C Lacey stated that Councillor Christine Smith had been a role model to her as a new Councillor and thanked her for her support.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Christine Smith be thanked for carrying out the office of Chair of the Council during the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

**COU    Apologies for Absence**

**/4/25**

**-26**    Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Birkin, C Cupit, M Emmens, S Fawcett, D Higgon, M Roe, M Smith, K Tait and P Windley.

**COU     Declarations of Interest**

**/5/25**

**-26**     There were no declarations of interest.

**COU     Minutes of Last Meeting**

**/6/25**

**-26**     RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**COU     Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council**

**/7/25**

**-26**     Councillor T Lacey and Councillor N Barker moved and seconded a Motion that Councillor G Baxter MBE be appointed as Vice Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor G Baxter MBE be appointed Vice Chair of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

**COU     Composition of the Cabinet**

**/8/25**

**-26**     The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, informed Council of the Cabinet Members and their Portfolios, appointed for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor N Barker

Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance

Councillor P Kerry

Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance

Councillor J Birkin

Portfolio Holder for Council Services

Councillor J Barry

Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Councillor S Pickering

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Councillor K Rouse

Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure

**COU     Proportionality of the Council and Appointments to Committees**

**/9/25**

**-26**     Council considered a report that set out the proposed Committees for the forthcoming year, including their size and terms of reference, and the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

Councillors A Dale and N Barker proposed that where substitutes were permitted, and had not already been nominated, that all other group members be listed as the substitutes.

RESOLVED – that:

- (1) the Committees of the Council as set out in the report be retained for the 2025-26 Municipal Year.
- (2) the size of the Committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be agreed for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.
- (3) the proposed appointments to Committees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and updated at the meeting be agreed.

**COU     Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees**

**/10/2**

**5-26**

Council considered a report on the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that the following be appointed to serve as Chair and Vice chairs of the following Committees:

**Audit Committee**

Chair: Christine Smith

Vice Chair: David Cheetham

**Business Scrutiny Committee**

Chair: Suzy Cornwell

Vice Chair: Richard Welton

**Communities Scrutiny Committee**

Chair: Michael Durrant

Vice Chair: Graham Baxter

**Environment Scrutiny Committee**

Chair: Caroline Smith

Vice Chair: Frank Adlington-Stringer

**Services Scrutiny Committee**

Chair: Mick Smith

Vice Chair: Richard Spooner

**General Licensing Committee**

Chair: Carol Lacey

Vice Chair: Clive Fletcher

**Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee**

Chair: Carol Lacey

Vice Chair: Clive Fletcher

**Planning Committee**

Chair: Lee Hartshorne

Vice Chair: Tony Lacey

### **Standards Committee**

Chair: Kevin Gillott

Vice Chair: Helen Wetherall

#### **COU     Schedule of Meetings for the 2025-26 Municipal Year**

**/11/2**

**5-26**

Council was asked to agree the schedule of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year. The proposed meeting schedule was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of meetings for 2025/26 be approved.

#### **COU     Appointment of the Council's Representatives to serve on other** **/12/2     organisations (Outside Bodies)**

**5-26**

Council considered a report which set out proposed appointments to serve on other organisations (Outside Bodies) for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor N Barker reported there was one change to the proposed nominations and that was for Councillor Jayne Barry to replace Councillor Kevin Gillott as the representative on the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel. Councillor N Barker would be the substitute.

RESOLVED – that Council appoint the nominated elected Members to serve as its representatives on other organisations for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

#### **COU     Review of the Council's Constitution**

**/13/2**

**5-26**

Council considered a report which set out the proposed Constitution of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

The report explained that the Constitution had been revised to both reflect the views of the Standards Committee and to ensure its accuracy. The main changes agreed by the Standards Committee were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. A link to the revised draft Constitution had been included in the report.

Councillor K Gillott, Chair of Standards Committee, stated that most of the changes were statutory and set out three of the other recommended changes, which were extending the provision of substitutes to other committees, changes regarding planning, and focusing Motions submitted to Council to one topic and 300 words.

Councillor K Gillott and N Barker moved and seconded the recommendations in the report.

Councillors A Dale and R Shipman raised concerns regarding the proposed change to Motions.

Councillor R Shipman and D Hancock moved and seconded an amendment to remove the changes to section 10(2) of the Council Procedure Rules.

Councillors H Wetherall and M Thacker MBE spoke regarding the Motion and Amendment.

Councillor K Gillott stated that Motions to Council had consequences, and it was important it was clear what action was being proposed. He also added that if any changes caused problems then they could be reconsidered but he did not see the harm in asking for Motions to be clearly worded.

The Amendment was put to the vote and was lost.

The original Motion was put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED** – that:

- (1) following the review carried out by Standards Committee, the proposed Constitution for the 2025/26 Municipal Year be approved.
- (2) Standards Committee be asked to undertake a further review of the Constitution as necessary, as part of its annual work programme for the 2025/26 Municipal Year and to make any recommendations for change to Council, as appropriate.
- (3) the Monitoring Officer exercises their delegated powers to make changes to the Constitution arising from any new legislation, administrative errors or conflicts of interpretation during the course of the Municipal Year, in consultation with the Chair of Standards Committee, as appropriate.

**COU     Scheme of Delegation**

**/14/2**

**5-26**

Council considered a report which proposed the Scheme of Delegation for approval. The proposed Scheme of Delegation for the 2025/26 Municipal Year was set out at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report. It comprised the following extracts from the Constitution:

- Section 15 – Delegation of Council Functions
- Section 18 – Proper Officer Provisions – Statutory Functions
- Section 19 – Specific Delegations to Officers

Councillors N Barker and J Barry moved and seconded a Motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED** – that the Scheme of Delegation be approved.

**COU     Operation of Urgency Rules and Thresholds for Key Decisions**

**/15/2**

**5-26**

Council considered a report on the operation of Urgency Rules and the thresholds for Key Decisions. The report stated that no Key Decisions had been taken using Special Urgency Rules, and it was proposed to keep the financial thresholds for Key Decisions at the same level.

Councillors N Barker and J Barry moved and seconded a Motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED** – that:

- (1) it be noted that no decisions had been taken over the past 12 months under Special Urgency rules in the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- (2) it be noted that no decision taken on the past 12 months under the urgency provisions (called General Exception) in the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- (3) the financial thresholds for Key Decisions be kept at £125,000 (Revenue) and £310,000 (Capital).

**COU     Chair's Urgent Business**

**/16/2**

**5-26**     There was no urgent business.



## **COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Lee Hartshorne (Chair) (in the Chair)  
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Pat Antcliff
Councillor Neil Baker	Councillor Nigel Barker
Councillor Jayne Barry	Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor David Cheetham	Councillor Kathy Clegg
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Suzy Cornwell	Councillor Alex Dale
Councillor Lilian Deighton	Councillor Michael Durrant
Councillor Peter Elliott	Councillor Clive Fletcher
Councillor Mark Foster	Councillor Christine Gare
Councillor Kevin Gillott	Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Pam Jones	Councillor William Jones
Councillor Pat Kerry	Councillor Carol Lacey
Councillor Tony Lacey	Councillor Heather Liggett
Councillor Nicki Morley	Councillor Fran Petersen
Councillor Stephen Pickering	Councillor Stephen Reed
Councillor Carolyn Renwick	Councillor Kathy Rouse
Councillor Ross Shipman	Councillor Derrick Skinner
Councillor Caroline Smith	Councillor Christine Smith
Councillor Richard Spooner	Councillor Jessica Stokes
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Martin E Thacker MBE JP
Councillor Richard Welton	Councillor Helen Wetherall

#### **Also Present:**

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
A Smith	Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Bryan	Governance Manager
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer
T Bamford	Civic Administration Assistant

#### **COU Apologies for Absence**

**/17/2**

**5-26** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Birkin, C Cupit, M Emmens, S Fawcett, D Higgon, M Roe, M Smith, K Tait and P Windley.

#### **COU Declarations of Interest**

**/18/2**

**5-26** There were no declarations of interest.

**COU     Chairman of the Council's Announcements**

**/19/2**

**5-26**     There was no announcement from the Chair.

**COU     Leader of the Council's Announcements**

**/20/2**

**5-26**     Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council, reported that it had been a busy time; there had been the Derbyshire County Council elections in May and he had met with Police and Crime Commissioner. Councillor Barker reported that he had attended the District Council Network Conference in Windsor, at which the main topic for discussion had been Local Government Reorganisation. Cabinet had recently considered the end of year performance report on the Council Plan, which showed that the Council was delivering against its plan. A few of the highlights included that the Housing Strategy Team had reduced the duration homeless applicants spent in temporary accommodation, continuing to improve housing stock with Rykneld Homes and the Community Safety Team continued to tackle anti-social behaviour with the Police and other organisation. In respect of leisure, attendance was above target and Clay Cross Active would be opening soon. Councillor N Barker thanked the Senior Management Team and all staff, for all their work in delivering the Council Plan.

**COU     Public Participation**

**/21/2**

**5-26**     No questions from the public had been received.

**COU     Local Government Reorganisation Update**

**/22/2**

**5-26**     The Managing Director gave an update on the latest position regarding Local Government Reorganisation, following previous reports to Council in January and March 2025. A brief background to the matter was provided and then the Managing Director gave an overview of the interim plans that had been submitted to the Government in March 2025. The feedback on the interim plan submissions had now been received. The interim plan feedback: Derbyshire and Derby had been circulated to all members, along with a summary of the feedback.

Two interim proposals had been submitted to Government. These were the Derbyshire County Council proposal, which was for two unitary councils, with Derby City remaining as it was with a population of approximately 266,000, and the rest of Derbyshire with a population of approximately 811,000. This proposal did not have the support of any other authority in Derbyshire. The other proposal, put forward by the District, Borough and City Councils, was for two unitary councils but with populations closer to the guidance of 500,000. Amber Valley Borough Council had also submitted an outline proposal for a three-unitary option, but since further work had taken place, this proposal was unlikely to be pursued by Amber Valley. Derby City Council had written a letter of support for the two unitary option proposed by the District and Boroughs, but were at the time unable to be a signatory on the proposal.

It was noted that the feedback received was single feedback on all the proposals that had been submitted. The Managing Director gave a summary of the feedback.

In terms of next steps, the District and Boroughs would continue to work on the two-unitary proposal (north and south), with further work on whether Amber Valley would be placed in the north, south or split. A programme structure had been created by the district and boroughs to work up a full business case to be submitted by the 28 November 2025 deadline. It was anticipated that a decision would be made by Spring 2026, with a vesting date for the new authorities of May 2028.

Councillor N Barker reported that it was not easy work and the timescales were tight. He praised the Managing Director, Director of Growth and Assets, and Director of Finance and Resources for their work and attitude towards this project.

Councillor A Dale asked if potentially splitting the Borough of Amber Valley would cause delays and also how the £7.6m was being spent. He also commented about the shadow elections, which may take place in 2027. The Managing Director reported that current district and borough areas could be split, but yes it would take longer. Further information on the funding was still awaited but it would be for the development of a business case and associated costs. There was no further information on shadow elections as yet.

In response to a question from Councillor H Wetherall, the Managing Director clarified that the proposal needed to cover the whole of the County.

Councillor M Thacker MBE spoke about the historical and geographically considerations, as well as the civic and mayoral elements. He stated that there was precedent for education being managed at second tier and he raised concern about SEND services and provided examples of unitary councils working together in partnership for such services. Councillor Thacker concluded that he preferred the current model of local government but if that could not be kept the north and south option was the next best thing.

Councillor D Hancock echoed what Councillor M Thacker MBE had said. He spoke about the costs involved and the need to be realistic with the costings in any proposal.

Councillor N Barker responded that the costs had to be based on realistic figures, and that work was taking place to look at the costs of those councils that had already gone through reorganisation. This was setting up an organisation that would last for over 50 years and it should be done right.

The Director of Finance and Resources stated that it should not be rushed but that the November deadline meant there would have to be an element of assumptions in the proposals. Officers were working hard behind the scenes, including all the Section 151 officers to get as much information together. It was noted that there would still be pressures in respect of social care, SEND and homelessness and to expect these pressures to dissipate within three years of setting up new unitary councils was unrealistic.

Councillor A Dale stated that if the money made in efficiencies could be put back into other council services it might help but if the cost of local government was being re-baselined then the impact needed to be made clear.

The Director of Finance and Resources responded that any savings needed to be very carefully stated. The Managing Director added that this was why it was much better to be at the table and be involved as officers had been emphasising similar points regarding savings and the need to take time and get this right.

**COU     Auditors Annual Report 2023/24**

**/23/2**

**5-26**

Councillor P Kerry introduced a report which set out the annual audit report in respect of 2023/24 which had been prepared by Forvis Mazars LLP. The annual audit report was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report explained that the auditor's annual report summarised the work undertaken by the Council's external auditors, Forvis Mazars LLP, for the year ended 31 March 2024. It provided an opinion on the financial statements, the Council's value for money arrangements and any other wider reporting responsibilities.

RESOLVED – that the report from the Council's External Auditors, Forvis Mazars, be noted.

**COU     To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2**

**/24/2**

**5-26**

The Chair confirmed that one question had been received.

**Question A – Proposed by Councillor R Shipman to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place**

How many reports of fly tipping have been logged in North East Derbyshire and how many of those have had fines issued?

Councillor S Pickering responded that the information he was about to provide had been taken from data that had been reported to Government for 2024/25. In that period, there had been 588 fly tipping incidents, out of which 87 had contained evidence and had been investigated. There had been 5 prosecutions, 26 Fixed Penalty Notices issued and 3 failure to produce documents for business waste.

Councillor R Shipman asked if for any of the 87 incidents investigated had the Council exercised the power to confiscate any vehicles.

Councillor S Pickering responded that of the 87 investigated not all had had evidence that was substantial enough to use. Where evidence had been recovered that could be used, there had either been prosecutions or Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

**COU     To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10**

**/25/2**

**5-26**

No Motions had been received.

**COU     Chair's Urgent Business**

**/26/2**

**5-26**

There was no urgent business.

## North East Derbyshire District Council

### Council

14 July 2025

### The increase in capacity for Cabinet and LGR

#### Report of the Leader

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Managing Director**

Contact Officer: **Managing Director**

---

#### PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To advise Council of the decision by the Leader to increase the size of Cabinet by one [1] elected Member [Cllr Kevin Gillott] to add additional capacity to meet the existing and potential growing demand brought about by Local Government Reorganisation.

---

#### DECISION ROUTE AND REASON FOR DECISION BEING BROUGHT TO COUNCIL

- The report is for Council's information.

---

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Receive and note the decision.

Approved by the Leader

---

#### IMPLICATIONS

**Finance and Risk:** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Details:**

A special responsibility allowance [SRA] is paid to those Councillors who perform the special responsibilities in relation to the Authority that are specified in the Council's Constitution. In the case of a Cabinet Member, this is currently £10,014.59 p.a.

However, no Member shall be in receipt of more than one special responsibility allowance at any one time. Where an elected Member performs two or more special responsibilities, then only the highest allowance will be paid.

As the newly appointed Cabinet Member is Cllr Kevin Gillott, who is also the Chair of Standards Committee and currently receives special responsibility allowance for this role, in this case, the net cost of the decision to increase the size of Cabinet by one [1] elected Member will be; £5,233.39 p.a.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

---

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

**Details:**

It is for the Leader to choose the Councillors to join his Cabinet. This is a legal requirement in Section 9C (3) Local Government Act 2000. Accordingly, Council cannot change or challenge the decision that has been made by the Leader.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

---

**Staffing:**      **Yes** ☐                      **No** ☒

**Details:**

There are no direct staffing impacts arising from this specific report.

There remains however staffing related risks overall as set out in the '*English Devolution White Paper update*' presented to the Council in January 2025 by the MD.

Beyond this, as and when detailed proposals are formed, if/when Government accept such a proposal and the reorganisation process progresses, future related reports will provide comprehensive staffing impact details as this information becomes available.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

---

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	All indirectly
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Yes

<b>Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</b>
All indirectly

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Since the launch of the ‘*English Devolution White Paper*’ in December 2024, Council have received various reports and updates from both the Leader of the Council and the Managing Director providing comprehensive updates on both the White Paper itself, Local Government Reorganisation [LGR] and associated risks to the Council.
- 1.2 Amongst those risks identified was the threat of ‘taking our eyes off the ball’ or ‘competing for capacity and human resource’ when it comes to balancing valuable and essential service delivery and key projects which may become hampered, fail to start, or even be reconsidered due to the uncertainties around the future and/or insufficient organisational capacity to meet the new demands of LGR.
- 1.3 Previous reports set out that the successful delivery of our Council Plan objectives and specific important workstreams, may be detrimentally

affected by such uncertainty or insufficient organisational capacity. Explaining that turbulence of this nature could affect wider organisational productivity and effectiveness resulting in the potential failure of the people we serve – our communities.

- 1.4 On the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the Managing Director provided a verbal update to Council on the progress of LGR and a chronology of events and communications with Council to date including the 'Interim Submission' to Government during March 2025 and the deadline for the submission of a full business case by late November 2025.
- 1.5 The verbal update also provided a summary of the work and effort that had been involved to get to this point, along with the next steps and the further demands on capacity that this would bring.
- 1.6 The Managing Director detailed that in the interests of our communities, all Districts and Boroughs and the City Councils had been working hard to ensure the most fully informed business cases are being produced, this would require building on the interim proposal, adding more detail, gathering, analysing and testing lots of data, amongst many other things, to ensure that the full business case for change is both robust and authentic.
- 1.7 To help in this regard, the Managing Director explained that a programme governance structure had been co-developed – a structure that would oversee the development of the full business case and beyond.
- 1.8 In the interests of safeguarding the 'day-job' so to speak and to help prevent distraction from the operational day-to-day business of the Council, the Managing Director explained that whilst much of the above has been contained within the workload of a small group of Officers and Members to date. On the run up to the full business case production, submission and beyond however, there will likely be a much greater demand and call for capacity from a wider cohort here at NEDDC spanning the next 2 to 3 years.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 No more than the envisaged much greater demand and call for capacity over the next 2 to 3 years could continue to be limited to the Managing Director and the Directors, senior political involvement needs to be bolstered too.
- 2.2 Although the time, energy and effort thus far has been demanding, this is likely set to increase considerably on the run up to the final submission of the full business case in November. In addition and if LGR is to proceed, then beyond the decision being made by Government will be the task of creating a 'safe and legal' organisation and the architecture that would support this amongst many other things over the months and years beyond.
- 2.3 The decision by the Leader to increase the size of Cabinet by one [1] elected Member [Cllr Kevin Gillott] is to help address this growing demand for capacity.



### **3     Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1     To recognise and address the current situation and risks/threats to the organisation in relation to the Devolution White Paper, and particularly Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in two-tier areas

### **4     Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1     A 'do nothing' approach has been ruled out due to the risks/threats identified

## **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	

**North East Derbyshire Council**

**Council**

**Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2024-25**

**14 July 2025**

**Report of Councillor Nigel Barker, Leader of the Council**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Lee Hickin, Managing Director

**Contact Officer:** Lee Hickin, Managing Director

---

**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To report progress on the objectives underpinning the Council Plan (2023-2027) for 2024/25.

---

**DECISION ROUTE AND REASON FOR DECISION BEING BROUGHT TO COUNCIL**

- The report is for Council’s information.

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

Approved by the Leader of the Council

---

**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

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:</b>	
<b>Stage 1 screening undertaken</b> Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	N/A - information only report
<b>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</b> Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	No, not applicable
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Details: Ward Members

## Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

The report links to all Council Plan 2023-27 objectives and priorities.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

1.1 The Council plan 2023-27 has four objectives:

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

- 1.2 Under each objective there are several strategies which prioritise what the Council is setting out to achieve by March 2027. Under each strategy there are specific tactics or commitments that shape our approach and positively influence the strategy.
- 1.3 The appended annual performance report sets out the Council's progress towards our priorities by objective including a focus on what the Council has done or is doing following the results of the Residents' Survey in early 2024. The report also includes spotlights on some strategic projects. Each objective is accompanied by metrics to give a wider performance context including service volumes and district wide data. The metrics are varied including perception metrics, those that we can influence and some compiled by other organisations.
- 1.4 It is important to note the role that Members play in the delivery of the Council Plan. Members strengthen the voice and concerns of our residents, provide constructive challenge and help drive improvement. This is best demonstrated by the work of the Council's Scrutiny Committees and evidenced in the Annual Scrutiny Report. Some of their work has also been included in the appended annual performance report.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

### **2.1 A Great Place to Live Well**

Under this objective notable achievements include over 716,000 visits across the leisure centres, with 18,500 residents participating in social and physical activities. Housing initiatives delivered 92 energy referrals, upgraded 288 homes with external wall insulation, and provided 89 Disabled Facilities Grants to improve accessibility and energy efficiency.

- 2.2 Our efforts to reduce inequalities supported 21,499 households through council funded grants, while 4,500 residents engaged with the Walking into Communities programme. Public health and safety initiatives addressed 480 service requests, ranging from abandoned vehicles to homing stray dogs.
- 2.3 Tourism and local engagement have thrived through the Clay Cross Christmas Market, the Exploring the District initiative, and the We Are North East Derbyshire campaign, strengthening community connections.
- 2.4 Regarding the metrics, all except one metric has improved or sustained its level. Resident satisfaction with parks and green spaces has seen a positive improvement, and strong performance has been recorded for visits to leisure centres and community-based activities. Customer satisfaction with leisure centres remains high.
- 2.5 Regarding the Tenant Satisfaction Measures, nine of those have been included in the metrics section for relevance and context. It is pleasing to note that four of the measures show clear improvement from 2023/24 with tenant

satisfaction with overall service from landlord, being treated with dignity and respect and home safety remaining consistently high.

## 2.6 A Great Place to Work

Under this objective notable achievements include more than 100 businesses benefited from Derbyshire Accelerator funding, exceeding decarbonisation targets. 61 entrepreneurs received support, leading to 17 new businesses and 15 jobs created through Vision Derbyshire Start-Ups.

2.7 The Clay Cross Job Fair connected 149 attendees with employers and the Clay Cross Active Centre opens in June 2025. Skills development progressed through Digital and Green Skills training, while the Clay Cross Town Deal continues to drive investment, with businesses securing units in Baileys Square.

2.8 Regarding the metrics, trends reported by NOMIS show improvements for adults aged 16 to 64 regarding qualifications and those in employment. The number of business enterprises and local units, also reported by NOMIS, have remained similar to 2023. Council targets for business engagement and training have been exceeded. The Council has slightly more empty business premises than it did in March 2024.

## 2.9 A Great Place to Access Good Public Services

Under this objective notable achievement include Partnership team securing funding for Walking into Communities, Digital Connect, and social prescribing. Over 2,100 women were screened for breast cancer, flood preparedness measures enhanced with Parish Councils, and Citizen Advice sessions at Killamarsh Active improved access to essential services.

2.10 Fiscal responsibility led to cost savings, surplus land sales and property assets exceeded target, and improved council tax collection. Service innovation saw reception and swimming pool refurbishments, an AI Taskforce launch, and a new digital portal for housing and council tax benefits processing. Workforce development continues with leadership programmes, apprenticeship opportunities, and digital training, ensuring a motivated and skilled workforce.

2.11 Regarding the metric trends, all have improved or sustained their performance level. Whilst compliance with the timeliness standard for handling complaints has improved to 91%, is falls short of the target (100%). We are awaiting the Ombudsman to determine a complaint before we can finalise one metric.

## 2.12 A Great Place that Cares for the Environment

Under this objective notable achievements include remaining committed to sustainability, with £5.16m secured to improve home energy efficiency. The Low Carbon Challenge Fund delivered 23 projects to lower emissions, while Dronfield Active received upgrades, including a new Air Source Heat Pump.

- 2.13 Pollution reduction efforts included environmental campaigns and enforcement, alongside green travel incentives such as the Cycle to Work scheme. Waste management initiatives tackled fly-tipping, dog fouling, and responsible disposal, while 18 Community Action Grants supported biodiversity projects, tree planting, and the expansion of community orchards.
- 2.14 Regarding the metrics, we are awaiting external verification of the recycling outturn for Q4 so are unable to assess the annual trend. The Council has successfully reduced its own carbon emissions, and the latest data available for the district (2020) also shows a reduction in CO2 levels.
- 2.15 While we have made every effort to compile all outturn figures in a timely manner, there are two outstanding figures that we are currently awaiting, which remain beyond our control.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 This is an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the Council plan.

### **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**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Annual Performance Report for 2024/25
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	



North East  
Derbyshire  
District Council

# Year 2, Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2024 - 2025



## Contents

Welcome	2-3
Our Council Plan at a glance...	4
Highlights for 2024/25	5
Focus on Residents' Survey	7
A great place to live well	10
A great place to work	20
A great place to access good public services	26
A great place that cares for the environment	34

## Welcome

We are pleased to present our 2024/25 Annual Report, highlighting progress made in year two of delivering our Council Plan. While we recognise that we don't always get everything right, we are committed to learning and improving so that our services better meet the needs of residents and businesses.

We also understand that not everyone will agree with every decision we make or how we go about our work. However, we remain focused on doing what we believe is in the best interests of our communities. This report reflects how we've used public money to deliver services and initiatives, and we hope it demonstrates the value you receive for your council tax.





## A great place to live well

Over 716,000 visits were recorded at leisure centres, with 18,500 residents participating in social and physical activities. Housing initiatives included 288 insulation upgrades, and 89 grants to improve accessibility and efficiency. Our efforts to reduce inequalities supported 21,499 households through council funded grants, while 4,500 residents engaged with the Walking into Communities programme. Tourism and local engagement have thrived through the Exploring the District initiative, and the We Are North East Derbyshire campaign.

## A great pace to work

We invested in local specialist business advice, with more than 100 existing companies benefiting from the Derbyshire Accelerator service, whilst 61 entrepreneurs received support through the Vision Derbyshire Start-Up service, directly leading to the creation of 17 new businesses and 15 new jobs. The Clay Cross Job Fair connected 149 attendees with employers and the Clay Cross Active Centre opens in June 2025. Skills training advanced through digital and green initiatives, while the Clay Cross Town Deal continued to attract investment and new businesses to Baileys Square.

## A great place to access good public services

Partnerships have been strengthened to enhance public services, with funding secured for Walking into Communities, Digital Connect, and social prescribing.

Over 2,100 women were screened for breast cancer, and Citizen Advice sessions at Killamarsh Active improved access to essential services. Good financial management led to cost savings, surplus land sales and property assets exceeded target, and improved our council tax collection rate.

## A great place that cares for the environment

We secured £5.16m to boost home energy efficiency and delivered 23 low-carbon projects. Environmental upgrades included investment in new plant and equipment at Dronfield Active enabling the centre to operate entirely on renewable energy, while campaigns, enforcement, and grants supported pollution reduction, and biodiversity.

Each council plan theme includes detailed progress updates and metrics, along with actions taken in response to the Residents' Survey.

We look forward to continuing this journey and working together to continue to make North East Derbyshire a great place to live.



**Lee Hickin**  
Managing Director



**Cllr Nigel Barker**  
Council Leader

# Our Council Plan at a glance...



**Creating a great place to live well**



**Creating a great place to work**



**Creating a great place to access good public services**



**Creating a great place that cares for the environment**

## Our Vision

Putting strong community leadership at the heart of everything we do, we will create *A Great Place...*

## Our Values

Our Values are:

- Be honest and accountable.
- Treat everyone fairly and with respect.
- Listen, involve and respond.
- Embrace change and innovation.
- Be collaborative, open and transparent.



To view our Council Plan scan the QR code



SCAN ME

# Highlights for 2024/25

## A great place to live well

- **Leisure Centre Success** - Attendance across leisure centres surpassed the annual target, reaching 716,137 visits, sustaining high levels of physically active residents whilst improving facilities and activities on offer.
- **Expanding Walking Initiatives** - The Walking into Communities Programme attracted 878 new participants and welcomed 11 new volunteers as walk guides enabling more residents to benefit physically and mentally from walking.
- **Green routes** - Completion of the circular walking route at Grassmoor Country Park promotes physical and mental wellbeing by encouraging inclusive outdoor activity for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Tourism Promotion Success** - The 'We Are North East Derbyshire' video garnered over 12,000 views, showcasing the district's countryside, events, historical landmarks and local food scene, encouraging visitors and residents to spend time and money in the district.

## A great place to work

- **Digital Skills Training Success** - 55 people completed UKSPF- funded training upgrading their skills making them more productive and confident at work.
- **Green Skills Development** - 44 businesses participated in the UKSPF-funded Green Skills programme, helping them upskill staff in sustainable construction and energy efficiency. This boosts local employment and strengthens the supply chain for green infrastructure projects.
- **Accelerator Project Expansion** - Additional external funding was secured to extend the successful business support service for a further year, enabling more local businesses to improve their operational efficiency, develop their products and harness new trading opportunities.

## A great place to access good public services

- **Health Screening Success** - 2,135 women received breast cancer screenings at Leisure Active locations promoting preventative healthcare and early detection. Locating screening units at leisure centres makes the service more accessible, especially for women who may not attend hospital-based appointments.
- **Facility upgrades** - swimming pool improvements, entrance enhancements and full gym refurbishment at Dronfield Active, and a reception make-over at the main offices at Wingerworth have significantly enhanced user experience, accessibility and energy efficiency.
- **Homelessness** - The Housing Options Team continues to rank amongst the top-performing local authorities in England for securing settled accommodation for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## A great place that cares for the environment

- **Decarbonisation** - A total of 288 homes improved as part of the external wall insulation social housing decarbonisation initiative improving the energy efficiency of homes as well as reducing energy bills for families.
- **Fuel efficiency** - Environmental upgrades at Dronfield Active, including investment in new plant and equipment, now enable the centre to run entirely on renewable energy. The Centre is expected to reduce its annual carbon emissions by more than 172 tonnes, becoming carbon neutral in the process.
- **No Mow May In 2024** - the No Mow May areas totalled 42,342m<sup>2</sup>, which was an increase of over 63% from 2023. This initiative supports biodiversity by allowing wildflowers to flourish and providing vital habitats for bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

# Focus on Residents' Survey

## *Update and actions that we have taken in 2024/25*

The Residents' Survey conducted in November 2023 engaged over 3,000 residents, identifying key priorities for improvement, including activities for children and teenagers, community activities, public transport, housing, job opportunities and safety. Here is a snapshot of some ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for residents.

### Key Initiatives and Enhancements

#### Activities for older children and teenagers

- Clay Cross Active 3G pitch and Tag Active arena: Provides modern sports facilities to encourage young people to stay active and engage in structured activities.



- Healthy Activities and Food Programme Offers free meals and exercise programmes during school holidays to support low-income families.
- Extreme Wheels project: Mobile skatepark and BMX sessions, engaging over 150 young people, helping reduce antisocial behaviour.
- Gymnastics Helper Volunteer Scheme (Killamarsh Active): Young people develop teamwork and leadership skills by assisting gymnastics classes.



#### Activities for younger children

- Five60 programme: Combines physical activity and healthy eating education for young children.
- Inclusive SEN gymnastics courses (Killamarsh Active): Provides tailored support for children with special needs.



- School Delivery Programme: Supports children in achieving the Chief Medical Officer's 60-minute daily exercise guideline, with 10,231 attendances.

### **Community activities**

- Clay Cross Games and Summer Clubs: A hub for physical activity and engagement, fostering stronger community ties.
- Christmas Walking Trail: Combines festive themes with active living, making walking enjoyable.
- Walk Derbyshire: Trained volunteer-led walking groups aimed at improving social and physical well-being. 4,025 people took part in 2024/25.
- Adults Wellbeing Group: Tackles social isolation with mental health workshops and community events.



### **Active Neighbourhood Pilot Scheme**

- Community engagement through walking: 556 resident survey responses identified barriers such as safety concerns, lack of walking destinations, and infrastructure issues.

- Events embedded in walking initiatives: Creative workshops, music and art walks, nature activities, and litter picks encourage participation.
- Ongoing consultation and feedback adaptation: Over 20 engagement meetings and 7 public consultations ensure continuous community input.
- 4,049 miles walked in integrated events, fostering regular activity.
- 878 new participants in 2024/25 bringing the cumulative total to 4,511.

### **Public transport and connectivity**

- Clay Cross Rail Station project: Council representation continues to be made at strategic meetings to articulate residents' needs for the development of this facility to enhance local transport accessibility.
- Bus Service (80) replacement discussions: Council liaised with Derbyshire County Council to maintain this service.
- Supported Derbyshire County Council successful application to secure £1m for A61 junction improvements.

### **Employment and skills development**

- Weekly Recruitment E-zine and targeted job fairs, promoting employment opportunities to residents and helping businesses recruit locally.
- Manufacturing Networking Group: Established to support businesses with workforce development, resilience and technological enhancement opportunities.
- How's Business Survey: Provided valuable insights from business to shape support services with several businesses requesting follow-ups.

## Affordable housing

- **Empty Homes Officer role:** Established this post to identify vacant properties to bring them back into use by working with owners, landlords and partners. 10 properties were brought back into use in 2024/25.
- **Increase in supported housing units:** 11 supported living apartments delivered in 2024/25 expanding accommodation for vulnerable residents.
- **Private Rental Sector Officer:** New strategic role created to help residents access private rental housing through working with registered providers.

## Feeling safe

- **Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs):** Order brought in to tackle antisocial behaviour in Clay Cross and adjoining areas following public consultation. This has significantly reduced ASB within the designated area in Clay Cross.
- **Antisocial behaviour (ASB):** Completed three ASB Case Reviews, primarily addressing neighbour disputes. In response, action plans have been established, a warning issued, and a Closure Order enacted to manage persistent ASB.
- **Graffiti Project:** Secured investment into addressing an antisocial graffiti hotspot with artwork inspired by children from the local schools.
- **Extreme Wheels targeting hotspot areas:** Over 150 young people have taken part in this fun and diversionary activity to reduce antisocial behaviour.



- The Communities Scrutiny Committee met with Derbyshire's new Police and Crime Commissioner and colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhood Team to hear about strategic priorities and raise key concerns. Topics included police visibility, rural crime, e-scooters, domestic violence, and road safety. The PCC and SNT provided detailed responses and outlined current and planned actions. Members appreciated the informative session and gained a clearer understanding of efforts to reduce crime across the district.

## Summary

These initiatives demonstrate a proactive approach to improving community wellbeing. By fostering inclusive participation and engagement, the Council aims to create a healthier, safer, and more connected district so that communities can thrive.



A group of people are hiking on a grassy path through a forest. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and dark trousers is walking away from the camera. Next to him is a woman with curly hair wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, carrying a black and yellow backpack. Behind her is another woman with blonde hair wearing a pink backpack. Further back, several other hikers are visible, some using walking sticks. The path is surrounded by tall grass and dense trees in the background under a blue sky with some clouds.

# A great place to live well







During 2024/25, 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

- Attendances across the leisure centres surpassed its annual target at 716,137.

- **Over 18,500 residents took part in physical and social activity during 2024/25 with 10,231 pupils participating in the School Delivery Programme, 4025 residents taking part in Walk Derbyshire and 4,511 engaging with the Walking into Communities Programme which attracted 878 new participants and 11 new volunteers to guide walks.**

- Over 160 families participated in the Winter Walking Trail in Clay Cross as part of the collaborative active neighbourhood pilot work.
- New Snap and Chat Walk launched in Clay Cross. An opportunity to combine photography and walking to support mental health wellbeing.
- The recommendations from the Scrutiny review of Leisure Activities for Older Children/Teenagers were all accepted by Cabinet in January 2025. This includes increased engagement with older children/teenagers (current users and non-users) through schools and social media, and a review of fees and charges around young person activities.



- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded Green Routes project at Grassmoor Country Park completed and officially launched in September 2024.
- Clay Cross Christmas Market included activities for local children which were delivered by First Art. An estimated attendance of up to 2,000 during the day.
- The completion of Clay Cross Active is scheduled for June 2025.

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

- 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.
- Derbyshire Voluntary Action will receive £50,000 for 2025/26 to help reduce social isolation and build community capacity across the District.

- **Throughout 2024/25, a total of 21,499 people and households benefited from services and advice offered by organisations receiving Council grant funding.** These included Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Law Centre, Rural Action Derbyshire, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and the Volunteer Centre. Support covered areas such as benefits, debt, energy, housing, legal and employment advice, along with volunteering opportunities. Three organisations presented to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on their use of grant funding. The Committee was impressed by their impact in North East Derbyshire and agreed to invite organisations annually, rotating attendance based on grant level.

- 18 Community Action Grants awarded during 2024/25 totalling £7,083. A range of projects have been supported including bio-diversity installations, supporting venues to become a warm space during winter, and community fun days.

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

- Staff have undertaken extensive training on the Renters Reform Bill to ensure they are well-prepared to support tenants and address inquiries. The team remains actively engaged with the public on damp and mould responsibilities, providing regular updates to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the Healthy Homes evaluation.

- **92 households have been supported with energy referrals to access resources and assistance to manage energy costs and improve efficiency.**

- A total of 288 homes improved as part of the external wall insulation social housing decarbonisation initiative, successfully meeting the annual target.
- 89 Disabled Facilities Grants to make the home more accessible were approved.
- Supported 59 private sector tenants regarding housing disrepair and health issues during 2024/25.
- The Government has awarded the Council £5,160,618 to deliver a Warm Homes: Local Grant Scheme from 2025-2028.

## **Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operation**

- A communication campaign was run to raise awareness among residents using barbershops about the importance of good hygiene practices in preventing skin infections. Additionally, guidance has been provided for individuals seeking aesthetic cosmetic procedures, such as fillers, emphasising the need to use licensed products and qualified professionals. These efforts follow complaints received, aiming to promote safe and responsible practices.

- **The Planning team has advanced multiple enforcement cases concerning untidy land and unauthorised activities, including those in West Handley and Eckington.**

- A total of 78 domestic fires and smoke complaints responded to ensuring support for the affected residents.
- A total of 50 infectious disease reports were investigated, ensuring timely responses and appropriate action to safeguard public health.
- A total of 352 food hygiene inspections were completed, 56 food complaints addressed, and 284 written warnings issued for hygiene concerns.



During 2024/25, 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**

- Developed new Housing and Private Sector Housing Strategies to improve our housing offer across the district.

- **During the 2024/25 period, a total of 555 new homes have been completed (net), including a minimum of 110 being affordable housing. As of the end of March 2025, there are 2,263 homes with planning permission, with 375 allocated for affordable housing.**

*Housing figures subject to verification.*

- Directly supported EMH Homes to deliver supported housing in Holmewood for individuals with learning and physical disabilities.
- Introduced a council tax premium of 100%, in addition to the current charge of 100%, for properties which have been empty for over two years to help bring them back into use and support the housing stock.
- In partnership with Rykneld Homes we have delivered 70 affordable homes for sale and rent in North Wingfield and commenced on a major regeneration in Stonebroom.
- In July, we were awarded a C2 rating for delivery of housing services to our tenants. Rykneld Homes played a key role in delivering this successful outcome.



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

- The Community Safety team has observed a rise in Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) impacting mental health, leading to the completion of three ASB Case Reviews, primarily addressing neighbour disputes. In response, action plans have been established, a warning issued, and a Closure Order enacted to manage persistent ASB.
- Collaborated with the Dronfield Safer Neighbourhoods Team to create targeted Problem Management Plans addressing bike theft and youth-related antisocial behaviour.
- Extreme Wheels, through the Community Safety Partnership, has engaged over 150 young people across Clay Cross, Killamarsh, and Holmesfield, offering alternative leisure activities. Three weekly sessions will continue into 2025/26, supported by UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF).
- A total of 50 complaints about dog fouling were addressed, along with 60 service requests for stray dogs and 26 for lost dogs.

- **A total of 254 abandoned vehicles have been dealt with alongside 98 fly-tipping reports. Additionally, 36 notices have been issued for offences related to fly-tipping, littering, dog fouling, and abandoned vehicles, reinforcing efforts to maintain cleanliness and community pride.**

- Successfully prosecuted two perpetrators of fly tipping resulting in a number of fines.
- 10 empty homes have been brought back into use exceeding the target of 6. Also reduced the number of empty homes receiving council tax exemption by 26, making them eligible for council tax and encouraging them to be brought back into use.
- The Council has reviewed its annual planting schemes to incorporate sustainable plants, extending the flowering season and enhancing visual displays for residents. This initiative also increases the benefits for bees and insects, supporting local biodiversity.
- Ran a dark nights campaign to help residents to protect against burglaries by highlighting measures they can take to deter theft.

## **Well maintained public realm that connects our communities**

- Improvements have been completed at Dronfield Active, enhancing the facility's entrance with new bench seating and a modern digital display screen.

- **The Dronfield Civic Centre public realm improvements have been completed, featuring a resurfaced car park and footpaths, new railings, and a dedicated motorcycle parking space in the Civic Centre car park. Additional enhancements include landscaping, planting and new benches to improve accessibility and community use.**





During 2024/25, the following progress has been made on a place where people enjoy spending time:

### Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time

- The 'We Are North East Derbyshire' video was launched in mid-March as part of Tourism Week, highlighting the region's stunning countryside and walking trails, rich historical and cultural landmarks, local cuisine, and vibrant events. Since its release, the video has garnered over 12,000 views, reflecting strong public interest and engagement.
- Clay Cross Christmas Market attracted around 2,000 attendees during the day. The accompanying media campaign ran 9 social posts and received 44,403 views, together with 1,285 website views.

- **The Exploring the District project boosted North East Derbyshire's tourism with campaigns, branding, and digital engagement.** Highlights include a new tourism brand, influencer campaigns generating over 100,000 interactions, a hotel magazine feature with a reach of 1.8 million, a Dog Friendly Destination Guide yielding over 20,000 views so far, website improvements, new walking trails, event support, and a new events space in Dronfield. It continues into 2025/26, focusing on events and tourism growth.



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

- Clay Cross Active offered an Annual Membership discount exclusively for Clay Cross residents, providing 25% off standard annual prices. This promotion highlights the new facility and encourages participation in health and fitness activities.
- There are now 33 businesses on the Food and Drink Trail, with frequent social media promotion to enhance resident awareness.

- **Pool upgrade and gym refurbishment completed and promoted at Dronfield Active together with a gym upgrade at Eckington Active.**

- The playground improvement plan has been developed and approved for the upcoming year. The proposed upgrades will enhance play areas at School Lane, Arkwright, Sharley Park/Clay Cross Active, Clay Cross, Tennyson Street, Mickley, and Clay Lane, Clay Cross, providing improved recreational spaces for local communities.

## Spotlight on Clay Cross Active

The project faced delays in 2024-25 following the main contractor, ISG, entering administration in September 2024. However, through close collaboration with partners, the Council procured a new contractor, Universal Civils and Build, via the UK Leisure Framework, allowing work to restart in December 2024.

Despite a £1.5 million increase in costs, additional funding of £1.113 million was secured, including £346,000 from Sport England and £767,000 from the Clay Cross

Town Deal, helping to offset the financial impact to residents.

Progress Highlights:

- Steady advancements made across all areas, with significant weekly progress.
- All high-risk elements including gas installation, air tightness, fibre connectivity, and water supply, have been resolved.

Clay Cross Active is now fully operational and has been positively received.

## Spotlight on UK Shared Prosperity

The Council developed a series of grant funding schemes to deliver its award of £2.5 million UK Shared Prosperity funding in late 2022. The schemes ended on 31st March 2025. The projects across North East Derbyshire have successfully delivered improvements in public spaces, business support, community engagement, and infrastructure. Key outcomes include:

- **Public Realm Enhancements:** Focused on improving outside Dronfield Active, Dronfield Civic Centre and Library Gardens including signage for active travel and better traffic flow.
- **Parks and Play Areas:** 18 grants awarded, improving community spaces.
- **Green Routes:** Grassmoor Country Park improvements completed.
- **Exploring the District:** Successful promotional efforts, including a Food and Drink Trail with 33 businesses and a regional tourism campaign including a We are North East Derbyshire promotional video generating over 12k website hits.
- **Community and Social Support:** Grants awarded to voluntary groups to improve social and economic sustainability, with initiatives in fuel efficiency, household finances, and digital training.
- **Village Hall Improvements:** 14 grants awarded to upgrade and enhance community venues for long-term viability.
- **Community Activities:** Youth-focused programmes delivered in key areas to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- **Chesterfield Canal Study:** Completed in March 2025, identifying potential economic growth projects in Killamarsh.
- **Shopfront Enhancements:** 60 grants issued to improve commercial properties, boosting footfall and retail appeal.
- **Business Support:**
  - The Derbyshire Accelerator: Business advice and energy audits delivered by the East Midlands Chamber, meeting all targets.
  - Vision Derbyshire Start-Ups: Delivered support to new businesses.
- **Green and Digital Skills:** Training in energy efficiency and digital design skills successfully delivered to local businesses.

All projects are complete, and government monitoring has confirmed compliance with no queries raised.

In numbers, some of what the Council has done against this objective during 2024/25:

**688** Commercial premises inspected by Environmental Health in 2024



**435** Commercial premises risk rated by Environmental Health in 2024



**581** Pest control treatment courses completed in 2024



**716,137** Visits to Leisure Centres



**249** Attending Exercise by Referral Scheme



**10,231** Pupil participation in physical activities (Schools delivery programme)



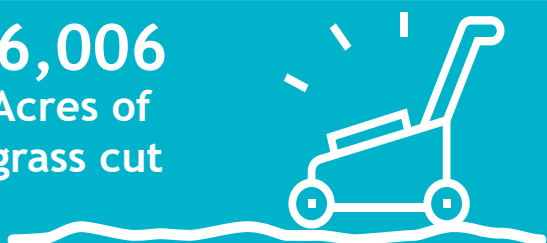
**4,511** Participants taking part in Walking into Communities



**89** Disabled facilities grants approved to improve the home



**6,006** Acres of grass cut



**44,064** Plants put into the ground throughout the district



Metric	Target	Previous 2023/24 Outturn or as stated	Current 2024/25 Outturn or as stated	Trend
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year.	689,000	821,908	716,137 Target exceeded	N/A see note
Achieve 19,200 monthly attendance through community-based activity.	19,200	16,944	19,585	✓
% Customer satisfaction with Leisure Centres.	Increase	88.69%	89.07%	=
Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.	6	New	10	✓
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	144	103	73	✗ See comments
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste and dog fouling.	15	15	15	=
Resident satisfaction with litter control in your street (Citizens Panel).	Increase	64.70% May 2022	65.50% May 2024	=
Resident satisfaction with 'parks and green spaces'.	Increase	52.5% Nov 22	66.8% Jun 24	✓

**Key to trends:**

✓	Better
✗	Worse
=	Similar
?	Can't say

**Note:** The target was revised to reflect the closure of Sharley Park Leisure Centre and the development of the new Clay Cross Active facility.

**Comments:**

✗ Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out	In 2024/25, 73 proactive patrols were conducted. The Enforcement Team faced staffing difficulties during this period, most of which have now been resolved. Despite these challenges, the team remained focused on responding to public service requests and prioritising investigations where offences were witnessed and evidenced.
---	---



## Tenant Satisfaction Measures

Measure	National Average 2023/24	NEDDC/ RHL * 2023/24	NEDDC/ RHL 2024/25	Trend
TP01: Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied with the overall service from their landlord.	71.3%	84.8%	84.4%	=
TP04: Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is well maintained.	70.8%	80.6%	80.1%	=
TP05: Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their home is safe.	76.7%	80.6%	84.8%	✓
TP06: Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord listens to tenant views and acts upon them.	60.4%	71.1%	74%	✓
TP07: Proportion of respondents who report that they are satisfied that their landlord keeps them informed about things that matter to them.	70.3%	75.6%	80.1%	✓
TP08: Proportion of respondents who report that they agree their landlord treats them fairly and with respect.	76.8%	85.8%	87.5%	✓
TP09: Proportion of respondents who report making a complaint in the last 12 months who are satisfied with their landlord's approach to complaints handling.	34.5%	43.1%	43.7%	=

### Key to trends:

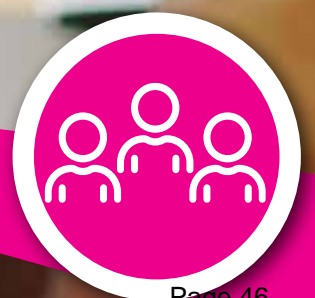
✓	Better
✗	Worse
=	Similar
?	Can't say

\*Rykneld Homes Ltd (RHL) is responsible for the management, maintenance and improvement of around 7,600 properties and the neighbourhoods in which they are located on behalf of North East Derbyshire District Council.

Housing providers are required to report on these measures annually to the Regulator of Social Housing.

It is pleasing to note that over 84% of our tenants are satisfied with the service they receive from Rykneld Homes, well in excess of the national average (71%).

# A great place to work





During 2024/25, 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 UKSPF-funded Derbyshire Accelerator Programme supports local businesses**

by enhancing productivity through innovation and digital technology, reducing energy costs via decarbonisation and net-zero strategies, and fostering growth with strong business planning:

- Over 100 businesses received non-financial support this year, successfully meeting the target.
  - 64 businesses benefited from non-financial decarbonisation support, surpassing the target of 37.
  - 37 business decarbonisation plans were completed, exceeding the target of 20.
- 
- Supply Chain event held with public and private sector specialists and five manufacturing businesses. Make UK event also held with three manufacturing businesses participating. These have been complemented by several general Business Support events.
  - 57 Shop fronts improved across the district through the Shop Front Enhancement Scheme.



- Clay Cross Job fair attracted 149 attendees and linked with local employers, training providers and the Town Deal developer.





- Significant recruitment took place through 2025 for our new Clay Cross Active Centre which opens in June 2025. Recruiting 35 staff from local Jobs Fairs and marketing campaigns.



## Attract new businesses to the area which brings new jobs

- The UKSPF-funded Vision Derbyshire Start-Up Programme offers guidance, support, and funding to new businesses.
  - 61 entrepreneurs received assistance this year, surpassing the target.
  - 49 businesses benefited from non-financial support.
  - 4 grants were approved throughout the year.
  - 17 new businesses were established, creating 15 new jobs—exceeding targets in both cases.

- Interest shown for six units at Baileys Square, Clay Cross, with further initial enquiries continuing. The development, part of the Clay Cross Town Deal, will include up to 16 new units and a restored heritage building for food, drink and leisure businesses.





During 2024/25, 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

- 55 people completed the Digital Skills training funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund exceeding the target of 50.
- 44 businesses completed the Green Skills programme funded by UKSPF.
- **£1,050,067 secured through EMCCA which will fund, amongst other things, the continuation of the Accelerator business support project (£86k) and a further year of specialist digital skills training for businesses (£50k).**
- Killarmarsh Active have entered a new partnership with Sheffield United Community Trust creating pathways for jobs in the leisure sector and gaining professorial development and experience from the facility.
- Funding secured to deliver conservation and heritage work with local craftspeople to promote local building traditions and materials.
- 'How's Business? Survey' was undertaken to inform the Council of the needs of business in the district. Key findings reveal that only two-thirds of businesses have invested in workforce training, while 80% acknowledge the impact of Climate Change on their operations—yet only 29% have taken steps to mitigate its effects. These insights help inform the Council and its partners about business support services.



## Spotlight on Clay Cross Regeneration

To create a new Town Square in Clay Cross together with a community hub as the anchor building providing food, beverage, leisure and cultural activities.

The Town Centre Regeneration project is progressing well, with enabling works completed, including archaeology, site strip and structural surveys. The total cost has risen by £529,000 to £15.5 million, with funding adjustments ensuring project viability. Despite setbacks from bad weather and unexpected asbestos, efforts are being made to complete the project by its original deadline of March 2026.

Key updates include:

- Nearly all necessary assets secured, with agreements in place for the final piece.
- Marketing efforts for Baileys Square units are underway, with several provisional lettings.
- The new library is close to final design approval.
- Internal surveys for the Adult Education Centre are scheduled, with further works planned for 2025/26.
- Landscaping designs are being finalised for Market Street and Baileys Square.
- Collaboration with educational providers continues to shape learning outcomes.
- Connection works will begin in June 2025, including Bridge Street reopening, Market Street pedestrianisation and improved town centre parking access.



In numbers, some of what the Council has done against this objective during 2024/25:

**118** Businesses engaged with by Business Support



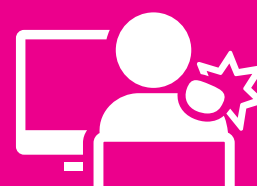
**57** Shopfront Schemes completed



**601** Commercial, food, water service requests dealt with in 2024



**117** Workplace health and Safety inspections carried out in 2024



Metric	Target	Previous 2023/24 Outturn or as stated	Current 2024/25 Outturn or as stated	Trend
Number of business enterprises (based on VAT/PAYE records) Source: Nomis	Increase	3395 (2023)	3370 (2024)	=
Number of local units (individual site e.g., factory or shop) Source: Nomis	Increase	3775 (2023)	3760 (2024)	=
Number of empty business premises	Decrease	150	162	✗
Number of businesses engaged with business support (council)	100	55	118	✓
Number of employees within a business trained/upskilled (through council)	150	34	165	✓
% Residents aged 16-64 with RQF (Regulated Qualifications Framework) 4 and above e.g., HND, degree Source: Nomis	Increase	35% 2023	39.7% (2024)	✓
% Residents aged 16-64 in employment and (number economically active) Source: Nomis	Increase	68.4% (73.2%) 2023	72.4% (74.5%) 2024	✓

#### Key to trends:

✓	Better
✗	Worse
=	Similar
?	Can't say





A great place  
to access good  
public services







During 2024/25, 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.**

- The Healthy North East Derbyshire (HNED) Partnership has awarded funding for the following projects:
  - £35,970 for the Council to extend the Walking into Communities project by a further 4 years, after successfully engaging 4,500 resident participants in 2024/25.
  - £70,000 to Citizen's Advice North East Derbyshire to deliver Digital Connect, free digital training for residents.
  - £100,000 to Chesterfield Community Football Trust to deliver Young People's Social Prescribing over 2 years, offering one-to-one support and social activities to reduce social isolation and address mental health challenges.
- Collaborated with Parish Councils to enhance flood preparedness by promoting awareness of available training, resources and support.

- **2,135 women screened for Breast Cancer** at the Leisure Active locations during Autumn and Winter.



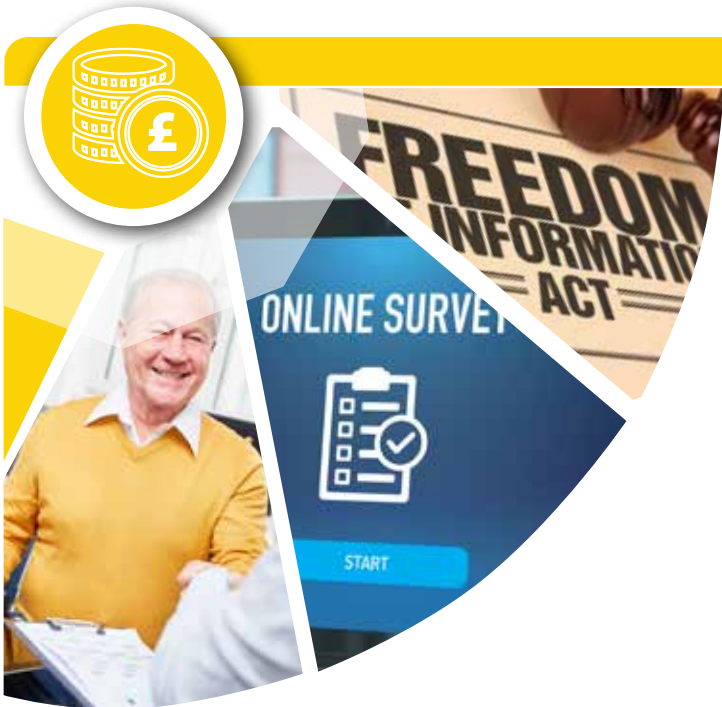
### **Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements**

- Demographics and Area Cluster breakdown of the Council's Residents Survey analysed, shared, and published. This provided greater insight and supported action planning for resident priorities.
- Biodiversity site information is being analysed using intelligence software to aid the site selection process.
- Town Centre footfall data continues to be collected and published to inform partners and businesses and support plans.

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

- Business help section added to Council website to provide more information and signpost to other agencies for assistance.

- **Citizens Advice sessions are held at Killamarsh Active twice weekly.** Between October 2024 and March 2025, 77 clients attended, with 660 issues addressed. The most common concerns raised were benefits, energy and employment.



During 2024/25, the following progress has been made on **continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money:**

### **Fiscally responsible and efficient**

- Efforts have been made to shorten the time homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation, leading to a significant reduction in bed and breakfast costs.
- The 2022-2025 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme confirmed as fully allocated to local delivery, ensuring no funds to be returned to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- Disposal of surplus land and property assets capital receipts target of £1m surpassed at £1,044,250.

- **Council Tax collection rate exceeded for 2024/25 and business rate collection within target.** Exceeded timeliness targets for processing new benefit and council tax claims and changes in circumstances.

### **Listen to customers (Residents and Businesses) to improve services**

- The July 2024 Citizens Survey received responses from 1,099 residents, providing valuable insights to support the Local Plan review and enabling the monitoring of satisfaction with street cleanliness, open spaces and grounds maintenance.
- 53 businesses responded to the How's Business survey which provided insights to shape business support services. 19 businesses sought follow-ups from the Economic Development Team.
- 32 residents contributed to the consultation on upgrading play and recreation facilities at School Lane, Arkwright. Their feedback has helped the Council to determine upgrade priorities.

- **The Leisure Customer Satisfaction Survey was completed, achieving a score of 89.07%, surpassing the 80% target.** Some of the improvements made included the provision of vegan/vegetarian food options in the cafes across the centres as well as aligning bookings made on-line and at reception.

- Planning Customer Charter developed based upon feedback from regular service users on proposed improvements to streamline the planning application process.
- The Council carried out nine corporate consultations engaging 1,194 residents and customers.

## **Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do**

- **20 Internal Audit reports issued for 2024/25 of which 13 received a substantial assurance rating and 7 a reasonable assurance rating.**

- 593 requests for information received under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations of which 93.8% were administered within the statutory timescale of 20 working days.
- No data breaches required reporting to the Information Commissioners' Office (ICO). One enquiry received from the ICO which was investigated, and no data breach found.
- 197 formal complaints received of which 91% were dealt within the Council's standard of 15 working days. 30 internal review requests were received for complaints, with 77% resolved within the Council's 20-working-day standard.

- Seven complaints were received by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman concerning the Council; three were deemed outside their remit, and the remaining four were assessed and closed without requiring investigation.

## **Modernise and innovate services to continually improve**

- Head Office reception refurbishment completed February 2025 improving public access including wheelchair friendly reception counter, improved access to meeting rooms and waiting area, self-service counter, food bank drop-off point, customer information screens, improved lighting and installation of VADs (visual alarm devices).
- The Gov Tech online Revenues and Benefits portal is being implemented to commence the project to enhance the customer experience while incorporating further automation in the processing of Benefits and Council Tax.
- An AI Taskforce has been established to consider how best to implement AI whilst ensuring appropriate governance arrangements.

## Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

- **The Leadership and Empowerment staff survey achieved an impressive 80% engagement rate, with positive feedback received.**

Key findings include:

- 96% of respondents understand how their work contributes to the Council's success.
  - 95% of line and team managers feel involved in decision-making that affects their roles.
  - 100% of service managers who responded believe they collaborate effectively with colleagues to enhance work processes.
- One Team Christmas engagement event and Employee Awards and Summer Social event were successfully held, and each attracted over 100 employees. These events strengthen the One Team culture.
  - The Housing Options Team ranks among the top-performing local authorities in England for securing settled accommodation for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Brilliant at the Basics and Manager Essentials launched to provide helpful and tailored resources to new, aspiring and existing managers and team leaders.
  - The Council's new People Strategy was rolled-out. This is the core document for how we develop and empower our workforce. The actions are being led by a cross-section of employees to strengthen skills and embed across the organisation.
  - The Online Learning System now offers 61 courses, with a strong engagement rate reflected in 4,536 course completions. This together with course feedback demonstrates how digital learning has been embraced by employees.
  - 21 managers and aspiring managers received training through our leadership programme.
  - A total of 10 apprenticeships and trainee posts have been created, alongside 9 work experience placements. These opportunities provide valuable skills development and career pathways for individuals.



## Spotlight on the North Derbyshire Breast Screening Service

The North Derbyshire Breast Screening Service provides vital early cancer detection at various locations including Dronfield Active, Killamarsh Active, and Eckington Active as part of the National Breast Screening Programme.

### Screening Outcomes:

- Dronfield Active: 81% attendance (813 screened), 4 positive cancer diagnoses.
- Killamarsh Active: 83% attendance (354 screened), 5 positive cancer diagnoses.
- Eckington Active: 76% attendance (968 screened), 8 positive cancer diagnoses.

With high participation rates and early detection leading to improved treatment success, the programme continues to save 1,300 lives annually in England.



Most women are returned to routine recall, ensuring regular monitoring and early detection. A small percentage of women who attended the screenings received a positive cancer diagnosis. Early detection of breast cancer is vital as it often leads to simpler and more successful treatment.

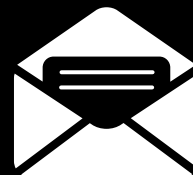


In numbers, some of what the Council has done against this objective during 2024/25:

**51,759** calls  
answered by  
Customer Services



**10,828** emails  
replied to by  
Customer Services



**9,543** visitors  
received at Council  
House, Mill Lane



**593** Freedom of  
information requests  
administered



**46,353**  
calls answered by  
Revenues Services



**20,365** emails  
responded to by  
Revenues Services



**1,859** Housing  
Benefit and/  
or Council Tax  
Reduction claims processed



**23,876** changes  
in circumstances  
processed by  
Revenue Services



**7,910,720**  
bins emptied



**9,730**  
invoices  
paid



**30** major planning  
applications determined

**148** minor  
planning  
applications  
determined



Metric	Target	Previous 2023/24	Current 2024/25 Outturn or as stated	Trend
Average Time to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days)	20	16.67	15.75	✓
Average time to process change in circumstances for Housing Benefit / Council Tax Reduction claims (days)	6	4.35	2.53	✓
% Council Tax collected	97%	96.64%	96.80% Within target	=
% National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) Collected	97%	96.56%	95.60% Within target	=
Total number in Temporary Accommodation (as at end of each quarter combined)	Decrease	77	64	✓
Total number in B&B (as at end of each quarter combined)	Decrease	36	21	✓
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£)	Increase	£673,910	£1,044,250	✓
% payment of invoices within one calendar month	98%	98.87%	98%	=
% internal audit reports rated Substantial or Reasonable assurance	Increase	81.25%	100%	✓
% Employees who feel that they belong at NEDDC	Increase	75%	79.5%	✓
% of formal complaints responded to within 15 working days	100%	79%	91% Target not met	✓
Percentage of Ombudsman complaints upheld	Decrease	8.30%	None	✓

**Key to trends:**

✓	Better
✗	Worse
=	Similar
?	Can't say



A great place  
that cares for  
the environment







During 2024/25, 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**



- Over the 2024/25 period, a total of 18 Community Action Grants have been awarded, funding seven projects worth **£2,011**. These initiatives encompass activities like flower and tree planting, as well as providing equipment to develop and sustain green spaces while promoting biodiversity.

- The public has been encouraged to suggest new No Mow May areas and reduced maintenance sites through No Mow May signage, as well as information available on the Council's website and social media platforms.
- Additional funding of £1,800 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been secured to purchase more trees, along with tree and hedge protectors. These funds have also been used to acquire community equipment for tree planting, supporting our strategy for community tree and bulb planting.
- The Council has initiated a call for sites, leading to several locations— including Council-owned land— being proposed for Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting.

A structured programme is underway in collaboration with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to conduct surveys of priority sites by the end of September 2025. Following this, the Council will work with DWT to determine what a 10% net gain would entail for the sites deemed suitable for offsetting. Engagement with landowners to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain is effectively delivered and managed on-site for the required 30-year period will continue into 2026.

- In 2024, the No Mow May areas totalled 42,342m<sup>2</sup>, which was an increase of over 63% from 2023. Additionally, the Council is enhancing biodiversity by planting more perennial plants which extends the flowering season and increases the benefits for bees and insects. Further efforts include identifying suitable sites and developing plans for rewilding, biodiversity net gain, and reduced mowing.



- 10 projects benefiting from upgraded insulation and low-carbon heating solutions.
- 16,351m<sup>2</sup> of floor space improved for better carbon performance.
- 11 residential properties with enhanced energy efficiency.

**• A total of 288 homes improved as part of the external wall insulation social housing decarbonisation initiative, successfully meeting the annual target.**

### **Where appropriate, utilise Council assets to improve biodiversity**

During 2024/25, 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**

- The Low Carbon Challenge Fund has approved 22 commercial and one residential application, with a total expenditure of £699,555. Achievements to date include:
  - One exemplar project delivering 80 tonnes of carbon reduction and £45k in annual energy savings.
  - 10 projects generating electricity from renewable resources.

- Secured £5,160,618 to implement the Warm Homes: Local Grant Scheme from 2025 to 2028. This funding will support energy performance improvements, low-carbon heating installations, and solar panel upgrades for privately owned and privately rented households in designated priority areas.
- Communication campaigns delivered throughout the year with the aim to promote community activities to tackle climate change and protect nature.

#### **Continually reduce the Council's own carbon emissions**

- Dronfield Active has undergone upgrades following £70k in funding from Sport England. Improvements include new pool covers, variable speed drives (VSD) on pool pumps, and triple-glazed windows for the swimming pool.
- Four compact road sweepers have been upgraded to newer models, resulting in improved CO<sub>2</sub> emissions efficiency per litre.

- Climate Fresk Training has been provided to Members, Senior Managers, and Officers across the Council to enhance awareness of climate change and the impact of council decisions.

### **Spotlight on Dronfield Active**

Dronfield Active has become one of the first existing facilities in the UK to reduce its carbon emissions by 100%, aligning with the Council's commitment towards a net zero future.

This transformation was made possible through £1.33 million in funding from Phase 3a of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, administered by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Key upgrades include the replacement of old gas-powered boilers with energy efficient air source heat pump, the installation of solar panels, cavity wall insulation and energy efficient LED lighting.

With these improvements, the Centre is expected to reduce its annual carbon emissions by more than 172 tonnes, becoming carbon neutral in the process.

- **In collaboration with Rykneld Homes Ltd (RHL) we are improving estate walkabouts.**

Several were conducted in March, focusing on areas with antisocial behaviour issues, where litter picking, and rubbish removal activities were carried out.

- Sustainability policy for Leisure Centres produced and published on the Council's website ensuring the facilities are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

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

- Environmental Health Teams, Planning Development, and Enforcement Teams actively tackle pollution issues using their regulatory powers while promoting best practices through advice and guidance.

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

- Sustainable Travel Plan approved as part of major residential development.
- The Council has promoted its Cycle to Work scheme and actively promotes its Agile Working policy to encourage productivity, work/life balance and less commuting.

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

- A dog fouling campaign was launched to emphasise the responsibilities of dog owners and to guide residents on reporting littering. In December, a sustainable Christmas campaign encouraged reusing and recycling during the festive season, when gift purchases generate more recyclable material.

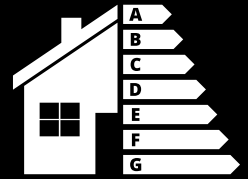
- **Local media and social media were utilised to highlight three successful prosecutions of fly-tippers and individuals caught littering**, with the cases shared with community groups to raise awareness and foster engagement.

In numbers, some of what the Council has done against this objective during 2024/25:

**259** Domestic noise complaints including barking dogs dealt with in 2024



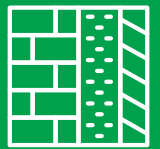
**92** Households supported with energy efficiency advice in 2024



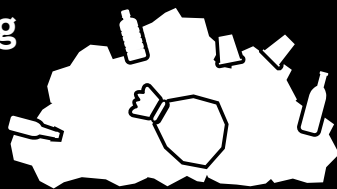
**78** Domestic fires/smoke complaints dealt with in 2024



**288** properties improved with external wall insulation.



**98** Fly tipping reports responded to in 2024



**36** Notices served for fly tipping, littering, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles in 2024



**22** businesses supported to decarbonise



**254** Abandoned vehicle reports dealt with



Metric	Target	Previous 2023/24 Outturn or as stated	Current 2024/25 Outturn or as stated	Trend
% of household waste reused, recycled and composted	43%	46.13%	43.1% Estimated*	?
Reduction in Council CO2 emissions	Decrease	1850.15	1572	✓
Reduction in the District's CO2 emissions	Decrease	695,871.10 2019	580,292.23 2020*	✓
Resident satisfaction with 'streets kept free from litter' (Citizens Panel)	Increase	64.70% Nov 22	65.5% Jun 24	=

\* Latest data unavailable

#### Key to trends:

✓	Better
✗	Worse
=	Similar
?	Can't say

## Equalities Statement

North East Derbyshire District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and when delivering the services it provides to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

## Access for All statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or language or contact us by:

- Phone: [01246 231111](tel:01246231111)
- Email: [connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk)
- Text: [07800 00 24 25](tel:07800002425)
- BSL Video [Call](#): a FREE, three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on [0800 500 888](tel:0800500888). FREE phone service for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking.
- Visiting our [offices](#) at Wingerworth: 2013 Mill Lane, [S42 6NG](#).





## North East Derbyshire District Council

### Council

14 July 2025

## SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

### Report of the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

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

---

### **PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To provide Members of the Council with an annual overview of the work programme of the Committees during 2024/25.

---

### **DECISION ROUTE AND REASON FOR DECISION BEING BROUGHT TO COUNCIL**

- The report is for Council's information.
- 

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Members review the attached Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee's activities in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 

### **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

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:</b>	
<b>Stage 1 screening undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Yes  Details:

**Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Economic and Health implications.**

All

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to allow Members to review the summary of Scrutiny's activities during 2024/25.
- 1.2 The report provides an overview on the core activity for each of the Committee's and highlights any findings and/or future actions.

### 2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Section 14 of the Constitution requires the Council to appoint four Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 2.2 The four Scrutiny Committees have delivered the following functions:
  - (1) reviewed and/or scrutinised decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
  - (2) made reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
  - (3) considered any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
  - (4) assisted the Council and the Cabinet with the development of future policies and strategies.
- 2.3 Each of the four Scrutiny Committees have conducted their proceedings in accordance with the Scrutiny Rules set out in Section 14 of the Constitution.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The attached provides an overview of the work completed by Members of the Scrutiny Committees during 2024/25, and reviews the impact of work completed.
- 3.2 Members are asked to note the report as required by the Council's Constitution.

### 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report and the appendix have been prepared on behalf of the Scrutiny Committees with a view to informing Council of the Committee's undertaking of their statutory responsibilities.
- 4.2 There are no alternative options as Members are required to report to Council on an annual basis as determined in the Constitution.

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Annual Scrutiny Report 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



**North East  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

# **Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25**

## **Contents**

Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees 2024/25 .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Organisation of the Work Programme .....	6
Summary of the Work Undertaken During 2024/25 .....	7
Business Scrutiny .....	7
Shop Front Enhancement Scheme .....	7
“How’s Business?” Survey .....	7
Growth Strategy .....	8
Public Transport Provision .....	8
East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey .....	9
UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Outputs Achieved .....	9
Asset Management Plan .....	10
Communities Scrutiny .....	10
Leisure Activities for Older Children/Teenagers .....	10
Voluntary Sector Grants .....	11
Five Year Housing Land Supply .....	11
Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy .....	11
Met with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire .....	12
Adaptations Policy Update .....	12
Community Safety Partnership Annual Review .....	13
Allocations Policy .....	13
Environment Scrutiny .....	14
Energy Performance – NEDDC Buildings .....	14
Biodiversity Net Gain .....	14
Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) .....	15
Climate Change Strategy Action Plan .....	15
Re-Wilding and Wildlife Corridors/Verges and Planting to Improve Biodiversity .....	16
New Legislation for Waste Management and Disposal .....	16
Air Quality Monitoring Update .....	17
Energy Efficient Homes .....	17
Services Scrutiny .....	17
Budget Monitoring .....	18
Joint Information & Cyber Security Policy .....	18

Update on the 4-Day Working Week .....	18
People Strategy Action Plan .....	18
Pre-Planning Application Fees.....	19
Productivity Plan .....	19
The Council's Financial Resilience .....	20
Relationship between NEDDC and Rykneld Homes.....	20
Housing Inspectors Report.....	20
Second Green Bin Collections .....	21
Update on Gully/Drainage Works.....	21
Equality Policy.....	22
The Year Ahead – 2025/26 .....	22



## **Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees 2024/25**

### **Business Scrutiny – Council Plan Objective ‘A Great Place to Work’**

Chair – Councillor Suzy Cornwell

Vice Chair – Councillor William Jones

### **Communities Scrutiny – Council Plan Objective ‘A Great Place to Live Well’**

Chair – Councillor Michael Durrant

Vice Chair – Councillor Graham Baxter

### **Environment Scrutiny – Council Plan Objective ‘A Great Place That Cares for the Environment’**

Chair – Councillor Caroline Smith

Vice Chair – Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer

### **Services Scrutiny – Council Plan Objective ‘A Great Place to Access Good Public Services’**

Chair – Councillor Mick Smith

Vice Chair – Councillor Neil Baker

## **Introduction**

This report provides an overview of scrutiny activity at the Council and the work of the four Scrutiny Committees (each comprising 9 Members) during 2024/25. It covers the main topics overviewed and scrutinised during the year, outcomes of this work and future plans of the scrutiny function.

29 of the 53 district Councillors currently sit on one or more Scrutiny Committees. Their purpose is to hold the Cabinet to account – to comment on proposals before decisions are taken, to input into policy development and to monitor performance against corporate priorities. The Council's approach to scrutiny aims to reflect the nationally recognised principles for good scrutiny, as set out in statutory guidance:

- Provides constructive “critical friend” challenge
- Amplifies the voice and concerns of the public
- Led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- Drives improvement in public services.

Throughout 2024/25, our Scrutiny Committees have conducted their functions in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The focus of the Scrutiny Members over the next year will be on the challenges facing the Council, the Council's service provision and also the service provision of our partners. We aim to ensure that Scrutiny makes a valuable contribution through its work and looks forward to another year of collaboration with the Cabinet and officers of the Council to the benefit of our communities.

## **Organisation of the Work Programme**

At the start of the municipal year each Scrutiny Committee plans what it wants to focus on at scheduled meetings. They consider the services delivered, performance, priorities and challenges of those services and develops a Work Programme for the year to provide Members with key areas to focus on.

The Work Programmes are reviewed at each meeting and then agreed by the Committee. Any Member can propose possible items for consideration for the Work Programme. Each item proposed is evaluated to determine its relevance and purpose by the Chairs of each Scrutiny Committee. If added to the Work Programme, the Senior Scrutiny Officer will work with officers to ensure that the appropriate information is presented to the Committee for review.

Other items included in the Work Programmes are information bulletins, brief updates on specific topics and areas of interest, statutory items, performance monitoring or fact-finding pieces of work for items the Committee may wish to scrutinise in the future.

The Work Programmes need to be flexible in order to address any issues that arise throughout the municipal year. A number of new topics were added to the Programme during the year and the timing of some of the items were varied to enable key items to be considered in a timely manner. The Scrutiny Committees will continue with their flexible approach to Work Programming to ensure that they are able to react to issues as they arise.

The Work Programmes are aligned to the priorities and outcomes of the North East Derbyshire District Council Plan 2023 to 2027.

## **Summary of the Work Undertaken During 2024/25**

Each of the Committees has completed its Work Programme with the time available shared between consideration of key strategies and policies of the Council, performance monitoring, reviewing Cabinet decisions and identifying key areas for potential review.

2024/25 has again been a busy year for Scrutiny. During the year, 20 Scrutiny Committee meetings were held, and 35 topics were overviewed and scrutinised, excluding standing items relating to committee business and work programme planning.

The report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the four Scrutiny Committees during 2024/25. It details how the Council's Scrutiny function has worked to support delivery of the ambitions contained in the Council Plan. Scrutiny is an important non-political process carried out by Councillors on behalf of the residents of North East Derbyshire. Scrutiny raises standards by challenging the Council's performance and checking whether policies and services meet people's needs.

Further details of the topics the Committees covered as part of their Work Programmes for the year are highlighted below.

### **Business Scrutiny**

During the year the Committee met on five occasions. Topics covered included:

#### **Shop Front Enhancement Scheme**

Members were given an overview on the operation of the Shop Front Enhancement Scheme that was launched in April 2023 and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The presentation covered how the Scheme worked and what the grants could be used for, the number of approved grants (which ranged from £500 to £10,000), challenges the Scheme had created, and examples of successful improvements to shops across North East Derbyshire.

The Committee were impressed with the positive impact this had made to a number of shops across the district and felt that this was a great Scheme for supporting the local businesses within the district. Members were also pleased to hear that work was continuing with officers approaching the shops locally to talk to them about the Scheme with a view to spending the remaining balance of the fund before the Scheme ended in March 2025.

#### **"How's Business?" Survey**

The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager delivered a presentation to the Committee to inform them of the recent results of a Business Survey that had been undertaken within the district. The survey covered a variety of sectors, views on employment/recruitment, business expansion and the opinions of these businesses on an array of different aspects.

The Committee felt the Survey provided a good insight into the views of our businesses locally and highlighted areas where the UK Shared Prosperity Fund may be of benefit going forward so that businesses can be supported.

### Growth Strategy

The Council's Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes gave an overview of the Council's Growth Strategy and covered a wide range of elements including policy drivers, delivery mechanisms, housing, employment and skills, supporting businesses, town centre development and the visitor economy.

Members were informed that this was an evolving Strategy that was continuously changing in line with external factors such as Government changes. Given this, the Committee felt that an update on the position of the Strategy would be beneficial at the end of the municipal year with the Portfolio Holder being present.

The Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets and the Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes attended the last meeting of the year (May 2025) to provide an update on the Strategy. The Members were informed that the Council were now working closely with the East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) and changes to the Council's Strategy were being made to align better with the EMCCA Growth Plan.

The Committee were given an overview of the key elements of the Strategy and highlighted what the priority areas would be going forward.

Members were grateful to the Portfolio Holder for taking time to discuss the Strategy, and appreciated the obstacles overcome by officers to get to this position. The Committee agreed that the key priorities within the Strategy would help steer the future Work Programme.

### Public Transport Provision

The Bus Service Improvement Plan Technical Lead from Derbyshire County Council delivered a presentation to the Committee to inform them of the current bus service provision and expected changes in the County. The presentation covered details on current provision, the National Bus Strategy, DCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan, how funding is spent, works undertaken since 2023, bus service enhancements within the district, passenger satisfaction survey, plans for the future and electric buses. Members were informed that from April 2025 the responsibility for funding of public transport provision will be through the East Midlands County Combined Authority, so it was unclear as to what the service may look like in the future.

The Committee found the information useful, and they were able to highlight concerns around some bus services becoming more unreliable in recent years and the lack of services within the rural areas across the district. The officer present was able to note these for taking back to DCC. However, Members noted the changes that would be made to how the service was to be funded in the future and showed interest in looking at this further once the Combined Authority became the funding body.



### East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey

The Chief Executive of the East Midlands Chamber presented the findings of the Chambers Quarterly Economic Survey that was open to all businesses across the East Midlands, not just Chamber members. The Committee were informed of the views of businesses across the region on areas such as business performance, views on the current state of the economy, how business was doing i.e. sales/orders, views on the workforce i.e. retention, recruitment and learning/development, finances and growing concerns.

Members were saddened to hear that generally the views from businesses were not very positive due to the impact from the current economic climate. The Chief Executive of the Chamber did inform them that having spoken to other Chambers across the UK, this was the view nationally and not just our region. However, the Committee were informed that overall, although business across the East Midlands was not being seen as performing well, it did appear to be a lot better than most regions in the UK.

The Committee noted that although this appeared to be a national concern, it did highlight that as an Authority we needed to do as much as possible to support our local businesses. Going forward the Committee wanted to hear more about some of the support the Council offered to businesses, and also for the East Midlands Chamber to come back at a later date with their survey results from a later quarter to see whether views had changed.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Outputs Achieved

Given the topics that had been covered so far during the year, the Committee were keen to find out more about what the Council had been doing to support the businesses in the district, with specific reference to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a fund of just under £2.3m and had ended in March 2025. Therefore, the Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager presented the Committee with an overview of outputs achieved from the funding.

The Committee heard about the following:

- Business support i.e. Derbyshire Accelerator Programme, Vision Derbyshire Start-Up Programme, Shop Front Enhancement Scheme;
- Green and digital skills i.e. delivering courses aimed at businesses looking to diversify into green technology skills (electric/hybrid vehicle awareness, solar PV and heat pump installations etc). Also delivering courses aimed at businesses looking to bridge the digital skills gap within their workforce (AI, cyber security, digital marketing etc);
- Public realm works i.e. improvements around Dronfield including improved footpaths, additional handrails and benches, new landscaping outside the Leisure Centre and Civic Hall, improved lighting in the library gardens, car parking enhancements etc;
- Enhancing the district to increase visitor footfall i.e. variety of campaigns showcasing North East Derbyshire across different media, food and drink trails, seasonal events, “We Are North East Derbyshire” promotional video,

The Committee were impressed with the amount of work that had been undertaken by the Council's officers and the variety of support that had been offered and taken up by businesses across the district.

Members were keen to see this support continue, funding permitted. The Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager referenced some additional funding through the East Midlands County Combined Authority, however this was still to be confirmed. Once this was confirmed work would continue to progress with supporting businesses and providing some of the programmes/support already mentioned.

### **Asset Management Plan**

The Committee had previously consulted on the draft Asset Management Plan, however the Plan had been further developed to incorporate key changes and comments from the wider consultation that had taken place.

The final draft of the Plan was presented to the Committee, and key changes were highlighted and discussed. One of the key concerns highlighted by our Members was about the Council's Leisure Centres and the new "Active" branding that was being promoted on the building frontage. The views were that the re-branding was visually pleasing but Members felt that the Authority should also be promoting, and making it clear, that our Leisure Centres are an NEDDC asset and the NEDDC Coat of Arms should be present on the front of our buildings.

Following that meeting, Members were provided with a full briefing on the new "Active" branding and were assured that the Council's Leisure Centres were all being promoted as an NEDDC asset and there had been a lot of work done to link the NEDDC logo into the new "Active" branding.

### **Communities Scrutiny**

During the year the Committee met on five occasions. Topics covered included:

#### **Leisure Activities for Older Children/Teenagers**

Following the outcomes from the Residents Survey, undertaken in November 2023, one of the key areas of improvement highlighted within that survey was activities for older children/teenagers.

The Committee had noted this area as a potential topic to review and picked this up as part of the 2024/25 Work Programme where a spotlight review was undertaken.

Members were impressed with the number of activities on offer, and that these services were well organised. Members also agreed that the staff delivering those services were a credit to the Council showing positive attitude and genuine care towards others. However, they did make a number of observations and spot potential areas for change/improvement including:

- Pricing structure for juniors
- Membership offering

- Engagement with older children/teenagers
- Targeted promotion

The Committee submitted several recommendations to Cabinet, which were subsequently accepted, and work is now underway in implementing the improvements/changes.

#### Voluntary Sector Grants

Members were given an overview of the Council's funding to voluntary and community sector infrastructure support organisations in 2023/24, they were informed of the amount of funding each organisation was awarded and presented with the outcomes of what the organisations had achieved during the year. The Committee found the report useful but felt that the information presented did not include enough detail about how much, in monetary value, this has supported our residents. Given this, the Committee felt it would be beneficial to invite some of the organisations to a later meeting so that they could present on the benefits of the funding.

Following the above, three of the organisations (Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Law Centre and the Volunteer Centre) were invited to the meeting in May 2025. Each of the organisations presented a detailed overview on how they spent the funding from North East Derbyshire District Council. Members were informed how the funding from the Council supports the local residents and communities, and that the support given to residents was of a much higher perceived value than the funding allocated. Examples of this were supporting people with debt reconciliation, access to benefits, access to work, rent arrears etc.

The Committee were impressed with the work done by these organisations and the positive impact they have in North East Derbyshire. Given this, the Committee now wish to include on their Work Programme the Voluntary Sector Grants, and invite organisations in annually, rotating attendance depending upon level of grant.

#### Five Year Housing Land Supply

The Council's Assistant Director of Planning informed Members of the current position on the Council's five-year housing land supply, and the potential implications of the current Government consultation on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). They were informed that due to one of the proposed revisions to the NPPF, the method for calculating housing need would significantly change, resulting in a huge increase in dwellings to be built (from 242 dwellings per annum to 611 per annum). The Committee were informed of the implications this could have for the Council if the change was imposed and the quota was not met.

The Committee expressed concerns with the proposals and agreed to have a further update once there was certainty about any changes to the NPPF.

#### Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy

The Committee consulted on both Strategies, and the objectives of the strategies were shared together with the actions necessary to achieve them.

Members noted that the strategies aligned well with the Council Plan and felt that the strategies represented good work on sustainability and cost efficiency. However,

Members did suggest that liaison with Parish Councils could be utilised to further address furniture poverty to help those in need. Other elements of the strategies that the Committee raised as part of the consultation were around the impact of the Right to Buy scheme on the private rental market, affordable homes (the mismatch in household income and rent paid), and homelessness.

Going forward the Committee have agreed that it may be beneficial to look at homelessness/rough sleeping as part of a future Work Programme.

#### Met with the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

The Committee invited the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Derbyshire, Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts, to a meeting so that they could hear about her plans for the future and to also use it as an opportunity to raise a number of key concerns they had.

The Commissioner was joined by colleagues from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and she presented a breakdown of strategic priorities and an overview of the key partnerships that would be worked on.

Members also raised a number of key issues with the PCC and SNT, including:

- Police visibility
- Rural crime
- E-scooters
- Domestic violence
- Road safety

The PCC/SNT provided detailed and informative responses to all the concerns raised and advised of work either currently taking place or was due to take place within the areas of concern raised.

The Committee were grateful to the Commissioner and the SNT for taking time out of their busy diaries, the Members found the information really informative and felt they had a better understanding of the work being undertaken/due to be undertaken in reducing crime across the district.

#### Adaptations Policy Update

The Committee had previously been advised of some major changes to the Adaptations Policy, at the time there was some concerns about how these changes would affect the Council and what the cost implications would be. It was agreed that this would need further review once the Policy had been in place for at least 6 months to determine the impact of the changes.

Given the above, the Council's Housing Policy & Assurance Officer and the Head of Neighbourhood Services (RHL) were invited to a meeting to provide an update and outlined the implications of the changes made to the Adaptations Policy. This included a breakdown of the adaptation requests made under the amended policy, the impact on tenants and the impact on the Council/Rykneld Homes Limited.

Some Members had questions around the criteria for declining adaptation requests and the level of declines under the new Policy. The Committee were informed that the

policy update would lead to previously declined adaptation requests being accepted and that decisions to refuse adaptation could be appealed. The Committee felt that this represented a positive for tenants.

At the meeting the Committee were informed that there had been no major financial implications resulting in the changes to Policy to date.

#### Community Safety Partnership Annual Review

The Committee is statutorily required to review the Council's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) under the Police & Crime Act.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the work and performance of the CSP during 2024/25. The Committee heard about progress that had been made, what had been working well and the issues to overcome. The presentation also highlighted that the overall crime rate had reduced by 10% in the last year and detailed the areas that have contributed to the reduction.

Members raised some concerns around the disparity in what the Police define as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the view of the Council, Officers and residents. In this context, Members heard the types of ASB being reported that are not considered by the Police, and the new approach for addressing ASB at community level was shared.

Various areas of work within the Partnership were outlined which included the Prevent agenda, Target Hardening Project, more targeted communications, Domestic Homicide Reviews, ASB case reviews, also community projects such as Lend-a-Cams/Wildlife Cams which are covert cameras put into people's homes/gardens to detect ASB and other crimes to make people feel safer, the Graffiti project where the Council are working with a graffiti arts project to develop an area in Dronfield that has seen, over the last few years, an increase in hate related and offensive graffiti, Scam and Fraud Awareness sessions, and Extreme Wheels.

The Committee heard about several Closure Orders that had taken place (5 closures in 5 months), the versatility of these and the types of Closures that had been undertaken, and also the positive impact this had made on the affected communities.

The Community Safety Partnership Manager discussed those areas that had worked well this year including the relationships with partner organisations such as the Police, Rykneld Homes, DFRS, Derbyshire County Council. Other positive steps forward were the ASB Tasking and Solution meetings, Corporate Enforcement Group and the Police Tasking meetings.

The Committee were informed of potential challenges/issues for the coming year, this included managing the expectations of the local community and managing the level of work that comes through including the diversity of work that is received.

#### Allocations Policy

The Council's Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager and Rykneld Homes' Head of Neighbourhood Services presented the Committee with the Allocations Policy as part of the consultation process. Members were informed of the key proposed



amendments and given an overview of the reasons behind the changes and how this differed from the current Policy.

The Committee raised questions around the proposed new banding system for non-emergency homeless. Members were advised of how this would work and were informed that those with other vulnerabilities would still have higher priority and those in the lower bands had access to alternative options such as supported housing. It was in this context that the Committee were informed of the impact of the new banding system, and how this would be monitored and acted on accordingly.

Members also raised questions around the reasons for reducing the numbers of refusals permitted, the process for assessing prospective tenant's medical situations and where Asylum Seekers/Refugees fit into the policy. All of the points raised by the Committee were answered with a detailed overview.

### **Environment Scrutiny**

During the year the Committee met on five occasions. Topics covered included:

#### **Energy Performance – NEDDC Buildings**

The Facilities & Contracts Manager and the Sustainability Officer delivered a presentation on what the Council was doing to make its buildings more energy efficient, this included details on reducing carbon emissions, decarbonisation, the Council's facilities, challenges, future projects and CO2 emissions.

Members raised concerns around the energy consumption at Coney Green Business Centre and the vacant Pioneer House. The Officers explained the reasons behind this, and gave an overview of how the consumption was measured in these areas and the steps being taken to reduce the levels of consumption.

Overall, the Committee were satisfied of the steps being taken by the Council to reduce energy consumption across its premises.

#### **Biodiversity Net Gain**

The Assistant Director of Planning attended a meeting to inform Members of the actions being taken by the Council to comply with its responsibilities under the Environment Act 2021 to further the general biodiversity objective. This covered:

- Assessing the current state of biodiversity in the district
- The production of a strategic district-wide Action Plan relating to biodiversity
- Viability of delivering 10% net gain on allocated sites that do not have an extant planning permission
- Consideration for a 'call for sites' for land available in the district for net gain 'offsetting'
- Establishing a 'bank' of land for biodiversity enhancement where 10% net gain is not possible on a development sites (both Council assets and privately owned land)
- Participation in the development of the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- Consideration into biodiversity enhancement policies as part of the Local Plan Review

The Committee also welcomed Hollie Fisher from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to explain the Trust's role in the assessment of the Council and other elements that the Trust was involved in, with specific relation to the biodiversity net gain action plan.

Members discussed a number of aspects and raised questions around biodiversity including engaging with schools, baselines for net gain, transparency of the call for sites process, the role of Parish Councils, requirement for housing developers to comply with biodiversity net gain, and agricultural land.

Committee asked why the Council was not aiming for a higher uplift of say, 20%, rather than the stated 10% uplift towards biodiversity net gain and were of the view that 20% would be better. Members were informed that the 10% was a starting point and that once further work had been undertaken it may be feasible to increase this to 20%, however viability considerations were key to this.

The Committee were interested to see what progress is made on biodiversity net gain and agreed that it should be part of the 2025/26 Work Programme.

#### Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

The Committee welcomed the Net Zero Innovation & Delivery Manager from the Midlands Net Zero Hub, who had been invited to the meeting to talk about the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). Members were given an overview of:

- The Midlands Net Zero Hub?
- What is Local Area Energy Planning?
- Energy Systems Catapult (the organisation) and their method for Local Area Energy Planning
- The Hub's approach in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
- Socioeconomic Benefits
- Timescales

Members discussed the level of funding involved for the Plan and the presentation referring to how the East Midlands County Combined Authority would fund the whole cost. The Net Zero Innovation & Delivery Manager explained that costs would be kept as low as possible, because LAEP would simulate decarbonisation pathways to find the most cost-effective route to net zero.

The Committee found the presentation useful and informative. The Council's Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes was present at the meeting, and as his team cover Climate Change, the Committee asked that, if possible, the Council were included in any discussions on the LAEP that involved the district.

#### Climate Change Strategy Action Plan

The Council's Climate Change Strategy Action Plan was presented to the Committee, and gave details on specific areas targeted over the last several months, including:

- The Carbon Disclosure Project Report
- Dronfield Active Environment Management System Audit
- Home Energy Advice Team Hub
- Promotion of National Vegetarian Week

Although Members found the information useful and gave them insight into the work being undertaken in tackling climate change, they suggested that it would be beneficial to see some measurable targets against the actions in the Plan. The Programmes Manager noted this as an action to be taken forward.

#### Re-Wilding and Wildlife Corridors/Verges and Planting to Improve Biodiversity

The Committee heard from the Assistant Director of Streetscene, who gave an overview of the work the Streetscene team were doing to improve biodiversity across the district. This included an explanation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as well as a summary of current actions and plans in sustainability strategy.

There were questions raised over the Wingerworth Lido being taken over as a biodiversity site, and the reason behind this was clarified.

Members also had questions around perennial plants over seasonal plants, and also Parish owned flowerbeds as well as the width of verges in the district.

The Committee found the overview informative, and it answered a number of concerns/questions Members had about what the Council were doing on re-wilding, wildlife corridors/verges and planting to improve biodiversity.

#### New Legislation for Waste Management and Disposal

Committee received a presentation which provided an overview of the new legislation for waste management and disposal. The presentation detailed the new national strategy, including the legislative reforms, and the projected benefits of the new legislation. It also covered the potential waste management options to consider, the rough estimates of the costs associated with those options, and a breakdown of issues that need to be considered prior to implementation.

Members were informed that given the changes to legislation this would require new vehicles, mainly to deal with the food waste, and additional staffing will be needed to undertake the extra work required.

Members were informed on the amount of money set to be received as a result of the Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. Members discussed the potential options that had been presented and the cost implications. The Assistant Director of Streetscene clarified that the costs associated with the options did not take into account EPR funding as the amount that would be received was not known long term. Some Members had questions around how EPR funding was calculated, and they were informed that it was calculated using a model that officers did not have access to, but a Freedom of Information request had been submitted in this regard. The limited understanding of how funding was calculated was shared and discussed.

The Committee welcomed the Reforms as a positive change but agreed that there needs to be consideration given to their implementation. Members raised questions

relating to the recycling of glass, the size of new food waste caddies, and the likelihood of nationally standardised bin colours being introduced.

The Committee agreed that the Waste Reforms would result in significant changes to the Council's waste processes and increased costs. Given this, the Committee felt that it would be beneficial to have this on the Work Programme for 2025/26 once more information was available.

#### Air Quality Monitoring Update

Air Quality Monitoring had formed part of the previous years' Work Programme. The Committee learned about the types/sources of air pollution, Environmental legislation and the work already taking place to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide levels.

At the time, Members were pleased to hear that air quality was slowly improving across the district but felt that it needed to be monitored to see whether there were any changes to reported levels.

Therefore, the Council's Environmental Protection Officer, was invited to a meeting to give an overview of how air quality was looking across the district, and to advise on whether there had been any significant changes to report.

The Committee received an update on the air quality across the district. This included a breakdown of how air quality is measured (using NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes), where the monitoring points are and an explanation of the threshold amount of NO<sub>2</sub> pollution that indicates whether air quality is of concern. Committee were pleased to hear that the district was comfortably under the threshold across all locations monitored, which meant the air quality was good and there were no major concerns from the Environmental Health team.

#### Energy Efficient Homes

The Director of Customer & Strategic Partnerships (Deputy MD) for Rykneld Homes and Head of Regeneration & Development for Rykneld Homes informed the Committee of the work Rykneld Homes were undertaking to improve the energy efficiency of the Councils housing stock. Information included an overview of social housing in the area, a look at the energy efficient bungalows in Danesmoor, the figures behind the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and the feedback from customers. Members were also informed of how the work undertaken benefits the area and the plan for energy efficient homes going forward.

Members were informed that the Danesmoor project had been seen positively, and Rykneld Homes had received a lot of positive comments from the tenants. Members were also informed that the project had been useful in terms of understanding the importance of engaging with customers early on in the process.

The Committee felt that the work undertaken so far was making a positive difference, particularly in terms of visual improvements to the streetscene.

#### **Services Scrutiny**

During the year the Committee met on five occasions. Topics covered included:

### Budget Monitoring

The Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the Council's budgets, and at intervals during the year have been presented with quarterly budget monitoring reports for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme. The Director of Finance & Resources had also informed the Committee of revisions to the 2024/25 budget.

During the year the Committee were able to raise elements of the budget which they felt needed further clarification, this has included areas around budget variance and on specific projects such as the Fuel Island Project, Mill Lane Reception Refurb, Investment in Parking Solutions.

Overall, the Committee has concluded that the Council shows strong and stable financial health.

### Joint Information & Cyber Security Policy

The Assistant Director of ICT presented the updated Joint Information & Cyber Security Policy to the Committee. Members were informed that the aim of the updated policy was to make sure standards of security were constantly being maintained, and the new changes also reflected specific policies on areas such as WhatsApp use, the use of Teams and Generative Artificial Intelligence.

The Members noted the changes and were pleased to see the new additions within the Policy.

### Update on the 4-Day Working Week

The 4-day working week model had formed part of the previous years Work Programme. As it had been some time since the previous discussions on this topic, the Assistant Director of Governance was invited to a meeting to provide an update.

As part of the update the Committee were reminded that the previous report presented to them included information on the 4-day pilot at South Cambridgeshire Council. The current update included further details on the Government's guidance on the model, and independent evaluations on the pilot.

The Assistant Director of Governance advised the Committee that this Council had never actively explored the possibility of a 4-day working week.

The Committee found the update informative and acknowledged the Government's guidance however, a request was made that should the situation change either from Government or at the Council then this Committee wished to be informed.

### People Strategy Action Plan

The Managing Director attended the Services Scrutiny Committee twice during the course of this years' Work Programme.

Early in the year the Committee were presented with the People Strategy Action Plan and were given an overview of the Action Plan which set out actions under the four cornerstones of the People Strategy:

- Nurturing a great culture
- Ensuring wellbeing
- Always improving
- Effectively communicating and engaging

At the end of the year the Managing Director returned to give an update on progress made against the Action Plan. Members were able to see the areas of progress and raised a number of questions around recruitment and retention, and also expressed their concerns around the impact that the development of the “Super Council” may have within this area.

The Committee agreed to review the Action Plan as part of the 2025/26 Work Programme.

### Pre-Planning Application Fees

The Committee invited the Assistant Director of Planning to a meeting upon hearing about the implementation of a chargeable pre-application advice service at the Council.

Members were advised of the rationale behind the charging, they were also informed of the benefits of giving customers a clear set of expectations, and a cultural shift within the service towards frontloading the process by spending more time advising on schemes before a formal application was submitted. The Assistant Director of Planning highlighted the breakdown of charges that had been put in place.

Some Members of the Committee did not agree with charging for this service and given it had only just come into force the Committee requested that the item return at a later date with some quantifying data so that they could understand the impact of the charges.

The Assistant Director of Planning returned to the Committee several months later and was able to give an overview of the process following its implementation including enquiry levels, income achieved, issues highlighted and targets for the year.

Overall, the Committee felt that implementing the fees had been a positive step forward for the Council, and had created additional income at the same time.

### Productivity Plan

The Director of Growth & Assets presented the Council's Productivity Plan and gave an overview as to why the Plan was required, how the Plan was put together, where it was published, and its next steps.

The Committee were informed that the Plan was a public-facing document. Also, the Plan had been submitted to the former Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, but it was unclear what they would do with the Plans from all Local Authorities going forward.

Members noted the detailed work that had gone into Plan and were interested to know what would happen with the Plans in the future.



### The Council's Financial Resilience

The Corporate Finance Manager delivered a presentation to the Committee about the Council's financial resilience. The presentation gave detail on:

- Current financial climate
- Warning signs (financial difficulties)
- Lessons from S114 Notices at other Councils
- The Council's financial resilience
- Usable Revenue Reserves
- Council Tax

Members were informed that the Council's Financial Resilience was measured by the use of analysis and benchmarking. The Committee were pleased to hear about Financial Resilience and discussed the possibility of having a deeper look at this topic in general and how it is measured as part of a future Work Programme.

### Relationship between NEDDC and Rykneld Homes

Several members of the Committee had expressed an interest in hearing how the relationship between the Council and Rykneld Homes worked and invited the Director of Finance & Resources to a meeting to provide an overview.

Members were informed that Local Authorities have to comply with housing standards and had been working with Rykneld Homes on the governance arrangements, and over the years had developed a strong relationship. The Director of Finance & Resources also advised that there was a formal contract in place between the Council and Rykneld which ran for 5-year periods, and the contract was last reviewed in 2021.

The Committee had a number of questions including the role of the 'Client Team' and the 'tenancy standard'. Members were provided with details responses to all questions raised.

The Committee acknowledged the relationship between the Council and Rykneld Homes, and the work being done to manage the relationship. However, they requested that if any major changes between the Council and Rykneld Homes occur that they be informed.

### Housing Inspectors Report

The Director of Finance & Resources presented a report to provide an update on the recent inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing.

The Committee was informed that the conclusion of the inspection was the Council being granted a C2 grade after the Regulator for Social Housing considered all four of the consumer standards. C2 was the second-highest of the four grades. The judgment highlighted several areas of good practice as well as a couple of improvement areas, including stock condition surveys and categorising and learning from complaints. Members were informed that Rykneld Homes already had a lot of this work underway before the inspection.

Members were informed that the next step was to work with the Regulator towards a C1 grade and that Rykneld Homes have this in progress.

The Committee were pleased to hear the outcome of the inspection, and that plans were in place to work towards a C1 grade. Members asked to be kept informed as and when this was achieved.

### Second Green Bin Collections

Following the introduction of charging for those residents that have a second green bin, several members of the Committee had expressed concerns about this, and therefore invited the Assistant Director of Streetscene to a meeting so that they could understand the rationale behind the implementation.

The Committee were presented with an overview of the data from the second green bin collections scheme that had been introduced. This included a breakdown of the costs of the extra bins, where they had been requested across the district, and the expected income as a result of the scheme.

Members had a number of questions including the 3-month winter suspension, the growing season, the impact of the upcoming Reforms to Waste Legislation and the cost/income figures that had been set out in the report. The Assistant Director of Streetscene gave detailed responses to the queries raised and also informed the Committee that the implementation of charging had seen little negative feedback.

The Committee requested clarification on how green waste is disposed of, and a detailed breakdown was provided. In this context, the Members felt that there needed to be higher publicity around how green waste is disposed of, and also more consideration to promoting home composting to residents across the district. The Assistant Director of Streetscene noted these comments and agreed to take them on-board.

### Update on Gully/Drainage Works

As part of a previous Work Programme the Committee had heard about the gully/drainage works being done across the district, and the contract in place with DCC. At the time there had been some changes to the works required and also a new system had just been implemented, and therefore the Committee wished for this topic to come back at a later date to see how works were progressing.

The Assistant Director of Streetscene was invited to a meeting to provide an update on the works to date, this included an overview of the new system introduced by DCC to monitor and record performance of the gully cleansing activities.

Committee discussed the contract between DCC and NEDDC for gully/drainage works, and Members heard that the new system had increased collaboration between the two Authorities. Members were updated on the terms of the contract and how the schedule of the team that operates the service was managed.

Members discussed specific locations where gullies get blocked. Members heard that a street cleaning review was taking place which may help in this regard, and that the Council were working with DCC on cleaning frequencies.

The Committee welcomed the update, as it was felt that this was an important issue for residents across the district.

### Equality Policy

The Committee were asked to consult on the Policy following a number of changes that had been made. The Improvement Officer informed Members that the changes included the merging of two policies into one, and also had more elements added around mental health, wider disabilities and neuro conditions.

The Members noted the changes and were pleased to see the additions that had been made.

### The Year Ahead – 2025/26

Following the appointment of Members to the Scrutiny Committees at full Council on 19 May 2025, discussions with the relevant Chairs and Vice Chairs have been undertaken to discuss the development of their Work Programmes.

In the coming year, each Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive regular performance updates to ensure that services perform well.

Work Programmes for the year ahead are in progress and will be reviewed at each formal Committee meeting. When considering topics to include within the Work Programme each Committee will assess its suitability for overview/review and will consider elements such as the number of people it affects living and working in North East Derbyshire, whether the issue is strategic and significant, and whether Scrutiny can add value and improve performance as a result of their input.

The future Work Programmes will be published with the Agenda for each meeting and will focus on issues that are of importance to the Council, local residents and businesses, as determined by each respective Committee.

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Council**

**14 July 2025**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

**Report of the Chair of the Standards Committee**

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Amy Bryan, Governance Manager

Contact Officer: Amy Bryan, Governance Manager (01246 217391 / [amy.bryan@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:amy.bryan@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk))

---

**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To provide Council with an annual overview of the work of the Standards Committee during 2024/25.

---

**DECISION ROUTE AND REASON FOR DECISION BEING BROUGHT TO COUNCIL**

- The report is for Council's information.
- 

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Standards Committee Annual Report 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	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £125,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:</b>	
<b>Stage 1 screening undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2</li> </ul>	N/A – the report is for information only
<b>Stage 2 full assessment undertaken</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report</li> </ul>	N/A
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Yes  Details: Standards Committee on 2 July 2025

**Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Economic and Health implications.**

All

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to allow Members to review the summary of the Standards Committee's work during 2024/25.

### 2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The annual report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To enable Council to consider the annual report of the Standards Committee.

### 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report and the appendix have been prepared on behalf of the Standards Committee with a view to informing Council of the Committee's work during the past year.
- 4.2 There are no alternative options as this report is for information only.

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Standards Committee Annual Report 2024/25
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	





**North East  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

**Standards Committee Annual  
Report 2024/2025**

I am pleased to present the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2024/25, which outlines the Committee's work in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct at North East Derbyshire District Council.

The Committee has reviewed and updated the Council's Constitution and overseen the handling of complaints. I would like to thank my fellow Committee members, the Independent Persons, and the officers who have supported our work throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we will continue to monitor developments in standards in public life and ensure that our policies and practices remain robust, fair, and fit for purpose.

Councillor Kevin Gillott

Chair of the Standards Committee

The Annual Report outlines the work of the Standards Committee during the municipal year 2024/2025 and covers the following subjects:

- 1 Chair and Vice Chair of Standards Committee
- 2 Complaints
- 3 Independent Persons
- 4 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Complaints
- 5 Sexual Harassment Legislation
- 6 Code of Conduct on Good Governance for Local Authority Statutory Officers
- 7 Consultation on Virtual Attendance of Members at Meetings
- 8 Code of Corporate Governance
- 9 Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England
- 10 Applications for Dispensations
- 11 Gifts and Hospitality
- 12 Training
- 13 Policy and Constitution Review Work

Appendix A - Annual Report of the Independent Persons

## **1     Chair and Vice Chair of Standards Committee**

- 1.1     At the Annual Council meeting in May 2024, Councillor Kevin Gillott was appointed as the Chair of Standards Committee, with Councillor Helen Wetherall appointed as Vice Chair.

## **2.     Complaints**

- 2.1     No complaints regarding District Councillors were received during 2024/25.
- 2.2     No complaints regarding Parish Councillors were investigated during 2024/25.
- 2.3     The Committee considered new guidance that had been drawn up by the Monitoring Officer for those wishing to make a complaint. The guidance set out what details should be provided when alleging that a Councillor has breached the Code of Conduct.

## **3.     Independent Persons**

- 3.1     At Council in September 2024, the three current Independent Persons were all reappointed until the end of May 2027.
- 3.2     The Council's Independent Persons are:
- Amanda Orchard
- David Richardson
- Graham Hudson

## **4.     Local Government Ombudsman Complaints**

- 4.1     The Council received its Annual Review letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) on 17 July 2024. It contained information on how many complaints and enquiries had been referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and how many complaints were upheld or referred back for local resolution.
- 4.2     In 2023/24, there were 14 complaints and enquiries received by the LGSCO. Of these 14, three complaints had been upheld, three complaints had been referred back for local resolution, one complaint had not been upheld and seven complaints had been closed after initial enquiries.

**5. New Sexual Harassment Legislation**

- 5.1 The Committee considered the implications of The Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023, which placed a duty on all employers to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of their employees in the workplace.

**6. Code of Practice on Good Governance for Local Authority Statutory Officers**

- 6.1 The Standards Committee considered the new Code of Practice on Good Governance for Local Authority Statutory Officers, which had been published in June 2024 by Solace, CIPFA and the LLG.

**7. Consultation on Virtual Attendance of Members at Meetings**

- 7.1 The Standards Committee considered and recommended to Council a response to the Government consultation on virtual attendance of Members at meetings and on the use of proxy votes.

**8. Code of Corporate Governance**

- 8.1 As it does on an annual basis, the Committee considered the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

**9. Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England**

- 9.1 The Committee considered the Government consultation on strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England.
- 9.2 Several issues were highlighted, including the expected stringency of the new framework, the level of sanction powers that Local Authorities should have, the role of Independent Persons, the relationship between District Councils and Parish/Town Councils, and the level of clarity required in any new framework.

**10. Applications for Dispensations**

- 10.1 The Committee considered a number of applications for dispensations to participate in meetings where Councillors had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

## **11. Gifts and Hospitality**

- 11.1 The annual report detailing all entries on the Council's Gifts and Hospitality Register during 2024 was considered.

## **12. Training**

- 12.1 The Committee considered the attendance by Councillors at training sessions held during the year.
- 12.2 The Committee considered what training could be offered to Members during 2025/26.

## **13. Policy and Constitution Review Work**

- 13.1 The Standards Committee had undertaken its duty to carry out a review of the Constitution. During the previous two years the Committee's review of the Constitution had been an in-depth review making some significant changes, therefore only a light touch review had been required in 2024/25. Areas reviewed included:
- Delegations Scheme
  - Contract Procedure Rules
  - Planning Committee Terms of Reference
  - Council Procedure Rules
  - Committee Terms of Reference
- 13.2 The Committee considered the annual review of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.
- 13.3 The Committee considered the annual review of the RIPA Policy.

## **Appendix A - Annual Report of the Independent Persons**

I was consulted about two complaints during 2024/25, both made against members of Parish Councils. In the first case, the member involved was not acting in their capacity as a Councillor and no breach of the Code of Conduct occurred. Other aspects of the complaint fell outside the scope of the complaints procedure, and were not pursued. Despite officers' efforts to clarify matters, the complainant in the second case failed to supply sufficient information in support of their complaint and it did not proceed. I was satisfied in both cases that officers had considered the complaints appropriately and proportionately.

It has been a quiet year, so there is not much to report. The quietness may be partly as a result of dealing with the issues that have previously arisen.

It was also noted that the Independent Persons had assisted Rykneld Homes Board regarding remuneration of board members.