

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of Council on 8th October 2025

Proportionality and Appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups

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

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

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To report to Council changes to the allocation of Committee seats following a change in the political makeup of the Council.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 At the end of August 2025, one Councillor changed political parties.
- 1.2 The political make up on the Council is now: Labour – 22 Councillors, Independent Group – 11 Councillors, Conservative – 2 Councillors, Reform – 1 Councillor, and 1 independent Councillor.
- 1.3 This report therefore brings forward the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.
- 1.4 Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Any Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 **Appendix 1** to the report sets out the allocation of committee seats which best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 **Appendix 2** sets out the current appointments/vacancies/proposed new appointments to committees.

- 2.3 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 establishes the rules for allocation of the seats to councillors. These are as follows:
- (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.
- 2.4 The key principle that is of relevance to this report is principle (b) that the majority of seats on each committee should be allocated to the majority group. On all current committees the Labour group have a majority of one seat. There is therefore no scope in reducing the numbers of seats without breaching the requirement set out in principle 1. Therefore, even though the number of councillors on the Labour group has reduced by 1 the number of seats they are entitled to should not change. However, Councillor Walker has agreed to give up his position on Union/Employee Consultation Committee and Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee. This will ensure that the Independent Group will have the correct proportionate number of ordinary committee and scrutiny seats.
- 2.5 The councillor who changed political parties was a member of Safety Committee, Union/Employee Consultation Committee and Finance and Corporate Overview Committees, so replacements for each committee will need to be nominated and approved. The Labour Group have nominated Councillor Hales to sit on Safety Committee, Councillor Ritchie for Union/Employee Consultation Committee and Councillor Kirkham for Finance & Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.6 The Independent Group have nominated Councillor Rowan Clarke to replace Councillor Kane to sit on the Finance & Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Also, for Councillor Rowan Clarke to sit on the Union/Employee Consultation Committee and Councillor Watson to sit on the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report recommends changes to the allocation of Committee seats detailed in **Appendix 1**. The changes would ensure that the Council still meets the requirements of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act as far as reasonably practicable.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Members may consider that they wish to change the allocation, but this is not advised because the proposed allocation best meets the political balance requirements.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (1) That the proportionality of committee places as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed; and
- (2) that the appointments to Committees and Advisory Groups as set out in Appendix 2 be agreed.

Approved by Councillor Donna Hales, Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder
for Corporate Governance

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no finance or risk implications arising from this report On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The Council is required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no staffing implications arising from this report. On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no Equality and Diversity, and Consultation implications arising from this report.		
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.		

Details:

There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.

DECISION INFORMATION

☒ **Please indicate which threshold applies:**

Is the decision a Key Decision?

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:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐

Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.

(a) ☐ (b) ☐

District Wards Significantly Affected:

(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)

Please state below which wards are affected or tick **All** if all wards are affected:

None

All ☐

Is the decision subject to Call-In?

(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? *(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

Consultation carried out:

(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)

Yes ☒ No ☐

Leader ☒ **Deputy Leader** ☒ **Executive** ☐

SLT ☐

Relevant Service Manager ☐ **Members** ☐ **Public** ☐

Other ☐

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
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Customers

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Proportionality of the Council
2	Appointments to Committees

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>
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None
