

PROCEEDINGS

An extraordinary meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held in the Town Hall, Morecambe, at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, when the following Members were present:-

Margaret Pattison (Mayor)

Suhir Abuhajar

Catherine Armistead

Louise Belcher

Phil Bradley

Ruth Colbridge

Claire Cozler

Roger Dennison

Martin Gawith

Tim Hamilton-Cox

Prof Chris Harris

Colin Hartley

Caroline Jackson

Jack Lenox

Sally Maddocks

Isabella Metcalf-Riener

Hamish Mills

Andrew Otway

Sue Penney

Joyce Pritchard

Robert Redfern

James Sommerville

Paul Stubbins

David Whitaker

Nick Wilkinson

John Hanson (Deputy Mayor)

Joanne Ainscough

Mandy Bannon

Gerry Blaikie

Keith Budden

Wilson Colley

Maria Deery

Gina Dowding

Alan Greenwell

Chris Hanna

Paul Hart

Ross Hunter

Peter Jackson

John Livermore

Sarah McGowan

Abi Mills

Paul Newton

Jean Parr

Catherine Potter

Sarah Punshon

Sam Riches

Jackson Stubbs

Sandra Thornberry

John Wild

Jason Wood

74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Matthew Black, Phillip Black, Martin Bottoms, Dave Brookes, Roger Cleet, Brett Cooper, Tom Fish, Andrew Gardiner, Sue Tyldesley and Paul Tynan.

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

76 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Council received the report and recommendations of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group, which was presented by the Chair of the Working Group and Leader of the Council, Councillor Caroline Jackson.

Councillor Caroline Jackson responded to questions from Councillors regarding the Working Group's report before proposing the recommendations set out in the report:

(1) That Council notes:

- There are five cases for change being put forward for Lancashire in response to the government's invitation
- That Council's LGR cross party working group requested the Chief Executive to work with five other Councils on the four unitary option –

North Lancashire - Lancaster, Ribble Valley, Preston

Fylde Coast - Blackpool, Wyre, Fylde

South Lancashire - Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancs

East Lancashire - Blackburn with Darwen, Rossendale, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle

- The four unitary option is included in full within the report (at appendix 1a, 1b).

(2) That council considers:

- The case for change for the four unitary option as above.
- Cases for change for two unitaries, three unitaries, five unitaries and an alternative four unitary option have been prepared by other Council groupings. (Links were provided in the report to these where available).
- Cabinet will make the decision on the preferred case for change proposal for Lancaster City Council, the actual decision for Lancashire will be decided by Government.

(3) That Council recommends to Cabinet, for the reasons outlined in the report and appendices, the case for change for a 4-unitary option (Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston) as shown in Appendix 1a of the report.

A very lengthy debate on the proposition followed, with many Councillors giving their views.

After all those who wished to had spoken, the proposer of the motion responded to the points raised in debate. The Mayor then called for a vote and the motion was carried.

Resolved:

(1) That Council notes:

- There are five cases for change being put forward for Lancashire in response to the government's invitation
- That Council's LGR cross party working group requested the Chief Executive to work with five other Councils on the four unitary option –

North Lancashire - Lancaster, Ribble Valley, Preston

Fylde Coast - Blackpool, Wyre, Fylde

South Lancashire - Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancs

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(2) That council considers:

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- Cabinet will make the decision on the preferred case for change proposal for Lancaster City Council, the actual decision for Lancashire will be decided by Government.

(3) That Council recommends to Cabinet, for the reasons outlined in the report and appendices, the case for change for a 4-unitary option (Lancaster, Ribble Valley and Preston) as shown in Appendix 1a of the report.

Mayor

(The meeting finished at 7.25 p.m.)

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