MINUTES of a meeting of the COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Stenson House, London Road, Coalville, LE67 3FN on THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor T Eynon (Chair)

Councillors A Barker, M Ball, D Bigby, S Lambeth, P Lees, E Parle, J Windram and L Windram

Portfolio Holders: Councillors A C Woodman

Officers: Mr J Arnold, Mr Z Fazil, Mr G Hall, Ms A Morgan, Mr P Sanders, Mr A Wallace and Mrs R Wallace

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Horn.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor S Lambeth declared an other interest in item 9, Recommendations of the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group, as he was currently working with an external construction contractor of Severn Trent at the Packington-Measham sewerage treatment works.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

There were no public questions.

4. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2026.

It was noted that Councillor E Parle's attendance was not included and it was agreed to amend the minutes accordingly.

It was moved by Councillor M Ball, seconded Cllr S Lambeth and

RESOLVED THAT:

Subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2026 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.

5. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS UPDATE

The update was noted.

6. CABINET RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The update was noted.

7. NEW RECYCLING CONTAINERS PROJECT UPDATE AND POLICY

Cllr Woodman, Portfolio Holder, presented the report.

Members welcomed the progress made to date on the project particularly the significant amount of work undertaken in reaching the implementation stage, the decision to avoid branding on containers in light of local government reorganisation, and the substantial public response supporting the twin-bin option.

During discussion, members felt that the wording relating to food waste liners was confusing as it could be interpreted as residents were required to use plastic or compostable liners. Members suggested that this wording be clarified in the service statement to make clear that liners are optional rather than mandatory. Officers accepted the suggestion and agreed to clarify the wording in the service statement and communication materials.

Members recognised the potential for the scheme to reduce litter associated with the existing recycling bags and boxes. Officers reported that experiences from other councils who had implemented the twin bin system showed significant reduction in street litter. The scheme was expected to deliver similar benefits within North West Leicestershire.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments which would be presented to Cabinet when considering the report at its meeting on 28 July 2026.

8. RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Cllr Woodman, Portfolio Holder, presented the report.

Members welcomed the review and asked several questions of clarity which were responded to by officers.

During discussion, concerns were raised about how less engaged tenants, particularly older residents or those reluctant to attend meetings, would have their views heard. Officers explained how the new model would work and provided some statistics on the level of engagement for recent consultation exercises. Officers stressed that engagement needed to be broader than traditional meetings and include digital methods suitable for working people and other underrepresented groups.

It was questioned how representative participation would be measured and it was suggested that any future reporting include demographic data and evidence of improved engagement.

In response to a question, officers gave examples of how tenant engagement had influenced the service including changes to housing specifications, repairs targets, service delivery standards, grounds maintenance and recommendations arising from tenant scrutiny panels. It was also confirmed that tenants had helped shape the development of the engagement model over the last 15 months.

Officers emphasised that resident accountability and influence were key regulatory focus and highlighted the importance of learning from complaints, strengthening tenant governance and expanding digital engagement.

At the conclusion of discussions, the Committee felt that it would be beneficial to see how tenant engagement was progressing and therefore agreed that an update paper be presented to the work programming group in due course to include demographic information, evidence of engagement outcomes and increases in participation.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE COALVILLE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor T Eynon, addressed the Committee as the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to present the recommendations as detailed within the report.

It was noted that an amendment was required within the Task and Finish Group report regarding the role of a resident which was incorrectly stated as a parish councillor. This would be amended prior to consideration by Cabinet.

The Committee agreed with the concerns of the task and finish group regarding sewer capacity in Coalville, sewerage discharges into the River Sence and the disconnect between housing growth, planning decisions and infrastructure delivery. Andrew Pritchard, from East Midlands Councils, who had assisted the group in undertaking the review, was invited to address the committee and provide some clarity on the concerns raised.

The Chair acknowledged that Councillor S Lambeth had submitted a briefing paper on the matter, listing concerns and possible actions, and it was noted that it was not possible to consider it at the meeting. Councillor S Lambeth was invited to address the Committee regarding his submission and a discussion ensued. It was agreed to take the paper to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Work Programming Group for further discussion, with an invite being offered to Councillor S Lambeth to attend.

A discussion took place regarding sewer infrastructure and the links to the planning process; questions were raised regarding the implications of the Local Plan and concerns about the enforcement of sustainable drainage systems. It was suggested that Severn Trent should provide a stronger response through the Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation Process to ensure infrastructure issues were fully considered. All Members were in support, and it was agreed to add this into recommendation one of the task and finish group report.

The Committee commended the work of the Task and Finish Group and were in support of the recommendations to cabinet, with the inclusion of the comments made above. Therefore, recommendation one was amended as follows:

‘We have concluded that it is legally possible for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to reject or to impose ‘Grampian conditions’ on new development where it is acknowledged that a lack of sewer or water treatment capacity exists – if it has sufficient evidence from the water company. As a result, the Council should ask STW to review its approach to responding to full and outline planning applications in NW Leicestershire to ensure that robust technical evidence is made available which reflects STW’s publicly stated view that the sewer system in Coalville is currently over capacity. <u>The Council should ask STW to provide a full response on water infrastructure requirements through the regulation 19 Local Plan consultation process</u>’

RESOLVED THAT:

The recommendations of the Water Management in the Coalville Strategic Growth Area Task and Finish Group as detailed within the report, and as amended above, be put to Cabinet at its meeting on 28 July 2026.

10. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr T Eynon, as Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee, presented the report.

It was noted that the attendance for the Corporate Scrutiny Committee was inaccurate, officers confirmed that this would be updated prior to consideration by Council.

Members supported the annual report.

It was moved by Councillor T Eynon, seconded by Councillor A Barker and

RESOLVED THAT:

Authority be delegated to the Scrutiny Committee Chairs to make final amendments to the report following consideration by both Scrutiny Committees prior to consideration by Council.

11. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the future work programme and it was noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm