

To: Chair & Members of the Council

The Arc  
High Street  
Clowne  
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Monday, 25 October 2021

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Dear Councillor

**COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 3rd November, 2021 at 10:00 hours.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised from page 2 onwards.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Stenberg".

Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

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### AGENDA

***Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 10:00 hours taking place in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne***

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS</b>	<b>Page No.(s)</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:  a) any business on the agenda b) any urgent additional items to be considered c) any matters arising out of those items and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chair's Announcements</b>  To receive any announcements that the Chair of the Council may desire to lay before the meeting.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 as a correct record.	5 - 24
<b>5.</b>	<b>Questions from the Public</b>  In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities for a period of up to thirty minutes. A question may only be asked if notice of twelve clear working days has been given.	None
<b>6.</b>	<b>Questions from Members</b>  In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, to allow Members to ask questions about Council activities. A question may only be asked if notice of twelve clear working days has been given.	None
<b>7.</b>	<b>Motions</b>  In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, to consider motions on notice from Members.	None

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|-----|--|---------|
| 8.  | <b>Reports on urgency decisions taken by the Executive</b>   | 25 - 37 |
|     | To receive a report from the Executive with details of any Key Decisions taken under special urgency provisions or Key Decisions which were exempt from Call In. |         |
| 9.  | <b>Appointment of Auditors 2023-2028</b>   | 38 - 42 |
|     | Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance.  |         |
| 10. | <b>Proportionality and Change of Committee Seats</b>   | 43 - 53 |
|     | To give consideration to the change in political proportionality and requests for changes to Committee Seats for the remainder of the Municipal Year.            |         |
| 11. | <b>Member Development 2020-2021 Annual Report</b>  | 54 - 60 |
|     | To consider the work of the Member Development Working Group over the last municipal year.   |         |
| 12. | <b>The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2025/26</b>  | 61 - 77 |
|     | Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance.  |         |

## **PART TWO - EXEMPT ITEMS**

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 13. | <b>Exclusion of the Public</b>   |         |
|     | To move:-  |         |
|     | That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006). <i>[The category of exempt information is stated below each item].</i> |         |
| 14. | <b>Recommendations from Employment and Personnel Committee - Structure Changes</b>   | 78 - 86 |
|     | To consider the recommendations from Employment and Personnel Committee in relation to proposed structural changes requiring a growth in budget for Council approval.  |         |
|     | <i>[Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3]</i>   |         |

**15. Senior Management Review**

Report of the Leader of the Council to present next steps in the Senior Management Review.

**TO FOLLOW**

[Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4]

**16. Chairman's Closing Remarks**

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 8 September 2021 at 10:00 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, David Downes, Fox, Steve Fritchley, Hales, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Duncan McGregor, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Liz Smyth, Janet Tait, Deborah Watson and Jen Wilson.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Executive Director of Resources & Head of Paid Service), Grant Galloway (Executive Director of Strategy and Development), Sarah Sternberg (Monitoring Officer), Theresa Fletcher (Head of Finance & Resources), Nicola Calver (Governance Manager) and Alison Bluff (Governance Officer).

**The Chair asked the meeting to stand for 1 minutes' silence in respect of ex Councillor Toni Bennett who had recently passed away.**

### **CL35-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Bryson, Paul Cooper, Mary Dooley, Tom Kirkham and Clive Moesby.

### **CL36-21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Being members of the mineworkers' pension scheme, the following Members declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (1) – Motion re Mineworkers' Pensions.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Councillor Allan Bailey	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Derek Adams	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Dexter Bullock	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Jim Clifton	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Andrew Joesbury	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Chris Kane	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Steve Fritchley	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)
Councillor Duncan McGregor	Non Statutory Interests (other interests)

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### CL37-21/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Emergency Services and First Responders

As had been custom and practice for the last few years, and on behalf of the Council, the Chair would be raising the Union Jack flag outside of the Arc at 9.00am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to celebrate the work of the Emergency Services and First Responders. All Members and officers were welcome to attend if they so wished.

#### Honorary Alderman

Members were aware that the presentations of Honorary Alderman had been delayed from last year due to the Covid19 Pandemic, also, due to capacity in the Council Chamber, it had been decided to hold the ceremonial presentation of Honorary Alderman at an alternative venue to be confirmed in the near future.

#### Pinxton Parish Council Fun Day

The Chair read out a note on behalf of Councillor Mary Dooley who wished to pass on a 'big thanks' from Pinxton Parish Council to Leisure staff; Tom, Gracie and Isobel, who had worked hard at Pinxton Parish Council Fun day.

### CL38-21/22 MINUTES

The Chair noted an amendment was required to Minute Number CL26-21/22 of the minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, as per the wording highlighted in bold below.

#### Agenda Item 5 - Motion submitted by Councillor Tom Kirkham - Sale of Land at Park Avenue, Glapwell;

*The Director of Development pointed out for the information of Members that the sale of the land had been scrutinised when the decision had been called in and reviewed by Growth Scrutiny Committee in 2020.*

*Amend to;*

***The Director of Development confirmed that at this point that the sale of the land had already been completed on 21st June 2021 and that procedures were being undertaken by officers to process that sale.***

Councillor Tricia Clough also noted that at the last meeting, the Chair had requested that all Members receive a copy of the statement via email from the Director of Development (now the Executive Director of Strategy and Development), and to date she had not yet received it.

The Executive Director of Strategy and Development agreed that the commitment was given at the last meeting and confirmed that the statement would be sent to all Members in due course.

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Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Ray Heffer

**RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of a Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, be approved as a true and correct record.

(Governance Manager/ Executive Director of Strategy and Development)

### CL39-21/22      QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, Members of the Public were able to ask questions to an Executive Member about the Council's activities for a period of up to 15 minutes.

No questions were submitted to this meeting of Council under Rule 8 of the Council Procedure Rules.

### CL40-21/22      QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9, Members of Council were able to ask questions about the Council's activities to either the Chair of the Council, Chairman of a specific Committee or a relevant Portfolio Holder.

No questions had been submitted by Members of Council under Council Procedure Rule 9.

### CL41-21/22      MOTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Councillors were able to submit Motions on Notice for consideration at meetings of Council.

a) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Steve Fritchley:

***“To support the recommendations of the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee Mineworkers’ Pension Scheme Sixth Report of Session 2019-21 as follows;***

#### *Mineworkers’ Pension Scheme*

- 1. The Scheme’s Trustees had little choice but to accept the Government’s proposal to divide future surpluses on a 50:50 basis, as a condition of securing the Government’s guarantee during the negotiations in 1994. (Paragraph 16).*
- 2. The Government failed to conduct due diligence during the 1994 negotiations and undertook no empirical analysis or evaluation to inform or support the 50:50 split it proposed. The Government was negligent not to take actuarial advice. (Paragraph 17).*
- 3. The 50:50 split was, and remains, arbitrary. (Paragraph 18).*
- 4. To date, the Government has received £4.4bn from the Mineworkers’ Pension Scheme. This is already more than the 1994 expectations of what the Government would*

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receive. The Government is also due to receive at least another £1.9bn, on top of 50% off any future surpluses. (Paragraph 22).

5. The Government has not paid any funds into the Scheme since the surplus sharing arrangement was put in place in 1994. (Paragraph 23).

### Fairness of the current terms

6. Many former mineworkers have chronic health issues directly related to their former occupation, and the former coalfields are amongst the most deprived areas of the UK. Sadly, their numbers are also decreasing year by year. Over half of Scheme members receive less than the average pension. Given the success of the Scheme, and the vast sums which have been paid to the Government, it is unconscionable that many of the Scheme's beneficiaries are struggling to make ends meet. (Paragraph 31).

7. We recognise that the Government's guarantee is important, has contributed to the success of the Scheme, and has benefitted Scheme members. However, we are not convinced by the Government's argument that its entitlement to 50% of surpluses is proportionate to the relatively low degree of risk it actually faces in practice. The number of Scheme members and the relative size of the fund has fallen significantly since 1994. Yet, the Government's 'price' for the guarantee has not been adjusted to reflect that fact. With no formal period review mechanism built into the agreement, pension members remain tied to an expensive arrangement. (Paragraph 46).

8. Given that the Scheme has continued to produce strong returns despite the 2008 Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, there is little reason to believe the Government will be required to pay into the Scheme before it is wound-up. Even if, in extremis, the Government is required to financially contribute at some point in the future, realistically its contribution will not come close to the (at least) £6.3bn it is currently due to receive in total. (Paragraph 47).

9. Whether or not the Government knew in 1994 that it would disproportionately benefit from the arrangement, and whether all parties thought it was fair at the time, 24 Mineworkers' Pension Scheme is irrelevant. It is patently clear today that the arrangements have unduly benefited the Government, and it is untenable for the Government to continue to argue that the arrangements remain fair. (Paragraph 48).

10. Governments should not be in the business of profiting from mineworkers' pensions. We are therefore disappointed by the Government's argument that the 1994 agreement is a success because the public purse has had strong returns from it. The Government is not a corporate entity driven by profit-motives, and should not view miners' pensions as an opportunity to derive income. We also note that allowing the arrangement to continue would appear antithetical to the Government's stated aim of redressing socio-economic inequality and 'levelling up' left-behind communities. (Paragraph 49).

### Changing the terms of the 1994 agreement

11. The Government is disingenuous in claiming the Trustees are content with the terms of the current arrangements. The Trustees have been clear that they are not - and never were - happy with the terms, and that they would welcome any changes in members' favours. The Government should not mistake the Trustees' acceptance of the deal for contentment. (Paragraph 53).



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12. *We are disappointed by the Government's dismissive approach to proposals to review the existing arrangement. The Minister's claim of openness is contrary to the approach successive governments have taken since 1994. The Government must approach any future discussions with the Trustees with a genuinely open mind, and with the best interests of the pension members in mind. (Paragraph 54).*

13. *With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that the Government has already profited greatly from the Scheme. The Government must acknowledge that continuation of the arrangements in their current form deserves a review and a better outcome for pensions should be found. The current arrangements should be replaced with a revised agreement in which the Government is only entitled to a share of surpluses if the Scheme falls into deficit, and the Government has to provide funds. In that event, the Government should be entitled to 50% of future surpluses up to the total value of the funds it has provided to make up any shortfall. Such an arrangement takes account of the vast funds the Government has received thus far and the significant reduction in the risk it faces, and would ensure that neither party will be out of pocket in future. (Paragraph 58).*

14. *Whilst we have called for the 50:50 split to be replaced with a more appropriate arrangement moving forward, we believe pensioners should also receive a more immediate uplift. We recommend that the Government hands the £1.2bn it is due to receive from the Investment Reserve back to miners, and sets out its proposals for how and when this will be administered in response to this report. (Paragraph 63) Conclusion.*

15. *The Government's guarantee has undoubtedly benefitted the Scheme's members by providing vital security that the value of pensions will not decrease. However, the price of this guarantee is no longer fair. (Paragraph 64).*

16. *The beneficiaries of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme toiled in dreadful conditions, to keep the country's lights on. Many now live with industrial diseases caused by the dangerous nature of their former occupation. The least they should expect in return is the secure retirement they were promised decades ago. Yet, successive governments have failed to deliver this. (Paragraph 65).*

17. *The Government must now accept its moral obligation to the Scheme members, and acknowledge that continuation of the surplus sharing arrangements in their current form robs beneficiaries of the financial security they have rightfully earned. (Paragraph 66).*

18. *Our recommendations set out equitable arrangements which would go some way to redressing the sense of historic injustice felt by the Scheme's members. The Government must consider them carefully. (Paragraph 67).*

Councillor Andrew Joesbury reserved his right to speak on the motion which he supported. He proposed that the Council write to Mark Fletcher, MP for Bolsover, seeking his support for a change in the Miners Pension Scheme where a great number of his constituents had been miners and families of miners.

Councillor Peter Roberts reserved his right to speak on the motion and read out a statement which concluded that he could not support the motion as it would deny the NHS £1.9b

Councillor Janet Tait reserved her right to speak on the motion which she supported. In

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response to Councillor Peter Robert's statement, she noted that the motion was not asking for the abolition of the 50:50 split but a reduction in the funds that the government received. She felt this was fair due to the reducing number of claimants and that the former mineworkers would still receive a guarantee on their pension.

Councillor Steve Fritchley noted Councillor Roberts' and Tait's comments. He agreed with Councillor Joesbury's proposal that the Council write to Mark Fletcher MP, seeking his support on the motion in the knowledge that he was representing a former mining community.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Derek Adams that the Council supported the eighteen recommendations of the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee Mineworkers' Pension Scheme Sixth Report of Session 2019-21, as listed above and that the Council write to Mark Fletcher, MP for Bolsover, seeking assurance of his support on the motion.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4 of the Council's Constitution, Councillors Duncan McGregor, Steve Fritchley and Councillor Sandra Peake requested that a recorded vote be taken on the motion.

For the motion (29) - Councillors Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, David Downes, Stan Fox, Steve Fritchley, Donna Hales, Ray Heffer, Natalie Hoy, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Munro, Duncan McGregor, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Liz Smyth, Janet Tait, Rita Turner, Deborah Watson and Jenny Wilson.

Against the motion (1) - Councillor Peter Roberts

Abstentions – (0)

**RESOLVED** that –

(1) the Council supported the eighteen recommendations of the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee Mineworkers' Pension Scheme Sixth Report of Session 2019-21 as listed above,

(2) the Council write to Mark Fletcher, MP for Bolsover, seeking assurance of his support on the motion.

(Leader of the Council)

b) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Clive Moesby:

Councillor Steve Fritchley presented the motion on behalf of Councillor Moesby who was not present at the meeting.

***“That Bolsover District Council writes to:-***

- the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak MP, requesting that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.***
- urge the government to end the five week wait for Universal Credit by***

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***converting advances into grants instead of loans.***

- ***continue to work alongside partner organisations to provide help and assistance wherever possible to all those struggling during these difficult times.***
- ***Mark Fletcher MP (MP for Bolsover) to ascertain his stance/position on the reduction to Universal Credit”.***

*The Chancellor had quite rightly extended the £20 uplift to Universal Credit (UC) for six months in his March budget. Unemployment was expected to continue to rise into the foreseeable future.*

*The UK had one of the weakest welfare safety nets in Europe which had been cruelly exposed by the pandemic – and I think it would be wrong both morally and financially to end the £20 uplift at the end of September.*

*The total number of households on Universal Credit across the Bolsover District (Feb 2021) was now 4749. The removal of the £20 increase would cast many more deeply into poverty.*

*Bolsover District Council notes the permanent increase in UC would not only give a financial boost to some of the District's most deprived families but would have a positive impact on the local economy. (Based on these figures an extra £5m would be pumped into the local economy).*

Councillor David Dixon reserved his right to speak on the motion. He referred to the comment in the motion which stated that unemployment was expected to continue to rise and Councillor Dixon felt this was misleading. As far as he was concerned unemployment was falling and there were over 1 million jobs which had vacancies.

Councillor Janet Tait reserved her right to speak on the motion which she supported. She noted that a lot of claimants of Universal Credit were actually in work but were receiving low pay, therefore, it would not only be the unemployed who would benefit from the £20 remaining in place.

Councillor Liz Smyth reserved her right to speak on the motion which she supported. She noted that the Covid19 Pandemic was far from over, and the impact of furlough coming to an end was yet unknown.

Councillor Nick Clarke reserved his right to speak on the motion which he supported. He noted that rising fuel prices were already being transferred to customers and with winter approaching people would have to choose whether to put food on their table or cut their heating costs.

Councillor Sandra Peake reserved her right to speak on the motion which she supported. She agreed with Councillor Clarke's and Tait's comments and added that the additional £20 was a lifeline to some people so it was important it remained in place.

The Chair reserved his right to speak on the motion which he supported. He noted that food costs were also rising along with fuel costs and there was already an inadequacy of food choice in shops for people who had limited financial resources.

Councillor David Dixon reaffirmed his view that the comment in the motion regarding

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rising unemployment was misleading. The £20 per week was put in place as a temporary measure by the government. The national numbers in July 2020 for unemployment was 5.2% and the local numbers were down at 4.2% and this had been falling.

Councillor Rose Bowler reserved her right to speak on the motion which she supported. She felt that if the £20 was removed the amount of people needing food parcels would increase.

Councillor Andrew Joesbury reserved his right to speak on the motion which he supported. As well as the removal of the £20 increase, he also noted the unfairness that public sector workers had been on a pay freeze for 10 years and that the government had recently announced that they were going to increase national insurance by 1.5%.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Andrew Joesbury that Bolsover District Council write to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak MP, requesting that the £20 increase to Universal Credit be made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits, and; urges the government to end the five week wait for Universal Credit by converting advances into grants instead of loans; continues to work alongside partner organisations to provide help and assistance wherever possible to all those struggling during these difficult times, and; writes to Mark Fletcher MP, to ascertain his stance/position on the reduction to Universal Credit”.

**RESOLVED** that Bolsover District Council -

- a) writes to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, requesting that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits,
- b) urges the government to end the five week wait for Universal Credit by converting advances into grants instead of loans,
- c) continues to work alongside partner organisations to provide help and assistance wherever possible to all those struggling during these difficult times,
- d) writes to Mark Fletcher MP (MP for Bolsover) to ascertain his stance/position on the reduction to Universal Credit”.

(Leader of the Council)

## **CL42-21/22 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATE**

Members considered a report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Environmental Health Service during 2020/2021, and also the impact and response to Covid19.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted some examples on demands of the service during the year. At the peak of the lockdown last summer, there had been a 300% increase in domestic burning complaints when the household recycling centres were closed. Contrastingly, there had been a reduction in complaints regarding noise nuisance from dogs barking as more people were at home but at the same time there had been a lack of tolerance for general noise nuisance where complaints had increased.

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A new app had been trialled where customers could collate evidence and send it to Environmental Health to request help with noise nuisance – this had been successful and would continue post Covid.

A new team manager was in post in the Environmental Health Protection Team, which had meant performance had improved in a number of different areas such as planning application consultations and air quality monitoring.

The Licensing section had also received increased requests for advice for example, from taxi drivers and a number of operational improvements had been introduced such as online applications and the licences themselves being issued by email. New staff had been appointed to streamline this work and this enabled the Licensing and Enforcement officers to continue with more enforcement activities. The Licensing Policy was also being reviewed.

The Environmental Enforcement Team were dealing with increased numbers of fly tipping, especially since the second lockdown. Work was underway to review CCTV and surveillance technologies to help capture evidence and undertake enforcement around these waste crimes. Members would note that there had been a recent successful prosecution of a roofer from out of the District who had fly tipped his waste in the rural hamlet of Stainsby.

Neighbourhood patrols were fully restored earlier this year to ensure littering and dog fouling offences were both deterred and detected. Members could encourage their residents to report these types of offences along with any evidence to the Council.

Food hygiene and safety inspections had also increased as new operators such as home bakers / caterers had started operating and selling through new platforms such as Facebook Market Place.

A dedicated Covid19 team had been established using funding from Derbyshire County Council Public Health and surge funding from Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government to enhance capacity and meet demand, particularly with regard to compliance, business advice and support.

Additional ring-fenced grant funding which had been provided by the government through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) was to support Covid19 related activities, including public health interventions, compliance and enforcement.

The investment in the service was certainly being felt with increased capacity within teams to undertake statutory duties and respond to requests for service. Two new Environmental Health Officer posts were also being funded for officers to undertake the 2-year MSc. Environmental Health course.

Councillor David Dixon noted the good work which had been carried out by the various Environmental Health teams at West Lea in Clowne and requested his thanks be relayed to the team for making a massive difference there.

Councillor Sandra Peake noted the work of the refuse collectors during the pandemic and wished her thanks be passed on to them.

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Councillor Tricia Clough thanked the Portfolio Holder for the report and also the Environmental Health team. She added that the New Houghton Hub which had recently reopened had received a 5 star award from Environmental Health for their community café which meant they could provide meals at a rate that people in the community could afford to eat.

Other Members thanked the Portfolio Holder for a detailed report and noted the excellent work of the Environmental Health Team during the year and requested their acknowledgement be relayed to the team.

The Executive Director – Resources thanked Members for their comments and added that the Environmental Health team had been grateful for the additional investment in the service which had enabled them to do a full service review and create the vacancies that the Portfolio Holder had referred to in the report. The team had welcomed the approach which had helped them to concentrate on the day job and be more proactive in their work instead of fire fighting with the volume of work that they had encountered particularly through Covid19 and the infection control work.

Moved by Councillor Deborah Watson and seconded by Councillor Derek Adams  
**RESOLVED** that the update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the Covid19 pandemic period be noted.

(Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing)

### **CL43-21/22      INDEPENDENT PERSON APPOINTMENT**

Members considered a report presented by the Monitoring Officer in relation to the position of Independent Person to assist with the Standards process until the end of September 2025.

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council was required to appoint Independent Persons who must be consulted by the Authority before a decision was taken on a complaint against a Member, and who may be consulted by the Member and at any other time by the Authority.

In addition, the Independent Persons may also be involved in any disciplinary action against any of the three statutory officers, those being the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

To be appointed, an Independent Person must go through a recruitment process and not have been a Member, co-opted member or officer of the Authority or a parish council in the District or be a relative or close friend of any such person. They also cannot have been a Member or officer of the District or parish council in the last five years.

At the Meeting of Council held in September 2017, it was agreed to appoint Ian Kirk to this role for a four year term. This term was due to expire on 14th September 2021 and it was considered, in the Monitoring Officer's opinion, that Ian Kirk continue to be an ideal candidate for the role, and on that basis should be offered a further four year term of engagement to carry out this service to the Authority.

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Moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley  
**RESOLVED** that Ian Kirk be appointed as an Independent Person to assist with the Standards process until the end of September 2025.

(Monitoring Officer)

### **CL44-21/22      SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Members considered a report presented by the Leader which provided an update on the Senior Management Review and the reporting arrangements for Assistant Directors.

At its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Council approved the disestablishment of the two Joint Director posts and established a full-time Executive Director post, namely Executive Director of Resources. This allowed for two Executive Directors dedicated solely to Bolsover District Council.

Following formal consultation with the two Joint Directors, Karen Hanson was appointed to the newly established post of Executive Director of Resources and also appointed to the role of Head of Paid Service. These appointments took effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. Grant Galloway was appointed as Executive Director of Strategy and Development.

The report to Council on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021, also requested the Executive Directors carry out a review of the management structure in terms of reporting lines and responsibilities for departments. Discussions had taken place with the leadership of the Council's Strategic Alliance partner and informal discussions with Heads of Service / Assistant Directors in order to arrive at a preferred option.

To enable the Council to achieve its ambitions, the reporting structure as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, was currently considered the most appropriate.

Subject to further consultation with North East Derbyshire District Council in relation to joint officers, it was proposed that all Heads of Services be re-titled as Assistant Directors within the new structure – this would provide consistency across the Senior Management Team. It should also be noted that there were no significant changes to Assistant Director job roles proposed - the changes related to reporting lines and job titles only and did not require formal consultation or approval. All staff affected were aware of the review.

Whilst some service areas and Assistant Directors would remain joint as part of the Strategic Alliance Management Team, other posts would remain single Council posts, and these were outlined in the report.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor  
**RESOLVED** that the reporting structure for the Senior Management Team as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.

### **CL45-21/22      SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The Leader proposed that Procedure Rules of Debate for Council be suspended to enable Members to discuss the contents of the letter from the RH Robert Jenrick MP,

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without restraint.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor **RESOLVED** that the Council's Procedure Rules of Debate be suspended to enable Members to discuss the contents of the letter from the RH Robert Jenrick MP, without restraint.

### **CL46-21/22      LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Members considered a letter from the RH Robert Jenrick MP, Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), in relation to the Government's Levelling Up agenda regarding local government reorganisation.

The Chair advised Members that Bolsover District Council was probably the first Council in Derbyshire to debate the contents of the letter and that a representative from the BBC was present to film the debate.

The letter from the Robert Jenrick, followed on from the Prime Minister's speech of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, regarding the government's intention to widen devolution beyond cities to counties, towns and villages, as they had promised in their pre-election manifesto.

The letter explained that the government did not want to or could not deliver full devolution alone and wanted to work with local government. The Leader noted that in effect, the government was leaving it to local politicians to come to some arrangement. The letter also stated that "not one size fits all, and no authority would be forced to wear a model that was ill fitting".

The Leader noted that the government's proposals for combined authorities was not new. Members had discussed 'Vision Derbyshire' with Derbyshire County Council last year and had decided not to be involved. Derbyshire County Council had now written to Robert Jenrick asking to be considered for inclusion in early discussions about county deals.

'Vision Bolsover' was the Council's attempt to shape the future but this depended on the decisions Members made today, either locally or nationally. The Leader stated that Members may consider that what the Council wanted to achieve could only be possible by being part of a bigger authority, and Members may be right but there would be a price to pay and the Leader had asked Senior Management Team to analyse the pros and cons.

The Leader stated that Bolsover District Council wanted to help shape the future. However, it would not help shape the future if it constantly waited for someone else to make the decision for it. At the end of this debate there would hopefully be a clear idea of what Members' stance was on local government reform. The BBC was filming out of particular interest and Politics Today also had a particular interest in what Bolsover was doing. Times may be difficult in some urban areas but the Leader felt that rationalising staff numbers would not overcome the difficulties and a faceless bureaucracy would not provide an efficient service to the tax payer - and that is what it was about - the people that Members represented.



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The Leader added that the debate on local government reform would also be communicated to residents via the Council's In Touch magazine where they would be given an opportunity to comment in writing or via the Council's website.

Councillor Duncan McGregor thanked the Leader for his words and his rallying call for Members to be proactive and take the initiative in shaping the future of Bolsover and its constituents. Like the Leader, he also remembered previous calls for amalgamation of councils and the demand for greater efficiencies, and being told that bigger was better, and with absolute certainty, he had never experienced this to be the case. This was backed up by evidence across the country where the anticipated benefits had failed to materialise.

Councillor McGregor stated that the Council maintaining its democratic accountability, its direct connectedness to its communities, its ability to represent the people it lived with, was critical to a healthy and sustainable social economic and political future.

If county councils imposing unitary authorities achieved what they were asking for, they would have an average population almost 5 times larger than the current average size of all English councils. With a national average of 3,300 voters per councillor, England was already substantially less locally represented than other major western countries. District councils and local town and parish councils continued to offer the most direct representation between their electorate and their representatives with an average of 2,000 voters per councillor - county councils by contrast had 9,000 voters per councillor on average.

Councillor McGregor stated that the issue of local government reform today was not a failure of local government but a failure of support of local government over years to provide sufficient funding and autonomy to enable local government to flourish and energise the economic recovery of local communities.

Local district and parish councils were the bedrock of how local communities would build a new more prosperous future for its communities. It was Members that understood best their local community, their needs, their opportunities, and could build on its strengths. This had been clearly demonstrated as the Council had worked in collaboration across its partners to support its communities through the Covid pandemic. It was the Council that developed collaboration where it was needed - across employers, community and the third sector, and health and care organisations, to enable its community to find the resilience to weather the more severe impact on lives and livelihoods. The Council could have done more had it been better supported from central government to do so and not been stymied by years of underinvestment.

Councillor McGregor urged Members to listen closely to their conscience as they debated the future of Bolsover District Council on the call for a unitary council for Derbyshire. He implored Members to consider whether they really believed in their heart of hearts that the people of Bolsover District would be better served, would be given a brighter future under different County arrangements. Or did Members think that they, who understood their local communities so intimately, could achieve more by continuing to work in the spirit of collaboration and partnership to get on with the job they had been elected to do, especially as the Council had faced the consequences of the Covid pandemic - Councillor McGregor emphatically suggested that they could.

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Councillor McGregor further stated that Members should not allow themselves to be distracted by yet another vocacious debate on reorganisation. The Council had the Vision Bolsover plan, and he urged Members to proceed with it and deliver.

The Executive Director of Strategy and Development spoke about the potential structures that could be put in place across Derbyshire with agreement. The government's proposals for reform for the way in which services were delivered across the country, could result in no change at all but it could be about creating a single county or a regional council located in one of the major cities – depending on the size, it could be Derby, Nottingham, or even as far afield as Leicester.

The county of Derbyshire, including Derby City, was a very diverse area, which saw districts, villages, towns and a city, which had very different needs, different economic prosperities and different challenges. From the rural Peak District in the west and the heavily populated city in the south and the towns and villages of the former mining communities in the north and the east.

The type of local authority structure adopted would have an impact on the access and accountability the electorate would have, so generally, the more accessible politicians were, the easier to hold them to account, have dialogue with them and be more likely they would understand the needs of their constituents. There was plenty of evidence to suggest this - the larger the authority, the more remote and less connected people were.

The needs of the rural communities were different to a city region or a larger metropolitan area - this was because of the size and concentration of the people, and the wider range of services that they provided. It would therefore make sense to ensure that whatever local government model was put in place, it had the right balance between being small enough to be accountable and accessible, and large enough to benefit from economy of scale, and that the type and make-up of population across the area was similar so it should be urban focused or rural focused.

There were three types of local authority structure; the 2 tier model, which was a district who was the lower tier, and the county council which was the upper tier – as was the current structure for the Bolsover and DCC, presently. Services such as housing, refuse collection, grounds maintenance and economic development were delivered by the District Council, and highways, adult social care and education was delivered by the County Council.

The advantages of a 2 tier model was that services were delivered at a local level and there was a better understanding of the needs of the area - it also had the advantage of being accountable and accessible ensuring people had more of a voice. Countywide functions such as transport were dealt with under one organisation giving them the ability to take a holistic view of cross boundary impacts, which was important. The disadvantages were that residents may not always understand which council provided which service, and economies of scale may not always be realised.

The 1 tier model, or the unitary authority, was where all services were delivered by one authority and this would likely to be a countywide organisation which would probably include Derby City. All functions currently undertaken by the District and County Council and Derby City would be delivered from one administrative centre

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with potentially local hubs.

The advantage of a unitary authority was uniformed services delivered across the former district areas - there was a wider tax base and only one set of decision makers and amalgamation of services was likely to reduce costs and increase resilience. The disadvantages were a reduction in accountability and the organisation would be less accessible. There would be a reduction in the number of elected members. A quick reckoning was that the average number of members in a unitary authority was 61, the average number of members in a district council was 43, and the average number of members in a county council was 61 – this nearly mirrored the county of Derbyshire. This meant that there would likely be a reduction in members equal to the number of members representing all the districts across Derbyshire.

Regional Council was likely to be more than 1 unitary authority with a recognisable single identity. For example, this could mirror D2N2 LEP area where you could have 4 unitary authorities, Derby and Derbyshire and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, or more likely, Derby and Derbyshire become one unitary and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire another, or if it got wider into Leicestershire, it could become a combined mayoral region. The advantages were similar to the unitary authority model but in a larger scale. These were a few examples of models that could be introduced with many variations between two tier and regional councils.

It was believed that Derby City had already put in a proposal to government about forming a south Derbyshire unitary authority and had recently met with Derbyshire local authorities to discuss the proposal. The Leader had outlined earlier that there was evidence to suggest that a full scale skirmish was brewing in Derbyshire for the county council preferred option of Vision Derbyshire. It was unclear how Derbyshire County Council saw the end governance structure of how this would be set up but at the very least, it would have a governance structure made up of participating council members, with officers working directly for them, or, it may end up being a unitary authority forced on them given the actions of Derby City, or it could just be that they wanted to implement the 'case for change' document, which relied on bringing forward efficiencies through scale but relied on redundancies, so they were planning to spend £48m on exit costs, which would equate to around 1,500 people being made redundant across Derbyshire.

Again, it would make sense to ensure that whatever local government model was put in place, it had the right balance between being small enough to be accountable and accessible and large enough to benefit from economies of scale, and that the type and make-up of the population that it served was similar, either urban or rural focused.

The Head of Paid Service clarified what was known so far. Other than the letter from Robert Jenrick MP, a webinar question and answer session had taken place on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, with senior council officers and leaders which provided a little more information.

At the webinar, the Ministry was clear that it would not impose any top down government solutions, and reorganisation was not a requirement for a county deal.

There was an acceptance that deals could be done within 2 tier areas as well as unitary, and areas with a combination of the two. There was not a single specified

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structure or governance model for county deals – the need for consensus would depend on the model and the detail being presented. County deals would build on the government's work at a local level in towns' high streets and on local infrastructure – they would be based around the local identity and operate on a geography that did not isolate neighbouring areas and prevent them from accessing devolution opportunities.

The nature of a governance structure would also depend on the nature of the deal and the types of powers and flexibilities provided within that deal. There was an expectation that different county deals would have different governance models, powers and funding, to maintain a flexible approach and recognise local need. The government definitely emphasised that it would not be a one size fits all approach.

There was an expectation of improvement in governance, efficiencies and joined up services, and strong leadership would be fundamental along with effective local scrutiny to help residents know who was accountable for decision making in their area.

The government wanted feedback on the types of powers and flexibilities that councils would like to see that would unlock delivery of outcomes rather than further requests for funding, and places with the clearest most innovative and readily deliverable proposals that supported levelling up would be prioritised.

It was expected that most county deal discussions would take place following the publication of the levelling up white paper in the autumn. Several questions had been asked at the webinar around a date for the white paper and the Ministry had made it very clear that it would be the autumn but would not give any further definite date. They had a lot of proposals to go through and were currently having discussions and the Ministry were already talking to some areas about their proposals.

Areas that wished to take part in early discussions had been asked to get in touch with ministers prior to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Council was aware that DCC had done that – they had submitted an interest as a priority area and meetings were starting to take place. The government was open to considering early proposals from a few councils if they already had well advanced plans but would need to have significant support in place.

The white paper was expected to set out links to wider government strategies including the spending review and the vision to build back better following the pandemic. Locally led changes including district council merges may be considered but only if they improved local government in the area, if they had local support and were supported by all councils concerned, they had a credible geography of 2 or more existing local government areas that were adjacent, and would not pose an obstacle to locally led joint working. A credible geography could potentially be in the region of 300,000 to 6000,000 population, or potentially have regard for local circumstances, identity and economies of scale.

The Head of Finance & Resources stated that as Members were aware, every autumn revised budgets were updated for the current year based on the latest information within the Council, and this was brought to Members for approval in December.

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), was also updated for future years and for

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this, the financial settlement from the government was needed. This was called the Spending Review (SR) and it informed the Council how much government funding it would receive, what level the council tax could be set at and the multipliers to allow the Council to charge business rates. This was the most important information because there was nothing the Council could do to change it. As an unprotected service, quite often, local government had to make do with what funding was left.

Since 2004, the government had cut funding to local authorities year on year. There had been annual efficiency savings, the Gershon report on councils making efficiency gains without cutting services, the government's policy of austerity in the 2007 Spending Review which continued today.

After managing to meet the Gershon efficiency targets, new ways to close the funding gap were needed, so the Council formed a Strategic Alliance with North East Derbyshire District Council in 2011, and the Council had made savings of £4.779m.

However, although savings could be made by sharing management and other service costs, it had become apparent that even slight differences in the ambition of the councils' could mean the workload of joint staff become unmanageable and this had resulted in a loss of capacity at both councils as they both tried to make progress in similar services at the same time.

With regard to the 2021 autumn Spending Review, the Public Accounts Committee had published a report that looked at the effect of Covid19 on local government finance as well as the prospects for reform of local government funding.

Counties in particular were facing huge deficits in social care. Many districts were predicting to be in difficulty when reforms were implemented due to shifting business rate growth elsewhere and the equalisation of council tax doing the same based on the latest known information. The estimate of the Council's deficit was £3.2m for 2024/25.

There were potential savings from the government's levelling up proposals of unitary authorities where county and district services were carried out in one - some joining up of back-office functions due to economies of scale in finance, payroll, ICT, legal etc., but there was likely to be large redundancy costs, such as mentioned in the Price Waterhouse Cooper's document, 'Case for Change', which proposed making approximately 1500 jobs redundant. Savings in Members' allowances was likely as only one set of Members was present in this model.

The Regional Council's model was similar to the one tier model but likely to be much larger with the same implications, although in the Head of Finance & Resource's opinion, the number of redundancies was likely to be drastically higher.

Whichever model was used, it was felt by the APSE Local Government Commission, that the current system of local government funding was not sustainable. Recommendations made by the Commission included a settlement that would ensure every council had sufficient resources to exercise its roles and responsibilities and meet the needs of its communities. If this type of settlement were to be provided, the Head of Finance & Resource's wondered if the Council would be discussing Local Government Reform at all.

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The Monitoring Officer noted that as outlined in the Queen's speech, the government's parliamentary timetable for legislation was full and it did not include local government reorganisation. There were also some other high profile matters in relation to the Housing white paper, which were missing from the timetable and this demonstrated pressure on parliamentary time. Without something in the timetable the government was reliant on existing legislation which required agreement from all local authorities involved to any reorganisation or devolution proposal before there could be change – so local government reform cannot be imposed. Looking for this agreement is what Robert Jenrick's letter was about as well as trying to promote proposals for agreed change.

Councillor David Dixon queried the types of discussions and responses the Leader had had from other councils in the area. The Leader replied that discussions had started almost 2 years ago with Derbyshire County Council's Vision Derbyshire where officers had decided that councils would have to contribute at least £50k each, plus officer time to set up a super structure to look at implementing it. The Executive Director of Strategy and Development added that one other district council had signed up in principal to Vision Derbyshire in relation to the governance structure and investing £50k, two other authorities would be taking it through their approval process in the coming few weeks, two more authorities were not interested in taking it any further and two other authorities were not indicating what they were intending to do.

Councillor Andrew Joesbury welcomed the debate and hoped Bolsover would lead the way for the rest of Derbyshire. He wanted the Council to stay as it was. Councillors were at the heart of their communities and the people they represented needed direct communication with them, not someone who was unfamiliar with the area and deciding what was right for a local community. He added that the Council had done a lot of good work in the District that needed to be left alone.

Councillor Stan Fox read out a statement on behalf of Councillor Mary Dooley. The statement concluded with Councillor Dooley urging Members to say no to the government's reform of local councils. Councillor Fox added that he supported Councillor Dooley's statement.

Councillor Deborah Watson stated that as an Independent Councillor and with no party political agenda, she failed to see how good representation of people in rural areas could be achieved by a unitary authority that was remote, and by councillors who did not truly understand the needs of each local area. The Council had worked hard to continue to provide the services it needed throughout all the cuts imposed on it over the years by the government and throughout the pandemic. She suggested it would be better to remove the County level of authority as it had very few services left that it did not outsource and very few schools it controlled as they rapidly became academies. Councillor Watson felt that the District Council would be best placed to deliver these County services and the County was already renting office space at the Arc to deliver some services it needed to deliver in the locality. The Council had proved efficiencies could be made and provided jobs for local people which protected the environment as well as boosting the local authority.

Councillor Sandra Peake queried the future of parish and town councils as they currently received great support from the District Council. The Leader noted that unlike district councils, parish and town councils did not need government authority to set up, neither did they receive any government funding. The Monitoring Officer

## COUNCIL

added that it was district councils' electoral services which helped set up the process of parish and town councils but she had not seen anything from the government to say what would happen to them one way or the other in the future.

Councillor Liz Smyth spoke about small businesses in the District and the crisis of the pandemic where the Council had stepped up to the plate. During the crisis, £26m of business grants had been paid out to local businesses by the Council via the Economic Development team and Revenues and Benefits team, who had done an amazing job. The process had become quite complicated at one point but these had been dealt with by real staff talking to businesses on the phone and taking them through the process step by step. A lot of businesses were saved and jobs were safeguarded. Councillor Smyth felt that it would be politically naïve to take away that valuable tier of local government. She agreed with Councillor Watson's comments about removing the County level of authority and that the District could take on some of their work.

Councillor Andrew Joesbury also agreed with Councillor Watson's comments and noted the number of services which had been cut by the County Council including youth services. He felt that the District Council carried out a far better job delivering services.

Councillor Nick Clarke spoke about the centralisation of the police service in the early 2000s, the reduction of the numbers of police due to efficiency cuts and the loss of local knowledge and he felt that the same would happen if the District Council's services were lost to a unitary authority.

Councillor Anne Clarke supported Councillor Clarke's comments and added that she had also witnessed loss of local knowledge in her previous career as a nurse. She added that it was the people at grass roots level that had the knowledge to deliver services well.

The Chair noted that North Yorkshire County Council had proposals to become a rural unitary authority. Derbyshire by contrast, approaching Manchester, was a mix of urban, rural, industrial and ex mining and this was repeated across Derbyshire east, south and west, which made it a nonsense to be any type of single authority.

The Chair thanked Members who had raised the point of the Council's local accountability which was absolutely crucial and key. He also supported Members' comments regarding Derbyshire County Council.

The Leader reaffirmed his earlier comment that if the issue of local government reform turned into a full scale skirmish amongst councils, it would take the public's eye off what was really happening in central government. A solution was needed and the Leader felt that this was that the Council stayed as it was. He added that local authorities should be telling government to fund council's properly for the services and functions it was elected to do.

In response to a query from Councillor Peter Roberts regarding funding, the Leader explained that he did not have the answer going forward.

Councillor Duncan McGregor thanked Members' for a good discussion on the issue of local government reform and stated that Bolsover District Council was a good council

## **COUNCIL**

who had resolved its own financial ways and means of being able to progress and provide services to local residents which was Members' sole purpose. He emphasised that services would be affected if local government reform went ahead and reaffirmed that the Council would be consulting its residents via the In Touch magazine and also the Council's website.

It was moved by Councillor Duncan McGregor and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake that Bolsover District Council supported the continuation of two tier government in Derbyshire and urged other Derbyshire councils to do the same, and also that the Leader of the Council be empowered to explore other alternatives if necessary.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.4, of the Council's Constitution, Councillors Duncan McGregor, Steve Fritchley and Councillor Sandra Peake requested that a recorded vote be taken on the motion.

Before the vote was taken, Councillor Natalie Hoy declared her position as a cabinet Member at Derbyshire County Council.

For the motion (29) - Councillors Derek Adams, Allan Bailey, Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Tracey Cannon, Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke, Jim Clifton, Tricia Clough, David Dixon, Maxine Dixon, David Downes, Stan Fox, Steve Fritchley, Donna Hales, Ray Heffer, Andrew Joesbury, Chris Kane, Tom Munro, Duncan McGregor, Evonne Parkin, Graham Parkin, Sandra Peake, Peter Roberts, Liz Smyth, Janet Tait, Rita Turner, Deborah Watson and Jenny Wilson.

Against the motion (0)

Abstention (1) Councillor Natalie Hoy

**RESOLVED** that –

(1) Bolsover District Council supported the continuation of two tier government in Derbyshire and urged other Derbyshire councils to do the same,

(2) the Leader of the Council be empowered to explore other alternatives if necessary.

(Leader of the Council)

## **CL47-21/22 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

In closing the meeting, the Chair reminded Members that Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, would mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ghastly events which happened in New York. He asked that thoughts be given to the people of New York and all the people who were impacted by the events.

The meeting concluded at 12:20 hours.



## **Bolsover District Council**

### **Council**

**3 November 2021**

## **REPORT ON URGENCY DECISION**

### **Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Nicola Calver – Governance Manager

**Contact Officer:** Nicola Calver – [nicola.calver@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.calver@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk) / 01246 217753

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### **PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To inform Council of a decision taken under urgency provisions within the Council's Executive Procedure Rules.

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### **REPORT DETAILS**

#### **1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)***

- 1.1 Key Decisions made by the Executive or officers are usually subject to call-in, however the call-in procedure may be waived where the matter is urgent, in accordance with rule 4.5.15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 1.2 Before a decision can be made which is exempt from call-in, the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee must agree that both the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 1.3 Decisions taken under this provision must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, together with the reasons for urgency, which is the purpose of this report.

#### **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 At the end of September, the Council's Insurance Policies needed to be renewed. Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of the Council's control, the Insurance Company was unable to provide the renewal figures until a very late stage. Notice of the Key Decision to be taken by the Assistant Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer on this matter had been given however due to the urgency of renewing the Insurance Policies, once the decision was taken it needed to be implemented immediately and this did not allow for the call-in period.

- 2.2 The Chair of Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee, agreed that the decision was reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 2.3 The decision was made by the Assistant Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 2.4 A copy of the Delegated Decision (DD/006/21/TF) and the accompanying consultation report are attached at Appendices 1 and 2.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the decision recently taken which was exempt from the call-in procedure.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Not applicable as this report is for information only in compliance with the Council's procedure rules.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report be noted.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Duncan McGregor, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Governance

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## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance and Risk:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Details:**

There are no finance implications arising from this report.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):** Yes ☒ No ☐

**Details:**

Failure to take decisions in accordance with the Council's constitution, or to report them as required in this case, could leave the Council open to challenge.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:** Yes ☐ No ☒

**Details:**

There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: The Portfolio Holder and the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee were consulted

**Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

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## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Delegated Decision
2	Consultation Report

**Background Papers** (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)

None

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE**  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

**29 September 2021**

**Renewal of Insurance Policies**

<b>Authority for decision</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Alternative options considered and rejected</b>	<b>Conflicts of interest and any dispensation</b>
Delegation Scheme – General Powers – 4.10.9 (20) To carry out any duties or responsibilities as contained within the Financial Regulations. 4.7.7 (1) The Chief Financial Officer shall effect all insurance cover, including insurance reserves and provisions, and negotiate all claims in consultation with other officers where necessary.	To obtain retrospective approval for the annual renewal of the insurance policies within the 3 year Long Term Arrangement (with 2 year optional extension) which was awarded in October 2019 to Zurich Municipal, with the exception of the engineering contract, which was awarded to British Engineering Services. The renewal date each year is 30 <sup>th</sup> September. A report will be submitted to the next Council to report on waiving call-in.	To secure best value for the Council, whilst ensuring adequate insurance cover.	The Council followed European (OJEU) procurement rules to fully test the insurance market in 2019/20. The chosen contracts were the most financially attractive for the Council. These insurance renewal premiums are within the Long Term Arrangement terms and conditions, therefore we do not have the opportunity to leave the current insurers without incurring a penalty.	None

Please complete the following where relevant:

<b>Key Decision?</b>	<b>Confidential/ Exempt (if yes, please state paragraph)?</b>	<b>Do General Exception or Special Urgency Rules apply to this decision?</b>	<b>Consultation has taken place with the Section 151 &amp; Monitoring Officer?</b>	<b>The Leader, Deputy Leader or relevant Portfolio Member have been consulted?</b>
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Authorising Signature:  .

Job title: Assistant Director, Finance & Resources

Unique Reference Number: .DD/066/21/TF.....

Date decision may be implemented following call in (if necessary): .....

Circulation to:

Head of Paid Service  
Monitoring Officer  
Section 151 Officer  
Scrutiny Officer  
Internal Audit

**Bolsover District Council**

**Consultation Report for a Delegated Decision**

**Decision Maker: Assistant Director of Finance and Resources**

**Date of Decision: 29 September 2021**

<b>Insurance Portfolio Renewal 2021/22</b>
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Classification: This report is public

Report By: Assistant Director of Finance & Resources  
Senior Technical Officer

Contact Officer: as above

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**PURPOSE/SUMMARY**

- This report is to inform Members of the outcome of the annual insurance renewal process within the Long Term Agreement (LTA) which has been conducted under powers delegated to the Section 151 Officer.
- In order to meet insurance renewal timescales the Council has previously granted delegated powers, as per above, to enable renewal of the Council's insurance policies from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.
- The Authority's insurance policies were subject to tender on 1st October 2019 and a LTA was awarded for a period of 3 years plus an option to extend for a further 2 years.
- All insurance policies were maintained with the existing insurer, Zurich Municipal, and the engineering inspection contract held by British Engineering Services.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the action of the Section 151 Officer, acting under delegated powers to secure the Council's insurance policies within the framework established by continuing the current Long Term Agreement outlined in the report, be noted.
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## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Finance and Risk:**                      Yes ☒                      No ☐

The cost to cover insurance and risk is £344,487 for the year, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This sum includes the current contributions to the insurance reserves made by the Council each year, the cost of the insurance brokerage services and NEDDC recharges. The following table details the position, comparing these against the previous year -

<b>INSURANCE COSTS SUMMARY</b>	<b>2020/21 Costs £</b>	<b>2021/22 Costs £</b>
Premiums (Including Insurance Premium Tax @ 12%)	246,353	267,122
Reserve Contribution (General Fund)	30,000	20,000
Reserve Contribution (HRA)	40,000	50,000
Consultancy / Brokering	3,500	3,500
NEDDC Insurance ENV Recharges	3,833	3,865
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>323,686</b>	<b>344,487</b>

### **Risk**

Effective Council insurance arrangements are crucial if we are to safeguard against financial losses and maintain financial security. Lack of policy coverage would result in having to fund claims with no excess ceiling for protection.

Without adequate insurance cover, business operations could be adversely effected following significant losses; and it also avoids reputational damage by awarding independently assessed compensation to claimants.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**                      Yes ☐                      No ☒

There are no legal issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**                      Yes ☐                      No ☒

There are no staffing issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Head of Paid Service



## **DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £75,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/></b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	Yes
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No – call-in was waived to allow for the decision to be implemented immediately
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></b>	Yes  Details: Portfolio Holder and Chair of Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

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## **REPORT DETAILS**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 Annual insurance renewals are undertaken to update all sums insured and revise individual policy content. Checks are undertaken to ensure the policy coverage, perils and endorsements still meet the needs of the Council. These can impact on the insurance premiums.
- 1.2 Insurer terms, in respect of the casualty and motor policies, can include an inflationary rate increase, in line with Average Weekly Earnings (AWE), which was 4.5% at the time of renewal. These policy increases do not breach the Long Term Agreement (LTA). At the 2020 renewal, some of the inflationary increases were waived, but have been applied at this 2021 renewal.
- 1.3 Premiums across all policies, including property will also increase or decrease to reflect the base sum insured, following reviewed figures declared each year.

- 1.4 Additional factors, such as risk profile and exposure, external market conditions as well as the Council's own claims experience and/or high loss ratio can also have an impact on insurer rates, creating further increases and potentially, breaches of the LTA.
- 1.5 For the current 2021 renewal terms, technically our insurer breached the LTA on the Council's property policies, by applying higher rates due to continuing pressures across the market relating to increased material building costs, labour shortages and the Council's own property claims experience. However, these are not unreasonable rates.
- 1.6 Despite these increases the Council is still being offered very reasonable and realistic property rates and premiums, within a competitive overall insurance portfolio package. Our broker considers that we have a favourable result especially in the current climate when the cost of reinsurance and claims inflation is running at over 10%, within a hardening insurance market.

### **Policy Adjustments**

- 1.7 Insurance premiums are predominately based on factors including sums insured movement, excess levels, claims experience, risk exposure, market fluctuations, geographical area, insured perils and level of activity.
- 1.8 Property policy ratings increased due to escalating building costs and several house fire claims, but were also contributed to by revised sum insured figures when compared against the position as at the 2020 renewal, in the following areas –
  - Housing properties, sum insured increased by 1.1%.
  - Leasehold flats, sum insured increased by 2.6%.
  - General properties, sum insured increased by 2.8%.
  - All Risks, sum insured increased by 14%.
  - Work In Progress, sum insured figure increased by 25%.
- 1.9 Casualty policies are based on the declared wages figure, which has increased by 3.3% on the previous year, with an additional 4.5% AWE (average weekly earnings) applied by the insurer.
- 1.10 Motor policy capturing all fleet vehicles, mowers and trailers has undergone a premium rating review due to higher exposure since acquiring additional refuse vehicles from Wards Recycling. AWE has also been applied.
- 1.11 Since the 2020 renewal there were mid-term / annual adjustment payments of £3,182 relating to recycling refuse vehicles being added to the motor policy and changes to the engineering inspection schedule where items from group dwellings have been removed, and equipment used by Grounds Maintenance have been added.

### **Premium Comparisons**

1.12 The following comparison table shows premiums by element of the Council's insurance policies and compares against the 2020/21 cost:

	<b>2020/2021 £</b>	<b>2021/2022 £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
<b>Vehicles</b>			
➤ Fleet (Including Grey fleet contingency)*	80,010	83,563	3,553
➤ Vehicle Accumulation	1,008	1,171	163
<b>Total Vehicle premiums</b>	<b>81,018</b>	<b>84,734</b>	<b>3,716</b>
<b>Casualty</b>			
➤ Public Liability	42,294	45,644	3,350
➤ Libel & Slander	689	710	21
➤ Employers Liability	20,018	21,603	1,585
➤ Officials Indemnity	2,183	2,345	162
➤ Land Charges	1,663	1,738	75
➤ Public Health Act	317	340	23
➤ Professional Indemnity	4,737	4,879	142
<b>Total Casualty premiums</b>	<b>71,901</b>	<b>77,259</b>	<b>5,358</b>
<b>Property</b>			
➤ Housing Stock	31,844	37,660	5,816
➤ Leased Flats	995	1,123	128
➤ General Properties	5,722	6,613	891
➤ Play Areas	128	141	13
➤ Contents (General & Theft)	1,054	1,193	139
➤ Car Parks	22	24	2
➤ Work In Progress	1,953	2,703	750
➤ Business Interruption	2,184	2,278	94
➤ All Risks	1,272	1,700	428
➤ Money	152	191	39
➤ Council Tools (in vehicles)	1,700	1,842	142
➤ Pleasley Vale B P Mills	2,530	2,783	253
➤ Pleasley Vale B P Lodges	62	70	8
<b>Total Property premiums</b>	<b>49,618</b>	<b>58,321</b>	<b>8,703</b>

	<b>2020/2021 £</b>	<b>2021/2022 £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>
<b>Minor Classes</b>			
➤ Full Crime (+ Fidelity Guarantee)	5,193	5,368	175
➤ Computer	3,478	4,127	649
➤ Engineering Inspection *	9,520	9,456	(64)
➤ Hired Plant	250	250	0
<b>Total Minor premiums</b>	<b>18,441</b>	<b>19,201</b>	<b>760</b>
Sub Total (excluding Insurance Premium Tax)	220,978	239,515	18,537
Insurance Premium Tax @ 12%	25,375	27,607	2,232
<b>Total overall premium costs</b>	<b>246,353</b>	<b>267,122</b>	<b>20,769</b>

*\* Includes mid-term & annual adjustments*

### **Brokering / NEDDC Recharges**

- 1.13 Specialist ongoing advice / brokering / renewal input cost is £3,500 for 2021/22.
- 1.14 As NEDDC host the Environmental Health service and the liabilities relating to the service are insured by NEDDC, a recharge to BDC is made each year and is an indirect insurance cost. This recharge cost for 2021/22 is £3,865.

### **Reserves / Excess**

- 1.15 The Council's excess arrangements across its policy portfolio are to secure cost effective cover and to provide it with an incentive to minimise risk. It is important that adequate financial provision is provided to meet those costs below the agreed excesses together with uninsured losses.
- 1.16 In order to meet such costs the Council has established insurance reserves for general fund (GF) and the housing revenue account (HRA). These are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain at an appropriate level with the contributions into the reserve increased or reduced as necessary. Annual contributions of £20,000 to the GF Reserve and £50,000 to the HRA Reserve have been previously agreed.
- 1.17 At 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the withdrawals were £49,169 from the GF Insurance Reserve and £29,972 from the HRA Insurance Reserve.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Council followed European (OJEU) procurement rules to fully test the insurance market in 2019. The Council's insurance broker supported the insurance portfolio tendering exercise, and we awarded a 3 year LTA (with a 2

year option to extend). Continuing with the Long Term Agreement is the most financially viable option even taking into consideration recent increases.

### 3. **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

3.1 There are no alternative options for consideration.

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#### **DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers	

## **Bolsover District Council**

### **Council**

**3 November 2021**

## **APPOINTING AUDITORS 2023-2028**

### **Report of the Assistant Director of Finance & Resources**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Assistant Director of Finance and Resources

**Contact Officer:** Theresa Fletcher – 01246 242458  
theresa.fletcher@bolsover.gov.uk

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### **PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To inform Council of the decision required of whether Bolsover District Council should opt-in to the national arrangement for the procurement of external audit or procure external audit services independently.

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### **REPORT DETAILS**

#### **1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)***

- 1.1 An audit is the review of an organisation's financial statements. It is carried out by a qualified, independent person who gives an opinion on whether those statements have been prepared in accordance with the specified requirements.
- 1.2 Auditors of local public bodies also provide opinions on other aspects of the bodies' expenditure – such as arrangements for securing value for money and whether the body is a going concern.
- 1.3 Local audit is an essential tool for giving assurance that bodies are spending public money efficiently and effectively.
- 1.4 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, set out a new framework which required local bodies to appoint their own auditors. They had previously been appointed by the Audit Commission which was effectively abolished by the Act.
- 1.5 The framework requires local bodies to appoint their own auditor at least once every five years. They will need to consult and take into account the advice of an independent panel. They will be required to publish information about the appointment of an auditor within 28 days of making an appointment.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

### **2.1 The national scheme for appointing local auditors**

In July 2016, the Secretary of State specified Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA), as an appointing person for principal local government and police bodies for audits from 2018/19, under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.

2.2 Acting in accordance with this role, PSAA takes responsibility for appointing an auditor and setting scales of fees for relevant principal authorities that have chosen to opt-in to its national scheme. 98% of eligible bodies made the choice to opt-in for the five-year period commencing in April 2018. We were amongst those who opted in.

2.3 The national scheme timetable for appointing auditors from 2023/24 means we now have to decide whether to opt-in to the national scheme for the period 2023/2024 to 2027/2028.

### **2.4 The Local Government Association's view**

The following are excerpts from a letter received from the Chairman of the LGA to all English Principal Councils on 23 September 2021.

2.5 The national framework remains the best option councils can choose. There are many reasons for favouring the national arrangements and we think those reasons have become more compelling since 2016/17 when councils were last asked to make this choice.

2.6 The way external audit has operated over the last couple of years has been extremely disappointing. A lack of capacity in the audit market has been exacerbated by increased requirements placed on external auditors by the audit regulator. There is also a limited number of firms in the market and too few qualified auditors employed by those firms. This has led to a situation where many audits have been delayed and dozens of audit opinions remain outstanding from 2019/20 and 2020/21. Auditors have also been asking for additional fees to pay for extra work.

2.7 As the client in the contract, a council has little influence over what it is procuring. The nature and scope of the audit is determined by codes of practice and guidance and the regulation of the audit market is undertaken by a third party, currently the Financial Reporting Council. Essentially, councils find themselves operating in what amounts to a suppliers' market and the client's interest is at risk of being ignored unless we act together.

2.8 Everyone, even existing suppliers, agrees that the supply side of the market needs to be expanded, which includes encouraging bids from challenger firms. Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA), the body nominated by the Government to run the national arrangements, has suggested various ways this could be done, but these initiatives are much more likely to be successful if a large number councils sign up to the national scheme.

- 2.9 It is therefore vital that councils co-ordinate their efforts to ensure that the client voice is heard loud and clear. The best way of doing this across the country is to sign up to the national arrangement.
- 2.10 To summarise, the same arguments apply as at the time of the last procurement:
- A council procuring its own auditor or procuring through a joint arrangement means setting up an Audit Panel with an independent chair to oversee the procurement and running of the contract.
  - The procurement process is an administrative burden on council staff already struggling for capacity. Contract management is an ongoing burden.
  - Procuring through the appointing person (PSAA) makes it easier for councils to demonstrate independence of process.
  - Procuring for yourself provides no obvious benefits:
    - The service being procured is defined by statute and by accounting and auditing codes
    - Possible suppliers are limited to the small pool of registered firms with accredited Key Audit Partners (KAP).
    - Since the last procurement it is now more obvious than ever that we are in a 'suppliers' market' in which the audit firms hold most of the levers.
  - PSAA has now built up considerable expertise and has been working hard to address the issue that have arisen with the contracts over the last couple of years:
    - PSAA has the experience of the first national contract. The Government's selection of PSAA as the appointing person for a second cycle reflects MHCLG's confidence in them as an organisation.
    - PSAA has commissioned high quality research to understand the nature of the audit market.
    - It has worked very closely with MHCLG to enable the government to consult on changes to the fees setting arrangements to deal better with variations at national and local level, hopefully resulting in more flexible and appropriate Regulations later this year.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is considered by the Council's Section 151 Officer that opting-in to the national scheme will be in the best interests of this Council.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Members could decide not to opt-in to the national scheme. However, as discussed in paragraph 1.15, there are many disadvantages to deciding to



procure our own external audit, including all the extra work and administration that comes with it for no obvious benefit.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council agrees to accept the invitation to become an opted-in authority for the audit years 2023/2024 to 2027/2028 for the purposes of the appointment of our auditor under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the requirements of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Clive Moesby, Executive Member for Finance

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## IMPLICATIONS

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**Finance and Risk:**            Yes ☐            No ☒

**Details:**

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. It is felt the benefits from opting-in to the national scheme far outweigh any risks. Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee will be kept informed as we go through the procurement process.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes ☐            No ☒

**Details:**

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015. A decision to become an opted-in authority must be taken in accordance with the Regulation 19, i.e. by the members of Full Council.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:**            Yes ☐            No ☒

**Details:**

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Chair of Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

**Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
-	-
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

**Bolsover District Council**

**Council**

**3 November 2021**

**PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND  
ADVISORY GROUPS**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Nicola Calver, Governance Manager

**Contact Officer:** Nicola Calver, Governance Manager  
01246 217753 / nicola.calver@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

- To make amendments to the appointment of Members to the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups for the 2021/22 Municipal Year following a change to the Council's political groups affecting proportionality.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1 Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 There has been a change in the numbers within two political groups of the Authority following a Members wish to realign themselves. This affects the overall proportionality of allocation of committee seats, and accordingly this should be revised at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.2 This report therefore brings forward the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

**2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 **Appendix 1** to the report sets out the allocation of committee seats which best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 **Appendix 2** sets out the current appointments to committees as per the previous allocation. Political Groups are able to make changes where necessary to their appointments to Committees, and nominations to and removals from committees are requested in some instances.

- 2.3 Members should discuss any changes to Committee and Advisory Group Appointments with the Leaders of their Political Groups in advance of the Council meeting.
- 2.4 The Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.

### **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The report recommends that the allocation of Committee seats detailed in **Appendix 1** best meets the requirements of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act as far as reasonable practicable.
- 3.2 Existing appointments to Committees are detailed in **Appendix 2** requesting amendments from political groups.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The Council may make amendments to the nominations to committees within the proportionality agreed before and up to the discussion of this matter at the meeting. Any further revisions will be brought before a meeting of Council.
- 4.2 Members may consider that they wish to remain status quo for the remainder of the municipal year for reasons such as maintaining the continuity of the work of the Committees. In that instance, Members would reject the report recommendations and agree to continue with the previously agreed allocation through to May 2022.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the proportionality set out in Appendix appointments to committees as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed; and
2. That the appointment to committees as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed as amended verbally in the meeting.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Duncan McGregor, Executive Member for Corporate Governance

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## **IMPLICATIONS**

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**Finance and Risk:**                      Yes ☐                      No ☒

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**

**Yes** ☒

**No** ☐

**Details:**

The Council is required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**

**Yes** ☐

**No** ☒

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £250,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet / Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SAMT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Group Leaders

**Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.**

Good Governance

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Proportionality of the Council
2	Current Appointments to Committees
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	

	Seats on Council	Proportion
Total seats	37	100.00%
Labour Group	20	54.054%
Independent Group	10	27.027%
Community Independents	4	10.811%
Conservative	3	8.108%
Vacant Seats	0	0.00%

Executive	8
Non-Exec	29

Ordinary Committees	Total seats on Committee	Labour Group		Independent Group		Community Independents		Conservative		Vacant Seats		Total seats allocated
		Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	
Employment Appeals Committee	3	1.62	2	0.81	1	0.32	0	0.24		0.00		3
Employment Appeals Deputies	3	1.62	2	0.81	1	0.32	0	0.24		0.00	0	3
General Licensing Committee	10	5.41	5	2.70	3	1.08	1	0.81	1	0.00	0	10
Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee	10	5.41	5	2.70	3	1.08	1	0.81	1	0.00	0	10
Planning Committee	8	4.32	4	2.16	2	0.86	1	0.65	1	0.00	0	8
Safety Committee	5	2.70	2	1.35	1	0.54	1	0.41	1	0.00	0	5
Standards Committee	6	3.24	3	1.62	2	0.65	0	0.49	1	0.00	0	6
Employment and Personnel Committee	5	2.70	3	1.35	1	0.54	1	0.41	0	0.00	0	5
Union/Employee Consultation Committee	6	3.24	4	1.62	1	0.65	1	0.49	0	0.00	0	6
Total Seats on Ordinary Committees	56	30.27	30	15.14	15	6.05	6	4.54	5	0.00	0	56

Scrutiny Committees	Total seats on Committee		Labour Group		Independent Group		Community Independents		Conservative		Vacant Seats		Total seats allocated
			Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	
Customer Services Scrutiny Committee	7.25	7	3.78	3	1.89	2	0.76	1	0.57	1	0.00	0	7
Local Growth Scrutiny Committee	7.25	7	3.78	3	1.89	2	0.76	1	0.57	1	0.00	0	7
Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee	7.25	8	4.32	4	2.16	3	0.86	1	0.65	0	0.00	0	8
Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee	7.25	7	3.78	3	1.89	2	0.76	1	0.57	1	0.00	0	7
Total seats	29.00	29	15.68	13	7.84	9	3.14	4	2.35	3.00	0	0	29

	29											
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\*includes all non-executive Members, so political balance cannot stricly apply

Joint Committees*	Total seats on Committee	Labour Group		Independent Group		Community Independents		Conservative		Vacant Seats		Total seats allocated
		Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	
Joint ICT	3	1.62	2	0.81	1	0.32	0	0.24		0.00		3
Joint Scrutiny Panel	3	1.62	2	0.81	1	0.32	0	0.24		0.00		3
New Bolsover Joint Committee	10	5.41	5	2.70	3	1.08	1	0.81	1	0.00		10

\* Note – For political balance to apply, there must be at least three seats to be filled on joint committees (excl executive committees)

Joint Employment and Appeals Committee Membership set within Constitution	Total seats on Committee	Majority		Minority	
		Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats
	4	2.16	3	1.08	1

Advisory/Working Groups*	Total seats on Group	Labour Group		Independent Group		Community Independents		Conservative		Vacant Seats		Total seats allocated
		Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	Proportion of seats	Allocated Seats	
MDWG	7	3.78	3	1.89	2	0.76	1	0.57	1	0.00		7
Local Plan Implementation Action Group	9	4.86	5	2.43	2	0.97	1	0.73	1	0.00	0	9
Pleasley Park and Vale Conservation Area Working Group	5	2.70	3	1.35	2	0.54	0	0.41		0.00	0	5
Tenant Participant Review and Development Group	5	2.70	3	1.35	1	0.54	1	0.41		0.00		5
<b>Total seats</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14.05</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7.03</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>



# BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY GROUPS (AS APPOINTED AT ANNUAL COUNCIL - 23 JUNE 2021)

### COMMITTEES

Committee	Labour Group	Independent Group	Community Independents	Conservative Group
<b>Audit &amp; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee (8)</b>	(4) Councillors Donna Hales, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham and Tom Munro	(3) Councillors Jane Bryson, Graham Parkin and Peter Roberts	(1) Councillor Ross Walker	(0)
<b>Local Growth Scrutiny Committee (7)</b>	(3) Councillors Tricia Clough, Paul Cooper, and Jen Wilson	(2) Councillors Derek Adams and Jim Clifton	(1) Councillor Tracey Cannon	(1) Councillor David Dixon
<b>Customer Services Scrutiny Committee (7)</b>	(3) Councillors Rose Bowler, Stan Fox and Rita Turner	(2) Councillors Ray Heffer and Andrew Joesbury	(1) Councillor Allan Bailey	(1) Councillor David Dixon
<b>Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee (7)</b>	(3) Councillors Anne Clarke, Nick Clarke and Janet Tait	(2) Councillors Dexter Bullock and Evonne Parkin	(1) Councillor Dan Salt	(1) Councillor David Dixon

Committee	Labour Group	Independent Group	Community Independents	Conservative Group
<b>Employee Appeals Committee (3)</b>	(2) Councillors Nick Clarke and Janet Tait	(1) Councillor Liz Smyth	(0)	(0)
<b>Deputies (3)</b>	(2) Deputies – Councillors Sandra Peake and Rita Turner	(1) Deputy - Councillor Deborah Watson		
<b>Employment and Personnel Committee (5)</b>	(3) Councillors Mary Dooley, Duncan McGregor and Sandra Peake	(1) Councillor Liz Smyth	(1) Councillor Ross Walker	(0)
<b>General Licensing Committee (10)</b>	(5) Councillors Rose Bowler, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Stan Fox and Rita Turner	(3) Councillors Ray Heffer, Andrew Joesbury and Evonne Parkin	(1) Councillor Dan Salt	(1) Councillor Maxine Dixon
<b>Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee (10)</b>	(5) Councillors Rose Bowler, Mary Dooley, David Downes, Stan Fox and Rita Turner	(3) Councillors Ray Heffer, Andrew Joesbury and Evonne Parkin	(1) Councillor Tracey Cannon	(1) Councillor Maxine Dixon
<b>Planning Committee (8)</b>	(4) Councillors Paul Cooper, Chris Kane, Duncan McGregor and Tom Munro	(2) Councillors Derek Adams and Jim Clifton	(1) Councillor Allan Bailey	(1) Councillor Natalie Hoy

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Community Independents</b>	<b>Conservative Group</b>
<b>Safety Committee (5)</b>	(2) Councillors Nick Clarke and Tricia Clough	(1) Councillor Andrew Joesbury	(1) Councillor Allan Bailey	(1) Councillor Maxine Dixon
<b>Standards (6) Plus 1 co-opted Member</b>	(3) Councillors Tricia Clough, David Downes and Clive Moesby	(2) Councillors Graham Parkin and Deborah Watson	(0)	(1) Councillor David Dixon
<b>Union and Employee Consultation (6)</b>	(3) Councillors Mary Dooley, Stan Fox and Tom Kirkham	(2) Councillors Andrew Joesbury and Graham Parkin	(1) Councillor Dan Salt	(0)

## JOINT COMMITTEES

Committee	Labour Group	Independent Group	Community Independents	Conservative Group
<b>ICT Shared Services Committee</b>  (3 from BDC plus CBC and NEDDC)	Councillors David Downes and Steve Fritchley (2)	Councillor Ray Heffer (1)	(0)	(0)
<b>Joint Employment and Appeals Committee (4)</b>	Councillors Steve Fritchley, Duncan McGregor and the relevant cabinet member (3)	Councillor Deborah Watson (1)	(0)	(0)
<b>Shared Services Scrutiny Committee (also known as Joint Scrutiny Panel) (3)</b>	Councillors Rita Turner and Jen Wilson (2)	Councillor Ray Heffer (1)	(0)	(0)
<b>New Bolsover Joint Partnership Committee (10)</b>	Councillors Rose Bowler, Anne Clarke, Chris Kane, Tom Munro and Sandra Peake (5)	Councillors Derek Adams, Graham Parkin and Liz Smyth (3)	Councillor Allan Bailey (1)	Councillor David Dixon (1)

## ADVISORY GROUPS

Committee	Labour	Independent Group	Community Independents	Conservative Group
<b>Pleasley Park and Vale Conservation Area Working Group (5)</b>	(3) Councillors Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham and Tom Munro	(2) Councillors Liz Smyth and Ray Heffer	(0)	(0)
<b>Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group (9)</b>	(5) Councillors Paul Cooper, Chris Kane, Duncan McGregor, Tom Munro and Janet Tait	(2) Councillors Derek Adams and Liz Smyth	(1) Councillor Allan Bailey	(1) Councillor Natalie Hoy
<b>Member Development Working Group (7)</b>	(3) Councillors Rose Bowler, Tom Munro and Sandra Peake	(2) Councillors Graham Parkin and Deborah Watson	(1) Councillor Ross Walker	(1) Councillor David Dixon
<b>Tenant Participation Review and Development Group (5)</b>	(2) Councillors Rose Bowler and Sandra Peake	(2) Councillors Andrew Joesbury and Liz Smyth	(1) Councillor Dan Salt	(0)

**Bolsover District Council**

**Council**

**3 November 2021**

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

**Report of the Chair of the Member Development Working Group**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Amy Bryan – Senior Governance Officer

**Contact Officer:** Amy Bryan – amy.bryan@bolsover.gov.uk / 01246 242529

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**PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To enable Council to consider the Member Development work that was undertaken during the municipal year 2020/21.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1 Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 An annual report of Member Development is considered by Council annually.
- 1.2 The annual report sets out the member development activities that took place during the year 2020/21, opportunities that were made available to Members and information on the evaluation of member development activities that took place.

**2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The Annual Report of the Member Development Working Group is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Member Development Programme during 2020-21 was affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the annual report reflects on this.

**3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 To enable to the Council to consider the Annual Report on Member Development during 2020/21.

**4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Council could determine to no longer receive a Member Development Annual Report however this option is not recommended as the Annual Report

publicises to all Members the activities that have been undertaken and provides an opportunity for them to consider any future issues that may arise that they would like to see included in future programmes.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Member Development Annual Report 2020/21 be noted.

Approved by the Chair of the Member Development Working Group - Cllr Sandra Peake

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## IMPLICATIONS

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**Finance and Risk:**      Yes ☐      No ☒

**Details:**

There are no finance or risk implications arising from this report.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**      Yes ☐      No ☒

**Details:**

There are no legal or data protection implications arising from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:**      Yes ☐      No ☒

**Details:**

There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

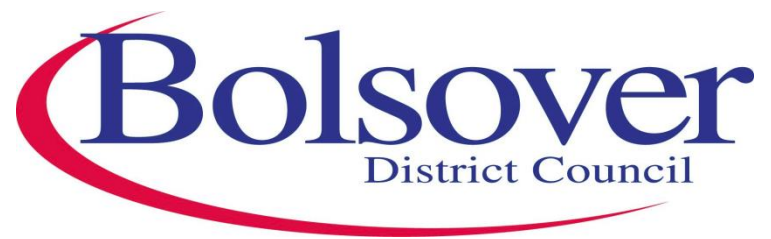
<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> <b>Revenue - £100,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £250,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cabinet / Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SAMT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Member Development Working Group

<b>Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</b>
Member development activities are designed to support the learning and development of Members so that they have the appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence to carry out their various roles and represent the public they were elected to serve.

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Member Development Annual Report
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	





# **Member Development Annual Report 2020/21**

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this annual report is to report on member development work undertaken in the municipal year 2020/21.

Member development activities are designed to support the learning and development of Members so that they have the appropriate knowledge, skills and confidence to carry out their various roles and represent the public they were elected to serve.

The Annual Report covers the following subjects:

- Member Development Working Group
- Member Development Sessions
- Committee Specific Training and Other Training and Development Events
- Other Member Development Opportunities
- Members' ICT Training
- Member Development Budget 2020/21
- Member Mid-Term Induction Programme Development

Part of the Members' Roles and Responsibilities includes that Members 'be responsible for continuous personal development, engaging in available opportunities for training and development to build on understanding and knowledge, and to develop relevant skills.'

## **2. Member Development Working Group**

The Council has a cross-party working group to oversee, monitor and make recommendations on member development. The Group is committed to supporting the development of councillors and to enable them to engage effectively in the modernisation of local government and to deliver the Council's statutory functions and corporate objectives, and to represent the people of Bolsover District.

The Working Group was chaired by Cllr Sandra Peake and its membership in 2020/21 was as follows:

Councillor T Cannon  
Councillor D Dixon  
Councillor D Downes  
Councillor T Munro  
Councillor S Peake  
Councillor L Smyth  
Councillor D Watson

## **3. Member Learning, Development and Information Sessions**

The purpose of the Member Learning, Development and Information Sessions is to provide a framework to support the achievement of members' objectives.

The sessions offer an opportunity for Members and officers to discuss the latest developments in local government in terms of policy, legislation and initiatives from Government and to undertake development work in an informal environment which supports learning.

The following sessions were held during the year:

<b>Date of Session</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
<b>28 May 2020</b>	Chairing Virtual Scrutiny Meetings	4
<b>23 September 2020</b>	Planning Committee Training	12
<b>7 October 2020</b>	Licensing Committee Training	9
<b>13 October 2020</b>	Lone Worker (catch up mandatory session)  <i>Scheduled sessions to watch the recording of the training were also offered on 20 October and 23 October</i>	6
<b>16 October 2020</b>	Equalities and Diversity Training (catch up mandatory training)	4
<b>22 October 2020</b>	Fraud Awareness (catch up mandatory session)	5
<b>2 November 2020</b>	Performance Management for Scrutiny Members	11
<b>19 April 2021</b>	Public Speaking	3

The programme for 2020/21 was impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and a reduced programme was run as a result. Although a number of mandatory sessions were still able to take place using Zoom.

The attendance at many of the training sessions was low and participation and take up of training events remains low. Training is particularly important for certain subjects and there are a number of sessions that are set out as mandatory training sessions in the Members' Code of Conduct. Training for members of particular committees such as Planning and Licensing are vital due to the nature of the decisions the committees take and it is essential that Members are trained prior to sitting on such committees. This is set out in Appendix A to the Members' Code of Conduct.

The Member Development Working Group regularly considers the attendance of Councillors at training sessions.

#### **4. Members' ICT Training**

The Members ICT and Training Officer provides regular support and training to members as part of the induction process when issuing iPads and on-going support through servicing on a regular basis and on-to-one support on any issues Members encounter.

Formal training on iPad apps is available and sessions can be scheduled when there is a demand for any particular topic or feature of the iPads.

During 2020/21, the Members ICT and Training Officer spent the majority of his time offering one-to-one ICT and iPad support to members rather than formal training. As the authority held a number of meetings on Zoom during the year the Members ICT and Training Officer also played a large role in helping members learn how to access and participate in virtual meetings.

The Members ICT and Training Officer continues to create training videos which can be accessed by Members in their own time. Members are encouraged to request any specific topics they wish to see covered by videos that can be added to those that are already available.

#### **5. Member Development Budget 2020/21**

The Member Development Budget for 2020/21 was set at £9,549. The total budget spend was £3,465.79.

#### **6. Member Development Evaluation**

The Working Group receives reports on a regular basis detailing statistical evaluation, together with Members' comments, on training and development events.

#### **7. Member Mid-Term Induction Programme Development**

During 2020/21, the Working Group developed a Mid-Term Induction Programme for Councillors to take place at the half way point of the election cycle, in May-June 2021. This Mid-Term Induction Programme would be reported on in next year's report.

## **Bolsover District Council**

### **Council**

**3 November 2021**

## **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY** **2022/23 – 2025/26**

### **Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

**Classification:** This report is public

**Report By:** Assistant Director of Finance and Resources

**Contact Officer:** Theresa Fletcher – 01246 242458  
theresa.fletcher@bolsover.gov.uk

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### **PURPOSE / SUMMARY**

To provide a Medium Term Financial Strategy to Members to allow them to set the four year strategic financial intention for the General Fund of the Council, for the 2022/23 – 2025/26, MTFP process.

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### **REPORT DETAILS**

#### **1 Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the Council's strategic approach to the management of its finances and outlines the various factors and influences that may impact on us over the next few years.
- 1.2 This MTFS relates purely to the General Fund at present as the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assumptions are based on the 30-year Business Plan. The decisions for Members around the HRA dwelling rents and service charges will be provided to Council in the MTFP in February.

#### **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26 for the General Fund is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 The MTFS is the starting point for developing a meaningful four year strategy that sets out the strategic intention for all of the different strands of funding available to the Council. The Council will then rely on this to inform future decisions. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will be prepared using the approved MTFS assumptions.

- 2.3 The MTFS has been produced in a period where there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding future funding of Local Government. Delays to Government Reviews and a series of roll-over Spending Reviews for the last couple of years, mean predicting the likely outcome of the Spending Review due on 27<sup>th</sup> October, is very difficult.
- 2.4 The outcome of the Spending Review is critically important to the financial health and viability of local authorities across the country. Councils are looking to the review to give real-terms growth in funding that will underpin our finances over the next four years.
- 2.5 Once the details of the Spending Review are known the implications for Bolsover will be included in our updated MTFP which will be presented to Members in February 2022.
- 3 Reasons for Recommendation**
- 3.1 To inform the MTFP process by providing strategic financial intention.
- 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**
- 4.1 Members could decide not to approve the MTFS. The MTFP would then be prepared on assumptions not agreed by Members and there could be a risk it would need to be amended in February if the assumptions used were not agreeable. By law, the MTFP must be approved prior to the beginning of the financial year to which the budget relates, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Members approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix 1.
2. The Council continues to fund the General Fund revenue base budget from the full amount of New Homes Bonus allocated by Government.
3. To set the strategic intention to continue to be a member of the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool while ever it is financially advantageous for the Council to do so.
4. To set the strategic intention to raise Council Tax by the maximum allowed in any given year, without triggering a Council Tax referendum, to endeavour to continue to deliver services. (The actual Council Tax for any given year will be decided by Council in the preceding March).
5. That the Council maintains a policy of a minimum level of Balances for the General Fund of £2m.
6. That the Section 151 Officer continues with the LGI Financial Resilience Service subscription to Benchmark Bolsover District Council and thus

demonstrate that requirements of the CIPFA Financial Management Code are being met.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Clive Moesby, Executive Member for Finance

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## IMPLICATIONS

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**Finance and Risk:**            Yes ☒            No ☐

**Details:**

Financial implications are covered throughout this report and appendix 1. The risk of not approving the MTFP before the statutory deadline might be greater without an approved MTFS.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

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**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes ☐            No ☒

**Details:**

There are no legal or data protection issues arising directly from this report.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

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**Staffing:**            Yes ☐            No ☒

**Details:**

There are no human resource issues arising directly from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

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## DECISION INFORMATION

<b>Decision Information</b>	
<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>BDC:</b> Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NEDDC:</b> Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Portfolio Holder

<b>Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</b>

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2025/26
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
None	



## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out the Council's strategic approach to the management of its finances and outlines the various factors and influences that may impact on us over the next few years.
- 1.2 The MTFS links our Council Ambition and priorities with forecasted resources and budgets. It is then used as a framework for the detailed budget setting process to ensure that resources are effectively managed and are able to deliver the Council's key objectives as set out in the Council's Ambition, over the medium term.
- 1.3 The Council's Ambition for 2020-2024 is:

“To become a dynamic, self-sufficient and flexible Council that delivers excellent services, whilst adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver for Bolsover District.”
- 1.4 Within the Council's Ambition one of the strategic themes is Economy. To support this theme is the priority of 'Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams'. This is the overall purpose of this MTFS.

## **2 Key Objectives of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)**

- 2.1 There is a legal requirement for the Council to produce a balanced and robust budget for the forthcoming year. In preparation for the annual budget, officers will review the MTFS to update Members on changes to budget assumptions and service issues. The MTFS will be updated when items are further known, such as results of Government consultations or Government funding settlements.
- 2.2 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MFTP) will then be presented to Members in February based on the MTFS strategic assumptions. The MFTP will contain the detailed revenue budgets for the general fund and housing revenue account resulting from the annual budget process for the next 4 years at service level, along with the proposed Capital Programme.
- 2.3 The MTFS will ensure financial sustainability and increase revenue streams by:
  - Ensuring that effective financial planning and management contributes to the Council achieving the priorities in the Council Ambition;
  - Maximising the income from Council Tax and Business Rates;
  - Maximising income from commercial and regeneration opportunities within the District;

- Ensuring the Council's financial standing is prudent, robust, stable and sustainable.

2.4 The Council has a number of agreed principles as a basis for financial management and budget planning as follows:

- Emerging pressures are managed within existing overall budgets in the first instance;
- Spending is aligned to key priorities as set out in the Council's Ambition;
- Income is only included in the budget where it is supported by robust proposals and is deliverable;
- Commercial income will be maximised where possible to ensure that fee charging services break-even over time and are provided with a nil cost subsidy from the tax payer, or return a surplus where appropriate;
- Where possible, future liabilities are anticipated;
- Budgets are sustainable;
- Savings proposals are supported by project plans and the impact on service delivery is clear;
- Capital and revenue planning are integrated to ensure implications are fully anticipated;
- Borrowing costs will be incurred (on capital projects) only where the cost is covered by new income as part of a business case;
- The Council's reserves and balances are not used as a primary method to balance the ongoing pressures in the budget. Earmarked reserves are used for specific one-off purposes to support the delivery of corporate objectives, to mitigate risks or to allow savings to be made as an invest-to-save.

### **3 The Factors Effecting the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)**

3.1 In compiling the MTFS a number of factors which effect the resources and expenditure for the Council have been considered. These have been reviewed to ensure the MTFS reflects the most up-to-date financial position for the Council.

#### **3.2 Resources Available**

The anticipated resources to be received by the Council are included in the MTFS. The resources forecasts are based on a number of assumptions which are detailed in the following sections. The table below shows the resources that were included in the MTFP last year as we do not yet have any firm estimates until the Spending Review 2021 is announced.

Table 1 – Estimated resources receivable by the Council (excluding fees and charges)

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
<b>Government Grants</b>				
Revenue Support Grant	1,194,913	0	0	0
Business Rates S31 Grant	888,688	537,564	371,440	384,316
New Homes Bonus	495,861	95,083	0	0
Lower Tier Services Grant	228,904	0	0	0
	<u>2,808,366</u>	<u>632,647</u>	<u>371,440</u>	<u>384,316</u>
<b>Locally Generated Income</b>				
Council Tax	7,397,350	7,507,203	7,617,056	7,726,909
Business Rates	3,864,065	3,255,985	3,248,109	3,236,233
	<u>11,261,415</u>	<u>10,763,188</u>	<u>10,865,165</u>	<u>10,963,142</u>
	<u>14,069,781</u>	<u>11,395,835</u>	<u>11,236,605</u>	<u>11,347,458</u>
% resources locally generated	80%	94%	97%	97%

3.3 The amount of income the Council receives from the Government has significantly reduced since 2009/10. The amount received for 2021/22 is estimated to be £5.5m lower than 2009/10 which is a reduction of 52%. The MTFP from February 2021, outlined the continued uncertainty surrounding local government funding and the significant assumptions that have to be made. These are given in more detail below.

#### **Overdue Local Government Funding Reforms**

3.4 There were multiple reforms scheduled for 2020/21 that will have a significant impact on local authority finances when they are complete. These were delayed understandably in 2020 due to the pandemic and it is expected some of these may be delayed now until 2023/24. As a reminder the areas being reformed are described below.

3.5 **The Fair Funding Review** will re-assess the relative needs and relative resources of local authorities. This will determine the methodology for the distribution of the funding allocated to local government to individual authorities.

3.6 **Baseline Reset** – the Business Rates retention system is due to be reset. The reset will establish new Baseline Funding Levels, Business Rates Baselines and Top-ups/Tariffs for each local authority.

Top-ups/Tariffs will be reset based on:

- The amount of funding to be distributed following the Spending Review.
- The new needs assessment resulting from the Fair Funding Review.
- Estimates of individual local authority's Business Rates income.

- 3.7 **Business Rates Retention** – the Government announced in the Autumn Budget 2017 that local authorities will move to a system of 75% Business Rates Retention from 2020/21. However, this has now been delayed and it is unknown when or if, it will now be implemented.
- 3.8 **Council Tax** – the Government's future strategy for Council Tax increases will also be a key issue. The Government's policy on referendum limits from 2022/23 onwards is not yet known.

#### **Local Government Finance Settlement 2021/22**

- 3.9 2019/20 was the final year of the four year Local Government Finance Settlement. The Spending Review 2019 was originally planned to cover the three year period 2020/21 – 2022/23 but was delayed. This effectively resulted in a one year extension to the four year settlement.
- 3.10 The Spending Review 2020, was due to cover the years 2021/22 – 2024/25 and it was anticipated it would provide clarity on the impact of the Fair Funding Review; the abolition of the New Homes Bonus; the fundamental review of Business Rates and the baseline reset of Business Rates. Dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic meant the Government was not in a position to implement any changes from the reviews. The Spending Review 2020 was therefore, another one-year extension.
- 3.11 The Spending Review 2021 is due to be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The outcome of the review is critically important to the financial health and viability of local authorities across the country. Councils are looking to the spending review to give real-terms growth in funding that will underpin our finances over the next 3 years.
- 3.12 Based on a number of webinar attendances, the early estimates from the Institute for Fiscal Studies; The Local Government Association and the Office for Budget Responsibility are:

- It will be a 3 year Spending Review
- It is likely to follow the path set out in the Spring Budget 2021
- Spending will grow in real terms at nearly 4% per year on average (nearly 6% in cash terms) over this Parliament
- a 1% real terms cut to unprotected departments (which includes Local Government but this excludes funding from council tax and business rates)

Once the details of the Spending Review are known the implications for Bolsover will be included in our updated MTFP. The areas of uncertainty we still have regarding Business Rates Reset, Fair Funding Review, New Homes Bonus and the Levelling up White Paper should also be made clearer with the SR21 announcement.

### New Homes Bonus

- 3.13 The Government has previously stated that 2021/22 represents the final year of New Homes Bonus funding. Only legacy payments from the 2019/20 allocation are still payable of £0.095m in 2022/23. In 2021/22 a new Lower Tier Services Grant was allocated to ensure no authority had a reduction in Core Spending Power. Bolsover received an allocation of £0.229m. The future of New Homes Bonus has been consulted on by Government and we await the result as part of the Spending Review 2021.

### Revenue Support Grant

- 3.14 It is expected there will be no grant received from 2022/23 onwards but again, it is expected this will be confirmed in the Spending Review 2021.

### Baseline Funding Level

- 3.15 The baseline is the amount of money the Government has assessed that the Council needs to keep to fund its services, based on a needs formula. The Local Government Finance Settlement updates the baseline every year, usually in line with inflation. Bolsover is able to keep 50% of any business rates growth above the baseline set by the Government, with the remainder payable to the Government (but see below for pool implications). The table below summarises the estimated Baseline Funding Level for the MTFs period and shows the current assumptions change in 2022/23, which was the original date for the introduction of the Business Rates Reset.

	Baseline Funding Level			Change %		
	Business Rates Baseline	Business Rates Tariff	Total	Business Rates Baseline	Business Rates Tariff	Total
	£	£	£			
2019/20	8,481,995	(5,602,995)	<b>2,879,000</b>			
2020/21	8,620,695	(5,694,286)	<b>2,926,409</b>	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
2021/22	8,668,409	(5,742,000)	<b>2,926,409</b>	0.6%	0.8%	0.0%
2022/23	11,499,000	(8,274,000)	<b>3,225,000</b>	32.7%	44.1%	10.2%
2023/24	11,706,000	(8,481,000)	<b>3,225,000</b>	1.8%	2.5%	0.0%
2024/25	11,917,000	(8,692,000)	<b>3,225,000</b>	1.8%	2.5%	0.0%

### Retained Business Rates

- 3.16 Our Business Rates tax base represents the value of Business Rates income we estimate will be collected from businesses. Each Business Rates tax payer account has a rateable valuation provided by the Valuation Office Agency, multiplied by a business rates multiplier which increases each year and is set by the Government.

- 3.17 In total Bolsover retains 40% of Business Rates collected during the year, after deductions for mandatory and discretionary reliefs, the cost of income collections, including losses, and for the cost of changes to rateable values as a result of appeals. The remaining amounts are paid on the basis of: 50% to central government, 9% to Derbyshire County Council and 1% to Derbyshire Fire Authority.
- 3.18 Bolsover's Retained Business Rates income (the 40%) is then subject to a tariff, which is increased annually by the retail price index and is paid to central government. This tariff payment funds other authorities where their Business Rates are considered to be disproportionately low. The level of the tariff is unique to each local authority and is announced as part of the Spending Review.
- 3.19 Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, the Derbyshire Business Rates pool has been in operation. This consists of all eight Derbyshire district or borough Councils, Derbyshire County, Derby City and Derbyshire Fire Authority. Instead of each district or borough Council paying 50% of their growth above the baseline over to Government, it is kept within the pool and distributed amongst all the members on an agreed basis.
- 3.20 There are a number of risks that could affect the level of Business Rate income collected, and as such, reduce the anticipated amount of Retained Business Rates. The most significant risks are as follows:
- Unpredictable increases in exemptions and reliefs due to different property usage.
  - Successful business rate appeals dating back to earlier years.
  - Slower than anticipated local economic growth.
  - Retail price index increases on the tariff, being higher than local economic growth.
  - Uncollectable debts as a result of worsening economic conditions.
- 3.21 One of the largest financial risks that the Council is facing is around how the Government will re-set the Business Rates Baseline for the Council. The growth being encouraged by the Council within the business sector means we have the highest level of growth in the Derbyshire Business Rates pool.
- 3.22 In 2020/21 we were £3m above our Business Rates Baseline so contributed £1.5m into the pool and were able to transfer £1.5m into our Business Rates Growth Protection Reserve.
- 3.23 The Business Rates income in the current MTFP has the worst case scenario for 2022/23 to 2024/25 and includes no smoothing from the Government of significant losses. This will be updated as soon as more information is known.

### Council Tax

- 3.24 Council Tax is charged by local authorities on residential properties. The Valuation Office Agency decides the correct band based on the value of property at 1 April 1991. Local authorities set the charge based on a Band D property each year.
- 3.25 Council Tax is the main source of funding for the provision of general fund services. It is determined locally but the Government indicate what upper limit they consider acceptable on a yearly basis. The legislative requirement to hold a referendum is triggered if this limit is exceeded. For 2021/22, District Councils were permitted to increase their share of the Council Tax by the greater of 2% or £5, which was the same limits as in 2020/21.
- 3.26 In calculating our recent funding settlements the Government has assumed that we will increase Council Tax by the maximum level allowed.
- 3.27 For 2021/22 we increased our share of the bill for a Band D property by £4.99 per annum which was 2.75% and equated to 10p per week. This raised £109,853 in revenue income. This same increase has been assumed for all years of the MTFP for exemplifying the financial position only.
- 3.28 The breakdown of the 2020/21/22 Council Tax bill over all the preceptors is as follows:

<i>Derbyshire County Council</i>		£1,247.74
<i>Derbyshire County Council – Adult Social Care element</i>		£135.33
Derbyshire County Council Total	67.8%	£1,383.07
Bolsover District Council	9.13%	£186.28
Police + Crime Commissioner	11.85%	£241.60
Derbyshire Fire + Rescue Service	3.89%	£79.27
Town + Parish Councils	7.33%	£149.56
The total charge for the average Band D bill 2021/22	<b>100%</b>	<b>£2,039.78</b>

**Council Tax Base**

- 3.29 The Council Tax base for 2021/22 of 22,026.33 was determined by the Chief Financial Officer under delegated powers in December 2020. This represents the number of Band D equivalent properties that we collect Council Tax from. This was a slight reduction on the 2020/21 Tax base due to a combination of increased empty properties in the district and an increase in the number of Council Tax support claimants. The Tax base for 2022/23 is currently being determined.
- 3.30 The more Band D equivalent properties the Council has, allows the local authority to generate more income for the Council from Council Tax. Properties valued at Band A generate less income for the Council as the charge is 70% of the charge for a Band D property. The Council Tax base for Bolsover District Council is very low and this is a disadvantage for us. If another Council with a much higher Tax base increased their Council tax by the same percentage as us, they would receive far more income than us. This needs to be remembered when Council Tax is becoming one of the main ways the Government is allowing us to generate income.

**Reserves and Balances**

- 3.31 The Local Government Act 2003 (Section 25) requires the Council's Section 151 Officer to report to Council on the Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves, for consideration immediately prior to setting the Budget and Council Tax. This is subject to external audit review to assess value for money and a going concern opinion.
- 3.32 The Section 151 Officer must consider the level of reserves needed to meet estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. The Council keeps a level of reserves to protect against the risk of any uncertainties or unforeseen expenditure. Much like using savings to offset monthly household bills the use of financial reserves cannot solve a budget problem outright but allows for smoothing of impacts or allows the Council time to ride any short-term situations before returning to normal. Therefore, reserves are mainly used to:
- Manage the impact of funding reductions over a longer period.
  - Invest in projects that allow services to be delivered cheaper.
  - Take one-off hits for the council without the need to further reduce service budgets.
  - Provide capacity to absorb any non-achievement of planned budget reductions in each year.
  - To temporarily roll over unused portions of grants that can legally be used later.
  - To insure against major unexpected events.
  - To protect against general risk.



- To guard against emerging specific risks, such as business rate appeals, Council Tax support funding cuts and welfare reform.

3.33 Best practice guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), states that the General Fund balance may be between 5% and 100% of net expenditure. The Council's £2m minimum working balance represents 18% of total net expenditure.

3.34 In addition to the General Fund balance, the Council retains a number of earmarked reserves on the balance sheet. Some are required to be held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice and others have been set up voluntarily to earmark resources for future spending plans or potential liabilities.

3.35 The Council has continued to develop its prudent financial management arrangements through the development of earmarked reserves to mitigate against potential future risks. As issues arise, the potential requirement for an earmarked reserve is considered. New earmarked reserves are formally considered as part of the detailed budget process to ensure that any new risks identified are adequately mitigated, and throughout the annual budget monitoring process as risks arise or become clearer.

3.36 The detailed budget process includes an assessment of risk, the adequacy of General Fund Reserves and a review of earmarked reserves, to both create and change earmarked reserve levels and to also release reserves which are no longer required.

The table overleaf shows the level of general fund usable reserves and balances as at 1 April 2021.

	<b>Balance at</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>01-Apr-21</b>
	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Balances:</b>	
General Fund Balance	<b>(2,182)</b>
<b>Usable Reserves:</b>	
Area Based Grant	<b>(48)</b>
Covid-19 - S31 Business Rate Relief Compensation Grant Reserve	<b>(3,679)</b>
General	<b>(1,152)</b>
NDR Growth Protection	<b>(6,231)</b>
Insurance - GF	<b>(516)</b>
IT and Office Equipment	<b>(371)</b>
Legal Costs	<b>(117)</b>
Local Development Scheme	<b>(190)</b>
Planning Fees	<b>(139)</b>
Transformation Reserve	<b>(6,818)</b>
Vehicle Repair and Renewal - GF	<b>(1,532)</b>
<b>Total Reserves and Balances</b>	<b>(22,975)</b>

#### 4 **Budget Pressures**

- 4.1 The table below is from the quarter 2 Budget Monitoring report. It is the latest position of all years in the current MTFP before we have concluded the revised budget and MTFP process. This will be updated and presented to Council in February.
- 4.2 The table shows that the Council currently only has a forecast budget shortfall for 2024/25. For the first time during quarter 2 we have included estimates of potential new income from current projects and plans known about by the Council. Some of these we are working on ourselves and some are reliant on developers.

	2021/22 Budget £000	2022/23 Budget £000	2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000
Budget Shortfall – MTFP Feb 2021 adjusted for recycling service	291	402	690	3,632
Efficiencies identified to date (removed from budget)	(224)	(111)	(110)	(110)
<b>Current Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>3,522</b>
Efficiencies identified <u>not yet realised</u>	(443)	(1,306)	(2,002)	(2,571)
Pension costs to be funded by GF balance	(80)	(82)	(18)	0
<b>Target Budget Shortfall/(Surplus)</b>	<b>(456)</b>	<b>(1,097)</b>	<b>(1,440)</b>	<b>951</b>

4.3 Once the details of the Spending Review are known the implications for Bolsover will be included in our updated MTFP and the figures for 2025/26 will be included in the plan for the first time.

4.4 Since 2011/12, Bolsover has delivered savings of over £5m. We have a good track record of finding efficiencies and new ways of working but new budget savings are becoming increasingly more difficult to identify and deliver now we have reduced service budgets to minimum levels. For this reason it is essential that the Council continues to identify areas where costs can be reduced or income increased to close any budget gaps.

4.5 A number of areas have already been identified around additional income as follows:

- Potential Council Tax increases and growth in the tax base from new properties or bringing empty properties back into use;
- Potential extra business rates from new units we are constructing;
- Rental income from new units;
- Income from a proposed crematorium;
- Income from providing funding for our own Development Company;
- Rental Income from properties in the Development Company;
- Income from a new 3G football pitch which is currently being constructed;
- Income from a new toning suite within the Go Active Leisure Centre.

## 5 CIPFA Financial Management Code

- 5.1 CIPFA has developed a Financial Management Code (FM Code) which is designed to support good practice in financial management and to assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. The FM Code has been introduced because the exceptional financial circumstances faced by local authorities have revealed concerns about fundamental weaknesses in financial management, particularly in relation to a small number of high-profile failures across local government which threaten stakeholder's confidence in the sector as a whole.
- 5.2 Although the FM Code does not have legislative backing, it applies to all local authorities and it must be demonstrated that the requirements of the FM Code are being met. Demonstrating this compliance with the Code is a collective responsibility of Elected Members, the Section 151 Officer and the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 5.3 As a first step towards ensuring that this Council meets the FM Code, the Council's Internal Audit Consortium carried out an audit during September 2020. The audit concluded that the Council complied with the majority of the FM Code already. Three recommendations were raised which are being implemented during 2021/22.
- 5.4 To satisfy one of the recommendations, the Section 151 Officer has subscribed to the LGI Financial Resilience Service. An example of the analysis is shown below. Although we are only in the early stages of using this service the initial analysis was that *'Bolsover has a healthy level of reserves and a positive direction of travel.'* As we develop our use of this analysis tool, we will include more of the graphs and tables in our monitoring reports.

## USABLE REVENUE RESERVES ANALYSIS - 2020/21

Authority:

Bolsover

County:

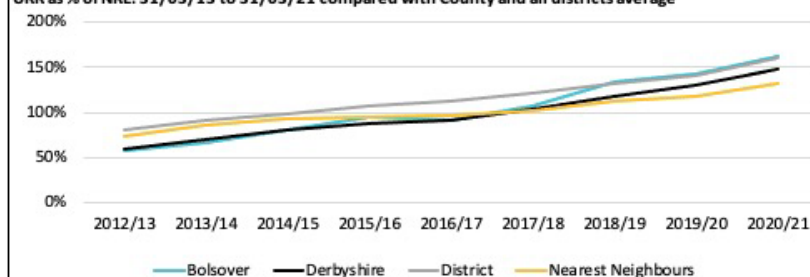
Derbyshire

**Usable Revenue Reserves (URR) from 2012/13 to 2020/21: Bolsover**

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
General Fund Balance	5,952	7,064	9,016	10,693	10,612	12,063	15,518	16,439	22,974
Earmarked Reserves	1,634	1,593	1,641	1,643	1,390	1,915	2,080	2,231	2,067
Usable Revenue Reserves	7,586	8,657	10,657	12,336	12,002	13,978	17,598	18,670	25,041
CFAA balance									3,911
URR - CFAA									21,130

**Usable Revenue Reserves as a percentage of Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) (Bolsover NRE 19/20 = 13,086)**

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bolsover	58%	66%	81%	94%	92%	107%	134%	143%	161%
Derbyshire	60%	70%	81%	87%	92%	104%	119%	131%	149%
District	80%	91%	99%	108%	113%	121%	131%	141%	161%
Nearest Neighbours	74%	87%	93%	95%	96%	102%	112%	118%	133%

**URR as % of NRE: 31/03/13 to 31/03/21 compared with County and all districts average**

## Agenda Item 14

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted