



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

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Date: Tuesday, 15 July 2025

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

Please attend a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday, 23 July 2025, at 10.00 am in Council Chamber at the District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Steuberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

<u>Members of The Committee</u>	
Councillor M Durrant (Chair) Councillor R Beech Councillor P Jones Councillor T Lacey Councillor P Windley	Councillor G Baxter (Vice-Chair) Councillor S Clough Councillor C Lacey Councillor J Stokes

Any substitutions must be notified to the [Governance Manager](#) in advance by midday the working day before the meeting.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 4 - 8)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 14 May 2025.

4 Planning Enforcement - General Overview including Developer Powers

Overview of planning enforcement and Developer powers, and how this affects our residents/communities.

David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning / Julian Hawley, Principal Planning Enforcement Officer

5 Cabinet Business (Pages 9 - 13)

To inform Committee of recent and forthcoming Cabinet business.

A digest of Cabinet decisions taken since May 2025. This information is published by Cabinet meeting on the Council's website. Cabinet Agendas, Decisions and Minutes can be viewed at: [Cabinet](#)

The Forward Plan of Executive decisions.

[Plans](#)

These plans are updated to include new business.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

6 Policy Development

To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council.

7 'Horizon Scanning'

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

8 Work Programme (Pages 14 - 19)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

9 Additional Urgent Items

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

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 10 September 2025 at 10.00 am.

Access for All statement

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

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025

Present:

Councillor Michael Durrant (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor Tony Lacey

Councillor Stephen Clough
Councillor Pam Windley

Also Present:

L Pepper	Assistant Director of Communities
K Drury	Information & Improvement Manager
F Green	Community Safety Manager
J Hayden	Senior Scrutiny Officer
T Burdett	Programmes Manager
G Smithurst	Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager
H Summers	Ryknelde Homes Ltd
L Taylor	Partnership Strategy Support Officer
T Fuller	Governance Officer

CSC/ Apologies for Absence

50/2

4-25 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Jones, C Lacey and K Tait.

CSC/ Declarations of Interest

51/2

4-25 Councillor G Baxter declared an interest in Item 5 – Voluntary Sector Organisations as a Board Member of Derbyshire Unemployed Centre, which worked closely with Derbyshire Law Centre. He declared that he would remain in the meeting for the Item as it was just a case of noting the presentations.

CSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting

52/2

4-25 RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the Community Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CSC/ Performance Management

53/2

4-25 The Information & Improvement Manager presented a report setting out progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place to live well' for the period ending 31 March 2025.

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

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

Committee considered the report. Members received an update on the vacancies within the Environmental Health team.

RESOLVED -

That progress against the Council Plan “A great place to live well” objective was noted.

CSC/ 54/2 4-25 Voluntary Sector Organisations (NED Citizens Advice / Derbyshire Law Centre / Volunteer Centre)

Committee received presentations from three voluntary sector organisations that detailed how their funding from NEDDC is spent. Committee also received a cover report that gave an overview of total spend on the voluntary sector and some key figures in regards to outcomes.

NED Citizens Advice delivered a presentation that detailed the charities core service, how they operate in North East Derbyshire, ongoing projects, the key statistics from the last year and the social impact as a result. The presentation also included detailed case studies that highlighted exactly how the charity helps residents.

Committee considered the presentation and thanked NED Citizens Advice for their positive work in the district. Some Members requested clarification as to what was meant by public value. Committee heard that public value was in regard to the gains made by customers of Citizens advice, for instance benefits gained and debts managed.

Derbyshire Law Centre (DLC) delivered a presentation that included its strategic aims, funding streams, the services it offered, the projects it was involved in and statistics detailing how many people it had helped in the last year. The presentation also included detailed case studies that highlighted exactly how the charity can have a positive impact on individuals, as well as the positive feedback received from residents.

Committee considered the presentation and thanked DLC for the work they do particularly in terms of improving the accessibility of train stations. In this context committee discussed the events that DLC had held to improve rail accessibility and the impacts as a result. Some Members had questions surrounding how DLC’s Step Into Work project operated. Committee received an overview of the support offered by the project and the process for applying to the project was shared.

The Volunteer Centre delivered a presentation that gave an overview of its main activities, detailed the key figures for the latest financial year and highlighted the

awards that the organisation had won. The presentation also delivered an insight into some of the innovative projects that the Volunteer Centre had been involved in, including twinning with a similar organisation in Chicago.

Committee considered the presentation and thanked the Volunteer Centre for the positive work they do in North East Derbyshire. In this context, Members expressed gratitude to the volunteers and highlighted that investment in volunteering represents an investment in the local area.

At the end of the presentations and discussion, the committee thanked the 3 organisations for their presentations and the positive impact they have in North East Derbyshire.

Committee discussed inviting organisations in annually, rotating attendance depending upon level of grant.

RESOLVED –

1. That Committee noted the presentations.
2. That Voluntary Sector Organisations be added as an annual item on the 2025/26 Work Programme.

CSC/ Community Safety Partnership

55/2

4-25

Committee received a presentation that provided an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the latest year. The presentation included an overview of the Community Safety Team, their areas of work, the progress they have made, what has been working well and the issues to overcome. The presentation highlighted that the overall crime rate had reduced by 10% in the latest year and detailed the areas that have contributed to the reduction.

Committee considered the presentation. Members discussed 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. The new approach for addressing ASB at the community level was shared.

RESOLVED –

That Committee noted the presentation.

CSC/ Policy Development

56/2

4-25

With the agreement of the Chair, Item 8 – Policy Development was taken next.

Committee received a report that detailed the key proposed amendments to the Council/Rykneld Homes Allocations Policy. The report included a breakdown of the reasons for changing the current procedure as well as the proposed amendments. Committee heard that this was the first stage of a wider consultation process and Members were updated on the process for getting the amendments approved.

Committee considered the report. Some Members had questions around the proposed new banding system for non-emergency homeless. Committee heard 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. In this context, Members heard that knock on impacts of the new banding system would be monitored and acted on accordingly.

Some Members asked for clarification around the reasons for reducing the numbers of refusals permitted. Committee heard that it would make the process of matching a prospective tenant to a house more efficient. In this context, it was shared that if a refusal was found to be reasonable then it would not count towards that person's limit. It was shared that the proposed refusal limit was in line with that of other housing authorities.

Some Members had questions surrounding the data that would be used for assessing prospective tenant's medical situations. The process for this was clarified and it was shared that the proposed amendment would not result in an administrative burden.

The Chair asked for clarification on where Asylum Seekers/Refugees fit into the policy. It was advised that these are already included within the policy, and when presented with these cases they are assessed per case.

RESOLVED –

1. That Committee noted the report.
2. That Committee agreed with the proposed amendments.

CSC/ 57/2 **Cabinet Business**

4-25 The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented a digest of Cabinet decisions taken since 27 February 2025. The digest set out key information for each decision.

The Senior Scrutiny Officer also presented Members with the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 April 2025 – 15 May 2025.

RESOLVED –

That the update was noted.

CSC/ 58/2 **'Horizon Scanning'**

4-25 The Senior Scrutiny Officer updated Members on potential significant changes in the Council's operating environment, including changes to national legislation and regulation.

Members were informed that a watching brief would be kept on the impacts of the changes arising the County Council elections.

CSC/ **Work Programme**

59/2

4-25

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Work Programme 2024/25 for the Committee to consider. Members heard that the 2025/26 Work Programme was being formed and suggestions were welcomed. In this context, committee discussed items for the 2025/26 Work Programme.

RESOLVED –

That Committee signed off the Work Programme 2024/25.

CSC/

Additional Urgent Items

60/2

4-25

None.

CSC/

Date of Next Meeting

61/2

4-25

The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place in the new municipal year.

CABINET DECISIONS 2025/26

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
9 June 2025	<p>Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement</p> <p><i>Relevant to Communities Scrutiny</i></p>	Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place	Non Key & Open	<p>(1) That the annual assessment of the five-year land supply of deliverable sites for housing be noted.</p> <p>(2) That the five-year land supply of deliverable sites for housing be published on the Council website.</p>	To ensure Members were aware of the Council's latest position on the Five Year Housing Land Supply, prior to publication of the information on the Council's website.
	<p>Public Consultation on Issues and Options for the New Local Plan and Proposed Update to the Adopted Statement of Community Involvement</p> <p><i>Relevant to Communities and Environment Scrutiny</i></p>	Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place	Non Key & Exempt	<p>(1) That the contents of the report and the pre-publication Issues and Options consultation material that will be made available, be approved for use for the public consultation.</p> <p>(2) That the proposed arrangements for the public consultation on the Issues and Options for the Local Plan be approved.</p>	<p>To ensure that Cabinet had the chance to review the progress of preparation of a new Local Plan against the timetable set out in the LDS and the proposed approach to the Issues and Options consultation.</p> <p>To ensure that Cabinet had the opportunity to consider the emerging Issues and Options consultation material (and feedback from members of the Local Plan Working Group on the material) before public consultation commenced later in June 2025.</p>

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				<p>(3) That responsibility be delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place, for approving the detailed wording of the Issues and Options consultation material and final arrangements for public consultation including the organisation of Focus Groups.</p> <p>(4) That the proposed update to the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement to reflect the use of new technology and communication methods that will be used in consultations on the Local Plan and for providing more regular updates on plan making be approved.</p>	



Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 June 2025 to 15 July 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah Sternberg
Assistant Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Published on: 15 June 2025

Cabinet members and their responsibilities

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

DECISION TO BE TAKEN	DECISION-MAKER	DATE OF DECISION	KEY DECISION	EXEMPT DECISION (INCLUDING GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION)	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Award of Contract for Financial Software <i>Relevant to Services Scrutiny</i>	Director of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer	Not before 30th Jul 2025	Key	Open	Councillor Pat Kerry	Director of Finance and Resources, Section 151 Officer
Disposal of Land to Enable Extra Care Facility <i>Relevant to Business Scrutiny</i>	Cabinet	31 Jul 2025	Key	Fully exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Councillor Jayne Barry	Director of Growth and Assets
Simpler Recycling <i>Relevant to Environment Scrutiny</i>	Cabinet	31 Jul 2025	Key	Open	Councillor Stephen Pickering	Assistant Director of Streetscene

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

CHAIR: CLLR MICHAEL DURRANT

VICE CHAIR: CLLR GRAHAM BAXTER

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 23 July 2025		
Planning Enforcement – General Overview including Developer Powers	Overview of planning enforcement and Developer powers, and how this affects our residents/communities	David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning / Julian Hawley, Principal Planning Enforcement Officer – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To understand the process and how developer powers are affecting our residents/communities</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 1	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing	
Homelessness Update	To receive an overview of homeless including rough sleeping	Lee Pepper, Assistant Director of Communities / Gary Smithurst, Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: To understand the process and how the Council deal with this issue	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees’ work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: To agree a Work Programme for the year	
Meeting Date: 19 November 2025		

Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 2	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Local Plan Update	Update on the Local Plan	David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To hear about the Local Plan and any changes/issues that have arisen</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees’ work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 25 February 2026		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 3	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer

	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 13 May 2026		
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 4	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	

Voluntary Sector Organisations Presentation	Organisation TBC	TBC (via Tris Burdett)
	Outcomes: <i>To understand how the organisations are utilising the funding from the Council, and what benefits it has for the organisation</i>	
Community Safety Partnership	To receive an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership	Faye Green, Community Safety Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To get an understanding of the CSP, including issues that may have arisen, and concerns going forward</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	

NOTES

- Full adaptations review – due 2025 – no date confirmed yet

- Five Year Housing Land Supply Update (add to end of year or 2025 Programme / include NPPF)
- Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy Action Plan
- Social housing priority
- UKSPF – Inclusive Communities – 26/27 W/Prog
- CAG/Luncheon Clubs
- Access to GP surgeries