

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of Annual Council on 20th May 2026

Establishment of Committees and Proportionality 2026/27

Report of the Strategic Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Jim Fieldsend Strategic Director of Legal, Governance and Monitoring Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To establish the Council's Committees and Advisory Groups for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 In line with the provisions within legislation and the Council's Constitution, the Annual Meeting of Council is required to:
- Appoint at least one Scrutiny Committee and other such committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council Meeting nor are Executive Functions.
 - Decide the size and terms of reference for those committees.
 - Decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules.
- 1.2 The political balance calculations have been impacted by one former Conservative Councillor moving to Reform in January 2026 which has resulted in a change to the political make-up of the Council.
- 1.3 The political make up on the Council is now: Labour – 22 Councillors, Independent Group – 11 Councillors, Reform – 2 Councillors, 1 Conservative Councillor and 1 independent Councillor.
- 1.4 This report therefore brings forward the proposed allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules for Council approval.

- 1.5 Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Any Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.
- 1.6 The report also seeks to establish an Investigation and Disciplinary Committee, an Independent Panel and a Grievance Committee in order to have adequate provisions in place to deal with disciplinary/grievance matters relating to Statutory Officers. This follows communication from Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives advising that local authorities should ensure structures are in place to consider potential matters involving Statutory Officers. This was considered by the Standards Committee on 11th May 2026.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The size for each Committee is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 The terms of reference of all current committees will remain as currently set out in the Council's Constitution.
- 2.3 The terms of reference of the new committees is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 **Appendix 3** sets out the allocation of committee seats which best meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.5 Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 establishes the rules for allocation of the seats to councillors. These are as follows:
 - (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;
 - (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the +same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and
 - (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

- 2.6 The key principle is that (b) that the majority of seats on each committee should be allocated to the majority group which is detailed in **Appendix 3** to the report.

In summary this proposal comprises:

Allocation of ordinary committee seats (66 in total)		
	Oct 2025 Actual	May 2026 proposed
Labour Group	35	42
Independent Group	17	20
Reform	1	4
Conservative Councillor	3	0
Independent Councillor	0	0
Total seats	56	66
Scrutiny Committee seat allocations (29 in total)		
	Oct 2025 Actual	May 2026 proposed
Labour Group	17	17
Independent Group	10	9
Reform	0	2
Conservative Councillor	2	1
Independent Councillor	0	0
Total seats	29	29

- 2.7 The Committees are subject to the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Advisory Groups are not subject to the political balance requirements.

- 2.8 Nominations to committees are detailed in a separate report.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The report recommends changes to the allocation of Committee seats detailed in **Appendix 3** due to a Conservative Councillor moving to Reform in January 2026. The changes would ensure that the Council still meets the requirements of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act as far as reasonably practicable.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Council is required within legislation and by the provisions within its constitution to establish committees at the annual meeting.
- 4.2 Members may consider that they wish to change the allocation, but this is not advised because the proposed allocation best meets the political balance requirements.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (1) That the Council's committees, their terms of reference and size as set out in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** be established for the 2026/27 Municipal Year in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 1.1(k);
- (2) That Council agrees the allocation of seats on committees as set out in **Appendix 3**, in accordance with the political balance rules; and
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and relevant Committee Chair (when appointed) to make amendments to the terms of reference for committees arising within the 2026/27 municipal year.

Finance and Risk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no finance or risk implications arising from this report		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
Legal (including Data Protection) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The Council is required to appoint at least one Scrutiny Committee and other such committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council Meeting nor are Executive Functions; decide the size and terms of reference for those committees; and decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with Political Balance rules. The Council is required to decide the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the Political Balance rules set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		

Staffing Yes No

Details:

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

Equality and Diversity, and Consultation Yes No

Details:

There are no Equality and Diversity, and Consultation implications arising from this report.

Environment Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

There are no Environmental implications arising from this report.

DECISION INFORMATION

Please indicate which threshold applies:

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:

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.

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.

District Wards Significantly Affected:

(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)

Please state below which wards are affected or tick **All** if all wards are affected:

None

Yes No

(a) (b)

(a) (b)

All

<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If Yes, 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>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input 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>	

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
Customers

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Establishment of Committees
2	Terms of reference of new Committees
3	Proportionality on Committees

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>
None