

COUNCIL

Appointment to an Outside Body – Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group

24 January 2024

Report of the Senior Manager, Democratic Support and Elections

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider nominating a Councillor to be appointed to the Lancaster and Skipton Rail User group.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Council notes the vacancy on the Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group and that the position has previously been filled by nomination and voting at full Council. (see paragraph 3.2 of the report).
- (2) That nominations be made and voted upon at this meeting and an appointment made until the next City Council elections in 2027.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Annual Council meeting on 22 May 2023 following the elections, Councillor Paul Gardner was appointed by full Council to serve on the Lancaster and Skipton Rail User Group (LASRUG). Following Councillor Gardner's sad passing in December 2023, there is now a vacancy on the User Group.

2.0 LASRUG

- 2.1 The extract below from LASRUG's newsletter explains the Group's purpose:

LASRUG exists to represent present and potential users of the Leeds to Morecambe Line, which links the towns and cities of West Yorkshire, via the picturesque Aire, Ribble, Wenning and Lune Valleys, with the city of Lancaster and the seaside resort of Morecambe. Marketed as the Bentham Line, this important trans-pennine line gives access for tourists, walkers and cyclists to the southern Yorkshire Dales and the Forest of Bowland, and is a vital link for the rural communities it serves with connections at Leeds and Lancaster to all parts of the country.

Democratic Support understands that LASRUG holds its committee meetings at Bentham station, at 7pm on the third Thursday of January, March, May, July and

November and the second Thursday in September. The AGM is normally on the third Friday in September at 7pm at Bentham Town Hall. These meetings can be attended in person or online. Nominees should be available at these dates and times, please.

3.0 Proposal Details

- 3.1 Members are asked to appoint a Councillor and a substitute to LASRUG at this meeting, noting paragraph 3.2, below. The term of office will extend to May 2027.
- 3.2 The basis of appointment to this vacancy has always been by nomination and voting at Council and this was re-confirmed on 22 May 2023. Should Members now feel that it should be some other basis, such as by virtue of position (Cabinet Member or Ward Member, for example) then such a proposition will need to be made at the meeting and voted upon before nominations are sought.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 Council is asked to consider appointing a Councillor to LASRUG at this meeting for the reasons set out in this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None directly arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Members of outside bodies are entitled to travel expenses. Costs resulting from this appointment should be minimal and would be met from existing democratic representation budgets.
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OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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