

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