

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Executive on 2nd March 2026

Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy

Report of the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Classification	This report is Public.
Contact Officer	Chris McKinney

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To update Members on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy and seek their approval to make appropriate revisions and adopt the revised Strategy.

REPORT DETAILS

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Council has been preparing an ambitious Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy that will continue the great work of the Bolsover Community Woodlands project and see further opportunities for tree planting across our District.
- 1.2 The prepared draft Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy was considered by Executive at its meeting on 3rd November 2025 and the draft Strategy was approved for the purposes of public consultation.
- 1.3 In line with this decision, a four week period of public consultation was held between 17th November and 15th December 2025 that saw:
- a digital copy of the Consultation Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and consultation questionnaire being made available to read and print off on the Council's website;
 - a link on the webpage that directed people to a digital version of the consultation questionnaire that could be completed online;
 - paper copies of the Consultation Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and consultation questionnaire being made available at the District's libraries and Contact Centres throughout the 4 weeks of the consultation period;
 - weekly publicity via the Council's social media accounts to encourage public engagement, including activities during National Tree Week (22nd to 30th November 2025).
- 1.4 Feedback received during this consultation exercise is discussed below.

2.0 Details of Proposal or Information

Outcome of the Consultation Exercise

2.1 The Council received eighteen submissions during the consultation period from a range of District residents and local and national organisations, namely:

1. Janette Moran
2. Marc Pearson
3. Ian Newham
4. Marissa Cashill
5. Andrew Washbourne
6. Diana Munro
7. Julie Naylor
8. Coal Authority
9. Natural England
10. Alan Langford
11. Derbyshire County Council – Landscape Services
12. Derbyshire County Council – Planning Services
13. Forestry Commission
14. Historic England
15. Derbyshire County Council – Environmental Sustainability Manager
16. Bolsover Community Voluntary Service
17. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
18. Clowne Community Association

Feedback from the public

2.2 The key points within the feedback from the public are set out below:

- There was strong support for the preparation of a Tree and Woodland Strategy, and it was stated that trees and woodland are important both for their own intrinsic value and their biodiversity, recreational and climate benefits;
- Respondents strongly emphasised the need to protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, especially where these may be affected by new development;
- Many participants called for better long-term management of trees and woodlands, such as regular maintenance, addressing overcrowded woodland, and dealing with non-native species;
- There was a consensus that tree planting should complement other biodiversity and habitats, such as wildflower meadows and allowing natural regeneration;
- Respondents stressed that trees should be placed where they will not cause future problems for homes, roads or access, and must be given sufficient space to grow;

- Participants asked for stronger monitoring and enforcement to prevent unnecessary removal of trees and hedgerows by developers or homeowners;
- There was broad support for greater community involvement, with an emphasis on working closely with local groups and providing clear guidance to residents who wish to take part.

Feedback from organisations

2.3 The key points within the feedback from organisations are set out below:

- Some landscapes are valued for their lack of trees and woodland and so it is important to ensure that landscape character is taken into account when creating new woodlands;
- Greater acknowledgement of the role that trees and woodlands contribute to historic landscapes should be made in the Strategy;
- Guidance on buffers around ancient woodland needed strengthening, with recognition that larger buffers may be required for bigger developments and certain impact types;
- Species selection, provenance and biosecurity required clearer direction to ensure a resilient treescape and to avoid introducing pests and diseases, especially near ancient woodland;
- Many existing woodland management plans were stated to be old and require updating;
- The Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Environment Act should be referenced more clearly;
- The role of farmers and private landowners were under-represented, despite their central importance for hedgerow management, habitat connectivity and delivery of new planting.

2.4 This feedback is set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. This feedback has been considered, and Appendix 2 also includes the Council's proposed response to the points and any proposed revision to the Strategy.

Final document

2.5 A final version of the Strategy has now been prepared, and this is attached as Appendix 3 for consideration and approval.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The report updates Members on the outcome of the public consultation exercise and seeks approval of the revised Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy.

3.2

4.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 It would be possible to not prepare a Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy, although this is a requirement of the Woodland Trust's funding agreement and would need to be reported to them. As a result, this alternative option has been rejected.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Executive:

- 1) note the outcome of the consultation exercise as set out in the report and set out in Appendices 1 and 2;
- 2) approve the final Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy as discussed in the report and attached as Appendix 3.

Approved by Councillor Rob Hiney-Saunders, Portfolio Holder for Environment

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details: There are no specific finance or risk issues arising from this report. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Section 151 Officer</p>
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details: There are no specific legal or data protection issues arising from this report. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council</p>
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details: There are no human resources implications arising from this report. The delivery of the Strategy can be achieved with existing staffing resources with additional training and support. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Head of Paid Service</p>
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Details: There are no specific direct or indirect negative impacts on any person with a protected characteristic or any group of people with a shared protected characteristic arising from this report.
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Details: The Tree and Woodland Strategy will make a notable contribution to enhancing the environment as outlined in the report.

DECISION INFORMATION:

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <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> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
---	--

<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p>Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Portfolio Holder for the Environment</p>
--	---

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</p>
<p><u>Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing biodiversity across the district. • Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Questionnaire feedback
2	Summary of Written Reps and Draft Responses
3	Final Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy

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>