

**Minutes of Council**

**Meeting date** **Wednesday, 17 May 2023**

**Committee members present:** Councillors David Howarth (Mayor), Chris Lomax (Deputy Mayor), Will Adams, Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, Hilary Bedford, Jane Bell, Damian Bretherton, Julie Buttery, Aniela Bylinski Gelder, Matt Campbell, Colin Coulton, Matthew Farnworth, James Flannery, Mathew Forshaw, Paul Foster, Peter Gabbott, Jasmine Gleave, James Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Harry Hancock, Jo Hindle-Taylor, Clare Hunter, Lou Jackson, Will King, James Lillis, Keith Martin, Peter Mullineaux, Nicky Peet, Pete Pillinger, Lesley Pritchard, George Rear, Wesley Roberts, Colin Sharples, David Shaw, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Emma Stevens, Elaine Stringfellow, Caleb Tomlinson, Matthew Tomlinson, Angela Turner, Karen Walton, Ian Watkinson, Connor Watson, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams

**Officers present:** Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Chris Moister (Director of Governance), Louise Mattinson (Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer) and Clare Gornall (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

**Public:** 12

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Rainsbury.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved (unanimously):**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record for signing by the Mayor.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

#### 4 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor gave an update on the engagements he had carried out across the Borough which included:

The Mayor of Rossendale's Charity Ball in Whitworth  
 The Mayor of Burnley's Charity Ball at Burnley Football Club  
 The Mayor of Preston's Coronation Ball at UCLan  
 The official opening of radio Leyland's new studio  
 Autism Awareness Fun Day at St Mary's Community Centre, Leyland  
 St Teresa's Primary School, Penwortham  
 Mental Health Awareness Day at St Mary's Community Centre

He also announced that the Mayor Making Ceremony for the new Mayor Elect, Councillor Chris Lomax, will take place on Wednesday ,24 May 2023 at 6.00pm.

#### 5 Returning Officer's Report

The Chief Executive presented a report detailing all persons elected as councillors for the wards stated at the Borough elections on 4 May 2023 as follows:

Ward	Councillor
Bamber Bridge East	Clare Hunter Emma Stevens
Bamber Bridge West	Paul Foster Caleb Tomlinson
Broad Oak	Harold Hancock Ange Turner
Broadfield	Matthew Tomlinson Kath Unsworth
Buckshaw and Worden	Pete Pillinger Wes Roberts
Charnock	Deborah Ashton Ian Watkinson
Coupe Green and Gregson Lane	Mathew Forshaw James Gleeson
Earnshaw Bridge	Lou Jackson Colin Sharples
Farington East	Jacky Alty Paul Wharton-Hardman
Farington West	Karen Walton George Rear
Hoole	John Rainsbury Connor Watson
Howick and Priory	David Howarth James Lillis David Shaw
Leyland Central	Aniela Bylinski Gelder

	Haydn Williams
Longton and Hutton West	Julie Buttery Colin Coulton Will King
Lostock Hall	Peter Gabbott Lesley Pritchard Elaine Stringfellow
Middleforth	Will Adams James Flannery Keith Martin
Moss Side	Mary Green Michael Green
New Longton and Hutton East	Margaret Smith Phil Smith
Samlesbury and Walton	Jasmine Gleave Peter Mullineaux
Seven Stars	Jane Bell Matthew Farnworth
St Ambrose	Jo Hindle-Taylor Nicky Peet
Walton-le-Dale East	Hilary Bedford Chris Lomax
Walton-le-Dale West	Damian Bretherton Matt Campbell

It was moved by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Bylinski Gelder, and it was

**Resolved:**

That the persons elected as Councillors for the wards as stated at the Borough elections on 4 May 2023 be noted.

## 6 Suspension of Standing Orders

Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, it was moved by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, and it was

**Resolved:**

That standing orders in relation to Part 4A, paragraph 1.2 relating to the First Business Meeting after Mayoral Installation be waived.

## 7 Election of the Leader of the Council

It was moved by Councillor James Flannery, seconded by Councillor Jane Bell, and it was

**Resolved:** (by majority 33:15):

That Councillor Paul Foster be appointed Leader of the Council for a four year term until the Annual Council meeting of the Municipal Year 2027/28.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Bretherton, Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.

## 8 Appointment of Deputy Leader and members of the Cabinet

The Council considered a report that was circulated on behalf of the new Leader that set out the following details of the membership of the Cabinet along with their portfolio responsibilities for 2023/24. The report also confirmed Lead Members and Member Champions for 2023/24.

<p>Councillor Paul Foster</p> <p>Leader and Cabinet Member - Policy, Reform, Comms</p>	<p><b>CE/Director Change and Delivery</b></p>	<p>This portfolio will focus on the overall strategic direction for the Council including the strategic partnerships and physical developments that will shape and influence the longer term outcomes for the borough. This portfolio will also incorporate management of the relationship with the County Council, and wider partners.</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy Shared Services Public Service Reform Transformation Strategic Partnerships Strategic developments (cyber centre, Cuerden, Cuerdale etc &amp; Town Deal) Communications and events</p>
<p>Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder</p> <p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Property, Assets, Commercial</p>	<p><b>Director Commercial</b></p>	<p>This portfolio will focus on developing, delivering and managing the councils' high profile assets across the borough to support strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Delivery and management of major developments (Council housing, Jubilee Gardens &amp; Worden Hall) Community centres Parks and play space Car Parking</p>

Services & Major Developments		Delivering Jubilee Gardens and growing Worden Hall will be key priorities.	
Councillor Matthew Tomlinson  Cabinet Member for Finance & Public Protection	<b>Director Finance</b>	This portfolio focuses on the approach to use of resources and financial strategy. It also has oversight for public protection through regulatory functions.	MTFS Budget Licencing Environmental Health Public Safety
Councillor Deborah Ashton  Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Waste Services	<b>Director Customer and Digital</b>	This portfolio focuses on achieving a cleaner, greener borough. Future policy and service delivery changes linked to the Environment Act will be big priorities.	Streetscene Grounds maintenance Waste and recycling Climate Change & Biodiversity
Councillor Ian Watkinson  Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Digital	<b>Director Customer and Digital</b>	The Customer and Digital portfolio is focussed on delivering excellent customer services to meet the current and future needs of our residents. It also incorporates ICT as a major enabler of service delivery.	Customer Services and Gateway Digital strategy & IT
Councillor James Flannery  Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support & Economic Development	<b>Director Planning &amp; Development</b>	This portfolio focuses on the physical development of our borough and links with investment and skills as key enablers for growth and prosperity.	Development Control Local Plan and Planning Policy Investment and Skills including Skills Factory UKSPF

<p>Councillor Jacky Alty</p> <p>Wealth building, social justice, equality &amp; diversity</p>	<p><b>Director Change and Delivery</b></p>	<p>This portfolio will align policy and strategy to achieve fairer outcomes for all residents and communities. Consolidating and enhancing the Community Wealth Building agenda as a main pillar of the Corporate Strategy will be central to this portfolio.</p>	<p>Cross cutting administrations' policy and organisational priorities Equality, Inclusion &amp; Diversity</p>
<p>Councillor Clare Hunter</p> <p>Communities, Leisure &amp; Wellbeing</p>	<p><b>Director Communities</b></p>	<p>The Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing portfolio focuses on how we support greater overall wellbeing through the way that we use our assets, engage with our communities and design our services.</p>	<p>Leisure centres (via leisure company) Active Health HAF Community hubs Homelessness</p>

### Lead Members:

- Climate Change – Councillor Keith Martin
- Young People – Councillor Kath Unsworth
- Member Development, Welfare and Mental Health – Councillor Lou Jackson
- Social Justice and Equality Champion – Councillor Paul Wharton Hardman

### Member Champions:

- Safeguarding and Older People Champion – Councillor Jane Bell
- Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Matthew Farnworth

### Resolved (unanimously):

1. That the appointment of the Deputy Leader and Members of the Cabinet appointed by the Leader of the Council be noted;

2. That the amendments to the Cabinet portfolios and Lead Member roles be noted.

## **9 Appointments to Committees, Panels and Working Groups for 2023/24**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer in order to allocate places on the various committees of the Council in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to make appointments to those committees in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, together with the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the appropriate Committees. The report also appoints to a number of panels and working groups.

One member asked a question with regard to the continuation of meetings of the Local Plan Working Group.

Arising from the above a question was asked by a member of the public in which it was suggested that the Local Plan Working Group look into concerns regarding sewage discharge into UK rivers as detailed on the Rivers Trust website.

The Leader indicated that the Working Group was currently under review and that arrangements would be confirmed in due course.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela

Bylinski Gelder, and it was

### **Resolved (unanimously):**

1. That the composition and allocation of committee places in accordance with the Political Balance Rules as set out in the report be approved;
2. That the Members, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the committees, panels and working groups set out in the appendix to the report and agreed at the meeting be appointed for the period of twelve months until the First Business Meeting of the Council in May 2024 as follows:

	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
Appeals Committee (2:1:0)	Cllr Bell Cllr Martin  Sub: Cllr C Tomlinson Cllr Williams	Cllr Rear  Sub: Cllr Michael Green Cllr M Smith	-
Appointment & Employment Panel (3:2:0)	Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Flannery Cllr Foster  Sub: Cllr Hunter Cllr M Tomlinson	Cllr Walton Cllr Smith  Sub: Cllr Bretherton Cllr Mullineaux	-
Corporate, Performance & Budget Scrutiny Committee (4:2:1)	Cllr Adams (Chair) Cllr Peet Cllr Pillinger Cllr Williams  Sub: Cllr Gabbott Cllr Unsworth	Cllr Michael Green (Vice) Cllr King  Sub: Cllr Walton Cllr Forshaw	Cllr D Howarth  Sub:
Community & External Scrutiny Committee (4:2:1)	Cllr Jackson (Vice) Cllr Martin Cllr Pritchard	Cllr Coulton Cllr Campbell	Cllr Turner (Chair)  Sub:



	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
	Cllr Wharton Hardman  Sub: Cllr Bedford Cllr Stevens	Sub: Cllr Gleave Cllr Michael Green	
Governance Committee  (4:2:1)	Cllr Sharples (Chair) Cllr Roberts (Vice) Cllr Gabbott Cllr Pillinger  Sub: Cllr Jackson Cllr Stringfellow	Cllr M Smith Cllr Bretherton  Sub: Cllr King Cllr Campbell	Cllr Turner  Sub: Councillor Shaw Cllr Howarth
Licensing & Public Safety Committee  (6:3:1)	Cllr Bell (Chair) Cllr Wharton Hardman (Vice) Cllr Bedford Cllr Gabbott Cllr Gleeson Cllr Stevens Subs: Councillor Farnworth Councillor Pritchard	Cllr Forshaw Cllr Gleave Cllr Buttery Sub: Cllr Rainsbury Cllr C Watson	Cllr Hancock  Sub: Cllr James Lillis Cllr David Howarth
Planning Committee  (6:3:1)	Cllr C Tomlinson (Chair) Cllr Stringfellow (Vice)	Cllr P Smith Cllr Mullineaux	Cllr Shaw

	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
	Cllr Adams Cllr Farnworth Cllr Unsworth Cllr Williams  Sub: Cllr Roberts Cllr Sharples	Cllr Mary Green  Sub:  Cllr Bretherton Cllr Rainsbury	Sub: Cllr Turner Cllr Hancock
Shared Services Joint Committee  (3:2:0)	Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Foster Cllr M Tomlinson  Sub: Cllr Ashton Cllr Watkinson	Cllr Walton Cllr M Smith  Sub: Cllr Bretherton Cllr P Smith	-
Standards Committee  (4:2:1)	Cllr Unsworth (Chair) Cllr Gleeson Cllr Hindle-Taylor Cllr Sharples  Sub: Cllr Adams Cllr Bell	Cllr Rainsbury (Vice) Cllr Watson  Sub: Cllr Coulton Cllr Buttery	Cllr Lillis  Sub: Cllr Shaw Cllr Turner

## Working Groups and Panels

	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem
Climate Emergency Working Group  (11 Members: 5 Community Hubs, Relevant Cabinet Member and 3:2:1)	Cllr Martin (Chair) Cllr Ashton (Cab Mem) Cllr Bedford Cllr Pillinger	Cllr Watson Cllr Gleave	Cllr Turner
Member Development Steering Group  (3:2:1)	Cllr Jackson (Chair) Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Gleeson	Cllr Mary Green Cllr Buttery	Cllr Hancock
Shared Services Appointments Panel  (2:1:0)	Cllr Bylinski Gelder Cllr Foster  Sub: Cllr M Tomlinson	Cllr Walton  Sub: Cllr P Smith	-

3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution to take into account the consequential changes as a result of the report.

### 10 Appointment of Community Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023/24

Council considered a report of that allocated the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's Community Hubs for 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

**Resolved (unanimously):**

That the appointment of Community Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2023/24 be approved as follows:

<b>Community Hub Area</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Vice Chair</b>
Leyland & Farington	Councillor Colin Sharples	Councillor Jane Bell
Penwortham	Councillor Will Adams	Councillor David Howarth
Western Parishes	Councillor Margaret Smith	Councillor Will King
Eastern Parishes	Councillor Peter Mullineaux	Councillor Mathew Forshaw
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale	Councillor Leslie Pritchard	Councillor Emma Stevens

**11 Appointment to outside bodies for 2023/24**

The Council considered a report outlining the nominations for Appointments to Outside Bodies 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

**Resolved (43:3:2):-**

That those nominated Members of Council be appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies in 2023/24 as follows:

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Council Nominee</b>
Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Executive (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster
Determinants of Health Board (Relevant Cabinet Member)	Councillor Clare Hunter
Lancashire Police and Crime Panel (Leader / Cabinet Member)	Councillor James Flannery
Lancashire Waste Partnership (Relevant Cabinet Member / SR Councillor)	Councillor Deborah Ashton Councillor Paul Foster (Reserve)
Central Lancashire Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee	Councillor James Flannery Councillor Caleb Tomlinson

Outside Body	Council Nominee
	Councillor Elaine Stringfellow  Councillor Kath Unsworth (Reserve) Councillor Paul Foster (Reserve)
Leyland Town Deal Advisory Board (at the invitation of the Cabinet Member)	Councillor Jane Bell Councillor James Flannery Councillor Paul Foster
Local Government Association - District Councils' Network (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster
Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal Stewardship Board and Executive - Combined Meeting (Leader)	Councillor Paul Foster  Observer: Councillor Matthew Tomlinson
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Joint Committee	Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder

## 12 Council Meetings in 2023/24

The Council was provided with the programme of Council meetings 2023/24 for information.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

### **Resolved (unanimously):**

That the following programme of Council meetings for 2023/24 be noted:

- 19 July 2023
- 20 September 2023
- 22 November 2023
- 31 January 2024
- 28 February 2024
- 27 March 2024
- 15 May 2024
- 22 May 2024

## 13 Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group

The Chair of the Scrutiny Task Review Task Group, Councillor Michael Green, presented a report of the Task Group "Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods". He requested that Cabinet consider the proposals for implementation listed within the report.

Further to the above a member of public asked whether Cabinet may consider the following additional proposals:

1. That there be a requirement for waste bins and dog mess bins in new developments
2. As Parished areas attract a 25% Community Infrastructure Levy, should areas of the Borough currently unparished (such as Leyland and Bamber Bridge) be parished to obtain this CIL?

It was moved by Councillor Michael green, seconded by Councillor Walton, and it was

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted and Cabinet be requested to consider the proposals for implementation.

#### **14 Protocol on creating Honorary Aldermen**

Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer request approval for a protocol for the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Members of the Council who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service.

A member of the public queried an aspect of the proposed protocol as follows "Honorary Aldermen shall not have the right to influence meetings of the Council or its Committees". It was suggested that this would disadvantage the Council by preventing it from benefiting from the experience Honorary Aldermen may offer.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster responded that the Council would consult with the Monitoring Officer on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder and it was

**Resolved:** (by majority 43:3:2)

That the draft protocol on conferring the title of Honorary Alderman, as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bretherton, BATTERY, Bylinski Gelder, Campbell, Coulton, Farnworth, Flannery, Forshaw, Foster, Gabbott, Gleave, Gleeson, Mary Green, Michael Green, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, King, Lomax, Martin, Peet, Pritchard, Rear, Roberts, Sharples, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Unsworth, Walton, Watkinson, Watson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Hancock, Howarth, and Turner

Abstain: Councillors Lillis and Shaw

## **15 Policy Review: Discretionary Council Tax Reductions Policy**

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Property, Assets, Commercial Services & Major Developments) presented report of the Director of Customer and Digital on the proposed revised and updated Council Tax Discretionary Reductions Policy.

It was moved by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder, seconded by Councillor Paul Foster and it was

### **Resolved (unanimously):**

1. That the revised Council Tax Discretionary Reductions Policy be approved.
2. That in view of the economic climate and the likely increase in applications, the financial position in respect of discretionary reductions be reviewed after 6 months.

## **16 The Council's Capital Programme and Withy Grove Play area**

The Cabinet Member Finance & Public Protection presented a report of the Director of Planning and Development requesting that Council to approve an addition to the agreed Capital Programme by including a project costed at £110,000, to replace the central tower at Withy Grove Park Playground in Bamber Bridge, following an agreement reached with the Council's insurers. The report also provided context as to how this project was part of a wider improvement programme for Withy Grove Park and Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre.

It was moved by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Paul Foster, and it was

### **Resolved (unanimously):**

That Council agrees to amending the Capital Programme by the sum of £110,000 to replace the tower slides at Withy Grove Park Playground.

## **17 Changes to director structure**

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications) presented a report of the Chief Executive outlining proposals for changes to the director structure to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

It was then moved by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Aniela Bylinski Gelder:

To approve the proposed changes to the director structure for consultation in line with the council's Change Policy.

Councillor Karen Walton, Leader of the Opposition criticised the fact that the report had not been considered at the Shared Services Joint Committee.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Phil Smith, seconded by Councillor Walton, that there be a variation to the proposed structure in the report, namely that South Ribble Borough Council appoint its own Director of Planning rather than it being a Shared Services post.

The amendment was put to the vote as follows (13:34):

For: Councillors Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Watson.

Against: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams.

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

It was then moved by Councillor Paul Foster, seconded by Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and it was

**Resolved** (by majority 29:15) – That Council moves to the vote on the substantive motion.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Gabbott, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Roberts, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Buttery, Bretherton, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Mary Green, Michael Green, Howarth, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.

The substantive motion was put to the Council and it was

**Resolved** (by majority 34:15):

That Council approves the proposed changes to the director structure for consultation in line with the council's Change Policy.

For: Councillors Adams, Alty, Ashton, Bedford, Bell, Bylinski Gelder, Farnworth, Flannery, Foster, Hancock, Howarth, Gabbott, Gleeson, Hindle-Taylor, Hunter, Jackson, Lomax, Lillis, Martin, Peet, Pillinger, Pritchard, Roberts, Sharples, Shaw, Stevens, Stringfellow, C Tomlinson, M Tomlinson, Turner, Unsworth, Watkinson, Wharton-Hardman, Williams

Against: Councillors Bretherton, Buttery, Campbell, Coulton, Forshaw, Gleave, Mary Green, Michael Green, King, Mullineaux, Rear, Margaret Smith, Phil Smith, Walton, Watson.



Chair

Date