

**Annual Meeting of: The Council** 

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

**Time:** 6.30pm **Date** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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



## The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams

**Supported by:** Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk

	ITEM	Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	CIVIC MATTE	RS
A1.	Election of the Mayor The retiring Mayor will invite nominations for the position of Mayor for 2024/25.	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and
A2.	Election of the Deputy Mayor The Mayor will invite nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2024/25.	Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
A3.	Presentation and vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress	
B.	BUSINESS MAT	TERS
B1.	Apologies for absence	
B2.	Minutes of the last meeting To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
В3.	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  Members are advised to contact the Monitoring  Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.	
	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 <a href="https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/">https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/</a>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB



	<b>pintment of the L</b> ppoint the Leader	Leader of the Council of the Council.	Rob Huntington, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email:
			robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk
The Mocound election of the cound election of the cound o	Mayor will call for	nd ward Eden Goodshaw Cribden Facit & Shawforth Greenfield	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
The Creport May 2 elected Name Judith Jimmy David Danie Micher Alyson Christ Greg Anne Neil L Simor Annie Tom E Nick H Adriar Marily Sama Ann H Alan Matt N Sama	t that at the Cour 2024, the following as councillors and councillors are councillors and councillors and councillors and councillors are councillors and councillors and councillors are councillors.	as the Returning Officer will notil Elections held on 2nd ng persons were duly for the wards stated:  Eted and ward acup acup acup ritannia & Lee Mill ritannia & Lee Mill ritannia & Lee Mill ritannia & Lee Mill soodshaw & Cribden soodshaw & Cribden soodshaw & Cribden soenfield & Eden sreenfield & Eden sreenfield & Eden sreenfield & Eden sreenfield & Waterfoot lareholme & Waterfoot lareholme & Waterfoot lareholme & Waterfoot laslingden laslingden leelmshore lengholme	Rob Huntington, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk

B8.	John Payne Whitewell & Stacksteads Alan Neal Whitworth Scott Smith Whitworth Mike Royds Whitworth  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.	Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422 Email: carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B9.	Urgent decisions  To note any urgent key decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council:  Special Urgency Decision taken 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding the acceptance of the Household Support Fund 5 (HSF5) grant.  https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18411/special-urgency-decision-household-support-fund-5  Special Urgency Decision taken 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024 regarding the acceptance of the FCC grant for the redevelopment of Edgeside Park Wheeled Sports facility.  https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18421/special-urgency-decision-edgeside-park-wheeled-sports-facility	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
B10.	Political balance, committees and outside bodies for 2024/25  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.	Rob Huntington, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C.	SPECIAL MEETING	G ITEMS
C1.	Honorary Aldermen To consider the nominations and to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Rossendale to the following:  • Jackie Oakes	Rob Huntington, Chief Executive. Tel: (01706) 252447 Email: robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Rob Huntington Chief Executive

Date Published: 9th May 2024

### COUNCILLOR ANDREW WALMSLEY, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 20th March 2024

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Walmsley (in the Chair)

Councillors Adshead, D. Ashworth, A. Barnes, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Foxcroft, Gill, Hodgkiss, Johnson, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, MacNae, Marriott,

Morris, Neal, Norton, Oakes, Powell, Procter, Rooke, M. Smith,

S. Smith, Snowden, Thompson and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service

Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer

**George Taylor, Mayor's Attendant** 

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press

2 public

Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance Clare Law, Head of People and Policy

#### SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors B Ashworth, S Barnes, Coogan, Rigby and Whitehead.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. Whole-Council Elections

The Council considered the Whole-Council Elections report and members were reminded that at least two thirds of the members voting on it was required for approval.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

• It would deliver the best service for residents and offer stability.

Councillors Neal, Powell and A Barnes requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	Against
Cllr Danielle Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Foxcroft	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hodgkiss	For
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 Morris	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Norton	For
Cllr Oakes	For
Cllr Powell	Against
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Rooke	For
Cllr M. Smith	For
Cllr S. Smith	For
Cllr Snowden	For
Cllr Thompson	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Woods	For
For:	28
Against:	2
Abstentions:	0
-	•

#### Resolved:

- 1. That Council agrees to adopt a scheme of whole council elections, meaning an electoral cycle of one election every four years with all councillors being elected, with the first such election being held in May 2024.
- 2. That Council agrees to make an order to alter the years of the ordinary elections of the Whitworth Town Council so that they coincide with the date of whole-council elections.
- 3. In the event that Council elects to move to whole council elections, the Constitution will be amended to reflect the required changes.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To consider the responses received following the consultation and determine whether to change the electoral cycle to whole-council elections, the first of such election being 2024.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

#### ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

#### 4. Minutes

An amendment to the minutes was moved by Councillor MacNae. At the last meeting, confirmation had been given that throughout the delivery of the Empty Homes Scheme from the submission of the bid to the end of the scheme, it came under the remit of the Housing Portfolio of former Councillor Helen Jackson. The previous suggestions that Councillor MacNae had oversight of the scheme and was the architect of the scheme were untrue. The scheme had been initiated following the adoption of the vacant property strategy in November 2010 and in response to Government funding announced in October 2010, six months prior to Councillor MacNae being elected. Councillor MacNae confirmed that the change in portfolios were minuted and that he had regularly reported on a wide range of things that the Council was doing which impacted on regeneration.

Various points of order and personal statements were made to which the Mayor responded. In response to a request to Councillor Foxcroft to withdraw a statement made earlier in the meeting, he refused.

The amendment to the minutes was seconded by Councillor Oakes.

The amendment was clarified as follows:

Confirmation was given that throughout the delivery of the Empty Homes Scheme it came under the remit of Housing Portfolio of former Councillor Helen Jackson.

#### Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record, with the addition of the following amendment:

• Confirmation was given that throughout the delivery of the Empty Homes Scheme it came under the remit of Housing Portfolio of former Councillor Helen Jackson.

## 5. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

## 6. 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 provided the following updates:

The Leader had recently attended a centenary celebration of Rossendale Male Voice Choir and the performance was wonderful. They would be performing throughout their 100<sup>th</sup> year and she encouraged people to attend.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> April Rossendale Council would mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and were planning to mark the occasion by reflecting on the past 50 years, whilst also looking forward to the changes over the next 50.

The Council would continue to deliver on priorities including creating a thriving economy around the town centres. A recent announcement of further funding of £20m brought the amount to over £40m investment in the valley. The funding earmarked for Rawtenstall over a 10 year period would provide a huge opportunity to support projects being developed as part of the Rawtenstall Masterplan. The next steps would be to establish a Town Board and pull together a three-year investment plan.

The Forward Planning team had also been successful in a bid for £100,000 to support the council's digital planning capabilities. The project would start in spring 2024.

The delivery of all these projects would involve officers from across the Council.

#### **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

## 7. Statement of Community Involvement

The Council considered the Statement of Community Involvement.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- It was hoped that paper copies would be provided for those where there was a demonstrable need for them.
- Communication poles can be erected without the need for planning permission and therefore were outside of this document.

 Paper copies would be available at Futures Park. Local Libraries would provide assistance in accessing documents online.

The Planning officers were thanked for their work in preparing and updating the document.

#### Resolved:

- 1. To adopt the revised Statement of Community Involvement (2024).
- 2. Any minor modifications to be delegated to the Head of Planning and Lead Member for Planning, Licensing and Enforcement.

#### Reason for Decision

To publish the Statement of Community Involvement Update as soon as possible on the Council's website and to keep a paper copy available for viewing at the Council's offices. This is to ensure compliance with the legislation, whilst agreeing that an early review may be needed to take account of expected forthcoming changes to plan-making and development management, and consider consultation with statutory consultees and other stakeholders.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

#### 8. Urgent decisions

Council noted the Special Urgency Decision taken 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 regarding the acceptance of additional Local Authority Housing Fund grant funding and to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

**9.** Recommendation of the Governance Working Group - Committee Review The Council considered the Committee Review report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- All members could attend Cabinet meetings and suggest amendments.
- The functions would need to be reviewed further once the reduction to councillors had been made and there had been chance to settle into the new system.

Thanks was given to those who had worked on the report including the Committee and Member Services Manager and the Governance Working Group for looking over the proposals.

#### Resolved:

Council agreed the following committee changes and Constitution changes as detailed in Appendix A (with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024):

- a) reduce the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to seven elected members.
- b) changes to committee terms of reference and working groups.

#### Reason for Decision

To accommodate councillor workloads and minimise the impact in the reduction of councillors from 36 to 30.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

Thanks was given to the Mayor for the way he had conducted the Council meetings over the last 12 months and for being fair and even handed.

(The meeting commenced at 6.55pm and concluded at 8.10pm)

Signed	
-	(Chair)
Date	



Subject:	Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies			Status:	For P	ublicat	ion	
	and Out	side Bodies						
Report to:	Annual (	Council		Date:	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024		24	
Report of:	Chief Ex	ecutive		Portfolio Leader of the		e Council		
				Holder:	lolder:			
<b>Key Decision:</b>	sion: No - Forward Plan		General Exception   Special Urge		ial Urgency			
	reserved for Council							
<b>Equality Impact</b>	t Assess	ment:	Required:	No	Attach	ned:	No	
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attach	ned:	No		
Contact Officer: Carolyn Sharples			Telephone:	01706	5 2524	22		
Email: carolynsharples@rossendale			oc.gov.uk					

#### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council confirms 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 (Appendix A).
- The appointments to committees for 2024/25 reflects this new balance (Appendix B).
- Appendix B also details:
  - Cabinet appointments
  - Chair/vice-chair appointments
  - Member Champion appointments
  - Working group and other appointments
  - Co-opted Member and Independent Person appointments

#### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 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 the co-opted members on the Audit and Accounts Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Version Number:1Page:1 of 2	

- 4.5 The Chief Executive has delegated authority to make any in-year changes to appointments where notified.
- 4.6 Consultation has been carried out with 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.

Version Number:	1	Page:	2 of 2
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	Available	Labour	Conservative	Green	Community First	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Council	30	20	5	3	2	30
Committees of Council		66.67	16.67	10.00	6.67	100.00
Development Control	7	5	1	1	0	7
Licensing	11	6	3	1	1	11
Audit and Accounts	7	5	1	1	0	7
Overview and Scrutiny	7	5	1	0	1	7
Standards	7	5	1	1	0	7
Appointments and Appeals	9	6	1	1	1	9
Total	48	32	8	5	3	48
Grand Total	48	32	8	5	3	48
		66.67	16.67	10.42	6.25	
Balance Should Give		32.0	8.0	4.8	3.2	48
Difference		0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.2	0

		Labour	Conservative	Green	Community	
Working Groups	Avail No				First	Total
Governance Working Group	5	3	1	0	1	5
Local Plan Steering Group	5	3	1	1	0	5

# MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS 2024/2025

COMMITTEE CHAIR VICE CHAIR MEMBERS							
CABINET		Michelle		ENIBERS			
(Leader, Deputy Leader and up to 8 other members)	Alyson Barnes	Smith	Adrian Lythgoe Liz McInnes Andrew Walmsley				
DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Marilyn Procter	James Eaton	David Hancock Nick Harris Ann Kenyon	Ann Hodgkiss Julie Adshead			
LICENSING (11 Members) 6 Labour 3 Conservative 1 Green Party 1 Community First	Christine Gill	Judith Driver	Jimmy Eaton David Hancock Neil Looker Matt Norton	Anne Cheetham Simon Holland Ann Hodgkiss Bob Bauld Mike Royds			
AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Nick Harris	Marilyn Procter	Greg Bleakley Ann Kenyon Matt Norton	Alan Woods John Payne (Plus Mr Simon McManus Co-opted)			
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Community First	Samara Barnes	Alan Neal	Danielle Ashworth Tom Belli Samantha Harrisor Annie McMahon	Scott Smith (Plus Mr James Heaton Co-opted)			
STANDARDS (7 Elected Members, 2 Members of Whitworth Town Council and 1 Independent Person) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green			Samara Barnes Greg Bleakley Adrian Lythgoe Liz McInnes Andrew Walmsley Simon Holland Bob Bauld	Whitworth Town Council TBC TBC Independent Persons Alison Driver			
APPOINTMENTS AND APPEALS (panel of 9 Members) 6 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green 1 Community First	possible to ref rota basis. Alyson Barnes	Alyson Barnes Liz McInnes Scott Smith Samara Barnes Michelle Smith John Payne					

OTHER APPOINTMENTS				
CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP (5 Members)	Members to be confirmed by Group Leaders when the group is required to meet. The number of councillors may be expanded where a wider range of views are sought, so long as political balance is retained.			
GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP (5 Members) 3 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Community First	Judith Driver Liz McInnes Michelle Smith	Ann Hodgkiss Alan Neal		
LOCAL PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP (5 Members) 3 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Adrian Lythgoe Marilyn Procter Michelle Smith	Ann Hodgkiss Julie Adshead		
MEMBER CHAMPIONS				
EQUALITIES	Tom Belli			
FLOOD	Neil Looker			
DESIGN AND HERITAGE	Annie McMahon			
YOUNGER PEOPLE	Samara Barnes			
ARMED FORCES	Marilyn Procter			
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/ PARTNI	ERSHIP APPOINTMENTS	TYPE OF APPOINTMENT
CAPITA Strategic Governance Board	Andrew Walmsley, Liz McInnes, Alan Woods	Board member
Healey Dell Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee	Mike Royds, Scott Smith	Local authority ward member representative
Lancashire Leaders and District Leaders Groups	Alyson Barnes	Local authority lead member
Lancashire Police And Crime Panel	Samara Barnes (Alyson Barnes - sub)	Local authority member representative
Lancashire Waste Partnership	Àdrian Lythgoe	Local authority member representative
LCC Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee	Liz McInnes (vacancy - sub)	Local authority co-opted member
Patrol Adjudication Joint Committee	Andrew Walmsley	Local authority member representative
PLACE Joint Committee	Alyson Barnes	Local authority lead member
RTB Board	Alyson Barnes, Scott Smith	Director
OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS		TYPE OF APPOINTMENT
Burnley Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)	Marilyn Procter, Alan Woods	Local authority member representative
	Marilyn Procter, Alan Woods  Liz McInnes	representative  Local authority member
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)	,	representative
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS) Carers Link Lancashire East Lancashire Railway Trust	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham	Local authority member representative
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)  Carers Link Lancashire  East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub) Alyson Barnes	representative  Local authority member representative  Board member
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)  Carers Link Lancashire  East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management  Growth Lancashire Board	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub)  Alyson Barnes (vacancy - sub)	representative  Local authority member representative  Board member  Director  Local authority lead
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)  Carers Link Lancashire  East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management  Growth Lancashire Board  LGA Assembly  Littleworld Limited t/a Horse &	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub)  Alyson Barnes (vacancy - sub)  Alyson Barnes	representative  Local authority member representative  Board member  Director  Local authority lead member
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)  Carers Link Lancashire  East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management  Growth Lancashire Board  LGA Assembly  Littleworld Limited t/a Horse & Bamboo Theatre	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub)  Alyson Barnes (vacancy - sub)  Alyson Barnes  Marilyn Procter  Michelle Smith	representative  Local authority member representative  Board member  Director  Local authority lead member  Trustee  Local authority member
Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)  Carers Link Lancashire  East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management  Growth Lancashire Board  LGA Assembly  Littleworld Limited t/a Horse & Bamboo Theatre  North West Employers'  North West Region Reserves Forces & Cadets Association	Liz McInnes  David Hancock, Annie McMahon, Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub)  Alyson Barnes (vacancy - sub)  Alyson Barnes  Marilyn Procter  Michelle Smith (vacancy - sub)	representative  Local authority member representative  Board member  Director  Local authority lead member  Trustee  Local authority member representative  Local authority member