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North East Derbyshire District Council

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Date: Friday, 6 February 2026

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

Please attend a meeting of the Business Scrutiny Committee to be held on **Monday, 16 February 2026 at 3.00 pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2**.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Sternberg

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

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

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

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes of Last Meeting (Pages 4 - 7)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Business Scrutiny Committee held on 10 November 2025.

4 Performance Management (Pages 8 - 14)

Council Plan Targets Performance Update.

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

5 Digital Connectivity

To receive an update from Digital Derbyshire on connectivity across Derbyshire.

Ian Stoddart, Digital Connectivity Manager, DCC

6 Cabinet Business (Pages 15 - 29)

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 30 - 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 Reflection on the Council Plan

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

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 Business Scrutiny Committee is scheduled to take place on 11 May 2026 at 3.00 pm.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Access for All statement

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BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:

Councillor Suzy Cornwell (Chair) (in the Chair)
Councillor Richard Welton (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Clive Fletcher
Councillor Lee Hartshorne
Councillor Pam Windley
Councillor Christine Gare
Councillor Tony Lacey

Also Present:

S Lee	Assistant Director of Regeneration and Programmes
K Drury	Information & Improvement Manager
T Burdett	Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager
J Hayden	Senior Scrutiny Officer
T Scott	Governance and Scrutiny Officer
S Knowles	Chief Executive of East Midlands Chamber

BSC 26/25-26 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Emmens and W Jones

BSC 27/25-26 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

BSC 28/25-26 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Business Scrutiny Committee held on 8 September 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

BSC 29/25-26 **Performance Management**

The Information & Improvement Manager presented a report setting out progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place to work' for the period ending 30 June 2025.

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

1) Community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents.
2) Community with growing commutable employment opportunities.

The Information & Improvement Manager explained that notable progress included the launch of a Digital Skills project to upskill residents, new apprenticeships with local colleges for Streetscene operatives, and successful funding for Lifeguard and Swimming Teacher training leading to new appointments. Business engagement remained high through regular network meetings, and the Shopfronts Improvement Scheme awarded 15 grants to revitalise local high streets. The Council's placement programme saw two students move into appointed roles, and preparations were underway for the new food waste service, with recruitment of 16 additional staff in progress. Efforts to attract and support new businesses continued, with active promotion of Coney Green Business Centre and new business units at Baileys Square in Clay Cross helping to create further opportunities for local enterprise and employment.

RESOLVED - That progress against the Council Plan "A great place to work" objective was noted.

BSC 30/25-26 **East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results**

The Chief Executive of the East Midlands Chamber (Scott Knowles) was welcomed to the meeting. He delivered a presentation to the Committee which set out the results of the East Midlands Economic Performance and Prospects Quarterly Economic Survey for Quarter 3 of 2025.

The results in the presentation included responses about:

- Performance
- State of the Economy
- Sales and Orders
- Workforce
- Recruitment
- Cashflow and Capacity
- Prices
- Investment Intentions
- Confidence
- Growing concerns

The Committee discussed the East Midlands Chamber's use of Artificial Intelligence. The Chief Executive of the East Midlands Chamber explained that the Chamber's hope for the future would be that AI leads to the Chamber investing less in training.

Members enquired about how the business support fund was provided to the East Midlands Chamber. The Chief Executive of the East Midlands Chamber stated that a business support fund was provided to East Midlands Chamber and the East Midlands Combined County Authority, and the fund was split between the two bodies.

Committee were also informed that next year, UKSPF funding will be significantly reduced and this will have an impact on the business support provided locally.

The Chair thanked Mr. Knowles for his attendance.

RESOLVED – That the presentation was noted.

BSC 31/25-26 **NEDDC "How's Business?" Survey Results**

The Programmes Manager delivered a presentation to Members to inform them of the results of the Business Survey 2025 recently undertaken. Members were informed that it was the second time a survey of this kind had been undertaken at the Council, so the presentation would make comparisons between the Business Surveys of 2024 and 2025.

The Committee were informed that a Workforce Development Survey would be undertaken in early 2026, which will complement the Business Survey.

The presentation split the results of the Survey up into a number of areas to show who completed them, including local areas, sectors, employee numbers, business performance, barriers and their opinions on an array of different subjects.

The Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes informed the Committee that there is a need to support businesses in terms of skills, and the Accelerator Programme has been a good way to support this.

The Committee asked how we can try and secure a higher level of funding in the future from EMCCA, and Members were informed that the best way to do this will be through the Leader and raising it at the Strategic Leadership Board. The Chair requested that the Senior Scrutiny Officer email the Leader with a request to continue to lobby for further funding at the SLB.

RESOLVED - That the presentation was noted.

BSC 32/25-26 **Cabinet Business**

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

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

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

BSC 33/25-26 **Policy Development**

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

RESOLVED – That the update was noted.

BSC 34/25-26 **Work Programme**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Work Programme 2025/26 for the Committee to consider.

The Committee noted the Programme for the remainder of the year.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme 2025/26 be approved.

BSC 35/25-26 **Reflection on the Council Plan**

The Chair expressed her views and felt that this had been a positive meeting and a lot of constructive discussion had taken place.

Members were pleased that the two presentations included so much specific detail.

BSC 36/25-26 **Additional Urgent Items**

None.

BSC 37/25-26 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Business Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on 16 February 2026 at 3.00 pm.

North East Derbyshire Council

Business Scrutiny Committee

Council Plan Objective – A Great Place to Work – Update October to December 2025

16th February 2026

Report of the Information and Improvement Manager

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Kath Drury, Information and Improvement Manager

Contact Officer: As above

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective - "A great place to work" for the period ending 31st December 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

IMPLICATIONS

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

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes☐** **No ☒**
Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

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

Links to Council Plan priorities: • **A great place that cares for the environment** • **A great place to live well** • **A great place to work** • **A great place to access good public services**
A great place to work council plan objective: • A community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents. • A community with growing, commutable employment opportunities.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

The Council plan 2023-27 has four objectives:

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

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

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

2. Details of Proposal or Information

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

2.2 The Council made notable progress in developing skills, employment pathways and business growth across the district. This included delivery of the Derbyshire Accelerator Programme supporting 12 businesses this quarter, with 15 enterprises adopting new technologies and processes. Digital skills provision expanded further, with training in AI, marketing and cybersecurity delivered to 19 residents. Staff development continued through lifeguard, gymnastics and swim-teaching qualifications through UKSPF funding, while a Jobs Fair at Clay Cross Active attracted 263 attendees and 36 employers. Occupancy levels at Baileys Square remain positive, with tenants secured for 80% of units and further units under offer. This is complemented by a fully committed Shopfronts Scheme, awarding 22 UKSPF-funded grants to support high street revitalisation.

2.3 The report was taken to Senior Management team on 26th January 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 a great place to work.

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4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

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

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	A summary of progress for the Council Plan objective – A great place to work – for the period ending December 2025
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet, you must provide copies of the background papers)	

North East Derbyshire District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for A great place to work for the period October to December 2025 (Q3)

A great place to work

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

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

- A 24 day 'shop local' promotional campaign was delivered via Instagram, showcasing local businesses throughout December.
- **Supported staff development through UKSPF funded training, including lifeguard, gymnastics and swim teaching qualifications.**
- Delivered a Jobs Fair at Clay Cross Active in partnership with Derbyshire County Council, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Economic Development, with 36 employers / providers available and 263 individuals in attendance.
- Approved commercial development applications including warehouse, office and industrial units in Stonebroom, Dronfield and Markham Vale.
- Planning continued for the recruitment of 16 additional staff required for food waste service delivery commencing April 2026.

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

- Secured tenants for approximately 80% of Baileys Square units, with further units under offer.
- Continued engagement with the Vision Derbyshire Start Up Programme.
- **Shopfronts Scheme fully committed, with 22 UKSPF funded grants awarded (£210k).**

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

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

- **Delivered the UKSPF funded Derbyshire Accelerator Programme, supporting 12 businesses this quarter (71 in total) and enabling 15 enterprises to adopt new technologies or processes (20 in total).**

- **Delivered digital skills training (AI, digital marketing, cybersecurity) to 19 people this quarter (31 in total; target 40).**
- **Continued oversight of the £1m UKSPF Programme, including allocations supporting business skills and digital development.**

CABINET DECISIONS 2025/26

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
27 Nov 2025	Council Plan 2023-2027 Performance Report - Update July to September 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 was noted.	This is an information report to keep Cabinet informed of progress against the council plan objectives.
	Choice Based Lettings and Allocations Policy **– Relevant to Communities Scrutiny**	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	(1) That Cabinet agreed the proposed amendments and adopted the draft policy. (2) That Cabinet agreed the implementation date of 1 April 2026, except for the flexible Tenancy amendment which will be withdrawn immediately as this type of tenancy is no longer in use.	The amendments will ensure that the Council continues to operate a robust policy which enables Rykneld Homes Limited to allocate the council's housing stock to those in most need in the most effective and transparent way. It will also allow the Council to make best use of its housing stock and help with antisocial behaviour. The policy was last reviewed in October 2022, with minimal amendments, therefore a full review was due in October 2025.

Agenda Item 6

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
27 Nov 2025	Tenancy Strategy **– Relevant to Communities Scrutiny**	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet agreed the proposed amendments to remove Flexible Tenancies from the Tenancy policy and adopt the draft policy.	Removing Flexible Tenancies ensures any tenancy offered through Rykneld Homes on behalf of the Council will be a secure lifetime tenancy. Issuing lifetime tenancies gives more security and stability to those who are in most housing need requiring settled accommodation.
	New Equality and Diversity Policy **– Relevant to Services Scrutiny**	Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet approved the refreshed Equality and Diversity Policy.	The Equality and Diversity Policy is essential to fostering an inclusive working environment and demonstrating as a public service provider that every individual is valued and respected. This policy demonstrates compliance with legal obligations, including the Equality Act 2010, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to creating a workplace and community free from discrimination, harassment, and inequality.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
27 Nov 2025	Medium Term Financial Plan - Revised Budget 2025/26 **– 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 made the following recommendations to Council:- a. the budget in respect of the General Fund as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26. b. the budget in respect of the HRA as set out in **Appendix 3** of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26. c. the Capital Programme as set out in **Appendix 4** of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26.	The purpose of this report is to prepare revised budgets as early as possible within the financial year to provide sufficient time to allow any planned changes to be delivered. The Council has faced some specific financial challenges this year putting pressure on the ability to set a balanced General Fund budget but, use of reserves ring fenced for providing resilience when needed has mitigated this.
	New Homes To Rent Opportunity - Earls Park, Holmewood **– Relevant to Communities Scrutiny**	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Key & Exempt	(1) That Cabinet approved RHL's proposal to acquire 39 homes for rent at Earls Park Holmewood (2) That Cabinet recommended, to Council, borrowing of £5.553m to provide investment, in the form of a loan, to RHL to progress with the acquisition.	The opportunity to bring new affordable homes into the District meets the objectives in the Council Plan and Housing Strategy and provides warm safe homes for our residents at affordable rents.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
18 Dec 2025 – Special	Environment Scrutiny Committee Review on Wingerworth Lido **– Relevant to Environment Scrutiny**	Councillor C Smith – Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee	Non Key & Open	<u>Wingerworth Lido</u> (1) That the Cabinet approved the exploration of interim arrangements to reinstate angling at the earliest opportunity, prior to the completion of the Biodiversity Improvement Plan. Any reinstatement must be subject to robust management processes to ensure compliance with statutory duties and to prevent further degradation of the site, as advised by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. (2) That the Council continued to undertake maintenance of the site and continues to allow Clay Cross Angling Association to inspect water quality and the welfare of their fish.	<u>Wingerworth Lido</u> Committee recognise that the Council has a statutory duty, and any further degradation of the Lido will have an impact on the Authority. Members were pleased to hear that the Council has procured a Biodiversity Improvement Plan through Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, to identify areas for improvement. The review process highlighted that many people, not just local residents, value the Lido and appreciate the natural surroundings it offers. Views from the public and stakeholders were that they wanted the Lido to remain an area for recreational use with some expressing how visiting the Lido helps support mental health problems, relaxation and social interaction.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				(3) That Cabinet recognised the strong support for angling evidenced through the scrutiny review and public consultation and seeks to secure fishing as a long-term activity on the site beyond any interim arrangements, ensuring that all fishing activities and associated management contribute positively to biodiversity improvement. (4) That Cabinet asked officers to explore examples of best practice with other organisations on the running of an angling site i.e. Wingerworth Parish Council, Earl of Harrington's Angling Club (Derby City Council). (5) That Cabinet supported the enhancement of biodiversity at the Lido and recognises there may be financial investment required to deliver the Biodiversity Improvement Plan.	Residents and stakeholders were supportive in the need to improve biodiversity at the Lido. Members recognised that there was a strong appetite to reinstate angling and from the responses received from residents/stakeholders there was nothing to suggest that angling and biodiversity could not work together, if managed properly. The review highlighted that a more collaborative management approach was required to balance the needs of different users.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				(6) That Cabinet recognised the consultation feedback highlighting the need to enhance the area for greater accessibility, including improvements such as better pathways, seating, and educational signage to benefit children and those with mobility issues. (7) That the Council continues to work with stakeholders to develop an independent group (the same concept of a 'Friends of Group'), including the Parish Council, other local interest groups, and for the Group to be a consultee on the Biodiversity Improvement Plan and participate on implementation. (8) That the Biodiversity Improvement Plan is submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Committee upon its completion.	Members agreed that interim arrangements for the management of the Lido must continue, to prevent any further degradation and to ensure the upkeep of the grounds and pond. The Committee recognised that, for angling be reinstated, the drafting of a new agreement for fishing rights either interim or longer term will take a period of time to both negotiate and agree. Also, the decision to enter any such agreement isn't just for the Council, it would be for the Angling Club too. Whilst the Council have done some proprietary work with both DWT and the Angling Trust, it is likely any new agreement won't be in place until early in the new year.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				(9) That the Environment Scrutiny Committee be informed of progress in terms of angling in the short-term and long-term. <u>AMB</u> (1) That the Council provide training for all elected Members to understand the process of the AMB, and for them to be informed on the role they play in the consultation process. (2) An Annual Report on Asset Management decisions be submitted to Cabinet going forward, with the report being "open" to enable greater transparency of asset related decisions made. **This was not a Key Decision and so can be implemented with immediate effect by officers.**	Overall, the Committee recognised it was clear that despite individual views, everyone wants what is best for the Lido. <u>AMB</u> Committee were satisfied that the decision-making process undertaken by the AMB was compliant with the Council's Constitution. Committee recognised that elected Members may not understand the process of the AMB, and the role they play in the consultation process. Members expressed concerns around the transparency of decisions made by the AMB, and felt this could be improved.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
15 Jan 2026	Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 - 2029/30 – **Relevant to Services Scrutiny**	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	1. That all recommendations below are referred to the Council meeting of 26 January 2026. The following recommendations to Council are made: 2. That the view of the Director of Finance & Resources, that the estimates included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 are robust and that the level of financial reserves are adequate at this time, is accepted. 3. That officers report back to Cabinet and the Services Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets. **General Fund** 4. A Council Tax increase of £6.48 will be levied in respect of a notional Band D property (2.99%).	This report presents a budget for consideration by Cabinet. It seeks to secure approval to recommend budgets to Council in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				5. The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 of this report was approved as the Current Budget 2025/26, as the Agenda Item 4 Original Budget 2026/27, and as the financial projections in respect of 2027/28 to 2029/30. 6. That the General Fund Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, and as the Approved Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30. 7. That budget under spends be transferred to the Resilience Reserve to provide increased financial resilience for future years of the plan. **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** 8. That Council set its rent levels for 2026/27 in consideration of the Social Housing Rent Standard increasing rents by 4.8% from 1st April 2026.	

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				9. The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of this report was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, as the Original Budget in respect of 2026/27, and the financial projection in respect of 2027/28 to 2029/30. 10. That the HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, and as the Approved Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30. 11. That the Management Fee for undertaking housing services at £13.962m and the Management Fee for undertaking capital works at £1.1m to Rykneld Homes in respect of 2026/27 was approved.	

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				12. That Members noted the requirement to provide Rykneld Homes with a 'letter of comfort' to the company's auditors and granted delegated authority to the Council's Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council to agree the contents of that letter.	
	Update on Local Plan Progress **– Relevant to Environment Scrutiny**	Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet noted the contents of this report and endorsed its inclusion on the agenda for the Council meeting on 26 January 2026 and the next available Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting after that date.	This report is for noting as an update from Officers as to progress against the LDS, with the objective being submission of the draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of 2026. Officers have made professional observations about the challenges and risks involved in the process, as considered appropriate, given the very tight nature of the programme.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
					Officers consider that the level of engagement from then public has been healthy and constructive and we have used innovative technology and focus groups to reach as broad a spectrum of views as possible. We are learning about the areas that we need to refine in relation to these new ways of working and open to feedback as we progress to the next phases of consultation. Engagement with the LPWG will continue during 2026 and it is important that the Council makes significant decisions about the strategy to be pursued in order to meet the housing need identified by the standard method in the early part of the year.
	Local Timetable Update	This Item was deferred			

North East Derbyshire
District Council

Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period 15 January 2026 – 15 February 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

Published on: 15 January 2026

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
Management of Corporate Debt - Write Off of Outstanding Amounts – **Relevant to Services Scrutiny**	Cabinet	26 Feb 2026	Key	Fully exempt Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.	Deputy Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership and Finance	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26
CHAIR: CLLR SUZY CORNWELL
VICE CHAIR: CLLR RICHARD WELTON

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 28 July 2025		
~~East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results~~	~~To be presented with the East Midlands Chamber Economic Performance and Prospects survey results~~	~~Scott Knowles DL – Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber – **ACCEPTED **SENT APOLS DUE TO PERSONAL APPOINTMENT~~
	~~**Outcomes**: *To gain an understanding of views of businesses across the EM Region*. **ACTION:** *Invite to a future meeting (Nov)*~~	
~~Cabinet Business~~	~~Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan~~	~~Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Learned about the Cabinet Decisions made to date and upcoming reports going forward to Cabinet*~~	
~~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:** *Agreed a Work Programme going forward for the year*~~	

Meeting Date: 8 September 2025		
~~High Streets – attracting businesses and footfall~~	~~An overview on how we are making our high streets more attractive to businesses as well as increasing visitors/footfall~~	~~Steve Lee, Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes / Tris Burdett, Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager –~~ ~~**ACCEPTED**~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Gained insight into what is being done to attract businesses/visitors to our high streets*~~	
~~Council Assets – Leisure Centres – how do we attract visitors/footfall~~	~~An overview on how we are making our Leisure Centres more attractive and increasing visitors/footfall~~	~~Chris Mills, Assistant Director of Leisure / Sarah-Jane Roome, Business Improvement Coordinator –~~ ~~**ACCEPTED**~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Gained insight into what is being done to attract businesses/visitors to our high streets and leisure centres. ACTION: Recirculate leisure branding information previously circulated*~~	
~~Local Plan Update~~	~~Update on the Local Plan~~	~~David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning –~~ ~~**ACCEPTED**~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Heard about the work done so far on the Local Plan and any changes/issues that have arisen*~~	
~~Performance Management~~	~~Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 1~~	~~Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Gained insight into the quarterly targets to date, and how areas are performing*~~	
~~Cabinet Business~~	~~Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan~~	~~Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Informed of Cabinet Decisions made to date and what topics are due to be presented in the*~~	

~~Policy Development~~	~~To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council~~	~~Lead Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *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:** *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:** *Agreed the Work Programme for the year*~~	
Meeting Date: 10 November 2025		
~~East Midlands Chamber Economic Survey Results~~	~~To be presented with the East Midlands Chamber Economic Performance and Prospects survey results~~	~~Scott Knowles DL – Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber – **ACCEPTED**~~
	~~**Outcomes**: *Gain an understanding of views of businesses across the EM Region*~~	
~~"How's Business?" Survey Results~~	~~To receive the findings from the recent survey undertaken~~	~~Tris Burdett, Programmes Manager and Interim Economic Development & Regeneration Manager – **ACCEPTED**~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Gained an insight into the issues/concerns raised of local businesses*~~	
~~Performance Management~~	~~Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 2~~	~~Kath Drury – Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir – Improvement Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *Gained insight into the quarterly targets to date, and how areas are performing*~~	
~~Cabinet Business~~	~~Cabinet Decisions and Forward Plan~~	~~Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer~~

	~~**Outcomes:** *Informed of Cabinet Decisions made to date and what topics are due to be presented in the* future~~	
~~Policy Development~~	~~To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council~~	~~Lead Officer~~
	~~**Outcomes:** *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:** *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:** *Agreed the Work Programme for the year*~~	
Meeting Date: 16 February 2026		
Digital Connectivity	To receive an update from Digital Derbyshire on connectivity across Derbyshire	Ian Stoddart, Digital Connectivity Manager, DCC – **ACCEPTED**
	Outcomes: *To understand the works that have been done to identify areas of high and low Connectivity*	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 3	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*	
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: 11 May 2026		
Growth Strategy Update	To receive an update on progress made against the Growth Strategy	Steve Lee, Assistant Director of Regeneration & Programmes - **REQUESTED**
	Outcomes: *To understand the work that has been done in line with the Growth Strategy since the last update*	
Performance Management	Council Plan Targets Performance Update – Quarter 4	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*	
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*	

NOTES

- Local Transport Consultation – EMCCA (keep track of when it goes out)
- EMCCA – to discuss growth, with particular reference to NED (Damien Dacey / Jamie Jordan) – 2026?
- UKSPF Update (following additional funding) – Poss May 2026
- Asset Management Strategy Update (Stocktake review due in Feb 2027)

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

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Local Plan
- EMCCA Growth Plan
- Connectivity and Road Infrastructure