North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

18 December 2025

Environment Scrutiny Review on the Future Use of Wingerworth Lido and to Review the Decision-Making Process of the Asset Management Board

Report of the Scrutiny Chair for Environment

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Joe Hayden, Senior Scrutiny Officer

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To ask Cabinet to approve the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee's review into the future use of Wingerworth Lido and to review the decision-making process of the Asset Management Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wingerworth Lido

1. That the Cabinet approves 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 continues to undertake maintenance of the site and continues to allow Clay Cross Angling Association to inspect water quality and the welfare of their fish.

3. That Cabinet recognises 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 ask 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 supports the enhancement of biodiversity at the Lido and recognises there may be financial investment required to deliver the Biodiversity Improvement Plan.

6. That Cabinet recognises 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.

9. That the Environment Scrutiny Committee be informed of progress in terms of angling in the short-term and long-term.

AMB

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.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: **Yes☒** **No ☐**

Details: There may be financial investment required to deliver the Biodiversity Improvement Plan.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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

Details: The Council cannot lawfully make a decision which will breach its statutory duties nor can it make a decision which is contrary to its obligations under the public recreation covenant in the title deeds.

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	Wingerworth
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) details:	
Stage 1 screening undertaken • Completed EIA stage 1 to be appended if not required to do a stage 2	EIA will be undertaken if recommendations are taken forward
Stage 2 full assessment undertaken • Completed EIA stage 2 needs to be appended to the report	EIA will be undertaken if required
Consultation: **Leader / Deputy Leader ☐ Cabinet ☐** **SMT ☐ Relevant Service Manager ☒** **Members ☐ Public ☒ Other ☐**	Yes Details: Online consultation undertaken and written representation from key stakeholders requested

Links to Council Plan priorities, including Climate Change, Economic and Health implications.
• A great place that cares for the environment. • A great place to live well.

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

1.1 At full Council on 22 September 2025 a Motion in respect of the Wingerworth Lido was referred to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The resolution was to:

1. Invite the Environment Scrutiny Committee to review the decision of the Asset Management Board regarding the future use of Wingerworth Lido

2. Ask that Committee to seek the views of stakeholders, including those of local residents and groups, the Parish Council, ward members and the Clay Cross Angling Club before reaching a decision.

3. Submit its conclusions and any recommendations to the Asset Management Board for consideration.

4. To require Asset Management Board to report its conclusion and any action it proposes to take back to the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

1.3 Following the Council meeting on 22 September 2025 there has been a lot of social media interest in the Lido, as well as numerous emails being sent to Members and officers setting out individual views on the Lido.

1.4 Given the level of attention the Lido was attracting, the Chair of Environment Scrutiny requested an informal meeting to seek the views of the members of the Committee on whether or not to proceed with the Motion. The informal meeting took place on 27 October 2025. This meant that the initial discussion on whether to take forward the Motion, and where this would fit into the Committee's Work Programme, did not have to wait until the next meeting of the Committee on 17 November 2025.

1.5 At its informal meeting on 27 October 2025 the Environment Scrutiny Committee Members accepted that the Motion put forward should be a topic for review, given its level of interest amongst stakeholders, local residents and anglers.

1.6 Members discussed a way forward at this meeting and suggested a timetable in place for the review, this included a meeting on 8 December to review evidence and proposing recommendations for submission to Cabinet. This was approved at the formal Environment Scrutiny meeting on 17 November 2025.

1.7 Following the informal meeting in October, as part of the Senior Scrutiny Officer's role, in conjunction with the Chair, preliminary work was undertaken to ensure that the Committee were able to meet the proposed timetable suggested.

1.8 To enable the Environment Scrutiny Committee to make informed recommendations to Cabinet, evidence was submitted for them to consider. This included a Council Officer submission, results on the public consultation survey on the future use of Lido, written representations from key stakeholders, timeline of events, overview of the AMB process.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The recommendations are:

2.1.1 Wingerworth Lido

(1) That the Cabinet approves 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 continues to undertake maintenance of the site and continues to allow Clay Cross Angling Association to inspect water quality and the welfare of their fish.

(3) That Cabinet recognises 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 ask 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 supports the enhancement of biodiversity at the Lido and recognises there may be financial investment required to deliver the Biodiversity Improvement Plan.

(6) That Cabinet recognises 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.

(9) That the Environment Scrutiny Committee be informed of progress in terms of angling in the short-term and long-term.

2.1.2 AMB

(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.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

Wingerworth Lido

3.1 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.

3.2 The review process highlighted that many people, not just local residents, value the Lido and appreciate the natural surroundings it offers.

3.3 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.

3.4 Residents and stakeholders were supportive in the need to improve biodiversity at the Lido.

3.5 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.

3.6 The review highlighted that a more collaborative management approach was required to balance the needs of different users.

3.7 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 Overall, the Committee recognised it was clear that despite individual views, everyone wants what is best for the Lido.

AMB

3.10 Committee were satisfied that the decision-making process undertaken by the AMB was compliant with the Council's Constitution.

3.11 Committee recognised that elected Members may not understand the process of the AMB, and the role they play in the consultation process.

3.12 Members expressed concerns around the transparency of decisions made by the AMB, and felt this could be improved.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not progressing with the recommendations would not best serve the stakeholders and members of public interested in the matter.

4.2 However, the Committee recognise that the Council has a statutory duty so improvements to the Lido must be made so any recommendations taken forward must not cause further degradation to the Lido or go against Council Statutory Duties.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Cabinet Briefing Note – Review on the Future Use of Wingerworth Lido and to Review the Decision-Making Process of the Asset Management Board
2	Public Consultation Survey
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)	
N/A	