

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Council**

**22 May 2023**

**Proposals for Scrutiny Committees**

**Report of the Managing Director and Head of Paid Service**

Report By: Lee Hickin – Managing Director

Contact Officer: Lee Hickin – Managing Director

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**PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

- For Council to consider proposals for Scrutiny Committees.
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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Council agree to the following Scrutiny Committees being established (with nine Councillors on each Committee):
    - (i) **Communities Scrutiny Committee**
    - (ii) **Business Scrutiny Committee**
    - (iii) **Environment Scrutiny Committee**
    - (iv) **Services Scrutiny Committee**
  
  2. Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer to appoint the Members to the four Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the proportionality rules and in consultation with the relevant group Leader and to appoint Members who are not in political groups.
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**IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance and Risk**

**Yes**

**No ✓**

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal including Data Protection**

**Yes**

**No ✓**

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

## Staffing

Yes

No ✓

There are no staffing issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> 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:  <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £250,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	N/A
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	N/A
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>SMT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details:

<b>Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</b>
All

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## REPORT DETAILS

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The proposals contained within this report align to the need to consider the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability (CIPFA) updated Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities and the need to demonstrate that best efforts have been made to meet the principles in CIPFA's position statement including the separation of the audit and scrutiny functions.
- 1.2 Along with this change, the Council is in the process of developing its Council Plan 2023-27. The Plan is effectively the Business Plan of the Council for the

coming term, changes to Scrutiny should be cognisant of and aligned with the Plan.

## **2. Proposed Scrutiny Committee Structure**

2.1 Scrutiny Committees will provide 'checks and balances' on the effective delivery of the Council Plan, undertake reviews where necessary and be involved in the policy making process. For this to best be achieved and in order to provide a clear 'focus' for Scrutiny Committees, alignment with the new Council Plan is appropriate.

2.3 Whilst many responsibilities will be similar to the previous Scrutiny Committees, the proposed Committees do take account of the 'emerging' priorities and the primary Objectives of the 'developing' Council Plan. The alignment of the Scrutiny Committees to these will help to ensure the Council is best placed to collectively address the current challenges, maximise the current opportunities and ultimately successfully deliver the new Plan.

2.3 The following Scrutiny Committees are proposed (with nine Councillors on each Committee):

**(v) Communities Scrutiny Committee** (similar responsibilities to that of the previous Communities Scrutiny Committee)

**(vi) Business Scrutiny Committee** (similar responsibilities to that of the previous Growth Scrutiny Committee)

**(vii) Environment Scrutiny Committee** (responsibilities focussed upon our environmental improvement and tackling climate change)

**(viii) Services Scrutiny Committee** (similar responsibilities to that of the previous Organisation Scrutiny Committee)

2.4 In addition the Chairs and Vice Chairs of these Committees will meet informally and ad hoc as required. Their first meeting in the Corporate Year will be to agree the work plans for each of the Scrutiny Committees and to deal with any reviews which overlap the terms of reference of two or more Scrutiny Committees. A note of the outcomes of their meeting will be forwarded to all Scrutiny Members.

2.5 The Scrutiny Committees will follow the Scrutiny Rules. Within their themed areas, all Scrutiny Committees will:-

(i) Review decisions made by and the performance of the Cabinet, Committees and Officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time (but not including Regulatory Decisions)

(ii) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, strategies and tactics as shown in the Council Plan and/or particular service areas.

(iii) Contribute to the formulation and review of Council policies.

(iv) Question members of the Cabinet and Officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions (but not including Regulatory Decisions)

(v) Make recommendations to the Council and/or Cabinet arising from work undertaken by a Scrutiny Committee

- (vi) Review the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by asking them to address the Scrutiny Committee about their activities and performance
  - (vii) Question and gather evidence from any person with their consent
  - (viii) Collaborate with other Scrutiny Committees and other bodies carrying out similar functions outside the Council
  - (ix) Report to the Council annually on the scrutiny function and their work
  - (x) Exercise functions relating to Call in and Councillor Call for Action.
- 2.6 Any Committee may consider matters that are important to the Health and Well Being of residents within North East Derbyshire. Where a particular issue could fall within the functions of two or more Scrutiny Committees the Chairs of the relevant Scrutiny Committees, following consultation with the Senior Scrutiny Officer, will agree which Scrutiny Committee will consider the matter.
- 2.7 The Council is also part of the Shared Services Joint Scrutiny Committee with Bolsover District and Chesterfield Borough Councils which scrutinises the joint working arrangements across the three Councils.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 To provide focus and a 'connecting thread' from Scrutiny Committees throughout the organisation in support of the effective delivery of the Council Plan.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 To continue with the current structure or other alternative. Not recommended as the proposed Committees are purposely designed to both reflect reflect the requirements of CIPFA's updated position statement and in support of the effective delivery of the Council Plan.

## **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

Appendix No	Title
<b>Background Papers</b>	