

MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on Thursday 29th January 2026
at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor A Archer (Chair) and Councillor A Tilley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors S Bambrick, J Carroll, M Gee, S Harrison, A Haynes, A Jones, L Mulgrew, M Mulgrew, R Pearson, D Pegg, V Redfern, G Rhind, D Shepherd, L Singh, K Storey, B Stuart, S Taylor and N Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillors N Atkin, D Corbin, M Ford, A Kirke, J Lowe, D Muller, S Meghani, J Patten and P Watson.

Liberal Democrats

Councillors G Andrew and J Davies

Independent Group

Councillors A Wheelton and G Wood.

CL/72 **APOLOGIES**

Council was advised that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor I Hudson (Labour Group) and Councillors M Gotheridge and K Haines (Conservative Group).

CL/73 **BY-ELECTION**

The election of the Councillor Graham Wood at the Seales By-Election held on 06 November 2025 was reported to Council.

CL/74 **TO CONFIRM THE OPEN MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 30 October 2025 (CL/42 – CL/61) and 04 November 2025 (CL/65- CL/71) were confirmed by Council as a true account and signed by the Chair of Council.

CL/75 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Council was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

CL/76 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair advised Council of events attended during December which included the Opening of Eureka Park, Swadlincote Christmas Light Switch on event, a variety of Christmas concerts and the Lord Mayor of Burton's charity

fundraising event. In January the Chair had attended the Holocaust Memorial Day Service.

CL/77 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader addressed Council and shared reflections of former Councillor John Harrison who had recently passed away and offered heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Councillor Ford shared his memories of working with former Councillor John Harrison from 1999 to 2019.

The Leader welcomed newly appointed Councillor Graham Wood.

The Leader updated Council regarding Local Government Reorganisation and noted that the Case for Change had been submitted to government by the deadline of 28 November 2025. It was explained that five proposals for Derbyshire had been submitted to the government which included, one submission of two unitary councils along with four separate proposals from Derby City Council each proposal with different boundary lines. Derbyshire County Council submitted a separate proposal to create one unitary council to cover the whole of the county. It was understood that the government would conduct a seven-week statutory consultation with residents, businesses and organisations on the five proposals. It is expected that a final decision would be made mid-2026. Council was advised that the Leader had written to the Minister to note Members' concerns about the Local Government Reorganisation process, a copy of which had been shared with all Members.

The Leader reported that the planning application for the new leisure facility and office building had been submitted and noted that the building would not only support local communities but encourage more visitors to the District, drive economy and encourage growth.

CL/78 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Head of Paid addressed Council and explained that following the submission of the Local Government Reorganisation proposals Derbyshire councils had been meeting to look at how it could be delivered and working on projects that would not change if there was one or two unitary councils.

Council was advised that the Corporate Peer Challenge was out of date and that a new one would be undertaken.

The Head of Paid Service noted that tomorrow would be the Executive Director – Environment and Communities last day and thanked Heidi McDougall for all her efforts whilst at South Derbyshire District Council.

CL/79 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/80 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

CL/81 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Monitoring Officer addressed Council and advised that following the creation of the Audit and Governance Committee the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer had carried out interviews and now sought approval of the appointment of two Audit and Governance Independent Members.

Councillor Carroll supported the recommendations and thanked the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer for their work with the appointments.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Council approved the appointment of Vivek Achar and Paul Stone as Independent Members to the Council's Audit and Governance Committee for a period of 3 years.

CL/82 **POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report to Council following the result of the Seales by-Election.

Members thanked the Monitoring Officer for the report.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Council approved and adopted the amended allocation of seats to the Political Groups for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/26.

1.2 The Council allocated seats between the Political Groups as set out at Annexe A and invited Group Leaders to make nominations to fill the seats.

CL/83 **OPEN MINUTES:**

The Council received and considered the Open Minutes of its Committees and Area Forum Meetings

Committee	Date	Minute Nos
Environmental and Development Services	06 November 2025	EDS/42 – EDS/58
Development Management	11 November 2025	DM/79 – DM/88
Housing and Community Services	13 November 2025	HCS/44 – HCS/54
Environment and Development Services	18 November 2025	EDS/63 – EDS/69
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 November 2025	OS/31-OS/40
Finance and Management	20 November 2025	FM/64 – FM/76
Etwall Area Forum	30 September 2025	E/A7 – E/A13
Repton Area Forum	09 October 2025	R/A7 – R/A13
Swadlincote Area Forum	15 October 2025	S/A7 – S/A13
Newhall Area Forum	21 October 2025	N/A8 – N/A14
Melbourne Area Forum	25 October 2025	M/A7 – M/A13
Linton Area Forum	18 November 2025	L/A8 – L/A14

It was noted that Councillor Wheelton had not received responses regarding queries raised and information requested at the Environmental and Development Services Committee meeting on 06 November 2025.

It was noted that Councillors A Tilley, B Stuart, A Wheelton attended the 19 November 2025 Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

It was noted that Councillor J Davies attended the 30 September 2025 Etwall Area Forum meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Open Minutes of the above-mentioned Committees were approved as a true record.

CL/84 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PANELS 2025/26**

Members reviewed the composition of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the nominations of Members to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year, as set out at Annexe “B” to these Minutes were received and noted.

CL/85 **COMPOSITION OF SUBSTITUTE PANELS**

Members reviewed the composition of the Substitute Panels for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the nominations of Members to serve on Substitute Panels, as set out at Annexe “C” to these Minutes, were received and noted.

CL/86 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/26**

Members reviewed the Outside Bodies representation list 2025/26.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed that no amendments were to be made.

CL/87 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Members reviewed the Representation of Member Champions.

RESOLVED:

Council was informed no amendments were to be made.

CL/88 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as indicated in the reports of Committees.

EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The Exempt Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 October 2025 (CL/62- CL64) were received.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NUMBER 11

Council was informed that no questions had been received.

EXEMPT MINUTES

<i>Environmental and Development Services</i>	<i>06 November 2025</i>	<i>EDS/59 – EDS/62</i>
<i>Housing and Community Services</i>	<i>13 November 2025</i>	<i>HCS/55 – HCS/56</i>
<i>Finance and Management</i>	<i>20 November 2025</i>	<i>FM/77 – FM/82</i>
<i>Licensing and Appeals Hearing</i>	<i>03 December 2025</i>	<i>LAS/11 – LAS/15</i>

RESOLVED:

The Exempt Minutes of the above-mentioned Committee Meetings were received.

The meeting terminated at 18:40 hours.

COUNCILLOR A ARCHER

CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL