

<b>Report Title:</b>	Political Balance, Committees and Outside Bodies		
<b>Report to:</b>	Annual Council	<b>Date:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive	<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Cabinet Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Alyson Barnes	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No - reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment:</b> Required: No Attached: No			
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<b>Valley Plan Priorities</b>	<b>Thriving Local Economy:</b> 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"/>
	<b>High Quality Environment:</b> 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"/>
	<b>Healthy &amp; Proud Communities:</b> 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 type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Effective &amp; Efficient Council:</b> 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 At the Annual Meeting, the Council is required to confirm the political balance and agree committee appointments in order to conduct its business.
- Appendix A details the current political balance.
  - Appendix B details:
    - Cabinet appointments
    - Chair/vice-chair appointments
    - Member Champion appointments
    - Working group and other appointments
    - Co-opted Member and Independent Person appointments
  - The appointments to committees for 2026/27 in Appendix B, reflect the political balance and include minor changes to the committees.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council confirms appointments proposed by the various political groups as set out in the following appendices:
- Appendix A - Draft political balance calculation.
  - Appendix B - Draft committees of the Council, working groups, member champions and other meetings.

**2.2 That a minor amendment is made to the Council’s Constitution to increase the number of members on the Local Plan Review Steering Group to 7.**

**3. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1 Council is required to confirm the political balance and agree committee appointments in order to conduct its business.
- 3.2 There are strict rules on political balance/proportionality, which apply to appointments to decision making bodies of the Council. Appendix A illustrates the political balance.
- 3.3 Political balance does not apply to the Cabinet which may be either single or multi party.
- 3.4 Council is required to agree the appointments for the coming municipal year and Appendix B sets out the number of appointments which need to be made.
- 3.5 The proposals of the Council’s various political groups for appointments to the Council’s committees, working groups, member champions and other meetings including outside bodies are set out in this document (Appendix B). This includes the confirmation of the co-opted members on the Audit and Accounts Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.6 It is proposed to increase the number of councillors on the Local Plan Review Steering Group whilst maintaining a balance. This has been reflected in both appendices. This change will require a minor amendment to the Council’s Constitution to state that the number of councillors on the group will be 7. This change has been included in the recommendations at 2.2.
- 3.7 The Chief Executive has delegated authority to make any in-year changes to appointments where notified.
- 3.8 Consultation has been carried out with political groups.

**4. RISK**

- 4.1 If appointments are not made to the committees then there is a risk that the Council will not be able to effectively conduct its business. In addition, if appointments are not made to outside bodies there is a risk that the Council’s views will not be represented in the debates undertaken within those bodies. To mitigate this risk the Council reviews and confirms these appointments on an annual basis at the Annual Council Meeting.

**5. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)**

- 5.1 There are no material financial matters arising from the report.

**6. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications identified as arising from this report, other than the need to make sure certain appointments are in line with the political balance rules.

**7. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no specific equalities implications for the Council arising from this report.

**8. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific policy implications for the Council arising from this report.

**9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The current political balance and appointments do not present any implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 No background papers.

## Rossendale Borough Council - Political Balance Calculation

	Available No.	Labour No.	Conservative No.	Green No.	Community First No.	Reform UK No.	Total No.
<b>Council</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Committees of Council</b>		63.33	16.67	13.33	3.33	3.33	100.00
Development Control	7	5	1	1	0	0	7
Licensing	11	5	3	1	1	1	11
Audit and Accounts	7	5	1	1	0	0	7
Overview and Scrutiny	7	5	1	1	0	0	7
Standards	7	5	1	1	0	0	7
Appointments and Appeals	9	6	1	1	1	0	9
Total	48	31	8	6	2	1	48
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>
		64.58	16.67	12.50	4.17	2.08	
Balance Should Give		30.4	8.0	6.4	1.6	1.6	48
<b>Difference</b>		<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Working Groups</b>	Avail No	Labour	Conservative	Green	Community First	Reform UK	Total
Governance Working Group	5	3	1	0	1	0	5
Local Plan Steering Group	7	4	2	1	0	0	7

**MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS 2026/27**

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>VICE CHAIR</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	
<b>CABINET</b> (Leader, Deputy Leader and up to 8 other members)	Alyson Barnes	Andrew Walmsley	Nick Harris Adrian Lythgoe Michelle Smith Samara Barnes	
<b>DEVELOPMENT CONTROL</b> (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Marilyn Procter	James Eaton	Danielle Ashworth Matt Norton Ann Kenyon	Ann Hodgkiss Julie Adshead
<b>LICENSING</b> (11 Members) 5 Labour 3 Conservative 1 Community First 1 Reform UK 1 Green	Christine Gill	Judith Driver	James Eaton David Hancock Neil Looker	Anne Cheetham Simon Holland Ann Hodgkiss Alan Neal Mackenzie Ritson Laura Diamond
<b>AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE</b> (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Judith Driver	Marilyn Procter	Ann Kenyon Matt Norton Danielle Ashworth	Alan Woods John Payne (Plus Mr Simon McManus Co-opted)
<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> (7 Members) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green	Danielle Ashworth	Scott Smith	Judith Driver Samantha Harrison James Eaton Ann Kenyon	Bob Bauld (Plus Mr James Heaton Co-opted)
<b>STANDARDS</b> (7 Elected Members, 2 Members of Whitworth Town Council and 1 Independent Person) 5 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green			Samara Barnes Greg Bleakley Adrian Lythgoe Liz McInnes Andrew Walmsley Simon Holland Bob Bauld	<b><u>Whitworth Town Council</u></b> Scott Smith Gareth Baron  <b><u>Independent Persons</u></b> Alison Driver
<b>APPOINTMENTS AND APPEALS</b> (panel of 9 Members) 6 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Green 1 Community First	Five or three members to be chosen by the Chief Executive from the panel if possible to reflect the political balance on the Council and if possible on a rota basis.			
	Alyson Barnes Samara Barnes Christine Gill	Liz McInnes Michelle Smith Andrew Walmsley	Scott Smith John Payne Alan Neal	

<b>OTHER APPOINTMENTS</b>	
<b>CROSS PARTY WORKING GROUP</b> (5 Members)	Members to be confirmed by Group Leaders when the group is required to meet. The number of councillors may be expanded where a wider range of views are sought, so long as political balance is retained.
<b>GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP</b> (5 Members) 3 Labour 1 Conservative 1 Community First	Judith Driver                      Ann Hodgkiss Liz McInnes                      Alan Neal Michelle Smith
<b>LOCAL PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP</b> (7 Members) 4 Labour 2 Conservative 1 Green	The number of councillors may be expanded where a wider range of views are sought, so long as political balance is retained.  Adrian Lythgoe                      Ann Hodgkiss Marilyn Procter                      Alan Woods Samara Barnes                      Julie Adshead Nick Harris
<b>MEMBER CHAMPIONS</b>	
<b>EQUALITIES</b>	Judith Driver
<b>FLOOD</b>	Neil Looker
<b>DESIGN AND HERITAGE</b>	Annie McMahan
<b>YOUNGER PEOPLE</b>	Michelle Smith
<b>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS</b>	Samara Barnes
<b>ARMED FORCES</b>	Marilyn Procter
<b>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS</b>	
Community Partnership meetings are held in a local area venue and all ward members are encouraged to attend their area forum. The allocation of grants will be agreed with each Community Partnership chair. <b>Please note that Community Partnership meetings are not Council meetings.</b>	

<b>JOINT COMMITTEE/ PARTNERSHIP APPOINTMENTS</b>		<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT</b>
<b>CAPITA Strategic Governance Board</b>	Andrew Walmsley, Michelle Smith, Alan Woods	Board member
<b>Healey Dell Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee</b>	Mackenzie Ritson, Scott Smith	Local authority ward member representative
<b>Lancashire Leaders and District Leaders Groups</b>	Alyson Barnes	Local authority lead member
<b>Lancashire Police And Crime Panel</b>	Michelle Smith (Alyson Barnes - sub)	Local authority member representative
<b>Lancashire Waste Partnership</b>	Adrian Lythgoe	Local authority member representative
<b>LCC Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee</b>	Michelle Smith (Judith Driver- sub)	Local authority co-opted member
<b>Patrol Adjudication Joint Committee</b>	Andrew Walmsley	Local authority member representative
<b>PLACE Joint Committee</b>	Alyson Barnes	Local authority lead member
<b>RTB Board</b>	Alyson Barnes, Scott Smith	Director
<b>OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS</b>		<b>TYPE OF APPOINTMENT</b>
<b>Burnley Pendle &amp; Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service (BPRCVS)</b>	Marilyn Procter, Alan Woods	Local authority member representative
<b>Carers Link Lancashire</b>	Michelle Smith	Local authority member representative
<b>East Lancashire Railway Trust Board of Management</b>	David Hancock, Neil Looker Anne Cheetham (Alyson Barnes - sub)	Board member
<b>LGA Assembly</b>	Alyson Barnes	Local authority lead member
<b>Littleworld Limited t/a Horse &amp; Bamboo Theatre</b>	Marilyn Procter	Local authority member representative
<b>North West Employers'</b>	Judith Driver (Alyson Barnes - sub)	Local authority member representative
<b>Reaps Moss Community Fund Advisory Group</b>	James Eaton, Michelle Smith, Julie Adshead	Local authority ward member representative
<b>Rossendale Leisure Trust Ltd</b>	Adrian Lythgoe, Scott Smith	Trustee/board member