

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14 JULY 2025

Present:

Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Vice Chair in the Chair)

Councillor Frank Adlington-Stringer	Councillor Neil Baker
Councillor Nigel Barker	Councillor Jayne Barry
Councillor Richard Beech	Councillor Joseph Birkin
Councillor Stephen Clough	Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Suzy Cornwell	Councillor Charlotte Cupit
Councillor Alex Dale	Councillor Lilian Deighton
Councillor Michael Durrant	Councillor Peter Elliott
Councillor Michelle Emmens	Councillor Stuart Fawcett
Councillor Mark Foster	Councillor Christine Gare
Councillor Kevin Gillott	Councillor David Hancock
Councillor Daniel Higgon	Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor William Jones	Councillor Pat Kerry
Councillor Carol Lacey	Councillor Tony Lacey
Councillor Heather Liggett	Councillor Fran Petersen
Councillor Stephen Pickering	Councillor Stephen Reed
Councillor Michael Roe	Councillor Kathy Rouse
Councillor Ross Shipman	Councillor Derrick Skinner
Councillor Caroline Smith	Councillor Christine Smith
Councillor Mick Smith	Councillor Richard Spooner
Councillor Lee Stone	Councillor Kevin Tait
Councillor Richard Welton	Councillor Pam Windley

Also Present:

L Hickin	Managing Director - Head of Paid Service
M Broughton	Director of Growth and Assets
J Dethick	Director of Finance and Resources (Section 151 Officer)
S Sternberg	Assistant Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
D Thompson	Assistant Director of Planning
A Smith	Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
A Bryan	Governance Manager
M E Derbyshire	Members ICT & Training Officer

COU Apologies for Absence

127/2

- 5-26** Apologies for absence had been received by Councillors P Antcliff, D Cheetham, K Clegg, L Hartshorne, N Morley, C Renwick, J Stokes, M E Thacker MBE and H Wetherall.

COU Declarations of Interest

128/2

- 5-26** Councillor S Reed declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 – Motion A, as the Cabinet Member for Business Services at Derbyshire County Council. He indicated that he would not participate in the vote on that item.

COU
/29/2 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

5-26 **RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council and Annual Council meetings held on 19 May 2025 be approved as true and correct records.

COU
/30/2 **Chair of the Council's Announcements**

5-26 The Vice Chair of the Council, Councillor G Baxter MBE, congratulated Councillor P Kerry on his 85th birthday.

COU
/31/2 **Leader of the Council's Announcements**

5-26 The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Barker, reported that he had been involved in the opening ceremony of Clay Cross Active and commended everyone involved for their hard work in creating the facility.

The Leader of the Council shared that he had attended the LGA conference and several events concerning Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). In terms of LGR, Councillor N Barker delivered an update on the work that had taken place since the last meeting on the proposal that would be submitted in November 2025.

COU
/32/2 **Public Participation**

5-26 No questions from the public had been received.

COU
/33/2 **The Increase in Capacity for Cabinet and LGR**

5-26 Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council, introduced a report which advised the Council of the decision he had taken to increase the size of Cabinet by one. The report explained that the decision had been made in order to add additional capacity to meet the existing and potential growing demand brought about by Local Government Reorganisation. The new portfolio covering Local Government Reorganisation would be held by Councillor K Gillott.

Councillor C Cupit raised some concerns around the additional cost to the Council, ambiguity around the remit of the role and potential conflicts of interests. Councillor M Foster agreed with the concerns. Councillor N Barker reiterated the need for the role.

RESOLVED that the decision be noted.

COU
/34/2 **Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2024/25**

5-26 Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council, introduced a report which gave an overview of the progress on the objectives underpinning the Council Plan (2023-2027) for 2024/25. Councillor N Barker highlighted particular achievements that underpinned the objectives A Great Place to Live Well, A Great Place to Work, A Great Place to Access Good Public Services and A Great Place that Cares for the Environment.

Councillor N Baker welcomed the report and raised questions around how individuals racing along village streets should be reported and how to protect against similar incidents. Councillor A Dale and Councillor M Foster raised similar points in relation to anti-social behaviour. The concerns were noted, and it was agreed that information would be provided to Members. Councillor N Barker drew attention to the hard work of the Community Safety team in tackling anti-social behaviour in the District. Councillor M Durrant highlighted the advice of the Police and Crime Commissioner, that had been given at Communities Scrutiny Committee, in regard to reporting dangerous vehicles.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2024/25

/35/2

5-26

Councillor M Durrant, Chair of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, introduced a report which provided Members of the Council with an annual overview of the work programme of the Scrutiny Committees during 2024/25. Councillor M Durrant shared particular examples that highlighted what the four scrutiny committees had achieved over the previous year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU Standards Committee Annual Report 2024/25

/36/2

5-26

Councillor K Gillott, Chair of the Standards Committee, introduced a report which provided Council with an annual overview of the work of the Standards Committee during 2024/25.

Councillor K Gillott reiterated his commitment to the role of Chair of Standards Committee and indicated that if any conflicts of interest arose from his new position on the Cabinet, he would act accordingly.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

COU To answer any questions from Members asked under Procedure Rule No 9.2

/37/2

5-26

The Chair confirmed that four questions had been received.

Question A – Proposed by Councillor S Clough to Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council

Noting their critical importance towards a local say in planning, will the Leader of the Council write to the relevant Secretary of State to ask them to reconsider their recent announcement, withdrawing support for Neighbourhood Plans?

Councillor N Barker responded that he would not be writing to the secretary of state.

Councillor S Clough asked if the District Council would support Parish Councils conducting Neighbourhood Plan reviews and whether there would be a cost attached.

Councillor N Barker confirmed that the District Council would continue to support Parish Councils in conducting Neighbourhood Plan reviews and there would be a cost attached that would be attributed to the Parish Council.

Question B – Proposed by Councillor C Renwick to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Councillor C Renwick was not present at the meeting, so the question was not asked.

Question C – Proposed by Councillor N Baker to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Given the long period which has now elapsed since Covid restrictions were lifted, is it not now time that Planning Committee site visits are carried out in person, instead of continuing them virtually, in order to allow Committee Members to acquaint themselves, more fully, with the nuances and details of each site they are being asked to consider?

Councillor S Pickering stated the Planning Committee Members had received an email asking for their opinion on moving to physical site visits and officers were waiting for feedback. The next step was to look at how to proceed in the most effective way.

Councillor N Baker asked whether comments from members of the public regarding physical site visits had been taken into account.

Councillor S Pickering confirmed that they had.

Question D – Proposed by Councillor C Cupit to Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place

Many residents have contacted me to express concern that the current local plan consultation online response form is extremely complicated and technical in nature. How does the Council therefore intend for ordinary residents to be able to respond in a meaningful way particularly where concerns they only centre around one or two aspects or sites?

Councillor S Pickering responded that the consultation would be difficult to simplify and highlighted the benefit of allowing consultees to go into significant detail. It was also shared that the consultation had been devised in partnership with a recognised provider. Councillor S Pickering highlighted that provisions for those that don't use online forms remained available.

Councillor C Cupit asked whether the Council could consider its communications regarding the alternative methods of contributing to the consultation.

Councillor S Pickering confirmed that the issue would be looked at by the relevant teams.

COU To consider any Motions from Members under Procedure Rule No 10
/38/2
5-26 Motion A – Submitted by Councillor N Baker

Council notes the results of the recent consultation regarding the proposal for highway alterations and the installation of new signals at the A61-Mill Lane junction in Wingerworth.

Council notes that the proposed scheme is sponsored by this Council, following the receipt of grant funding by the regional Mayor to unlock more new homes and a new depot on The Avenue regeneration site.

Council also notes the many views that have been expressed towards these proposals during that consultation by local residents and stakeholders, particularly raising concerns in relation to road safety, turning right at the Nottingham Drive junction and traffic flow on the A61 in that vicinity.

Council therefore resolves to respect and fully publish the results of the consultation and commits to not pushing ahead with the scheme until those concerns have been properly addressed.

Council also resolves to undertake any further design work on the proposals, which the consultation responses have highlighted are necessary, and then to reconsult residents and other stakeholders on any revisions to the proposed scheme, in that area, before any work begins and undertakes to ensure that the final design of the scheme fully reflects local concerns for highway safety, suitability and usability and is not just based on cost savings and maximising housing number delivery.

Councillor N Baker moved the Motion.

Councillor A Dale seconded the Motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillors R Shipman and D Hancock spoke in favour of the Motion.

Councillors J Barry, N Barker and K Gillott spoke against the Motion, and raised that the proposal was sponsored by Derbyshire County Council. Councillor K Gillott suggested that Councillor N Baker's points should be passed on to the County Council.

Councillor A Dale spoke in favour of the Motion and highlighted that this was a priority scheme for the District.

Councillor N Baker responded that the experiences he had at the public consultation suggested that people did not support the proposal, as such the basic principles of the Motion to support the views of the public should stand.

The Motion was put to the vote and lost.

Motion B – Submitted by Councillor A Dale

This Council believes that fly-tipping is a blight on our district. It is unsightly,

damages our beautiful countryside and rural landscape, and places an unfair financial burden on local taxpayers who must ultimately foot the bill for its clean-up.

Council reaffirms its commitment to a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and believes that a strong deterrent strategy is required. This must include:-

- High profile prosecutions to demonstrate consequences;
- The use of powers to seize and, where appropriate, destroy vehicles used in fly-tipping offences;
- Continued and increased use of CCTV cameras in known hotspot areas; and
- The application of significant financial penalties to offenders.

Council therefore welcomes the recent purchase of additional CCTV cameras made possible through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), as well as the successful prosecution relating to a fly-tipping incident in Marsh Lane, which serves as an important example of enforcement in action. Council is also extremely grateful for the ongoing work of our Environmental Health and Streetscene teams in seeking to prosecute flytippers and keep our District clean and tidy.

To go further and strengthen the deterrent, Council resolves to:-

1. Increase fly-tipping fixed penalties to the latest national maximum as set out in the most recent Government regulations;
2. Review the use of mobile CCTV units to ensure rapid deployment in response to community reports and intelligence;
3. Explore the introduction of public-facing “Caught on Camera” communications, where legally permissible, to raise awareness and encourage reporting;
4. Refer this issue to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to consider the above as well as working with partners and wider stakeholders (including the PoOlice, Environmental Agency, local landowners, Parish Councils and community groups) to explore what more we can do together to tackle this scourge on our countryside.

Council believes that these additional steps will help send a clear message: fly-tipping will not be tolerated in North East Derbyshire.

Councillor A Dale moved the Motion, thanked the Streetscene and Environmental Health teams, and spoke about the need to back them up with strong policy.

Councillor C Cupit seconded the Motion and spoke to the positive impacts it would have on the District’s residents.

Councillors S Pickering, R Shipman and K Gillott spoke to the Motion.

Councillor K Gillott proposed, and Councillor N Barker seconded the following

amendment:

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Council resolves to invite the relevant scrutiny committee to examine additional measures that may help in deterring fly-tipping including:-

1. Increasing fly-tipping fixed penalties to the latest national maximum as set out in the most recent Government regulations;
2. Reviewing the use of mobile CCTV units to ensure rapid deployment in response to community reports and intelligence;
3. Exploring the introduction of public-facing “Caught on Camera” communications, where legally permissible, to raise awareness and encourage reporting;
4. Improved partnership working with stakeholders (including the Police, Environmental Agency, local landowners, Parish Councils and community groups) to explore what more we can do together to tackle this scourge on our countryside.
5. Examining if/how the council can use its powers to confiscate vehicles used to commit fly-tipping.

And to report its conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet.

Councillor A Dale accepted the amendment and asked that the review come back to Council once it had been through the scrutiny process.

The Motion was put to a vote and passed.

RESOLVED –

That this Council believes that fly-tipping is a blight on our district. It is unsightly, damages our beautiful countryside and rural landscape, and places an unfair financial burden on local taxpayers who must ultimately foot the bill for its clean-up.

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5. Examining if/how the council can use its powers to confiscate vehicles used to commit fly-tipping.

And to report its conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet.

COU Chair's Urgent Business

/39/2

5-26 There was no urgent business.