

The Arc
High Street
Clowne
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the Council

Monday 2nd October 2023

Contact: Amy Bryan
Telephone: 01246 242529
Email: amy.bryan@bolsover.gov.uk

Dear Councillor


COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 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 on page 3 onwards.

Yours faithfully



Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and when delivering the services it provides to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

Access for All statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or **language** or contact us by:

- **Phone:** [01246 242424](tel:01246242424)
- **Email:** enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk
- **BSL Video Call:** A three-way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call Bolsover District Council with Sign Solutions, you just need WiFi or mobile data to make the video call, or call into one of our Contact Centres.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) - a free phone service provided by BT for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking. It's a way to have a real-time conversation with us by text.
- **Visiting** one of our [offices](#) at Clowne, Bolsover, Shirebrook and South Normanton

COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 at 10:00 hours taking place in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne

Item No.		Page No.(s)
1.	Apologies For Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	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 matters arising out of those items	
	and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
3.	Chair's Announcements	
	To receive any announcements that the Chair of the Council may desire to lay before the meeting.	
4.	Minutes	5 - 17
	To approve the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 2 nd August 2023 and 5 th September 2023.	
5.	Questions from the Public	18 - 19
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow members of the public to ask questions about the Council's activities.	
	a) Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment by Sarah Foy	
6.	Motions	20 - 29
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, to consider motions on notice from Members.	
	(A) Motion from Councillor Steve Fritchley – Industrial Communities Alliance	
	(B) Motion from Councillor Will Fletcher – World AIDS Day	

RECOMMENDED ITEMS

To receive any items recommended for Council consideration from meetings of the Executive or Committees.

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 7. | Creation of an Employee Engagement Officer | 30 - 33 |
| 8. | Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 | 34 - 53 |
| 9. | Park Lane, Pinxton Development | 54 - 64 |

REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

To give consideration to reports of the Leader and Portfolio Holders for decision.

- | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 10. | Street Sweeping Arrangements | 65 - 68 |
| 11. | Change to the Membership of Scrutiny Committees | 69 - 71 |
| 12. | Chairman's Closing Remarks | |

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 2nd August 2023 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair (for CL23-23/24 to CL25-23/24)

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), David Bennett, Amanda Davis, Mary Dooley, Will Fletcher, Louise Fox, Steve Fritchley (for items CL23-23/24 to CL31-23/24 and CL33-23/24), Justin Gilbody, Donna Hales, Rob Hiney-Saunders, Mark Hinman, Cathy Jeffery, Chris Kane, Lucy King, Sandra Peake, Lisa Powell, Jeanne Rospin, Sally Renshaw, John Ritchie, Phil Smith, Emma Stevenson, Ashley Taylor, Catherine Tite, Vicky Waplington, Deborah Watson, Carol Wood and Jane Yates.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Theresa Fletcher (Service Director Finance & Section 151 Officer), Jim Fieldsend (Service Director Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Pam Brown (Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships), Victoria Dawson (Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement), Ian Barber (Director of Property & Construction, Dragonfly Development Limited) and Amy Bryan (Governance and Civic Manager).

CL23-23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Clarke, Rowan Clarke, Duncan Haywood, Tom Kirkham, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Janet Tait and Jen Wilson.

CL24-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

CL25-23/24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair encouraged all Members to book on to the Prevent (Counter Terrorism) training webinar, which was taking place on Wednesday 6th September.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 and recommenced at 10:19.

Councillor Tom Munro left the meeting.

Councillor Rita Turner (Vice Chair of the Council) in the Chair

COUNCIL

CL26-23/24 MINUTES

There was one amendment to be made to the Minutes of Annual Council. Minute CL10-23/24 should refer to Councillor Donna Hales rather than Councillor Catherine Tite in the 4th paragraph.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 24th May 2023 be approved as true and correct records.

CL27-23/24 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 Jane Yates

Bolsover District Council notes that:

- 1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.*
- 2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.*
- 3. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.*
- 4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.*
- 5. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.*
- 6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.*

Bolsover District Council believes that:

- 1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be.*
- 2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.*
- 3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.*
- 4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.*

COUNCIL

5. *More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.*
6. *UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.*

Bolsover District Council resolves to:

1. *Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.*
2. *Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.*
3. *Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.*
4. *Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.*
5. *Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.*
6. *Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.*
7. *Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.*
8. *Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.*
9. *Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.*

The Motion was moved by Councillor Jane Yates and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley.

Councillor Yates spoke to the Motion and stated that she believed in a tax system that was fair and ensured businesses paid the right tax at the right time. Companies who did not pay the right amount of tax reduced the money available for public services. The Fair Tax Foundation estimated that globally, 40% of multinational profits were shifted to tax havens each year. The Fair Tax Mark was an accreditation for businesses who had good tax practices, the details of which were set out in the Motion.

On being put to the vote the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED that Bolsover District Council notes that:

1. The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.
2. Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that "corporate tax avoidance" has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.
3. Two thirds of people (66%) believe the Government and local councils should at least consider a company's ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as

COUNCIL

value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.

4. Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
5. It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.
6. The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

Bolsover District Council believes that:

1. Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.
2. Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.
3. As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.
4. Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.
5. More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.
6. UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

Bolsover District Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Council for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
4. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
6. Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
7. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
8. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax

COUNCIL

contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.

9. Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

CL28-23/24 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer presented a report proposing amendments to the Council's constitution as recommended by the Standards Committee.

The report set out the proposed changes, which were:

Junior Executive Roles

The Leader of the Council had proposed the introduction of the role of Junior Executive Member. The purpose of the change was to provide each of the Executive Members with an assistant who would help in delivering the work within their portfolios. Article 7 of Part 2 of the Constitution would need to be amended with the introduction of this new role and a revised version of Article 7 was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Access to Information Rules

There were a number of omissions and points of clarification that needed to be addressed in the Access to Information Rules. Of specific note was the wording of Rule 4.2.12, which would be changed to place the responsibility for deciding whether a report should be exempt with the Monitoring Officer, which would be consistent with the Officer Delegation Scheme. A revised version of the Access to Information Rules was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

Executive/Scrutiny Protocol

Within the revised *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities*, guidance was given on the creation of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol. As part of the review of scrutiny procedures a protocol had been created, the aim of which was to outline practical expectations of the relationships between Scrutiny Members and the Executive. The proposed Executive/Scrutiny Protocol for insertion into the Constitution at 4.5.21 within Part 4.5 was attached to the report at Appendix 3.

Community Call for Action (CCfA)

A revised Community Call for Action was attached to the report at Appendix 4.

Members Roles and Responsibilities

The current document omitted the role of a Scrutiny Member, so this had now been added. In addition, the role and responsibilities of the Vice-Chair of the Council had been added for clarity, and the new role of Junior Executive Member had also been included. A revised Members Roles and Responsibilities section was attached to the report at

COUNCIL

Appendix 5.

Virement

There was currently a slight discrepancy between the two parts of the Constitution that dealt with virement, which were Part 4.3 (Budget and Policy Framework) and part 4.7.2(7) (Financial Regulations). An amendment was proposed to make it clear that it was Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) who could authorise virements. The proposed changes to the two sections were set out in Appendix 6 to the report.

Moved by Councillor John Ritchie and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake
RESOLVED that the amendments to the Constitution, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)

CL29-23/24 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer presented a report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The report sought to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel, which would be asked to consider and make recommendations on the following:

- Whether the Junior Executive Members role should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) and if so, the amount of the allowance.
- Whether a board member of Dragonfly Development Limited and Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Limited should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance.
- A review of the Members Allowances Scheme as a whole.

The proposed membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel was Graham Hudson, Amanda Orchard and David Richardson.

The report also set out a proposal to pay an allowance to the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Regulations allowed for the Council to pay the Panel an allowance as it saw fit. In light of the work that a panel member would be expected to undertake it was considered reasonable to agree an allowance of £100 per meeting. This was in line with what other Councils paid.

The Independent Remuneration Panel had met in July 2023 to consider a recommendation regarding the role of Junior Executive Member. The Panel had recommended that the Junior Executive Member role should receive a Special Responsibility Allowance, and that allowance should be £2,445.36 per year (being 50% of an Executive Member Special Responsibility Allowance). A copy of the Panel's full report was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The recommended actions as set out in the report were moved as a Motion by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake.

Councillor Will Fletcher stated that Bolsover District Council paid the highest basic allowance of any non-metropolitan district council in England. He stated that he had

COUNCIL

called for a 33% reduction in the basic allowance during the recent council elections and when talking to residents there had been strong support for reducing the basic allowance, so it was more in line with that paid by similar councils. On top of the generous basic allowance many members already received a SRA. The IRP report commented on the number of members who already received a SRA and the guidance regarding paying SRAs to a majority of Members. Councillor Fletcher noted that agreeing to pay a SRA to the Junior Executive Members would take the number of Councillors paid a SRA to almost 70%. He stated that the country was in the midst of a cost of living crisis and there remained uncertainties around the Council's income. Councillor Fletcher concluded that it was clear to him that the Council's allowances were more than generous enough, and it should not be necessary for a Junior Executive Member to receive a SRA as well, and he then moved an amendment.

The following amendment was moved by Councillor Will Fletcher and seconded by Councillor Carol Wood.

'recommendation 3 - delete all after "to consider the attached report of the Independent Remuneration Panel" and insert the following "and decide that the role of Junior Executive Member should not receive a Special Responsibility Allowance and that this should be reconsidered when the Independent Remuneration Panel reports on the Members Allowance Scheme in full."

Councillor Steve Fritchley stated that he could have appointed an additional three Members of the Executive, but he thought it important that new members had the opportunity to take part and gain experience, so he had introduced this new role. He stated that he believed this new role was important for continuity and it cost less money than having a larger Executive.

Councillor Deborah Watson stated that becoming a Councillor should not only be the domain of those who could afford it and it was a role that took a lot of time. She also stated that in Scotland all members across the country were paid the same amount.

Councillor Sandra Peake stated that Councillors did not have to accept their allowance(s).

Councillor Carol Wood stated that she supported development opportunities in all areas, however she was still puzzled why the new role of Junior Executive Member should attract a SRA. She stated that some Councillors may receive paid leave for meetings, but others accepted the loss of earnings when they chose to stand as Councillors. The IRP was concerned about the number of SRAs paid at the moment and therefore it would be the sensible thing to approve the Junior Executive Member post with zero allowance, pending the full review. Councillor Wood also noted that the Council had not had a review of allowances for some years and now a Panel had been set up they had first reported on these new posts before conducting a full review.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated.

On being put to the vote, the original Motion was carried.

RESOLVED that (1) the appointment of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review of the Council's Members' Allowance Scheme, be agreed.

(2) The scope of the Independent Remuneration Panel as set out in the report, be

COUNCIL

agreed.

- (3) The role of Junior Executive Member to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2445.36.
- (4) The payment to Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in the report, be agreed.

(Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)

CL30-23/24 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Council considered the Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2022/23, presented by the Service Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer on behalf of Mrs Ruth Jaffray, Chair of Standards Committee.

The report highlighted the work undertaken by the Standards Committee during 2022/23 municipal year and included the establishment of a sub-committee to deal with a member complaint hearing, Constitution review work, policy review work, reviewing gifts and hospitality and member training attendance.

Moved by Councillor Rita Turner and seconded by Councillor Steve Fritchley
RESOLVED that the Standards Committee Annual Report be noted.

CL31-23/24 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Council considered a report by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Clive Moesby, in relation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28, which was attached to the report at Appendix 1. The report was presented by the Service Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) presented only related to the General Fund as the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assumptions were based on the 30-year Business Plan. It set out the Council's strategic approach to the management of its finances and outlined the various factors and influences that may impact on the Council over the next few years.

The MTFS had been produced in a period where there remained a great deal of uncertainty regarding future funding of Local Government. Once the details of the Spending Review were known, the implications for the Council would be included in the updated Medium Term Financial Plan, which would be presented to Members in February 2024.

Councillor Mary Dooley stated that the Council had become a dynamic self-sufficient, flexible Council, whilst delivering excellent services and adapting to local aspirations and acting as the economic and environmental driver of the District. A leap of faith had been taken when Ward Recycling had gone into administration and the Council took over the refuse collection without any disruption to services. When Woodhead Construction went

COUNCIL

into administration the Council yet again took immediate action and there was now Dragonfly, which was wholly owned by the Council, which would now go on to build homes for the ever-increasing housing list. The Council was dynamic, and Councillors should all be proud of it. Councillor Dooley concluded that she wanted families to live in homes in the District and businesses to thrive in the District.

Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Sandra Peake

RESOLVED that (1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(2) the Council continued to fund the General Fund revenue base budget from the full amount of New Homes Bonus (and related grants such as Services Grant) allocated by Government.

(3) the Council set the strategic intention to continue to be a member of the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool while ever it was financially advantageous for the Council to do so.

(4) the Council 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) the Council maintained a policy of a minimum level of Balances for the General Fund of £2m.

(Service Director for Finance & Section 151 Officer)

Councillor Steve Fritchley left the meeting.

CL32-23/24 HOUSING PRESENTATION

Councillor Sandra Peake, Portfolio Holder for Housing invited the Director of Property & Construction, Dragonfly Development Limited, and the Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement to give a presentation on Housing.

The Director of Property & Construction, Dragonfly Development Limited, gave an overview of the Property Maintenance Service provided to the Council. The service was made up of several teams, which included an Inspection Team, Repairs, Planning & Innovation Team, Service Delivery, Compliance Team. The presentation also covered the managed stores facility, the current capital schemes and details of the work that was planned for Bramley Vale.

The Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement explained that the Housing Service, with a staff of just under 100 people, was responsible for the following areas:

- Allocations/Housing Needs
- Tenancy Management
- Income Management
- Tenant Participation
- Homelessness

COUNCIL

- Welfare Adaptations
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Careline – central control and support wardens
- Housing Strategy

The Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement gave a brief explanation of each area and the work involved.

Council was shown a demonstration video of a mobility scooter fire.

Councillor Steve Fritchley re-joined the meeting.

CL33-23/24 CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Vice-Chair invited the Leader of the Council to make a statement.

The Leader of the Council announced the names of those Councillors who would be taking on the role of Junior Executive Member. These were:

Councillor Phil Smith – Junior Executive Member for Growth
Councillor Jeanne Raspin – Junior Executive Member for Environment
Councillor Janet Tait – Junior Executive Member for Housing
Councillor Jane Yates – Junior Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Duncan Haywood – Junior Executive Member for Resources

The meeting concluded at 11:35 hours.

COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Tom Munro in the Chair

Councillors Rita Turner (Vice-Chair), David Bennett, Anne Clarke, Rowan Clarke, Amanda Davis, Mary Dooley, Will Fletcher, Louise Fox, Steve Fritchley, Duncan Haywood, Rob Hiney-Saunders, Cathy Jeffery, Chris Kane, Duncan McGregor, Clive Moesby, Sandra Peake, Lisa Powell, Jeanne Raspin, Sally Renshaw, John Ritchie, Phil Smith, Janet Tait, Catherine Tite, Vicky Waplington, Jen Wilson (for items CL36-23/24 to CL38-23/24 only), Carol Wood and Jane Yates.

Officers:- Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Theresa Fletcher (Service Director Finance & Section 151 Officer), Jim Fieldsend (Service Director Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Pam Brown (Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships), and Amy Bryan (Governance and Civic Manager).

CL34-23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Donna Hales, Mark Hinman, Lucy King, Tom Kirkham, Emma Stevenson, Ashley Taylor, Deborah Watson.

CL35-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

CL36-23/24 CREATION OF A NEW SENIOR ACCOUNTANCY ASSISTANT POST

Councillor Clive Moesby, Portfolio Holder Resources, presented a report which sought approval to create and fund a new position of Senior Accountancy Assistant – HRA and Capital.

The report explained that the capacity of the finance team had been greatly stretched throughout the early part of the 2023/24 financial year setting up the financial arrangements for the Council's wholly owned company, Dragonfly. Due to the extra burdens placed on the finance team, due mainly to the new company, it was necessary to propose an increase in the permanent staff to 7 full-time officers. A proposed structure, with the new post highlighted, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that (1) the creation of a new Senior Accountancy Assistant – HRA and Capital post permanently on the establishment be approved;

COUNCIL

(2) the cost of the new Senior Accountancy Assistant – HRA and Capital post, be added to the Medium Term Financial Plan as a General Fund cost.

(Service Director Finance & Section 151 Officer)

CL37-23/24 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

The Leader presented a report which sought approval for a budget of £37,000 per annum to be allocated for the Councillor Community Grant Scheme.

The report stated that during 2022/23 a one-off budget had been agreed to enable each Councillor to support their local community groups and organisations for services and activities within their Ward, up to a value of £1,000 for each Councillor. The grant scheme had been well utilised and numerous local communities had benefited. Details of the 2022/23 grant scheme was attached to the report at Appendix 1. Having considered the positive outcomes and impact achieved by the scheme it was proposed to continue with the scheme on an annual basis.

Moved by Councillor Steve Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor

RESOLVED that a budget of £37,000 be agreed for the District Councillor Community Grant Scheme, and for this to be added to the Medium Term Financial Plan on an annual basis.

(Service Director Finance & Section 151 Officer)

CL38-23/24 CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Service Director Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer presented a report which set out changes to the membership of a number of scrutiny committees.

The report stated that following the Annual Council on 24th May 2023, the Council had nominated four Councillors to become directors of the Dragonfly Development Ltd and Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Ltd. In addition, the Leader of the Council had appointed five Councillors as Junior Executive Members. Due to potential conflicts of interest resulting from either being a member of the Dragonfly Board or a Junior Executive Member it was necessary to make changes to the membership of some of the scrutiny committees.

The proposed changes were:

- Councillor Phil Smith to move from Local Growth Scrutiny Committee to Customer Services Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Janet Tait to move from Local Growth Scrutiny Committee to Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Jane Yates to move from Customer Services Scrutiny Committee to Local Growth Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Jeanne Raspin to move from Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee to Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

COUNCIL

The report also set out potential changes to the membership of Councillor Deborah Watson on Local Growth Scrutiny Committee and the position of Vice Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee. Consideration of both were deferred to the next meeting of Council.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Duncan McGregor
RESOLVED that the proposed changes to the membership of the Scrutiny Committee, as set out in the report, be agreed.

(Service Director Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer)

The meeting concluded at 10:14 hours.

Question submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment by Sarah Foy

Hello. My name is Sarah Foy, I'm a charity worker and I live in South Normanton.

Bolsover prides itself on being one of the more forward thinking districts in the UK and has put climate considerations at the heart of governance. The Council's Carbon Reduction Plan has an objective to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food, which is currently omitted from the plan. The science is clear that meat and dairy are major contributors to the climate and ecological emergencies. Other councils, for example Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City, Cambridge City, Exeter City and the London Borough of Lewisham are ensuring that all food and drink provided at events is plant-based, and I'd like Bolsover District Council to do the same.

This is the logical & necessary next step to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, of carbon as well as methane and nitrogen. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study, is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

There have been substantial evidence-based recommendations calling for a move away from meat and dairy. The review of the National Food Strategy, led by Henry Dimbleby in 2021, recommended a reduction in meat and dairy of 30% within ten years, and that food provided in the public sector should be plant-based by default. If we are to achieve even this modest target, we need public organisations to lead the way. The government failed to implement these recommendations, and is now facing a legal challenge with lawyers arguing that its failure to adopt measures to reduce meat and dairy production and consumption is unlawful. A new Oxford University study published in July 2023 shows that the environmental impact of a meat-diet is far higher than one which is plant-based.

We are currently in a cost of living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal - whole food plant-based meals are considerably cheaper. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the council can also save money by serving more plant-based foods. We can and must move away from meat and dairy, towards climate-friendly eating, and I believe councils can lead the way with this.

I understand that this council does not regularly serve food at meetings, so the main change this council can implement is to exclusively serve plant milk for tea and coffee offered at meetings. Oat milk uses 13 times less water, 11 times less land, and creates 3.5 times less emissions than dairy milk. I would also ask at events where food is served, for it to be exclusively plant based.

Therefore, given the Climate and Ecological Emergency and Bolsover's stated aim to reduce their emissions, will Bolsover District Council ensure that all food and drink provided at internal events is fully plant-based, as other councils have done?

This will be a small, but positive and forward-thinking step that sends a powerful message, bringing our food policy into line with other climate-aware policies. Thank you.

Industrial Communities Alliance (ICA)

This Council notes:

1. The Industrial Communities Alliance (ICA) is an all-party association of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales. Formerly the Coalfields Communities Campaign (CCC), the Council has been a long-standing member. Members and officers attend regular meetings and receive informative reports and outcomes of research affecting the area.
2. Prior to Brexit the ICA enabled the links with partners across Europe to be strengthened and allowed access to European Funding Streams for the benefit of the District. Post Brexit, the ICA continue to lobby Government in much the same way in terms of increased support for Councils as previously, albeit European funding streams are gradually ceasing.
3. The ICA has produced a paper 'Local and Regional Development: The Case for Longer-Term Funding' for consideration by HM Treasury. [Paper is attached].

This Council resolves:

1. To support the paper 'Local and Regional Development: The Case for Longer-Term Funding', produced by the ICA for consideration by HM Treasury.
2. To send a letter to the Chair of the ICA informing them of the Council's support.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE FOR LONGER-TERM FUNDING

Paper for consideration by HM Treasury

The problem

The present system of funding for local and regional development is deeply flawed. This is a problem that affects all parts of the UK, including the devolved nations. At its heart lies the financial rules operated by the Treasury.

That the current system is failing is the widely held view of local authorities. It is also a view known to be held by officials in the Department for Levelling Up who deal with this funding on a day-to-day basis.

Under the present system, the principal funding for local and regional development is only made available for the duration of a Spending Round – currently through until March 2025. Each Spending Round typically lasts only three years and it can be well into the first year before the government has put the funding architecture in place, thereby reducing the duration of spending to not much more than two years. Under the present system a specific sum is also set for each financial year, with only ad hoc and limited provision for transfers between years.

This system has profound disadvantages:

- It presents an **obstacle to longer-term projects**, including those of a transformative nature, that need to run on beyond the end of a Spending Round.
- It renders the funding of **capital projects** especially difficult, since these often require significant lead-in time to work up specifications, secure permissions and put contracts out to tender.
- It undermines **revenue-funded schemes**, which typically require an up-front period to recruit staff who then find that they need to prioritise looking for alternative work or funding in the final year of a project.

- It requires **local spending plans** to be put together in a rush to satisfy deadlines, often with inadequate input from stakeholders.

The shortcomings of the present arrangements have been highlighted by the replacement of EU funding by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Whereas EU spending rounds ran for seven years with the option for spending to run on a further three years, the government has allocated UKSPF funding for only three years with no option for monies to be rolled forward beyond March 2025. In practice, because the UKSPF Investment Plans were not signed off until the autumn of 2022 all the UKSPF spending has to take place over just two-and-a-half years.

These arrangements fail to deliver best value for money. Because of the short timescales for planning and delivery, they also favour 'shovel-ready' projects over other schemes with potentially greater impact.

Treasury concerns

The Treasury does of course have legitimate concerns:

- The need to control the scale of public spending in each financial year – an essential part of macroeconomic management.
- The avoidance of spending by local players being deferred further into the future. This would undermine government efforts to deliver early results.
- Financial commitments beyond the end of Spending Rounds would limit the options open to future ministers, especially if there were to be a change of government.

On the other hand, as the Treasury will be aware, although named spending programmes come and go the broader departmental budget lines tend to be carried forward from one Spending Round to the next. For example, the present day Towns Fund, High Streets Fund and Levelling Up Fund are in budgetary terms the successors to the Local Growth Fund (2015-21) which in turn replaced amongst other things the pre-2015 Regional Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund.

Striking a balance

What is needed is a **pragmatic compromise** that balances the need to maximise local and regional benefits (and thus value to the taxpayer) with the Treasury's need to maintain financial control.

The straightforward option would be to earmark a proportion of funding to be spent beyond the end of each Spending Round. In effect, some of the funding would be allocated across two Spending Rounds – perhaps up to six years ahead. To maintain spending in the short term (a Treasury objective) the allocation to be spent in the first Round would remain unchanged; the additional funding would be for projects that needed to roll on into the subsequent Round. This roll-on funding would accordingly be somewhat less, leaving scope for discretion on overall spending in the second Round.

A stable level of spending through time would imply that at each Spending Review budget lines would be topped-up for the forthcoming round and the one after that.

In dealing with EU funding rounds lasting seven years (with a further three-year roll-on at the end) the Treasury has over the last thirty years built up substantial experience in managing longer-term budget lines of this kind. In the case of EU funding, the spending profiles were predictable and on the whole led to little difficulty in getting money ‘out of the door’ at the right time.

In other spheres of public spending, of course, committing monies beyond the end of Spending Rounds is not unusual. It is the norm for example for major infrastructure projects and in defence procurement.

A variant might be to differentiate between capital and revenue spending. Capital projects are generally slower to get off the ground and take longer to complete. Money earmarked for capital projects might therefore be allocated across two Spending Rounds. By contrast, spending on revenue-funded projects is somewhat easier to turn on and off (though not without problems around staffing, as noted earlier). Revenue spending might in theory continue to be allocated just for the duration of a single Spending Round.

The benefits of longer-term funding: two examples

National Coalfields Programme

In 1996 the then Conservative government established the National Coalfields Programme, under the management of English Partnerships (now Homes England) to return 56 former pit sites to use. The programme was expanded in the wake of the 1998 Coalfields Task Force report and again (twice) in the early 2000s to cover 107 sites in all. Around £800m of public money was invested up-front, of which around half was subsequently returned in land sales, leveraging in a further £2bn of private sector investment.

Barring a few loose ends, the coalfield programme ran for almost 20 years until 2015. It made probably the biggest single contribution to regeneration in England’s coalfields – the sites now accommodate some 40,000 new jobs and 10,000 new homes, plus public open space.

Heads of the Valleys road

The dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road (A465) between Abergavenny and Swansea in South Wales is a major initiative that got the go-ahead in 1999. It has been undertaken in stages, with the final part due to be completed in mid-2025. EU funding, available on a multi-annual basis right the way through until 2023, has been central to the scheme. The most expensive and difficult section, rising up a narrow gorge, cost £300m.

Dualling transforms the road from a slow and dangerous single carriageway to a strategic link in Britain's road network, speeding up access to West Wales and opening up development opportunities in what is possibly the single most economically disadvantaged part of the UK – the upper half of Welsh Valleys embracing towns such as Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Rhymney, Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare.

Which funds, and how much?

Exactly how much funding needs to be placed on a longer-term footing is unclear. The starting point is probably the existing levelling up funds:

Towns Fund	£2,350m
Future High Streets Fund	£830m
Levelling Up Fund	£4,800m
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£2,600m
Community Renewal Fund	£200m

These are the sums allocated in the present three-year Spending Round through to March 2025. The combined value of the five funds comes to just under £10.8bn, all to be spent by the end of 2024-25.

Additionally, the UK is still drawing down EU funding. When this finally drops out of the picture in 2024-25 the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for that year, intended to be the replacement, has been set at £1.5bn – equivalent to £4.5bn over three years. On this basis, a further £1.9bn (£4.5bn less the present three-year UKSPF allocation of £2.6bn) needs to be added for legacy EU funding in the present Spending Round.

Adding in the legacy EU funding brings the running total to £12.7bn. Adjusting for inflation (20 per cent between 2021 and 2024 might not be unreasonable) the next three-year Spending Round might therefore need to allocate around £15bn, or £5bn a year. This would do no more than match present levels of equivalent funding.

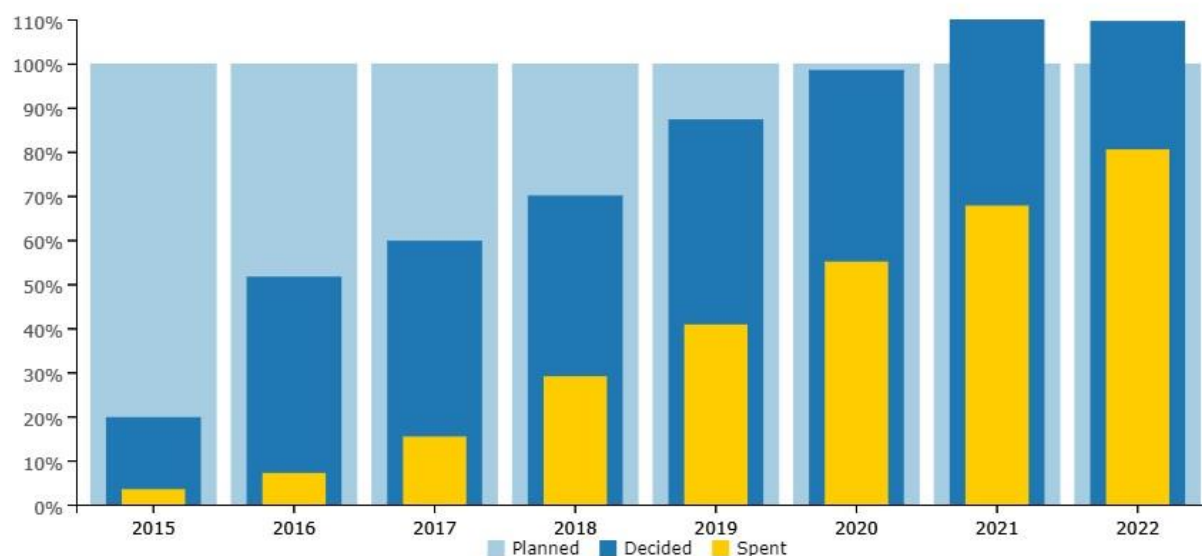
A figure of £5bn would be the **spending in each year** of the new Spending Round. To allow roll-on beyond the end of the round, the **financial commitment** would need to be larger.

How much should be committed further ahead?

So how much funding would need to be committed further ahead, beyond the end of the Spending Round?

EU funding to the regions may offer a guide. According to European Commission data, at the end of the 2014-20 EU spending round in December 2020, 99 per cent of the ESIF funding available to the UK had been committed to projects but only 55 per cent had actually been spent¹. The remainder was due to be spent before the end of 2023.

ESIF 2014-2020: Implementation Progress (total cost) for United Kingdom



Period Covered: up to 31/12/2022

Refresh Date: 19/05/2023

In practice there are likely to be delays in recording EU-funded expenditure – the figures here are passed on by local players to central government and then to the Commission – so the actual spending by December 2020 will have been somewhat higher. What these figures do suggest, however, is that perhaps a third of EU-funded spending rolled on beyond the end of the spending round. This is a reflection of the funds’ role in supporting longer-term projects, often involving capital spending and in some cases, no doubt, of an ambitious or transformative nature.

The figure earlier of **£15bn over three years**, needed to match present levelling up spending, referred just to expenditure within the next Spending Round. If the ratio between ‘in-round’ and ‘roll-on’ expenditure in EU funding were to be applied to UK levelling up funding, an **additional £7.5bn** would need to be committed in the next Spending Review for expenditure running beyond the end of the Spending Round.

The calculation here, based on EU funding, is purely illustrative. In practice there is no ‘magic figure’ for the proportion of roll-on expenditure or indeed for the duration of roll-on spending. Different projects take different times to deliver, so the choice between alternative

¹ Source: European Commission *Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds*

schemes will always to some extent be influenced by the scale and duration of the available funding. What needs to be clear, however, is that the present funding timescales, driven by the duration of single Spending Rounds, are wholly inadequate.

How would all this work in practice?

Expenditure control

Let's be absolutely clear: what is being proposed here is not additional expenditure. Any funding allocated to be spent in the next-but-one Spending Round would be an early commitment of monies to be spent in that round. At the following Spending Review, the allocation for additional in-round expenditure would accordingly be lower, though again there would be a commensurate allocation for roll-on expenditure into the next Spending Round.

Performance management

The Treasury wants to make sure that local partners deliver on their promises and above all that money does not go astray – fair enough, though fears about the competence and intentions of local authorities are seriously overblown.

It would be unreasonable for the Treasury (or one of the spending departments) to withdraw money that had already been allocated for roll-on expenditure because this would derail projects that were only half-completed. The potential for roll-on funding to be withheld would also have the perverse effect of disincentivising local partners to engage in the more ambitious longer-term projects that roll-on funding is intended to create. If there really were to be a local performance management issue, central government could presumably react by curtailing *additional* funding allocations to the area in question.

Devolution

Again let's be clear: what is being proposed here is an across the board arrangement that would apply to all local authorities (certainly in England) irrespective of status or the stage of any devolution deal. To do otherwise – say to restrict roll-on financing to just a handful of combined authorities – would completely remove the potential benefits of longer-term funding across a wide swathe of the country.

That said, the principle of longer-term funding does not imply a specific geography. It may be that for some funding combined authorities offer the best option for distribution and management; for other funding streams it may be unitary or district authorities.

Ministerial discretion

Ministers would not be disempowered by the introduction of longer-term funding, nor lose the discretion to determine spending levels further into the future in response to political priorities and budgetary constraints. Once the system was in place, at each Spending Review ministers would have the same discretion to reduce or increase specific budget lines but a proportion of the expenditure from each budget line would cover spending further ahead in the future.

The real bonus for ministers would be that they would be implementing a framework that would deliver better value for money. For this they should be able to claim political credit.

Conclusions

- The present funding arrangements are seriously flawed and do not deliver value for money.
- A pragmatic compromise needs to balance effective local and regional development against the Treasury's desire for financial control.
- The way forward would be to commit a portion of planned spending beyond the end of each Spending Round.

Industrial Communities Alliance
June 2023



Industrial Communities Alliance

The Industrial Communities Alliance is the all-party association of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

National Secretariat, 1 Regent Street, Barnsley, S Yorks. S70 2EG
01226 200768 natsec@ccc-alliance.org.uk
www.industrialcommunitiesalliance.org.uk

APPENDIX: Comments from selected local authorities

Barnsley MBC

“Each funding bid...required a HM Treasury Green Book business case and individual delivery, monitoring and evaluation frameworks with funders – often reporting on the same metrics to the same funder (e.g. DLUHC) on separate funding elements. Had we had the opportunity to make the case...for the total central government investment (c. £25m) from the outset this would undoubtedly have been more efficient and achieved better value for public money in terms of both BMBC and central government resources.”

Caerphilly Council

“Due to the short delivery time available for a complex capital programme of projects we were only able to include the mobilisation phase of the most significant element of the masterplan...i.e. land acquisition and ground/utility preparation, which meant that the bid was significantly weakened...”

Durham County Council

“The government needs to... understand that local authorities cannot afford to keep projects shovel-ready.”

“The government’s levelling up approaches are too short-termist and do not enable fundamental, long-standing economic weaknesses to be addressed...With short timescales, the emphasis is on deploying all of the investment rather than ensuring the optimum results and value for money.”

Glasgow City Council

“Three years is too short a period as you are no sooner starting delivery under one programme than you have to start thinking about the next...The current UK system puts a premium on projects that can deliver quickly rather than necessarily the best projects”

“Having had a dash for design we are... now in a dash to deliver.”

Wigan MBC

“Spending rounds...present a challenge in establishing and maintaining a longer-term strategic ‘pipeline’ of regeneration and development projects...including brownfield sites that are often complex to prepare for development. Bringing projects of this type to fruition involves activity at multiple stages from initial concept development, through technical due diligence and development, to funding and delivery. Ideally there would be the ability to commit funding across all stages of this activity at the outset...so that investment decisions could be made with less concern about the potential for abortive spend.”

World AIDS Day

Council notes that:

- World AIDS Day will be taking place on the 1st December 2023 as in previous years;
- 40.4 million people globally have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic;
- 39.0 million people globally are living with HIV according to the most recent data, including 48 people who are living with HIV in Bolsover District;
- HIV is no longer fatal and HIV treatment and medication as prescribed helps people with HIV to have the same life expectancy as those without HIV;
- Someone living with HIV who is on effective treatment is not able to pass HIV on to another individual (undetectable = untransmittable);
- The HIV Action Plan for England has four objectives in order to move us towards zero new diagnoses of HIV, including:
- Scaling up HIV testing in line with national guidelines; and
- Improving the quality of life for people living with HIV and addressing stigma;
- Bolsover District's HIV testing rate of 35.3% is below the England-wide average of 45.8%.

Council believes that:

- We should remember those who have died as a result of the HIV/AIDs epidemic and those still living with HIV around the world, including those here in Bolsover District;
- Every person living with HIV deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, and that addressing stigma plays a key role in this aim;
- Although Bolsover District Council is not directly responsible for sexual health, it can play a role in improving levels of testing by supporting initiatives such as World AIDS Day and National HIV Testing Week in order to raise awareness.

Council resolves to:

- Offer Red Ribbons for sale in all public offices, leisure centres and contact centres, for the two weeks preceding 1st December, in this year and in subsequent years;
- Fly the Red Ribbon flag on 1st December and during the week after World AIDS Day in this year and in subsequent years;
- Use Bolsover TV and intouch to promote World AIDS Day, the availability of Red Ribbons for purchase at council offices and contact centres, and inform residents where they can get more information about HIV testing and prevention.

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 11th October 2023

Creation of an Employee Engagement Officer Post

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Peter Wilmot, HR Business Partner

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

For Council to consider the proposals made and agreed at Employment and Personnel Committee on 28th June 2023 for the establishment of the post of Employee Engagement Officer.

Council's role is to agree the budget implications following full scrutiny of the proposals put to the Employment and Personnel Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background and details of the proposal

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 28th June 2023, the Employment and Personnel Committee considered a proposal for the creation of a new post of Employee and Engagement Officer on the Council's establishment.
- 1.2 The remit of the Committee is to consider and deal with issues relating to the Council's establishment structure and employees, and to recommend to Council in relation to any growth in the establishment resulting in budgetary increase.
- 1.3 In early 2023 the Senior Leadership Team received a report regarding the effectiveness of the Council's communication and engagement with its employees. There is strong historical evidence that demonstrates that when communication and engagement is effective in an organisation, the retention rate and attendance levels improve as employees feel more valued and engaged with the aims and objectives of their organisation.
- 1.4 The Senior Leadership Team considered the importance of effective communication on the following areas:

a. Leadership and Management

The flow of information from Senior Leadership Team throughout the organisation and the opportunity to receive and give feedback across all tiers of staff.

b. Culture

The need to ensure a culture of sharing information and to being open and receptive to feedback.

c. Media and Methods

Providing additional opportunities for face-to-face communication with employees.

d. Two-way Communication

The importance of two-way communication and to demonstrate to employees that they are being listened to.

e. Impact to the Organisation

Engagement and communication leads to increased productivity, as a more connected and engaged employee is far more likely to feel empowered to work hard for their organisation. The key is to ensure employee engagement is embedded in the organisation's culture. This in turn should lead to improved employee retention and better attendance levels.

1.5 The Senior Leadership team considered the possibility of additional staff engagement and communication projects and initiatives being spread out amongst existing managers and internal services but agreed that this would limit the effectiveness of excellent employee engagement. In the long term, these duties are not likely to be prioritised by the officer/manager and always come second place to their substantive and often statutory duties. Therefore, the Senior Leadership Team concluded that to ensure the success of the Council's culture of employee engagement, creation of a designated post would be the most effective way.

1.6 In addition, the Council is required to ensure staff receive appropriate and adequate training, keep up to date with ICT improvements and ensure there is a culture of continuous improvement, transformation, and the provision of excellent services to the public. Effective, positive two-way communication is essential within a large organisation in achieving its aims, objectives, and priorities.

1.7 A job description and person specification has been developed and was presented to the Employment and Personnel Committee for consideration in June 2023. The post requires job evaluation, but it is anticipated that the post would be graded at around Grade 6 (with oncosts £36,258 - £39,344). The post would be funded from the Council's General Fund budgets.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 The proposal has been fully considered by the Employment and Personnel Committee who agreed the creation of such a post would have a positive impact and add significant value to the Council and its HR and Payroll function.

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	None
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details: Councillor McGregor Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance</p>

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title

<p>Background Papers <i>(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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>
<p>Job Description and Person Specification Employment and Personnel Committee Minutes 28th June 2023</p>

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Council on 11th October 2023

Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Report of the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Jim Fieldsend, Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide Members of the Council with an annual overview of the work programme of the Committees during 2022/23, in accordance with functional responsibilities of Scrutiny as detailed in Part 2, Article 6.3(2) and Part 3.6.1(10) of the Council's Constitution.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to allow Members to review the summary of Scrutiny's activities during 2022/23.
- 1.2 The report provides an overview on the core activity for each of the Committee's and details some of the impacts.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Part 2, Article 6.1 of the constitution requires the Council to appoint four Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions conferred by Part 1A, s9F of the Local Government Act 2000.

- 2.2 Within the Terms of Reference (Part 2, Article 6.2), the four Scrutiny Committees have delivered the following functions:
- i. review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
 - ii. make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions;
 - iii. consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
 - iv. exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive; and
 - v. assist the Council and the Executive with the development of future policies and strategies.
- 2.3 Each of the four Scrutiny Committees have conducted their proceedings in accordance with the Terms of Reference at Part 3.6.1 and the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The attached provides an overview of the work completed by Members of the Scrutiny Committees during 2022/23, and reviews the impact of work completed.
- 3.2 Members are asked to note the report as required by Article 6.3(2) of the Council's Constitution.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 This report and the appendix have been prepared on behalf of the Scrutiny Committees with a view to informing Council of the Committee's undertaking of their statutory responsibilities.
- 4.2 There are no alternative options as Members are required to report to Council on an annual basis as determined in the Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members review the attached Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee's activities in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There are no financial implications arising from this report but Members should note that from the start of the 2023 municipal year, it was approved that the Audit Function should be split out of the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee. The scrutiny Committee will now be known as the Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee and there will now be a standalone Audit Committee.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The Scrutiny Committee function is a statutory requirement pursuant to Part 1A, s9F of the Local Government Act 2000.

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in Part 1A, s9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act requires every local authority to have a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. (Responsible authorities are effectively the statutory partners within a community safety partnership i.e. Police, local authorities (county and district), Fire and Rescue Authority, Probation Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups.)

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

The Scrutiny structure of the Council ensures there is a dedicated group of Members to consider all service aspects related to the environment and climate change.

The Review being monitored by Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee – Review of Council’s Policy on Fireworks – aims to ensure the Council increases its ability to enforce against misuse of fireworks and improving regulation of local firework displays.

The Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons aims to assist the Council in limiting the impact of local use of sky lanterns and helium balloons.

The Review of Council’s Approach to Carbon Reduction aims to enable the Council to clarify immediate priorities for action, as well as longer term plan to ensure the Council and District is net zero by 2050.

Staffing: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details: None from this report.	On behalf of the Head of Paid Service
---	---------------------------------------

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	N/A
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Committee Members

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
Scrutiny evaluates delivery against all Corporate Ambitions and Priorities

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1.	Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Background Papers <i>(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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
Committee minutes 2022/23 Review work



Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Contents

Foreword of the Scrutiny Chairs	3
Summary of 2022/23.....	4
Constitution Updates	4
Member Training	4
Customer Services Scrutiny Committee.....	5
Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee	7
Local Growth Scrutiny Committee	10
Audit & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.....	12
Scrutiny Impact	14
The year ahead.....	15
Revised Scrutiny Structure 2023/24.....	15
Setting the Committee Work Programmes.....	15
Member Training	15

Foreword of the Scrutiny Chairs

Throughout 2022/23, our Scrutiny Committees have continued to carry out their functions in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Following advice from Internal Audit and revised guidance at a national level, work took place to separate the Audit and Scrutiny functions. This was considered by Standards in February prior to the election and approved at Council AGM in May 2023.

The three thematic Committees continued to deliver in line with their terms of reference and monitoring delivery of recommendations from completed reviews.

Scrutiny Members' focus over the next year needs to be on the challenges facing both the Authority and service provision by our partners. We aim to ensure that Scrutiny makes a valuable contribution through its work. We appreciate the continued support of colleagues on the Executive and senior officers and look forward to another year of collaborative working for the benefit of our communities.

Councillor Rose Bowler

Chair of the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee (2022/23)

Councillor Nick Clarke

Chair of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee (2022/23)

Councillor Jennifer Wilson

Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee (2022/23)

Councillor Tom Munro

Chair of the Audit & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee (2022/23)

Summary of 2022/23

Constitution Updates

As noted in the Foreword, work took place during the year to create a revised scrutiny structure and associated terms of reference as a result of the national guidance from CIPFA on the separation of Audit and Scrutiny. This also allowed the opportunity to review the terms of reference for the three themed committees and make amendments where overlap had been found, and to reflect changes to internal structures.

Officers also completed a wider review of the constitution which included:

- Scrutiny Procedure Rules -full review including revision to Councillor Call for Action Guidance and Form.
- Call-In Procedure – review as a result of a Call-In during the year highlighting improvements that could be made.
- Budget & Policy Framework (as a result of changes to committee names).
- Creation of an Executive/Scrutiny Protocol (as per national guidance).
- Amendments to Members Roles and Responsibilities to reflect Scrutiny Member roles.
- Amendments to Access to Information Rules to reflect legislation changes.

This brings all sections related to scrutiny up to date with current legislation and the revised statutory guidance issued during 2019.

Member Training

Following completion of their self-assessment a range of training took place for the Audit & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee. This included Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) training on local government finance; Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) training on local government finance; and advice on the Local Government Association (LGA) Performance Management Guide for Councillors.

Customer Services Scrutiny Committee

During 2022/23, Members received a range of reports to Committee. Some were routine update reports and others were linked to service transformation and development of new policies:

Policy/Strategy/Programme Monitoring Reports:

- Transformation Programme Review
- Housing Strategy 2021-24 – Action Plan Monitoring Update
This report presented two years' worth of monitoring data and was the first report since ending the joint team with North East Derbyshire District Council. The previous amendments made had been accommodated and officers completed a further review following the transfer of the service back in-house.

Policy Development:

- Consultation on Derbyshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027
- Rent Arrears Policy
- Mobility Scooter Policy
- Communal Area Management Policy

Performance Review Reports:

- Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints – Q3 & Q4 and Annual Report 2020/21
- LG&SCO and Housing Ombudsman Annual Report 2020/21
- Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints Report 2019/20 – Q1 & Q2 2021/22
- LG&SCO and Housing Ombudsman Annual Report 2021/22
- Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints Annual Report 2021/22
- Customer Service Standards and Compliments, Comments and Complaints – quarterly reports
- Operational Update on Waste Collection Services
- Operational Update on Customer Services

Review Work – Review of Members ICT & Support and ICT Service Delivery

This review initially commenced during the 2020/21 municipal year, as a result of operational issues raised by the pandemic.

The initial aim of the review was:

- To ascertain the impact of the pandemic on ICT Service delivery and review the effectiveness of Member ICT equipment and support provision.

Once the review was re-started in 2022/23 the aim refocussed on Member ICT equipment and support.

The initial review period took place from November 2020 to March 2021. Members identified the following issues for investigation:

- Impact of the pandemic on ICT service delivery
- Member Connectivity
- Remote support for Member iPads
- Member ICT Equipment
- Support for Virtual Meetings
- Chamber ICT equipment

Once the review was recommenced, Members prioritised the following issues:

- Remote support for Member iPads
- Member ICT Equipment
- Member ICT Support
- Creation of a Member ICT Working Group
- Chamber/Meeting Room ICT equipment

The key findings arising from the review were:

- That the ICT equipment within the Chamber and meeting rooms required an urgent review to ensure it remained fit for purpose for current and future delivery of meetings. This would need to include replacement microphones, voting facilities, provision of cameras to enable full use of online meeting software and recording/streaming of meetings where required. Due to ongoing lobbying for a change in legislation in relation to local government meetings, the Council must ensure it is able to deliver more accessible public meetings where required.
- That the ICT equipment provided to Members be reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose in terms of operational delivery, compatibility of systems, ICT security and ease of use.
- That the full roll-out of Microsoft 365 will have significant benefits to the management of Member equipment and should improve Member contact with officers once Teams is made available.
- That WIFI provision within the Arc be reviewed and improved to ensure greater coverage within core public areas, Member office areas and in proximity to meeting rooms.
- That the profile of the Joint ICT service be raised through increased visibility in core performance monitoring reports.

The Committee put together 13 recommendations, as outlined at 2.1.6 and 2.2.2 in the final report, which will hopefully assist the Council in improving equipment provision and support to Members and the operation of meeting spaces within a modern post-Covid environment.

This review is now within its monitoring phase with reports expected in November 2023 and May 2024.

Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee

During 2022/23, Members received a wide range of reports to Committee:

Policy/Strategy/Programme Monitoring Reports:

- Health & Wellbeing Strategy – Annual Report/Monitoring Update
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2020-23 and current Partnership delivery – Monitoring Update
- Carbon Reduction Plan – Monitoring Update

Policy Development:

- None for 2022/23

Performance Review Reports:

- Delivery of Leisure Services post Covid-19 – Impact on provision, budgets and sustainability of service
- Update on Community Woodlands Project

Annual Review of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Local Authority to have a specified Committee (the “Crime and Disorder Committee”) with the power to:

- Review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- Make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

(Responsible authorities are effectively the statutory partners within a community safety partnership i.e. Police, Local Authorities (County and District), Fire and Rescue Authority, Probation Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups. This is determined by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (c. 37)).

Following on from last year’s review Members wished to focus on the ongoing impact of the pandemic on trends in service demand and delivery, and current engagement by partners.

Key issues presented and areas of questioning included:

- Delivery of the current Partnership Plan 2020-2023 and proposed objectives for the new refreshed Plan.
- Current crime trends.
- Funding levels and allocation of resources.
- The efficiency of the partnership and how we compare statistically at a national and regional level.
- Community Enforcement Rangers and the ASB Team.
- The Domestic Abuse Service.
- Local case studies of partnership working across the different parts of the Housing and Community Safety teams.

Officers were invited to attend from Bolsover District Council Community Safety Team and Enforcement Team, and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service. A future report is expected from the Deliberate Fires Group.

Review Work – Review of Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons

During the 2020-21 municipal year, Members of the Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Communities Scrutiny Committee were made aware of a number of resident concerns in relation to the impact of sky lantern and balloon use, both at specified celebrations such as birthdays/family and community events; Bonfire night and New Year's Eve.

Following referrals from the Customer Standards & Complaints Officer and the Leader of the Council, Members chose to investigate further to establish what the Council could do to mitigate the impacts at a local level.

While Members of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny could not take this forward during 2021/22 due to workloads, there was a commitment to finish this piece of work and ensure the Council had adequate local policies in place.

The aim of the review was:

- To assess the local impact of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons and review local Council policy.

The key findings arising from the review are:

- That there is limited additional impact we can have at a local level due to current national legislation, however designating restrictions on use on council land will bring us in line with over 50% of English councils.
- To ensure service delivery remains efficient and effective across the board, Members advise that BDC aligns its approach with that of neighbouring authorities as this will allow officers in the joint Environmental Health Service to take a proportionate and appropriate approach to enforcement and advice/guidance, within the Fire Service area.

The Committee have put together five recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in limiting the impact of local use of sky lanterns and helium balloons.

This review is now within its monitoring phase with reports expected in June 2023 and December 2023.

Review Work – Review of Council's Approach to Carbon Reduction

Scrutiny has previously received updates on progress against the Carbon Reduction Plan 2019-30 (CRP) with reports presented to the Customer Service & Transformation and Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Scrutiny Committees. The original CRP set out 8 thematic areas by which the authority aimed to reduce its carbon emissions.

Following structural changes in 2021/22 and a change in lead officers, the Assistant Director of Property Services & Housing Repairs reviewed the existing action plans and those in use with regional funders. In consultation with the Assistant Director of Development & Planning, a 10 point framework used by the Midlands Engine was identified which would allow the Council's existing themes to be transferred/captured, but would also allow the streamlining of bids for schemes to be aligned with regional and national funders.

The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee received a further update in May 2022, following the operational changes to the Council's approach during the Covid-19 pandemic. Committee Members agreed to complete further detailed work in relation to carbon reduction as part of the 2022/23 work programme in order to evaluate work completed within the current municipal cycle 2019-23, to guide incoming Members on potential future action.

The aim of the review was:

- To evaluate the Council's current approach to Carbon Reduction.

Following a briefing by the current lead officer on progress against the Council's three strands of activity, the objectives agreed were:

- Review of officer capacity and resource
- Review of software platform used to monitor progress against Carbon Reduction Plan
- Assessment of local knowledge of best practice in home energy efficiency
- Clarity over Corporate approach/objectives
- Progress update on current activity across the 3 themes

The key findings arising from the review were:

- There is insufficient officer resource to ensure the carbon reduction agenda is progressed effectively.
- There is a lack of clarity around the Council's current baseline and data quality/monitoring in relation to carbon emissions.
- At present there is limited communication of Council objectives and work being completed to meet our target.
- Widened membership of the Low Carbon Thematic Group would lead to improved cross-communication.
- A clear Member lead at Executive level would create a higher profile for the work required by the Council and provide an Executive level champion alongside the existing Scrutiny Chair champion.

The Committee put together nine recommendations, as outlined at 2.12 in the final report, which will hopefully enable the Council to clarify immediate priorities for action, as well as longer term plan to ensure the Council and District is net zero by 2050.

This review is now within its monitoring phase with reports expected in October 2023 and March 2024.

Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

During 2021/22, Members have received a range of reports to Committee, some allowing us to monitor delivery of core projects and others to develop new policies for the Authority.

Policy/Strategy/Programme Monitoring Reports:

- Business Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (2x Interim Updates)
- Business Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (2x Full Updates)
- Update on Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks
- Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund – Progress/Monitoring Updates
- Delivery of Dragonfly and Bolsover Homes Programmes

Policy Development:

- Business Engagement Strategy – policy consultation

Performance Review Report:

- Call-in of Executive Decision – Future Skills Hub

Review Work – Review of Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks

As part of the call for review suggestions for 2022/23 municipal year, Members of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee were presented a range of possible review topics which included outstanding topics from previous years and a reminder of all core strategies and policies linked to the Committee's remit.

Following discussions with Development team officers, it was agreed it was timely to look at the previous Regeneration Frameworks given the length of time since their original publication, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and current programmes of work within the District.

Members agreed that a scorecard approach could be used taking each Framework in turn to assess them on actions completed; those in progress; those no longer viable; and new options for development. It was agreed that it was important to establish if the Frameworks reflected current priorities. While it was considered if it was pertinent to focus solely on Bolsover and Shirebrook, given the current work happening in those areas, Members concluded that all four Frameworks needed review due to the length of time since publication (2016). They also felt that there were lots of cross-cutting issues that could be further highlighted.

The aim of the review was:

- To review the impact of the Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks and agree potential options for future approaches to development post May 2023.

The key findings arising from the review were:

- The Regeneration Frameworks have not driven development and improvements across the four main service centres as originally intended. There was insufficient

detail and costings within the core projects identified to enable the Frameworks to be used in support of funding bids.

- Moving forward, improved engagement with Parish Members and District Ward Members is paramount to ensure buy-in to delivery. Relationships with Parish and Town Councils need to be much stronger.
- It was important that the Council was clear how it could support parishes and that there were clear mechanisms to signpost elsewhere when the Council could not assist. This would also enable the Council to prioritise future action more effectively.
- It was vital that any future plans were clear about the type of development that would be accepted within town centre areas, in place of any vacant retail units, where the retail offer could not be replaced.
- The Council has a clear suite of ideas developed for the Bolsover Town Centre area, which have been developed sufficiently to have costings and an evaluation of potential outcomes. This supersedes the previous Framework document.
- The Council has a clear suite of ideas developed for the Shirebrook Town Centre area, a number of which have been developed sufficiently to have costings and an evaluation of potential outcomes. The Committee have agreed additional recommendations which complement the existing work and will hopefully bring about further benefits to the area. This supersedes the previous Framework document.
- In relation to the Clowne Town Centre area, some elements have been completed, particularly within the villages and hamlets. This area now requires fresh conversations to take place, which will enable both the District Council and parish councils to formulate a new way forward for the Town Centre area. In the long-term this may result in the development of a number of smaller management/development strategies for each of the town/local centres.
- With reference to the South Normanton Framework area, this area had seen the least amount of development since the adoption of the Framework. As with the Clowne area, this part of the District would benefit from conversations at a local level with the Parish/Town Councils and local groups such as History or Civic Society's to establish potential local proposals for development. The aim would be to use South Normanton town as a pilot area and agree a very short list of projects for development. Once there were clear costed projects agreed that could be used to lever funding, a similar approach could be used across the remaining areas of Blackwell, Pinxton and Tibshelf in phased approach. In the long-term this may result in the development of a number of smaller management/development strategies for each of the town/local centres.

The Committee put together 13 recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in identifying current priorities for development and regeneration of our core economic centres. Committee firmly believe this needs to involve a partnership approach with organisations at a local level, with greater engagement of Parish/Town Councils.

This review is pending final approval by Executive.

Audit & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

Background

The Audit Committee and Budget Scrutiny Committee were combined by the Council for the start of the 2021/22 municipal year, to form the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The core functions of the Committee in relation to Audit were to provide oversight of a range of core governance and accountability arrangements, responses to the recommendations of assurance providers and helping to ensure robust arrangements were maintained.

The Scrutiny element of the Committee was responsible for receiving and scrutinising the Council's Treasury Management Strategies and associated policies, reviewing budget proposals in line with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution, and reviewing performance against the Council's Corporate Ambitions and associated performance indicators.

During 2022, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) updated its 2018 Position Statement. CIPFA's revised statement included new expectations in England following the Redmond Review. All authorities and police bodies are encouraged to use the publication to review and develop their arrangements in accordance with the Position Statement.

CIPFA recommended that Audit Committee should have no other functions, and explicitly no decision-making role. Where Audit and Scrutiny Committees have been joined, as at Bolsover, it is recommended by CIPFA that these should be separated. For this reason, the former Committee of Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny was separated at the end of the last municipal year into the Audit Committee and the Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

An annual report based purely on the Audit-related elements was presented to the Audit Committee on the 26th of September 2023. This Scrutiny Annual Report includes all of the activities undertaken by the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23.

Audit and Corporate Overview Committee Business

During 2022/23, Members received a range of reports to Committee. Some have been routine reports for monitoring, others have been linked to development of new policies and others have been to provide information and guidance to help Members of the Committee carry out their role effectively.

During the year, the Committee received the following reports:

- Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24
- Capital Strategy 2023/24
- Corporate Investment Strategy 2023/24
- Corporate Ambitions Performance – quarterly monitoring reports

- Budget Monitoring Reports – quarterly (1, 2, 3 + outturn)
- Corporate Debt Monitoring Performance – annual report 2021/22
- Strategic Risk Register and Partnership Arrangements report
- Report of the Internal Auditor, Summary of progress on the Internal Audit plan – quarterly reports
- Implementation of Internal Audit recommendations – ½ yearly report
- Internal Audit Consortium – annual report 2021/22
- Mazars report to those charged with Governance (audit completion report)
- Results of the external review of Internal Audit
- Assessment of Going Concern Status
- Scrutiny Annual Report
- Review of the Internal Audit Charter
- Report of the External Auditor – Auditor’s Annual Report 2021/22
- Report of the External Auditor – External Audit progress report
- Revised Budgets 2022/23
- Setting of Council Tax 2023/24
- Proposed Budget, Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24 – 2026/27
- External review of Internal Audit – action plan progress
- Report of the Internal Auditor, Internal Audit plan approved for 2022/23
- BDC Statement of Accounts 2021/22
- Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Corporate Governance 2021/22
- Accounting Policies 2022/23
- Report of the Internal Auditor, Internal Audit plan approved for 2023/24
- Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee – Self-assessment for effectiveness and resulting action plan
- Briefing on CIPFA publication – Internal Audit Untapped Potential

The Committee’s Main Achievements/Outcomes

The Committee aims to add value to the organisation through its activity and in particular has:

- Reviewed non-financial performance against the Council’s Ambition targets on a quarterly basis and invited officers to attend the Committee meetings to help Members understand where performance was not on target.
- Scrutinised the Medium-Term Financial Plan prior to recommending to Executive the budget proposals in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- Reviewed quarterly budget monitoring reports.
- Scrutinised the setting of Council Tax rates.
- Scrutinised the statement of accounts prior to approval thereby ensuring that they are an accurate reflection of the Council’s finances.
- Reviewed the Code of Corporate Governance and approved the Annual Governance Statement to ensure it is a true and fair view of the Council’s governance and risk management arrangements.
- Reviewed the strategic risk register to ensure that risks are being appropriately mitigated thus providing additional assurance that risk is being managed appropriately.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is considered that the Committee has made a positive contribution to the Council's overall governance and control arrangements, including risk management. It is envisaged that this will continue to be the case for each Committee as they both undertake their separate duties from 2023/24.

Scrutiny Impact

During 2022/23, the three themed committees monitored implementation of review recommendations. Progress across the year was as follows:

Review	Recommendations						Status
	Achieved	Achieved (Behind target)	On track	Overdue	Extended	Alert	
Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations	5	0	4	0	3	0	Next report due October 2023.
Council Policy on Fireworks	2	1	0	0	0	1	Review Complete. 1 recommendation explored but unable to fully implement.
Council Policy on Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons	0	0	5	0	0	0	In progress first updates due in 2023/24.
Council Owned Adapted Accommodation	4	1	2	0	2	0	Further update due June/July 2023.
Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery	2	0	0	0	4	0	Further update due October 2023.
Total No. of Recommendations Monitored	13	2	11	0	9	1	36

A number of the reviews are due to complete their monitoring within 2023/24, with recommendations expected to be implemented.

The year ahead

Revised Scrutiny Structure 2023/24

As noted earlier in the report, it was approved by Standards Committee in February 2023 to separate the Audit and Scrutiny Functions. As part of this process new terms of reference have been created for the replacement committees and a review of the existing terms of reference has taken place. For 2023/24 the committees will be:

- Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee
- Customer Services Scrutiny Committee
- Climate Change & communities Scrutiny Committee
- Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

Setting the Committee Work Programmes

A call for suggested topics went out to all existing Members early in 2023 prior to the local elections. This did not generate topic suggestions for 2023/24. A further request for ideas was circulated to senior leadership team following the election and then to all three thematic committees as part of their first meeting. As a result, all themed committees will be able to choose review topics and set a work programme for the year.

Member Training

Following the Council AGM in May 2023 a range of Induction training took place. More specifically for Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny this included previous training used 2021-23, and specific sessions on performance management and finance scrutiny.



**We speak
your language**

Polish

**Mówimy Twoim
językiem**

Slovak

**Rozprávame
Vaším jazykom**

Chinese

我们会说你的语言

If you require
this publication in
large print
or another format
please call us on
01246 242424

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 11th October 2023

Park Lane, Pinxton Development

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth

Classification	Open
Contact Officer	Steve Brunt - Strategic Director of Services

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To seek approval to update schemes included in the Bolsover Homes pipeline funding envelope of £36.2m so as to include the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 On 11th September 2023 the Executive agreed to proceed with a Bolsover Homes development at the Park Lane site at Pinxton, subject to certain conditions set out in the report’s recommendations, as attached **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The Park Lane scheme is not currently included in agreed pipeline for Bolsover Homes and in order for it to be funded using the existing £36.2m funding envelope Council would have to agree to include it.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the development of Park Lane, Pinxton be included within the Bolsover Homes pipeline so that funding from the existing £36.2m envelope can be used to develop the site. If the decision is not made to include the scheme within the pipeline, then D2N2 funding applied for could not be achieved.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To include the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme in the Bolsover Homes pipeline.
- 3.3 To secure D2N2 funding.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Members could choose not to include the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme in the Bolsover Homes funding envelope; however, this would mean that much needed housing would not be developed and D2N2 not realised if the decision is delayed or not made.

4.2 Given sufficient budget is afforded within the funding envelope to develop the scheme and Executive having earlier approved its development, Council approval is now sought to include the Park Lane scheme within the schedule of development sites of the £36.2m funding envelope.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1. Council approves inclusion of Park Lane, Pinxton development within the previously approved £36.2m funding envelope for Bolsover Homes.

Approved by Councillor John Richie, Portfolio Holder for Growth

<u>IMPLICATIONS.</u>	
<u>Finance and Risk:</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: The funding is already in the approved Capital Programme. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Section 151 Officer</p>	
<u>Legal (including Data Protection):</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: A contract and land transfer will need to be completed as set out in the Executive report at Appendix 1. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council</p>	
<u>Environment:</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. Homes proposed for development will achieve better than net zero carbon emissions over the lifetime of the development, thus helping the district to transition to net zero by 2050 through decarbonisation of its housing stock.	
<u>Staffing:</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details: There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. All staff are in place to deliver the schemes. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Head of Paid Service</p>	

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	N/A
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	N/A

District Wards Significantly Affected	Pinxton
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
Council Ambition – deliver a minimum of 150 new Council properties by March 2024 ECO-07

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Park Lane, Pinxton, Report to Executive 11 th September 2023

Background Papers
<i>(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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Executive on 11th September 2023

BOLSOVER HOMES SCHEME– PARK LANE PINXTON

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

Classification	Open
Contact Officer	Steve Brunt Strategic Director of Services

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To seek approval to allow Dragonfly Development Limited to deliver the Park Lane, Pinxton scheme using the existing Bolsover Homes budget.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

Bolsover Homes

- 1.1 As members of Executive will be aware the previous programme of residential developments across the district, B@Home, ended in 2019. To build on this success a new framework, Bolsover Homes was brought forward by the former Development Directorate to meet social housing need and deliver the aims and objectives of the Council.
- 1.2 Dragonfly Development Limited has directly employed staff into its New Builds department in the roles of Operations Manager, Preconstruction Manager, Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Site Manager, Quality Manager and Business Support Officer. Whiteley Eaves continue to undertake the professional roles of External Quantity Surveyor, Principal Designer and Managing Agent and William Saunders Partnership continue as architects.
- 1.3 A design team has been formed consisting of Members, Architects, Engineers, Principal Designer, and officers from BDC Housing and the Dragonfly Development Limited New Builds team to assess the available sites, demand and timescales to bring a programme of suitable developments forward.
- 1.4 In order to allocate finance and give clear information regarding future schemes, and to compliment the Bolsover Homes Council Report approved by Council in July 2020, a brochure was compiled and shared with all Members to illustrate the pipeline of Bolsover Homes schemes. The schemes ranged from the Whitwell

cluster which had planning permission to other sites that had not been looked at in any detail. The document outlined the standards the properties were to be built to and gave estimated costs to deliver the schemes in the document.

- 1.5 Having reviewed the documents the Council agreed to allocate capital funds of £36.2m to deliver Bolsover Homes schemes but stipulated that a report was required to be brought for each scheme to the Executive when planning permission had been awarded, viability study presented, external value statement received and costs agreed. Only once agreed could contracts for scheme/s be entered into.
- 1.6 Members have already approved the construction or purchase of 148 new Council properties in Whitwell, Whaley Thorns, Clowne, Creswell, Bolsover, South Normanton, Shirebrook, Glapwell and Pinxton some of which are completed and others are currently under construction. Part of BDC's ambition is to develop the affordable housing scheme at Park Lane, Pinxton ("Park Lane").
- 1.7 Part of BDC's ambition is to develop the affordable housing scheme at Park Lane, Pinxton ("Park Lane"). However, this site was not included within the Bolsover Homes work programme when agreed by the Council in July 2020. In addition the land was transferred to Dragonfly Development Limited in 2019 in anticipation of an open market housing scheme. In order to develop the land as part of the Bolsover Homes scheme this will need to be agreed by the Council. Also Dragonfly Development will need to transfer the land back to the Council.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

Previous unviability of Park Lane

- 2.1 In 2018 Park Lane received planning permission for 10 new dwellings. It was intended that once these properties were built, they would be sold on the private market. High abnormal costs including the costs of dealing with a sloping site and the legacy of coal mining in the area were then identified, rendering private sale and social/affordable rental, unviable.

Modern methods of construction which could assist with viability

- 2.2 Recently, it has been possible to theoretically demonstrate that the site could become more viable by constructing with a pioneering superstructure together with cheaper more efficient foundations.
- 2.3 The proposed superstructure uses a modern method of modular construction – Hus, which is constructed off site and so reduces time having to be spent on site which then reduces costs. This method of construction will: achieve better than net zero carbon emissions over the lifetime of the development, ensure that the properties will not be susceptible to damp and mould due to their positive input ventilation, and significantly reduce the energy costs of the tenants who live in these new homes (see **Appendix 1** for a brochure explaining about the Hus superstructure).
- 2.4 In order to assess whether a cheaper more efficient foundation solution can be used, engineers have been employed to carry out the necessary calculations. Foundations need to be laid very accurately with very small error tolerances,

otherwise the superstructure will not rest correctly when craned into place. In order to reduce financial risks to Dragonfly and the Council, the foundation and superstructure contract will be let to Hus, eliminating any contractual issues relating to foundation installation. The costs included for foundation are for the worst-case scenario. If the Modified Foundations are proven to work these will be used and the cost saving passed back to the Council.

- 2.5 If successful this new sub and superstructure method could help with viability of the smaller sites, including garages sites, in the Council's ownership.

D2N2 and Homes England funding could further reduce the viability gap

- 2.6 Unlike other Bolsover Homes schemes the use of the Hus superstructure on this site could make it eligible for D2N2 funding. This is because there are associated benefits that using this method of construction might bring to the region in terms of job creation – If suitable volumes of new properties can be identified, a new factory would be built to produce the homes, accelerating housing development and reducing impacts on the environment.
- 2.7 The Council has therefore submitted a bid to D2N2 for £700,000 to partially fund the ground remediation element of the scheme. If D2N2 funding is granted this will be on the proviso that the scheme will be completed by December 2024. If the scheme cannot be completed by December 2024 the D2N2 funding could be jeopardised.
- 2.8 In addition, a preliminary bid has been submitted to Homes England for £330,000 in respect of grant allocation for the superstructure but it is not yet known whether each funder will allow the other's funding on the same scheme.

New solution layout

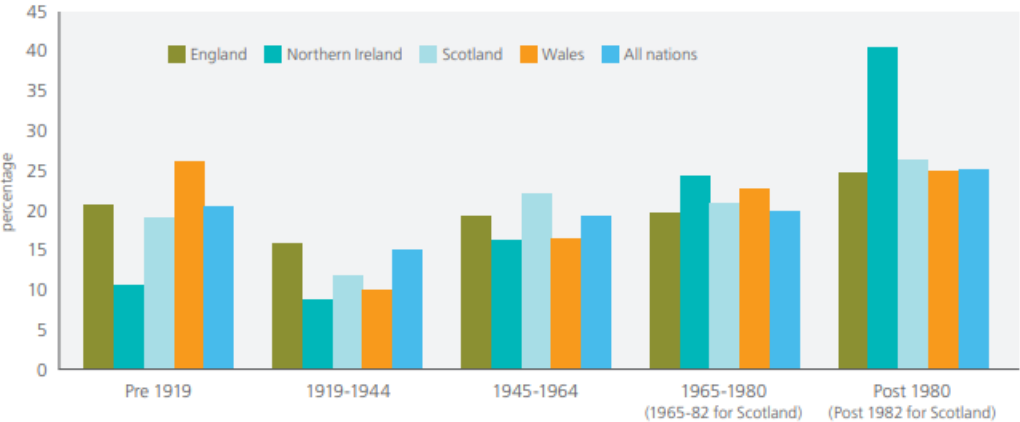
- 2.9 The new solution has a more effective layout that will deliver 11 much needed social/affordable rental properties comprising 4 two-bedroom houses and 7 three-bedroom houses, all built to Nationally Designed Space Standards. The layout is shown in **Appendix 2**. As this is a new layout with more properties an application for planning permission will have to be submitted. It is reasonably expected that planning permission will be granted. If approval is not granted the scheme would not be able to proceed.
- 2.10 The properties will be designed to the principles of lifetime homes and places for people and built to a high standard of quality to enhance the area. BDC's Housing Management Service has confirmed that there is a need for good quality two and three bedroom rented property within Pinxton and that the scheme would be acceptable to them.

Financial Implications

- 2.11 To give Members an indication of the whole-life financial implications of a capital scheme, we use a spreadsheet model developed over a number of years. The model is based on assumptions made at a point in time so will never be 100% accurate, but it is an estimate of future costs and income streams for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

- 2.12 Inputs to the model are initial capital build costs; the ongoing revenue costs such as supervision and management; the rental income receivable and the borrowing costs associated with financing the capital scheme.
- 2.13 This is then spread over a 50-year period, being the maximum period the Council is allowed to borrow funds from the Public Works Loan Board over, and also the maximum number of years our properties can be depreciated over, under current accounting regulations.
- 2.14 Generally, when the scheme makes a positive contribution to the Housing Revenue Account overall, i.e. when rental income is greater than the costs to the HRA including the interest on the borrowing, it is considered that the scheme has paid for itself although at this stage the principal amount borrowed has often not yet been repaid and it can take a number of years before the whole of the initial capital cost has been recouped.
- 2.15 As long as the HRA remains sustainable and can therefore afford to continue paying the associated borrowing costs of a scheme, there is no reason why a scheme making a positive contribution to the HRA, that takes longer than 50-years to recoup the initial outlay, shouldn't be undertaken. The sustainability of the HRA must be considered in light of all borrowing costs from this and previous capital schemes, not just the scheme being appraised and considered.
- 2.16 25% of properties in the Council's current housing stock are over 100 years old and still earning rental income while 58% of the stock is between 50 and 100 years old. As you can see from the paragraphs above, this income is not factored into the spreadsheet model but is still being received.
- 2.17 The graph below shows the age of properties in the UK. This shows that more than 50% of the housing stock in the UK is over 50 years old, which highlights why the model should be used as a guide but not in isolation.

Figure 2.3 Dwelling age by UK nations, 2017



- 2.18 The financial appraisal for the construction of the 11 properties is summarised in the following table. As no external funding has yet been confirmed, to be prudent, this summary uses the gross cost and doesn't include any external grant income.

Year 1 initial outlay and net cost	11 Houses
	£ millions
Total build costs	3.100
Assumed net income in year 1	(0.070)
Assumed net cost in year 1 excluding principal	0.159
Net Cost to HRA in year 1	0.089

- 2.19 The table above shows an indicative net cost to the HRA for year 1 following scheme completion. Net income and net cost increase each year with inflation until gradually the income exceeds the cost. This scheme takes longer than 50 years to fully recoup the initial capital cost. However, by year 33 of the scheme being completed the scheme makes a positive contribution to the HRA as described in paragraph 2.14, subject to all 11 houses still being within the Council's housing stock, as they will be subject to 'right to buy' legislation.
- 2.20 If the funding sought from Homes England or D2N2 was successful, this would reduce the amount of initial borrowing undertaken by the Council and therefore the cost to the Housing Revenue Account each year. The time taken for the schemes to recoup the initial capital cost and make a positive contribution to the HRA would also be reduced considerably.
- 2.21 Costs to build the scheme are estimated at £3,100,000. It is proposed that the scheme be allowed to proceed, subject to planning permission, engineering capability, and funding. If the scheme costs exceed this amount by more than 3% (£93k) a further report would be taken to the Executive explaining the reason and asking for an adjusted overall budget. Contract costs are being vetted by Whitely Eaves (the Council's procured external Quantity Surveyor for Bolsover Homes) and a market competitiveness statement is expected within the next few weeks in relation to this scheme.

Design and site constraints

- 2.22 The ground conditions on site require more expensive foundations than a clear unincumbered site and remediation issues which increase construction costs.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To try to find solutions to the growing demand for affordable housing.
- 3.2 To build on the work done on the future homes model and keeping Bolsover in front of the curve.
- 3.3 To ensure the D2N2 funding opportunity isn't lost.
- 3.4 To help the Council to transition to net zero by 2050 through decarbonisation of its housing stock.

3.5 To trial the use of this modern method of construction which if proved successful could be a trail blazer for future schemes in the UK and could be used to make the Council’s smaller sites less expensive.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Executive could choose not to support the development but this would not help to achieve the Council’s agreed ambition of building affordable housing properties and would leave a stalled site at Pinxton which in the future might not be able to attract the levels of funding that are possible at present. More specifically this would not help to meet the current demand for affordable housing in Pinxton.

4.2 Executive could choose to delay its decision until planning permission had been achieved. As above this could impact funding the D2N2 award.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Executive approve Dragonfly Development Limited as contractor to construct the 11 new homes at Park Lane, Pinxton as described in the report using a budget of £3,100,000 from the Bolsover Homes budget, supplemented with funding, subject to the following being achieved:

- D2N2 funding being granted
- Planning permission being granted
- A market competitiveness statement in respect of the construction costs
- A report to Council as mentioned in recommendation 2.

2. That a report be submitted to Council to update the schemes included in the Bolsover Homes pipeline funding envelope of £36.2m for this Park Lane, Pinxton scheme which is currently not included.

Approved by Councillor Sandra Peake, Portfolio Holder for Housing

<u>IMPLICATIONS.</u>		
<u>Finance and Risk:</u>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: Covered in paragraphs 2.11 – 2.21 of the report. On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection):</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: The Council will need to enter into a formal contract with Dragonfly Development Limited. Dragonfly will need to transfer the Park Lane, Pinxton lands back to the Council On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

The homes that are to be built in this scheme will achieve better than net zero carbon emissions over the lifetime of the development, thus helping the district to transition to net zero by 2050 through decarbonisation of its housing stock.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report. All staff are in place to deliver the schemes.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies</p>	Yes
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	Yes

District Wards Significantly Affected	Pinxton
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
Council Ambition – deliver a minimum of 150 new Council properties by March 2024 ECO-07

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Hus superstructure brochure
2	Site layout

Background Papers
<i>(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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council 11th October 2023

Street Sweeping Arrangements

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Steve Brunt Strategic Director of Services

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To seek approval for the purchase of a large goods vehicle sweeping machine for undertaking street sweeping arrangements throughout Bolsover.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The District's street sweeping arrangements are undertaken by the Streetscene Team, predominantly carried out using 3 compact sweeping machines deployed in the North, Middle and Southern zones. The machines operate mainly in urbanised areas such as housing estates with main classified carriageways swept by a large goods vehicle sweeper, bought in from North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) on a rechargeable basis.
- 1.2 Sweeping arrangements undertaken by NEDDC have been in place since 2013 and afford BDC 1 week capacity per month at a cost of £12,000 per year. However, due to operational issues Bolsover generally receives 8 to 10 weeks sweeping capacity per annum, which falls short of requirements.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Following the review of burgundy bin collection arrangements and moving to a fully co-mingled collection system (no paper caddy) it has been possible to reduce the number of recycling collection vehicles from 5 to 4. It is therefore proposed that the existing capital budget included within the vehicle replacement programme (2024/25) is re-allocated to funding a large goods vehicle (truck mounted) sweeper for sole utilisation in the Bolsover District. This would improve the sweeping performance on classified carriageways and reduce demand on the smaller compact sweepers, thereby facilitating an increase in their utilisation on estate areas and meet increased demand from new housing developments.
- 2.2 Staffing cost in operating a large sweeping machine will be £36,814, which includes on-costs. These may be offset by the £12,000 budget allocated in meeting works undertaken by NEDDC. Therefore, increased staffing costs of £24,814 (approx.) will be required.

- 2.3 Improved sweeping of classified carriageways will aid detritus reduction and in turn weed growth and silting of the highway drainage system, mitigating the risk of pluvial flooding (standing water) arising from periods of heavy flash rainfall.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To improve street cleanliness standards in Bolsover and increase versatility and resilience of the street cleansing function.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Council could continue with current arrangements undertaken by NEDDC; however, it must accept that sufficient capacity will not be available to meet Bolsover's increasing street cleansing demand arising from housing growth.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Council approves the purchase of a large goods vehicle sweeping machine for utilisation in Bolsover's street cleansing arrangements by swapping an existing vehicle in the capital programme which is no longer required.
2. Council approve the increase in Streetscene staffing establishment by 1No fulltime equivalent and increased budget to operate the large sweeping machine of approximately £24,814.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Councillor Ann Clarke.

IMPLICATIONS.

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Finance

- The Council budgets £12,000 per annum to meet recharges from NEDDC for the undertaking of large road sweeping on main classified roads in the Bolsover District.
- Following the review of how burgundy bin collections are undertaken one less vehicle is required, for which is included £250,000 in the 2024/25 capital vehicle replacement programme. It is proposed to use the existing funds in the procurement of a large goods vehicle sweeping machine at £185,000 (approx.).
- Operating costs such as maintenance and fuel for a large sweeping machine will be containable within the current fleet maintenance budget (G033). These will be offset by the operating cost of the former waste collection vehicle which will now not be replaced.
- Staffing cost in operating a large sweeping machine will be £36,814, which includes on-costs. These may be offset by the £12,000 budget allocated in meeting works undertaken by NEDDC. Therefore, increased staffing costs of £24,814 (approx.) will be required from the General Fund.

Risk

- NEDDC like Bolsover will experience large property growth over future years which will place greater demand on their Streetscene operational resource, presenting a risk of reduced capacity to meet Bolsover’s current and future street cleansing requirements. Therefore, establishing Bolsover’s own in-house capability will increase capacity from 12 weeks sweeping to 52, providing opportunity to increase cleanliness standards on primary (classified) roads and reduce demand on smaller sweeping machines to increase sweeping capacity at urban housing estate areas.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The Council, as Principal Litter Authority, has a duty to maintain cleanliness of the highway and public land in its tenure in accordance with (s89) Environmental Protection Act 1990.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

- Fleet vehicles utilised in delivery of the service are procured and maintained by the Transport Team in compliance with the most up-to-date emission standards.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

All staffing issues are outlined within the body of this report. Recruitment is always undertaken in accordance with the Council’s policies and procedures.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? 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: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All indirectly

Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: Cllr A Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Environment
--	--

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
Customers and Environment Priorities

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
N/a	N/a

Background Papers
<i>(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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
N/a

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Council – 11th October 2023

Change to the membership of Scrutiny Committees

**Report of the Director of Corporate & Legal Services Governance
and Monitoring Officer**

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Jim Fieldsend Director of Corporate & Legal Services Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

For Council to decide upon the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Extraordinary Council on 5th September 2023 the Council agreed some changes to the membership of its Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.3 This has resulted in the vacancy of the Vice Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.3 Nominations for the position of the Vice Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee are requested. The current members of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee following the proposed changes will be- Cllr Tom Kirkham (Chair), Cllr Jane Yates, Cllr Jeanne Raspin, Cllr Mark Hinman, Cllr Duncan Haywood, Cllr Will Fletcher and Cllr Deborah Watson.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 There is currently no Vice Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not to appoint a Vice Chair. This is rejected as it is good practice to have a Vice Chair.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Council appoints a Vice Chair of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

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

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

There are no specific legal implications however the proposals would represent good governance.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. Please speak to the Climate Change lead officer for further advice.

Details:

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

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

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? 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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	None directly
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title

<p>Background Papers <i>(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 Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>
None