

Mark,

I write to you in regards to your recent accusations of Bolsover District Council spending the £15 million of Regeneration funding on 'piecemeal projects' across the district in a recent Facebook video and in letters sent out to Bolsover constituents in recent days.

From this video, I have some questions which I would like answering. These are;

- Why in your letter and video have you neglected to say that you have refused to support over £6 million+ allocated to the Bolsover town centre schemes?
- Where is the 'bureaucratic loophole' that you mention in your video? Your own government set the criteria for spending the funding in January 2024 and it wasn't earmarked for Bolsover Town Centre, even though millions of pounds of investment is still allocated for projects here.
- Why have you neglected to say that all the deliverable projects from LUF2 in Bolsover have been included in the schemes put forward to Government?
- You know the reason that some of the Bolsover projects have fallen out of the scope is due to the 2-year timeframe to spend the money, that some of the property is no longer available, some of the work has been carried out and that other properties in Bolsover have been identified and included. Why did you not mention this in your leaflet of video?
- You were asked to identify additional projects within Bolsover that could meet the criteria. Why have you not put forward any alternative Bolsover projects that can be delivered within the timeframe?
- The main reason the LUF2 bid failed (the bid you put in for Bolsover Town Centre) was that it wasn't deliverable, the current proposals are deliverable! It is no good being allocated funds if it cannot be spent, current proposals put forward by the district ensure the benefit will be seen across the district including Bolsover town centre. You know this, so why have you chosen to ignore these facts.
- You know that it is essential that projects are deliverable within the (less than) 2 year timeframe to spend the money. You know that only just over 10% (£1.24billion of £10.47billion awarded) of the levelling up money has been spent since levelling up was launched in 2020. Why do you want BDC to sign up to deliver the LUF2 bid projects when you know they can't be delivered and therefore the schemes won't benefit the people of the district?
- Why have you neglected to tell people that BDC is seeking £5m in Arts Council money to invest in Bolsover town centre? Instead of being filmed in front of the Coop trying to make a political point on something you know can't be delivered in the funding timescale? Why wouldn't you put your support behind something with a longer delivery timescale, which will benefit the people of Bolsover?
- Why are you ignoring the recent complains from other business across the district, who are asking for support and investment in their areas?

I look forward to a swift response, just as I have been giving to my constituents who have been emailing me worried and concerned due to your misleading video and letter.

Kind Regards,

Councillor Ashley Taylor

Bolsover North & Shuttlewood