

The Arc
High Street
Clowne
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the Finance
and Corporate Overview Scrutiny
Committee

Contact: Hannah Douthwaite
Telephone: 01246 242473
Email: hannah.douthwaite@bolsover.gov.uk

Friday 12th January 2023

Dear Councillor

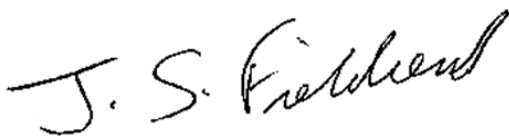
FINANCE AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 at 14:00 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 pages 3 and 4.

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

FINANCE AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

*Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024 at 14:00 hours taking place in the Council Chamber,
The Arc, Clowne*

Item No.		Page No.(s)
1.	Apologies For Absence	
2.	Urgent Items of Business	
	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	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 urgent additional items to be considered	
	c) any matters arising out of those items	
	and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	Minutes	5 - 10
	To consider the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 th November 2023.	
5.	List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private	11
	<i>(Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information. NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only).</i>	
6.	Proposed Budget - Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 - 2027/28	TO FOLLOW
7.	Treasury Strategy Reports 2024/25 - 2027/28	TO FOLLOW
8.	Update from Scrutiny Chairs	

9. Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 12 - 17

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Tuesday, 28th November 2023, at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Jen Wilson in the Chair

Councillors: David Bennett, Rowan Clarke, Justin Gilbody, Tom Munro and Sally Renshaw.

Officers: Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Jim Fieldsend (Monitoring Officer), Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Amar Bashir (Improvement Officer (to Minute No. FCOS33-23/24)) and Hannah Douthwaite (Governance & Civic Officer).

Also in attendance was Councillor Clive Moesby (Portfolio Holder for Resources).

FCOS26-23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Chris Kane and Lucy King.

FCOS27-23/24 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

FCOS28-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

FCOS29-23/24 MINUTES - 7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Moved by Councillor David Bennett and seconded by Councillor Justin Gilbody **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of a Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee held on 7th September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

FCOS30-23/24 LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document.

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor David Bennett and seconded by Councillor Justin Gilbody
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

FCOS31-23/24 NEW COUNCIL AMBITION 2024-2028 - SCRUTINY CONSULTATION

Committee considered the Council's New Ambition 2024-2028. This would be considered by the other three Scrutiny Committees before submission to Executive and Council for adoption.

Members were advised that since the publication of the agenda, a further aim had been added, titled '*Bolsover, our Future*'.

For each of the five aims, the Improvement Officer provided an explanation of each priority and how these would be delivered.

Customer

The key points noted were:

- Modernising the service through innovation
- Removing barriers to access information
- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion.

Members welcomed the inclusion of a revised Complaints Procedure in line with the merged Complaints Code of the Housing and Local Government Ombudsman.

It was noted that the use of the Go Active Leisure facilities at The Arc had increased over the last year and there was scope for this to increase further and also more services to be provided.

Economy

The key points noted were:

- Improving sustainability
- Working closely with partners to deliver the aims
- Unlocking further regeneration

Work had started on the new crematorium in Shirebrook and it was hoped that this project would be completed and up and running by 2025. This would bring more employment to the local area.

Members noted that as the Council did not have direct control over bus routes, more needed to be done to encourage transport companies to better serve the smaller areas of the District and provide a more frequent and reliable service.

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Housing

As Dragonfly was a wholly owned company of the Council, one aim was for 200 new homes to be completed by Dragonfly Development Ltd by March 2028.

Section 106 agreements remained a priority and Members noted that they were keen for developers to stick to the minimum 10% for affordable housing on larger developments.

Further to this, a housing stock full condition survey would be undertaken by April 2025.

Environment

The key points noted were:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Environmental cleanliness
- Increasing recycling
- Making sure residents were proud to live within the District

One of the main targets within this aim was to increase combined recycling and composting rates to 65% to meet Government targets by 2035.

A Member queried what the Council was doing to reduce its diesel consumption as this had not been covered within the document. The Strategic Director of Services advised that this had been looked into but due to various factors would have proven more costly for the vehicles to be replaced early. The Council's vehicle fleet did not contribute significantly to the overall carbon percentage and was under 1%. The biggest issue was the M1 corridor that ran through the District which could not directly be controlled. It was also hoped that new cars for the Council's mobile wardens would be fully electric and in use by 2025.

The Strategic Director of Services advised Members that prior to Christmas, the Communications, Marketing and Design team would be sending out communication to residents, in a bid to help tackle food waste. The Council was also looking at introducing a 25 litre bin for residents, solely for food waste, and information would be circulated once further details were available.

Moved by Councillor Justin Gilbody and seconded by Councillor David Bennett **RESOLVED** that the draft New Council Ambition 2024-28 be noted.

FCOS32-23/24 AMBITION PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023

Committee considered performance outturns against the Ambition Plan Targets for the July 2023 to September 2023 period.

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Out of the 25 targets 17 (68%) were on track and 8 (32%) had achieved their outturns previously. Out of the 48 performance indicators 37 (77%) had a positive outturn, 9 (19%) had a negative outturn and 2 (4%) were within target.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a more detailed breakdown of each target and the status it was at. For those shown as below target an explanation was provided within the appendix.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Rowan Clarke
RESOLVED that the quarterly outturns against the Council Ambition 2020-2024 performance targets and the relevant performance indicators be noted.

The Improvement Officer left the meeting.

FCOS33-23/24 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Committee considered the Council's current financial position following the quarter 2 monitoring exercise. The report had previously been considered by Executive on 6th November.

Moved by Councillor David Bennett and seconded by Councillor Rowan Clarke
RESOLVED that (1) the monitoring position of the General Fund at the end of the second quarter as detailed on Appendix 1 to the report (a net favourable variance of £1.579m against the profiled budget), and the key issues highlighted within the report be noted,

(2) the position on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Capital Programme and Treasury Management, at the end of the second quarter as detailed at Appendices 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to the report, be noted.

FCOS34-23/24 REVISED BUDGETS 2023/24

General Fund

As noted in the quarter 1 update a number of Council services had been transferred to Dragonfly. The Council would make payments to Dragonfly for the provision of these services in line with service level agreements which were in the final stages of preparation. Dragonfly would also make payment to the Council for the support services they received, such as legal, payroll, HR and finance. A service level agreement was also being prepared for this.

The revised budget at Appendix 1 to the report showed that the Net Cost of Services had increased to £15.854m which was £3.310m above the original budget figures. This movement in the Net Cost of Services reflected committee approvals during the year to fund new expenditure, predominantly funded from either earmarked reserves, new grant allocations or new income received, since the original budget was set.

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The original budget showed a funding deficit of £0.018m. The current budget position before changes from the revised budget process were included was a surplus of £0.282m. This included the council tax increase of £0.130m and the quarter 1 vacancy savings of £0.123m.

Housing Revenue

Expenditure on the Housing Revenue account was showing a net decrease against current budgets of £0.216m. The approval during the year of new expenditure to be funded by earmarked Housing Revenue Account reserves related to £0.210m.

Income

Income was £0.222m lower than the current budget. Dwelling rents had been reduced by £0.270m since the original budget. The number of empty properties (voids) was higher than originally estimated, this year voids had been between 3.64% in quarter 1 and 3.56% by quarter 2 which was higher than the original estimate of 3%. The revised budget had been set with an estimate for voids of 3.35% for the remainder of 2023/24.

The Chief Executive noted that compared to neighbouring authorities the Council was in a good position.

Moved by Councillor Jen Wilson and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

FCOS35-23/24 SETTING OF COUNCIL TAX 2024/25

The Section 151 Officer gave a brief presentation on the Setting of Council Tax for 2024/25. The presentation provided examples of how income would vary dependent on the percentage increase of Council Tax. When making the comparisons Council Tax Band D was used as a mid-point.

It was noted that income received from Council Tax payments went into the General Fund and the budget was balanced from the Growth Protection Fund.

Moved by Councillor Jen Wilson and seconded by Councillor Justin Gilbody
RESOLVED that the item be noted.

FCOS36-23/24 FINANCE AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Committee considered their work programme 2023/24.

It was noted that the programme may be subject to change should additional reports/presentations be required, or if items needed to be rearranged for alternative dates.

FINANCE & CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Moved by Councillor Jen Wilson and seconded by Councillor Justin Gilbody
RESOLVED that the Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 14:40 hours.



List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private

The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found here:

<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=1147&RD=0&bcr=1>

Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information.

NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only.

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2024

Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Report of the Scrutiny Officer

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 Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the meeting programme of the Committee for 2023/24.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to inform members of the meeting programme for the year 2023/24 and planned agenda items (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This programme may be subject to change should additional reports/presentations be required, or if items need to be re-arranged for alternative dates.
- 1.3 Review Scopes submitted will be agreed within Informal Session in advance of the designated meeting for Member approval to ensure that there is sufficient time to gather the information required by Members and to enable forward planning of questions.
- 1.4 Members may raise queries about the programme at the meeting or at any time with the Scrutiny Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

- 1.5 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 1.6 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 1.7 As part of the scoping of Reviews, consideration is given to any consultation that could support the evidence gathering process.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the meeting schedule for 2023/24 and the proposed agenda items for approval/amendment.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 This report sets the formal Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 and the issues identified for review.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Programme enables challenge to service delivery both internally and externally across all the Council Ambitions.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There is no option to reject the report as the Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members review this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1 for approval and amendment as required. All Members are advised to contact the Scrutiny Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

None from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

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.

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:

None from this report.

Staffing: Yes No

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.

All

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1.	FCOSC Work Programme 2023/24

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>
--

Previous versions of the Committee Work Programme.
--

Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2023/24

Formal Items – Report Key

Treasury Management	Capital	Borrowing & Investment	Budget Monitoring	Performance	Update from Scrutiny Chairs
---------------------	---------	------------------------	-------------------	-------------	-----------------------------

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda	Lead Officer
16 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 – Approval of Programme 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Briefing on Bolsover District Council’s Performance Management Framework (Verbal report) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Ambitions Performance Update – January to March 2022 (Q4 – 2022/23) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Training 2022/23 – Member Discussion (Verbal report) 	Feedback from Committee Members on training requirements
26 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Corporate Debt Monitoring Performance Report 2022/23 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
7 Sept 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Monitoring Report – Financial Outturn 2022/23 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 – April to June 2023/24 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Ambitions Performance Update – April to June 2023 (Q1 – 2023/24) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny Officer
28 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 – July to September 2023/24 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Budgets 2023/24 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting of Council Tax 2024/25 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Ambitions Performance Update – July to September 2023 (Q2 – 2023/24) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny Officer

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda	Lead Officer
23 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Budget – Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2027/28 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasury Strategy Reports 2024/25 – 2027/28 Including: 	Treasurer and Section 151 Officer / Principal Accountant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Strategy 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Investment Strategy 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Scrutiny Chairs (Verbal report) 	Scrutiny Officer
27 February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Ambitions Performance Update – October to December 2023 (Q3 – 2023/24) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny Officer
23 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Ambitions Performance Update – October to December 2023 (Q4 – 2023/24) 	Information, Engagement and Performance Manager
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24 	Scrutiny Officer