

Title of Report	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CABINET	
Presented by	Councillor N Rushton Infrastructure Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Background Papers	<u>Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 4 December 2025</u> <u>Community Scrutiny Committee – 11 December 2025</u>	Public Report: Yes Key Decision: No
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from this report as all recommendations will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2026/27. Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To consider the recommendations made by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Community Scrutiny Committee at their meetings in December.	
Reason for Decision	To comply with the Cabinet/Scrutiny Protocol for Cabinet to formally consider scrutiny recommendations.	
Recommendations	FOR CABINET TO CONSIDER THE SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND OFFICER RESPONSES AS DETAILED WITHIN THE REPORT.	

1.0 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4 DECEMBER 2025

1.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered the annual Zero Carbon update report at its meeting on 4 December. During discussions in relation to the investigations into the use of mine water around Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre to provide low carbon heat, Members stressed the importance of the project and strongly felt funding should be made available for the next phase of feasibility studies. They also discussed the funding of the Climate Change Programme Manager post.

1.2 RECOMMENDATION 1

THAT CABINET MAKE THE PROVISION TO FUND THE £80,000 COST OF THE STAGE 3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MINE WATER HEATING SOLUTION AS PART OF THE 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS.

1.3 RECOMMENDATION 2

TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FINANCES FOR FUTURE ZERO CARBON PROJECTS, THAT CABINET AGREES TO:

- A) INCREASE THE FUNDS IN THE ZERO CARBON RESERVE; AND**
- B) FINANCE THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME MANAGER POST FROM THE GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT INSTEAD OF THE ZERO CARBON RESERVE;**

AS PART OF THE 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS.

2.0 COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 DECEMBER 2025

2.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee considered the annual leisure centres review at its meeting on 11 December. Discussions were had on the investigations into the use of mine water around Whitwick and Coalville Leisure Centre to provide low carbon heat. Reference was made to the recommendation made by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, as detailed at paragraph 1.4 above. The Community Scrutiny Committee made the same recommendation in support.

2.2 RECOMMENDATION 1

THAT CABINET MAKE THE PROVISION TO FUND THE £80,000 COST OF STAGE 3 FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE MINE WATER HEATING SOLUTIONS AS PART OF THE 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS.

2.3 At its 11 December meeting, the Community Scrutiny Committee also considered the annual community grants report and discussions were had on the services provided by Age UK. It was felt that the cuts made to grant funding in previous financial years had had a detrimental impact to the service provided to the community.

2.4 RECOMMENDATION 2

THAT CABINET REINSTATES THE £22,000 GRANT FUNDING AS PART OF THE 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS.

2.5 RESPONSE OF LEAD OFFICER

The Council is currently in the process of setting its budget for 2026/27. The recommendations outlined above will be taken into account as part of the wider budget proposals and cost pressures for the 2026/27 financial year. Cabinet will formally consider these matters at its meeting scheduled for 3 February 2026.

3.0 CABINET CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the Scrutiny recommendations followed by the officer response, and decide which recommendations it wishes to agree, if any. Any comments and decisions made by Cabinet will be reported back to the Scrutiny Committees at their next meeting.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	- A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	None
Safeguarding:	None
Equalities/Diversity:	None
Customer Impact:	None
Economic and Social Impact:	None
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None
Risks:	None
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