

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 6th May 2026 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:

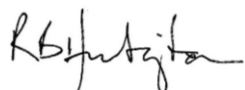
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Executive and Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422

Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 4 th March 2026.	
A3.	<p>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></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
A4.	<p>Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.</p>	
B.	<p>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>	<p>The Mayor, Councillor Michelle Smith, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 217777 robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>

C.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
C1.	Delivery of a Sustainable Leisure Offer for Rossendale To consider the delivery of a sustainable leisure offer for Rossendale.	Councillor A. Barnes / Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 217777 robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C2.	Rossendale Local Plan: Indicative Timetable, Publish Notice to Commence and Approve Scoping Consultation To consider the Rossendale Local Plan report.	Councillor A. Barnes/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 217777 davidsmurthwaite@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: a. Special Urgency Decision taken 8 th April 2026 regarding the acceptance of the Local Authority Housing Fund grant as detailed in the decision notice: https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/19430/special-urgency-lahf-4-funding b. Special Urgency Decision taken 22 nd April 2026 regarding the acceptance of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) as detailed in the decision notice: https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/19446/special-urgency-decision-acceptance-of-the-crisis-and-resilience-fund-crf-	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 Adshead and Payne regarding waste.	Councillor Julie Adshead Councillor John Payne



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 27th April 2026

COUNCILLOR MICHELLE SMITH, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 4th March 2026

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Chris Warren, Director of Resources / S151 Officer
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Darren Kershaw, Mayor's Attendant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for Paula Lucas, Payroll Officer and Dorothy Mitchell MBE.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors Ashworth, McMahon and Woods.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2025 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Lythgoe and S. Smith declared they were Rossendale Leisure Trust Board Members (Items C1 minute 6 and C2 minute 7).

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

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

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS

6. 2026/27 Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

The Council considered the 2026/27 Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Officers and members were thanked for their work and input into the budget process and proposals.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Play areas in Whitworth had been improved.

Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Samara Barnes	For
Cllr Bauld	For
Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hancock	For
Cllr Harris	For
Cllr Harrison	For
Cllr Hodgkiss	Against
Cllr Holland	Against
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Norton	For
Cllr Payne	For
Cllr Procter	For
Cllr Ritson	Against
Cllr Michelle Smith	For
Cllr Scott Smith	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	21
Against:	5
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

Council approves:

1. A revenue budget for 2026/27 of £14.6m, as detailed in the report.
2. A Council Tax increase of 2.99%, increasing the Council Tax rate for a Band D property from £317.66 to £327.16, an increase of £9.50pa.
3. Use of £1,261k from the reserves to support the 2026/27 revenue budget, acknowledging that this requirement is forecast to reduce in future years
4. The proposed fees and charges as attached in Appendix 1.
5. The technical resolution necessary to give effect to these budget proposals attached as Appendix 4.

Reason for Decision

The budget process is a key element of the Council's Strategic Planning process. It is part of the service and financial planning approach adopted by the Council, is a means of ensuring that resources are best placed to enable the Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities expressed in the Corporate Plan.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2027/28 and Capital Strategy 2026/27

The Council considered the Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2027/28 and Capital Strategy 2026/27.

In response to questions the S151 Officer gave clarification on differential costings on the Waste Transfer Station.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- A decision had already been made on the waste transfer station and waste would always have to be transferred somewhere else.
- The Council was starting to do a review of the Local Plan and there would be housing pressures.
- The infrastructure needs of East Lancashire analysis being undertaken by Lancashire County Council (LCC) was welcomed.
- A report would be coming through in relation to the leisure review.
- Henrietta Street was not fit for purpose in terms of legislative changes and the working environment.
- The County Council had been invited to contribute financially to the waste transfer development.
- The Local Plan had allocated employment sites as and not just housing sites.

Resolved:

Council approves:

1. The capital programme for 2026/27 and associated capital expenditure of £30,177m, and additional capital expenditure for the period of 2027/28 of £3.682m. The Capital programme is attached at Appendix A.

Reason for Decision

To achieve the Council's strategic plans and operational requirements for the next two years.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy

The Council considered the 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy.

Thanks was given to the officers of the small finance team for their work and dedication and it was also noted that their work had been recognised at a national level where they had been highly commended by the Local Government Chronical awards.

Resolved:

Council approves:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the borrowing strategy.
2. The Investment Strategy, including Investment Indicators.
3. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement.
4. To delegate any further minor amendments to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Reason for Decision

To ensure continued compliance with the Code and continue to manage the Council's exposure to financial risk.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS**9. Council Pay Policy Statement 2026**

The Council considered the Council Pay Policy Statement and thanks was given to the officers for their hard work.

Resolved:

Full Council approves the Pay Policy Statement.

Reason for Decision

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

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Extension of Rossendale Works Employability Project for 12 months

The Council considered the extension of Rossendale Works Employability Project for 12 months.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- It was a valuable scheme for our community that would continue over the next twelve months whilst future funding was identified.

Resolved:

1. To extend the Rossendale Works project and staffing for 12 months (to April 2027)
2. To approve the proposed KPI's and delivery plan.
3. To Delegate Authority to the Head of Legal Services and Director of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Lead Member for Economic Development to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Active Lancashire for the extension.

Reason for Decision

The project would strengthen the local workforce by equipping residents with job-ready skills and connecting them to employment opportunities, thereby supporting business growth and economic vitality in Rossendale.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. Acceptance of housing related grants

The Council considered the acceptance of housing related grants.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- There was potential for empty properties being brought back in to use.

The Revive Hub in Haslingden was commended by members for the excellent work that they were doing and their relationship with the Council.

Resolved:

1. To delegate authority to the Head of Legal, Director of Resources and Director of Economic Development, in consultation with the Lead Members for Communities, Housing and Health and Resources, to enter into agreements to accept and spend the following grant funding:
 - 2025/26 - Homeless Prevention Grant (Winter Top Up) £55,046
 - 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29 - Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (three year award awarded annually)
 - £453,937 (26/27)
 - £499,355 (27/28)
 - £581,058 (28/29)
 - 2025/26 - Supported Housing Strategy Grant £49,621
2. To note and accept the proposed delivery plans set out in section 3.5.

Reason for Decision

Acceptance and use of the grant funding supports delivery of the Council's statutory duties under homelessness legislation and preparation for reforms arising from the Renters Rights Act 2025 and the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness. The proposals also enable development of a Local Supported Housing Strategy in line with the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 and strengthen the Council's focus on early intervention and homelessness prevention.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

12. Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

The Council considered the Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27.

Resolved:

That Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March. Adoption of the scheme by full Council before 11th March will meet the Council's statutory duty.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Interim S151 Officer

Thanks was given to the Director of Resources for his hard work during his employment and he was wished well in his new post.

The Council considered appointing Kimberly Haworth, Head of Financial Services, as the Interim S151 Officer.

Resolved:

That Council approve the appointment of Kimberly Haworth, Head of Financial Services, as the Interim S151 Officer.

Reason for Decision

To agree an Interim S151 Officer.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

14. Urgent decisions

No urgent decisions had been taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

15. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group - Update to Contract Procedure Rules and publication of the revised Constitution

The Council considered the update to the Contract Procedure Rules and publication of the revised Constitution.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The changes would make procedures more robust and in line with current practices.
- The Governance Working Group had reviewed the changes and recommended them to Council for approval.

Resolved:

1. To approve replacing the existing Part 5 - Contract Procedure Rules within the Constitution with the revised version.
2. That the updated Constitution be published on the Council’s website.
3. That the current Procurement Strategy be removed from the Council’s website to simplify the guidance.

Reason for Decision

The revised Rules align with statutory requirements under the Procurement Act 2023. Publication of the updated Constitution and removal of the outdated Procurement Strategy will ensure officers and suppliers access accurate and compliant guidance.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 7.05pm and concluded at 9.00pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date

Report Title:	Delivery of a Sustainable Leisure Offer for Rossendale		
Report to:	Council	Date:	6 th May 2026
Report of:	Chief Executive	Cabinet Portfolio	Leader of the Council
Cabinet Lead Member	Councillor Alyson Barnes	Wards Affected	All
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency
Integrated Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Rob Huntington	Telephone:	01706 217777
Email:	robhuntington@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

Valley Plan Priorities	Thriving Local Economy: This involves securing new inward investment, creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills with future job opportunities, and supporting town centres as unique destinations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	High Quality Environment: This includes having a "clean and green" local environment, reducing the borough's carbon footprint, improving waste and recycling rates, and delivering new homes with a good mix of housing tenures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Healthy & Proud Communities: This priority focuses on improving the health and physical/mental wellbeing of residents, reducing health inequalities, ensuring access to better leisure facilities and health services, and fostering a sense of pride in the community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective & Efficient Council: The aim is to provide good quality and responsive services, embrace new technology, be a financially sustainable council with a commercial outlook, and ensure sound governance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Rossendale Borough Council commenced a review of its leisure delivery model in September 2025. This report presents a set of recommendations to Full Council, following that review, designed to secure a sustainable leisure offer for the Borough over the long term. The review was prompted by a combination of factors and the need to ensure that leisure provision is placed on a sound footing ahead of Local Government Reorganisation.
- 1.2 The review examined the current operating model in full, assessing the performance and condition of the facilities managed by Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) on the Council's behalf, alongside the financial, legal and governance arrangements underpinning their operation.
- 1.3 Based on that assessment, the review recommends a series of interconnected changes that when taken together address the structural weaknesses that currently prevent RLT from investing in its facilities, repaying the intercompany loan owed to the Council, or responding to the changing needs of Rossendale's communities. They will improve the financial sustainability of the leisure delivery model, create the conditions for targeted capital investment, including through Sport England's Place Capital Fund, and ensure that both the Council and RLT are well positioned as the Borough transitions to a new unitary authority in April 2028.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Full Council agrees to the following:

- i) Transition the existing Rossendale Leisure Trust to an agency model, with supporting management and legal agreements and leases redrafted to reflect the reshaped portfolio and new operating arrangement.
- ii) Reconfigure the portfolio of facilities managed by RLT as follows:
 - (1) **The Ashcroft** – Invite the asset transfer to Whitworth Town Council, subject to submission of a comprehensive business plan.
 - (2) **The Whitaker Museum and Art Gallery** – retained under its current operational and governance arrangements, with active work toward the conditions necessary for independent viability in the medium term.
 - (3) **The Hill** – retained under RLT operation, with a future options appraisal for further investment or alternative use to be undertaken in the near term.
- iii) Progress three capital investment priorities across the retained facilities:
 - (1) **Marl Pits** – extension of the existing gym and studio offer, and invite the asset transfer of the outdoor sports facilities to the east of the site to a new multi-sports organisation.
 - (2) **Pioneer** – relocation to a new site fitted out for gym and studio provision.
 - (3) **Adrenaline** – remodelling of the existing layout to improve facility capacity and configuration.
- iv) Develop a clear vision and action plan to support sustained investment in physical activity facilities across the borough.
- v) Establish an annual reporting mechanism to Rossendale Borough Council to monitor implementation, outcomes, and the overall impact of the revised leisure delivery model.
- vi) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Communities, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Economic Development, and the Head of Legal and Governance, to take all necessary steps to implement these recommendations, including but not limited to the negotiation and completion of revised legal agreements, leases, asset transfer documentation, and any associated contractual, financial, or governance arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND & REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) was established in 2004 and currently manages a diverse and ageing portfolio of leisure and cultural facilities on behalf of Rossendale Borough Council (RBC). The breadth of that portfolio spanning core physical activity and leisure provision, cultural assets, and specialist facilities. creates real challenges in generating sufficient income to cover operating costs, invest in facilities, and service the intercompany loan. While this diversity reflects the historical development of the trust, it limits RLT's ability to focus its management capacity and commercial effort on the areas of greatest return.

4. REDEFINING THE LEISURE PORTFOLIO

- 4.1 There is a clear opportunity, through the recommendations proposed, to reorient RLT toward its core purpose of physical activity, sport and leisure, whilst reaching considered decisions on the three facilities that sit outside that core remit, The Ashcroft, The Whitaker, and The Hill. Each of those three facilities also carries a share of the intercompany loan, which has a direct bearing on the options available.
- 4.2 The Ashcroft in Whitworth has evolved considerably since it was first included in RLT's portfolio. It now operates principally as a local events and community venue, serving a function

that is distinct from leisure delivery in the conventional sense. Whitworth Town Council (WTC) has expressed a clear interest in an asset transfer, and there is a credible case for this: the Council has an existing relationship with the venue and there is potential synergy with its management of Whitworth Leisure Centre. However, an asset transfer would place additional operational and financial responsibilities on WTC, and it will need to demonstrate the capacity to take these on.

- 4.3 The Whitaker Museum and Art Gallery is a specialist and well-regarded cultural asset whose potential, particularly for events income, remains underexploited. RBC has historically provided an annual grant to the Whitaker, though this has reduced in recent years alongside a reduction in the Council's maintenance responsibilities. Both the Chair of the Whitaker Trust and senior management have identified a longer-term aspiration for the museum to become independent of RLT, and the review supports that ambition in principle.
- 4.4 However, independence is not currently viable without several conditions being met. Three part-time posts, covering volunteering, schools and education and programme co-ordination, are currently funded through a Heritage Lottery Fund award that expires in 2027/28. These posts are essential to the Whitaker's ability to attract external funding and generate events income; without them, an independent trust would struggle to sustain itself financially. The £365,103 debt owed by the Whitaker to RLT also remains an unresolved issue: it forms part of the wider intercompany loan and cannot simply be written off without consequence. As the building is an RBC asset, maintenance risk and the cost of any significant capital works remain with the Council regardless of governance arrangements. The recommendation is therefore to retain the Whitaker within RLT's governance structure for now, while actively working toward the conditions that would make independence viable in the medium term.
- 4.5 The Hill presents the most complex of the three portfolio decisions. The dry ski slope carries £39,007 of the intercompany loan and the facility's current configuration also limits its capacity to diversify: the nursery slope is already being used for both skiing and tubing, leaving very little room to develop additional activity without capital investment in new infrastructure. Whilst The Hill delivers genuine community benefit, its ability to do so is constrained, external investment opportunities are limited, and the financial case for the scale of capital required does not stand up against the income the facility can realistically generate. Decisions about its future are genuinely difficult and any decision to cease operation must address the Sport England grant of £470,000 awarded to the facility, which carries clawback provisions that will require specific legal and financial advice before any closure is confirmed. The review highlights the need for a clear strategic decision regarding the long-term future of Ski Rossendale (The Hill). The facility represents a unique leisure asset within the Valley and to support future decision-making, the Council would need to commission further detailed analysis of the options for the future of The Hill.

5. CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE LEISURE PORTFOLIO

- 5.1 There are several potential capital investment priorities aimed at strengthening the Valley leisure offer. These include the expansion of gym and studio provision at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, the relocation of Pioneer Health Studio to a Council-owned building, and the medium to long-term redevelopment of the Adrenaline Centre.
- 5.2 Marl Pits Leisure Centre is identified as the Council's primary leisure facility and plays a central role in supporting physical activity provision across the Borough. As Health and Fitness Direct Debit memberships represent one of the most reliable and scalable revenue streams for Rossendale Leisure Trust, expanding an already successful gym offer presents a lower risk

investment compared to new provision elsewhere. Increased capacity through an extension of the gym would enable additional memberships, improve the customer experience, enhance secondary spend all resulting in a more positive revenue position.

- 5.3 Strategically, the gym at Marl Pits represents a high-performing asset constrained by physical capacity rather than demand. The evidence strongly supports targeted investment to expand the fitness suite as part of a phased approach, delivering early revenue and participation benefits while wider decisions on aquatic provision are resolved at a Borough level.
- 5.4 In 2023, RBC commissioned GT3 Architects to undertake a feasibility study to assess the potential to extend the fitness provision at Marl Pits Leisure Centre by approximately 195 sqm. Whilst this study needs to be revisited and updated in terms of capital cost, it demonstrates that an extension to Marl Pits is achievable.
- 5.5 The review therefore recommends that the Council considers investment in the site to enhance its capacity and facilities. The Council has submitted a bid for Pride in Place funding, which presents an opportunity to enhance the leisure offer at Marl Pits through the potential extension of the facility and improved fitness and studio provision. Investment would allow the Council and Rossendale Leisure Trust to increase capacity, modernise facilities and provide additional spaces for health and wellbeing activities.
- 5.6 To ensure that any future investment is supported by robust evidence and design proposals, a feasibility study will be required to assess the options for extending the facility. The feasibility study would consider the most appropriate design and layout for a potential extension, opportunities to expand gym, studio and health activity spaces, the potential increase in participation and income generation, and the capital costs and funding requirements. The feasibility study would be funded through Pride in Place resources and will provide an update to the 2023 study.
- 5.7 In relation to Pioneer Health Studio, the review identifies the opportunity to develop a new leisure facility within existing council owned assets, which would require a further feasibility work to consider the overall capital investment required. Further feasibility work is also required at the Adrenaline Centre in relation to remodelling of the existing layout to improve facility capacity and configuration.

6. ROSSENDALE LEISURE TRUST OPERATING MODEL

- 6.1 There is the potential for the Council to transition to an agency model for the delivery of leisure services. This approach would enable the Council to treat leisure services as non-business activities for VAT purposes, allowing the recovery of previously irrecoverable VAT. The model is estimated to deliver annual savings of approximately £92,000. To support the development and implementation of the agency model, the Council will need to commission a suitably qualified legal or VAT advisory firm to act as an expert consultant. The implementation of the agency model will require the introduction of revised legal agreements and leases between Rossendale Borough Council and Rossendale Leisure Trust to reflect the new operating arrangements.
- 6.2 To ensure appropriate oversight of the leisure delivery model, annual monitoring and reporting arrangements will be established. These will report to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on the operational performance, financial position and strategic outcomes associated with the delivery of leisure services.

6.3 It is also proposed that Rossendale Leisure Trust undertakes an organisational review by December 2026. The purpose of the organisational review is to ensure that the Trust's staffing structure, management capacity and governance arrangements are aligned with the future leisure delivery model. This will support the Council's objectives of increasing participation in physical activity, improving financial sustainability and maintaining high-quality leisure services across the Borough. Any costs of re-structure arising from the organisational review would be treated as an in-year financial pressure within Rossendale Leisure Trust's accounts and reflected accordingly within its financial reporting.

7. RISKS

7.1 **Financial risk** – RLT currently operates close to break-even and has limited ability to generate surplus income to invest in facilities or repay the intercompany loan owed to the Council.

7.2 **Asset condition risk** – Many facilities are ageing and require capital investment to remain operational and safe. Failure to invest may result in closure or reduced service provision.

7.3 **Legal and contractual risk** – Existing leases and agreements do not reflect current operational arrangements and require review to ensure legal clarity and risk mitigation.

7.4 **Reputational risk** – Decisions regarding the future of facilities such as Ski Rossendale (The Hill) could generate public concern if not managed appropriately.

7.5 These risks can be mitigated through implementation of the recommendations in the Strategic Leisure review, particularly the transition to an agency model and targeted capital investment.

8. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)

8.1 The Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2027/28, approved by Council on 4 March 2026, includes direct capital provision of £2.500m for Leisure Facilities upgrades, profiled in full in 2026/27 and financed from the Council's own resources and prudential borrowing. This investment reflects the Council's continuing commitment under the Valley Plan priority of Healthy and Proud Communities, and in particular the objective of ensuring residents have access to high-quality leisure facilities.

8.2 The programme also delivers further capital investment into the Council's leisure asset base through two externally supported schemes. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) provides £1.579m of investment in decarbonisation works at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, of which £1.279m is grant-funded by PSDS with a £0.300m contribution from the Council. The Football Pitches scheme provides a further £1.237m of investment in playing pitch infrastructure, of which £0.987m is funded by the Football Foundation alongside a £0.250m Council contribution. Taken together with the Leisure Facilities upgrades budget, total capital investment in leisure and leisure-related assets across the MTFS period amounts to £5.316m, of which £2.816m is externally funded.

8.3 The Capital Strategy additionally identifies future Health and Leisure Facility improvements, together with schemes arising from the Playing Pitch Strategy, as potential further additions to the programme. These remain at feasibility stage or earlier and would, if brought forward, require Member approval and full consideration of the associated revenue implications — including the Minimum Revenue Provision charge — particularly given the constrained two-year MTFS horizon ahead of Vesting Day on 1 April 2028.

8.4 Revenue costs associated with the implementation of the above recommendations will be funded from reserves arising from under-spends in 2025/26.

9. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)

9.1 All legal implications are covered in the body of the report. All necessary external support to put the recommendations into effect will be procured in line with the Council's Constitution.

10. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Leisure and physical activity services play an important role in improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities within the Borough.

10.2 The recommendations outlined in this report support the Council's ambition to increase physical activity participation and improve wellbeing, particularly through investment in accessible facilities and community health programmes.

11. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The proposals support the Council's strategic priorities including:

- Rossendale's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy ("An Active Valley")
- The Valley Plan priorities relating to healthy communities
- Wider health and wellbeing objectives.
- Investment in leisure infrastructure and services will contribute to improving health outcomes and increasing physical activity levels across the Borough.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The timelines for LGR are very tight and if new Shadow local authorities are going to be in place by April 2028 there is a very small window for change in relation to the model for the delivery of leisure services. Decisions on the adoption of change to the existing Trust model will need to be made in 2026/27 to mitigate risk of non-agreement as the new shadow authority starts to take shape.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 No Background papers

Report Title:	Rossendale Local Plan: Indicative Timetable, Publish Notice to Commence and Approve Scoping Consultation		
Report to:	Council	Date:	6 May 2026
Report of:	Head of Planning	Cabinet Portfolio:	Planning
Cabinet Lead Member:	Councillor A Barnes	Wards Affected:	All
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency
Integrated Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah	Telephone:	01706 252418
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

Valley Plan Priorities	Thriving Local Economy: This involves securing new inward investment, creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills with future job opportunities, and supporting town centres as unique destinations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	High Quality Environment: This includes having a "clean and green" local environment, reducing the borough's carbon footprint, improving waste and recycling rates, and delivering new homes with a good mix of housing tenures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Healthy & Proud Communities: This priority focuses on improving the health and physical/mental wellbeing of residents, reducing health inequalities, ensuring access to better leisure facilities and health services, and fostering a sense of pride in the community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective & Efficient Council: The aim is to provide good quality and responsive services, embrace new technology, be a financially sustainable council with a commercial outlook, and ensure sound governance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Report seeks authorisation of the formal commencement of a new Local Plan for Rossendale, to set out a proposed timetable and to agree appropriate delegated authority to progress the new Local Plan. The Council has received £108,000 from MHCLG's Local Plan Implementation Fund to press ahead with the review of the Rossendale Local Plan under the new Local Plan system, introduced 25 March 2026. As a result, the Council is committed to publishing the Notice of Intention to Commence the Local Plan before 30 June 2026 and to publish the Gateway 1 Assessment before 30 October 2026.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- 2.1 Approves a full update of the Rossendale Local Plan to commence in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
- 2.2 Approves the publication of the Council's formal "Notice of Intention to Commence" the Rossendale Local Plan before 30 June 2026.
- 2.3 Agrees that the Local Plan Steering Group retains oversight of the preparation of the Local Plan
- 2.4 Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning for the following:

- 2.4.1 to publish the Rossendale Local Plan timetable, with submission by Friday 8 May 2026 to MHCLG.
- 2.4.2 to approve updates to the Local Plan timetable as required
- 2.4.3 to approve, publish and submit the documents and statements as required for the statutory Gateways 1, 2 and 3
- 2.4.4 to commission, subject to the Local Plan budget, and approve all evidence base documents, reports and supporting data and analysis for publication and where appropriate consultation
- 2.4.5 to finalise, agree and publish the statutory ‘scoping stage’ consultation ahead of the Gateway 1 assessment (to be published before 30 October 2026)

3. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1 Reforms to the plan-making system were introduced in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 and are being implemented through the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which came into effect on 25 March 2026. The reforms introduced substantial changes to the local plan-making system to prepare plans within a 30-month timeframe. It is expected that Local Plans will progress more quickly, being shorter, clearer and digitally accessible and contain a vision for the area with measurable outcomes.
- 3.2 Cabinet agreed on 11 February 2026 that, if the bid for the Local Plan Implementation/New System Plan Fund be successful, authority to accept this be delegated to the Director of Economic Development and the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Lead members for Planning and Resources. MHCLG emailed on 25 March to confirm that Rossendale has been awarded £108,474.57 of New System Plan Funding (Local Plan Implementation Fund Grant Determination 2025-26: No 31/8293). As explained in the Cabinet Report, this funding was made available to authorities who will be progressing plans early in the new system and commit to publishing their Notice of Intention (NoI) to commence the Local Plan by 30 June 2026, with publication of the Gateway 1 self-assessment before 31 October 2026.
- 3.3 The Rossendale Local Plan (2019 to 2026) was adopted on 15 December 2021. As a result of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, the Council is required to start work on a new Local Plan, publishing the NoI to commence before 31 December 2026 and the Gateway 1 assessment before 30 April 2027. Accepting this funding accelerates the timescale by six months.
- 3.4 As well as publishing a ‘formal notice of intention to commence local plan preparation’, there is a requirement to publish the local plan timetable. A scoping consultation will also be required. This scoping consultation will seek feedback on what the local plan should contain and how consultation and engagement will be undertaken. This needs to be undertaken ahead of publishing the Gateway 1 self-assessment. It should also be noted that we are awaiting the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which is due to be published in June. This will shape the scope and content of the new Local Plan.

4. DETAILS

Formal Notice to Commence Local Plan Making

- 4.1 The notice to commence plan making marks the formal start to the preparation of a new local plan for Rossendale. The regulations require that the Council publishes a formal notice to commence plan-making. This will give communities and other stakeholders advanced notice of plan-making, so that they understand when and how they can get involved in the process.

- 4.2 In accordance with Regulation 19(1) and (2) the notice of intention to commence must contain the following:
- (a) *the name of the local planning authority who have prepared the notice,*
Rossendale Borough Council
 - (b) *the geographical area to which the local plan is to relate,*
The Rossendale Local Plan will cover the administrative area of the Borough of Rossendale
 - (c) *the title, if any, by which the local planning authority will refer to the local plan,*
To be confirmed - The Rossendale Local Plan
 - (d) *details of where the local planning authority's local plan timetable is published, and*
This will be published on the Council's website
 - (e) *the date on which the notice is made available under [paragraph \(1\)](#).*
The Notice will be made available before 30 June 2026

The Local Plan Timetable

- 4.3 There is a requirement to prepare and maintain a local plan timetable. The form, content, revision and publication of the timetable is set out in Part 2 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 (Regulations 4, 6 and 8).
- 4.4 The timetable must set out an overall timeframe of 30 months (following Gateway 1) for preparation of the local plan. The plan-making process includes a scoping consultation followed by two further consultations on the draft local plan prior to the examination stage. The timetable includes three gateway stages at key milestones which must be passed through successfully to progress to the next stage of plan making. The gateway stages include:
- **Gateway 1:** The first gateway is a self-assessment stage of readiness for plan making including details of project management, the timetable, approach to consultation and the proposed local plan scope. This must be published before 31 October 2026, and marks the start of the 30-month timetable for plan-making.
 - **Gateway 2:** The second gateway is undertaken following the first consultation on the draft local plan. An appointed planning inspector will assess the soundness of the Plan. This is expected to take place in September 2027.
 - **Gateway 3:** The third gateway is undertaken following consultation on the proposed local plan and includes a final assessment by a planning inspector prior to submission of the Plan for examination. This is expected to take place in September 2028.
- 4.5 It is expected that local plan timetables are kept up to date and not require full approval by Council each time they are updated. Delegated authority is sought for the Director of Economic Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to publish the local plan timetable and to agree subsequent updates to the timetable as appropriate.

Local Plan Scoping Consultation and Evidence Base work

- 4.6 Regulation 20 sets out a requirement to undertake a 'scoping consultation' with specific and general consultees which seeks feedback from stakeholders on how to engage with them through the plan making process and what the local plan should contain. This is a high-level consultation as part of 'getting ready for plan making' to inform the scope and content of the Local Plan and will not present policy options. This must be undertaken after giving notice of

the intention to commence and before passing through Gateway 1. It is intended that a 6-week consultation will be undertaken over the summer.

- 4.7 It is expected that a Call for Sites consultation will be undertaken at the same time, to help find land to meet the Borough's development needs, particularly for housing and employment.
- 4.8 Further work will be required on updating the Evidence Base to inform the Local Plan. Consideration will be given, where possible, to work with other local councils.

Gateway 1: the self-assessment summary

- 4.9 Gateway 1 is a self-assessment of readiness for local plan preparation. This must be undertaken before 31 October 2026. As set out in Regulation 21 the self-assessment summary must contain:
- (a) *The Local Plan timetable*
 - (b) *The local planning authority's (LPA) project management and governance arrangements for the preparation of the Local Plan*
 - (c) *The LPA's proposed approach to consultation and engagement in preparing the local plan*
 - (d) *The anticipated content of the local plan, and*
 - (e) *any obligation arising under Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.*

Post Gateway 1

- 4.10 Having passed through Gateway 1, the 30-month timetable will commence and the Council will be expected to undertake two further consultations and pass through Gateways 2 and 3, which will be assessed by an independent Planning Inspector, before formally submitting the Local Plan for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. This will be expected 24 months after Gateway 1. The final six months (from October 2028 to April 2029) will be for the independent examination and adoption by the local planning authority.

Local Plan Timetable

- 4.11 MHCLG has requested all authorities to complete a survey before Friday 8 May, providing dates for key milestones. The Council will need to publish the timetable on the same day as the Notice of Intention to commence plan-making, which will be expected soon after approval by Council. The timetable is set out in Appendix 1. It will need to be kept up-to-date.

5. RISK

- 5.1 A condition of the Local Plan Implementation funding requires the Council to publish the Notice of Intention to commence before 30 June and the Gateway 1 self-assessment by 31 October this year. The Council could be asked to return the funding (in the region of £108,000) and/or it may affect future funding for the Local Plan, if the deadlines are not met.
- 5.2 As the current Local Plan for Rossendale was adopted on 15 December 2021, the very latest that the Council could formally commence plan-making by publishing the Notice of Intention to commence is 31 December 2026, reaching Gateway 1 within four months (30 April 2027). This is a statutory requirement. Failure to meet these deadlines may result in government intervention, for which the Council would be financially responsible. The statutory

deadline is only 6-months later than this Report recommends in order to make use of the Government funding explained above in para 5.1.

- 5.3 It is imperative to keep the Local Plan up-to-date and maintain a 5-year housing land supply and meet the Housing Delivery Test as otherwise the Council will be at an increased risk of speculative development.

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)

- 6.1 There are costs associated with preparing a Local Plan, including evidence base studies, legal support, digital plan development, consultation and engagement, as well as the Examination. The Council's budget for 2026/27 has set money aside for the Local Plan review and in addition the Council has been awarded funding from MHCLG for Green Belt studies (£70,000) plus the recent £108,000 and money remaining from the Digital Transformation Fund, which is earmarked to help with GIS and Digital Services. It is anticipated that further funding may be made available as the new system progresses and LGR is implemented. Costs can be spread over the next few years.

7. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to press ahead with the Local Plan review. The recommendations in this Report will commit the Council to commence this 6-months earlier. In doing so the Council is able to make use of Government funding to help with the costs and other assistance from MHCLG and the Planning Advisory Service as a forerunner of the new system.

8. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This will be completed when a draft local plan is emerging.

9. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 As the statutory development plan for Rossendale, the Local Plan continues to play a role in supporting the Valley Plan (the Corporate Plan for Rossendale).
- 9.2 The Lancashire Combined Authority is tasked with preparing a sub-regional Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) that will cover the whole of Lancashire. All the Local Plans being prepared will need to conform with the SDS but the Government and MHCLG in particular are aware of the different timescales. Initial work has commenced on this, led by officers from the current two unitary authorities (Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool) and Lancashire County Council.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Government is clear that local government re-organisation (LGR) should not delay the preparation of local plans. It is expected that the outcome of the Lancashire LGR consultation will be published in the coming months, which will be early in the local plan preparation. The new plan-making process requires regular updates to the timetable, so adjustments can be made as necessary.
- 10.2 Initial exploratory discussions are taking place across Pennine Lancashire about joint working and this could include a Joint Local Plan, subject to the new unitary authorities that will be established as a result of LGR.

10.3 Pendle BC and Hyndburn BC are both on a similar timeline as Rossendale BC. For different reasons they are required to commence and reach Gateway 1 before 31 October 2026, and have received the same funding from MHCLG.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Scheme of Delegation to accept the £108,474.57 of New System Plan Funding (Local Plan Implementation Fund Grant Determination 2025-26: No 31/8293) from MHCLG.

11.2 Appendix 1: Local Plan timetable – to follow

Appendix 1

KEY MILESTONES – Draft Timetable			
Make notice of intention to commence plan preparation		11 May 2026	Month -5
Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope and produce engagement strategy • Decide on project management arrangements (PID) • Internal/external briefings and engagement • Gather baseline info • Start on vision, land availability and evidence • Scope Environmental Report for SEA¹ 			
Scoping consultation <i>(how we will engage, what the plan should contain)</i>	start	15 June 2026	Month -4
Add Call for Sites consultation <i>(to identify sites for housing, employment etc)</i>	end	27 July 2026	Month -3
Publish Gateway 1 self-assessment		15 Oct 2026	Month 0
Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish summary of scoping consultation • Continue evidence base preparation² • Prepare draft vision • Propose aims and objectives • Consider potential development sites (site selection) • Identify spatial strategy options 			
Consult on proposed plan content and evidence – 6-week min <i>(the draft vision and aims/objectives, the proposed spatial strategy, evidence gathered and intended, possibly draft policies)</i>	start	15 May 2027	Month 7
	end	30 June 2027	Month 8
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise main issues in responses received • How have had regard to the responses received 			
Gateway 2 – seek observations and advice from PINS <i>(4 to 6 weeks)</i>		Sept/Oct 2027	Month 11-12
Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish Gateway 2 observations and advice • Update plan as necessary • Decide on preferred spatial strategy • Decide on specific sites • Gather specific evidence to support allocations / policies and to demonstrate soundness 			

¹ Strategic Environmental Assessment - more detail to follow

² Retail/employment land reviews, SFRA, SHMA

Appendix 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map local plan policies 			
Consult on the proposed local plan including: 8-week min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed local plan Map of proposed local plan policies, site allocations and designations Details of the evidence gathered 	start	1 June 2028	Month 20
	end	30 July 2028	Month 21
Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish summary of main issues raised in responses received How has regard been made to responses received Finalise the plan Confirm that met prescribed requirements: legal compliance, have all the submission documents been prepared, ready to proceed to examination 			
Gateway 3 – check with PINS that ready to go to examination (prescribed requirements assessment) (4 to 6 weeks)		Sept/Oct 2028	Month 23-24
Submit plan for examination		31 October 2028	Month 24
Examination			
Examination recommendations published		March 2029	Month 29
Adopt the Local Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek full Council approval Publish Local Plan and Adoption Statement 		April 2029	Month 30
Publish the Policies Map (within 1 month of adoption)		May 2029	Month 31
Monitor Local Plan			

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes
Date agreed: 8th April 2026

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 7th April 2026

Decision Taker:

Name: Rob Huntington

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the additional £385,862 Local Authority Housing Fund grant

In December 2025, Rosendale Borough Council was invited to submit an Expression of Interest to the Local Authority Housing Fund.

The Council has been advised it's expression of interest has been approved. This provides £381,000 towards the purchase of four properties, two of which will be for temporary accommodation and two for Afghan families. £4.8k revenue has also been secured.

The Council is required to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to accept the grant, by the 10th of April.

Under normal circumstances and within the constitution, the decision to accept the grant would be via Full Council however, the decision request falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Council meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision. The next Full Council is the 1st of May and there is not time to convene a meeting of Full Council prior to this date.

Under the Constitution, the Chief Executive may agree action due to an emergency which must be taken to safeguard the interest of the Council.

This funding is capital funding announced by the government to support the Afghan cohort and Homelessness pressures.

We now require an urgent decision to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding by the 10th April 2026.

This is not a legally binding document but sets out the understanding of the grant.

In summary, the funding aims are:

1. Provide sustainable homes for those on Afghan resettlement schemes
2. Provide better temporary accommodation to those owed a relief duty
3. Reduce temporary accommodation costs
4. Reduce impact on the social housing waiting list

The funding is allocated for spend in 2027.

Decision to be taken by:

Rob Huntington, Chief Executive

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

[Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 4 prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
Memorandum of understanding

Implications:

Legal- In order to meet the deadlines for receipt of the funding it is imperative that the MOU be signed prior to the next meeting of Council.

HR – Delivery of this MOU will be supported by the Property Services Team.

Finance-
Signing the updated MOU will release the May 2026 payment.

Status:

Open – for publication

Date:

8th April 2026

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
-
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
 2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Cllr Alyson Barnes
Date agreed: 22nd April 2026

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Cllr Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 22nd April 2026

Decision Taker:

Name: Rob Huntington

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) of £953,000

Rosendale Borough Council has been informed of the allocation of funding to deliver the CRF programme.

Under normal circumstances and within the Constitution, the decision to accept the grant would be via Full Council due to the value of the grant however there is not a Council meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision for the programme to commence and be ready for implementation on 1st May 2026. The next Full Council is the 6th May 2026.

Under the Constitution, the Chief Executive may agree action to safeguard the interest of the Council.

This grant is funding announced by the government to support those in crisis.

In summary, the funding aims are:

- Provide short-term emergency financial support for low-income households facing financial crisis
- To support applicants to avoid financial crisis in the future.

The funding is allocated for spend in the period 2026-2027.

The programme is to commence on the 1st May 2026 with crisis payments to those in need.

Decision to be taken by:

Rob Huntington

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

CRF Programme

Implications:

To seek approval at the next Council meeting would delay the distribution of grants to vulnerable residents.

Status:

For Publication

Date:

22nd April 2026

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
-
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
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 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.

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:-

This Council recognises that:

- improving waste-management services can support cleaner neighbourhoods, reduce illegal fly-tipping and promote civic pride.

This Council Notes:

- the ongoing concerns raised by residents regarding street cleanliness, fly-tipping and access to affordable waste-disposal options across Rossendale.
- fairer and less expensive bulky item collection schemes and incentives offered in surrounding districts.

This Council resolves to bring forward the following changes:

1) Restructure bulky-waste collection charges

Introduce a revised charging model for bulky-waste collections to make disposal more accessible and reduce the incentive for fly-tipping including:

- A simplified charging structure of £25 for 1-2 items and an additional £12 for 3-4 items,
- One free bulky-waste collection per household per year for pensioners and residents eligible for Council Tax Support.

2) Provide regular community skips in town centres

Establish a programme of regularly scheduled community skips in town-centre locations across the borough, enabling residents to dispose of household items safely and reducing the build-up of waste in public areas.

3) Introduce an annual bulky-waste amnesty weekend

Create a yearly waste-amnesty weekend, offering a limited number of free bulky-waste collection slots on a first-come, first-served basis, to support responsible disposal and reduce pressure on local environments.

Date of Council Meeting:-

6th May 2026

Notice submitted from

Councillor Julie Adshead

Date: 22nd April 2026

Councillor John Payne

Date: 22nd April 2026

Notice received and validated by S151 Officer: Kimberly Haworth	
Comments: The proposals would have an impact on the revenue budget for 2026/27 approved by Full Council. The extent of the impact to be calculated if approved.	Date: 23rd April 2026
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Clare Birtwistle	
Comments: No legal comments.	Date: 23 rd April 2026
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: 22 nd April 2026