

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

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: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	<p>Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 16th July 2025 ii. 26th November 2025 	
A3.	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.	
A4.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or 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>The Mayor, Councillor Michelle Smith, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
C.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
C1.	Waste Transfer Station To consider the Waste Transfer Station report	<p>Councillor Lythgoe/ Andy Taylor, Head of Operations (01706) 217777 andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>

C2.	Public Meeting Schedule To consider the Public Meeting Schedule for 2026/27	Councillor Lythgoe/ Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C3.	Urgent decisions To note any urgent key decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council.	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
D1.	Notice of Motion To consider a notice of motion submitted by Councillors S Barnes and Neal regarding Debate not Hate.	Councillor Samara Barnes Councillor Alan Neal



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 9th December 2025

COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 16th July 2025

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor M. Smith (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Bauld, Belli, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Hancock, Holland, Looker, Lythgoe, McMahon, Neal, Norton, Payne, Procter, Ritson, S. Smith, Walmsley and Woods.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 17 public
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Chris Warren, Director of Resources/S151 Officer

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for Eli Testa.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ITEMS

1. Honorary Aldermen

In accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council considered nominations to receive the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of eminent service to the Borough.

Councillor Andrew Walmsley proposed Barbara Ashworth, seconded by Councillor Alyson Barnes.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the following individuals in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community as a councillor for the borough of Rossendale:

- Barbara Ashworth

COUNCIL MEETING ITEMS

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Bleakley, Gill, Harris, Harrison, Hodgkiss, Kenyon and McInnes.

3. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 16th May 2025 and 4th June 2025 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were made:

- Councillor S. Smith was a Leisure Trust Board Member (D3. minute 9) and former member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).
- Councillor Walmsley was a member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).
- Councillor Lythgoe was a Leisure Trust Board Member (D3. minute 9).
- Councillor Ashworth was a member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).
- Councillor Driver was a member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).
- Councillor Eaton was a member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).
- Councillor M. Smith was a member of the Bacup 2040 board (D1. minute 7).

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.

The Head of Paid Service informed that Councillor Mackenzie Ritson had been elected at the by-election on 26th June and welcomed him to the meeting. Committee membership details had been updated on the Council website.

The Leader of the Council provided the following updates:

- The year end accounts were published on the website in advance of the statutory deadline. The accounts reflected a strong financial position which resulted in a budget surplus for the year. The accounts were open to public consultation and were now available on the Council website.
- The Rossendale Girls Task Force was a working group established under the Rossendale Physical Activity and Sport Strategy. It was working to expand opportunities for girls to engage in sport and physical activity. An overview was given of the current activity of the group.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Support for the redevelopment of the former Bingo Hall, Bacup

The Council considered the report on support for the redevelopment of the former Bingo Hall, Bacup.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- It was part of the Bacup 2040 Vision remit going forward, and that group had asked for something to be done with this site.
- Enforcement powers would not have brought the building back into use.
- Funding was already committed and earmarked from Levelling Up and some of the funding had been diverted to address some of these long-standing issues.
- S215s don't always bring buildings back into use.
- Clawbacks were detailed in the report.
- Short term retentions on sales and profiteering was detailed in the report.

Resolved:

1. That the Council enters into an agreement with Brother Investments to provide a maximum grant of £535,000 for the purposes to demolish the former Bingo Hall and Snooker Club in Bacup and construct high quality business units. The sum to be earmarked from the original proposed £1.8m match fund to be provided by the Council to the Levelling Up Fund as approved in the Execution Plan at Council 28th June 2023.
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Legal, Director of Resources and Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development and Resources to procure any consultants necessary and enter into any agreements related to this project.

Reason for Decision

The Bingo Hall has been a derelict building for a number of years. Providing a viability grant will unlock the key gateway site and transform this area into a vibrant place for enterprise.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Extension of burial plots

The Council considered the extension of burial plots report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The Capital Programme moved and changed during the year.
- Public Works Loan Board funding was a working assumption, but this would be considered alongside internal borrowing under the delegation of the report.
- The extension wouldn't take up the whole field, it would be the area to the left.
- Part of the field wasn't suitable for burials owing to the water table being too high.
- There would be some planting and places for ashes caskets in the first phase.
- The second phase would develop the second site for the vaults and there would be more planting around the perimeter.
- There would be a phased programme for vaults.

The Council was grateful for the support of the Muslim faith leaders. Thanks was also given to the Friends of Haslingden Cemetery for all their hard work and also to officers.

Resolved:

1. To add the development of new burial plots at Haslingden Cemetery to the Council's Capital Programme.
2. To delegate to the Head of Environmental Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services, The Monitoring Officer and the Director of Resources the responsibility to procure all necessary consultants and contractors to deliver the project.

Reason for Decision

The decision is to add the development of Haslingden Cemetery to the capital programme and allocate a budget of £600,000 for this purpose. This will mean that burials for the Muslim Community in Rossendale are supported for the next decade. This will address an issue for residents whilst continuing to provide a source of income for the Council.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

9. Procurement of energy contract via framework

The Council considered the report on procurement of energy contract via framework.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Working via the framework would provide some of the due diligence.

Resolved:

1. That Council authorises the procurement of Gas and Electricity fixing for a 2-year period via a suitable framework.
2. That Council delegates the acceptance of framework pricing to the Director of Resources in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer and Lead Members for Resources and Environment, and Corporate Services.

Reason for Decision

To obtain best value for gas and electricity supplies and to minimise the risk of price fluctuation in the current volatile economy.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Local Government Reorganisation

The Council considered the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members had been working on LGR for some time.
- We needed to have a voice going forward.
- This was the formation of three new unitary authorities and not a merger.
- Full consultation would take place after the November deadline.

Thanks was given to the Chief Executive and Leader for keeping the group leaders updated at their meetings.

Councillors Neal, Driver and Walmsley requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Bauld	For
Cllr Belli	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Hancock	For
Cllr Holland	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Norton	For
Cllr Payne	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Ritson	Abstain
Cllr Michelle Smith	For
Cllr Scott Smith	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
Cllr Woods	For
For:	22
Against:	0
Abstentions:	1

Resolved:

1. That Full Council note the process and timetable for the development of proposals for local government reorganisation in Lancashire.
2. That Full Council support in principle the three unitary model, including a Pennine Lancashire unitary council covering Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, Pendle and Ribble Valley.
3. That Full Council delegate to the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive, the authority to agree the council's position in the development of proposals to be submitted to government on November 28th, 2025.

Reason for Decision

Agreeing a position for Rossendale in the discussions on local government reorganisation will ensure that Rossendale's position will be stronger than if no position is adopted.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Urgent decisions

There were no urgent decisions taken since the last meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES**12. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Consideration of the Vice Chair position would be looked into.

Thanks was given to all the officers presenting reports to the committee for making the process easier and to members of the committee for their hard work.

Resolved:

That Council approve the Annual Report 2024/25 and Work Programme 2025/26.

Reason for Decision

To note the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25 and work to be carried out during 2025/26.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION**13. Notice of Motion**

Councillor Julie Adshead moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Bob Bauld:

This Council recognises that:

- *The corporate plan commits us to playing a 'positive local role leading by example' in making changes that can mitigate climate catastrophe and help preserve the vitality of our planet for future generations.*
- *Increasing awareness of the environmental impact of dietary choices can allow individuals to make more informed and sustainable choices and that, as leaders in the Borough, we have an important role to play in modelling these choices.*

- *Our farmers make huge contributions to the local economy and its rural communities and that there is a need for farmers to be appropriately supported to deal with the challenges of farming in an increasingly unstable climate.*

This Council Notes:

That the food system accounts for a third of all greenhouse gas emissions [1].

The broad agreement across expert bodies, including the Climate Change Commission [2] and EAT-Lancet Commission [3], that the UK must reduce consumption of meat and dairy in order to achieve its climate goals.

The Government commissioned National Food Strategy, which recommends that food provided in the public sector should be plant based by default.

This Council resolves to:

Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is predominantly plant-based, in line with the recommendations above, using ingredients sourced from local growers and suppliers as far as is practical.

Reach out to community groups to actively influence and inform on climate change, food choice, and the positive impact they can have on the environment, their health, and animal welfare through their food choices.

Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding climate change and in particular food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of community projects.

[1] Crippa, M., et al. (2021), "Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic emissions," Nature Food 2, 198-209.

[2] <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2022/06/13/governments-food-strategy-a-missed-opportunity-for-the-climate/>

[3] <https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/the-planetary-health-diet-and-you/>

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The benefit from the motion was limited in the context of the number of council catered events as there were few in number.
- The motion was more pertinent to a larger Council delivering school meals for example.
- It was best to work with the Communities Team to create a wider impact.
- The Notice of Motion could be brought back once there had been further consideration on how a difference could be made.
- A plant-based choice was already offered at the one catered event a year, so the motion did not change what the Council already offered.

Resolved:

The motion was not carried.

Reason for Decision

To reject the motion.

Alternative Options Considered
None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.51pm and concluded at 8.36pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date

COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 26th November 2025

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor M. Smith (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, S. Barnes, Bauld, Belli, Bleakley, Cheetham, Driver, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Harrison, Holland, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes, Neal, Payne, Procter, Ritson, S. Smith and Walmsley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Chris Warren, Director of Resources/S151 Officer
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Hodgkiss, McMahon, Norton and Woods.

2. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Ritson and S. Barnes declared an interest in item B1 (minute 4) as they were Lancashire County Councillors.

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

4. Local Government Reorganisation

The Council considered the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Harmonisation of Whitworth Town Council elections would be required. It was requested that these elections be moved back to coincide with the shadow authority elections in 2027.
- The Council would be one of the biggest councils in the country if the Lancashire County Council (LCC) option was considered.
- The Leader would keep members informed in the process.

Councillors Walmsley, Neal and S.Barnes requested a named vote.

Members voted as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Bauld	For
Cllr Belli	For

Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hancock	For
Cllr Harris	For
Cllr Harrison	For
Cllr Holland	For
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Payne	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Ritson	Against
Cllr Michelle Smith	For
Cllr Scott Smith	For
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	25
Against:	1
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

1. That Full Council note the process and timetable for the submission of proposals for local government reorganisation in Lancashire.
2. That Full Council supports the submission of the 'Three Lancashire Unitary Business Case' at Appendix One and note the executive decision to be made by Cabinet following this Council meeting.

Reason for Decision

To support the submission of the three unitary model for Lancashire Business Case.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 6.42pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Waste Transfer Station	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	17 th December 2025
Report of:	Head of Environmental Services	Lead Member:	Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
Contact Officer:	Andy Taylor	Telephone:	01706 217777
Email:	andrewtaylor@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1.1 That Council agrees, to move forward with the redevelopment of Plot 4 on Futures Park and builds a new Waste Transfer Station.
- 1.2 To deliver this, that the Council enters into an agreement with Caulmert Ltd to project manage the build process via a compliant procurement framework.
- 1.3 To delegate authority to the Head of Legal, Director of Resources and Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Corporate Services to procure any consultants and Contractors necessary and enter into any agreements related to this project.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The current arrangements for Waste Processing are not tenable past April 2026. Due to the changes in the Waste Exemptions Systems – detailed in the “Reforming the waste exemptions system” Policy Paper published on the 15th July 2025 by Central Government.
- Options for utilising bulking up facilities at either Farrington or another central East Lancashire location are not financially sustainable.
- The existing Waste Transfer Station at Henrietta Street could be redeveloped to accommodate Food Waste, Recycling and other Waste Streams but there is considerable local opposition and site risks along with significant additional cost.
- The Futures Park site is owned by RBC and a realistic proposal addressing neighbourhood and environmental concerns has been tabled.
- Planning Permission has been secured on the site.
- A decision to move forward is required to minimise significant additional costs from any delays.
- The estimate of the capital cost to deliver a new transfer station is currently in the region of £6.2m, plus ancillary costs
- A Waste transfer station at Futures Park will deliver a revenue saving for the Council currently estimated to be c.£1.2m.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 **Why is a new Waste Transfer Station needed** – To give some background, Rossendale Borough Council has operated a Waste Transfer Station at its Henrietta Street Depot since 1997, this operation is licenced by the Environment Agency and the licence was granted in 1997. The purpose of a Waste Transfer Station is to “bulk up” the Waste for transport to the final processing centre and this minimises the number of vehicles on the Road.

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In the case of Rossendale, the Council is responsible for the collection of waste and recycled material in a range of vehicles including 26-tonne wagons. In addition the Council deal with cleansing materials including litter bins, road sweeping and leaves alongside some household waste from remote/difficult to access properties. The vehicles return to Henrietta Street and offload the materials so it can then be loaded onto vehicles including 44-tonne articulated lorry and taken away for processing to a range of sites outside of the borough.

Currently the majority of general (residual) waste is taken directly to landfill by our refuse wagons. Lancashire County Council (LCC) (who are responsible for disposing of waste) have taken the decision (from April 2026) to no longer use Whinney Hill landfill and have instructed the Council to take all waste to either Farrington (in Leyland) or another central location in East Lancashire (to be confirmed by LCC). As a result of this decision, the service is faced with the decision to either drive every refuse wagon to Leyland (or other location specified by LCC) when it is full or bring the waste back to our transfer station to be loaded on a large articulated lorry which will then take it to Leyland (or another location specified by LCC) for processing.

In addition to this, the waste service currently collects all food waste as part of general waste collection. Central government has introduced the requirement to collect food waste separately from April 2026 and as such the Council will be introducing this with effect from 1st April 2026.

The Council's current waste transfer bays and skips at Henrietta Street Waste Transfer Station are outside and open to the elements which results in a number of issues that the waste service are currently managing as per its waste transfer licence which is regulated by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency has proposed changes to waste permitting meaning that the Henrietta Street WTS will no longer be compliant unless significant money is invested to move waste inside. This approach was rejected following the Planning Consultation at the end of 2024.

Following the decision to not proceed with the redevelopment of the waste transfer station at Henrietta Street, it was agreed to move the focus to Plot 4 Futures Park. The Futures Park site had already been identified as a possible location as part of the scoping exercise conducted by LCC and was found to be suitable. Caulmert were appointed in April 2025 to undertake the RIBA 0-3 design stages, this included site feasibility, initial designs and the preparation of associated documents to make a planning application, which was following approval of £6m in the capital budget for the 2025/26. This budget will have to slip into 2026/27 and will be pending appropriate planning approvals being in place.

3.2 **LCC Offer** – LCC has offered a temporary solution to the problem of processing residual waste only resulting from LCC's decision to end the contract at Whinney Hill.

The LCC offer has been made for a period of 2 years (with a 1+1 extension possible) and would cover from April 2026 to April 2028 for the disposal of residual waste only. Government policy has expanded the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to include incinerators from 2028, meaning that there will be a new carbon tax on incinerated waste. LCC have made it clear that to minimise the impact of this new tax it is essential that they undertake moisture loss at Farrington for residual waste prior to it being incinerated, as such all residual waste will need to be transported to Farrington by 2028.

Accepting this offer would still leave the challenge of dealing with food waste and would not address the issue of Environment Agency regulatory changes relating to Henrietta Street. The Council would be faced with the scenario of having to transport food waste, recycling, street sweepings and public litter bin / fly tipped waste to a central location / Farrington at significant additional cost.

Cllr Roberts from LCC has recently written to RBC advising that if RBC were to build a WTS, LCC may be unable to collect as it would be “outside the approved LCC infrastructure”. LCC Officers have since confirmed that there is no “LCC approved infrastructure” but they could instruct us to take waste directly to Farrington (or another location). RBC have confirmed that LCC Officers were not aware of this letter and no other Borough Councils have received it – including Burnley, who are also in the process of building their own WTS.

3.3 Cost assessment of options -

Annual costs				
Rossendale	Delivery of all waste within 30 miles	Farrington Costs	New Bacup Waste Transfer	Current
Residual & Recycling Waste	£2,811,682	£3,661,251	£1,877,008	£2,690,964
Food Waste	£856,296	£1,290,339	£573,454	£744,640
Bulky, sweepings, fly tip and contractor transport	£1,100,638	£1,331,166	£658,435	£838,567
TOTAL	£4,768,615.63	£6,282,755.38	£3,108,897.44	£4,274,171.04
Cost difference to Current	£494,444.58	£2,008,584.34	£1,165,273.60	
Cost difference to New Bacup WTS	£1,659,718.19	£3,173,857.95		£1,165,273.60

4. DETAILS

4.1 Design & Build Process

The consultants currently engaged on the project (Caulmert) have successfully completed the RIBA 0-3 design phases and are currently concluding the RIBA 4 stage. Following the successful granting of planning permission the Council is now in a position to instruct main contractors, with a view to them commencing work on site in the new year. It is proposed to either engage Barnfield Investment Properties under the existing Joint Venture with the Council or conduct a tender exercise. Specialist equipment including the active carbon filtration and fire suppression will be sub-contracted to specialist providers.

Caulmert will be retained via a compliant procurement framework (Bloom) to manage the RIBA 5 – 6 stages of the build process, ensuring contract and quality compliance and ensuring budget adherence. Assuming building works can commence in the early new year the service hopes to be operational by the end of 2026.

4.2 Operating Model

The building will be utilised primarily as a waste transfer station, it will store waste collected on a daily basis by refuse vehicles for bulking up and collection for onward transfer to LCC's designated waste disposal location the following working day. All waste will be loaded and

unloaded inside of the waste building and will be segregated into the different waste streams in specific bays.

The building will also house a workshop facility to maintain the Council's fleet of vehicles along with the Green Spaces equipment. Green Spaces equipment will be stored securely at this site whilst the refuse vehicles will be stored overnight at the old LCC highways depot. Staff welfare facilities will be located at the old LCC highways depot for the Waste Crews.

The facility will operate Monday to Friday from 6.30am until 5pm, there will be occasional use of the site on Saturdays by Town Centre Caretakers. Vehicles will leave the site around 7am, returning to unload between 11am and 12 noon and then returning at the end of the day between 3.30 and 4pm. This is outside the peak rush hour times of the local roads and there will be minimal increases in vehicle movements as the majority of vehicles already pass the site to access the wider valley.

4.3 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Whilst the management arrangements for the collection of waste in Rossendale will undoubtedly change under any of the models of LGR the practical day to day arrangements are unlikely to change significantly.

Any new council structure will still operate as a waste collection authority and will have the responsibility of collecting domestic waste from local residents. The collection arrangements will still involve a fleet of RCV's (and other vehicles) collecting waste from doorsteps (and other locations). The nature of RCV's will remain unchanged, they will still be limited in size (given the nature of the valley and local roads) and will still be inefficient with limited range (Diesel, Hydrogen or EV) in comparison to 44 tonne articulated lorries.

The nature of the Rossendale Valley means that it would not be economically viable to site a full waste disposal facility in the borough and as such waste will need to be transferred out of the valley. Even if the new structure is a waste disposal authority all waste will need to be taken out of Rossendale for onward processing.

As can be seen from the above costings, whether the ultimate disposal site is Farrington or is on the M65 Corridor (at best) it is still more cost effective to bulk up the waste locally and transport it via articulated lorries out of the valley (rather than running individual collection vehicles). Indeed, this will deliver an overall recurrent revenue saving. It is also (for the same reasons) significantly better for the environment, reducing carbon emissions.

In addition to the obvious financial and environmental benefits the development of a modern waste transfer station will also help to protect front line jobs under LGR. It is likely that a local WTS would result in front line collection staff being based from the facility.

4.4 Design Considerations

Noise - The proposed facility will store waste inside a purpose-built building, with noise screening to minimise any disturbance. Since waste is not processed on site, the main source of noise will come from vehicle movements. These will be significantly reduced because loading and tipping will happen inside the building.

Odour - The building will be equipped with a specialist odour control system which will filter the air inside the building through charcoal filters. All waste will be processed within the facility and therefore, odours will be kept to a minimum.

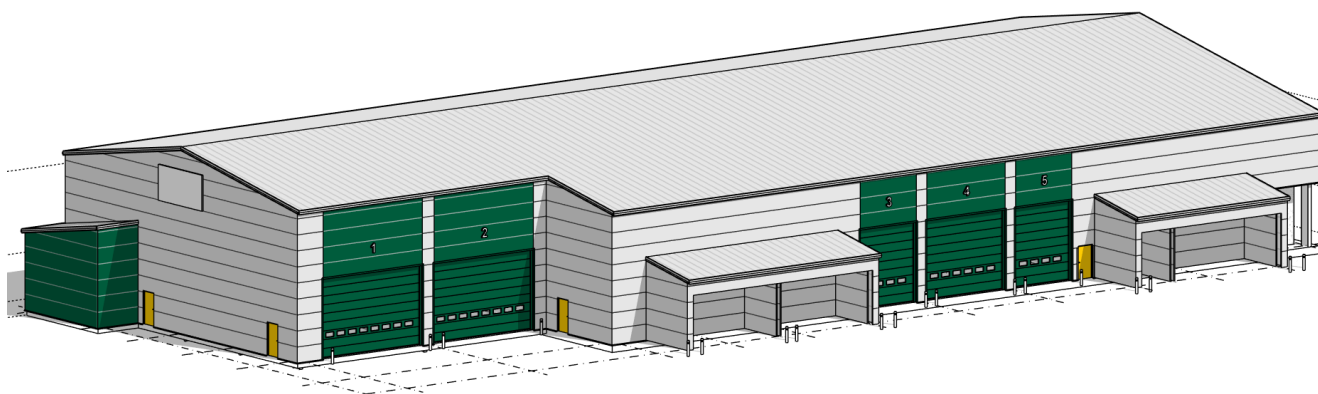
Vermin - The site is designed to minimise the risk of vermin. As waste is stored inside the facility, it will be enclosed and protected from birds, rodents, and other pests. As the building is fully enclosed, access can be closely monitored and managed, making vermin easier to control. In addition, the waste will only be stored for short periods which further reduces the risk of vermin.

Environment - The facility will be built to meet the latest Environment Agency design standards, including a sealed high-strength concrete floor, push walls, and a specialist drainage system with interceptors, it will be a “bunded” building which will contain any liquids. The building will use solar panels to supply electricity. By keeping waste processing on site and reducing the number of vehicle trips, the facility will significantly lower fuel use and reduce the Council’s carbon footprint.

Fire - The new development has specialist fire suppression systems designed into the building. The system is based around a water canon model, which uses significantly less water than a traditional sprinkler system and as such minimises any pollution risk, fire prevention water will be retained in the building for appropriate disposal.

4.5 Images





5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Environment Agency introduces the proposed changes to Waste Permitting meaning that the Henrietta Street Waste Transfer Station is no longer compliant.
- Project experiences unexpected ground conditions at site
- Build element of project takes longer than forecast
- Issues obtaining EA Waste Permit
- Covenant restrictions relating to Homes England
- Build budget exceeded
- LCC refusal to collect from new Transfer Station

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 As demonstrated in the above information, the current waste transfer arrangements will not be fit for purpose from April 2026 and change will need to be implemented. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to identify the options available that are deliverable within the required timescales.

Any delay to decision making will result in significant and recurring monthly expenditure which would compromise the sustainability of the Council in the near future. It is essential that a decision is reached to move forward with the scheme to minimise costs and ensure continued

service delivery to local residents and the continued delivery of our statutory duty as a waste collection authority.

Whilst local government reorganisation will undoubtedly result in significant changes it has been clearly demonstrated that this solution will be the most cost effective and environmentally friendly solution to an ongoing waste collection requirement irrespective of the organisational structure.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 The financial implications of delivery or otherwise of a new compliant waste transfer station are included within the report. There will be some ancillary fees such as legal, project management and design fees which are as yet unevaluated which will need to be included in the final budget proposal subject to appropriate planning regulations compliance.

8. LEGAL

- 8.1 Legal implications are covered in the body of the report. Under the terms of an existing joint venture agreement the Council is required to approach Barnfield Investment Properties in the first instance with respect to any opportunity such as this.

9. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. REASON FOR DECISION

- 10.1 The proposed solution will deliver significant revenue savings to this and any future authority and the capital expenditure could be recovered in under 3 years when compared to the solution of delivering waste directly to Farrington.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	RBC Planning Portal

Subject:	Public Meeting Schedule	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	17 December 2025
Report of:	Executive and Democratic Services Manager	Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 252422
Email:	carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council agree the Public Meeting Schedule containing dates of public meetings for 2026/27 as detailed at Appendix A.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- To ask members to consider and agree the public committee meeting dates for 2026/27.
- To enable councillors to be aware of key meeting dates.
- To inform and publicise public meetings for 2026/27.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council is required to agree an annual meeting schedule.

4. DETAILS

4.1 The proposed schedule of public meetings for 2026/27 is attached at Appendix A for consideration and approval.

4.2 Early approval of the meeting schedule assists with:

- enabling councillors to plan their workloads for the coming year
- informing of expected committees and planning training dates
- informing partner organisations of councillor availability to attend other meetings
- enabling deadlines and lead-in times to be communicated to the relevant officers

4.3 Consultation has taken place with relevant managers, Corporate Management Team, the lead member, Cabinet members and group leaders.

5. RISK

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

- A meeting schedule is required in order to provide good customer service, promote local democracy and encourage public participation and involvement in the decision making process.
- Decisions made at any unscheduled or unpublicised meetings would be breaking the statutory legal requirements, thus making the Council open to legal challenge.

6. FINANCE

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL

There are no specific legal implications identified as arising from this report, other than the need to meet Access to Information requirements for public meetings that take place during the municipal year.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified policy implications or equality impacts for the Council arising from this report.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

To agree a committee schedule in order to ensure that the Council can effectively conduct its business.

No background papers

Appendix A

Version draft 1 as at 02.12.2025 - Rossendale Borough Council – Public Meetings Timetable 2026/27

All the meetings below are held at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber unless otherwise stated on the agenda.												
Meeting	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027
Full Council	22 AM		8			7		9			3 B , 24	
Cabinet	13		15		23	21		2		10 B	17	
Development Control	19	23	21		1	6	17	15	19		2	13
Overview and Scrutiny		15			14		9		18	8 B	22	
Licensing											9	
Audit and Accounts			29			14			27		10	

AM = Annual Council Meeting **B** = Budget Meeting **E** = Extraordinary meeting **S** = Special

Community Partnership Meetings are held in a local area venue and usually start at 6.30pm.

Please note that these are not Council meetings and dates may be subject to mid-year changes.

Meeting	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026
Bacup		25				22				11		
Haslingden		4				15				4		
Rawtenstall		18				1			21			
Whitworth		9			22				26			

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes.

This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact of local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents.

This council also notes that whilst elected members will have differences of opinion and may not agree with each other's points of view, there should be an expectation that they will treat each other with respect, they will not share any misinformation that may cause harm or increase abuse to other elected member, and will do their best to disagree agreeably and uphold the Nolan Principals at all times.

This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and officers and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA's Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support those in public life facing abuse and intimidation.

In addition, this council resolves to

- Write to the local Member of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign and to raise awareness of this campaign in parliament when the opportunity arises.
- Ensure the council has a clear reporting mechanism which councillors can use to monitor and record incidents of harassment and abuse of councillors and officers
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation and councillor safety
- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families and discuss the need to take a preventative approach that accounts for the specific risks that councillors face, as they do with other high-risk individuals, like MPs. This includes links with specialist officers as part of Operation Ford.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.

Date of Council Meeting:-

17th December 2025

Notice submitted from

Councillor Samara Barnes

Date: 4th December 2025

Councillor Alan Neal	Date: 4 th December 2025
Notice received and validated by S151 Officer: Chris Warren	
Comments: No comments.	Date: 5 th December 2025
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments: No legal implications.	Date: 5 th December 2025
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 4 th December 2025