

## COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 at 10:00 hours.

### PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Duncan Haywood in the Chair

Councillors Duncan McGregor (Vice-Chair), David Bennett, Anne Clarke, Rowan Clarke, Amanda Davis, Mary Dooley, Will Fletcher, Louise Fox, Steve Fritchley, Justin Gilbody, Donna Hales, Tom Munro, Rob Hiney-Saunders, Mark Hinman, Cathy Jeffery, Chris Kane, Tom Kirkham, Clive Moesby, Sandra Peake, Lisa Powell, Jeanne Raspin, Sally Renshaw, John Ritchie, Phil Smith, Janet Tait, Ashley Taylor, Catherine Tite, Rita Turner, Deborah Watson, Jen Wilson and Jane Yates.

Officers:- Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Theresa Fletcher (Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer), Jim Fieldsend (Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Sarah Kay (Interim Director of Planning, Devolution & Corporate Policy), Peter Wilmot (HR Business Partner), Angelika Kaufhold (Governance and Civic Manager) and Matthew Kerry (Governance and Civic Officer).

### CL47-25/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lucy King, Emma Stevenson and Vicky Waplington.

### CL48-25/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

### CL49-25/26 MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Haywood and seconded by Councillor McGregor

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be approved as a true and correct record.

Moved by Councillor Haywood and seconded by Councillor Munro

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be approved as a true and correct record.

### CL50-25/26 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made by the Chair to Council.

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## CL51-25/26 MOTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Councillors were able to submit Motions on Notice for consideration at meetings of Council.

**a) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Bennett:**

*"Bolsover District Council calls on the government to make the display of food hygiene ratings mandatory for establishments preparing and selling food in England, as it is in Wales and Northern Ireland, and will write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs lobbying for the necessary legislative changes to be made. The ratings must be displayed prominently at all public entrances to the establishment and prominently on the entry to every online portal.*

*In England establishments with good ratings tend to display them, whilst many of those with lower ratings don't do so. In England only 69% of business display their food hygiene ratings sticker. In addition, it was reported by the BBC in October last year that some businesses in England are displaying inaccurate food hygiene ratings. Without an enforcement function in relation to food hygiene display this is not being policed.*

*We agree with the Chartered Institute of Environment Health who have also called for the display of hygiene ratings to be mandatory. In England more than four in five businesses surveyed were happy to support mandatory display of hygiene ratings.\**

*Food Hygiene Rating Schemes provide consumers with information about the hygiene standards at food establishments, enabling them to make informed choices about where they eat and purchase food. We believe the public mandatory display of food hygiene ratings supports this, is beneficial to public health and will likely drive up the quality of food for the public.*

*The Food Standards Hygiene team at the Food Standards Agency (FSA) have said that food hygiene ratings are published and can be checked on the FSA's website. However, that presupposes that the customer has access to the internet. Many senior citizens, who are likely to be most vulnerable from a health perspective, are least likely to have access to the internet and so wouldn't even have the ability to check hygiene ratings. In any case very few people will check hygiene ratings prior to visiting the establishment, so the display of hygiene ratings at the entrance is crucial for informing customer behaviour.*

*This is an issue of both consumer information and public health."*

Moved by Councillor Bennett and seconded by Councillor Hiney-Saunders and on being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the Council supported the motion and call on the government to make the display of food hygiene ratings mandatory for establishments preparing and selling food in England, as it is in Wales and

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Northern Ireland, and will write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs lobbying for the necessary legislative changes to be made. The ratings must be displayed prominently at all public entrances to the establishment and prominently on the entry to every online portal.

**b) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Yates:**

*"This Council notes:*

- *The increasing number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) within the Bolsover District Council area.*
- *That HMOs can play a positive role in providing affordable accommodation, but may also raise issues relating to parking, waste management, anti-social behaviour, property maintenance, and impacts on community cohesion.*
- *That local residents and community groups have valuable first-hand experience of how HMOs affect their neighbourhoods.*

*This Council believes:*

- *That decisions on HMO licensing, planning, and regulation should be informed by a clear understanding of their local impacts.*
- *That residents' experiences are essential in shaping effective local policy and ensuring balanced, sustainable communities.*

*This Council therefore resolves to:*

1. *Invite evidence and experiences from residents, tenants, landlords, the police and community organisations regarding the impact of HMOs on local neighbourhoods, including both positive and negative experiences, by way of a consultation with the public.*
2. *Request that officers prepare a report summarising the findings, identifying recurring themes or concerns, and outlining options for improving regulation, enforcement, and community engagement.*
3. *Ask Executive to consider whether existing policies and resources are adequate to manage the growth and impact of HMOs, and to recommend any necessary changes (e.g. Article 4 Direction, enhanced licensing, or improved communication channels).*
4. *Publish and promote information about how residents can report HMO-related concerns and participate in consultations on housing and planning policy."*

- During discussion it was highlighted that care should be taken not to stigmatise people who lived in HMO's as it was not always the case that anti-social behaviour originated from this type of accommodation. There was also a need for affordable accommodation for people who could not afford to rent properties by themselves

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and the only option was to rent in an HMO which in previous years were similar to bedsits or lodging rooms.

- It was confirmed that the purpose of the motion was not to stigmatise any groups but to establish the facts and to create an evidence base.

Moved by Councillor Yates and seconded by Councillor Smith and on being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED (1)** to invite evidence and experiences from residents, tenants, landlords, the police and community organisations regarding the impact of HMOs on local neighbourhoods, including both positive and negative experiences, by way of a consultation with the public;

(2) that officers prepare a report summarising the findings, identifying recurring themes or concerns, and outlining options for improving regulation, enforcement, and community engagement;

(3) to ask the Executive to consider whether existing policies and resources were adequate to manage the growth and impact of HMOs, and to recommend any necessary changes (eg Article 4 Direction, enhanced licensing, or improved communication channels); and

(4) to publish and promote information about how residents can report HMO-related concerns and participate in consultations on housing and planning policy.

**c) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Hiney-Saunders:**

*"This Council notes:*

- *Gambling addiction is an escalating national issue with serious social and economic implications. According to Public Health England, the estimated annual cost to society now exceeds £1 billion.*
- *Gambling harms extend far beyond the individual, affecting families, public services, and communities – particularly in areas experiencing socio-economic deprivation.*
- *Many local authorities are now witnessing a concerning proliferation of betting shops, adult gaming centres and casinos – often in areas with higher vulnerability – and are effectively powerless to stop it due to outdated legislation.*
- *Section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005 enshrines the 'Aim to Permit' principle, which requires councils to approve gambling licenses where minimum criteria are met, regardless of local community opposition or concerns over public health, crime, or social impact.*
- *The surge in online gambling and the widespread nature of gambling advertisements across the sporting world has only deepened these harms and*

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*normalised gambling in everyday life.*

- *The recent intervention by Gordon Brown, calling for a “Child Fairness Guarantee” funded in part by the introduction of a unified online gambling tax, bringing Britain’s unusually low tax rate in line with the international average.*
- *When last surveyed, almost three quarters of the British public (73%) suggested that they would not want a betting shop on their ideal high-street.*

*This Council believes:*

- *For too long, the gambling industry had been extracting ever more profit from our high streets, while entrenching financial addiction among their players.*
- *Bolsover already has more than enough betting shops and bookmakers on our High Streets.*
- *That gambling for some may be fun, but for others it’s a serious addiction which can lead to financial ruin for individuals and families.*

*This Council resolves to:*

- *Join a growing coalition of over 40 (now over 50) other local authorities, that have now written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport calling for urgent reforms to tackle the harms caused by gambling and to restore decision-making powers to local authorities. Specifically calling on Government to:*
  - *Reform the ‘Aim to Permit’ policy to allow councils to refuse gambling premises that pose risks to local welfare and safety.*
  - *Place all gambling premises (including adult gaming centres and bingo halls) in a single planning category to prevent loopholes.*
  - *Give councils the power to consider local social and health factors, such as debt and proximity to schools, when reviewing planning applications.*
  - *Direct the proceeds from the new statutory levy on gambling operators, to independent public bodies and local health authorities for harm prevention and treatment.*
  - *Introduce greater restrictions on gambling advertising, sponsorships, and promotions – especially those reaching children and vulnerable groups.*
  - *Halt any proposals that further liberalise adult gaming centres, including spin speeds and staking levels on B3 machines.*
- *Write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and relevant government departments expressing our full support for these proposals and urging immediate legislative reform to protect our communities.*
- *Join and promote the Coalition to End Gambling Ads (CEGA) and any similar*

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*national or local campaigns aimed at reducing gambling harm and reforming the law.*

- *Work with local health and voluntary sector partners to signpost residents to gambling addiction support and education initiatives.”*

It was suggested that advertising of gambling should be banned whether on TV and on phones etc due to the level of the misery and harm caused by gambling addiction.

Moved by Councillor Hiney-Saunders and seconded by Councillor Hales and on being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that Council joins a growing coalition of over 50 other local authorities, that have now written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport calling for urgent reforms to tackle the harms caused by gambling and to restore decision-making powers to local authorities. Specifically calling on Government to:

- (1) reform the 'Aim to Permit' policy to allow councils to refuse gambling premises that pose risks to local welfare and safety;
- (2) place all gambling premises (including adult gaming centres and bingo halls) in a single planning category to prevent loopholes;
- (3) give councils the power to consider local social and health factors, such as debt and proximity to schools, when reviewing planning applications;
- (4) direct the proceeds from the new statutory levy on gambling operators, to independent public bodies and local health authorities for harm prevention and treatment;
- (5) introduce greater restrictions on gambling advertising, sponsorships, and promotions – especially those reaching children and vulnerable groups;
- (6) halt any proposals that further liberalise adult gaming centres, including spin speeds and staking levels on B3 machines;
- (7) write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and relevant government departments expressing our full support for these proposals and urging immediate legislative reform to protect our communities;
- (8) join and promote the Coalition to End Gambling Ads (CEGA) and any similar national or local campaigns aimed at reducing gambling harm and reforming the law; and
- (9) work with local health and voluntary sector partners to signpost residents to gambling addiction support and education initiatives.

**d) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Peake:**

*This Council notes:*

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*“Along with its statutory duty to scrutinise council decisions, one of the fundamental roles of scrutiny is to consider any matter which affects the district and its constituents.*

*As the local and national political scenes are now dramatically changing, I feel that one single scrutiny committee would be better able to fulfil these duties and would enable scrutiny members to have full oversight of and to participate in all scrutiny matters.*

*Furthermore, this would allow members with a particular interest in certain topics to work within task and finish groups. So, for this reason I propose that Council agrees to change the constitution to facilitate the creation of one single scrutiny committee.*

*This Council resolves:*

*To change the constitution to facilitate the creation of one single scrutiny committee.”*

During discussion Council was advised that a review of the scrutiny structure was taking place and it was queried why Scrutiny Members were not being involved. One option was to establish two Scrutiny Committees rather than one. The Leader confirmed that the options would be shared once available.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that any proposed structural changes to the Scrutiny Committees would have to be considered by the Standards Committee and then submitted to Council.

Moved by Councillor Peake and seconded by Councillor Fritchley and on being put to the vote the motion was lost.

**e) The following motion was submitted for consideration by Councillor Watson:**

*This Council notes*

*“In recent months there have been significant changes in the composition of the membership of this Council, meaning that for the first time in several years there is now an organised large group of opposition Councillors.*

*It is disappointing that this has triggered a problematic situation within the Council and resulted in a clear and unworkable schism between the controlling group - Labour - and the largest opposition group - the Independents.*

*The definition of the role of Leader of the Opposition within this Council's Constitution does not acknowledge the need for the Leader of the Opposition to formulate alternative policies and more pertinently, to be assisted in this role by Council officers. Many other local authorities do in fact acknowledge (within their constitution), this element as part the role of the opposition and thereby facilitate a more meaningful and constructive opposition, indeed many encourage and include the role of Shadow Cabinets.*

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*In order to improve the quality of constructive opposition within this authority and thereby create a healthier and better functioning environment within this Council, I believe the description and understanding of the role of the Leader of the Opposition, and indeed opposition members, should be revised within this Council's constitution.*

*This can only encourage more meaningful debate within the Council, which ultimately will benefit the residents of Bolsover during this Council's final years.*

*This Council resolves:*

*to require the Standards Committee to review the defined role of Leader of the Opposition within the Council's Constitution.”*

Motion moved by Councillor Watson and seconded by Councillor Peake and on being put to the vote the motion was lost.

### **CL52-25/26 APPPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Council considered a report presented by the Monitoring Officer relating to the request received from the Independent Group that their nomination to the Housing Liaison Board be changed with Councillor Peake replacing Councillor Tait.

Appendix 1 to the report detailed the membership of the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups including the change requested by the Independent Group.

Moved by Councillor Hales and seconded by Councillor Smith and  
**RESOLVED** that Councillor Peake be appointed to the Housing Liaison Board  
in place of Councillor Tait.

### **CL53-25/26 DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

Councillor Moesby Portfolio Holder for Resources moved for the report to be withdrawn following receipt of new information and confirmed that a revised report would be submitted to a future meeting of Council.

Moved by Councillor Moesby and seconded by Councillor Ritchie **RESOLVED** that the report be withdrawn.

### **CL54-25/26 SUCCESSFUL HEALTHY PLACES SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Council considered a report presented by Councillor Munro Portfolio Holder for Growth recommending the adoption of the Successful Healthy Places Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as a material consideration in planning decisions.

The responses to a public consultation on the Draft Successful Healthy Places SPD were considered by Planning Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and resulted in a number of

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revisions being approved. The Planning Committee recommended that Council adopt the Successful Healthy Places Supplementary Planning Document as a material consideration in planning decisions.

Moved by Councillor Munro and seconded by Councillor Ritchie

**RESOLVED** that the Successful Healthy Places Supplementary Planning

Document at Appendix 1 be approved as a material consideration in planning decisions.

### **CL55-25/26                    ACQUISITION OF SECTION 106 PROPERTIES FROM WOODALL HOMES LIMITED, BOLEAPPLETON FARM**

Council considered a report presented by Councillor Smith Portfolio Holder for Housing relating to the purchase of 12 affordable 1 bedroom semi-detached houses from Woodall Homes Limited at Boleappleton Farm. These properties were part of a S106 planning condition.

The Council's Executive on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 resolved to purchase the properties and Council approval was sought for the scheme to be added to the capital programme, to be funded by capital receipts.

The purchase price for these properties was £1.26m (excluding fees and Stamp Duty Land Tax) based on the Valuation detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council had an ambition to add 200 new homes to the Council's housing stock by a mixture of new development through the housing development programme and by appropriate acquisition. The proposal offered value for money, met local housing need and would increase the Council's housing stock.

Moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Ritchie

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to add the 12 properties at Boleappleton

Farm for affordable rent within the Housing Revenue Account, to the Capital Programme by utilising the 1-4-1 Right to Buy receipts.

### **CL56-25/26                    BOLSOVER NEURODIVERSITY CHAMPION**

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive presented by the Monitoring Officer relating to the appointment of a Member Champion for Neurodiversity. The Neurodiversity Policy was approved by Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 and created an environment where neurodiverse employees could thrive and contribute their unique perspectives and access the support and accommodations to fully participate in society. The aim was to foster a culture of acceptance, understanding and equal opportunities for all members of the community.

Following a request from a Bolsover District Council Member it was proposed to create the Member Champion role and appoint a Member as a Neurodiversity Champion. The role would work closely with the Council's Human Resources Team to support the policy and ensure the focus of the policy was maintained.

Expressions of interest to volunteer for the Neurodiversity Champion Role were sought from Members with Councillors R Clarke and Hales confirming their interest prior to the

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meeting.

It was suggested by Members that both Councillors could share the role as was the case for another of the Member Development Champions.

An amendment to the recommendation was moved by Councillor Fritchley and seconded by Councillor Peake to appoint both Councillors to share the role

**RESOLVED** to agree the establishment of the Neurodiversity Champion Role and that Councillors R Clarke and Hales be appointed to share the role for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

### **CL57-25/26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - VERBAL UPDATE**

Council considered the latest update relating to Local Government Reorganisation presented jointly by Councillor Ritchie Portfolio Holder for Devolution and the Interim Director of Planning, Devolution and Corporate Policy.

Councillor Ritchie confirmed that agreement had been reached and submissions made by the eight boroughs and districts and Derby City Council agreed on the submission to Government with four different proposals namely:

- Proposal A - by Amber Valley Borough Council to join the Northern Unitary as a whole authority as led by their public consultation.
- Proposal - A1 to split Amber Valley Borough Council between the Northern and Southern Unitaries with Belper, Denby and Kilburn remaining in the North.
- Proposal B - Amber Valley Borough Council joining the Southern Unitary as a whole authority.
- Proposal B1 - Amber Valley Borough Council being split between the Northern and Southern Unitary Authorities with Belper, Denby and Kilburn in the Southern Unitary.

Stage 3 Statutory Consultations had started and was anticipated to run until the end of December 2025. Stage 4 was for Ministers to decide on a proposal with or without modification as splitting Amber Valley would require modifications to boundaries. It was anticipated that a decision would not be made until Summer 2026. Stage 5 was to make Secondary Legislation for Parliamentary approval namely the Structural Changes Order (SCO). The SCO will specify arrangements for the first elections for the new Unitaries. Derby City Council has decided they want 94 councillors not 74 as previously indicated.

The SCO will identify the elections for the Unitaries, number of councillors and the function of the new Council during the transition and establish suitable governance arrangements which could take six to nine months to go through the parliamentary process. Councillors can stand for the new Unitary as well as being a councillor in their existing council. The order will also state whether the existing council would be extended or not and the transition arrangements until the existing councils were abolished.

Stage 6 was the transition period with existing councils continuing to deliver services whilst preparing for 'Go live' day (Vesting Day) when all services, functions, assets and

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staff would be transferred to the new Unitary. The transition body will be responsible for all arrangements and decisions relating to the new authority to ensure it was safe and legal from Day One. An implementation plan was required by Government to include Council tax harmonisation plan and the aggregation or disaggregation of services.

Stage 7 the new Unitary goes 'live' on vesting day and the process continue.

The Interim Director of Planning, Devolution and Corporate Policy informed Council of the next steps:

- Stage 3 Statutory Consultation, it was anticipated this would commence in Spring 2026 with stakeholders.
- The Derby and Derbyshire Consultation Co-ordination Group met weekly and would be looking at putting together an implementation plan to maintain momentum. Working Groups would continue and several new groups focussed on specialisms would be established eg People, Finance, Legal, Technology, Assets data, Communication, Governance arrangements, Social Services, Environmental Health, Housing and Highways etc.
- A key priority was to set up the project management office with key officers appointed to the implementation team to ensure dedicated resource.
- A clear list of proprietary activities had been received from the Local Government Association on activities that could take place.

Councillor Ritchie added that that they were looking to appoint an external candidate for the Project Manager post.

### **CL58-25/26            CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11:19 hours.