

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Present:

Councillor Michael Durrant (Chair) (in the Chair)

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Richard Beech
Councillor Pam Jones

Councillor Stephen Clough
Councillor Tony Lacey

Also Present:

L Hickin	Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service
K Drury	Information & Improvement Manager
R Shaw	Improvement Officer
J Hayden	Senior Scrutiny Officer
T Fuller	Senior Governance Officer

CSC/ Apologies for Absence

33/2

5-26 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Lacey and P Windley.

CSC/ Declarations of Interest

34/2

5-26 There were no declarations of interest.

CSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting

35/2

5-26 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

CSC/ Performance Management

36/2

5-26 The Information & Improvement Manager presented a report to the Committee summarising progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective 'A great place to live well' for the period ending 31st December 2025.

Committee discussed the report. Some Members queried what the pathway was for bringing empty properties back. In this context, Committee discussed the issues and solutions regarding empty properties. It was suggested that more detailed information on the ongoing empty homes case be provided within these reports in the future.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

CSC/ Access to GP Surgeries - Proposals on a Pilot Project

37/2

5-26

Committee received a presentation which gave an overview of a proposed healthy infrastructure development model, based on a project undertaken by some London Authorities. The presentation included an explanation of why the model was needed, an overview of what the model would look to achieve, a case study into how the model would work and a summary of the challenges the project faced. It was highlighted that NEDDC was doing preliminary work in scoping out the project, but the hope was for EMMCA to take the project on and provide the majority of the funding.

Committee discussed the presentation. Members welcomed the fact that NEDDC was spearheading the project and suggested that the proposed model could have a positive impact in aligning development to healthy infrastructure. Some Members suggested that, currently, there wasn't a consistent ratio across the district between residents and GPs. It was highlighted that the model had the potential to correct existing gaps between healthy infrastructure and development.

Some Members highlighted the challenges that the project will need to overcome. These included NHS staff cuts, data sharing agreements and NHS financial pressures. It was highlighted that the current Chief Executive of NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB had expressed support for the project. It was suggested that the bulk of the work was compiling existing data into a model. In this context, it was agreed that data sharing would be important. Members also discussed the problems and benefits of the NHS moving to digital platforms.

Some Members queried whether the model would be helpful in ensuring developers comply with Section 106 agreements. It was highlighted that, whilst it would still come down to viability, the model should give the Council a stronger standing when negotiating Section 106 agreements.

At the end of the discussion, it was agreed that a further update on any progress made come back to the meeting in around 6 months' time. It was also suggested that Cabinet would be informed of Communities Scrutiny's support of the project to develop a healthy infrastructure development model.

RESOLVED –

That the presentation be noted.

CSC/ Cabinet Business

38/2

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 Members with the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions for the period up to 15 February 2026.

RESOLVED –

That the update was noted.

CSC/ Policy Development

39/2

5-26 The Senior Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that there were no major policies for Members to consider.

RESOLVED –

That the update was noted.

CSC/ Work Programme

40/2

5-26 The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the draft Work Programme 2025/26 for the Committee to consider.

Committee discussed potential topics to add to the 2026/27 Work Programme.

RESOLVED –

That the Work Programme 2025/26 be approved.

CSC/ Additional Urgent Items

41/2

5-26 None.

CSC/ Date of Next Meeting

42/2

5-26 The next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to take place on 13 May 2026 at 10.00 am.