

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, Monday 13th April 2026 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members: -

Councillor Jane Yates in the Chair

Councillors: - Mary Dooley, Tom Munro, John Ritchie and Phil Smith.

Officers: - Karen Hanson (Chief Executive), Theresa Fletcher (Section 151 Officer), Jim Fieldsend (Monitoring Officer), Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Mark Giles (Assistant Director Streetscene) (to Minute No. EX209-25/26.), Victoria Dawson (Assistant Director of Housing Management) (to Minute No. EX209-25/26.), Ian Barber (Strategic Director Property, Construction & Assets), Sarah Kay (Interim Strategic Director Economic Growth), Natalie Etches (Head of Business Growth), Caroline Dagsh (Senior Economic Development Officer (Growth and Investment) (to Minute No. EX209-25/26.), Cheryl Staples (Programme & Projects Officer, Corporate Policy and Devolution Team) (to Minute No. EX205-25/26.), Jessica Clayton (Programme & Major Projects Manager, Planning, Devolution & Corporate Policy Directorate) (to Minute No. EX205-25/26.), and Alison Bluff (Senior Governance Officer)

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor Vicky Waplington (Chair of Customer Services Scrutiny Committee) (to Minute No. EX206-25/26.), Coby Bunyan (Scrutiny Officer) (to Minute No. EX206-25/26.), and Junior Executive Members Councillors Jeanne Raspin, Cathy Jeffery, (to Minute No. EX209-25/26. and Councillor Duncan McGregor (to Minute No. EX209-25/26.)

EX199-25/26.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Donna Hales, Rob Hiney-Saunders and Clive Moesby.

EX200-25/26.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

EX201-25/26.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

EX202-25/26.

MINUTES – 2ND MARCH 2026

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie
RESOLVED that the Minutes of an Executive meeting held on 2nd March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

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EX203-25/26. CUSTOMER SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF TWO POST SCRUTINY MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive considered a detailed report, presented by the Chair of Customer Services Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Vicky Waplington, which sought Member's approval to withdraw the following two recommendations which had arisen from previous Customer Service Scrutiny Committee Reviews.

At its meeting held on 23rd March 2026, Customer Services Scrutiny Committee considered two post scrutiny monitoring reports, which related to 1) the Review of Members ICT & Support and ICT Service Delivery, and 2) the Review of Effectiveness of Council's Waste Collection and Disposal Education.

1) CSSC22-23 1.4

“That the necessary works are completed in the Chamber to upgrade the power supply. This will future proof the space enabling all those in attendance to access power and accommodate the move to use of electronic devices for committee papers. This would also likely be required should alternative speaker/chamber systems were purchased.”

Officer advice had been received which was to withdraw this recommendation due to the high cost of installation, and the alternative options available such as extension leads if these were required.

2) CSSC23-24 1.10

“That the Council considers the development of an ‘app’ as a long-term investment, modelled on systems used by the top performing waste authorities through benchmarking and comparing business processes and performance metrics.”

Officer advice had been received to withdraw this recommendation due to the anticipated Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which would lead to structural changes at Bolsover District Council.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Jane Yates

RESOLVED that recommendations CSSC22-23 1.4 and CSSC23-24 1.10 as detailed above, be withdrawn for the reasons given in the report.

REASON FOR DECISION

CSSC22-23 1.4 - the high cost of providing power supplies to the tables within the chamber was not considered to be value for money when alternative options such as the provision of extension leads to the existing power points in the floor could be used. The lifespan for laptops, when fully charged should exceed the average duration of meetings held in the chamber.

CSSC23-24 1.10 - this recommendation was unlikely to be taken forward due to potential structural changes at Bolsover District Council which would result following Local Government Reorganisation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not to withdraw the recommendations – not recommended for the reasons detailed in the report.

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EX204-25/26. COUNCIL PLAN TARGETS & KPI PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCT TO DEC 2025 (Q3)

Executive considered a detailed report, introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Mary Dooley, in relation to the Council Plan targets 2024-2028 for Quarter 3 of 2025/26.

The Programme & Projects Officer presented the report which provided the performance outturns as of 31st December 2025 for the 2025/26 Quarter 3 outturns for Council Plan targets

Out of the 33 targets; 3 (9%) had been achieved, 3 (9%) were behind target, 23 (70%) were on track, 2 (6%) were not on track and 2 (6%) had been extended.

Out of the 55 key performance indicators; 40 (73%) had a positive outturn, 6 (11%) had a negative outturn and 9 (17%) were within target.

A summary of Dragonfly performance against their key performance indicators was appended to the report. This would change at Quarter 4 as Dragonfly had since moved into the Council.

In relation to EH 03 Percentage of planned Local Auth Pollution Prevention Control (LA-PPC) inspections carried out against programme (EH07), Scrutiny had queried this target as Q2 comments had noted a target of 17 inspections and Q3 had noted 16 inspections. The explanation received was that a premises was due for inspection but had then become inactive. Officers had noted that due to inspection cycles (12 months and 36 months), it would be better to report on this target annually, however, Scrutiny had requested that it remained to be reported quarterly.

Councillor Dooley referred to HR01 Days sickness per full time employee, and if sickness absence was an upward trend in all local authorities. Councillor Yates noted that she was committed to the health and wellbeing of all BDC staff, however, she did not feel this was an area of particular concern as sickness absence was high across the East Midlands region. A lot of work was carried out at the Council to support staff as much as possible with their health and wellbeing.

Councillor Dooley referred to RS 11 % HB overpayment arrears and queried if a lack of staff was an issue. The Section 151 Officer replied that collection of sundry debtors arrears had been moved into Revenues and Benefits, and staff had spent a lot of time carrying this out. Also, there had not been many housing benefit overpayment arrears.

Councillor Dooley referred to ENV.05 - Carry out 155 targeted proactive littering dog fouling patrols per year and queried how many fines had been issued. The Assistant Director Streetscene advised that since environmental enforcement staff had been brought back into the Council, more patrols were carried out in key areas, including signs and stencils put out also in key areas, such as parks. Unfortunately, a patrol officer needed to witness an incident to be able to issue a fine. The Assistant Director Streetscene would advise Councillor Dooley after the meeting of the number of fines issued.

Councillor Dooley referred to SS 02 Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly) and queried if more flytipping was being experienced. The Assistant Director Streetscene advised that environmental enforcement staff were concentrating on fly tipping hotspots in the District and a number of

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operations were currently underway and serious offences being investigated which would eventually be reported in the press.

Councillor Munro referred to residents who put waste out on pavements in front of their homes to be collected by waste collectors and noted that when waste was physically put on the pavement this was classed as fly tipping. He requested that all Members be advised to be diligent regarding this and also to report any fly tipping they see.

Councillor Dooley referred to ECO.06 - Deliver a fully operational crematorium and manage this facility to generate income from 2025 and queried if this should be 2026, she also queried if all the work listed on the report had now been finished. The Head of Business Growth advised that the year should read 2026 and advised that all works had been completed on the building, which would be opened in Spring this year.

Councillor Yates referred to CSP 07. % of External Satisfaction (Realtime) and the outturn of 58% against a target of 85% (24 surveys received) which was a low response rate. She noted that this had been due to a system error in November 2025, and queried at what point this had been discovered, and if measures had been put in place if this were to happen again. The Assistant Director Housing Management advised that the system error had been resolved relatively quickly, and Quarter 4 figures would be accurate. Councillor Yates noted she was pleased to see that customers had been contacted and were happy with the outcome.

Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Phil Smith

RESOLVED that quarterly outturns against the Council Plan 2024-2028 targets, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

This was an information report to keep Members informed of progress against the Council Plan 2024-2028 noting progress and any areas of concern.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable to this report as providing an overview of performance against agreed targets.

The Programme & Projects Officer, and the Programme & Major Projects Manager, left the meeting.

EX205-25/26. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Executive considered a report, presented by the Portfolio Holder for Devolution, Councillor John Ritchie, in relation to the response to the Derbyshire LGR Statutory Consultation, submitted by the Chief Executive on 18th March 2026 under the Constitution provisions 4.10.9 (19).

On 5th February 2026, the Government launched the statutory consultation for LGR proposals in Derbyshire. The consultation ran for six weeks and closed on 26th March 2026.

Under the provisions of the Council's 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*

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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 of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Devolution, prepared a formal response to the Derbyshire LGR consultation. The response reflected the support given by the previous Executive decision to support the ‘Case for Change’ submission, and option A1 in particular.

As required by the Constitution, a copy of the consultation response was appended to the report.

Members thanked the Chief Executive, specifically the Interim Strategic Director Economic Growth, and the rest of the team, for the phenomenal amount of work put into the consultation response.

Moved by Councillor John Ritchie and seconded by councillor Jane Yates

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

REASON FOR DECISION:

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.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

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.

Councillor Vicky Waplington and the Scrutiny Officer left the meeting.

EX206-25/26.

ANALYTICAL RENT ARREARS SOFTWARE

Executive considered a detailed report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Phil Smith, which sought Members approval to enter into a 2 year contract with Mobyssoft for RentSense, an analytical rent arrears product.

Recent performance reporting from Mobyssoft continued to provide confirmation that the system was making an impact on rent recovery which was also confirmed in Housing Key Performance Indicators. There was an annual target of 92% rent recovery and at the end of Quarter 3 (25/26) this was at 96%.

A new short term 2 year fixed contract was now sought, and after this period, the Housing Case Management system would be able to offer the same analytical functionality in time, at little or no additional costs.

The Monitoring Officer referred to paragraph 2.4 in the report and noted that there was no Assistant Director Governance on the Council’s establishment, and this should read, the Strategic Director Legal, Governance & Monitoring Officer.

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Moved by Councillor Phil Smith and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro

RESOLVED that the contract for 2 years to Mobyssoft for the RentSense software, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION

Mobyssoft were identified as the best supplier through a procurement exercise, and the direct award offers a cost-effective solution as a short 2 year contract. This system is ensuring that we achieve a better rent collection rate, and we are seeing a reduction in arrears.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, as Mobyssoft were identified as the best supplier through an agreed procurement exercise.

EX207-25/26. EXTENSION OF THE BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2026-2027

Executive considered a detailed report, presented by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Councillor Tom Munro, which sought Members approval for a two-year extension to the Business Support Programme from 2026/27, and agree to commit £200,000 from the transformation reserve for continuation of current business support activities.

In April 2022, the UK Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which provided £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment through to March 2025.

Through the UKSPF allocation 2022 - 2025, the Council received £1,963,993. In April 2025 it was announced that UKSPF funding would be extended and an additional allocation of £803,023 for the 12-month period April 2025 - March 2026 was received by the Council.

There were three investment priorities that the UKSPF funding aimed to address: Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

Through UKSPF funding, over the past three years (March 2023 - March 2026), the Business Growth Team had been delivering successful grant schemes and had also commissioned projects to meet the objectives of the three priorities, including three business support programmes:

- Hyper Local Business Support (delivered by Clowne Enterprise)
- Business Detox and Female Business Owners Monthly Training and Networking Events (delivered by Filter Free Business)
- Creative Women's Network (delivered by PlatformThirty1)

All three of these programmes had been extremely successful as detailed in the report and had met or exceeded the majority of their outputs and outcomes. However, despite the announcement that UKSPF allocation expenditure could be extended until the end of September 2026, no further grant funding had been allocated and therefore the current business support programmes in place were set to end on 31st March 2026.

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Executive was requested that a funding budget of £200,000 be established using transformation reserves to enable the business support programmes to be continued for a period of up to two years, commencing in April 2026.

In response to a question from Councillor Phil Smith regarding the budget status, the Section 151 Officer advised that Economic Loan Fund monies which were no longer required could be repurposed for this request.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor John Ritchie

RESOLVED that a two-year extension to the Business Support Programme from 2026/27 be approved, and £200,000 be committed from the Transformation Reserve for continuation of current business support activities.

REASON FOR DECISION:

Given all three business support programmes had been able to evidence their value over the past 3 years it was considered that for them to not be able to continue due to the lack of funding would be detrimental to so many of the Bolsover businesses that have taken advantage of all the support delivered by each programme.

The cost of delivering the programmes for the year April 2025 – March 2026 was £96,000:

- Hyper Local Business Support - £50,000
- Business Detox and Female Business Owners Events - £34,000
- Creative Women's Network - £12,000

It was therefore requested that a funding budget of £200,000 was established using transformation reserves to enable the business support programmes to be continued for a period of up to two years, commencing in April 2026. This would see the business support programmes continue to be made available to local businesses in Bolsover until the end of March 2028, by which time there was likely to be more certainty on the grant support available through EMCCA and as any new unitary authority across Derbyshire enters vesting day.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

An alternative option was to do nothing and allow current business support programmes to come to an end as of the 31st of March 2026. However this had been rejected as this may see some businesses reduce activity or stagnate, potentially impacting on future employment opportunities for residents and reducing the attractiveness of businesses remaining in the district.

A further alternative was to only offer sufficient funding to extend the business support programme for 12 months (£100,000), however it was preferable that funding was extended to 24 months to take the programme up to the potential vesting day of a new unitary authority.

EX208-25/26. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT FOR WORKS AT PLEASLEY VALE

Executive considered a detailed report, introduced by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, which sought Members approval for the appointment of A2 Maritime for the survey, design, technical documentation, technical supervision, and principal designer services, for the

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high and medium priority recommended works to the culverts and associated infrastructure at Pleasley Vale.

The Head of Business Growth presented the report, which provided details of works previously approved by Executive, which had been undertaken and continued to be undertaken, at Pleasley Vale. Following on from this, it had been identified from works and surveys carried out in the culverts that a number of repairs were now necessary, and these were detailed at paragraph 1.7 of the report.

A schedule and scope of works were now required based on the survey results by A2 Maritime as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

As landowner of the site, the Council were legally responsible for the upkeep of watercourses, including culverts and pipes situated on or under their property and should a culvert collapse or become blocked, resulting in the obstruction of an "online" watercourse, the landowner faced substantial legal and financial repercussions, which may include enforcement actions initiated by authorities such as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Environment Agency, or Internal Drainage Board (IDB), who could issue legal notices under the Land Drainage Act 1991 compelling the landowner to remove any obstruction. If the landowner failed to comply within a reasonable period, the responsible authority may enter the land, carry out the necessary remedial works, and recover all associated costs from the landowner.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Jane Yates

RESOLVED that 1) £153,900 + £15,000 (10% project contingency) of funding be allocated from the Transformation Reserve for the survey, design, technical documentation, technical supervision, and principal designer services for the high and medium priority recommended works to the culverts and associated infrastructure at Pleasley Vale,

2) the appointment of A2 Maritime to undertake the works as set out in the report, be approved,

3) £10,000 of funding be allocated from the Transformation Reserve for P&D Environmental to accompany A2 Maritime, as a requirement when undertaking inspections within the culverts under the confined spaces regulations,

4) a further report be brought back to the Executive detailing the scope of services for the repairs and works to be carried out.

REASON FOR DECISION

Riparian landowners were legally responsible for the upkeep of watercourses, including culverts and pipes situated on or under their property. Should a culvert collapse or become blocked, resulting in the obstruction of an "online" watercourse, the landowner faces substantial legal and financial repercussions. These may include enforcement actions initiated by authorities such as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Environment Agency, or Internal Drainage Board (IDB), who could issue legal notices under the Land Drainage Act 1991 compelling the landowner to remove any obstruction. If the landowner failed to comply within a reasonable period, the responsible authority may enter the land, carry out the necessary remedial works, and recover all associated costs from the landowner.

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Further liabilities arise if flooding occurs due to neglected maintenance, as the landowner may be sued for negligence or nuisance by affected neighbours, businesses, or the highway authority. Additionally, failing to act on a legal notice or leaving a watercourse blocked may constitute a criminal offence under Section 25 of the Land Drainage Act. Breaches of these obligations can be formally recorded and disclosed to third parties during property searches, potentially impacting future land sales.

It was important to note that the duty to maintain culverts remained with the current landowner, regardless of who originally installed the structure or whether the owner was aware of its existence. While maintenance was mandatory, common law generally did not require landowners to upgrade the capacity of culverts, only to ensure their proper upkeep. In cases of significant failure, a culvert may be classified as a "flood risk management asset" by the local council, highlighting the importance of regular maintenance to mitigate risks and comply with legal requirements.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council could consider the procurement of a specialist marine structural engineer to undertake these works through an open procurement route. However, due to the extent, and knowledge, of the site that has been established through work and surveys undertaken to date there was an efficiency of continuing with the same structural engineer who had completed the surveys to date. There was also an urgency to carrying out these works before the winter to prevent further damage from a high volume of water flow through the culverts.

Junior Executive Members Councillors Jeanne Raspin, Cathy Jeffery, and Councillor Duncan McGregor, the Assistant Director of Housing Management, the Assistant Director Streetscene, and the Senior Economic Development Officer (Growth and Investment) left the meeting.

EX209-25/26. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor Jane Yates and seconded by Councillor Tom Munro
RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

EX210-25/26. PLEASLEY VALE BUSINESS PARK OPTIONS APPRAISAL EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

Executive considered a detailed report presented by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Councillor Tom Munro, in relation to options for Pleasley Vale Business Park.

Members raised questions and a discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor Tom Munro and seconded by Councillor Jane Yates
RESOLVED that the recommendations in the report be approved.

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REASON FOR DECISION:

As set out in the report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

As set out in the report.

The meeting concluded at 1051 hours.