

COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 22nd January 2024

**PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, B Ashworth, D Ashworth, A Barnes, S Barnes, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hodgkiss, Johnson, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott, Neal, Norton, Oakes, Procter, Rigby, Rooke, M Smith, S Smith, Snowden, Thompson, Whitehead and Woods**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for former councillor and past Mayor of Rossendale Dr Colin Crawforth and former councillor and past Mayor of Whitworth Lynda Barnes.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Coogan, Morris and Powell.

2. Urgent Items of Business

There was one urgent item of business regarding the Lancashire Devolution Deal which would be taken after the extraordinary business.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made on item A2:

- Councillors Samara Barnes, Cheetham, Oakes and Scott Smith - County Councillors.

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

4. Whole Council Elections

The Council considered the Whole Council Elections report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The final report would outline evidence based information for the detailed pros and cons.
- A better public response was needed to provide reliable data.
- Reducing resources also included reducing the number of councillors.
- The consultation would be advertised as widely as possible with reminders being circulated to ensure the best response rate.

Resolved:

1. That Council agrees to commence a 6 week consultation on the proposed change to whole-council elections every 4 years.
2. That Council will hold a future Extraordinary Full Council meeting to review the outcome of the consultation and determine whether to move to whole-council elections or remain as election by thirds.

3. That whole-council elections commence in May 2024 should Council resolve to change the election cycle following consultation.

Reason for Decision

To allow Council to consider commencing a public consultation on changing the electoral cycle as required by the relevant legislation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

URGENT BUSINESS

5. The Lancashire Devolution Deal

The Council considered the Lancashire Devolution Deal report.

A named vote was called for by Councillors Foxcroft, Rigby and Scott Smith.

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr B Ashworth	For
Cllr D Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	Against
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hodgkiss	Against
Cllr Johnson	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr MacNae	For
Cllr Marriott	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Norton	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rigby	Against
Cllr Rooke	For
Cllr M Smith	For
Cllr S Smith	Against
Cllr Snowden	Against
Cllr Thompson	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Whitehead	For
Cllr Woods	Against
For:	24
Against:	8
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

That Council agrees that the response set out at paragraph 6 within the report should form the basis of Rossendale Borough Council's response to the Lancashire Devolution consultation.

Reason for Decision

To allow Council to consider the draft Lancashire Devolution Deal and agree the principles of a response to the formal consultation.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.35pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date