

Public Document Pack



**North East
Derbyshire
District Council**

Contact: Michael Bingham - Governance and
Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 01246 217065
Email: michael.bingham2@ne-
derbyshire.gov.uk
Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026

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

Please attend a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday, 13 May 2026, at 10.00 am in Council Chamber at the District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

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

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of The Committee

Councillor M Durrant (Chair)
Councillor R Beech
Councillor P Jones
Councillor T Lacey
Councillor P Windley

Councillor G Baxter (Vice-Chair)
Councillor S Clough
Councillor C Lacey
Councillor J Stokes

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

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 5 - 7)

To approve as a correct record and the Chair to sign the Minutes of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 25 February 2026.

4 Performance Management (Pages 8 - 17)

Council Plan Targets Performance Update.

Amar Bashir, Improvement Officer/Richard Shaw, Improvement Officer

5 Voluntary Sector Organisations Presentation - Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre (Pages 18 - 23)

DUWC in attendance to present an overview on how their funding from the Authority is spent.

DUWC Representative

6 Community Safety Partnership - Annual Review

To receive an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Faye Green, Community Safety Manager

7 Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy Action Plans

To hear about progress made on the Action Plans.

Lee Pepper, Assistant Director of Communities / Gary Smithurst, Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager

8 Cabinet Business (Pages 24 - 33)

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

9 Policy Development

To contribute to major Policies being considered by the Council.

10 Work Programme (Pages 34 - 40)

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

11 Annual Scrutiny Report - 2025/26

To discuss the Annual Report with Committee Members.

Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

12 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.

13 Date of Next Meeting

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

Access for All statement

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

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

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.

North East Derbyshire Council

Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Council Plan Objective – A Great Place to Live Well –
Update January to March 2026**

13th May 2026

Report of the Information and Improvement Manager

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Kath Drury, Information and Improvement Manager

Contact Officer: Richard Shaw, Improvement Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To report progress on the strategies underpinning the Council Plan objective - “A great place to live well” for the period ending 31st March 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That progress against the Council Plan “A great place to live well” 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	All
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>	Yes Details:

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

- A great place to live well council plan objective:
- A community with lifelong good health
 - A place to live that people value
 - A place where people enjoy spending time

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 live well objective is contained at appendix one.

- 1.2 Under the live well objective there are three strategies - A community with lifelong good health, A place to live that people value and A place where people enjoy spending time. Underneath are tactics - our approaches to positively influence the strategies.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.2.1 The Council continued to support residents to live well by promoting lifelong good health, improving homes and neighbourhoods and enhancing places people value, with record leisure participation of 350,141 visits in the quarter and over one million visits achieved across the year, reflecting strong demand and inclusive provision. Preventative health and wellbeing activity was sustained through new Healthy North East Derbyshire funding arrangements, including a £90,000 Financial Inclusion Grants Fund and extended Social Connectedness funding to November 2026, alongside targeted community support delivered through Community Action Grants and voluntary sector infrastructure funding.
- 2.2.2 Work to support residents to live independently progressed, with energy efficiency, damp and mould interventions completed in over 90 homes, continued delivery of adaptations and access works, and improved Disabled Facilities Grant delivery through the in house design service. All 22 UK Shared Prosperity Fund shopfront improvement grants awarded committing £210,000, progress on supported housing schemes, finalisation of the Successful Places Design Code, and ongoing regeneration activity including public realm improvements and pedestrianisation works in Clay Cross. Leisure and cultural activity was further enhanced through 46 businesses now participating in the Food and Drink Trail as well as a submission for Clay Cross UK Town of Culture bid.
- 2.2.3 Regarding metrics, one measure has been flagged as red. The long-term empty homes target remains challenging, with only three properties returned to use to date, due to complex cases requiring significant officer time. Two new supporting KPI have been introduced to provide a more complete and realistic picture of activity and progress. The other metrics have reported strong performance this quarter.
- 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 a great place to live well.

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 live well.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	A summary of progress for the Council Plan objective – A great place to live well – 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 live well
for the period January to March 2026 (Q4)**





A great place to live well

This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with lifelong good health***

Maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity



- Leisure participation reached record levels this quarter with the highest quarterly attendance ever recorded across the district's four leisure centres (350,141 visits). Over one million visits were achieved across the year reflecting strong demand and responsiveness to customer feedback.

- In response to the conclusion of UKSPF in March 2026, the Healthy North East Derbyshire (HNED) partnership agreed new funding arrangements, including the launch of a £90k Financial Inclusion Grants Fund and confirmation of extended Social Connectedness funding through to November 2026, ensuring continuity of preventative health and wellbeing activity.

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

- The Communities Scrutiny Committee considered proposals during this quarter to pilot additional support measures in partnership with the Integrated Care Board, aimed at helping relieve pressure on GP services.
- Officer's at DCC and the Council have agreed to a Derbyshire County Council led pilot for a digital and interactive library service within Killamarsh Active, expanding access to library services without additional staffing requirements and providing a model for potential roll out to other sites.
- Targeted community support continued through Healthy NED, Community Action Grants and voluntary sector infrastructure funding, supporting older residents, social inclusion initiatives and Armed Forces communities across the district.



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with lifelong good health***

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

- Adaptations and access works continued to support residents with additional mobility and accessibility needs.
- The in house Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Design Service completed its first full year of operation, improving control over delivery, reducing delays and receiving positive feedback from residents, with further efficiencies under development to enhance service responsiveness.
- New legal processes were developed and applied to address complex environmental health and hoarding cases where access to properties had previously been restricted.

• Energy efficiency and damp and mould interventions accelerated during this quarter, contributing to improvements in over 90 homes across the year and supporting progress towards Energy Performance Certificate targets across the Council's housing stock.

Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operations

- Environmental Health maintained effective delivery throughout this quarter, managing infectious disease notifications, undertaking planned food safety inspections and responding to regulatory service requests to protect public health.





This quarter, the following progress has been made on *a place to live that people value*

Develop and continually improve the quality and range of housing providing a nice home and area for all residents to meet all needs

- Housing Strategy activity in this quarter focused on progressing supported housing provision and improving the quality and sustainability of homes. Work continued with P3 to finalise lease and service arrangements, alongside completion and handover of additional supported accommodation for residents with complex needs.
- Empty Homes activity increasingly focused on more complex, non engaged cases, with legal options now being considered where appropriate to bring properties back into use.
- Affordable home delivery through the planning process yields the largest results. This data is confirmed at the end of Q4. The final 4 homes at Oaks Farm, Calow were completed in March 2026, along with the 5 affordable Bungalows at Byron Court, Stonebroom.
- The community hall in Stonebroom is now complete and occupied, and five new bungalows at the Byron Grove garage site are completed and occupied. Demolition works on the main site commenced in March 2026. All sixty nine new bungalows across the main site are scheduled for completion by Autumn 2028, supported by secured Homes England funding.
- Planning activity during this quarter supported the progression of new supported living accommodation at Grassmoor, contributing to the delivery of housing options for residents with additional support needs.



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

- **The UKSPF funded Shopfronts Scheme concluded during this quarter, with all 22 grants awarded and the full £210k allocation committed to improving the appearance and vibrancy of local shopping areas.**
- Targeted engineering improvements were delivered to address accessibility and safety concerns raised by residents.
- Work continued to strengthen supported accommodation pathways, including finalising lease agreements, service level arrangements and partnership working to support move on and tenancy sustainment.
- Partnership working between Legal and Revenues and Benefits progressed to support stronger enforcement action on long term vacant properties linked to council tax debt.



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a place where people enjoy spending time***

Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time

- The Food and Drink Trail continued to grow during this quarter, reaching 46 participating businesses.

• A bid for Clay Cross to become the UK Town of Culture was submitted following community engagement, with a decision expected in spring 2026.

- During the quarter, Engineers worked with partner organisations in relation to Wingerworth Lido to support planned leisure and recreation improvements and enable future use of the site.
- Leisure performance remained strong throughout this quarter, with increased membership sales and attendance exceeding quarterly targets. A refreshed leisure marketing plan is being developed to support sustained growth during 2026/27.



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

- UKSPF funded promotional activity continued to enhance the district's visitor offer, including marketing campaigns, walking guides and digital content supporting place making and events activity.

• New pilot activity was introduced at leisure facilities during the quarter, including targeted sessions aimed at engaging under represented groups and supporting more inclusive access to sport and physical activity.



Metric	Target	Quarter 4 Value	RAG
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year.	194,750	350,141	Green
Achieve 1600 monthly attendance through community-based activity.	4800	5118	Green
Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.	6	Q4- 1 To date - 3	Red
Number of active cases open (Supplementary KPI to empty properties)	For information	15	Grey New KPI 1st time reporting
Number of positive outcomes (Supplementary KPI to empty properties)	For information	4	Grey New KPI 1st time reporting
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out	36	52	Green
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling	3	7	Green

<p>Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.</p>	<p>The Empty Homes Officer has successfully progressed a significant number of “quick win” cases, resulting in properties being correctly re-classified and becoming liable for Council Tax, generating additional income for the Council.</p> <p>The remaining cases are increasingly complex. Many involve property owners who are not engaging or responding to correspondence, requiring consideration of formal enforcement or legal routes. This type of work is significantly more time-intensive, carries cost implications, and progress is inherently slower and less predictable.</p> <p>Experience to date has improved understanding of the complexity, time and cost associated with pursuing non-engaged owners through legal routes. As a result, the annual target of six properties returning to use is recognised as ambitious both for the current year and future years.</p> <p>To provide a more complete and realistic picture of activity and progress, two supporting key performance indicators have been introduced. These measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of empty properties actively being worked on at any one time; and • softer but positive outcomes, such as minor improvements, correct re-classification, garden clearances and other steps that reduce blight.
---	---



North East Derbyshire District Council

Communities Scrutiny / Cabinet

13th May 2026

Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Organisations - 2025/26

Report of Councillor Jayne Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Louise Taylor, Healthy & Sustainable Communities Officer

Contact Officer: Louise Taylor, Healthy & Sustainable Communities Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide an overview of the funding to voluntary and community sector infrastructure support organisations in 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr. Jayne Barry

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There are no financial implications in the current financial year. Any recommendations that may have future financial and risk implications will be considered later in the commissioning cycle.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The monitoring arrangements form part of legally binding Service Level Agreements with the Council. All data monitoring information and agreements are stored securely.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no human resource implications as a result of this report. This activity is delivered through existing resources.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £310,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Cllr. Jayne Barry and Steve Lee, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Programmes.

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

These commissions help the Council deliver key Council Plan priorities including the support to enable residents to access employment and housing, access other public services and obtain energy saving advice which contributes to a place that cares for the environment.

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

1.1 At Minute No. 186 (2013/14), Cabinet approved new commissioning and monitoring arrangements following a review of funding to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. Prior to 2024/25, Cabinet received an annual officer summary report. It was agreed that Communities Scrutiny Committee would receive the report from 2025 onwards and that the Committee would retain the option of requesting organisations to present as required.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 Historically, the Council has committed to supporting vulnerable households through investment in voluntary and community sector infrastructure support organisations. The aim is to support in the region of 20,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households/beneficiaries year on year. Ensuring support is available has become increasingly important due to the ongoing cost of living challenges. The following illustrates the Council's investment and households/beneficiaries assisted for the last five years:

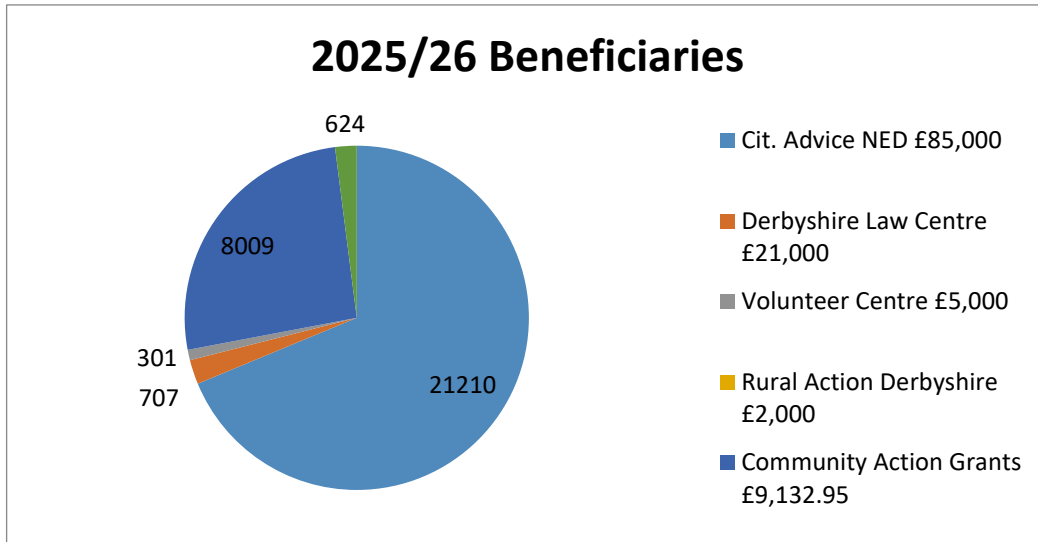
<u>Council investment</u>	<u>Households/beneficiaries assisted</u>
2021/22: £136,085	19,096
2022/23: £136,085	23,594
2023/24: £136,085	22,499
2024/25: £136,085	26,364
2025/26: £149,377	30,851

It is noted that the number of households/beneficiaries supported has consistently increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that the ongoing cost of living challenges is a key driver for people seeking advice and support. Please also note that the full year monitoring figures from Rural Action Derbyshire remain outstanding at the time this report was written, so the final figure is likely to increase.

2.2 The monitoring process tracks the number of households/beneficiaries assisted and any variation in customer demand for these services. In recent years, demand from households seeking advice and support has varied slightly. Further details on the top reasons help and advice was sought can be found in section 2.5. In terms of cost per household, the yearly average can be tracked as follows:

- £7.13 per household in 2021/22
- £5.77 per household in 2022/23
- £6.05 per household in 2023/24
- £5.16 per household in 2024/25
- £4.84 per household in 2025/26

2.3 The data collected helps to highlight demand on specific issues and services within communities. The data also includes beneficiaries from the Community Action Grants, which is funded via this VCS budget. The chart below illustrates the number of households/beneficiaries each organisation or grant has supported, together with the total funding received:



Additional funding for this budget was increased to fund the reinstated grant to Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre to continue in 2025/26.

2.4 The VCS infrastructure organisations funded during 2025/26 have provided information on how their organisation have supported residents. The outcomes of the current commissions for 2026/27 will be reported in spring/summer 2027. Please be aware that Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre will be presenting further details regarding their activity and achievements during 2025/26, as asked for by Communities Scrutiny Committee last year.

2.5 A summary of the core aims of the organisations and the top issues as to why households/individuals sought advice or support is as follows:

2.5.1 Citizens Advice - North East Derbyshire (CANED)

Provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a wide range of issues including money, housing, employment, consumer issues, income maximisation and specialist energy advice. Services are accessed via telephone, email or in person through a variety of methods including drop-in and outreach sessions, GP surgeries, foodbanks, libraries and in-home visits for housebound clients. The funding also contributes to a part-time volunteer co-ordinator to recruit, train and retain volunteers.

Assisting 21,210 beneficiaries in 2025/26, the top issues identified were:

- 1) Benefits
- 2) Debt
- 3) Charitable support (including foodbank referrals)

2.5.2 Derbyshire Law Centre (DLC)

A not-for-profit legal practice providing free legal advice and representation to disadvantaged people. This ensures local communities, in particular disadvantaged communities, have access to the law and legal redress to enforce their civil rights. The work is also key to avoiding homelessness within the District.

Assisting 707 beneficiaries in 2025/26, the top issues identified were:

- 1) Housing
- 2) Debt
- 3) Employment

2.5.3 Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre

To provide free confidential, impartial and independent advice to enable local residents to deal with unemployment, under waged or underemployed issues, including welfare rights, poverty, housing, money advice and employment. To also represent residents at appeals and tribunals.

Assisting 624 beneficiaries in 2025/26, the top issues identified were:

- 1) Personal Independence Allowance
- 2) Universal Credit
- 3) Attendance Allowance

2.5.4 Volunteer Centre

Operating as a local volunteering development agency working independently to support organisations from the voluntary, community and public sector across North East Derbyshire. To promote, support and develop volunteering to make a positive impact on the quality of the volunteering experience. To deliver the Home from Hospital Service.

Assisting 301 beneficiaries in 2025/26, the top issues identified were:

- 1) Finding volunteers through outreach work, 26 events attended during 2025/26
- 2) People accessing volunteering opportunities through Volife on-line system which is a 'recruitment' tool for volunteers and host organisations/groups
- 3) Home from Hospital service – 175 North East Derbyshire residents supported upon discharge

2.5.5 Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD)

Offers a range of services and co-ordinated activity to support communities in North East Derbyshire District which includes tackling food poverty, digital inclusion, domestic abuse, oil buying scheme and wheels to work. RAD provides services to the whole of Derbyshire and represents the interests of the rural community countywide. In recent years, the RAD has provided a greater focus on economic partnerships and the needs of the rural economy, particularly food and farming.

Awaiting end of year monitoring form. Between April to September 2025, 51 beneficiaries were supported and the top issues identified were:

- 1) Food Poverty
- 2) Digital Inclusion
- 3) Village Halls

2.5.6 Community Action Grants

22 community groups and organisations were awarded funding in 2025/26 totalling £9,132.95. Funding has been used to support activities that support bio-diversity, community fun days, exhibitions and floral displays for the community. Grants were also paid to venues, enabling them to become a Warm Space over winter.

So far, a total of 8,009 beneficiaries were directly impacted and these activities were likely to have had a wider community impact. This number is likely to be higher as groups can submit their monitoring information up to a year after receiving the grant.

3 **Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 To ensure that the Council maximises efficiencies and outcomes through commissioning voluntary sector organisations to help achieve the Council's Priorities.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 No alternative options are considered appropriate as the aim of the review was to increase transparency and accountability of commissioned services.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
	n/a
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)	

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

Published on: 15 April 2026
Republished 21 April 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
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

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26
CHAIR: CLLR MICHAEL DURRANT
VICE CHAIR: CLLR GRAHAM BAXTER

AGENDA ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	LEAD OFFICER/ORGANISATION
Meeting Date: 23 July 2025		
Planning Enforcement – General Overview including Developer Powers	Overview of planning enforcement and Developer powers, and how this affects our residents/communities Outcomes: <i>Understand the P/Enforcement process and the obstacles facing the Authority.</i> ACTION: <i>Working Group to be set up to discuss PE</i>	David Thompson, Assistant Director of Planning / Julian Hawley, Principal Planning Enforcement Officer – 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 Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	Lead Officer
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 Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	Lead Officer
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme Outcomes: <i>Agreed a Work Programme going forward for the year</i>	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Meeting Date: 10 September 2025		
Homelessness Update	To receive an overview of homelessness including rough sleeping/Right to Remain	Lee Pepper, Assistant Director of Communities / Gary Smithurst, Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into the homelessness process and how the Council deal with this issue including asylum dispersal</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>	
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</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: 19 November 2025		
Tackling Antisemitism and Hate Crime including Equality Action Plan	Overview on what is being done to tackle antisemitism and hate crime	Faye Green, Community Safety Manager / Lee Pepper, Assistant Director of Communities and Kath Drury— Information and Improvement Manager / Amar Bashir— Improvement Officer— ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained an understanding of what the Council are doing to tackle antisemitism and hate crime, including ensuring awareness is embedded within policies and strategies</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,	Lead Officer

	regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	
	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 February 2026		
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>	
Access to GP Surgeries – Proposals on a Pilot Project	To hear about proposals on a pilot project that are being discussed with the ICB to help support GP Surgeries	Lee Hickin – Managing Director - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>Gained insight into how Authorities could support GP Surgeries in the future, further exploratory work to be undertaken. ACTION: Update on progress made to come to meeting in July 2026 if available</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,	Lead Officer

	regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	
	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: 13 May 2026		
Voluntary Sector Organisations Presentation – Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre	DUWC in attendance to present an overview on how their funding from the Authority is spent	ACCEPTED (via Tris Burdett)
	Outcomes: <i>To understand how the organisations are utilising the funding from the Council, and what benefits it has for the organisation</i>	
Community Safety Partnership	To receive an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership	Faye Green, Community Safety Manager – ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To get an understanding of the CSP, including issues that may have arisen, and concerns going forward</i>	
Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy Action Plans - MOVED FROM FEB DUE TO STOCKTAKE REVIEW TIMEFRAME	To hear about progress made on the Action Plans	Lee Pepper – Assistant Director, Communities / Gary Smithurst, Housing Strategy & Homeless Manager - ACCEPTED
	Outcomes: <i>To understand the work that has been done to date against the Action Plans</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	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have contributed on new/revised policies and strategies</i>	
Horizon Scanning	To consider and contribute to potential changes in the operating environment which may include legislation, regulation and key projects being undertaken by the Council, for example	Lead Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To have considered and contributed to potential changes in the operating environment that may arise</i>	
Work Programme	To consider the Committees' work programme	Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer
	Outcomes: <i>To agree a Work Programme for the year</i>	

NOTES

- Full adaptations review – due 2025 – no date confirmed yet *Aug 2025 – not yet commenced
- Five Year Housing Land Supply Update (add to end of year or 2025 Programme / include NPPF)
- UKSPF – Inclusive Communities – 26/27 W/Prog
- CAG/Luncheon Clubs
- Update on HUDU project – Lee Hickin – July 2026?
- Understanding ageing in NED – LGA report/Briefing Note
- Pride in Place funding
- Support for Care Leavers – initial project being led by Lee Pepper – very new, need to determine if there's anything worth coming to Scrutiny

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

- Local Government Reorganisation
- Local Plan