

CABINET DECISIONS 2025/26

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
27 Nov 2025	Council Plan 2023-2027 Performance Report - Update July to September 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 was noted.	This is an information report to keep Cabinet informed of progress against the council plan objectives.
	Choice Based Lettings and Allocations Policy – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	<p>(1) That Cabinet agreed the proposed amendments and adopted the draft policy.</p> <p>(2) That Cabinet agreed the implementation date of 1 April 2026, except for the flexible Tenancy amendment which will be withdrawn immediately as this type of tenancy is no longer in use.</p>	<p>The amendments will ensure that the Council continues to operate a robust policy which enables Rykneld Homes Limited to allocate the council's housing stock to those in most need in the most effective and transparent way. It will also allow the Council to make best use of its housing stock and help with antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The policy was last reviewed in October 2022, with minimal amendments, therefore a full review was due in October 2025.</p>

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27 Nov 2025	Tenancy Strategy – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet agreed the proposed amendments to remove Flexible Tenancies from the Tenancy policy and adopt the draft policy.	<p>Removing Flexible Tenancies ensures any tenancy offered through Rykneld Homes on behalf of the Council will be a secure lifetime tenancy.</p> <p>Issuing lifetime tenancies gives more security and stability to those who are in most housing need requiring settled accommodation.</p>
	New Equality and Diversity Policy – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor J Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth & Assets	Non Key & Open	That Cabinet approved the refreshed Equality and Diversity Policy.	The Equality and Diversity Policy is essential to fostering an inclusive working environment and demonstrating as a public service provider that every individual is valued and respected. This policy demonstrates compliance with legal obligations, including the Equality Act 2010, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to creating a workplace and community free from discrimination, harassment, and inequality.

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27 Nov 2025	Medium Term Financial Plan - Revised Budget 2025/26 – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	<p>That Cabinet made the following recommendations to Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the budget in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26. b. the budget in respect of the HRA as set out in Appendix 3 of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26. c. the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 of this report be approved as the Current Budget for 2025/26. 	The purpose of this report is to prepare revised budgets as early as possible within the financial year to provide sufficient time to allow any planned changes to be delivered. The Council has faced some specific financial challenges this year putting pressure on the ability to set a balanced General Fund budget but, use of reserves ring fenced for providing resilience when needed has mitigated this.
	New Homes To Rent Opportunity - Earls Park, Holmewood – Relevant to Communities Scrutiny	Councillor N Barker, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Key & Exempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That Cabinet approved RHL's proposal to acquire 39 homes for rent at Earls Park Holmewood (2) That Cabinet recommended, to Council, borrowing of £5.553m to provide investment, in the form of a loan, to RHL to progress with the acquisition. 	The opportunity to bring new affordable homes into the District meets the objectives in the Council Plan and Housing Strategy and provides warm safe homes for our residents at affordable rents.

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18 Dec 2025 – Special	Environment Scrutiny Committee Review on Wingerworth Lido – Relevant to Environment Scrutiny	Councillor C Smith – Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee	Non Key & Open	<p><u>Wingerworth Lido</u></p> <p>(1) That the Cabinet approved 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.</p> <p>(2) That the Council continued to undertake maintenance of the site and continues to allow Clay Cross Angling Association to inspect water quality and the welfare of their fish.</p>	<p><u>Wingerworth Lido</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The review process highlighted that many people, not just local residents, value the Lido and appreciate the natural surroundings it offers.</p> <p>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.</p>

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				<p>(3) That Cabinet recognised 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.</p> <p>(4) That Cabinet asked 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).</p> <p>(5) That Cabinet supported the enhancement of biodiversity at the Lido and recognises there may be financial investment required to deliver the Biodiversity Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Residents and stakeholders were supportive in the need to improve biodiversity at the Lido.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The review highlighted that a more collaborative management approach was required to balance the needs of different users.</p>

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				<p>(6) That Cabinet recognised 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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(8) That the Biodiversity Improvement Plan is submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Committee upon its completion.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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				<p>(9) That the Environment Scrutiny Committee be informed of progress in terms of angling in the short-term and long-term.</p> <p><u>AMB</u></p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>This was not a Key Decision and so can be implemented with immediate effect by officers.</p>	<p>Overall, the Committee recognised it was clear that despite individual views, everyone wants what is best for the Lido.</p> <p><u>AMB</u></p> <p>Committee were satisfied that the decision-making process undertaken by the AMB was compliant with the Council’s Constitution.</p> <p>Committee recognised that elected Members may not understand the process of the AMB, and the role they play in the consultation process.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns around the transparency of decisions made by the AMB, and felt this could be improved.</p>

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15 Jan 2026	Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 - 2029/30 – Relevant to Services Scrutiny	Councillor P R Kerry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Leadership & Finance	Non Key & Open	<p>1. That all recommendations below are referred to the Council meeting of 26 January 2026.</p> <p>The following recommendations to Council are made:</p> <p>2. That the view of the Director of Finance & Resources, that the estimates included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 are robust and that the level of financial reserves are adequate at this time, is accepted.</p> <p>3. That officers report back to Cabinet and the Services Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets.</p> <p><u>General Fund</u></p> <p>4. A Council Tax increase of £6.48 will be levied in respect of a notional Band D property (2.99%).</p>	This report presents a budget for consideration by Cabinet. It seeks to secure approval to recommend budgets to Council in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme.

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				<p>5. The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in Appendix 1 of this report was approved as the Current Budget 2025/26, as the Agenda Item 4 Original Budget 2026/27, and as the financial projections in respect of 2027/28 to 2029/30.</p> <p>6. That the General Fund Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, and as the Approved Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30.</p> <p>7. That budget under spends be transferred to the Resilience Reserve to provide increased financial resilience for future years of the plan.</p> <p><u>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</u></p> <p>8. That Council set its rent levels for 2026/27 in consideration of the Social Housing Rent Standard increasing rents by 4.8% from 1st April 2026.</p>	

Date	Title	Portfolio Holder	Status	Decision	Reasons for Decision
				<p>9. The Medium-Term Financial Plan in respect of the Housing Revenue Account as set out in Appendix 3 of this report was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, as the Original Budget in respect of 2026/27, and the financial projection in respect of 2027/28 to 2029/30.</p> <p>10. That the HRA Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 4 was approved as the Current Budget in respect of 2025/26, and as the Approved Programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30.</p> <p>11. That the Management Fee for undertaking housing services at £13.962m and the Management Fee for undertaking capital works at £1.1m to Rykneld Homes in respect of 2026/27 was approved.</p>	

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				<p>12. That Members noted the requirement to provide Rykneld Homes with a 'letter of comfort' to the company's auditors and granted delegated authority to the Council's Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council to agree the contents of that letter.</p>	
	<p>Update on Local Plan Progress – Relevant to Environment Scrutiny</p>	<p>Councillor S Pickering, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place</p>	<p>Non Key & Open</p>	<p>That Cabinet noted the contents of this report and endorsed its inclusion on the agenda for the Council meeting on 26 January 2026 and the next available Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting after that date.</p>	<p>This report is for noting as an update from Officers as to progress against the LDS, with the objective being submission of the draft Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of 2026. Officers have made professional observations about the challenges and risks involved in the process, as considered appropriate, given the very tight nature of the programme.</p>

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					<p>Officers consider that the level of engagement from then public has been healthy and constructive and we have used innovative technology and focus groups to reach as broad a spectrum of views as possible. We are learning about the areas that we need to refine in relation to these new ways of working and open to feedback as we progress to the next phases of consultation.</p> <p>Engagement with the LPWG will continue during 2026 and it is important that the Council makes significant decisions about the strategy to be pursued in order to meet the housing need identified by the standard method in the early part of the year.</p>
	Local Timetable Update	This Item was deferred			