

Motions to Council 8th October 2025

(a): To consider changing the constitution regarding political proportionality on Scrutiny Committees

Our current constitutional arrangements regarding proportionality can be found on page 147 of the constitution under item 4.5.2.

To date, it has been the case that whichever political party is in overall control of the Council, automatically is entitled to have majority representation on all scrutiny committees.

All key decisions are made by the Executive, which again is made up solely of members of the same party. So, if you think logically about this, it is like marking your own homework.

We all know how the party system works; it is not acceptable to vote against the party line, this carries the possibility of having the whip removed. I would argue that these group decisions could be carried through to scrutiny, if the majority of scrutiny committees themselves are made up of the controlling party.

Would it not be better to have a more balanced approach, by having committees made up of members with possible relevant experience/Knowledge and broader/opposing opinions, rather than a majority group of likeminded, same thinking members.

The actual legislation regarding this matter is very loosely written and states: “that proportionality rules GENERALLY apply, however local authorities can CHOOSE to apply these rules for certain scrutiny bodies and local authorities can decide to DISAPPLY proportionality rules through a unanimous vote”.

It also states that scrutiny exists to challenge decisions made by the Executive, and surely this would be better achieved when led by opposition members rather than always requiring a majority of members from the controlling party?

Therefore, I put forward a motion for the Council to consider changing the current constitution regarding political proportionality on scrutiny committees, in favour of more diverse arrangement. I therefore move that this motion is passed to the Standards Committee to be considered and debated.

Proposed by: Councillor Tait

(b): the Whistleblowing policy should be updated immediately and the correct procedures followed to ensure the staff that are raising concerns are supported appropriately and protected throughout the whistleblowing process.

The whistle blowing policy is a joint policy with North East Derbyshire District Council, it is no longer current and has not been updated since 14th April 2021. This policy is meant to be updated annually, it is not fit for purpose. It is apparent employees of Bolsover District Council do not feel confident in being able to follow the correct procedure in reporting their concerns and have resorted to highlighting issues anonymously due to fear of repercussions, which appears to be the case as the concerns are not being internally addressed or investigated.

It is time that the current outdated policy was revised and brought up to date as a matter of utmost urgency and provisions included to protect those who wish to raise concerns of perceived malpractice or wrong use of doing without fear of retribution or disciplinary action

The Proposed motion is as follows: The whistleblowing policy should be updated immediately and the correct procedures followed to ensure the staff that are raising concerns are supported appropriately and protected throughout the whistle blowing process.

Proposed by: Councillor A Clarke