



LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, 28 January 2026 -
6.00 p.m.
Morecambe Town Hall**

Lancaster City Council welcomes members of the public to attend meetings. However, space in the public gallery is limited to 30 seats due to Fire Regulations. The seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis and no standing is permitted. Meetings are livestreamed please click [HERE](#) to watch using MS Teams. Please contact Democratic Support via email democracy@lancaster.gov.uk if you wish to register to speak or ask a question at this meeting. The deadline to register is 12pm on Friday 23 January 2026

Mark Davies,
Chief Executive,
Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ



LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Sir/Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Lancaster City Council to be held in the Town Hall, Morecambe on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 commencing at 6.00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **MINUTES** (Pages 4 - 11)

To receive as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary and Special Meetings of the City Council held on 17 December 2025 (previously circulated).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations by Councillors of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Councillors are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Councillors should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code Of Conduct, Councillors are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

4. **ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements which may be submitted by the Mayor or Chief Executive.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 11.1 and 11.3 which require members of the public to give at least 3 days' notice in writing of questions to a Member of Cabinet or Committee Chairman.

7. **PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES**

To receive any petitions and/or addresses from members of the public which have been notified to the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

8. **LEADER'S REPORT** (Pages 12 - 15)

To receive the Cabinet Leader's report on proceedings since the last meeting of Council.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET, COMMITTEES OR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

9. **BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE 2026/27 TO 2030/31** (Pages 16 - 21)

Report of Cabinet.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

OTHER BUSINESS

10. **EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS** (Pages 22 - 23)

Report of the Chief Officer, Governance.

11. **APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Group Administrators to report any changes to Committee Membership.

12. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

To receive questions in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rules 12.2 and 12.4 which require a Member to give at least 3 working days' notice, in writing, of the question to the Chief Executive.

13. **MINUTES OF CABINET** (Pages 24 - 49)

To receive the Minutes of Meeting of Cabinet held 2 December 2025.



.....
Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Dalton Square,
LANCASTER,
LA1 1PJ

Published on, 20 January 2026.

PROCEEDINGS

A Special Meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 December 2025, when the following Members were present:-

Margaret Pattison (Mayor)

Suhir Abuhajar

Catherine Armistead

Martin Bottoms

Gerry Blaikie

Dave Brookes

Roger Cleet

Wilson Colley

Claire Cozler

Roger Dennison

Martin Gawith

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Prof Chris Harris

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Kate Knight

John Livermore

Abi Mills

Paul Newton

Jean Parr

Joyce Pritchard

Robert Redfern

James Sommerville

Paul Stubbins

Sue Tyldesley

David Whitaker

Nick Wilkinson

John Hanson (Deputy Mayor)

Joanne Ainscough

Mandy Bannon

Louise Belcher

Phil Bradley

Keith Budden

Ruth Colbridge

Brett Cooper

Maria Deery

Gina Dowding

Alan Greenwell

Chris Hanna

Paul Hart

Ross Hunter

Peter Jackson

Jack Lenox

Sally Maddocks

Hamish Mills

Andrew Otway

Sue Penney

Sarah Punshon

Sam Riches

Jackson Stubbs

Sandra Thornberry

Paul Tynan

John Wild

Jason Wood

77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Matt Black, Phil Black, Tom Fish, Andrew Gardiner, Sally Maddocks, Izzy Metcalf-Riener and Catherine Potter.

78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

79 AWARD OF HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER TO MR RICHARD BROCK

The Chief Officer, Governance submitted a report setting out a proposal to make Mr Richard Brock an Honorary Freeman. The report set out details of Mr Brock's service in World War II and his role as a valued member of the Bay Veterans. Members were asked to consider this in the light of the definition that a person being considered for the status of Honorary Freeman should be a person of distinction who has, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the City.

The recommendations set out in the report were moved by Councillor Dennison and seconded by Councillor Wood. Councillor Riches and Councillor Caroline Jackson spoke in support.

On being put to the vote the Mayor declared the vote unanimously carried.

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council confers the Freedom of the City of Lancaster on Mr Richard Brock in recognition of his service in World War II.
- (2) That the Chief Officer (Governance) be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the award to be made in the New Year.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 6.08 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Senior Manager, Democratic Support & Elections/Deputy
Monitoring Officer - email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**

PROCEEDINGS

A meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.10 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 December 2025, when the following Members were present:-

Margaret Pattison (Mayor)

Suhir Abuhajar

Catherine Armistead

Matthew Black

Martin Bottoms

Gerry Blaikie

Dave Brookes

Roger Cleet

Wilson Colley

Claire Cozler

Roger Dennison

Martin Gawith

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Prof Chris Harris

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Kate Knight

John Livermore

Abi Mills

Paul Newton

Jean Parr

Joyce Pritchard

Robert Redfern

James Sommerville

Paul Stubbins

Sue Tyldesley

David Whitaker

Nick Wilkinson

John Hanson (Deputy Mayor)

Joanne Ainscough

Mandy Bannon

Phillip Black

Louise Belcher

Phil Bradley

Keith Budden

Ruth Colbridge

Brett Cooper

Maria Deery

Gina Dowding

Alan Greenwell

Chris Hanna

Paul Hart

Ross Hunter

Peter Jackson

Jack Lenox

Sarah McGowan

Hamish Mills

Andrew Otway

Sue Penney

Sarah Punshon

Sam Riches

Jackson Stubbs

Sandra Thornberry

Paul Tynan

John Wild

Jason Wood

80 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Fish, Andrew Gardiner, Sally Maddocks, Izzy Metcalf-Riener and Catherine Potter.

81 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 November 2025 and 26 November 2025 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members advised of the following interests at this stage:

Councillor Bottoms declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in relation to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27 report (Item 9) as a recipient of Council Tax Support. (Minute No. 88 refers.)

Councillor Whitaker declared a DPI in relation to Vale View Day Centre referred to in the Leader's report in view of his employment there. The item was not for decision. (Minute No. 87 refers.)

83 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillors were notified of a change to the order of the agenda. Item 13, the Councillors Allowances Scheme would be brought forward to be heard before Item 8, the Leader's report. This was to reduce the waiting time for the Chair of the Panel who was in attendance to present the report.

84 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11

The Mayor advised that no questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.

85 PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES

The Mayor informed Members that no petitions or requests to address Council had been received from members of the public.

86 COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE SCHEME: REVIEW

Mr Ameer Hakim, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, presented the Panel's report reviewing Councillors Allowances.

Councillor Budden thanked the Panel for their work. He proposed the recommendations as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Deery.

There was no debate, a vote was taken on the proposition, which was clearly carried.

Resolved:

With regard to Allowances:

- (1) That the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances (including the Mayor/Deputy Mayor allowances) be increased by 3.2%, as detailed in the report, with effect from 6 April 2026.

Regarding Dependents Carers Allowance:

- (2) To reconfirm that the Dependents Carers Allowance should allow for reimbursement of up to a maximum of the Real Living Wage as determined by the Living Wage Foundation (currently £13.45 per hour).

87 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader presented her report updating Members on various issues since her last report to Council. The Chief Executive gave an update on Local Government Reorganisation.

The Leader and Councillor Hamilton-Cox responded to questions from Councillors.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

88 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2026-27

Councillor Bottoms, having previously declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item, left the Chamber at this point.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox, Cabinet Member with particular responsibility for Finance and Property, presented a report of Cabinet to enable Council to consider approving a Localised Council Tax Support ("LCTS") Scheme for application in 2026/27. He responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed Option 1, as set out in the report:

"That the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme be retained for 2026/27."

The proposition was seconded by Councillor Deery.

At the close of debate, the Mayor called for a vote. The proposition was clearly carried.

Resolved:

That the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme be retained for 2026/27.

Councillor Bottoms returned to the Chamber at this conclusion of this item of business.

89 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2025/26

The Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2025/26 was presented to Council by Councillor Hamilton-Cox.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox responded to a number of questions from Councillors before he proposed, seconded by Councillor Bottoms:-

"That Council

- (1) Notes the various matters in connection with the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2025/26 set out in the report; and
- (2) Approves the changes to the investment counterparty criteria and the sovereign limit as set out in the report."

The proposal was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

That Council

- (1) Notes the various matters in connection with the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2025/26 set out in the report; and
- (2) Approves the changes to the investment counterparty criteria and the sovereign limit as set out in the report.

90 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE 2026-7 - 2030-31

Councillor Hamilton-Cox presented a report prepared by the Chief Finance Officer to provide an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts for 2026/27 to 2030/31 and outline the approach to balancing the budget.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

91 AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Paul Stubbins, presented the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Council's External Auditor, KPMG. The report was for noting.

Councillor Stubbins and the Section 151 Officer responded to a number of questions from Councillors.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

92 LANCASTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) RENEWAL BALLOT - CITY COUNCIL'S VOTING INTENTION

Council considered a report of the Chief Officer, Sustainable Growth informing Councillors about the ballot of Lancaster city centre ratepayers on Lancaster Business Improvement District's proposal to renew the Business Improvement District in Lancaster. The ballot would run from 9 January to 5 February 2026.

The report provided Council with information to assist in making a decision on how to use the Council's ballot voting entitlement.

Councillor Peter Jackson, the Cabinet Member for Lancaster Regeneration and Local

Economy, presented the report and responded to questions from Councillors. He then proposed:

“That

- (1) The council’s voting allocation is used to vote in favour of Lancaster BID’s Renewal Proposal.
- (2) The Chief Officer Resources (S151) is instructed to complete the ballot papers accordingly and submit them by the end of the ballot period on 5 February.”

Councillor Bottoms seconded the proposition, which was clearly carried when put to the vote.

Resolved:

That

- (1) The council’s voting allocation is used to vote in favour of Lancaster BID’s Renewal Proposal.
- (2) The Chief Officer Resources (S151) is instructed to complete the ballot papers accordingly and submit them by the end of the ballot period on 5 February.

93 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR-ELECT

The Chief Executive advised that he had contacted Councillor Colin Hartley JP, being the most senior Member of the City Council, who had indicated that he would be happy to accept the office of Mayor if offered by the Council.

It was then moved by Councillor Armistead and seconded by Councillor Blaikie:

“That Councillor Colin Hartley JP be invited to hold the office of Mayor of the City of Lancaster for the Municipal Year 2026/27.”

A vote was taken on the motion which was carried unanimously. Councillor Hartley responded.

Resolved unanimously:-

That Councillor Colin Hartley JP be invited to hold the office of Mayor of the City of Lancaster for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

94 APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Changes to Committee memberships since the last Council meeting were reported. These were:

- Councillor Joanne Ainscough replacing Councillor Catherine Potter as substitute for Budget and Performance Panel
- The Conservative group appointing Councillor Keith Budden to fill a vacant seat on Budget and Performance Panel; and
- Councillor John Wild taking up the Conservative vacancy on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

95 QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

The Mayor advised that no questions on notice from Councillors had been received by the Chief Executive.

96 MINUTES OF CABINET

Council considered the Cabinet minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2025. The Leader responded to a question from Councillor Gawith.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these minutes,
please contact Debbie Chambers, Senior Manager, Democratic Support & Elections/Deputy
Monitoring Officer - email dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk**



Leader's Report

28 January 2026

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

1.1 Information on Cabinet matters is provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meetings held 26 November 2025 and 2 December 2025 later in this agenda.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently.

2.1 No urgent Cabinet decisions have been taken since the last Leader's Report

3.0 Leader's Comments

3.1 This report is a little shorter than usual due to the Christmas break though there is plenty of interesting and significant news.

Budget and Finance

3.2 Work on this year's budget has continued since the Settlement announced on 17th December. The effect of the Fair Funding review had engendered a good deal of anxiety for all councils however the provisional settlement shows we will receive about £850,000 more from central government than previously anticipated. Cabinet workshops have continued to reduce the small funding gap. In working on future capitals allocations, cabinet has been particularly

concerned to ensure that legacy projects are indicated in allocations to the Development Pool. As usual officers have had significant amounts of work to accomplish whilst the rest of us were enjoying the Christmas break for which we are thoroughly grateful.

Local Government Re-organisation

- 3.3 There has been a very short hiatus since the final proposals were submitted to government in November. We now move into the preparation stage with our working group slightly reconstituted to take this forward. MHCLG has issued a very lengthy list of all their requirements for successful re-organisation: significant amounts of this can be achieved before the June/July announcement. At pan-Lancashire level there has been the appointment of an officer to direct and support the process and agreement between districts and unitaries on funding. One key element of Lancaster district preparation coming to the first working group meeting will be consideration of a Governance Review to cover possible Parishing of both Lancaster and Heysham as the only two unparished areas of the district.
- 3.4 The Leader and Chief Executive have met with MP, Cat Smith to update her on the progress of Local Government Reorganisation and the four unitary submission.

Cabinet

- 3.5 Cabinet has met regularly both formally and informally. To follow up the media training given two months ago, each cabinet member has recorded a brief introduction to their own area and its budget. Michael Hill is editing these to create media pieces to use on the website and for social media to give residents more easily accessible information on the work of the council. Peter Jackson, as members know, suffered a heart attack just after Christmas and is currently recovering. He should be back to cabinet duties by the end of February - my thanks to every cabinet member who has picked up his responsibilities in the short term.

Waste Reform

- 3.6 The roll out of the new bins and recycling collections continues. Thanks are due to the waste officers attempting to cover the many problems associated with the terraced streets in both Lancaster and Morecambe. We also appreciate those ward councillors who have kept in touch regarding the feedback, both positive and negative from their areas. Food waste bin delivery is about to begin and we look forward to the recommencing of food waste collection in the near future. At county level, the disposal process has had some delay because of difficulties with the anaerobic digester. However we are assured that food waste collected between now and September, when the digester will be online, will be disposed of in a way that reduces carbon emissions.

Health, Well-Being and Leisure

- 3.7 There have been a number of developments in this area. Williamson Park has seen the demolition of the old cafe building. Alongside this there has been the first meeting of the group looking at plans for the replacement. Currently, having reviewed some initial work on design and costing plus a previous design, officers are researching other frameworks. At Salt Ayre, Gravity X is being removed in order that the space it currently occupies can be re-used. In December we were excited to hear that we are one of five cities worldwide given Healthy Cities status. For this we must thank the excellent work of the Planning Department and we look forward to the expertise and support we will be offered, alongside our civic partners, in developing the health of our residents. It is good to see the Planning team after its great work on the Climate Emergency Local Plan and winning the MJ award for Climate Leadership, continues to have a recognisable effect on developing policy not only locally but in a national and international arena.

Business and Community

- 3.8 The subject of camper vans has regularly featured in all the time I have been a councillor. After some excellent discussion and liaison with other councils we are moving forward to welcome campervans in one of our car parks as has been done elsewhere and to support their tourism impact. We look forward to the Eric Morecambe celebrations and the role that the committee set up by council has started to play, also to the Mayor's Civic Reception for the comedian's family. The Renters Reform Act will lead to a number of significant changes for local landlords. We have begun to support landlords including student landlords by bringing in expert speakers to address Landlord's Forum and will continue to give information and support through Private Housing officers.
- 3.9 There were a number of enjoyable community events including our own special council to award Freedom of the City to veteran Richard Brock. I was privileged to read a lesson in the Priory Carol service along with the Mayor - a beautiful and peaceful start to the Christmas season. Finally, of course we had the very recent announcement of the Tour De France passing through the district - amazingly exciting news, and testament to the effect of our history of city centre races especially the Grand Prix. The Tour De France passing through our district will have huge potential for greater visitor numbers, will bring greater exposure to our fantastic heritage and countryside and we intend will create a health legacy in encouraging a new generation of young people (and older ones too!) into using cycles as their means of transport and exercise.

4.0 Decisions

The following decisions were scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 13 January 2026

Corporate Fees and Charges Review 2026/27

Budget and Policy Framework Update 2026/27 to 2030/31

There have been no Officer Delegated Key Decisions taken since the last Leader's Report

The following Individual Cabinet Member Decisions have been taken since the last Leader's report.

ICMD 18	Provision of a Public Funeral Service	Published on:4.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Mandy Bannon
ICMD 19	Procurement of Two 7.5 Tonne Cage Vehicles for the Cleansing Department	Published on: 4.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Paul Hart
ICMD 20	Complaints Policy Review and Revision	Published on: 9.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Sally Maddocks
ICMD 21	Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025-26 Grant Awards	Published on: 5.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Mandy Bannon
ICMD 22	Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Plan Decision to Proceed to Referendum	Published on: 11.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Sue Tyldesley
ICMD 23	Progressing Lancaster District Heat Network: Heat Network Zoning Prospectus Grant Funding Proposal	Published on: 22.12.25 Taken by: Cllr Sam Riches

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda of the meeting held on 13 January 2026

COUNCIL**Budget & Policy Framework Update****2026/27 – 2030/31****28 January 2026****Report of Cabinet****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an update on the Council's budget strategy for 2026/27 and financial outlook up to 2030/31. Specifically, the report considers the budget and Council Tax proposals for 2026/27.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET

1. That Council approves a City Council Tax increase of 2.99% to the Band D Council Tax (from £264.30 to £272.20), together with a year on year target of the maximum allowable under the Government's local referendum thresholds for future years.
2. That Council notes the latest revenue budgetary information as set out in this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Constitution, Cabinet has responsibility for developing corporate planning proposals and a balanced budget for Council's consideration.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 13 January 2026 Cabinet were presented with the following report which includes :-
 - details of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (17 December 2025)
 - the proposed City element of Council Tax for 2026/27
 - an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
 - information surrounding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and how it impacts on the budget

Several workshops have been held between Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team to explore initial proposals in order to be able to produce a balanced budget for 2026/27.

2.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING UPDATE (INCLUDING BUSINESS RATES)

- 2.1 Details of the provisional multi-year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27 were announced on 17 December 2025. The Provisional Settlement is subject to consultation, with the Final Settlement announced towards the end of January/early February. Values may, therefore, be subject to change. Any changes will be reflected in the final budget and policy framework reports presented to Cabinet, and ultimately Council 25 February 2026.
- 2.2 The settlement sets out simplified allocations for local authorities across England for the next three years, and incorporates an updated distribution of resources following the conclusion of the Fair Funding Review. It represents a major change in local government financing and the settlement will now go out to consultation ahead of it being finalised in early 2026.
- 2.3 This current financial year has already seen multiple changes with the Business Rates scheme. At the previous Autumn Budget on 30th October 2024 the Chancellor announced that for 2025/26:
- 2025/26 Multipliers – It was confirmed that the small business rates multiplier would be frozen at 49.9p with the standard multiplier uprated from 54.6p to 55.5p
 - Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief – This relief has been decreased from 75% to 40% and the cap has remained the same i.e., £110,000.
 - Removing Charitable Rate Relief from Private Schools – The existing mandatory business rates relief of 80% for private schools with charitable status will end from 1st April 2025.

These changes were implemented on 1st April 2025.

- 2.4 With regard to 2026/27, the details surrounding the proposed business rates reset have also been released and this will affect the collection fund in a number of ways :-
- A revised business rates baseline which is the amount that we are expected to collect as an Authority
 - A revised baseline funding level which is the funding need as determined by the government
 - A revised 'safety net' scheme which offers Council's more certainty in the business rates due to base their future years projections on
 - Expected changes to the tariff payable by the Authority and S31 grants due to the Authority

The overall effect of the above is expected to provide more certainty in business rates due to the Council for the forthcoming three years with the added security of the safety net position. Given that the overall position is positive but the figures are still provisional, no detrimental financial impact is expected.

- 2.5 The Council receives rating income from renewable energy schemes within the district, largely in relation to Walney Sub-Station. The value of this income is included as £3.998M in 2026/27 (£4.004M for 2025/26). A majority of the income currently falls outside of the main rate retention scheme, and so the Council retains the full benefit from it.
- 2.6 Work is continuing to determine the forecast surplus or deficit for prior years and the latest projection is a £0.788M deficit relating to prior years. Members will recall that the Business Rates Retention Reserve (BRRR) is used to manage the impact of surpluses and deficits and also to manage fluctuations in income levels in order to provide budgetary stability and smooth out year on year peaks and troughs. As part of the 2024/25 budget setting process, a contribution of £0.500M from the BRRR was included within 2026/27. This contribution remains in place alongside plus a further £0.788M to address the prior years deficit expained

above. Both adjustments are included within the general fund net financial position.

- 2.7 Given all the changes, the effect of the local government settlement and the changes to the business rates system cannot be considered in isolation and the following table illustrates the overall financial impact.

Table 2 – Provisional Settlement allocations for Lancaster City Council

	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000	2029/30 £'000	2030/31 £'000
<i>Items included in MTFS presented to Cabinet 2/12/25 :</i>					
Reversal of Grants budgeted for :					
- RSG	460	460	460	460	460
- Recovery	603	603	603	603	603
- Domestic Abuse	34	34	34	34	34
- NIC Rebate	211	217	222	227	227
Reversal of Business Rates Income Included in MTFS	13,641	13,832	12,145	12,411	12,659
	14,949	15,146	13,464	13,735	13,983
<i>Replaced With :</i>					
FFA Baseline Funding Level	5,165	5,283	5,390	5,498	5,608
FFA Revenue Support Grant	6,031	5,986	5,910	5,794	5,680
Recovery Grant	603	603	603	603	603
Green Energy Disregard	3,998	3,998	3,998	3,998	3,998
	15,797	15,870	15,901	15,893	15,889
Estimated Favourable Settlement Position	848	724	2,437	2,158	1,906

As table 2 shows, the provisional settlement allocates £0.848M more resources from Central Government than anticipated and this decreases the budget gap for the 2026/27 revenue budget.

3.0 COUNCIL TAX

- 3.1 As part of the provisional finance settlement, the Government published its referendum criteria for Council Tax. District councils will be permitted to raise their Council Tax by a maximum of 3% or £5, whichever is higher, without reference to a referendum. Table two below considers the following options for Council Tax:

- Option 1: An annual increase of 2.99%
- Option 2: £5 increase in Council Tax
- Option 3: No increase in Council Tax

For Lancaster City Council, option 1 is the highest of the options

Table 5 – Impact of Council Tax Options: 2026/27 to 2030/31

Year	Taxbase (% Annual Increase)	Estimated Annual Movement	Option 1 Annual increase of 2.99% in Council Tax		Option 2 Annual increase of £5 in Council Tax		Option 3 No annual increase in Council Tax		Previous MTFS Approved Feb-2025	Additional / (Reduced) Income from 2.99% Increase & 1% Annual Growth	Additional / (Reduced) Income from £5 Increase & 1% Annual Growth	Additional / (Reduced) Income from Increase in Tax Base Only 1%
		%	Band D	Income (£'M)	Band D	Income (£'M)	Band D	Income (£'M)				
2025/26	43,702		264.30	11.550	264.30	11.550	264.30	11.550				
2026/27	43,833		272.20	11.931	269.30	11.804	264.30	11.585	12.015	(0.084)	(0.211)	(0.430)
2027/28	44,271	1.00%	280.34	12.411	274.30	12.144	264.30	11.701	12.498	(0.087)	(0.354)	(0.797)
2028/29	44,714	1.00%	288.72	12.910	279.30	12.489	264.30	11.818	13.000	(0.090)	(0.511)	(1.182)
2029/30	45,161	1.00%	297.35	13.429	284.30	12.839	264.30	11.936	13.522	(0.093)	(0.683)	(1.586)
2030/31	45,613	1.00%	306.24	13.969	289.30	13.196	264.30	12.056	14.066	(0.097)	(0.870)	(2.010)
										(0.451)	(2.629)	(6.005)

3.2 When compared against the MTFS which was approved by Council in February 2025 the following information can be drawn from the table above:-

- Option 1 provides reduced income of (-£0.084M) in 2026/27 and is cumulatively short by (-£0.451M) over the five year period;
- Option 2 provides reduced income of (-£0.211M) in 2026/27 and is cumulatively short by (-£2.629M) over the five year period
- Option 3 provides reduced income of (-£0.152M) in 2026/27 and is cumulatively short by (-£6.005M) over the five year period

3.3 **The recommendation arising from this report is that the Council on 28 January 2026 agree a 2.99% increase (option one) to the level of the previously set prior year (2025/26) Band D Council Tax for the Lancaster City Council element.** It is also recommended that option one is selected for the purposes of completing estimates in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

For information, the Band D Council Tax for 2026/27 will be £272.20 (previously £264.30 in 2025/26).

3.4 The Council is expected to benefit from prior year surpluses to the collection fund account in respect of council tax. This amount is currently valued at £0.185M and is included within the general fund net financial position.

4.0 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

4.1 An update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was presented to Council on 17 December 2025. The MTFS presented at that meeting was a baselined position, in that it did not include any of the interventions now considered within this report.

4.2 Members will appreciate that there are a significant number of factors to be considered as part of the medium-term financial planning exercise. The revision of the MTFS is progressing well and will be considered at Budget Setting Council on 25 February 2026. The revision of the MTFS will be key in providing sound financial planning processes to underpin the Council's ambitions. Key considerations of the MTFS include taking account of the impact of decisions made to balance the 2026/27 budget alongside forecasts for future funding.

4.3 A forecast budget gap still exists and it continues to be structural in nature, meaning that the Council's forecast spending exceeds the income it expects to receive. Officers are continuously working with Cabinet to address this issue and will continue to do so following on from the conclusion of the current budget process. This will ensure that the problem is addressed in a timely manner so that it remains manageable. Proposed actions currently include:

- review of revenue growth proposed
- identification of any revenue savings from within services or arising from the 'Fit For The Future' process that have not already been included in the draft revenue budget as operational
- reconsideration of the approved capital programme and reprofiling any schemes where possible
- review of capital growth proposed prior to consideration by CAG
- the potential use of capital receipts to finance existing projects
- capitalisation of transformation costs where appropriate

These actions are ongoing and will be included in the report to Cabinet on 10 February 2026 together with in-year changes and ongoing changes to accounting, forecasting and grant activity which have also led to a change in the budgetary position from that previously reported.

- 4.4 Many of the financial pressures identified within the Councils General Fund are also present within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). A full update on the HRA budget and financial outlook will be considered alongside the General Fund revenue budget including options to maintain a viable 30-year business plan and that its ongoing budget is balanced, whilst delivering value for money to tenants.

5.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

- 5.1 To reiterate the information reported to Cabinet on 2 December 2025, the financial impact of LGR expected to be complex with very little information currently available. The financial information which underpins the ongoing budget process has currently been prepared on a 'business as usual' basis.
- 5.2 The Government is expected to lead a public consultation on the proposals early this year, with a preferred option selected in summer 2026.
- 5.3 If approved, elections for shadow authorities could take place in May 2027, with the new councils taking over all services from 1 April 2028 (vesting day).
- 5.4 Inevitably, this will have financial consequences for the Council however it is expected that partners will enter into the new authority in the best financial health that is possible, in order to maintain both financial and organisational stability.
- 5.5 During the time from now until vesting day, transitional costs falling upon the council will occur and these will need to be managed from within either the existing budget framework, the use of non-ringfenced reserves or by utilising capital receipts under the 'flexible use of capital receipts' policy where transformation can be demonstrated.

6.0 DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Given the size of the challenges faced by the Council, enhanced consultation with relevant internal and external stakeholders on the budget has been undertaken as part of the development of this budget with several briefings taking place. Further engagement will be undertaken prior to Budget Council in February. More specific consultation will continue as work continues to address the issues identified in the next few years.

7.0 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS (INCLUDING RISK ASSESSMENT)

- 7.1 It is essential that the Council Tax rate is set in line with the Council Tax billing timetable. Any

delay would put the Council at risk of not being able to collect the tax which would have serious cash flow implications.

- 7.2 In terms of the actual budget position, work is ongoing to provide a balanced budget. Public consultation/stakeholder meetings will be held over the coming weeks (including Budget and Performance Panel). The feedback from these meetings will be considered by Cabinet and incorporated into a final budget proposal which will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 10 February 2026 and recommended to Council on 25 February 2026.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The latest budget position does not produce a balanced budget for 2025/26 and further intervention is necessary before Cabinet can be presented with a balanced budget.
- 8.2 Whilst the longer-term financial forecasts contain numerous estimates and assumptions, which will change over time, the forecasts clearly highlight potential annual and cumulative budget deficits over the next 5 years and the position the Council faces. Although this position is not unique to this Council, it is reflected nationally across many public sector bodies. The gaps identified for 2026/27, although are lower than previously forecasted, are still present. Members and Officers recognise the size of the challenge ahead including that of LGR and will look to manage the transitional change to ensure the Council delivers both its statutory and non-statutory services across the district.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The budget framework in general sets out a financial plan for achieving the Council's corporate priorities and outcomes which incorporate the above cross cutting themes. Equalities impact assessments are undertaken for the relevant activities which are reflected in the budget.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)

The proposed budget incorporates measures to address the climate emergency and digital improvements as well as activities to address wellbeing, health and community safety.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has authored the report and comments are reflected within.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications directly arising from this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Paul Thompson

Telephone: 01524 582603

E-mail: pthompson@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: N/A

COUNCIL**Executive Arrangements****28 January 2026****Report of the Chief Officer, Governance****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform Council of interim changes to Cabinet responsibilities whilst the Deputy Leader is absent. Also to report an addition to the executive delegations to the Chief Officer, Housing and Property.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes

- a) the interim changes to executive arrangements whilst the Deputy Leader is absent
- b) an addition to executive delegations to the Chief Officer, Housing and Property

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Rule 2 of the Cabinet Procedure Rules provides that the Leader will present her executive arrangements to Council at the Annual Council meeting.
- 1.2 Changes to the arrangements as presented in May 2025 are required to be reported to Council. This report sets out interim changes to Cabinet responsibilities whilst the Deputy Leader is absent through illness. It also details an addition to executive delegations to the Chief Officer, Housing and Property.

2.0 Cabinet Responsibilities

- 2.1 The Deputy Leader is currently absent due to illness. The Leader has temporarily reallocated his areas of responsibility to other Cabinet Members until his return. This is shown below:
 - Lancaster BID, Canal Quarter and Markets – Councillor Bottoms
 - Salt Ayre Leisure Centre including Fit for the Future – Councillors Bannon and Hamilton-Cox
 - Emergency Planning, Heron Works and Parking (Castle Park) – Councillor Maddocks
 - Parking (Cable Street, Kingsway, ANPR) – Councillor Bottoms
 - Community Wealth Building – Councillor Hamilton-Cox

- Jobs and Skills (Green Skills) – Councillor Riches
- Fit for the Future Commercial Venues, Support Services Review, Digital Strategy and Implementation – Councillor Hart
- Business Support & Information – Councillor Tyldesley
- Frontierland Board Member – Councillor Caroline Jackson

3.0 New Executive Delegation to the Chief Officer Housing and Property

- 3.1 As a result of new legislation, the Leader authorised the addition of a new executive delegation to the Chief Officer, Housing and Property on 31 December 2025:

“To authorise officers to investigate, serve notices, enforce contraventions, and to exercise all relevant functions under the Renters’ Rights Act 2025.”

This has been added to the Constitution.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 To note the information in this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing): No direct impact	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Full Council adopts the Council’s Constitution. It is a ‘living document’ subject to amendment as a result of decisions made by Council, changes in legislation, changes to the Council’s structure, Officer designations and other factors. The Monitoring Officer is required to review and monitor the Constitution regularly to ensure that it is up-to-date and to inform all Councillors when changes are made.	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None identified.	
OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces: None identified	
SECTION 151 OFFICER’S COMMENTS The Section 151 Officer has no comments to add.	
MONITORING OFFICER’S COMMENTS The Monitoring Officer has submitted this report.	
BACKGROUND PAPERS The Council’s Constitution, published on www.lancaster.gov.uk	Contact Officer: Debbie Chambers Telephone: 01524 582057 Email: dchambers@lancaster.gov.uk

CABINET

7.00 P.M.

26TH NOVEMBER 2025

PRESENT:- Councillors Caroline Jackson (Chair), Peter Jackson, Mandy Bannon, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Paul Hart, Sally Maddocks and Sam Riches

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Martin Bottoms and Sue Tyldesley

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Davies	Chief Executive
Luke Gorst	Chief Officer - Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Thompson	Chief Officer - Resources and Section 151 Officer
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this point.

66 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Caroline Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive to allow Cabinet to formally agree Lancaster City Council's preference for the case for change it supports for Local Government Reorganisation.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Five options have been developed for local government structures in Lancashire, ranging from two to five unitary councils. Appendix 2 to the report shows the proposed geographies and council support for each option, and they are summarised below:

- a. Two unitary councils with Lancashire split into North and South regions broadly across the River Ribble and M65. This has been developed by Lancashire County Council.
- b. Three unitary councils bringing Chorley together with South Ribble, West Lancs and Preston. In the North a council covering the area of Fylde, Wyre, Blackpool and Lancaster. In the east Blackburn with Darwen together with Hyndburn, Rossendale, Burnley, Pendle and Ribble Valley. This has been developed by Wyre, Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Fylde, and Rossendale.
- c. Four Lancashire which groups Chorley with South Ribble and West Lancs and creates a fourth unitary council of Lancaster, Ribble Valley, and Preston in the North. This is the most widely supported of all options having been developed by

six councils; Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancs, Preston, Ribble Valley, and Lancaster.

- d. An alternate four option which has been developed by Blackpool and splits the current districts of Wyre and Ribble Valley and brings Blackpool together with Preston.
- e. A five unitary option, developed by Burnley and Pendle, which creates an additional council in the East of the county, splitting Pendle, Burnley and Rossendale from Ribble Valley, Blackpool and Hyndburn. This also divides districts along the Fylde coast into different authority areas.

Options appraisal

A comprehensive approach has been taken to the development of a four unitary Lancashire proposal for local government reorganisation in Lancashire. It covers the strategic, economic, financial, commercial, and management cases, providing context and background for the proposed changes. The business case assesses current arrangements and challenges, presents the rationale and opportunities for adopting a four-unitary model, and details the vision, ambitions, and approach for key services. It also explains how the proposed changes will be delivered, ensuring that the business case is robust, evidence-based, and clearly structured to support the transformation of local government in Lancashire.

The full proposal that has been developed undertakes an options-appraisal of each of the proposals being developed in Lancashire. The initial appraisal assessed each model against the government's criteria. The two, five, and alternate four proposals face challenges in scale, community engagement, and strategic alignment and so have not been taken forward.

Option

Against government criteria

Two unitary Lancashire

The new councils would have extremely large populations of circa 800,000, amongst the largest in the country. This is significantly higher than the government's expected population and risks inefficiency and reduced responsiveness to local needs due to scale. It is likely that at this scale sub-structures would be required which undermines the objectives of local government reorganisation.

The scale also creates local government which is remote from its communities, risking democratic accountability and trust.

The option misaligns with local economic geographies and commuting patterns, with the risk that this may hinder economic development.

Alternate four unitary Lancashire

This option creates two areas with significant deprivation (the Fylde coast/Preston and also in East Lancashire) alongside a northern unitary which would face challenges in the medium term due to its small and ageing population. This also divides existing district building blocks, which would make it significantly more complex to implement.

It does not effectively support devolution as the new areas are highly uneven in terms of size and economic weight. This would create an imbalance where some areas are remote from power and some lack influence.

Five unitary Lancashire

This option creates councils with populations lower than the minimum thresholds, with two less than 300,000.

Whilst the smaller size allows for more locally tailored services, the fragmentation risks duplication in service delivery and uneven quality.

The four unitary proposal that has been developed sets out a vision for what Local Government Reorganisation should achieve. That vision is to create a bold and future-facing local government in Lancashire — radical in its ambition, creative in its design, and innovative in its delivery. It will remain closely connected to communities, provide a strong platform for economic prosperity, and drive the transformation of public services through investment in early intervention.

To achieve this vision, the four unitary proposal establishes the following objectives:

- a. Establish the strongest platform for partnership with a future Lancashire Mayoral Strategic Authority
- b. Deliver radical change in creating a new public service landscape
- c. Achieve the right scale for efficient service delivery, whilst ensuring greater responsiveness to residents
- d. Strengthen effective place-based, preventative approaches
- e. Reinforce democratic connection and accountability to communities
- f. Build organisational resilience and future delivery capacity
- g. Ensure Lancashire plays a strong role in the North's growth
- h. Ensure geographical coherence that reflects communities and functional boundaries

Both the three unitary and the four unitary options were assessed as meeting the government's criteria. Those options were then considered against objectives agreed by the six Councils developing the proposal. This detailed appraisal establishes that the Four Lancashire option has significant advantages over the three unitary model.

- a. **Financial analysis** compares the three unitary and four unitary options on benefits, costs, and net positions, concluding that whilst these are small initial set up costs for the additional authority, the transformational potential of the four Lancashire option far exceeds these and could realise over £195 million in savings between 2027 and 2033.
- b. **Service model analysis** highlights four's advantages in local responsiveness, innovation opportunities, and tailored prevention strategies, while three offers scale but risks reduced community connection.
- c. **Economic analysis** favours four for aligning with real economic geographies, preserving key economic areas like the Fylde Coast, and supporting targeted innovation and productivity growth, despite some inter-authority inequities.

Officer recommended option

Four Lancashire aims to simplify governance, improve service delivery, and align with economic corridors. It balances scale for efficiency and local identity, enabling tailored services and stronger community engagement. The model addresses fragmentation and supports integrated, place-based approaches with stakeholder backing.

Four unitary councils, working collectively through a Mayoral Strategic Authority will enable radical improvements in public services while also kickstarting economic growth. The councils are based on credible geographies and recognisable communities, while also simplifying the structures of local government and accountability. The population sizes of each unitary are of a scale that is comparable to existing unitary authorities.

The model will improve public services through:

- a. Prevention and Early Intervention – building on the success of initiatives such as social prescribing and the place based intelligence platform.
- b. Neighbourhood working and community empowerment - embedding communities in decision-making, strengthening their influence, and ensuring that public services reflect local priorities and local identity.
- c. Economic growth and connectivity - we will close the productivity gap, improve health, and boost labour-market participation.

Appendix 5 to the report sets out in detail the rationale / pitch for a four unitary Lancashire.

At the time of writing no other completed cases for change were available. As they begin to be published officers will endeavour to provide the links to them for Members to consider. It will obviously be difficult for the Chief Executive to answer detailed questions on those different cases for change.

Risk

The key risks associated with this report include:

- a. Creation of uncertainty, which could lead to a greater turnover of staff and more difficulties in recruitment. This will be managed by a programme of internal

communications to provide reassurance and updates, as well as a continued focus on delivering the corporate strategy and core services of the council.

- b. Breakdown in relationships across Lancashire councils due to the creation of competing proposals. The decision of government is final and there will be the need for the council to continue to collaborate with partners across Lancashire, whichever decision is made for the reorganisation of the county.
- c. Uncertainty risking disruption to current and developing partnerships, stakeholder relationships and on-going agency links.

Cabinet were asked to consider the report, appendices and the recommendation made by Council on 26th November, with regards to the report on Local Government Reorganisation and formally agree Lancaster City Council's preferred case for change for unitarisation.

Council recommended to Cabinet the case for change for a 4-unitary option (Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston).

Having voted against the proposal at Full Council Councillor Hamilton-Cox advised the meeting that he would be abstaining from the vote at Cabinet in view of him recognising the will of Full Council and asked that the reason for his abstention be minuted.

Councillor Caroline Jackson proposed, seconded by Councillor Peter Jackson:

"That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved with the inclusion of 'as a 4-unitary option consisting of Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston' after unitarisation in recommendation (1)."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved:

(6 Members (Councillors Bannon, Hart, Caroline Jackson, Peter Jackson, Maddocks and Riches) voted in favour, and 1 Member (Councillor Hamilton-Cox abstained.)

- (1) That having considered both this report and appendices and the recommendation made by Council on 26th November 2025 with regard to the report on Local Government Reorganisation, Cabinet formally agrees Lancaster City Council's preferred case for change for unitarisation as a 4-unitary option (Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston).
- (2) That the Leader and Chief Executive are delegated to make arrangements to ensure Lancaster City Council's preferred case for change for unitarisation is received by MHCLG by 28th November, 2025

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

Final approval of submission of the proposal to government lies with Cabinet in accordance with section 9D(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.

In making its decision Cabinet recognised that the will of full Council in recommending a 4-unitary option (Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston) was clear and Cabinet respected Council's recommendation.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.51 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Support - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
IMMEDIATE - CALL-IN WAIVED ON THIS DECISION**

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

2ND DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT:- Councillors Caroline Jackson (Chair), Peter Jackson, Mandy Bannon, Martin Bottoms, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Paul Hart, Sally Maddocks, Sam Riches and Sue Tyldesley

Officers in attendance:-

Luke Gorst	Chief Officer - Governance and Monitoring Officer
Paul Thompson	Chief Officer - Resources and Section 151 Officer
Mark Cassidy	Chief Officer - Planning and Climate Change
William Griffith	Chief Officer - Environment and Place
Jonathan Noad	Chief Officer - Sustainable Growth
Paul Rogers	Regeneration Service Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

At this point, the Leader noted that due to the lengthy agenda, the order of items would be significantly adjusted to prioritise discussion on reports needing more thorough consideration, including the three exempt reports.

Following this, the Leader invited Cabinet to approve the minutes from the 21 October meeting. A request was made to discuss the exempt minute concerning Ryeland's House and the Chair informed the meeting that it was necessary to go into private session.

67 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Tyldesley and seconded by Councillor Maddocks:-

"That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act."

Members then voted as follows:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

68 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2025 were approved as a correct record however it was noted that the reasons for making the decision as set out in the exempt minute on Ryeland's House were challenged by Cllr Hamilton-Cox.

69 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

71 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

72 REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

The Leader informed the meeting that the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol had been withdrawn but it would be revisited to ensure that a comprehensive protocol would be adopted.

73 LANCASTER CANAL QUARTER EARLY PHASE HOUSING PROPOSALS - PROGRESS UPDATE AND DELIVERY (Pages 18 - 21)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Sustainable Growth outlining progress in taking forward the previously agreed early phase housing proposals under the council's approved Lancaster Canal Quarter Masterplan. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt report.

Resolved unanimously:

The resolution is set out in a minute exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Sustainable Growth

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's priorities. Exactly how the decision fits with Council priorities is set out in the exempt minute.

74 EDEN PROJECT - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT VARIATION (Pages 22 - 23)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Sustainable Growth with regard to variation of the grant fund agreement. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972. Call-in had been waived on this item enabling the decision to be implemented immediately.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt report.

Resolved unanimously:

The resolution is set out in a minute exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Sustainable Growth

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's priorities. Exactly how the decision fits with Council priorities is set out in the exempt minute.

75 LIFT MODERNISATION & ASSOCIATED WORKS (Pages 24 - 25)

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Housing & Property that sought approval for the procurement of a supplier to provide a lift maintenance & modernisation contract to all council buildings. The report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the exempt report.

Resolved unanimously:

The resolution is set out in a minute exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Housing & Property

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision is consistent with the Council's priorities. Exactly how the decision fits with Council priorities is set out in the exempt minute.

The press and public were re-admitted at this point.

76 FLY TIPPING STRATEGY

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hart)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer – Environment & Place to consider, review and adopt the Fly Tipping Strategy for the district.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Option 1 would be for the authority not to adopt the strategy and accept that the current management of fly tipping in the district is acceptable and palatable in relation to the financial and resource needed to maintain this standard of service to residents. Whilst this would not be consistent with the authority's ambitions around improving quality public spaces, it is an option none the less given the other ambitions which the Council may choose to focus on, as outlined within the Council Plan 2024-2027.

Option 2 is the strategy as outlined within the body of the report and appendix 1. This is planned within the current operational structures and requires minimal investment in regard to financial or staffing resource. The approach is ambitious and looks to lower fly tipping and increase resident satisfaction over a five year period.

	Option 1: Do nothing – Reactive approach	Option 2: 5 year planned approach
Advantages	None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicly articulates a plan for tackling an issue close to residents Planned, tactical approach to Fly Tipping which aligns to corporate plan Delivered within current staffing resource
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear plan or ambition for tackling fly tipping Acceptance of a reactive approach 	5 year plan subject to changes in corporate priorities Risk of plan becoming outdated in local circumstances change
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The issue of fly tipping grows in number, and causes increased financial and resource burden Reputational impact from residents	Reduction in fly tipping isn't realised

The options available to the Council are outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report and all offer advantages and disadvantages. Any decision moving forward should consider a balanced approach to residents whilst taking into account the national strategy, financial position of the authority and operational efficiency.

Option 2 is the officer preferred option – to approve the proposed strategy to move

towards a more planned and structured approach to Fly Tipping. It is felt that this will contribute to a smoother operation and be kinder to the public in knowing what is required on their behalf.

Councillor Hart proposed, seconded by Councillor Riches:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

By way of amendment, Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed and Councillor Maddocks seconded:- “that the maximum fixed penalty notice be increased to £1K.”

This was not accepted as a friendly amendment by Councillor Hart.

Following advice from the Monitoring Officer, it was decided the amendment was unsuitable for the current strategy document. The amendment was withdrawn for future consideration.

By way of an amendment to the operational action plan within the strategy Councillor Caroline Jackson proposed ‘that the phrases short term medium term and long term should be replaced by actual specific dates where possible with officers determining which actions became dates and which remained as short term, medium term or long term.’

This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Councillors then voted on the recommendations, as revised :-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Fly Tipping Strategy 2026-2031 as attached within appendix 1 to the report be approved and adopted.
- (2) That the operational action plan attached to the report in appendix 2 be revised with the phrases short term, medium term and long term replaced by actual specific dates where possible with officers determining which actions became dates and which remained as short term, medium term or long term.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer - Environment & Place

Reasons for making the decision:

This front facing operational strategy aligns to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Councils corporate enforcement policy.

The strategy will contribute positively to reduced public health and safety and offers a consistent service to all communities regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity or geographical location and endeavours for all to benefit from a cleaner environment.

Having approved the preferred officer option, Council services will be able to start the implementation work stream as set out in the report and look to articulate the changes to residents.

77 LANCASTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - RENEWAL BALLOT AND DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN PROPOSAL

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Peter Jackson)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer Sustainable Growth that provided context and information for the endorsement of proposals for a Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID) Renewal Ballot (5 February 2026) as required by the national BID statutory provisions. The report updated Members on the pre- and post- ballot issues, resource and other implications in relation to the city council's role in the BID renewal process and as a BID levy payer.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: Do nothing	Option 2: Endorse the Lancaster BID Renewal Proposals.	Option 3: Request material amendments to the draft Renewal Proposal for consideration/ endorsement at a future Cabinet meeting
Advantages	No advantages	<p>Timely notice that the proposals are technically sound and likely compatible with BID Regulations and council policy.</p> <p>Allows for minor/non-material technical amendments via scrutiny of final Renewal Proposals.</p> <p>Enables Lancaster BID to continue pre-election canvassing and marketing with confidence.</p>	<p>Only appropriate if the proposals have to be vetoed due to conflict with council policy and if extensive changes are required.</p> <p>Allows revised proposals to come forward that are compatible with council policy and regulatory requirements.</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Creates uncertainty for Lancaster BID.</p> <p>Hinders BID's pre-</p>	No disadvantages identified	Reputational implications for the council if proposals are not endorsed without

	ballot canvassing and marketing activities. Delays the ballot process.		good reason. Potential delays to BID's pre-ballot canvassing and marketing activities
Risks	If there are issues with Renewal Proposal compliance at this stage, a ballot could be delayed, impacting BID's canvassing and the council's operational planning. This Cabinet meeting is the last date proposals can formally be endorsed for a February ballot under statutory notifications.	No guarantee that the BID Renewal Ballot will be successful. Ongoing consultation and officer scrutiny mitigate technical risks.	If there are issues with compatibility with the council's policy framework, Lancaster BID must address them and prepare a compliant Final Renewal Proposal. Risks are as in Option 1 regarding statutory deadlines.

The Lancaster BID proposals do not conflict with any published council policies and a successful BID will continue to actively support the council's corporate objectives particularly in the areas of Economic Growth, Clean Green & Safe Places and Community Leadership. The work of Lancaster BID in canvassing opinion and consultation show a good level of support for the way the BID proposals have been shaped.

The amount of prior discussion between the BID proposer and the local authority before submitting the BID draft proposals to the authority has been sufficient and it is expected consultation will continue up to the submission of final proposals. The costs incurred and due in developing BID proposals, canvassing and balloting have been allowed for within the BID's current budget.

There are no advantages in holding over on endorsement pending Final Proposals (Option 1) and officers consider there are no material alterations required (Option 3). The Preferred Option is therefore Option 2, to endorse the Lancaster BID Renewal Proposals.

It follows that an appropriate level of delegated authority is required to ensure the outstanding matters are addressed and so that Lancaster BID can move forward to ballot. As these issues are mainly technical and operational it is recommended this be undertaken through delegated decision by the Chief Executive.

Councillor Peter Jackson proposed, seconded by Councillor Bottoms:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the Renewal Proposals for Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID) Renewal Ballot are agreed as in compliance with the statutory requirements and are not in conflict with the council's corporate policy framework.
- (2) That formal Endorsement of Lancaster BID final Renewal Proposal policy compliance and the issue of an instruction to proceed to ballot via UK Engage is undertaken by the Chief Executive.
- (3) That the current Operating Agreement and Baseline Agreement are revised to reflect any changes/amendments required between the parties and current council service provision respectively, with approval and post ballot sign-off of the final documents delegated to the Chief Executive.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Office Sustainable Growth

Reasons for making the decision:

The current Lancaster BID Renewal Proposal presents an opportunity for the business community to continue to deliver additional services and activity in Lancaster City Centre on its own terms. The business representatives and Lancaster BID team at the heart of the proposal have worked to ensure their proposal reflects local issues and the activities proposed will have meaningful local impact.

The Lancaster BID renewal proposals are well aligned with the Council Plan 2024–27's strategic priorities. The BID's activities support economic growth, environmental improvements, partnership working, community wellbeing, and inclusivity.

A Sustainable District (The Climate Emergency) The Council Plan aims for Lancaster to be net zero carbon by 2030, focusing on biodiversity and sustainable practices. The BID's "Green Agenda" supports this with street cleansing, graffiti removal, planters, and seasonal decorations that enhance the city centre. The BID also partners with the Council and others on sustainability, though there is room to further develop its environmental actions to fully meet council targets.

An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy (Community Wealth Building) The Council Plan seeks to use assets and procurement for community benefit, skills, investment, and promoting Lancaster as a destination. The BID supports a diverse business mix through events, marketing, and business support, all aimed at boosting footfall and economic activity. The BID also attracts investment and works with partners like Lancaster University and Eden North, aligning well with the Council's economic aims.

Healthy and Happy Communities (Increasing Wellbeing, Reducing Inequality) The Council Plan focuses on clean, safe neighbourhoods and access to arts, culture, and

recreation. The BID delivers events, supports arts and culture, and improves public spaces. Safety is addressed through the BID Warden, police partnership, and community safety schemes. While not directly involved in housing, the BID's activities help create a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant city centre.

A Co-operative, Kind and Responsible Council (Delivering Effective Services, Taking Responsibility) The Council Plan commits to partnership working and effective service delivery. The BID is governed by a board representing city centre businesses and engages in regular consultation and collaborative projects. Its partnership with the Council, police, and others supports the Council's goal of co-operative and responsible service delivery.

78 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (2026/27)

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Assistant Director (Head of Revenues and Benefits) to enable Cabinet to consider the existing Localised Council Tax Support ("LCTS") Scheme and the options available, ahead of formal consideration and approval by Council for application in 2026/27.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

The challenge for the Council is to adopt a scheme that fits with its ambitions and priorities and is considered fair, deliverable and affordable, given statutory obligations and competing pressures for resources. Council is presented with two basic options:

Option 1: Retain the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) scheme, subject to minor consequential amendments to match changes in Housing Benefit rules.

- The existing scheme is considered soundly structured and works well, and offers maximum support for low-income families, who may otherwise find themselves in mounting debt.
- Current forecast assumes the continuation of the existing LCTS system and as such, maintaining current levels of support would normally have no impact on the Council's financial forecast. However, costs have increased in recent years with increased take-up due to the cost-of living crisis and annual Council tax increases. 2025/26 has seen a small reduction in residents receiving LCTS from 9,310 in 2024/25 to 9,235 in 2025/26. Should this trend continue, this could reduce costs of the scheme in the long term.
- Retaining existing policy principles of keeping various positive entitlement provisions for LCTS in line with other key welfare benefits promotes equality.

Option 2: Make changes to the existing Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme to reduce benefit entitlement for working age claimants.

- Currently 9,235 residents claim LCTS in the Lancaster district. As pensioners make up 38% (3,554) of claimants, it means any cut in the level of support provided falls on the remaining 62% (5,681) of working age people on low incomes.

- A reduction in the levels of support provided could arguably provide claimants with further incentives to work, reducing their reliance on benefits, although the jobs market is particularly uncertain at this difficult time.
- This option will have greater adverse financial impact on working age households but would help protect other Council services by requiring less savings to be made by them.
- If levels of support are reduced, the Council would be tasked with the difficulty of collecting this debt from the more vulnerable members of our society, increasing workloads and costs associated with council tax recovery.
- Additional costs associated with developing new scheme options, consultation exercise, legal changes to scheme etc.

	Option 1: Retain the existing LCTS scheme	Option 2: Amend the LCTS scheme to reduce entitlement
Advantages	The current scheme provides support up to a level of 100% and assists those on low incomes	Financial savings to Lancaster City Council and the other precepting authorities.
Disadvantages	The Government does not fully fund the cost of a 100% LCTS scheme. The additional cost falls on Lancaster City Council and the other precepting authorities.	A reduction in support would result in Council Tax increases for those on low incomes. The Council Tax team would need to recover more money, often from those least able to make payments.
Risks	The cost of the scheme may increase due to an increase in new claims as the cost-of-living crisis progresses.	Reduced collection rates and increased debt. Potential reputational damage.

The officer preferred option is to retain the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 (Option 1). This will assist financially vulnerable Council Tax customers in the Lancaster City Council District.

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed, seconded by Councillor Tyldesley:-

“That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved:

(8 Members (Councillors Mandy Bannon, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Paul Hart, Caroline Jackson, Peter Jackson, Sally Maddocks, Sam Riches and Sue Tyldesley) voted in favour, and 1 Member (Councillor Bottoms) abstained.) Councillor Bottoms informed officers that he had abstained as he thought he might be affected by the decision.

- (1) That the existing Localised Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 be retained

(Option 1 to the report).

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Resources

Reasons for making the decision:

The Council's existing LCTS scheme works well in terms of providing support, but at a cost, particularly for the County Council. To date the Council has attached a high priority to maintaining council tax support levels available to working age claimants (pensioners being unaffected by the Council's decision). Adoption of a particular option should be informed by the Council's views regarding the relative priority of LCTS, compared with other services and activities in support of future corporate priorities.

The LCTS scheme is developed in support of ambitions within the Council Plan regarding "Healthy and Happy Communities" to optimise access for those that need it most, together with welfare benefits and related support. Cabinet welcomed the continuation of this scheme which supported the most vulnerable.

79 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLANNING POLICY CABINET ADVISORY GROUP

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Tyldesley)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change that set out the proposed establishment of a new Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group to replace the existing Members' Local Plan Review Group.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: To establish a PPCAG to replace LPRG	Option 2: To not establish a PPCAG to replace LPRG
Advantages	The new Cabinet Advisory Group will have the opportunity to be more transparent and focused on wider plan-making matters and it is more conducive to supporting the new Local Plan preparation timescale.	The existing arrangements would continue.
Disadvantages	None.	An opportunity to widen the scope of the Group would be lost.
Risks	None.	None.

The preferred option is Option 1. If approved, it is envisaged that the first meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group would be in January 2026, coinciding with the anticipated start of the formal stages of the Local Plan.

Councillor Tyldesley proposed, seconded by Councillor Bannon:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved:

(8 Members (Councillors Mandy Bannon, Martin Bottoms, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson, Peter Jackson, Sally Maddocks, Sam Riches and Sue Tyldesley) voted in favour, and 1 Member (Councillor Hart) abstained.)

- (1) That Cabinet authorise the establishment of the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group as a direct replacement for the existing Local Plan Review Group.
- (2) That the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be authorised by Cabinet.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

Reasons for making the decision:

The establishment of the Planning Policy Cabinet Advisory Group will provide improved processes to help the Council achieve its plan-making aspirations. The Council Plan includes ambitions to make responsible decisions which support our ambitions for the district, and which seek to improve service delivery.

The meeting adjourned at 7.25pm and reconvened at 7.37pm.

80 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive that provided Cabinet with an update on the authority’s progress in updating the Strategic Risk Register.

As the report was for comments and noting no options were provided.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

The Council have a Risk Management Policy, which is written to provide guidance on the management of risk. Risk Management is identified in the Council Plan 2024-27.

81 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Finance Officer that provided an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts for 2026/27 to 2030/31 and outline the approach to balancing the budget.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

The report set out:

- An updated budget gap analysis taking account of the latest funding outlook other information on expenditure and income pressures.
- A summary of the budget framework strategy

It was critically important that all Members understand that the position reported was an update of the baseline position and primarily for information. It contained a series of estimates and assumptions that were based on the latest information available. These were highly likely to change over the coming months as the budget process was worked through. It did not include any impact the Local Government Finance Settlement due mid-December might have.

It must be reiterated that the current forecasts **do not** include any interventions by Calderdale Senior Leadership Team or the outcomes of the Local Government Settlement. Whilst some savings have been delivered, the forecasts show that potential annual and cumulative budget deficits still remain over the next 5 years and continue to need to be addressed. In light of this, balancing the budget both in the short and the medium term remains a tough task and **Members must work together and recognise that they will face a number of difficult key decisions as part of the forthcoming budget and over the coming financial years which will affect the manner in which it delivers its services.**

Councillor Hamilton proposed, seconded by Councillor Bottoms:-

"That recommendations 1 & 3 be noted and recommendation (2) as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) The draft future years estimates as set out in the report as the latest information available, accepting that this is an interim position be noted.
- (2) That the update be agreed and referred on to December Council for information.
- (3) That the Council Tax Base for 2026/27 as set out in paragraph 3.8. to the report be noted.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Resources

Reasons for making the decision:

Performance, project, and resource monitoring provides a link between the Council Plan and operational achievement, by providing regular updates on the impact of operational initiatives against strategic aims.

82 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW 2025/26

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Finance Officer that sought Cabinet's consideration of various matters in connection with the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2025/26.

The report was for consideration and progressing to Budget and Performance Panel and Full Council and therefore no alternative options were put forward. The Mid-Year Review (Appendix A to the report) set out the performance of treasury operations for the first six months of the 2025/26 financial year in terms of long and short-term borrowing, investment activities and relevant borrowing limits and prudential indicators. Under CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) it is a requirement that an information report on these matters be presented to Cabinet and full Council.

The Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility drew Cabinet's attention to the 151 comments: *As part of the work to address the "Community concern over bombardment of Gaza and reaffirming Lancaster City Council's commitment to human rights and International Law" motion presented to Council 24th September 2025, this report requests an increase in sovereign limits from £6M to £12M. Whilst this increase will allow wider access to, and use of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) based investment funds, it does significantly increase the level of risk to the Council. As approval of the Treasury Management Strategy is a function of Full Council Members must be satisfied that the increase in risk is balanced against the benefits of investment in ESG funds.*

Councillor Hamilton-Cox proposed, seconded by Councillor Bottoms:-

"That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the report, the treasury activity and performance against the prudential indicators.
- (2) That Cabinet recommend approval of changes to the investment counterparty criteria to full Council.
- (3) That Cabinet recommend approval of change to the sovereign limit to full Council.
- (4) That the Mid-Year Review 2025/26 be forwarded on to Budget & Performance Panel and Full Council for consideration in accordance with CIPFA Code of

Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer Resources

Reasons for making the decision:

Treasury Management forms part of the Councils budget framework. Consideration of Treasury Management Mid-Year Review and presentation to Full Council will ensure the Council complies with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

83 LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL'S PROGRESS TO NET ZERO

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Riches)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change that provided an end-of-year update regarding the City Council's ambition to reach net zero for all of its' own activities by 2030.

As the report was for noting no options were provided. The 1st Annual Report represented the current position regarding the Council's own net zero journey. It was anticipated that further reporting would take place each December up until and including 2030.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

The progress that is described in the Annual Report directly relates to all four Principles and Themes of the Council Plan. In particular, it represents a series of actions to meet the challenge of the climate emergency. It also contributes towards building a sustainable and just local economy that benefits people and organisations. The impacts of the projects listed within the report will increase wellbeing and contribute towards the reduction of inequality; and it is an example of how we can bring people together to achieve the best outcomes for our communities by delivering effective and responsible public services.

The report is also read alongside the provisions of the Council's adopted Local Plan, which includes policies which aim to minimise emissions and maximise the use of renewable resources; mitigates the impact of climate change and promote increased climate resilience; encourage a modal shift in transport through considered design and working with partner authorities; and that contributes positively and responsibly to protecting and enhancing habitats and ecosystems in order to strengthen nature recovery.

84 DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES: Q2 2025/26**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive and s151 Officer that provided members with an update on financial performance during the first two quarters of 2025/26 (April – September 2025).

As the report was for commenting and noting no options were provided.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

Performance, project and resource monitoring provides a link between the Council plan and operational achievement by providing regular updates on the impact of operational initiatives against strategic aims.

85 PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE: Q2 2025-26**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Hamilton-Cox)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive that provided members with an update on corporate performance and strategic projects during quarter two of 2025 - 26 (July - September 2025).

As the report was for commenting and noting no options were provided.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reasons for making the decision:

Monitoring of strategic projects and key performance indicators provides a link between the Council Plan 24-27 by providing progress updates.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 8.22 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Support - email ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER, 2025 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINUTE 74:**

**CALL-IN WAIVED ON MINUTE 74 EDEN PROJECT - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT
VARIATION ENABLING THE DECISION TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY.**

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