

To Members of the Scrutiny Commission

Cllr. Nick Brown (Chair- Scrutiny Commissioner)
Cllr. Neil Wright (Vice-Chair – Scrutiny Commissioner)

Cllr. Royston Bayliss
Cllr. Lee Breckon JP
Cllr. Luke Cousin
Cllr. Roy Denney

Cllr. Janet Forey
Cllr. Antony Moseley
Cllr. Tracey Shepherd
Cllr. Dillan Shikotra

Cllr. Matt Tomeo
Cllr. Jane Wolfe
Cllr. Maggie Wright

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMISSION** will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Narborough on **WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2026** at **5.30 p.m.** Please find attached a supplemental item that is required for the meeting and is in addition to the agenda and report pack that has already been circulated.

Yours faithfully



Gemma Dennis
Corporate Services Group Manager & Monitoring Officer

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEM

5. Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 3 - 14)

To consider the 2026/27 Work Programme.

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Scrutiny Work Programme 26/27

Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
Tuesday 29 September 2026 Wednesday 18 November 2026	Corporate Performance Working Group (iPlan)	To examine areas of concern, trends and performance through iPlan – the Council's Corporate Measures system.	Business Systems, Performance & Information Manager	Working Group	29 September – Extend an invitation to the Leader and Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Ben Taylor to review: • Previous concerns raised with iPlan • Review previous budget reports detailing recommendations The Working group will also: • Review access to wider measures and what information can be sought from them. • Review Annual Corporate Action Plan -tbc
Wednesday 10 September 2025 Tuesday 10 March 2026	Review of Member Champion roles	Following the addition of 2 new member Champion roles at Annual Council, bringing the total number to 5 champions, Scrutiny wish to explore: • Value added • Priorities of champions The process for creating new champion positions	Leader of the Council Chief Executive	Scrutiny Commission	10 September – it was agreed that a Task & Finish Group be created to enable Scrutiny to consider roles and responsibilities of each Champion, how they are held accountable, how they are appointed (e.g. on expertise and knowledge). The Task and Finish Group would also allow the Champions to share their ambitions, priorities and background on what's expected of them in their Member Champion roles. 10 March 2026: Member Champions were invited to share their responses from the questionnaire circulated to them.

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
					Thursday 17 September: Next meeting in 26/27: - Part 1 - consider Equalities Champion questionnaire - Part 2 – Portfolio Holder/officer-draft questions to be presented - Recommendations drafted to be presented to Cabinet.
Wednesday 25 March 2026 Tuesday 14 July 2026	HR – Phase 2	This work will examine: - Current days lost to sickness including a breakdown of how many lost to stress and mental health issues. - How are managers supported? - What support is provided to staff? - A timeline of when the next Workplace Health Needs Assessment or Staff Survey or similar is planned. What consideration have been given to the possible impact on recruitment and retention of LGR	Operational HR Service Manager Assistant Director-ICT & Transformation	Working Group	Complete - Note from Officers: Would please like a later date request on this – early 2026 if possible. We are currently recruiting into new (approved) roles within the team and they will have a key part to play in this piece of work. We also have a key project looking at data extraction to support scrutiny of areas such as sickness absence which we would like to be in a position to share as part of this piece of work with Scrutiny Working Group 6 March – pre-meet held with Cllr Neil Wright and Officers to discuss requirements for the meeting. Meeting invitations have been sent to 4 Members who expressed an interest in attending the meeting on 25 March. 25 March – presentation received from ICT and Transformation GM and Operational HR Manager. Considered: draft staff survey and closing date

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
					- review and update of previous recommendations - sickness absence levels - support for managers in stress/mental health cases - LGR Recruitment and Retention Actions for 29 April: - Staff Survey results - Explanation of sickness absence categories 29 April – meeting cancelled as survey results were not available to be presented 14 July – final results received, with T&F agreeing a brief report be written for Cabinet.
Wednesday 14 October 2026	Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness	To examine the management of temporary accommodation properties. How is the management company being resourced and how the Council is expecting to 'scale up' on the basis of bringing more properties on board. How much did the council pay out of reserves to support temporary accommodation last year (25/26).	Portfolio Holder Assistant Director - Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Housing Services Manager	Scrutiny Commission and Task and Finish Groups	17 June 2026 – Scrutiny Commission considered an update on Renters Rights and received a Homelessness Briefing. Due to time constraints at the meeting the Chair deferred the financial implications of homelessness to be considered at a future meeting. 14 October 2026 - Homelessness Action Plan, and - The Housing Strategy 2026 – 2031

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
		2. What are the current rates for local housing allowances and comparable benefit subsidy payments from the DWP? What are the average differentials on properties? So, on average what is it costing the council per month to balance? What is the cost of social value? 3. How is the new in-house management of Glen Parva working? What are the savings? Does this complex “wash its face” or what is the differential on costs? 4. There was £500k put into the budget for temp accommodation as a contingency. Has this been utilised yet or has it been determined what it will be used for? 5. What are the borrowing policies for the proposed purchases of properties? 6. How are the new national rules supporting LA's financially with their statutory duties for homelessness? 7. How is partnership working across the districts and the city preventing a “post code lottery” on securing temp. accommodation? 8. Is Blaby in danger of becoming a victim of its own success by providing more temp accommodation and thus increasing demand from			

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
		3. Examine the FAQ's that staff have put forward. <u>Supporting Voluntary Groups</u> Voluntary Groups provide a vital service to those in need. 1. How can we support local voluntary groups 2. How can the council sustain them for the future 3. How will LGR continue to support them <u>Community Engagement and Communications</u> To explore methods and the effectiveness of how the Council communicates with residents, Parishes and the Town Council <u>Review of Asset Disposal process and Changes to the Assets of Community Value</u> To gain an understanding of the decision-making processes of how council assets are disposed or sold. The upcoming changes to the Assets of Community Value (ACV) regime will significantly			

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
		impact how community assets are valued and managed. Consider: • The list of ACV's in the District • How the register is maintained, • Impact of changes in legislation. • How the Council is working with Parishes to take on more assets • Impact of LGR			
Wednesday 4 November 2026	Community, Business, Work and Skills	Commissioners requested an update on progress of the business grants scheme. An update will be provided by the Community Business, Work and Skills team on this and the work of the Economic Development team.	Portfolio Holder Executive Director – Place Assistant Director – Assets and Major Projects. Community Development, Work & Skills Manager	Scrutiny Commission	
TBC	Annual Complaints Report	This is reviewed annually by Scrutiny. Scrutiny wish to receive information on: • Emerging themes • Trends over the last 5 years • Outcomes of complaints Number of complaints related to calls received	Business Systems, Performance & Information Manager	Scrutiny Commission	Members considered the annual update and requested further information – further detail is in the minutes of the meeting

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
4 November 2026	Review of Councillor Ward Improvement Scheme	To examine the grants process including the number of applications approved and declined. The pilot will be reviewed and the outcomes presented to Council in February 2027 to determine whether the Scheme progresses.	Assistant Director - Corporate Services	Commissioners to consider data initially	
Wednesday 2 December 2026	Discretionary Hardship Fund	To examine council tax support and discretionary housing schemes, the no. of claims received and approved/refused.	Finance/Community Services/ Revenues and Benefits as appropriate	Task and Finish	
13, 20, 27 January 2027	Consideration of the 2027/28 Budget Proposals	13 January – Budget context setting 20 January – Portfolio Holder sessions 27 January – Draft Scrutiny response Consider financial picture in context of setting a balanced budget. Examine and respond to Portfolio Holder proposed draft budgets and funding priorities. Review of fuel costs for depot fleet HVO vs diesel costs	All SLT/Cabinet Executive All non-executive Members	Scrutiny of the 26/27 Administration's Budget Proposals	

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Date:	Item	Detail	Attendance required	Forum	Progress
April 2027 – TBC	Car Parking Strategy	To consider the draft Car Parking Strategy	Assistant Director - Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Portfolio Holder	Scrutiny Commission	

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Available Scrutiny Dates		Scrutiny Topic:	Scrutiny Commission Dates		Scrutiny Topic:
Date of meeting:	Report deadline		Date of Meeting	Report Deadline	
Thursday 9 July 2026	30 June, publish 1 July	n/a	Wednesday 17 June 2026	8 June, publish 9 June	- Renter's rights briefing - Homelessness briefing
Tuesday 14 July 2026	3 July, publish 6 July	HR Phase 2	Wednesday 9 September 2026	28 August, publish 1 September	Leader's State of the District
Thursday 17 September Brooks Room	27 August, publish 28 August	Member Champions	Wednesday 4 November 2026	26 October, publish 27 October	- Community, Business, Work and Skills (Blaby Business Grants Scheme and Economic Development Framework) - Councillor Ward Improvement Scheme
Tuesday 29 September Park Room	18 September, publish 21 September	Corporate Performance (iPlan)	Wednesday 10 February 2027	1 February, publish 2 February	
Wednesday 14 October 2026 Brooks Room	5 October, publish 6 October	1) Homelessness Action Plan, and 2) The Housing Strategy 2026 – 2031	Wednesday 14 April 2027	5 April, publish 6 April	
Tuesday 27 October 2026 Brooks Room	16 October, publish 19 October		Wednesday 16 June 2027	7 June, publish 8 June	
Thursday 3 November 2026 Park Room TBC	25 October, publish 28 October		Wednesday 8 September 2027	30 August, publish 31 August	
Tuesday 10 November 2026 Brook Room	30 October, publish 2 November		Wednesday 3 November 2027	25 October, publish 26 October	

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Wednesday 18 November Brooks Room	9 November, publish 10 November	Corporate Performance (iPlan)			•
Wednesday 2 December	23 November, publish 24 November	Discretionary Hardship Fund (confirmed)			•
Tuesday 8 December 2026 Park Room	27 November, publish 30 November				•

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