

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Jane Yates in the Chair

Councillors:- Mary Dooley, Donna Hales, Clive Moesby, Tom Munro, John Ritchie and Phil Smith

Officers:- Jim Fieldsend (Monitoring Officer), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Sarah Kay (Interim Strategic Director Economic Growth), Ian Barber (Strategic Director Property, Construction & Assets), Victoria Dawson (Assistant Director Housing Management), Deborah Whallett (Housing Services Manager), Christopher McKinney (Senior Devolution Lead for Planning Policy, Strategic Growth and Housing), Arron Johnson (Policy Officer, Bolsover Partnership), Cheryl Staples (Programme & Projects Officer, Corporate Policy and Devolution Team), Peter Wilmot (HR Business Partner), and Alison Bluff (Senior Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting observing were Councillors Duncan McGregor, Cathy Jeffery and Jeanne Raspin.

EX190-25/26. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Rob Hiney-Saunders.

EX191-25/26. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

EX192-25/26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Minute No. | Member | Level of Interest |
|-------------|--|---|
| EX197-25/26 | Councillor Mary Dooley Councillor Donna Hales | Councillors Dooley and Hales would not partake in the discussion or vote on this item and would leave the meeting at the appropriate time |

EX193-25/26. MINUTES – 26th JANUARY 2026

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Phil Smith

RESOLVED that the minutes of an Executive held on 26th January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

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NON KEY DECISIONS

EX194-25/26.

HOUSING SERVICE PERFORMANCE UPDATE Q2-Q3 2025-2026

Executive considered a detailed report introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

The Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) required Executive to have oversight of the Housing Service.

The Assistant Director Housing Management presented the report which provided information to keep Members informed of the Housing Service's performance information for Q2 and Q3 25/26, to provide an update regarding actions under the Regulator for Social Housing Improvement Plan, as well as an update on other key pieces of work of the Housing Service.

The Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) were introduced by the Government, in April 2023 and were designed to help monitor how well landlords were doing at providing quality homes and services, and to understand how they could make improvements. The Council, as a registered provider with more than 1,000 dwellings, was required to annually publish performance information regarding compliance with the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSMs). These were split into two parts, 10 performance measures collected through landlord held management information, and 12 customer perception survey measures. In order to monitor compliance, these figures were reported quarterly to the Housing Liaison Board as well as the operational Housing Stock Management Group.

The Council was also required to publish information on its complaint performance. The Annual Complaint Handling and Service Improvement Report must be published by September each year, and to ensure compliance with timescales and trend data was monitored, this information was also presented to the Housing Liaison Board and Housing Stock Management Group.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Housing Officers for an excellent report.

Moved by Councillor Phil Smith and seconded by Councillor Clive Moesby
RESOLVED that performance information, and updates against the Regulator for Social Housing Improvement Plan be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Regulator for Social Housing had emphasised there needs to be greater oversight of the Housing Service by Executive. The report was for information to keep Members informed of the Housing Services performance information for Q2 and Q3 25/26 to provide an update regarding actions under the Regulator for Social Housing Improvement Plan as well as an update on other key pieces of work of the Housing Service.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Not applicable to this report as providing an overview of performance and for information only.

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The Assistant Director Housing Management and the Housing Services Manager left the meeting.

EX195-25/26.

BOLSOVER TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY 2026-2028

Executive considered a detailed report presented by Councillor Jeanne Raspin, Junior Portfolio Holder for Environment, which provided an update on the outcome of a consultation exercise on the draft Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy. The report also sought Executive's approval to make appropriate revisions and adopt the revised Strategy.

The Council had been preparing an ambitious Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy that would continue the great work of the Bolsover Community Woodlands project and see further opportunities for tree planting across the District.

In line with Executive's decision on 3rd November 2025, a four week period of public consultation was held between 17th November and 15th December 2025. This feedback was set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report and had been considered. Appendix 2 also included the Council's proposed response to the points and any proposed revision to the Strategy.

A final version of the Strategy had now been prepared, and this was attached as Appendix 3 to the report for Members consideration and approval.

In response to a question from the Portfolio Holder for Growth regarding the eventual removal of plastic tree tubes on new saplings, the Senior Devolution Lead for Planning Policy, Strategic Growth and Housing, advised the meeting that the Council had taken the approach to use biodegradable tubes, and management and maintenance funding was in place to be able to look after the future of the trees that the Council had planted.

Moved by Councillor Phil Smith and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie

RESOLVED that 1) the outcome of the consultation exercise as set out in the report and set out in Appendices 1 and 2 be noted,

2) the final Bolsover Tree and Woodland Strategy as discussed in the report and attached as Appendix 3, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

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

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

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.

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EX196-25/26.

PEOPLE STRATEGY 2026-2028

Executive considered a detailed report, presented by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, in relation to a People Strategy 2026 – 2028. The report set out the Council's approach to workforce development, wellbeing, inclusion, and readiness for Local Government Reorganisation. The strategy outlined priorities and actions to attract, retain, and develop a skilled, agile, and engaged workforce, supporting the Council's ambitions for excellent services, economic growth, environmental protection, and housing development.

The strategy included a breadth of key priorities to ensure the Council was ideally placed in the lead up to local government reorganisation and also aligned with the Council's vision to maximise and deliver excellent services, economic growth, environmental protection, and housing development. Furthermore, the strategy had been informed by the Council's Employee Survey conducted in 2024.

The strategy had been previously circulated for consultation purposes via email to the Council's Union Employment Consultation Committee.

The Leader noted she was pleased to see the strategy presented to Executive and that it was an excellent document.

Members also welcomed the strategy.

The HR Business Manager stated that further to Executive approval, the strategy would be launched to staff and work would take place with staff to delivery it. The strategy would be supported by action plans.

The Deputy Leader noted she was pleased to see that neurodiversity was included in the strategy.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro
RESOLVED that the adoption of the People Strategy 2026–2028 for the Council, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure the Council was equipped to meet future challenges and opportunities, particularly the transition to a Unitary Authority.

To maintain and enhance service delivery through investment in the Council's workforce development, wellbeing, and inclusion.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Not adopting the strategy would risk workforce disengagement, reduced service quality, and an inability to respond effectively to organisational change.

Failure to invest in development and wellbeing could impact on recruitment, retention and staff morale, with negative consequences for service delivery.

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KEY DECISIONS

Having previously declared their interest in the following item of business, Councillors Mary Dooley and Donna Hales left the meeting.

EX197-25/26.

CONTRACT AWARD TO ENABLE THE BOLSOVER PARTNERSHIP TO ADMINISTER THEIR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT

Executive considered a detailed report, presented by the Policy Officer, Bolsover Partnership, to seek Executive's approval to award an 18-month Children & Young People contract, to the value of £145,000, to the organisation awarded through the tender process.

Bolsover Partnership (via their Commissioning Board), was looking to commission an organisation to deliver innovative solutions and approaches to increase youth participation and youth leadership within Bolsover District, aligning with EMCCA's strategic vision and priorities for youth engagement. The purpose of the project was to empower young leaders, amplify youth voices, and embed young people in decision-making processes at all levels, to inform service development and delivery.

A detailed commissioning brief was produced, and following engagement with the Council's Procurement team, an invitation to tender was issued. Three bids were received by the closing date of 1st December 2025. The winning bidder was decided through a thorough evaluation and consensus scoring method. The contract was to commence in March 2026.

In relation to a question from the Portfolio Holder for Resources regarding monitoring of the project, the Policy Officer, Bolsover Partnership, advised that the project would be monitored and evaluated on a quarterly basis. A targeted approach would be undertaken using active research and working with internal and external partners, particularly the Community Safety Partnership and Leisure staff. When the funding came to an end, if the project had achieved its purpose, this would put the Council in a good position with EMCCA and what was coming through from DCC, who were carrying out a lot of youth work currently. Further, before the contract came to an end it would be looked at whether recommissioning could take place.

Moved by Councillor Jane Yates and seconded by Councillor Clive Moesby
RESOLVED that Direct Education Business Partnership be awarded the 18-month Children & Young People contract, to the value of £145,000

Reasons for Recommendation

As previously detailed under paragraphs 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of the report, Bolsover Partnership aims to address the various challenges being faced by Children & Young People within the District. The proposed project was therefore considered 'key' – indeed, this aligned with EMCCA's strategic priorities on youth leadership.

Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

Any further delay would be detrimental to the project.

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Councillors Mary Dooley and Donna Hales returned to the meeting.

EX198-25/26.

MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE DEBT – WRITE OFF OF OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS

Executive considered a detailed report which sought Members agreement to the proposed write-off of debts in respect of Business Rates, Council Tax and Housing Rents as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

When an amount of arrears became uncollectable it was described as a bad debt. Writing-off amounts which were no longer collectable was an essential part of the debt management process. It ensured that a focus was maintained on those amounts which were collectable, thus maximising overall levels of collection.

The Council's Constitution allowed the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to authorise the write-off of bad debts up to an approval limit of £2,500. The report recommends the write-off of a number of individual debts which were above the limit of £2,500. A table in the report gave a summary of each class of write-off. This showed the amounts already written off in 2025/26 and those being written off as part of the report, with amounts written off in previous years, as a comparison.

In all cases where there was cause to write debt off, every attempt had been made by the Council, and agencies working with the Council, to collect the outstanding debt before write-off was proposed.

Moved by Councillor Clive Moesby and seconded by Councillor John Rtichie

The meeting concluded at 1040 hours.