

Annual Meeting of: The Council

Special Meeting of: The Council to confer the title Honorary Alderman

Time: 6.30pm

Date

20th May 2022

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



Join Zoom Meeting (please allow time for set up if accessing for the first time):

<https://zoom.us/j/95728023249?pwd=T1c5M3ZjVzNrdFVGdzRuUnRoTXdYUT09>

Meeting ID: 957 2802 3249

Passcode: 479216

Please note that a waiting room will be in place for the Zoom meeting and public will be admitted to the meeting shortly before 6.30pm.

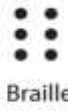
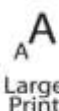
Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422

Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk

	ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	CIVIC MATTERS	
A1.	Election of the Mayor The retiring Mayor will invite nominations for the position of Mayor for 2022/23.	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
A2.	Election of the Deputy Mayor The Mayor will invite nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2022/23.	
A3.	Presentation and vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress	
B.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
B1.	Apologies for absence	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B2.	Minutes of the last meeting To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 th March 2022.	
B3.	Urgent items of business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
B4.	Declarations of interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	Clare Birtwistle, Monitoring Officer. Tel: (01706) 252438 Email: clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

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<p>B5.</p>	<p>Retiring councillors – vote of thanks The Mayor will call for a vote of thanks for those councillors who have retired following the local elections on 5th May 2022.</p> <p>Retiring councillor and ward</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Christine Gill</td> <td>Hareholme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Essex</td> <td>Helmshore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denis Kostyan</td> <td>Irwell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Stevens</td> <td>Longholme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karl Kempson</td> <td>Whitewell</td> </tr> </table>	Christine Gill	Hareholme	Brian Essex	Helmshore	Denis Kostyan	Irwell	Joseph Stevens	Longholme	Karl Kempson	Whitewell	<p>Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>														
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Karl Kempson	Whitewell																									
<p>B6.</p>	<p>Election of councillors The Chief Executive as the Returning Officer will report that at the Council Elections held on 5th May 2022, the following persons were duly elected as councillors for the wards stated:</p> <p>Name of person elected and ward</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Anne Cheetham</td> <td>Eden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Granville Morris</td> <td>Greenfield</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Eaton</td> <td>Greensclough</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alyson Barnes</td> <td>Goodshaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annie McMahon</td> <td>Hareholme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Neal</td> <td>Healey & Whitworth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Caroline Snowden</td> <td>Helmshore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michelle Smith</td> <td>Irwell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liz McInnes</td> <td>Longholme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jackie Oakes</td> <td>Stacksteads</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Coogan</td> <td>Whitewell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ann Kenyon</td> <td>Worsley</td> </tr> </table>	Anne Cheetham	Eden	Granville Morris	Greenfield	James Eaton	Greensclough	Alyson Barnes	Goodshaw	Annie McMahon	Hareholme	Alan Neal	Healey & Whitworth	Caroline Snowden	Helmshore	Michelle Smith	Irwell	Liz McInnes	Longholme	Jackie Oakes	Stacksteads	Mary Coogan	Whitewell	Ann Kenyon	Worsley	<p>Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
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Ann Kenyon	Worsley																									
<p>B7.</p>	<p>Appointment of the Leader of the Council To appoint the Leader of the Council for a 4 year term.</p>	<p>Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>																								
<p>B8.</p>	<p>Communications from the Mayor, the Leader and Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.</p>	<p>Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>																								
<p>B9.</p>	<p>Political balance, committees and outside bodies for 2022/23 To consider the report of the Chief Executive on the allocation of seats to the political groups; the appointments to committees, and appointments to outside bodies for the year.</p>	<p>Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>																								
<p>B10.</p>	<p>Proposed consultation on moving to whole-council elections To consider proposed consultation on moving to whole-council elections.</p>	<p>Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>																								

C.	SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS	
C1.	Honorary Aldermen To consider the nominations and to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Rossendale to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Evans• Judith Driver• Tom Aldred	Neil Shaw, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: neilshaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Neil Shaw
Chief Executive

Date Published: 12th May 2022

COUNCILLOR JACKIE OAKES, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 16th March 2022

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Oakes (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Cheetham, James Eaton, Essex, Foxcroft, Hughes, Johnson, Kempson, Kenyon, Lythgoe, Marriott, Morris, Neal, Powell, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, Serridge, Steen, Stevens, Thompson, Walmsley, Whitehead and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Neil Shaw, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Adam Allen, Director of Communities
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Karen Spencer, Head of Finance/ S151 Officer
Anne Storah, Principal Planner- Forward Planning
John Illingworth, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
By remote access (Zoom): 3 public observers.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors L Barnes, Janet Eaton, Gill, Haworth, MacNae and Pendelbury.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council informed that when government announce the programme for Ukraine refugee support, the Council would participate as they had for other refugee crises along with the local communities. As a mark of solidarity the Ukraine flag had been raised at The Ashcroft in Whitworth and fundraising activities had been undertaken. Preparations had already begun, led by Lancashire County Council, and the Communities Team had been co-ordinating information to local groups. The Council would continue to monitor the situation and were ready to respond.

Discussions were continuing on Lancashire's aspiration to develop a County Deal. The Government's insistence that borough councils cannot be constituent members of a governance structure overseeing a County Deal had triggered all the Lancashire councils to

take stock of their view on a future deal. Discussions remained positive and the Leader would continue to have discussions on how they could plot a way forward.

The Leader of the Council informed that Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust had launched an Initial Response Service for those in need of urgent help with their mental health. The Pennine locality was the first to go live using one “golden” number as a crisis line on 0300 029 0500. A street triage service had also been launched. Councillors were provided with a leaflet containing the relevant information.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

6. Single Use Plastic Strategy

The Council considered the Single Use Plastic Strategy.

It was noted that this was a good piece of work and thanks were given to the members and officers that had worked putting the strategy together.

Resolved:

Council agreed the Single Use Plastics Strategy for Rossendale.

Reason for Decision

Achieving Plastic Free status and reducing the council’s use of single use plastics is a key priority for the Council as part of its broader strategy to address climate change and carbon reduction. It is considered that the attached strategy provides a balanced approach to reducing Single Use Plastics within the Council and importantly it provides an essential platform for communities in Rossendale to work on becoming accredited as plastic free.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Adoption of Rossendale Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment and Strategy

The Council considered the Adoption of Rossendale Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment and Strategy.

In response to the item, it was confirmed that:

- Sport facilities were essential particularly for our young people and our residents’ mental health.
- This was part of our wellbeing strategy.
- The running track was being replaced following an excellent fundraising campaign by the clubs.
- The area was surrounded by wonderful countryside and had activities such as the Round the Hills Walk.
- There was a wildlife play area in Whitworth as a result of the Council.
- The assessment and strategy were important for planning investment opportunities.
- The closest hockey clubs were Rochdale and Bury.
- It would be beneficial to encourage people to take part in cheaper sports, as some sports were a financial burden for parents.

N.B. Councillor Serridge left the meeting.

- The strategy would support funding bids for improvements in playing pitches through partner organisations such as Sport England and the Football Foundation.
- The decrease in Government funding to Council’s had impacted on delivery.

Thanks were given to the officers involved in the strategy.

Resolved:

1. To adopt the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment and Strategy (PPOSS).
2. To use the evidence contained to help inform future feasibility work.
3. Any further changes to the document to be delegated to Director of Economic Development in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Reason for Decision

Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy as well as the underlying Assessment Report will ensure that the document can be used in the assessment of contributions arising from planning applications as well as guide the priority of work to be undertaken (including maintenance) and identify where funding applications should be focused to enable the Council to attract inward investment from organisations such as the Football Foundation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION**8. Notice of motion**

Councillor Foxcroft moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Rigby:

Council requests officers to present a report for members to consider commencement of a consultation process on whether the Council should change from elections in thirds to whole-council elections every 4 years to be triggered upon completion of the Boundary Review.

N.B. Councillor Serridge returned to the meeting.

In response to the motion the following was noted:

- There had previously been all out elections.
- There was a need to put forward considered views taking on board the views of our residents.
- Political parties can put views forward too.
- General support for the sentiment, but it should not pre-empt the consultation response.

Resolved:

The motion was not carried.

Reason for Decision

To reject the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Notice of motion

Councillor Marriott moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Serridge:

This Council condemns the war of aggression, war crimes and genocide in Ukraine.

This Council will not procure or purchase any goods or services originating from the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.

At the earliest opportunity, this Council will conduct a review of its contracts with commercial companies in order to consider its position with regards to those contracts. Pending the review the Council will not extend or renew contracts with businesses domiciled or operating

subsidiaries or supplying goods or services from the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.

Resolved:

This Council condemns the war of aggression, war crimes and genocide in Ukraine.

This Council will not procure or purchase any goods or services originating from the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.

At the earliest opportunity, this Council will conduct a review of its contracts with commercial companies in order to consider its position with regards to those contracts. Pending the review the Council will not extend or renew contracts with businesses domiciled or operating subsidiaries or supplying goods or services from the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Notice of motion

Councillor Samara Barnes moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hughes:

This council notes:

- *Inflation is at an all-time high (5.1%) with predictions from the Bank of England projecting this could top 7% over the coming year.*
- *Fuel pump prices have increased*
- *In 'real terms' wages have dropped by 0.9% for total pay and 1% for regular pay <https://inews.co.uk/news/cost-of-living-crisis-only-just-begun-real-terms-pay-cut-soaring-prices-1409119>*
- *Energy prices are soaring, and the energy price cap has been removed*
- *Many of our residents are having to choose between heating and eating.*
- *The governments' **removal of the £20 per week Universal Credit** top-up has had a detrimental effect on residents in Rossendale. People have less money to spend - and in turn that is less money being put into the local economy here in Rossendale.*
- ***National Insurance Contributions** are rising by 1.25% in April. In real terms, it means that an employee earning £20,000 a year will have to pay an extra £130.*
- ***Rents and mortgage payments** are expected to rise. Rents increased by an average of 1.7% to November, and with an anticipated increase in interest rates, mortgage payments will increase.*
- ***Council tax increases** have been seen at borough and county level - due to underinvestment in local authority from central government.*

We, therefore, ask the council to:

- *Continue to work with and support local advice agencies, foodbanks and food groups.*
- *Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting that VAT on domestic energy bills is reassessed.*
- *Lobby central government to extend the Household Support Fund past its current March 31st 2022 end date as we know that people will continue to struggle to pay for food and energy past the deadline date of the scheme.*

In response to the motion the following was noted:

- The Council Tax rebate was welcomed, but it did not go far enough.
- Council had supported residents, Citizens Advice, Credit Unions, food banks and had administered various grants, but these grants were drawing to a close.
- The Communities Team had done some great work and were taking a partnership approach.
- It was important to encourage people to make contact with us at an early stage if they were struggling.
- There was a need to work with our partners such as Together Housing to see how we can best help our residents.
- Government had taken steps to target those who need help the most.
- No child in this country should be born to be hungry.
- Removing the 5% would not be enough but every little helped.
- There was a need to look at what we are doing and identify where the gaps were.

A recorded vote was requested by three members.

Voting took place as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr James Eaton	For
Cllr Essex	Against
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Hughes	For
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kempson	Against
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Morris	Against
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Rooke	For
Cllr Serridge	For
Cllr Steen	Against
Cllr Stevens	For
Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
For:	19
Against:	9
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

The council to:

- Continue to work with and support local advice agencies, foodbanks and food groups.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting that VAT on domestic energy bills is reassessed.
- Lobby central government to extend the Household Support Fund past its current March 31st 2022 end date as we know that people will continue to struggle to pay for food and energy past the deadline date of the scheme.

Reason for Decision

To support the motion

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

11. Council Pay Policy Statement

The Council considered the Pay Policy Statement.

Resolved:

Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement.

Reason for Decision

The Pay Policy Statement meets the legal requirements as per the Localism Act 2011.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.53pm and concluded at 8.05pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Annual Council		Date:	20 th May 2022	
Report of:	Chief Executive		Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council	
Key Decision:	No - reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attached:	No
Contact Officer:	Carolyn Sharples		Telephone:	01706 <phone>	
Email:	carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk				

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Council confirm appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:

- Appendix A - Draft political balance calculation
- Appendix B - Draft committees of the Council, working groups, member champions and other meetings.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following the elections the Council has a new political balance.
- The appointments to committees for 2022/23 reflects this new balance (Appendix B).
- Appendix B also details:
 - Cabinet appointments
 - Chair/vice-chair appointments
 - Member Champion appointments
 - Working group and other appointments

3. BACKGROUND

The Council is required to confirm the political balance following the elections and agree committee appointments in order to conduct its business.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 At each Annual Meeting the Council agrees the appointments for the coming municipal year and this document (Appendix B) sets out the number of appointments which need to be made.
- 4.2 There are strict rules on political balance/proportionality, which apply to appointments to decision making bodies of the Council. Appendix A illustrates the political balance.
- 4.3 Political balance does not apply to the Cabinet which may be either single or multi party.
- 4.4 The proposals of the Council's various political groups for appointments to the Council's committees, working groups, member champions and other meetings including outside bodies are set out in Appendix B. This includes the confirmation of co-opted members on the Audit and Accounts Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.5 The Chief Executive has delegated authority to make any in-year changes where notified.

4.6 Consultation has been carried out with Corporate Management Team and political groups.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- If appointments are not made to the committees then there is a risk that the Council will not be able to effectively conduct its business over the coming months. In addition, if appointments are not made to outside bodies there is a risk that the Council's views will not be represented in the debates undertaken within those bodies.

6. FINANCE

There are no material financial matters arising from the report.

7. LEGAL

There are no specific legal implications identified as arising from this report, other than the need to make sure certain appointments are in line with the political balance rules.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific policy or equalities implications for the Council arising from this report.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

It is important that appointments to committees are made to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

No background papers.

Rosendale Borough Council - Political Balance Calculation

	Available No.	Conservative No.	Labour No.	Communi ty First No.	Green JA No.	Ind JW No.	Ind Jan E No.	Ind Jam E No.	Total No.
Council	36	11	19	2	1	1	1	1	36
Committees of Council		30.56	52.78	5.56	2.78	2.78	2.78	2.78	100.00
Development Control	9	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	9
Licensing	11	2	6	1	1	1	0	0	11
Appointments and Appeals	9	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	9
Standards	7	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	7
Audit and Accounts	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	7
Overview and Scrutiny	10	3	6	0	0	0	1	0	10
Total	53	16	28	3	1	2	1	2	53
Grand Total	53	16	28	3	1	2	1	2	53
		30.19	52.83	5.66	1.89	3.77	1.89	3.77	
Balance Should Give		16.2	28.0	2.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	53
Difference		-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.5	0.5	-0.5	0.5	0

Working Groups	Avail No	Conservative	Labour	Communi ty First	Green JA	Ind JW	Ind Jan E	Ind Jam E	Total
Governance Working Group	7	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	7
Grants Advisory Group	7	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	7
Consultation Working Group	7	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	7
Local Plan Steering Group	7	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	7
Project Development Consultation Group	5	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS 2022/2023

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	VICE CHAIR	MEMBERS	
CABINET (Leader, Deputy Leader and up to 8 other members)	Alyson Barnes	Jackie Oakes	Barbara Ashworth Steve Hughes Adrian Lythgoe Sean Serridge Andrew Walmsley	
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (9 Members) 5 Labour 3 Conservative 1 Independent	Marilyn Procter	James Eaton	Ann Kenyon Liz McInnes Patrick Marriott Michelle Smith	Margaret Pendlebury Peter Steen Alan Woods
LICENSING (11 Members) 6 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Community First 1 Independent 1 Green Party	Samara Barnes	Michelle Smith	Sue Brennan Janice Johnson Liz McInnes Andy MacNae	Jenny Rigby Peter Steen Alan Neal Janet Whitehead Julie Adshead
AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (7 Members) 4 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Community First	Andy MacNae	Marilyn Procter	Sue Brennan Ann Kenyon	Peter Steen Alan Woods Dayne Powell (Plus Mr Simon McManus Co-opted)
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10 Members) 6 Labour 3 Conservative 1 Independent	Janice Johnson	David Foxcroft	Mary Coogan Annie McMahon Patrick Marriott Marilyn Procter Gemma Rooke	Granville Morris Laura-Beth Thompson Janet Eaton (Plus Co-opted – vacancy)
STANDARDS (7 Elected Members, 2 Members of Whitworth Town Council and 1 Independent Person) 3 Labour 2 Conservative 2 Independent			Barbara Ashworth Adrian Lythgoe Sean Serridge Granville Morris Jenny Rigby James Eaton Janet Whitehead	<u>Whitworth Town Council</u> TBC TBC <u>Independent Persons</u> Alison Driver
APPOINTMENTS AND APPEALS (panel of 9 Members) 4 Labour 4 Conservative 1 Community First	Five or three members to be chosen by the Chief Executive from the panel if possible to reflect the political balance on the Council and if possible on a rota basis.			
	Alyson Barnes Steve Hughes Jackie Oakes Sean Serridge	Anne Cheetham David Foxcroft Jenny Rigby Caroline Snowden	Alan Neal	

OTHER APPOINTMENTS			
GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP (7 Members) 4 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Independent	Barbara Ashworth Patrick Marriott Jackie Oakes Sean Serridge	Tony Haworth Laura-Beth Thompson	James Eaton
GRANTS ADVISORY GROUP (7 Members) 4 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Independent	Steve Hughes Janice Johnson Ann Kenyon Gemma Rooke	Lynda Barnes Jenny Rigby	Janet Whitehead
CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP (7 Members) 4 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Independent	Ann Kenyon Patrick Marriott Jackie Oakes Andrew Walmsley	Margaret Pendlebury Peter Steen	Janet Eaton
LOCAL PLAN STEERING GROUP (7 Members) 3 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Community First 1 Green Party	Adrian Lythgoe Jackie Oakes Marilyn Procter	Tony Haworth Margaret Pendlebury	Alan Neal Julie Adshead
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION GROUP (5 Members) 3 Labour 2 Conservative	Steve Hughes Adrian Lythgoe Marilyn Procter	Jenny Rigby Peter Steen	
MEMBER CHAMPIONS			
EQUALITIES	Gemma Rooke		
OLDER PEOPLE	Barbara Ashworth		
FLOOD	Janice Johnson		
DESIGN AND HERITAGE	Annie McMahon		
YOUNGER PEOPLE	Samara Barnes		
ARMED FORCES	Marilyn Procter		
ACTIVE TRAVEL	Andy MacNae		
FOOD	Liz McInnes		
NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS			
Neighbourhood Forums are held in a local area venue and all ward members are encouraged to attend their area forum. The allocation of grants will be agreed with each Neighbourhood Forum chair. Please note that Neighbourhood Forums are not Council meetings.			

JOINT COMMITTEE/ PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENTS	
CAPITA Strategic Governance Board	Steve Hughes, Andrew Walmsley, Anne Cheetham
Children's Partnership Board	Barbara Ashworth
Healey Dell Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee	Dayne Powell, Janet Whitehead
Lancashire Leaders and District Leaders Groups	Alyson Barnes
Lancashire Police And Crime Panel	Jackie Oakes (Sean Serridge sub)
Lancashire Waste Partnership	Adrian Lythgoe
LCC Health and Well Being Board	Barbara Ashworth
LCC Health Scrutiny Committee	Barbara Ashworth (Steve Hughes sub)
Patrol Adjudication Joint Committee	Patrick Marriott
PLACE Joint Committee	Alyson Barnes
RTB Board	Alyson Barnes, Margaret Pendlebury
OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS	
Burnley Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)	Marilyn Procter, Alan Woods
Carers Link Lancashire	Barbara Ashworth
East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management	Janice Johnson, Sean Serridge, Anne Cheetham
Growth Lancashire Board	Andy MacNae (Alyson Barnes sub)
LGA Assembly	Alyson Barnes
Littleworld Limited t/a Horse & Bamboo Theatre	Marilyn Procter
North West Employers'	Steve Hughes (Jackie Oakes sub)
North West Region Reserves Forces & Cadets Association (RFCA)	Marilyn Procter
Pennine Prospects	Andy MacNae
Rossendale Leisure Trust Ltd	Adrian Lythgoe, David Foxcroft

Subject:	Proposed consultation on moving to whole-council elections	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	20th May 2022
Report of:	Head of Legal	Portfolio Holder:	Corporate Services
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Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	N/A
Contact Officer:	Clare Birtwistle	Telephone:	01706 252438
Email:	clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. That Council agrees to commence a 6 weeks consultation process on whether the Council should change to whole-council elections every 4 years.
- 1.2. That the Council proposes to commence whole-council elections in 2024 should Council resolve to change the election cycle following the required consultation.
- 1.3. That the Council will hold a future Extraordinary Full Council meeting to hear the outcome of the consultation and make a determination on whether to move to whole-council elections or stay as election by thirds.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report explores whether the council should change its electoral cycle to 'whole-council' elections.
- Councils with whole-council elections elect their members once every four years.
- Moving to whole-council elections has advantages for the council including; providing the council with a clearer mandate, providing more stability and is likely to be more understandable to the electorate.
- To move to whole-council elections the council must first legally consult the public and other interested parties.
- The council is proposing to start this process to help inform the Boundary Commission in their review which will start later in 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Legislation enables the council to change its electoral cycle at certain fixed periods of time. The council presently elects its councillors by thirds, meaning a third of the councillors are elected every year for three years, with no elections in the fourth year.
- 3.2. Councils that presently elect by thirds can move to whole-council elections and, if at a later date it is considered necessary to do so, can revert back to elections by thirds. The council

may not however pass another resolution until five years has passed since the resolution was made to change.

3.3. If the council wishes to move from elections by thirds to whole-council elections, it must follow the process in accordance with s33 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007).

4. THE RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

4.1. The advantages of whole-council elections include:

- a council has a clear mandate for four years, allowing it to adopt a more strategic, long-term approach to policy and decision making – and focus less on yearly election campaigning and the restrictions imposed by the pre-election period.
- avoiding election fatigue and the results are simpler and more easily understood by the electorate. There would be a clear opportunity for the electorate to change the political composition of the council once every four years.
- greater publicity of whole-council elections may generate higher turnout. The Electoral Commission suggest that electorates associate more clearly with whole-council elections.
- lower cost for the council and political parties in running less elections, as well as less disruptive to public buildings used as polling stations.

4.2. Continuing with the elections by thirds approach also has some advantages:

- allowing continuity of councillors by potentially avoiding a large number of new inexperienced councillors at one election.
- encouraging people into the habit of voting and voting for one person is well understood by voters. Voting for two or three councillors under whole-council elections will need to be explained well to voters to avoid confusion.
- allowing judgement of a council annually rather than every four years and allows the electorate to react sooner to local circumstances, thereby providing more immediate political accountability.

4.3. Currently the cost of local elections is incurred every 3 out of 4 years and are in the region of £78,000 per annum. Where the local elections coincide with other elections, any fixed costs incurred would be reduced by the level of contributions from external parties such as Central Government. In recent years, this has seen the council only paying half of the main costs i.e. for staffing, polling stations, postal vote packs and poll cards. The potential saving from moving to whole-council elections exceeds the contributions from combined elections.

5. ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE

5.1. Part of the consideration of moving to whole-council elections is to determine the date on which this would come into effect. Whilst the legislation does not allow the council to align the date with the County Council elections, it would be prudent to plan for a time that takes advantage of and aligns with another election to maximise the level of contribution to be made to the council. This is going to depend on how quickly members are minded to move to whole-elections. 2023 is to be stand-alone borough elections. 2024 will be combined

borough, Police & Crime Commissioner and possibly parliamentary elections (although it is unclear whether Government will follow parliamentary elections every five years having regards to the two most recent parliamentary elections). 2025 is County Council elections so this year is not an option.

- 5.2. By-elections are more likely to occur under a whole-election system because vacancies would need to be filled at the time they occur, rather than where, for example, a resignation is generally dealt with in the more frequent May local elections. The estimated cost for a standalone by-election could be up to £15,000.
- 5.3. A change to whole-council elections would see the council secure significant savings over a four-year period and assist in the delivery of the medium term financial strategy. While arguments exist in favour and against such a change, better value for money is obtained from whole-council elections.
- 5.4. Section 33 of the Act outlines the process the council must follow. There is a need for a resolution for whole-council elections and this requires:
 - (1) A council must comply with this section in passing a resolution for whole-council elections.
 - (2) The council must not pass the resolution unless it has taken reasonable steps to consult such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change.
 - (3) The resolution must be passed—
 - (a) at a meeting which is specially convened for the purpose of deciding the resolution with notice of the object, and
 - (b) by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it.
 - (3A) The resolution must specify the year for the first ordinary elections of the council at which all councillors are to be elected.
 - (3B) In the case of a district council for a district in a county for which there is a county council, the year specified under subsection (3A) may not be a county-council-elections year; and here “county-council-elections year” means 2013 and every fourth year afterwards.
- 5.5. In the event that a minimum of two thirds of members resolve to move to whole-elections the council must then publish an explanatory document on the decision and make the same available for public inspection how it sees fit and give notice to the Electoral Commission.
- 5.6. As mentioned above, prior to passing the resolution to convert to whole-council elections, the Council must have taken the decision to consult with such persons as it thinks appropriate. The legislation does not specify the nature of that consultation but in order to ensure that the decision is reasonable, the council would provide sufficient publicity and variety of engagement methods with members of the public, stakeholders and political parties for comments and representations to be made. Councillors must also be consulted in their own right. It is proposed that a 6 week consultation period would be undertaken. On conclusion of the consultation, the council will need to consider the results of the consultation and decide whether it wishes to change the electoral cycle. This would be done by way of a further Extraordinary Council meeting.

5.7. Town and Parish Councils

The Act enables the council to make an order to alter the years of the ordinary elections of towns and parishes so that they coincide with the date of whole-council elections. The order can make transitional provision for the retirement of town and parish councillors at different times than would have otherwise applied during that transitional period. In the event that the council decides to move to whole-council elections, then in order to avoid incurring the cost of standalone town council elections, it is recommended that we seek an order that aligns the Whitworth Town Council election with the whole-election date. This may also improve the turnout for the town council election.

5.8. Boundary Commission review

The Boundary Commission has stated their intention to undertake a review of the council's ward boundaries. This includes reviewing the number of wards and overall number of elected members. The Boundary Commission has stated that it would be useful for a clear decision to be taken by the council on the desired future electoral cycle prior to the commencement of the Boundary Commission review. This council decision will help inform their considerations.

6. **RISK**

All the issues raised and the recommendations in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Risk is associated with the holding of elections. There is less risk overall if the number of elections is reduced. Electoral risk is mitigated by having an experienced team that keeps up to date with training and legislation. The risk to the council's reputation is substantial, so the professionalism and experience of staff in producing a transparent and accurate result is crucial. Staff training will need to be reviewed and resources increased to ensure the nomination process is managed effectively with the increase in candidate numbers and a change to ballot papers with voting for more than one candidate.
- Retention of some staff on local elections may be difficult to sustain with a four-year cycle. Currently the council do not have an issue with recruitment to the elections and staff, including temporary staff, make themselves available as required.
- Publicity and resources will be required to highlight a change to the electoral cycle and voting process to mitigate confusion on polling day.

7. **FINANCE**

7.1. A stand alone election cost circa £78,000. It is estimated that a whole-council election would cost around £90,000 but this will depend on print costs. It is therefore estimated that it would cost £234,000 for three years of elections producing a potential saving of £144,000 subject to the potential costs of any by-elections (circa £15k each).

7.2. The cost of an election is met by the body or bodies whose representatives have been elected and therefore, any occasion where a local election is combined with another would see a reduction in costs to the council.

8. **LEGAL**

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) provides the legal basis for the council to change the electoral cycle. The legal implications are covered in

the body of the report

9. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

A consultation process will be undertaken in line with the legislation and as outlined in the body of the report. Specific consideration will be given to ensure the consultation engages with residents who are often harder to reach, including those with a disability, who are older and are from a black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage. Specific consideration will also be given to consulting with younger people of voting age who are often under-represented in voting at local elections. The council will consult with Whitworth Town Council.

10. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Council should consider agreeing the report recommendations in order to commence the public consultation on changing the electoral cycle as required by the relevant legislation. This will enable members to better understand the views of the voting public and relevant stakeholders when considering whether to move to whole-council elections or stay as election by thirds.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/part/2/chapter/1/crossheading/power-of-district-councils-to-change-to-wholecouncil-elections