

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Council on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reduction in number of Standards Committee meetings per year**

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

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Classification</b>  | This report is Public   |
| <b>Contact Officer</b> | Jim Fieldsend, Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer |

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To propose that Standards Committee is scheduled to meet 4 times per year.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

1.1 Currently Standards Committee is scheduled to meet six times a year. Meetings are generally quite short with only a few items on each agenda. The Monitoring Officer has been in discussions with other monitoring officers locally and nationally and whereas some councils hold Standards Committees bi-monthly many others hold them quarterly or even less frequently.

**2. Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 The Monitoring Officer is proposing that from the 2025/26 civic year Standards Committee meets quarterly. The same standard items will be discussed throughout the year, therefore the Committee will fulfil its duties in full but in a more efficient way.

2.2 If the need arises for a Standard Committee to meet in between scheduled meetings an extraordinary meeting can be held. For instance if a member with a declarable interest wishes to apply for a dispensation to take part in a meeting and the meeting is to take place before a scheduled Standards Committee.

2.3 This proposal was reported to Standards Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 who agreed to recommend the reduction in meetings to Council.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Scheduling four meetings instead of six will result in a reduction in administration time but without affecting the effectiveness of the Committee.

### 4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not to change the numbers of scheduled committees. This is rejected as the proposal to reduce the number of committees will result in far more meaningful meetings for Members but with less work for officers.

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### RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To reduce the number of Standard Committee meetings from six to four.

Approved by Councillor Donna Hales, Portfolio Holder for Governance.

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### IMPLICATIONS:

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| <b><u>Finance and Risk</u></b>   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Details:</b><br><br>On behalf of the Section 151 Officer  |   |  |
| <b><u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u></b>  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Details:</b><br><br>On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council   |   |  |
| <b><u>Staffing</u></b>   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Details:</b><br><br>On behalf of the Head of Paid Service   |   |  |
| <b><u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u></b>   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Details:</b>  |   |  |
| <b><u>Environment</u></b>  | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment<br><b>Details:</b><br>Fewer meeting will result in less energy being used |   |  |

**DECISION INFORMATION:**

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| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Please indicate which threshold applies:</b></p> <p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b><br/>A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><b>Revenue (a)</b> Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p><b>Capital (a)</b> Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected:</b><br/><i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i><br/>Please state below which wards are affected or tick <b>All</b> if all wards are affected:</p> | <p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>(a)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>(b)</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>(a)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>(b)</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>All</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
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| <p>If Yes, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <b><i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></b></p> <p><b>Consultation carried out:</b><br/><i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p><b>Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>Deputy Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/><br/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/><br/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>      <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
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| <p><b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</b></p>                    |
| <p>Improving the customer experience and removing barriers to accessing information and services</p> |

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION:**

| <b>Appendix No</b> | <b>Title</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|
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|                    |              |

| <b>Background Papers</b>  |
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| <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> |
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