

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE ON 13TH APRIL 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – STATUTORY CONSULTATION
RESPONSE**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Karen Hanson, Chief Executive

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

For the Executive to note the response to the Derbyshire LGR Statutory Consultation, submitted by the Chief Executive on the 18th March 2026 under the constitution provisions 4.10.9 (19).

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper on 16th December 2024, all councils in Derbyshire were invited to submit a proposal for local government reorganisation (LGR).
- 1.2 Across Derbyshire, the eight district and borough councils and Derby City Council worked collaboratively to develop a shared Case for Change proposing the creation of two new unitary councils (one north / one south).
- 1.3 The Case for Change included four options for the configuration of the two unitary councils, including alternative approaches to the alignment of Amber Valley Borough Council. These options were referred to as options A, A1, B, and B1 in the Case for Change.
- 1.4 On the 28th November 2025 the Derby & Derbyshire Case for Change was submitted to Government with the four options detailed in the submission appendices. At the extraordinary Executive meeting held on the 5th November 2025 option A1 was supported by Bolsover District Council.
- 1.5 In total the Government received five proposal submissions for LGR in Derbyshire comprising the four options in the Derby and Derbyshire Case for Change, and a fifth option proposed by Derbyshire County Council for a single Derbyshire wide unitary council.

2. Statutory Consultation Process for LGR

- 2.1 The statutory framework for LGR is set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 2.2 To support the timetable of LGR proposals across England arising from the white paper, and in accordance with the Act, the Government has published a staged process for considering LGR proposals. In summary, this comprises:
1. invitation to councils to submit proposals,
 2. submission of formal proposals,
 3. **statutory consultation undertaken by Government,**
 4. ministerial decision on whether to implement a proposal (with or without modification),
 5. preparation and approval of secondary legislation, and
 6. a transition period leading to vesting day for the new unitary authority or authorities.
- 2.3 Statutory consultation is a national process led by the Secretary of State. Before implementing any proposal, the Secretary of State must consult:
- any council affected that has not submitted the proposal; and
 - any other persons or bodies considered appropriate.
- 2.4 Responses received through the statutory consultation are considered alongside the submitted proposals and other relevant evidence. Ministers must have regard to these representations when deciding which proposal, if any, should be implemented.
- 2.5 On 5th February 2026 the Government launched the statutory consultation for LGR proposals in Derbyshire. The consultation ran for 6 weeks and closed on the 26th March 2026.
- 2.6 Under the provisions of the constitution 4.10.9 (19) “***To represent the views of the Council in responding to consultations with the Council by any outside body where it is expedient to do so or where the period for a response does not allow the consultation paper to be reported to Members, subject to contacting the relevant Portfolio Holder or the Leader and Deputy Leader where the matter is politically contentious and where appropriate reporting to Executive/Council subsequently.***” the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Devolution) prepared a formal response to the Derbyshire LGR consultation. This response reflected the support given by the previous Executive decision to support the Case for Change submission, and option A1 in particular.
- 2.7 As required by the constitution, a copy of the consultation response is attached at appendix 1.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The statutory consultation process for LGR formally sought the Council’s responses to the LGR proposals for Derbyshire. Submitting a response ensured

that the Council's position, including its support for Option A1, was clearly and consistently articulated to the Government.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 An alternative option was to not submit a response; however, this was rejected as to not submit a response would have meant that the Council's position on LGR for Derbyshire was not recorded as part of the formal statutory consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Executive note the statutory consultation response submitted on the 18th March 2026 by the Chief Executive.

Approved by Councillor Jane Yates, Leader of the Council

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Financial implications associated with Local Government Reorganisation are addressed in the Case for Change and supporting documentation previously reported to Council / Executive. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Section 151 Officer</p>		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: Local Government Reorganisation is governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated secondary legislation. Agreeing responses to the statutory consultation does not determine the final outcome, which remains a matter for Government and Parliament. <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 direct staffing implications arising from this report. <p style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Head of Paid Service</p>		
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: N/A		

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>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <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>
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Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
All

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1.	Copy of BDC response to Statutory Consultation submitted on 18 th March 2026 by Karen Hanson (CEO).

Background Papers
None.