

Public Document Pack



**North East
Derbyshire
District Council**

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Scrutiny Officer

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Date: Friday, 1 May 2026

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

Please attend a meeting of the Services Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at 10.00 am in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Steenberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

<u>Labour Group</u>	<u>Conservative Group</u>	<u>North East Derbyshire Independents Group</u>
Councillor Kathy Clegg Councillor Carol Lacey Councillor Derrick Skinner Councillor Christine Smith Councillor Mick Smith – Chair	Councillor Richard Spooner Councillor Neil Baker Councillor Kevin Tait	Councillor Ross Shipman

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

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 4 - 6)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Services Scrutiny Committee held on 24 February 2026.

4 Performance Management (Pages 7 - 18)

Council Plan Targets Performance Update.

Amar Bashir, Improvement Officer/Richard Shaw, Improvement Officer

5 Employment Rights Bill

A presentation on the legislation and how the upcoming changes affect the staff/Authority.

Sara Gordon, HR & OD Manager

6 Cabinet Business (Pages 19 - 28)

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

7 Policy Development

To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council.

8 Work Programme (Pages 29 - 35)

To consider the Committee's Work Programme, and to also 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, that could form potential topic items for the Work Programme in the future.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

9 Annual Scrutiny Report - 2025/26

To discuss the Annual Report with Committee Members.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

10 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.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Services Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for July 2026, and will be confirmed once the Committee Scheduled has been agreed.



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Access for All statement

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SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Present:

Councillor Mick Smith (Chair) (in the Chair)

Councillor Richard Spooner (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Neil Baker

Councillor Carol Lacey

Councillor Derrick Skinner

Councillor Kathy Clegg

Councillor Ross Shipman

Councillor Kevin Tait

Also Present:

J Dethick

J Wells

A Bashir

R Shaw

J Hayden

A Bryan

Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Corporate Finance Manager / Deputy S151 Officer

Improvement Officer

Improvement Officer

Senior Scrutiny Officer

Governance Manager

SSC/ Apologies for Absence

38/2

5-26 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Christine Smith.

SSC/ Declarations of Interest

39/2

5-26 There were no declarations of interest.

SSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting

40/2

5-26 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Services Scrutiny Committee held on 25 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

SSC/ Performance Management

41/2

5-26 The Improvement Officer introduced the report, which set out a summary of the progress made towards the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place to access good public services' for the period ending 31 December 2025.

The Committee was updated on progress under the following two strategies – Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the District and continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money. Underneath these two strategies sat various tactics, which were the Council's approaches to positively influence the strategies.

The update for this quarter included targeted support for residents, delivery of Healthy NED initiatives, award of three Community Grants, improvements to the

Planning service including a paid pre-application service, opening of a new 3G pitch at Clay Cross, ICT infrastructure upgrades, and progress against the BSL Charter including a residents' survey video. Overall performance was reported as mostly green, with services meeting or exceeding targets.

It was noted that temporary accommodation numbers had increased slightly to eight households over the Christmas period, including one B&B placement due to safeguarding issues. An auction scheduled for February was expected to realise approximately £0.5m in capital receipts. Clarification was sought on debt recovery activity and capital receipts, with officers confirming that further information could be shared. It was noted that the complaints target had been narrowly missed by approximately 1%, with officers agreeing to provide further detail.

RESOLVED – That progress against the Council Plan 'A great place to access good public services' objective, be noted.

SSC/ Medium Term Financial Plan Budget Monitoring Q3 2025/26

42/2

5-26

The Corporate Finance Manager presented the report which set out the budget position for the third quarter of 2025/26. This would then be presented to Cabinet on 26 February 2026.

It was reported that the General Fund was underspent by £751,000, largely due to savings against the pay budget, and there had been a small overspend on mailing costs and income was performing higher than forecast. Within the HRA, a small number of variances were highlighted, included higher than planned voids, which Rykneld were working alongside contractors to address turnaround times.

Capital expenditure variances were noted, primarily relating to the Clay Cross town centre regeneration scheme, with officers confirming that Derbyshire County Council's decision not to relocate the library may have financial implications; however, the project remained within the programme.

Council house void levels were discussed, with officers explaining that voids had been forecast at 2% but were actually currently around 2.7% due to increased notices and contractor changes. The Committee discussed the work undertaken to void properties, including refitting kitchens and bathrooms, and the impact of tenants refusing any upgrades or repairs during a tenancy.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SSC/ Cabinet Business

43/2

5-26

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

The Senior Scrutiny Officer also presented the Committee with the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period up to 15 February 2026.

Councillor R Shipman requested further details of the forthcoming Cabinet item – Management of Corporate Debt – Write Off of Outstanding Amounts. It was

stated that this could be presented to the Committee in future, but it would have to be dealt with as an exempt item.

RESOLVED – That the updated be noted.

SSC/ Policy Development

44/2

5-26

The Senior Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that changes to Taxi Licensing policies were on the horizon and would be presented to the Committee in due course.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

SSC/ Work Programme

45/2

5-26

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the current work programme and highlighted any changes that had been made.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

SSC/ Additional Urgent Items

46/2

5-26

None.

SSC/ Date of Next Meeting

47/2

5-26

The next meeting of the Service Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on 12 May 2026 at 10am.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Services Scrutiny Committee

Council Plan Objective – A Great Place to Access Good Public Services – Update January to March 2026

12th May 2026

Report of the Information and Improvement Manager

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Kath Drury, Information and Improvement Manager

Contact Officer: Amar Bashir, Improvement Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective - "A great place to access good public services" for the period ending 31st March 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That progress against the Council Plan "A great place to access good public services" objective be noted.
-

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

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

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.
<p>A great place to access good public services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district. Continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 The Council plan 2023-27 has four objectives:

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

Information on the work undertaken this quarter under the *access good public services* objective is contained at appendix one.

1.2 Under the good public services objective there are two strategies – Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district and Continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money. Underneath those sit tactics - our approaches to positively influence the strategies.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

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

2.2 The Council continued to improve access to good public services through strong partnership working, effective customer support and targeted community investment. High-performing customer services handled 14,812 calls with a low abandonment rate of 2.5%, alongside support through 381 Tell Us Once notifications and foodbank referrals. Investment in the voluntary and community sector strengthened local support, while co-location of NHS and Citizens Advice services at Clay Cross Active further improved access. Service planning and improvement were informed by robust district-wide data and engagement, including feedback from over 1,200 residents.

2.2.3 Most targeted metrics were met or exceeded. Regarding the three trend- monitored metrics, temporary accommodation increased slightly to nine households. Zero bed and breakfast placement were recorded. We received £658,550 in capital receipts against a target of £1 million for 2025/26. A further £327,350 of approved disposals are progressing through legal completion and are expected to complete in 2026/27

2.2.4 The report was taken to Senior Management team on 20th April 2026 for consideration and oversight.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 This is an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the council plan objective for good public services.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not applicable to this report as providing an overview of progress against the council plan objective for good public services.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	A summary of progress for the Council Plan objective – A Great Place to Access Good Public Services – for the period ending March 2026
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet you must provide copies of the background papers)	



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for **a great place to access good public services** for the period January to March 2026 (Q4)





A great place to access good public services

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



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

- Hosted RunWalkTalk session at Clay Cross with over 20 service providers in attendance.
- The Older People's Coordinator contract for Healthy NED has been awarded to Derbyshire Voluntary Action following a request for quotation process. The contract is valued at £50,000 over two years and commenced in January 2026.
- Eight Community Action Grants have been awarded to date, against a total of 23 available for 2025 to 2026. The total value awarded so far is £9,778.95.
- Annual promotion of support available to members of the Armed Forces community was issued alongside Council Tax bills.
- Grant agreements were issued in March 2026 to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Organisations. The total value of support awarded to infrastructure organisations is £135,377.
- Work progressed with the East Midlands Combined County Authority on development of a consistent Single Homeless Pathway across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

This includes agreed approaches to data collection and information sharing to support partnership working and service improvement.

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

- **Both the CAB and the NHS are now successfully operating from their new premises within Clay Cross Active. Feedback from Leisure Services is that the new arrangements are working well and the tenants are very happy with their new office/clinic space at the centre.**

Homelessness prevention and relief outcomes both exceeded 80 per cent, performing well above regional and national averages. At 31 March 2026, there were nine households in temporary accommodation and no households placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.

- The Local Land Charges migration project with HM Land Registry progressed to the quality assurance stage this quarter, following completion of manual register copying. This provides assurance that the service remains on track for transfer.

Progress against our objective:

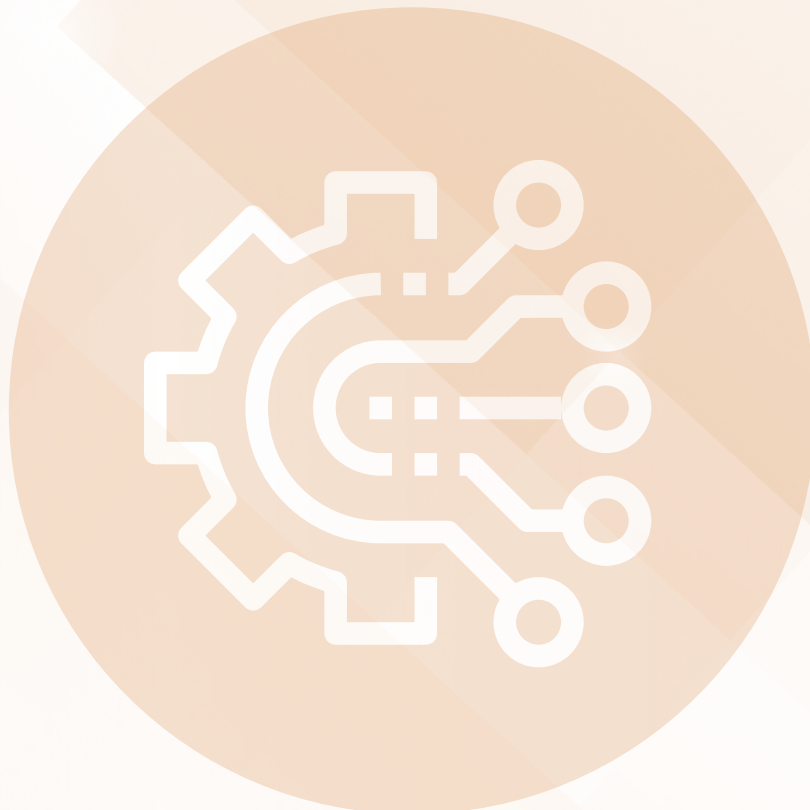


This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district***

- During the quarter, the Customer Services team handled 14,812 calls, with a low abandonment rate of 2.5%. Demand across other channels remained high, including 2,995 emails, 183 web chats, 81 text enquiries, and 2,555 face to face visits. Residents also completed 2,523 self service transactions, and the team processed 381 Tell Us Once notifications and issued 12 foodbank vouchers, supporting residents through a range of access routes.

Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements

- Town centre footfall data provides an indicative picture of activity levels across the district. While the data collection methodology has changed, quarter-on-quarter comparisons using the same approach show increased activity in Clay Cross compared with the same period last year, alongside broadly stable levels in Dronfield and Eckington. Data for Killamarsh is currently incomplete and will be reported once a reliable baseline is established.





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



Fiscally responsible and efficient

- Capital receipts for council assets have been lower than anticipated this year, with £658,550 achieved against the service plan target of £1 million. The February 2026 property auction did not perform as strongly as expected, with four lots achieving their reserve, generating £425,000 in receipts.
- In addition, a post-auction sale valued at £73,500 was secured for one of the unsold lots; however, this will complete in Quarter 1 2026/27 and will be reflected in the next financial year. A further £253,850 of capital receipts are currently progressing through legal completion. Had these completed within the financial year, total receipts would have reached £912,700.

• The industrial estate is performing extremely well, with units almost fully let. This places the Council in a strong position as an investing landlord and highlights the ongoing demand for industrial space.

- Overall capital receipts for this quarter totalled £1.340 million, bringing the full year total to £11.197 million, with £7.930 million generated through Right to Buy sales.
- Programme management continued across several major externally funded initiatives, ensuring effective oversight and value for

money. This included Public Health funding of £159,903 across 2025/26 and 2026/27, delivery of the £1 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, the Clay Cross Town Deal, and the £1 million Warm Homes programme allocated for 2025/26.

- Forward planning also progressed well, with a £1 million business case to the East Midlands Combined County Authority to support Clay Cross Town Deal delivery in 2026/27 and 2027/28 agreed in principle. This will help sustain regeneration activity while reducing reliance on Council funding.
- Development of the Three Pits Pride in Place operational arrangements progressed, alongside delivery of a site tour for representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, supporting future place based investment.
- Aged debt (outstanding for more than 120 days) within the Licensing service has reduced significantly. Comparing the position at 1 March 2025 with 1 March 2026, outstanding aged debt has fallen by 71%, reflecting improved debt management and collection activity.



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

Listen to customers (Residents and Businesses) to improve services

- **Between January and March 2026, the Council completed key corporate and place based consultations.**

This included reporting on the Residents' Survey, which drew feedback from over 1,200 residents and showed improved satisfaction with how the Council is run, providing a strong evidence base for service planning. Consultation was also undertaken to support the Clay Cross Town of Culture bid, demonstrating strong local pride, community support and a clear focus on inclusive participation and long term legacy, with findings used directly to shape the bid. In addition, place based engagement linked to Pride in Place activity is helping ensure community views inform local regeneration proposals and funding submissions

- Mobile customer service events were delivered in Dronfield on 23 January, Killamarsh on 10 February and Clay Cross on 12 March and were well received by residents.

Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do

- The initial review of the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy has now been completed. Proposed amendments were fully supported by the Asset Management Board in March 2026. A rebranded and updated version of the policy is currently being prepared, with a final draft scheduled for consideration by the Asset Management Board, followed by Scrutiny and Cabinet, prior to formal approval.
- Cyber risk management policies were aligned to the new corporate framework, with a cyber security strategy progressing and supply chain requirements embedded into procurement to strengthen organisational resilience.
- The Postal Vote Refresh process was completed by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2026. Almost 40 per cent of electors required to reapply did not submit a new application and consequently had their postal vote cancelled.
- Data mining activity commenced to identify potential electors and encourage voter registration, supporting democratic participation.
- During the quarter, 88 formal complaints were received, including a small number of cross-cutting complaints. 98% were dealt with within the Council's standard timescales, with two cases completed outside the standard.
- Eight internal reviews were received during the quarter; seven (88%) were completed within standard timescales, with one completed outside the standard.
- Two complaints were received from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO), both of which were dealt with within standard timescales.
- There are currently two Housing Ombudsman complaints under investigation.
- During this quarter, governance and transparency has been strengthened by drafting, reviewing and supporting a number of Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) and Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs). This included work relating to the use of overt surveillance systems, the Simpler Recycling scheme and the customer chatbot.



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

- Significant progress has been made on the development of the Council's draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, alongside supporting framework and guidance documents to ensure emerging technologies are adopted in a controlled, ethical and transparent way.
- The Revised Budget for 2025/26, the Original Budget for 2026/27 and the Medium Term Financial Plan covering the period to 2029/30 were considered by Joint Scrutiny and Cabinet and formally approved by Council in January 2026.
- The Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 was also approved by Council following scrutiny by the Audit Committee, providing assurance around the Council's approach to borrowing, investment and financial risk management.
- The annual review of the Constitution is nearing completion, with the revised document scheduled for consideration by Standards Committee on 29 April and recommendation to Council in May. Member guidance, including social media guidance and the Member Officer Relations Protocol, was updated in line with national guidance, with training planned following the annual meeting.
- Progress continued on migrating systems and data to cloud platforms, alongside major upgrades to key business applications supporting Revenues and Benefits, Planning and Finance. Work also progressed to modernise database platforms and improve device and application management for Members and staff, supporting secure and efficient ways of working.
- Service performance remained strong, with incident and service request resolution consistently exceeding targets throughout the quarter.
- During the quarter, modernisation and innovation were supported through enabling governance around new technologies, including development of a draft AI Policy and assurance for digital initiatives such as the customer chatbot.
- During the quarter, support and guidance were provided to Rykneld Homes to enable implementation of the GOV.UK Mail service, supporting more secure and efficient correspondence. A review of postal charges was also completed and considered by Senior Management Team, leading to agreement that underpaid postage on incoming mail will cease.

Modernise and innovate services to continually improve

- During the quarter, ICT activity focused on improving system resilience, performance and future readiness. Connectivity enhancements were made to support the continued move to cloud-based services, and procurement of a 24-hour security monitoring service was completed, with implementation planning underway.

- **Customer Services supported the development of the new chatbot solution by providing over 120 frequently asked questions and web links, improving the quality and accuracy of automated responses.** Progress on self-service check-in at reception was paused due to competing priorities and is planned to resume during 2026/27.



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

• **Digital screens were installed at three leisure centres to promote services and reduce environmental impact, while plans were confirmed to replace the 3G pitch surface at Killamarsh Active during the summer closure at an estimated cost of £110,000, supporting future football provision.**

• The new finance system went live in February 2026, with further modernisation delivered during the year. Payroll was implemented in December 2025, employee self-service launched in March 2026, and the income management system was upgraded to a cloud-based solution in February 2026. Implementation of cloud-based BACS is scheduled for April 2026, completing a programme of improvements to strengthen resilience, functionality and efficiency across core financial systems.

• Implemented new HR & Payroll System including HR and Manager Self Service.

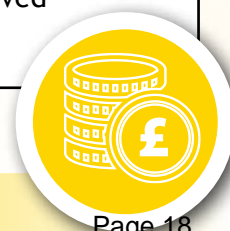
Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

- The 2026/27 health and safety training programme was developed and updated during the quarter to include additional UKATA Asbestos Duty to Manage courses, responding directly to feedback and requests from officers.
- Positive feedback was received from the Information & Improvement team during the Back to the Floor initiative, highlighting the value of leadership visibility and engagement.
- Microsoft 365 training continued to progress well, with the majority of staff completing Teams fundamentals by April 2026.
- The Employee Survey was undertaken in November/December, with results analysed and shared. An action plan is now in place to address the key themes identified. Include under this tactic.



Metric	Target	Quarter 4 Value	RAG or Trend
Average Time to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days)	20	19.25 days	
Average time to process change in circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days)	6	1.89 days	
Council Tax collected %	Annual target 96.14%	96.60%	
NNDR Collected %	Annual target 96.66%	96.08%	
Total number in Temporary Accommodation	Decrease	9	↔ Q3 - 8
Total number in Bed & Breakfast	Decrease	0	↓ Q3 - 1
% of formal complaints responded to within 15 working days	98%	98%	
% of internal reviews responded to within 20 working days	85%	88%	
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£) (Cumulative)	Increase	£658,550 (see note)	↑ Q3 - £233,550

Total number in Temporary Accommodation	<p>The number of households in temporary accommodation is now consistently low and typically in single figures. As a result, small fluctuations can occur from quarter to quarter and are influenced by factors largely outside the Council’s direct control, such as levels of homelessness approaches, availability of suitable vacant properties, and access to private rented sector accommodation.</p> <p>Temporary Accommodation levels for North East Derbyshire have consistently been the lowest of any Derbyshire Local Authority over the course of 2025/26</p>
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£) (Cumulative)	<p>Capital receipts for 2025/26 are currently expected to be around £750,000, below the £1 million target. Receipts of £658,550 were achieved during the year, with further disposals delayed due to market conditions, legal processes and planning dependencies.</p> <p>A further £327,350 of approved disposals are progressing through legal completion and are expected to complete in 2026/27, placing the Council in a strong position for the new financial year, with over 25% of next year’s target already identified. Additional disposals have been approved and prepared for future auctions, supporting continued progress against the medium term capital strategy.</p>



CABINET DECISIONS 2025/26

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
26 Feb 2026	Council Plan 2023-2027 Performance Update - October to December 2025 – Relevant to ALL Scrutiny Committees	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	That progress against the Council Plan 2023-2027 objectives be noted.	This is an information report to keep Cabinet informed of progress against the council plan objectives.
	Update of the Council's Local Enforcement Plan – Relevant to Environment Scrutiny	Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place	Non Key & Open	To amend the current Enforcement Plan in line with the details in this report.	To ensure that the Enforcement Plan accurately reflects the service provided by the team, is transparent in respect of how suspected breaches of planning control are prioritised and includes Key Performance Indicators to benchmark performance.
	Local Plan Timetable - Proposed Update to the Local Development Scheme – Relevant to ALL Scrutiny Committees	Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet approves the updated timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan and associated changes to the published Local Development Scheme, authorises its publication and that it shall have immediate effect.	To enable the Council to progress with Plan Making with the aim of achieving submission of the Local Plan by the end of December 2026 in line with the Government's proposed transitional arrangements. This will enable the Council to get an up to date plan in place at the earliest opportunity and limit the Council's exposure to ad hoc speculative development.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
					<p>In order for the updated scheme to take effect Cabinet must formally resolve that the scheme is to have effect and specify the date from which it is to have effect.</p>
	<p>Local Plan Issues & Options - Consultation on the Strategic Approach to the Location of Development and Schedule of Refined Sites – Relevant to ALL Scrutiny Committees</p>	<p>Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Place</p>	<p>Non Key & Open</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Members considered the content of this report and the pre- publication Issues and Options consultation material that will be made available and approve its use for public consultation. 2. That Members approve the proposed arrangements for public consultation on the Issues and Options for the Local Plan. 3. That Members delegate responsibility 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. 	<p>To ensure that the Cabinet has the opportunity to consider the feedback to public consultation on the Issues and Options consultation, alongside the latest evidence and understand how this has shaped the proposed strategic approach to the location of development.</p> <p>To ensure that the Cabinet is aware of the refined schedule of sites and how these align with the proposed strategy for the location of development; and agree the material and associated arrangements for public consultation in March/April 2026.</p>

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
	Grassmoor and Holmewood Area Pride in Place – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny	Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets	Non Key & Open	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet agrees to support and become accountable body for the Pride in Place Programme whilst the Council is managing the Programme. 2. That Cabinet endorses the proposed Pride in Place delivery framework. 3. That Cabinet delegates to the Leader Council nominations for Pride in Place board and any other roles in the governance structure, both now and in the future. 4. To ensure engagement across the whole Pride in Place area, adopt the name 'Three Pits Pride in Place (PIP)' for the promotion and consultation of the Programme. 	Providing the proposed level of support and commitment to the Three Pits PiP adheres to the principles established in the MHCLG guidance and ensures that a robust and compliant delivery framework is in place. This enables the local community, businesses, MPs, Council and other service providers and stakeholders to shape the delivery of the Three Pits PiP Programme to meet their unique local needs and priorities whilst not exposing the Council to significant risk or significant negative resource implications.
	Medium Term Financial Plan - Budget Monitoring Report, April to December 2025 – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet note the report and made any comments that they believe to be appropriate with regards to the budget monitoring position outlined.	The report summarises the financial position of the Council following the first quarter's budget monitoring exercise for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
	Treasury Management Strategy Update - April to December 2025 (Quarter 1 to Quarter 3) – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet note the report concerning the Council's Treasury Management report for Quarter 3.	To ensure that the Cabinet is kept informed of the latest position concerning treasury management.
	LGR Statutory Consultation Response – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor K Gillott, Portfolio Holder for Local Government Reorganisation	Non Key & Open	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the statutory consultation process for Local Government Reorganisation in Derbyshire. 2. Agreed the proposed responses to the Government's statutory consultation questions set out in section 6 of this report, including explicit support for Option A1 within the <i>One Derbyshire, Two Councils</i> proposals and use the wording in the report to inform the response to all Derbyshire consultation questions. 3. Delegated any minor changes to the final response, for all Derbyshire consultation questions, to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. 	The statutory consultation process for Local Government Reorganisation seeks the Council's responses to all consultation questions. Submitting responses will ensure that the Council's position, including our support for Option A1, is clearly and consistently articulated to Government
	Management of Corporate Debt - Write Off of Outstanding Amounts – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Exempt	That Cabinet agrees to write off the amounts in respect of council tax, business rates and rents as detailed in Appendix 1 .	All available options to recover this debt have been explored with write off being the final option in the debt management process.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
30 March 2026	Oak Fields Development Update – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets	Key & Exempt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet approves a payment schedule as set out in paragraph 2.12. 2. That Cabinet agrees that, following determination of the revised planning application and further progress on warranty matters, a further Deed of Variation to the Share Purchase Agreement is executed, reprofiling of remaining payments to a “little and often” structure. 3. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Growth and Assets, in consultation with the Leader and the Section 151 Officer to agree terms and complete the Deed of Variations to give effect to the above, including appropriate protection of the Council's security. 	The recommendations are made to ensure the Council manages the timing of contractually agreed payments in a prudent and proportionate way, while safeguarding its legal position and financial interests during the determination of the current planning application and completion of related technical reviews.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
16 April 2026	Corporate Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor J Birkin, Portfolio Holder for Council Services	Non Key & Open	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the review of the Corporate Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy be noted. 2. That the formal response timescale for complaints be amended so that complaints are answered within 10 working days instead of the current 15 working days. 	<p>To work in line with LGSCO recommendations and best practice.</p> <p>To address audit recommendations following the internal audit review on complaints (July 2025), which recommended harmonising NEDDC's formal complaints handling code to 10 working days – See Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>A complaints Procedure Survey was conducted from 15 December 2025 to 25 January 2026 to gather residents' views on the acceptable response times. Outcome above, for complaints survey – see Appendix B to the report.</p> <p>To align with other local neighbouring authorities. The proposed change will require clear communication to staff and adequate support to ensure compliance with the new timescale.</p>

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
					<p>Ongoing monitoring will be necessary to assess the impact of the change on complaint handling performance and staff workload. The policy should be reviewed again in three years, or sooner if further best practice guidance emerges.</p>
	<p>Medium Term Financial Plan Update – Final Settlement – Relevant to Services Scrutiny</p>	<p>Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance</p>	<p>Non Key & Open</p>	<p>That Cabinet noted the report.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Cabinet is kept informed of the latest position concerning the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p>
	<p>Housing at North Wingfield (Whiteleas) Development – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny</p>	<p>Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance</p>	<p>Non Key & Exempt</p>	<p>That Cabinet agreed to the proposed change of mix required on the Whiteleas development at North Wingfield.</p>	<p>Developing the vacant Council owned land at Whiteleas supports the delivery of new homes in the District.</p> <p>Changing the mix supports the Council's commitment to the delivery of high-quality affordable housing for rent in the District.</p>



North East Derbyshire
District Council

Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 April 2026 – 15 May 2026

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 217375 or email: torin.fuller@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

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Cabinet members and their responsibilities

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

DECISION TO BE TAKEN	DECISION-MAKER	DATE OF DECISION	KEY DECISION	EXEMPT DECISION (INCLUDING GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION)	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
New Lease of Plot 29 and 29A Bridge Street, Clay Cross – Relevant to Business Scrutiny	Assistant Director of Property, Estates and Assets	28 May 2026	Key	Fully exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets	Assistant Director of Property, Estates and Assets

SERVICES SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26
CHAIR: CLLR MICK SMITH
VICE CHAIR: CLLR RICHARD SPOONER

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 29 July 2025		
Financial Outturn 2024/25	To receive the financial outturn for 2024/25 Outcomes: <i>Gained an overview of the outturn for 2024/25</i>	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / Justine Wells, Corporate Finance Manager — ACCEPTED
Medium Term Financial Plan Budget Monitoring Q1 2025/26	To receive the budget monitoring report for 2025/26 — Quarter 1 Outcomes: <i>Gained an understanding of the Council's financial outturn position for 2024/25</i>	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / Justine Wells, Corporate Finance Manager — ACCEPTED
Generative Artificial Intelligence — Task Group Update	Overview on Generative Artificial Intelligence and steps the Council are taking Outcomes: <i>Understand the work being undertaken across the Authority. ACTION: Come back in 6 mths for an update</i>	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / David Vickers, Communications, Marketing & Design Manager — ACCEPTED
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan Outcomes: <i>Learned about the Cabinet Decisions made to date and upcoming reports going forward to Cabinet</i>	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	David Vickers, Communications, Marketing & Design Manager — ACCEPTED

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Strategy 	
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Agreed a Work Programme going forward for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 9 September 2025 (moved from 2 September)		
Overview of Council's Complaints Procedure	To receive an overview of the Council's complaints procedure and reporting system	Rachael Pope, Customer Services Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained an understanding of the Council's complaints procedure and reporting system.</i>	
Missed Wheelie Bin Collections	To receive an overview of how missed wheelie bin collections are recorded and processed.	Darren Mitchell, Streetscene & Waste Services Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into missed bin collections, and how these are dealt with including changes to reporting system</i>	
Local Plan Update	Update on the Local Plan	David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Heard about the work done so far on the Local Plan and any changes/issues that have arisen</i>	

Equality Plan and Duty Review 2024/25	To receive the Equality Action Plan	Kath Drury—Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir—Improvement Officer— ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained an understanding of the Action Plan</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update—Quarter 1	Kath Drury—Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir—Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into the quarterly targets to date, and how areas are performing.</i> ACTION: <i>Circulate Annual Audit Report</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Informed of Cabinet Decisions made to date and what topics are due to be presented in the future</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>Considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Agreed the Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 25 November 2025		

NEDDC Park Equipment	Overview of NEDDC owned parks/play areas	Darren Mitchell, Streetscene and Waste Services Manager / Cate Harris, Streetscene Coordinator – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained an insight into parks/play areas owned by NEDDC, including how many and location, age of equipment, maintenance schedules and plans for upgrades</i>	
Medium Term Financial Plan— Revised Budget	To receive the revised budget for 2025/26	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / Justine Wells, Corporate Finance Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained an understanding of the Council's financial outturn position for 2024/25</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 2	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into the quarterly targets to date, and how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Informed of Cabinet Decisions made to date and what topics are due to be presented in the future</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>Considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	

Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Agreed the Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 24 February 2026		
Generative Artificial Intelligence — Update — DEFERRED UNTIL A LATER MEETING AS PART OF STOCKTAKE REVIEW	Update on generative Artificial Intelligence and current position	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / David Vickers, Communications, Marketing & Design Manager — ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gain an understanding of AI and steps being taken</i>	
Medium Term Financial Plan Budget Monitoring Q3 2025/26	To receive the financial outturn for 2025/26 — Quarter 3	Jayne Dethick, Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) / Justine Wells, Corporate Finance Manager — ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into the Council's financial outturn position for 2024/25</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update — Quarter 3	Kath Drury — Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir — Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into the quarterly targets to date, and how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Informed of Cabinet Decisions made to date and what topics are due to be presented in the future</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>Considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>Agreed the Work Programme for the year</i>	
Meeting Date: 12 May 2026		
People Strategy Action Plan - Annual Update – DEFERRED UNTIL A LATER MEETING AS PART OF STOCKTAKE REVIEW	Update on progress made against the Action Plan	Lee Hickin – Managing Director / Sara Gordon – HR & OD Manager - TBC
	Outcomes: <i>To understand the progress of work that has been taken against the Strategy/Action Plan</i>	
Employment Rights Bill	Overview of the legislation and how the upcoming changes affect the staff/Authority	Sara Gordon – HR & OD Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To gain an understanding of the legislation</i>	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 4	Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To gain insight into the quarterly targets to date, and see how areas are performing</i>	
Cabinet Business	Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To identify Cabinet Decisions made to date and see what topics are due to be presented in the future, and determine if any require further follow-up by Scrutiny</i>	

Policy Development	To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council	Kath Drury – Information, Engagement and Performance Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement 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

- Annual Local Government Ombudsman Report – due around May/June
- Generative Artificial Intelligence – Update (Stocktake review in June 2026)
- People Strategy Action Plan Update (Stocktake review in September 2026)
- Licensing Policy – 2027
- Asset Disposal – list of disposals which goes to AMB annually
- Corporate Debt, including list of write offs – Annually (check when it goes to Cab, usually early in year) – EXEMPT ITEM

HORIZON SCANNING (topics to be aware of going forward including legislation, regulation and key projects)

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Local Plan