

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room 1, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 14th October 2025 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Ashley Taylor in the Chair

Councillors Anne Clarke, Cathy Jeffery, Sandra Peake and Deborah Watson.

Officers:- Jim Fieldsend (Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Sarah Kay (Interim Director of Planning, Devolution and Corporate Policy), Richard Winter (Climate Change Officer), Chris McKinney (Senior Devolution Lead for Planning Policy and Strategic Growth), Angelika Kaufhold (Governance and Civic Manager) and Coby Bunyan (Scrutiny Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting, observing, were Councillors Donna Hales and Rob Hiney-Saunders, and Yousaf Chaudhary (Planning Policy Officer).

CLI10-25/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Catherine Tite.

CLI11-25/26 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to be considered.

CLI12-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CLI13-25/26 MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Cathy Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke
RESOLVED that the minutes of a Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd June 2025 be approved as a true and correct record.

CLI14-25/26 LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Members were informed that there were no Key Decisions or items to be considered in private to consider.

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CLI15-25/26 CARBON REDUCTION PLAN: DRAFT ACTIONS UPDATE

The Climate Change Officer advised Members that currently the Council had no Carbon Reduction Plan and that monitoring and activity on the former plan had stopped in 2022. However, a viable Carbon Reduction plan would be looked at following recommendations further to an internal audit.

Internal Audit had also identified the necessity to develop an internal working group to develop the Carbon Reduction Plan for the Council, and following a meeting held on 13th October 2025, the Climate Resilience Working Group was formed. This group would enable greater ownership by multiple different departments.

The groups' primary objective would be to develop an effective and implementable Carbon Reduction Plan. Further meetings would be held prior to the next scrutiny meeting where an of the plan would be provided on the progress of the plan.

The Council along with Nottinghamshire County Council were collectively working with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) which was funded by the MCS Foundation (an energy advocacy charity aimed at accelerating the use of carbon free energy) on creating a new strategy that would be launched on 20th October. The aim of the new strategy was focused on upskilling local green skills to enable retrofitting BDC homes to achieve lower emissions.

This was part of a larger strategy from East Midlands Retrofit Strategy (EMRS) a regional collaboration on the retrofit strategy to reduce fuel poverty and increase the sustainability of homes across the East Midlands.

It was incredibly positive for the residents of Bolsover and the Council.

The Green Skills Development Hub (located in Shirebrook) had a £250,000 grant approved through the UK Government Regeneration Fund and East Midlands Investment Zone. Multiple development proposals had been received from colleges and universities as well as private companies for the Hub and Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) had been appointed as the consultant on this project.

An internal working group to facilitate and manage this project has been created and consists of the following: Interim Director of Planning, Devolution and Corporate Policy, Leaders Executive and Partnership Strategy Manager and the Climate Change Officer. All local stakeholders including colleges, universities and members of the Boslover Partnership have presented their input throughout and would continue going forward to ensure this project benefits the community as much as possible when completed in the academic year of 2027.

The Climate Change Officer then presented a Carbon Plan Update Regarding the Energy Plan developments. It was confirmed that work was ongoing with the Carbon Plan and Energy Plan Updates with Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) being collected to identify areas which required more attention.

In response to a question relating to older properties which may not have EPCs it was explained that when older properties were renovated with extensions or refurbished an EPC could be produced.

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Only a very small percentage of older properties had never been improved and average EPC ratings for similar type properties could be used. Low EPC performing properties tended to be located in the same more than likely would require work to be upgraded, to the desired minimum national standard which was E for existing properties by 2028 and C for Social housing by 2030.

The Climate Change Officer confirmed BDC was working in partnership with Nottingham Trent University on researching and developing a supply chain database to discover why Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) were finding it particularly difficult to operate within major housing developments in the local community. The result was a report and pilot database that could be used by housing developers to improve local SME's activity. This was funded by the East Midlands Investment Zone (EMIZ) and covered the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Area.

EMIZ was an investment institution governed and managed by EMCCA. The EMIZ was awarded £160 million in public investment by central government over a ten-year period along with an estimated £383 million in private sector investment over a ten-year period. The funding would be used across the East Midlands to focus on clean energy projects and advanced manufacturing.

EMCCA was formed in 2024 to monitor and govern economic growth, housing, transport, and skills development throughout the East Midlands.

It was confirmed that Bolsover Partnership would be developing a thematic working group and that the Climate Change Officer would be Vice-Chair of this group.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery
RESOLVED that the Carbon Reduction Plan: Draft Actions Update be noted.

CLI16-25/26 REVIEW OF ENERGY IN LOCAL HOUSING - POST-SCRUTINY MONITORING (SECOND INTERIM REPORT)

The Review of Energy in Local Housing – Post Scrutiny Monitoring (PSM) (Second Interim Report) was presented to the committee by the Governance and Civic Manager, Miss Angelika Kaufhold.

The Governance and Civic Manager presented the Review of Energy in Local Housing – Post Scrutiny Monitoring (second interim) report and highlighted that of the five recommendations:

- CCCSC 23-24 2.2 – had been achieved.
- CCCSC 23-24 2.3 – had been achieved behind target; and
- three had been extended namely CCCSC 23-24 2.1, 2.4 and 2.5.

Moved by Councillor Deborah Watson and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery
RESOLVED that 1) the progress against the review recommendations be noted;

- 2) An update report on the implementation of the recommendations be submitted in 12 months' time.

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CLI17-25/26 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL DESPOILMENT EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT - POST SCRUTINY MONITORING (SECOND INTERIM REPORT)

The Committee considered the report relating to the responses received from the Executive in relation to the recommendations made following the Review of the Council's Approach to Environment Despoilment Education and Enforcement. It was confirmed that the Executive had approved all eleven recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1 and that updates on progress would be submitted in 6- and 12-months' time.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery

RESOLVED that 1) the response by the Executive to the recommendations in the review be noted;

- 2) Officers monitor progress on the recommendations and provide update reports in 6- and 12-months' time.

CLI18-25/26 BOLSOVER TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY: PROPOSED CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Senior Devolution Lead for Planning Policy and Strategic Growth presented the report and confirmed that he was the Lead for the project.

25,000 trees had been planted which involved over 1,000 volunteers throughout Bolsover District. The vision of this strategy included: Taking care of our existing Trees and Woodlands.

1. Expanding our Tree and Woodland Coverage; and
2. Fostering Community Pride in Our Trees and Woodlands – feeling the benefits.

It was confirmed that local Parish Councils could independently apply for funding from various sources and that the draft strategy covered a 10-year period between 2025-2035.

In response to a question relating to the ongoing maintenance and care for trees it was confirmed that a £10,000 had been allocated budget to maintain, repair or remove damaged trees. If members wanted to report damaged or dead trees, they should contact the Woodlands Enterprise Team and the Street Scene Team.

A canopy cover study was carried out by a third-party contractor on behalf of the council. Treeconomics was selected to conduct this cover study. The findings were that Bolsover has almost 2,8000 hectares of tree canopy cover totalling 17.5% of the district. The highest coverage in terms of wards is Langwith ward at 30.6% and the lowest is Bolsover East Ward at 6.0%. A district average of 17.5%, which is above 16.5% national average. The Council's aim was for the district was for 20% canopy cover. The previous target of one million trees had been unrealistic in terms of scale, time and cost and target of 20% canopy cover was more achievable.

In response to whether S106 or Community Infrastructure Funding could be used it was confirmed a new planning regulation made it easier for the Council to insist developers plant trees as part of obtaining planning permission.

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Section 106 of the Town and Country Act 1990 it empowered Council's, as part of planning permission process, to ensure developers offered remedies to mitigate the environment impact on the local community of any proposed development. These planning obligations were legally binding and approved when planning applications were agreed.

It was explained that the mandatory 10% rule would be used for Biodiversity and would assist with the planting of trees. In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and County Planning Act 1990, as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environmental Act 2021. Under this Act developers had to deliver a BNG of 10%. This meant that developers had to ensure that local habitats for wildlife were left measurably better off than before the development.

The Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy Proposed Consultation Draft would be submitted to the Executive on 3rd November 2025.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CLI19-25/26 WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

The Committee considered a report presented by the Governance and Civic Manager relating to the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2025/26.

Moved by Councillor Sandra Peake and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery
RESOLVED that the Work Programme at Appendix 1 be approved.

The meeting concluded at 10:40 hours.