



Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Operating Officer

52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Tuesday, 29 March 2022

TO: THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF** on **WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2022** at **7.30 PM** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Operating Officer

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

PAGE(S)

1. **PRAYERS**

2. **APOLOGIES**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest, he/she is advised to contact the Legal and Democratic Services Manager in advance of the meeting. (For the assistance of members a checklist for use in considering their position on any particular item is included at the end of this agenda sheet.)

1287 - 1288

4. **MINUTES**
To receive as a correct record, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 February 2022. 1289 - 1310
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**
6. **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2**
7. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**
To receive the minutes of the following meetings, to confirm, if appropriate, such of the minutes as require confirmation and to pass such resolutions as the Council may deem necessary:
- a) **Planning Committee - Thursday, 17 March 2022** 1311 - 1314
8. **WEST LANCASHIRE ELECTORAL REVIEW - LGBCE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS** 1315 - 1370
To consider the report of the Chief Operating Officer.
9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
It is recommended that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph ?? (????) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART 2 - NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10. **LEISURE PROCUREMENT FUNDING STRATEGY** 1371 - 1388
To consider the report of the Corporate Director of Place & Community.

PART 3 - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

11. **MOTIONS**
To consider the following Motions included on the agenda at the request of the Members indicated:
- a) **BMI testing of Children in West Lancashire - Motion Included by Councillor James Upjohn**
That this Council does not agree with BMI testing of our children in West Lancashire and believes that BMI testing is outdated and is causing serious concern for parents who receive letters saying that their children are underweight or overweight, which can cause significant distress for both parents and their children.

That the Chief Operating Officer be asked to write to the CCG, the

Cabinet Member for Education at LCC, Cabinet Member for Health at LCC & our local MPs to ask that this issue can be looked at."

b) Medical Waste Incinerator Simonswood - Motion Included by Councillor Ian Moran on Behalf of the Labour Group

"That this Council calls for LCC to abandon its plans for a high waste temperature facility for medical waste to be built in Simonswood. West Lancs has had too many waste sites 'dumped' onto its residents with White Moss and Parbold hill to name a two.

That this council believes that if the development is allowed to go ahead it would have a significant detrimental impact on the health and general amenity of many of our residents here in West Lancashire and also our neighbours in Knowsley. Enough is enough, stop dumping on the residents of West Lancashire."

c) Tawd Valley Developments Ltd- Motion to Rescind a Previous Decision Included by Councillors James Upjohn, Jenny Wilkie, Ian Moran, Gareth Dowling, Noel Delaney, Vicki Cummins, Kath Lockie, Adam Yates, Susan Evans, Cynthia Dereli, Julian Finch, Carl Coughlan, Donna West, Janice Monaghan, Nichola Pryce-Roberts and Neil Furey in accordance with Section 15.1 of the Council Procedure Rules

That the following resolution of Council held on 23 February 2022, be rescinded:

- "A. That the independent review on TVDL set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
- B. That with immediate effect TVDL to stop all developments outside of the borough.
- C. That with immediate effect TVDL to stop all developments within the borough, other than those sites already in progress.
- D. That a Member Shareholder Committee be established to make any recommendations to Council, to implement a phased and controlled wind down of TVDL, comprising of 2 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members and 1 Our West Lancashire Member for delegated decision making and scrutiny of TVDL, as follows:

Tawd Valley Developments Shareholder Committee

Membership

(5 Members: 2 LAB 2 CON 1 OWL)

(Chairman) Councillor David Westley

(Vice-Chairman) Councillor Ian Davis

Functions

- (i) To approve any necessary changes to the Business Plan, if required
- (ii) To monitor and make any necessary decisions (other than to cease development/progression) in respect of the sites in progress.
- (iii) To communicate the shareholders' views to TVDL
- (iv) To evaluate the effectiveness of the TVDL board and the delivery of performance against strategic objectives and the business plan
- (v) To assess any risks to the council offered by TVDL activities
- (vi) To consider and make any recommendations to Council to implement a phased and controlled wind down of TVDL

Delegations

This Committee shall exercise the full powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to points (i) to (vi) above, except in the case of the following:

1. The final decision to wind down TVDL;
2. The decision not to continue with the development/progression of a site that is already in progress;
3. Any decision which would result in the Council incurring a cumulative financial loss on any site which is already in progress,

all of which will be a decision of full Council.

- E. That, subject to D above, it be noted that the Tawd Valley Development Cabinet Working Group will no longer be required to meet.
- F. That with immediate effect no further financial investment be made from WLBC into TVDL and if funding is required, this should be by way of a loan.
- G. That the proposed responses to the review recommendations set out in the revised Appendix 2 accompanying this motion be approved
- H. That any associated costs be met from reserves."

And replaced with the following:

- "A. That the independent review on TVDL set out in Appendix 1 to

the report be noted.

B. That the proposed responses to the review recommendations set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved."

d) Freeport in Liverpool - Motion Included by Councillor Cythina Dereli

This Council notes with concern, particularly in the present crisis, the potential outcomes of moves by Liverpool City Region to become a Freeport.

While recognising that the creation of more jobs in the City Region may be a first visible outcome, we are concerned about the possible impact this may have on the quality of jobs in the area if the pattern that has emerged in other Freeports is followed, by removing workers rights and access to TU protection.

But we are also concerned that this will impact on a wider area/hinterland by:

*drawing jobs into the Freeport area

*removing environmental protection and potentially opening up the area to fracking with all the environmental issues it creates

*endangering moves towards meeting climate action goals on a wider scale, particularly through moves to base their profit-oriented plans to develop hydrogen as a so-called 'transition' fuel in the Freeport area, We urge Liverpool Cllrs, the City Mayor and the TU movement in the NW to express their opposition to such a move, and to work with neighbours to create a sustainable economy that protects workers' rights and is based on moves to truly green energy.

e) Mental Health Support for Councillors - Motion Included by Councillor James Upjohn

That it be noted that council staff have access to counselling services if needed and that some WLBC staff are trained as Mental Health First Aiders, to offer support.

That this Council recognises that Councillors also need mental health support and that priority access should be given when needed and that all members be advised of the affects of mental health issues.

We can provide this document, upon request, on audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.

FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE: Please see attached sheet.

MOBILE PHONES: These should be switched off or to 'silent' at all meetings.

For further information, please contact:-

Jacky Denning on 01695 585384

Or email jacky.denning@westlancs.gov.uk

**FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR:
COUNCIL MEETINGS WHERE OFFICERS ARE PRESENT
(52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK)**

PERSON IN CHARGE: Most Senior Officer Present
ZONE WARDEN: Member Services Officer / Lawyer
DOOR WARDEN(S) Usher / Caretaker

IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE

1. Operate the nearest **FIRE CALL POINT** by breaking the glass.
2. Attack the fire with the extinguishers provided only if you have been trained and it is safe to do so. **Do not** take risks.

ON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM

1. Leave the building via the **NEAREST SAFE EXIT**. **Do not stop** to collect personal belongings.
2. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** on the car park and report your presence to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
3. **Do NOT** return to the premises until authorised to do so by the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.

NOTES:

Officers are required to direct all visitors regarding these procedures i.e. exit routes and place of assembly.

The only persons not required to report to the Assembly Point are the Door Wardens.

CHECKLIST FOR PERSON IN CHARGE

1. Advise other interested parties present that you are the person in charge in the event of an evacuation.
2. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire escape routes and inform any interested parties of the escape routes.
3. Make yourself familiar with the location of the assembly point and inform any interested parties of that location.
4. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire alarm and detection control panel.
5. Ensure that the zone warden and door wardens are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
6. Arrange for a register of attendance to be completed (if considered appropriate / practicable).

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, OR THE FIRE ALARM BEING SOUNDED

1. Ensure that the room in which the meeting is being held is cleared of all persons.
2. Evacuate via the nearest safe Fire Exit and proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** in the car park.
3. Delegate a person at the **ASSEMBLY POINT** who will proceed to **HOME CARE LINK** in order to ensure that a back-up call is made to the **FIRE BRIGADE**.
4. Delegate another person to ensure that **DOOR WARDENS** have been posted outside the relevant Fire Exit Doors.

5. Ensure that the **ZONE WARDEN** has reported to you on the results of his checks, **i.e.** that the rooms in use have been cleared of all persons.
6. If an Attendance Register has been taken, take a **ROLL CALL**.
7. Report the results of these checks to the Fire and Rescue Service on arrival and inform them of the location of the **FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL**.
8. Authorise return to the building only when it is cleared to do so by the **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE OFFICER IN CHARGE**. Inform the **DOOR WARDENS** to allow re-entry to the building.

NOTE:

The Fire Alarm system will automatically call the Fire Brigade. The purpose of the 999 back-up call is to meet a requirement of the Fire Precautions Act to supplement the automatic call.

CHECKLIST FOR ZONE WARDEN

1. Carry out a physical check of the rooms being used for the meeting, including adjacent toilets, kitchen.
2. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS**, both officers and members of the public are made aware of the **FIRE ALERT**.
3. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS** evacuate **IMMEDIATELY**, in accordance with the **FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**.
4. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** and report to the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that the rooms within your control have been cleared.
5. Assist the **PERSON IN CHARGE** to discharge their duties.

It is desirable that the **ZONE WARDEN** should be an **OFFICER** who is normally based in this building and is familiar with the layout of the rooms to be checked.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOOR WARDENS

1. Stand outside the **FIRE EXIT DOOR(S)**
2. Keep the **FIRE EXIT DOOR SHUT**.
3. Ensure that **NO PERSON**, whether staff or public enters the building until **YOU** are told by the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that it is safe to do so.
4. If anyone attempts to enter the premises, report this to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
5. Do not leave the door **UNATTENDED**.

Agenda Item 3

MEMBERS INTERESTS 2012

A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter considered at a meeting must disclose the interest to the meeting at which they are present, except where it has been entered on the Register.

A Member with a non pecuniary or pecuniary interest in any business of the Council must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at commencement of consideration or when the interest becomes apparent.

Where sensitive information relating to an interest is not registered in the register, you must indicate that you have an interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information.

Please tick relevant boxes

Notes

	General		Notes
1.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 below</i>
2.	I have a non-pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
3.	I have a pecuniary interest because it affects my financial position or the financial position of a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) and the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest or it relates to the determining of any approval consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to me or a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) and the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i> <i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i>
4.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest (Dispensation 20/09/16) or a pecuniary interest but it relates to the functions of my Council in respect of: (i) Housing where I am a tenant of the Council, and those functions do not relate particularly to my tenancy or lease. (ii) school meals, or school transport and travelling expenses where I am a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, and it does not relate particularly to the school which the child attends. (iii) Statutory sick pay where I am in receipt or entitled to receipt of such pay. (iv) An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members (v) Any ceremonial honour given to Members (vi) Setting Council tax or a precept under the LGFA 1992	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i> <i>You may speak and vote</i>
5.	A Standards Committee dispensation applies (relevant lines in the budget – Dispensation 15/09/20 – 14/09/24)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>See the terms of the dispensation</i>
6.	I have a pecuniary interest in the business but I can attend to make representations, answer questions or give evidence as the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak but must leave the room once you have finished and cannot vote</i>

'disclosable pecuniary interest' (DPI) means an interest of a description specified below which is your interest, your spouse's or civil partner's or the interest of somebody who you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners and you are aware that that other person has the interest.

Interest

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation

Sponsorship

Prescribed description

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M.

	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

"body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest" means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest; "director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

"land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income; "M" means a member of a relevant authority;

"member" includes a co-opted member; "relevant authority" means the authority of which M is a member;

"relevant period" means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives notice to the Monitoring Officer of a DPI;

"relevant person" means M or M's spouse or civil partner, a person with whom M is living as husband or wife or a person with whom M is living as if they were civil partners;

"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

'non pecuniary interest' means interests falling within the following descriptions:

- 10.1(1)(i) Any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) Any body (a) exercising functions of a public nature; (b) directed to charitable purposes; or (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) Any easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
- 10.2(2) A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a connected person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

'a connected person' means

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association, or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph 10.1(1)(i) or (ii).

'body exercising functions of a public nature' means

Regional and local development agencies, other government agencies, other Councils, public health bodies, council-owned companies exercising public functions, arms length management organisations carrying out housing functions on behalf of your authority, school governing bodies.

A Member with a personal interest who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

NB Section 21(13) of the LGA 2000 overrides any Code provisions to oblige an executive member to attend an overview and scrutiny meeting to answer questions.

Agenda Item 4

COUNCIL

HELD: Wednesday, 23 February 2022

Start: 7.30 pm

Finish: 11.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: G Johnson (Mayor)

Mrs M Westley (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors:	T Aldridge	Mrs P Baybutt
	Mrs M Blake	A Blundell
	Clandon	R Cooper
	C Coughlan	V Cummins
	Daniels	I Davis
	C Dereli	N Delaney
	T Devine	G Dowling
	Eccles	S Evans
	Fennell	J Finch
	N Furey	Y Gagen
	J Gordon	S Gregson
	Hirrell	Howard
	Juckes	K Lockie
	Mrs J Marshall	J Mee
	K Mitchell	J Monaghan
	I Moran	M Nixon
	P O`Neill	D O`Toole
	Turpin	G Owen
	A Owens	E Pope
	I Rigby	Mrs D Stephenson
	J Thompson	Upjohn
	D West	D Westley
	D Whittington	J Wilkie
	K Wilkie	J Witter
	A Yates	

Officers: Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey, Chief Operating Officer
Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources
Lisa Windle, Head of Corporate and Customer Services
Kay Lovelady, Legal & Democratic Services Manager
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager
Simon Peet, Corporate Finance Manager (Deputy S151)
Thomas Lynan, Electoral Services Manager

100 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain for the evening, Deacon Peter Mawtus, led Members and officers in prayer.

101 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Nicola Pryce-Roberts

and Ann Sutton.

102 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations were received:

1. All Members present declared a pecuniary interest in item 9 'Members' Allowances Scheme 2022/23 and in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2022/23', but were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption.
 2.
 - a) Councillors Mrs Blake, Dereli, Gordon, Howard, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Moran, Owen, Pope, Whittington and Witter declared a pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 'Revenue & Capital Programme Budget Setting 2022/23' in relation to Parish Council matters in view of their membership of a Parish Council and indicated they would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected the finances of those bodies specifically.*
 - b) Councillors Aldridge, O'Toole, Pope and D Westley declared a pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 'Revenue & Capital Programme Budget Setting 2022/23', as Members of Lancashire County Council (LCC) as did Councillors Coughlan, Cummins and Gagen as employees of LCC, and indicated that they would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected LCC.*
 - c) Councillor Coughlan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in the budget in respect of item 11 'Revenue & Capital Programme Budget Setting 2022/23' in respect of his appointment to West Lancashire Community Leisure.*
- * By virtue of a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee all Councillors who have disclosable pecuniary or pecuniary interests in relation to relevant lines in the budget may participate and vote in the budget debates but not engage in detailed discussions about matters which affect those interests.
3. Councillors Mrs Blake, Dereli, Gordon, Howard, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Moran, Owen, Pope, Whittington and Witter declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2022/23' in view of their membership of a Parish Council.
 4. Councillors Aldridge, O'Toole, Pope and D Westley declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2022/23', as Members of Lancashire County Council, as did Councillors Coughlan, Cummins and Gagen as an employee of Lancashire County Council.
 5. Councillors Delaney, Devine, Owen, Nixon, West and J Wilkie (Tenant of a Council flat/house) Coughlan and Gregson (Tenants of a Council garage)

declared disclosable pecuniary interests in relation to item 13 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Budget Setting' for the reasons indicated but were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption (nothing in these reports relates particularly to their respective interests arising from the tenancy or lease).

6. Councillors Aldridge, Gregson, Mee, Nixon, and K Wilkie declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 13 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' as they have a connected person who is a tenant of rented Council accommodation. Insofar as that interest becomes a pecuniary interest (as it would affect the financial position of their relative and a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard this as so significant that it is likely to prejudice their judgement of the public interest) they declared that interest but considered that they were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in these reports relates particularly to the relevant tenancy or lease.
7. Councillors Pope and David Westley declared a non pecuniary interest in item 8 'Pay Policy Statement 2022/23' as a member of the Lancashire County Council Pension Fund Committee.
8. Councillor O'Toole declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2022/23' as a Member of Lancashire Combined Fire & Rescue Authority and Councillor K Wilkie as an employee.
9. Councillor Dowling declared a non pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 12 'Determination of Council Tax 2022/23' as a member appointed to the Police and Crime Panel, as did Councillor Baybutt as her son is a police officer in Lancashire Constabulary.

103 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Council held on Thursday 27 January 2022 be received as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

104 **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

The Mayor announced:

- A. The charity football game on Sunday 27th March is now a Skem United past players & Holyoaks celebs team, with the FA Amateur Cup coming back to Skelmersdale for the event to commemorate it being won by Skelmersdale United in 1971.
- B. Mayors Charity Ball is going ahead on Friday 22nd April 2022 at Hurlston Hall Golf Club
- C. Final fund raising evening of the year will be a blind wine tasting quiz evening

at St Anne's Social Centre, Ormskirk on Friday 13th May 2022, full details to follow nearer the time.

- D. That Tom Lynan has been awarded the Association of Electoral Administrators Diploma. Only 75 people in the country, in the history of the qualification, have been awarded the Diploma and Tom is one of only two practicing elections officers with the qualification in the north west. Mark Leather has also been awarded the AEA Certificate qualification.

105 **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2**

There were no items under this heading.

106 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the undermentioned meetings of the Committees shown.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the undermentioned meetings and any recommendations contained in them, be approved:

- A. Audit & Governance Committee – Wednesday 26 January 2022, subject to Minute 9 being amended to read:
"That members noted progress in the year to date and requested that the Audit Report on the Derby Street Refurbishment be presented to the next Audit & Governance meeting on 22 March 2022." And this be referred back to the Committee for consideration.
- B. Licensing & Appeals Committee – Tuesday 8 February 2022
- C. Planning Committee – Wednesday 9 February 2022

107 **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources, as contained on pages 913 to 936 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23, detailing the Authority's policy on Workforce remuneration, as required by the Localism Act 2011.

- RESOLVED: A. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 attached at Appendix (i) be approved, published on the Council's website and included in the Constitution.
- B. That the approval of any administrative updates following a pay award implementation during any particular year is delegated to the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources in consultation with the portfolio holder for Human Resources.

108 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Operating Officer, as contained on pages 937 to 944 of the Book of Reports, which sought approval of the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2022/23 and the Membership of the IRP.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That it be noted that the IRP has not been asked for a report this year, but met as referred to in paragraph 3.4 of the report.
 - B. That a Members Allowance Scheme be made, effective from 1 April 2022, in accordance with the current scheme, incorporating:
 - (a) A Basic Allowance of £4,842 (no increase)
 - (b) Provision for SRA payments, as detailed on the Schedule attached as Appendix 1 (no change)
 - (c) Childcare and Dependent Carer's Allowance to be set at the same level as the Living Wage (£9.50 per hour).
 - C. That the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources update the Members' Allowances Scheme for the period commencing 1 April 2022, such scheme to be incorporated into the Constitution and subsequently published.
 - D. That the Membership of the IRP for 2022/23 and the respective terms of office be noted and endorsed as follows:

Mrs G Stanley (Chairman)	1 May 2024
Mr J Boardman	1 May 2023
Mr I Thompson	1 May 2025

(Note: The order of the agenda was revised to allow consideration of agenda items 19, 20 and 21)

109 SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13.4

RESOLVED: That Council Procedure Rule 13.4 be suspended to enable the Portfolio Holder/Shadow Portfolio Holder/Spokesperson for OWL to present their budget statements, in respect of agenda items 11 (Revenue and Capital Programme Budget Setting 2022/23) and 13 (Housing Account – Review and Capital Budget Setting).

110 *REVENUE & CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET SETTING

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, as contained on pages 945 to 1004 of the Book of Reports, which presented, at Appendix A, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the 3 years ending 31st March 2025 together with the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 and the Capital Programme for the 3 years ending 31st March 2025.

A revised Appendix A had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with

Amendments setting out the Conservative Group and the Our West Lancs Group's budget proposals.

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation & Resources, moved a Motion that provided details of the Labour Budget Proposals, which was seconded.

Amendment (1) from the Conservative Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That the following selected fees and charges be increased as detailed:

Planning			£23,458
Building Control	£139,122	5.00%	£6,956
Trade	£378,187	5.00%	£18,909
Bulky	£81,289	7.50%	£6,097
Waste Other Sales	£41,000	5.00%	£2,050
Pest Control	£36,389	5.00%	£1,819
Land Charges	£61,744	5.00%	£3,087
Sports, Allotments & Parks	£38,305	5.00%	£1,915
			£64,292"

 The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (1) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Daniels, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Jukes, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Turpin, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY THREE)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Lockie, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Upjohn, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (TWENTY FOUR)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors: Clandon, Davis and Thompson (THREE)

(Note: Councillor Dereli left the meeting prior to the vote)

Amendment (1) was LOST.

Amendment (2) from the Conservative Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That in relation to R13 - Funding for Growth Lancashire from 2023/24 be ceased, as

there is no measure of effectiveness."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (2) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Aldridge, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Juckes, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FORTY NINE)

AGAINST: (NONE)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillor Owens (ONE)

Amendment (2) was CARRIED.

Amendment (3) from the Conservative Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That in relation to:

- R23 & R24 - Community Connectors - agree 1 yr only Covid funded.
- R35 - 10% recovery rather than 5% on debt
- Improved Planning Enforcement - additional Officer & Solicitor at £101,000 each year"

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (3) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Clandon, Daniels, Davis, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Juckes, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY SIX)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Lockie, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Rigby, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (TWENTY FOUR)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

Amendment (3) was CARRIED.

Amendment (4) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That in relation to 'QE2 Jubilee Fountain - Coronation Park', include £50,000 Capital in 2022/23 and £6,000 maintenance each year."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (3) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Daniels, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Jukes, Mrs Marshall, Mee, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Mrs Stephenson, Turpin, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Johnson, Lockie, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Rigby, Thompson, Upjohn, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (THIRTY)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

Amendment (4) was LOST.

Amendment (5) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That the fees and charges for Planning be increased to £23,458."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (2) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Aldridge, Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Jukes, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FIFTY)

Amendment (5) was CARRIED.

(Note: Councillors Mrs Blake and Ms Jukes left the meeting.)

Amendment (6) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That the following be included:

- Reinstatement Christmas tree at Ormskirk parish church and fund larger, better tree in Skelmersdale - £3,000 revenue each year"
- Christmas decorations for new town centre area Skelmersdale - £25,000 Capital Scheme"

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (6) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Aldridge, Mrs Baybutt, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan,

Cummins, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FORTY SEVEN)

AGAINST: Councillor Turpin (ONE)

Amendment (6) was CARRIED.

Amendment (7) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That a 1 year trial for free car parking in Ormskirk, Monday and Tuesday from 1pm be undertaken, to measure the impact on footfall, at a cost of £50,000 in year 2022/23."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Amendment (7) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Blundell, Clandon, Daniels, Davis, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Mitchell, Mrs Marshall, Mee, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY FOUR)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Lockie, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Upjohn, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (TWENTY FOUR)

As there was an equality in the vote, the Mayor (Chairman) used his casting vote:
FOR

Amendment (7) was CARRIED.

Amendment (8) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That 4 Community Orchards including one at West End Park or Whittle Drive, Ormskirk be included at a Capital cost of £6,000."

Following a debate, Amendment 8 was altered by the mover, seconder and with the agreement of the meeting, to read as follows:

"That a Task & Finish Group, under the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee be established to consider Community Environmental Improvements, including Community Orchards."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Altered Amendment (8) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Aldridge, Mrs Baybutt, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FORTY EIGHT)

AGAINST: (NONE)

Altered Amendment (8) was CARRIED.

(Note: Councillor Aldridge left the meeting.)

Amendment (9) from the Our West Lancashire Spokesperson was moved and seconded as follows:

"That Conservation Areas Shop Front Improvement Fund be included at a Capital cost of £50,000."

Following a debate, Amendment 9 was altered by the mover, seconder and with the agreement of the meeting, to read as follows:

"That a Task & Finish Group, under the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee be established to consider Shop Front Improvements, including any potential external funding sources."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting on Altered Amendment (9) was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FORTY SEVEN)

AGAINST: (NONE)

Altered Amendment (9) was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: A. That the General Revenue Account (GRA) budget and the Medium Term Capital Programme be approved based on the proposals presented at the Council meeting by the Portfolio Holder for Transformation & Resources (revised Appendix A) subject to the inclusion of the following:

- (i) R13 - Funding for Growth Lancashire from 2023/24 be ceased, as there is no measure of effectiveness.
- (ii) R23 & R24 - Community Connectors - agree 1 yr only Covid funded.
- (iii) R35 - 10% recovery rather than 5% on debt

- (iv) Improved Planning Enforcement - additional Officer & Solicitor at £101,000 each year
 - (v) That the fees and charges for Planning be increased to £23,458
 - (vi) Reinstate Christmas tree at Ormskirk parish church and fund larger, better tree in Skelmersdale - £3,000 revenue each year
 - (vii) Christmas decorations for new town centre area Skelmersdale - £25,000 Capital Scheme"
 - (viii) That a 1 year trial for free car parking in Ormskirk, Monday and Tuesday from 1pm be undertaken, to measure the impact on footfall, at a cost of £50,000 in year 2022/23.
- B. That a Task & Finish Group, under the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee be established to consider Community Environmental Improvements, including Community Orchards.
- C. That a Task & Finish Group, under the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee be established to consider Shop Front Improvements, including any potential external funding sources.
- D. That the GRA Reserves Policy set out at in Annex D to the revised Appendix be approved.
- E. That the Minimum Reserves Provision (MRP) Policy set out at in section I of the revised Appendix be approved.
- F. That the Financial Control Policy set out at in section J of the revised Appendix be approved.
- G. That the Sales, Fees & Charges Policy set out in section K of the revised Appendix be approved.
- H. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Operating Officer and the Corporate Directors to take all necessary action to implement the changes resulting from the budget proposals.
- J. That delegated authority be given to Heads of Service to take all necessary action to implement the agreed Capital Programme.
- K. That the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the 3 years ending 31 March 2025 available at Table 1 of section A of the revised Appendix be approved.
- L. That a major target of the MTFS is to grow recurring non-taxation income over the 3yrs to 2025 and that this is considered a key performance indicator (KPI) for this strategy. (section D(8)

of the revised Appendix)

(Note: In accordance with Council Procedure rule 9, a Motion to allow the meeting to continue past 11pm, to consider the remaining business on the agenda, was moved and seconded. A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.)

111 ***DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX**

Consideration was given to the revised report, circulated prior to the meeting, of the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources, which sought approval to set the Council Tax rate for each property band for the whole of the Borough Council's area, including the Council Tax rate as set by the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority, and the local Parish Council in parished areas and to confirm the statutory resolutions that are required in order to set the Council Tax for 2022/23.

A Motion, to approve recommendations 2.1 to 2.7 in the revised report, was moved and seconded.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.5, voting was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Blundell, Clandon, Cooper, Coughlan, Daniels, Davis, Delaney, Devine, Dowling, Eccles, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Gagen, Gordon, Gregson, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Lockie, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, Moran, O'Neill, O'Toole, Owen, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, Upjohn, West, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington, J Wilkie, K Wilkie, Witter and Yates (FORTY THREE)

AGAINST: Councillor Furey (ONE)

ABSENTIONS: (NONE)

The Motion was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED: A. That it be noted that on the 31 January 2022, the Borough Treasurer declared the Council Tax Base amounts set out in Appendix A for the financial year 2022/23 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
- B. That the Budget for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding parish precepts) be set at £12,394,356 in accordance with the earlier Budget Requirement report.
- C. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the financial year 2022/2023 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):
- a) £67,431,883 being the aggregate of the amounts, which the

Council estimates for the items, set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.

- b) £58,526,397 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act
- c) £8,905,486 being the amount by which the aggregate at C(a) above exceeds the aggregate at C(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- d) £236.41 being the amount at C(c) above divided by 37,669.71 (the Tax Base) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(B) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for 2022/2023.
- e) £678,798 being the aggregate amount of all special items (i.e. Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £218.39 being the amount at C(d) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at C(e) above by 37,669.71 (the Tax Base), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for 2022/2023 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

- g) Part of the Council's area:

	£. p
Aughton	18.80
Bickerstaffe	32.03
Bispham	0.00
Burscough	38.83
Dalton	21.72
Downholland	39.95
Great Altcar	12.48
Halsall	19.53
Hesketh with Becconsall	41.24
Hilldale	56.99
Lathom	17.98
Lathom South	27.83
Newburgh	36.40
North Meols	33.68
Parbold	33.76
Rufford	40.12
Scarisbrick	18.08
Simonswood	20.21
Tarleton	34.13
Up Holland	22.96

Wrightington

16.56

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at C(f) above the amounts of the special item relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the relevant Tax Base for those areas, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of the Council Tax for 2022/2023 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item (i.e. Parish Precepts) relate.

- h) Part of the Council's area for each valuation band, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at C(f) and C(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (See revised Schedule 1).

- D. That it be noted that for the year 2022/2023 Lancashire County Council has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£ .p
1009.53	1,177.78	1,346.04	1,514.29	1,850.80	2,187.31	2,523.82	3,028.58

- E. That it be noted that for the year 2022/2023 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£.p	£. p	£. p	£. p
157.63	183.91	210.18	236.45	288.99	341.54	394.08	472.90

- F. That it be noted that for the year 2022/2023 the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p	£. p
51.51	60.10	68.68	77.27	94.44	111.61	128.78	154.54

- G. That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at C(h), D, E and F, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act, hereby sets the amounts shown in the revised Schedule 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/2023 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

(Note: Councillor Cummins, Monaghan and Nixon left the meeting during consideration of this item.)

112 HOUSING ACCOUNT - REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET SETTING

Consideration as given to the Head of Finance, Procurement & Commercial Services, which sought approval to set the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget and capital investment programme for the next financial year 2022/23.

The Portfolio for Housing and Landlord Services, moved a Motion, as displayed on the screen, circulated prior to the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports, which set out Labour proposals in relation to the Draft Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2022/23 and Public sector Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23, which was seconded.

An Amendment from the Our West Lancashire Group, displayed on the screen, circulated prior to the meeting and contained in the Book of Reports, was moved and seconded.

The Portfolio Holder advised that a further report would be brought back in relation to the Housing Stock Condition Survey.

The Amendment was WITHDRAWN.

A vote was taken on the Motion, which was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the rent and service charges set within delegated authority, as detailed in sections 4 and 5 of the report, be noted and endorsed.
 - B. That the HRA revenue budget estimates be approved, subject to the changes set out in the Motion circulated.
 - C. That the Housing capital budget, approved in February 2021, be noted as continuing.
 - D. That, subject to any updated approvals in regard to Tawd Valley

Developments elsewhere on the Agenda, the HRA budgets be added to reflect the HRA share of each phase 2 and phase 3 scheme cost.

- E. That the HRA Reserves Policy set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved.
- F. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Transformation and Resources to take all necessary action to implement the decisions of Council.

113 **CAPITAL FINANCIAL AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services, which set the framework for capital financing and treasury management operations for the next financial year.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the projected position in respect of the Prudential Indicators for 2021-22 set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
 - B. That the Prudential Indicators for the next three years set out in Appendix 2, be agreed.

114 **REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Legal & Democratic Services Manager (Monitoring Officer), which sought approval of the revised Members', Parish' and Town Councils Code of Conduct following which the Code will be adopted.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the amended draft Code of Conduct be agreed and adopted forthwith, and the Constitution be updated accordingly.
 - B. That the Legal & Democratic Services Manager be given authority to liaise with the borough's Parish & Town Councils with a view to them adopting the revised Code.

115 **REVIEW OF THE WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Legal & Democratic Services Manager (Monitoring Officer), which sought approval of the revised Whistleblowing Policy following which the Code shall be adopted.

- RESOLVED: That the amended draft Whistleblowing Policy be adopted forthwith, and the Constitution be updated accordingly.

116 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2021/22**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Operating Officer, which considered the allocation of seats on Committees to the political groups for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2021/22.

A Motion to move the changes identified in the Appendix circulated prior to the meeting, was moved and seconded.

An Amendment to the Motion, circulated prior to the meeting, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was CARRIED.

A vote was taken on the Substantive Motion, which was CARRIED.

- RESOLVED: A. That, for the period ending with the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or such lesser period should the political balance or allocation to political groups change during the year requiring a review under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of seats to the political groups on Committees be as detailed in the Appendix to the report, as amended.
- B. That the representatives of the political groups on the Committees shall be as indicated on the Appendix to the report, as amended.

117 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Legal & Democratic Services Manager, which sought to appoint the Vice-Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee.

The Leader advised that Councillor Pryce-Roberts should be removed from the Committee and appointed Councillor Julian Finch as the replacement Member.

A nomination to appoint Councillor Julian Finch as Vice-Chairman, was moved and seconded.

A further nomination to appoint Councillor Paul O'Neill as Vice Chairman, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken.

- RESOLVED: That Councillor Paul O'Neill who is a Member of the Audit & Governance Committee, be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

(The following 3 items were considered prior to the Revenue & Capital Programme Budget Setting 2022/23)

118 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

119 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF TAWD VALLEY DEVELOPMENTS LTD

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Operating Officer, which detailed the results of an independent review into the Council's wholly owned company, Tawd Valley Developments Limited (TVDL).

A Motion to approve the recommendations at 2.1 and 2.2, was moved and seconded.

An Amendment and revised Appendix 2, circulated prior to the meeting, was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which at the request of a Member, was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Clandon, Daniels, Davis, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Jukes, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY SIX)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Lockie, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Upjohn, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (TWENTY FIVE)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

The Amendment was CARRIED

A Vote was taken on the Substantive Motion, which at the request of a member was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Blake, Blundell, Clandon, Daniels,

Davis, Eccles, Gordon, Hirrell, Howard, Johnson, Jukes, Mrs Marshall, Mee, Mitchell, O'Toole, Owens, Pope, Rigby, Mrs Stephenson, Thompson, Turpin, D Westley, Mrs Westley, Whittington and Witter (TWENTY SIX)

AGAINST: Councillors: Aldridge, Cooper, Coughlan, Cummins, Delaney, Dereli, Devine, Dowling, Evans, Fennell, Finch, Furey, Gagen, Gregson, Lockie, Monaghan, Moran, Nixon, O'Neill, Owen, Upjohn, West, J Wilkie, K Wilkie and Yates (TWENTY FIVE)

ABSTENTIONS: (NONE)

The Substantive Motion was CARRIED.

Nominations to appoint Councillor David Westley as Chairman of the TVD Shareholders Committee and Councillor Ian Davis as Vice-Chairman, were moved and seconded.

A vote was taken, the appointments were AGREED.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the independent review on TVDL set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
 - B. That with immediate effect TVDL to stop all developments outside of the borough.
 - C. That with immediate effect TVDL to stop all developments within the borough, other than those sites already in progress.
 - D. That a Member Shareholder Committee be established to make any recommendations to Council, to implement a phased and controlled wind down of TVDL, comprising of 2 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members and 1 Our West Lancashire Member for delegated decision making and scrutiny of TVDL, as follows:

Tawd Valley Developments Shareholder Committee

Membership

(5 Members: 2 LAB 2 CON 1 OWL)
(Chairman) Councillor David Westley
(Vice-Chairman) Councillor Ian Davis

Functions

- (i) To approve any necessary changes to the Business Plan, if required
- (ii) To monitor and make any necessary decisions (other than to cease development/progression) in respect of the sites in progress.

- (iii) To communicate the shareholders' views to TVDL
- (iv) To evaluate the effectiveness of the TVDL board and the delivery of performance against strategic objectives and the business plan
- (v) To assess any risks to the council offered by TVDL activities
- (vi) To consider and make any recommendations to Council to implement a phased and controlled wind down of TVDL

Delegations

This Committee shall exercise the full powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to points (i) to (vi) above, except in the case of the following:

1. The final decision to wind down TVDL;
2. The decision not to continue with the development/progression of a site that is already in progress;
3. Any decision which would result in the Council incurring a cumulative financial loss on any site which is already in progress,

all of which will be a decision of full Council.

- E. That, subject to D above, it be noted that the Tawd Valley Development Cabinet Working Group will no longer be required to meet.
- F. That with immediate effect no further financial investment be made from WLBC into TVDL and if funding is required, this should be by way of a loan.
- G. That the proposed responses to the review recommendations set out in the revised Appendix 2 accompanying this motion be approved
- H. That any associated costs be met from reserves.

120 **TAWD VALLEY DEVELOPMENTS LTD - BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Operating Officer, which provided financial projections for each of the approved schemes within the Business Plan of Tawd Valley Developments Limited (TVDL), the Council's wholly owned development company.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the financial approval for the Fairlie scheme be amended as set out in section 4 of the report.
 - B. That the financial projections for the other schemes within the Business Plan set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
 - C. That in accordance with the terms and conditions of Homes

COUNCIL

HELD: Wednesday, 23 February 2022

England Funding that the positive outcome of the Homes
England Compliance Audit on the Eskbank scheme be noted.

.....
THE MAYOR

Agenda Item 7a

PLANNING COMMITTEE

HELD: Thursday, 17 March 2022

Start: 7.00 PM

Finish: 8.01 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor: D O'Toole (Chairman)
J Finch (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: A Blundell G Owen
S Evans E Pope
A Fennell J Thompson
G Johnson J Upjohn
I Moran D Westley
M Nixon Mrs M Westley

In attendance: Councillor I Rigby, Bickerstaffe Ward
Councillor G Clandon, Burscough West Ward

Officers: Catherine Thomas, Development, Heritage and Environment Manager
Therese Maguire, Principal Planning Officer
David Delaney, Legal Assistant (Planning)
Jill Ryan, Senior Member Services Officer

115 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

116 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to the membership of the Committee.

117 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business received.

118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

119 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no Declarations of Party Whip.

120 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Corporate Director of Place and Community submitted a report on planning applications (all prefixed 2021 unless otherwise stated) as contained on pages 817 to 903 of the Book of Reports and on pages 905 to 909 of the Late Information Report.

(Notes:

1. In accordance with Regulatory Procedure Rule 7(a) Councillor Rigby spoke as a Ward Councillor in connection with planning application 1194/FUL relating to Holly Fold Farm, Rainford Road, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire.
2. In accordance with Regulatory Procedure Rule 7(a) Councillor Clandon spoke in connection with planning application 1046/FUL relating to Former Universal Bulk Handling Ltd, Orrell Lane, Burscough.
3. In accordance with Regulatory Procedure Rule 7(a) Councillor Finch spoke on behalf of Councillor Dereli who unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting in respect of planning application 1046/FUL relating to Former Universal Bulk Handling Ltd, Orrell Lane, Burscough.
4. Councillor Finch had previously declared a pre-determined view on planning application 0332/FUL relating to the Food Shop, 26 Bearcroft, Skelmersdale and was therefore not able to speak and vote on this application).

122 2020/1267/FUL - LAND TO THE WEST OF NEVERSTITCH ROAD, SKELMERSDALE

RESOLVED: That in respect of planning application 2020/1267/FUL relating to Land to the West of Neverstitch Road, Skelmersdale:-

1. The decision to grant planning permission be delegated to the Corporate Director of Place and Community in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee subject to the applicant entering into a planning obligation under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to secure:

The payment of £100,000 towards the Ormskirk to Skelmersdale Linear Park, terms and conditions of the affordable housing units and details of on-going management and maintenance of public open space.

2. That any planning permission granted by the Corporate Director of Place and Community be subject to the conditions and reasons as set out on pages 833 to 845 of the Book of Reports and with the amendment to 2 sections of the report as outlined on pages 905 to 906 of the Late Information Report.

123 **2021/1194/FUL - HOLLY FOLD FARM, RAINFORD ROAD, BICKERSTAFFE, ORMSKIRK**

RESOLVED: That planning application 1194/FUL relating to Holly Fold Farm, Rainford Road, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk be approved subject to the conditions and reasons as set out on pages 854 to 859 of the Book of Reports.

124 **2021/1046/FUL - FORMER UNIVERSAL BULK HANDLING LTD, ORRELL LANE, BURSCOUGH, ORMSKIRK**

RESOLVED: That planning application 1046/FUL relating to Former Universal Bulk Handling Ltd, Orrell Lane, Burscough, Ormskirk be deferred to obtain further comments from the Highway Authority and to allow the application to reconsider pedestrian links.

125 **2021/0032/FUL - 12 WIGAN ROAD, ORMSKIRK**

RESOLVED: That planning application 2022/0032/FUL relating to 12 Wigan Road, Ormskirk be approved subject to the conditions and reasons as set out on pages 890 to 892 of the Book of Reports and with the amendment to Conditions 5 and 6 as set out on page 909 of the Late Information Report.

126 **2021/0332/FUL - THE FOOD SHOP, 26 BEARNCROFT, DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE**

RESOLVED: That planning application 0332/FUL relating to The Food Shop, 26 Bearncroft, Digmoor, Skelmersdale be approved subject to the conditions and reasons as set out on pages 900 to 903 of the Book of Reports.

.....
Chairman



COUNCIL: 6 APRIL 2022

Report of: Chief Operating Officer

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

Contact for further information: Mr Tom Lynan (Extn.5013)
(E-mail: tom.lynan@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: WEST LANCASHIRE ELECTORAL REVIEW – LGBCE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Council of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Final Recommendations for West Lancashire.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the LGBCE Final Recommendations Report, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 On 2 November 2021 the LGBCE published its Draft Recommendations for West Lancashire. A public consultation on the Draft Recommendations ran until 10 January 2022.

3.2 Submissions to the consultation were received from Officers, the Conservative Group, seven individual Councillors, five Parish Councils and 52 local residents.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 On 29 March 2022 the LGBCE published its Final Recommendations for West Lancashire.

4.2 A map of the Final Recommendations is attached as Appendix 1.

4.3 **AUGHTON & HOLBORN** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.

- 4.4 **BURSCOUGH BRIDGE & RUFFORD** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.5 **BURSCOUGH TOWN** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.6 **NORTH MEOLS & HESKETH BANK** – Boundary unchanged from the Draft Recommendations but renamed to North Meols & Hesketh Bank from Ribble Estuary following comments to the consultation.
- 4.7 **OLD SKELMERSDALE** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.8 **ORMSKIRK EAST** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.9 **ORMSKIRK WEST** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.10 **RURAL NORTH EAST** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.11 **RURAL SOUTH** – Boundary unchanged from the Draft Recommendations but renamed to Rural South from Bickerstaffe & Westhead following comments to the consultation.
- 4.12 **RURAL WEST** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.
- 4.13 **SKELMERSDALE NORTH** – The Final Recommendations take in Felstead, Ferndale, Hartland, Heathgate, Helmside and Heversham from the Draft Skelmersdale Central Ward.
- 4.14 **SKELMERSDALE SOUTH** – The Final Recommendations give away Eskbank, Eskbrook, Eskdale and Fenney Court to the new Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre Ward.
- 4.15 **TANHOUSE & SKELMERSDALE TOWN CENTRE** – Renamed to Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre from Skelmersdale Central following comments to the consultation. Boundary has changed from the Draft Recommendations taking in Eskbank, Eskbrook, Eskdale and Fenney Court from the draft Skelmersdale South ward and giving away Felstead, Ferndale, Hartland, Heathgate, Helmside and Heversham to the new Skelmersdale North ward.
- 4.16 **TARLETON VILLAGE** – Boundary unchanged from the Draft Recommendations but renamed to Tarleton Village from Tarleton following comments to the consultation.
- 4.17 **UP HOLLAND** – Unchanged from the Draft Recommendations.

5.0 PARISH COUNCILS

- 5.1 The Final Recommendations confirm the consequential effects for the Parishes of Aughton, Burscough, Hesketh-with-Becconsall and Tarleton. Each of these Parishes is to be re-warded, or in the case of Hesketh-with-Becconsall warded for the first time, in order to remain coterminous with borough ward boundaries.

5.2 Changes to Parish electoral arrangements will come into force at the next scheduled elections for that Parish (Aughton 2023, Burscough 2026, Hesketh-with-Becconsall 2024, Tarleton 2023).

5.3 The legal authority to make changes to Parish arrangements (internal boundaries only) as proposed in Aughton and Scarisbrick comes from legislation (Section 56 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and Schedule 2).

6.0 FUTURE TIMESCALES

6.1 There is no further period of consultation, and the Final Recommendations will be enacted pending Parliamentary approval.

6.2 An Electoral Changes Order will be laid before Parliament in the Autumn of 2022 for a 40-day period of scrutiny, after which it will become law and be in force at the next scheduled elections in 2023 when all out elections will take place before reverting to elections by thirds from 2024.

6.3 A full interim Polling Districts and Places Review will take place from Summer 2022 to ensure that Polling Districts are coterminous with these new boundaries.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The full interim Polling Districts and Places Review will be undertaken within existing budgets.

8.2 A budget bid will be submitted to cover the increased costs of holding all out elections in May 2023 on the new boundaries, as well as to allow for promotional work to take place to inform the public of the changes.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

9.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers.

10.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

1. LGBCE – Electoral Review of West Lancashire Final Recommendations Fact Sheet and Map
2. LGBCE - West Lancashire Final Recommendations Report March 2022
3. Equality Impact Assessment

WEST LANCASHIRE

March 2022

Currently there are:

- 54 councillors
- 25 wards
- 4 single-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 8 three-councillor wards

From elections in 2023:

- 45 councillors
- 15 wards
- 15 three-councillors wards

97 residents and organisations
helped shape our recommendations



We aim to make sure West
Lancashire councillors represent a
similar number of electors

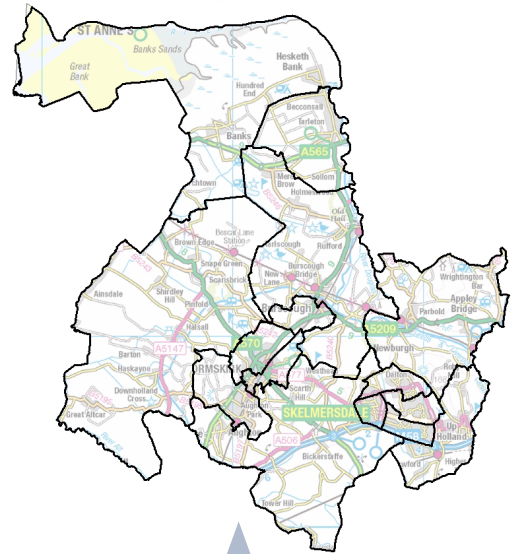


Currently there are:

- 6 wards that are more than 10% away from the average number of electors per ward

West Lancashire will move towards:

- No wards being more than 10% away from the average number of electors per ward
- Each councillor representing an average of 2,002 electors



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WEST LANCASHIRE

Final recommendations for ward boundaries in the borough of West Lancashire March 2022
Sheet 1 of 1

Boundary alignment and names shown on the mapping background may not be up to date. They may differ from the latest boundary information applied as part of this review.

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KEY TO PARISH WARDS

AUGHTON CP

- A CHRIST CHURCH
- B DELPH
- C HOLT GREEN
- D NORTH EAST
- E TOWN GREEN

BURSCOUGH CP

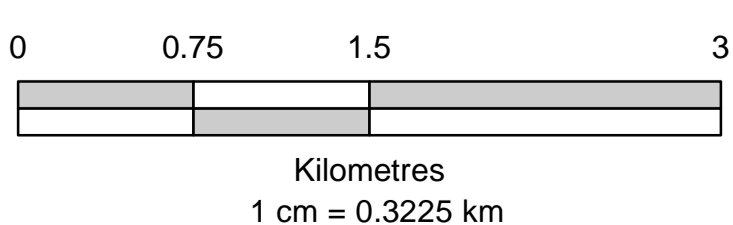
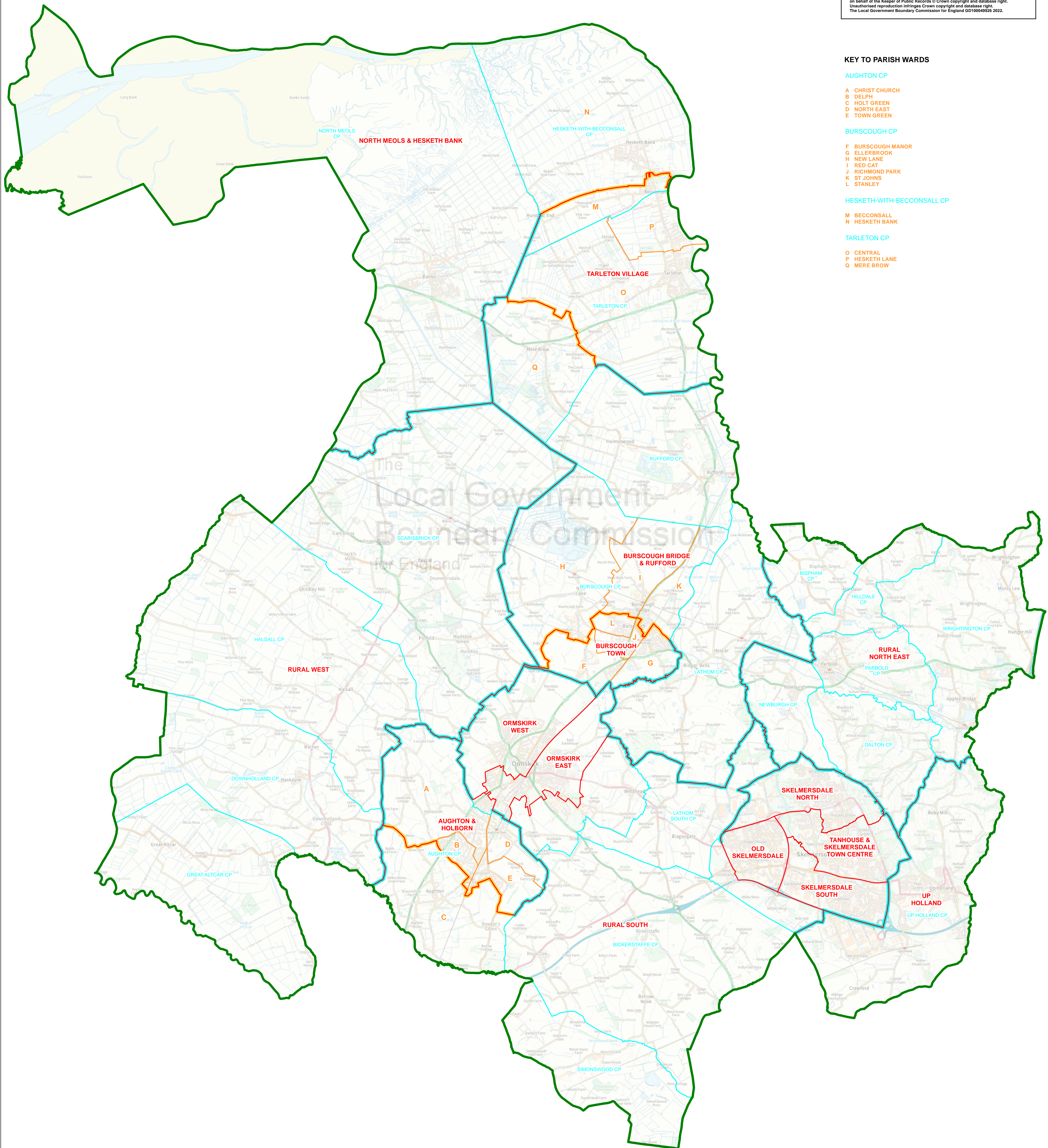
- F BURSCOUGH MANOR
- G ELLERBROOK
- H NEW LANE
- I RED CAT
- J RICHMOND PARK
- K ST JOHNS
- L STANLEY

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL CP

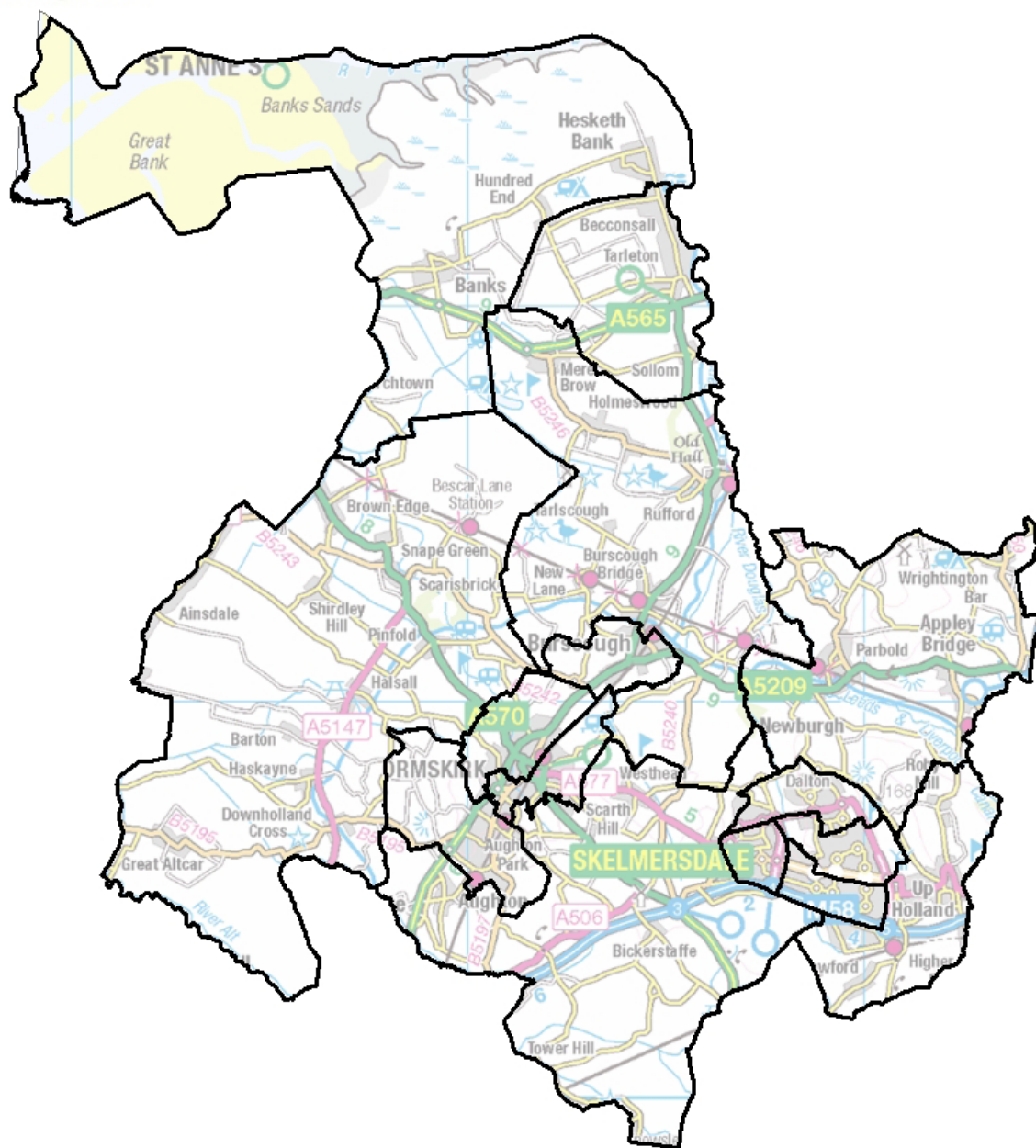
- M BECCONSALL
- N HESKETH BANK

TARLETON CP

- O CENTRAL
- P HESKETH LANE
- Q MERE BROW



KEY	
	BOROUGH COUNCIL BOUNDARY
	PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY
	PARISH BOUNDARY
	PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY
	PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY COINCIDENT WITH PARISH BOUNDARY
	PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY COINCIDENT WITH PROPOSED PARISH WARD BOUNDARY
	UP HOLLAND
	BICKERSTAFFE CP
	PARISH NAME



New electoral arrangements for West Lancashire Borough Council Final Recommendations

March 2022

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To get this report in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why West Lancashire?

7 We conducted a review of West Lancashire Borough Council ('the Council') after the Council resolved, in October 2018, to request a review. In addition to this, it is now 21 years since the electoral arrangements for West Lancashire were last reviewed. We are obliged to review arrangements for every principal council in England 'from time to time'. In conducting this review, we noted that some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in West Lancashire are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for West Lancashire

9 West Lancashire should be represented by 45 councillors, nine fewer than there are now.

10 West Lancashire should have 15 wards, 10 fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of all wards should change.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for West Lancashire.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary

constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for West Lancashire. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 March 2021	Number of councillors decided
25 May 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
2 August 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
2 November 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
10 January 2022	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2020	2027
Electorate of West Lancashire	87,652	90,068
Number of councillors	45	45
Average number of electors per councillor	1,948	2,002

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for West Lancashire will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3% by 2027.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We noted that Halsall Parish Council contested the forecast for the electorate of Halsall citing a planning

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

permission for housing development, and provisions in the West Lancashire Local Plan. However, we received no clear evidence that the Council's forecast in this respect is at fault. We therefore used the Council's forecast to produce our draft and final recommendations.

Number of councillors

24 West Lancashire Borough Council ('the Council') currently has 54 councillors. The Council and the Conservative Group on the Council ('the Conservatives') proposed that the number should be reduced to 45. The Our West Lancashire Group ('OWL') proposed alternatively that there should be 36 or 39 councillors. We looked at the evidence which was provided to support these proposals and concluded that decreasing by nine will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

25 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 45 councillors. As the Council elects by thirds (meaning it has elections in three out of every four years), there is a presumption in legislation⁴ that it should have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. We only move away from this pattern of wards should we receive compelling evidence during consultation that an alternative pattern will better reflect our statutory criteria. This presumption has been introduced into legislation since the last electoral review of West Lancashire was conducted and is intended to provide electors with the opportunity to take part in each local election in the cycle.

26 We received no submissions specifically about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. We have therefore maintained 45 councillors for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 31 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included six borough-wide proposals. A group of West Lancashire Borough Council Officers ('the Council Officers') made a submission which included three of these. The Conservatives provided two schemes in their submission and the Council's Labour Group ('the Labour Group') submitted the sixth. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards in particular areas of the borough.

28 Whilst one resident of the Banks area was keen to ensure that their area remained part of West Lancashire, another asked us to make boundary changes to combine West Lancashire with Southport. It was also suggested to us that Up

⁴ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 2(3)(d) and paragraph 2(5)(c).

Holland and Skelmersdale should form part of the Greater Manchester area. We have no authority, however, to make recommendations which would alter the external boundaries of the borough as part of this electoral review.

29 We received submissions which requested that we recommend wards to be represented by one councillor. However, such an approach would not be consistent with the presumption for three-councillor wards, given the Council's electoral cycle. We did not consider that the representations described exceptional circumstances to justify a departure from the presumption for three-member wards. Whilst some respondents asked us to change the electoral cycle to all-out elections every four years, we have no power to do so.

30 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of West Lancashire. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

32 Our draft recommendations were for 15 three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 66 submissions in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. These included 35 general expressions of support for the draft recommendations as a whole. In addition, 10 respondents expressed support for the draft recommendations for particular wards, notably Burscough Bridge & Rufford, Rural North East and Up Holland. The draft recommendations for a Bickerstaffe & Westhead ward attracted five objections and a further three objections were made regarding the inclusion of the Eskbank and Eskdale area in Skelmersdale South ward.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in north and central Skelmersdale based on the submissions received. We also make changes to the names of the Bickerstaffe & Westhead, Ribble Estuary and Tarleton wards as shown in our draft recommendations.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for 15 three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

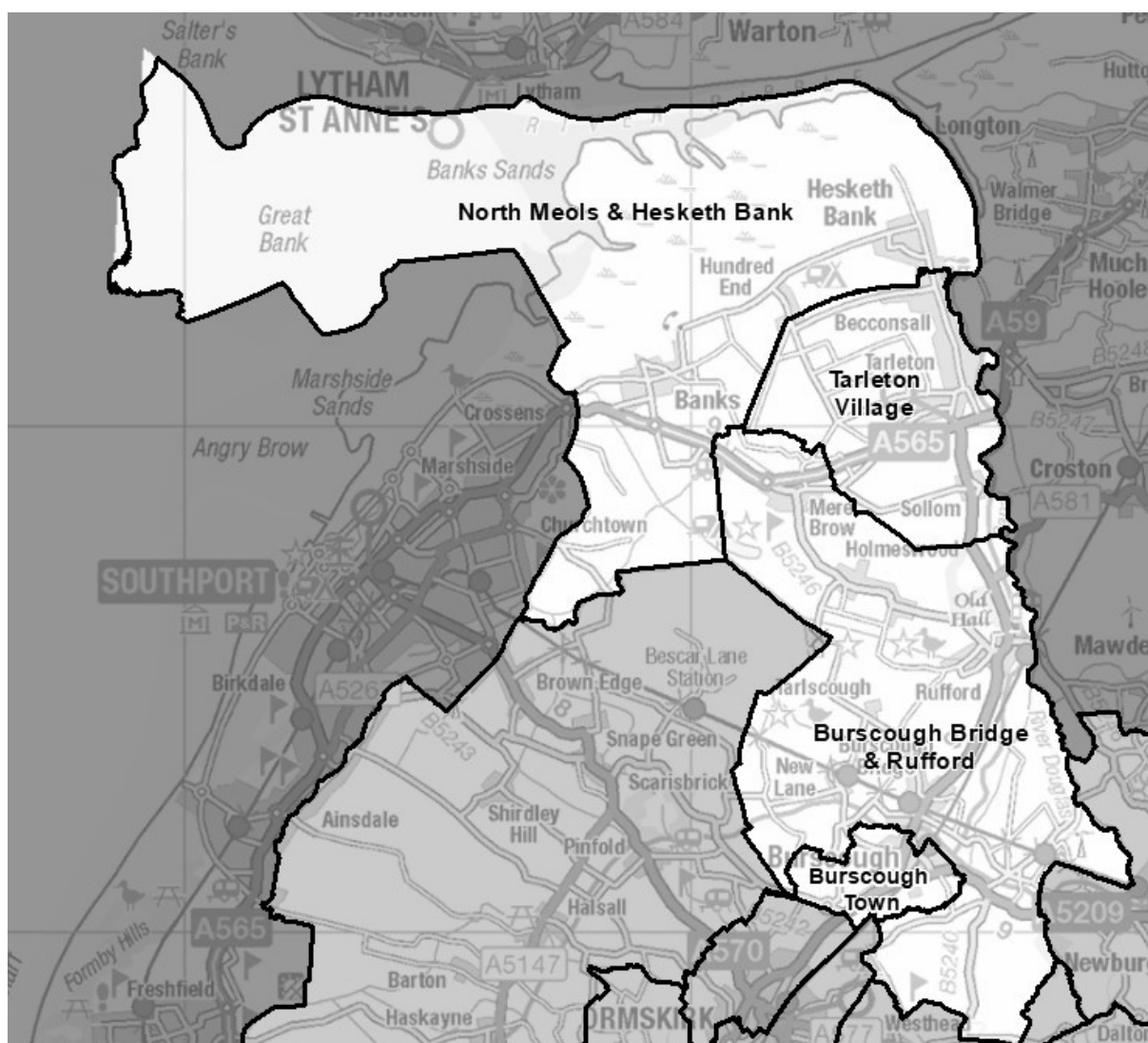
36 The tables and maps on pages 9–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of West Lancashire. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Burscough and the North



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Burscough Bridge & Rufford	3	-5%
Burscough Town	3	-8%
North Meols & Hesketh Bank	3	0%
Tarleton Village	3	-7%

Burscough Bridge & Rufford and Tarleton Village

38 The Conservatives initially proposed that Rufford parish be combined with Scarisbrick and either Halsall or the western part of Ormskirk town to form a three-member ward. The Council Officers proposed that Rufford either be combined with the part of Burscough parish which lies to the east of the A59 in a three-councillor ward or with the Burscough Bridge area in a two-councillor ward. The Council's Labour Group made a similar proposal. One resident said that splitting Burscough parish into east and west wards would be inappropriate and that a north-south split would reflect the rural nature of the north of the parish.

39 A Tarleton resident illustrated links between Tarleton, Rufford and Burscough by describing the use of services in those places. Meanwhile, a Rufford resident proposed linking Rufford with Tarleton or to the northern part of Burscough parish. One resident asked that a single ward be established to embrace the whole of Burscough parish. To achieve electoral equality, this would require a ward with four councillors. Not only would this be beyond the terms of a presumption for three-councillor wards, but we also do not consider that four-councillor wards would contribute to effective and clear representation of local residents on the Borough Council.

40 We were not persuaded that the Conservatives' proposals demonstrated stronger links between Rufford and parishes to the west than between Rufford and Burscough Bridge. Furthermore, we were not persuaded that the Council Officers' three-member ward would provide wards for Burscough which would most strongly reflect community links in the town.

41 We did consider that linking Rufford with the Burscough Bridge area had merit but were not satisfied that the proposals for a two-councillor ward demonstrated sufficient justification to reduce the overall number of councillors to 44 or be consistent with a good pattern of wards throughout the remainder of the borough.

42 To overcome these issues, we proposed a three-councillor ward combining Rufford with Burscough Bridge and, with some small modifications, Tarleton's Mere Brow parish ward. We considered that The Marshes Lane and Holmeswood Road provide a good link between Mere Brow, Holmeswood and Rufford village. Lathom parish, the New Lane area and the Mill Lane area would also form part of this ward. We proposed to name this ward Burscough Bridge & Rufford. It would have good electoral equality and be consistent with a good pattern of wards in the surrounding areas. We also proposed that the Holmes area and Taylor's Meanygate become part of Tarleton Central parish ward.

43 In addition to the expressions of broad support for the draft recommendations, six respondents, including Councillor Gordon, supported our proposed Burscough Bridge & Rufford ward specifically, with the Mere Brow and Lathom parish provisions expressly supported. Whilst one respondent expressed regret that Tarleton parish would no longer be represented in a single borough ward, the submission did acknowledge that the draft recommendations would provide an acceptable solution to the need to provide electoral equality.

44 Given the support for our draft recommendation for Burscough Bridge & Rufford, we confirm it as final. Mere Brow will continue to be a part of Tarleton parish and electors at Mere Brow will continue to vote in elections for Tarleton Parish Council as they do now.

45 Tarleton parish currently forms a three-councillor ward. Whilst it gives good electoral equality for a borough council of 54 members, it would not do so for a council of 45. All of the warding submissions we received combined Tarleton parish with the southern part of Beconsall parish ward. We considered that combination to be a reasonable reflection of the housing along Hesketh Lane and the southern part of Station Road. Our recommendations, for the reasons given above, do not include Mere Brow in Tarleton ward. That being the case, one respondent argued that our proposed Tarleton ward be named Tarleton Village in order to emphasise the distinction between the borough ward boundary and the parish boundary. This would be particularly helpful on occasions when parish and borough council elections take place on the same day. We consider this to be a reasonable suggestion and accept it as part of our final recommendations.

Burscough Town

46 Coupled with our draft recommendation for Burscough Bridge & Rufford, we proposed a Burscough Town ward which would combine the residential areas to the south of the shops on Liverpool Road North with those to the east of the Liverpool–Preston railway line. This avoids the need to create a small parish ward at Flax Lane as implied by the Labour Group’s proposal or combine Burscough’s Ellerbrook parish ward in a borough ward with Lathom, Newburgh and Parbold parishes as proposed by the Conservatives. Councillor Clandon, who represents the current two-councillor Burscough West ward, submitted the only objection to our draft recommendations for Burscough. He commented on the significance of ease of accessibility to all of the residents in his ward. While we acknowledge these views, we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient justification to depart from the presumption that we recommend three-councillor wards for councils that elect by thirds.

North Meols & Hesketh Bank

47 All of the proposals we received for the most northern part of the borough combined Hesketh Bank with Banks, the most populous part of North Meols parish. One of those schemes proposed that Crossens parish ward be combined in a borough ward with Scarisbrick and parishes to the south whilst all others provided for North Meols parish to be coupled in a ward with Hesketh Bank.

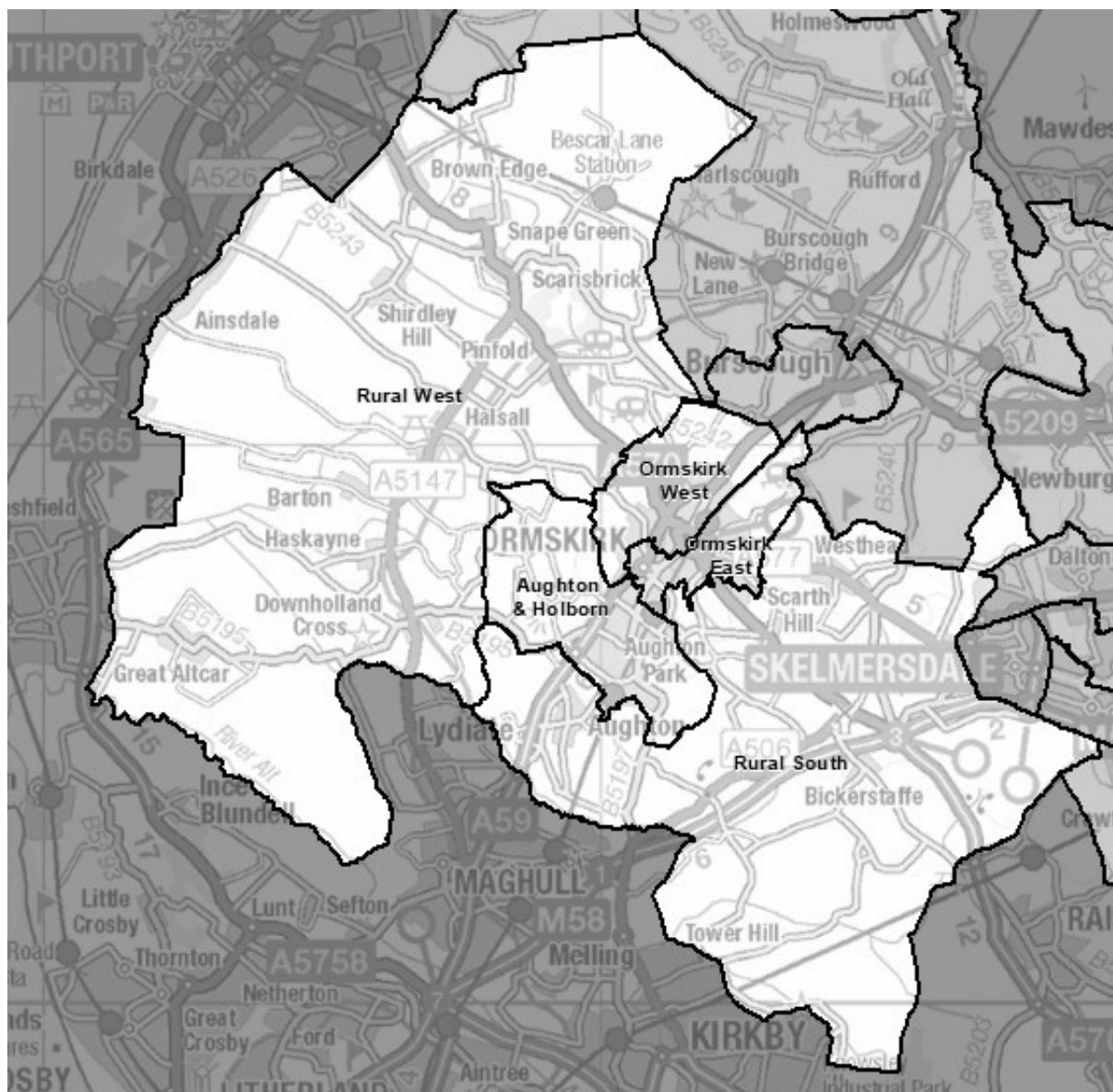
48 We noted that most of the residents of the Crossens parish ward live along New Lane with access to the Crossens area of Southport, and that the rural lanes and tracks between the parish ward and Scarisbrick offer tenuous links to Scarisbrick. We are therefore content that the whole North Meols parish continue to be included in a single borough ward.

49 The proposals for a ward in this area included the names ‘North Meols & Hesketh Bank’, ‘Rural North’ and ‘Ribble Estuary’. Whilst our draft recommendations proposed the last of these names, we invited further comment on this matter during our consultation. Whilst we did not receive many comments on this issue, one

resident doubted that there is much of a local connection to the concept of the Ribble Estuary. Alternative names suggested were 'Marsh Villages' or 'West Lancashire Marsh Villages'. In making our final recommendations, we have decided to adopt the name 'North Meols & Hesketh Bank' which offers a clearer reflection of the composition of the ward.

50 Hesketh-with-Beaconsall Parish Council asked that the current parish boundaries be maintained. The Commission has no power to change parish boundaries and therefore does not recommend any changes to the boundaries of the parish. In order to avoid a high degree of electoral inequality, we recommend that the parish be divided between our North Meols & Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Village wards as described in paragraph 45. We also recommend that there be parish wards for Hesketh-with-Beaconsall reflecting that split. We are obliged to do this whenever a parish is split between borough wards or county electoral divisions and our recommendations fulfil that statutory obligation.

Ormskirk and the South



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Aughton & Holborn	3	7%
Ormskirk East	3	7%
Ormskirk West	3	5%
Rural South	3	-8%
Rural West	3	-10%

Aughton & Holborn and Rural South

51 Aughton parish extends from the southern boundaries of Ormskirk to the borough boundary north of Maghull. Bowker's Green, Holt Green and Town Green are currently included with Downholland and Great Altcar parishes in a three-councillor Aughton & Downholland ward. The current ward would not provide for good electoral equality under a 45-member council. The remainder of Aughton

parish currently constitutes a two-councillor Aughton Park ward. Not only is this inconsistent with the presumption for three-councillor wards but again would result in a high degree of electoral inequality.

52 The six warding schemes we received demonstrated a range of approaches for Aughton. In one of the Council Officers' schemes, Aughton parish would form a three-councillor ward with good electoral equality. Whilst this would appear to be an optimal solution for Aughton, the consequences would be two two-councillor wards in Ormskirk and a central rural ward extending from the southern boundary of the borough in Simonswood parish almost to Rufford. We were not prepared to recommend either of those proposals and so have considered other approaches for Aughton.

53 The Labour Group's proposal for Aughton was similar to the Council Officers' approach described above. It would combine the part of Aughton broadly lying to the west of the A59 with the parishes which make up the western part of the borough. The remainder of the parish would then form a three-councillor ward. Whilst the Labour Group's proposal didn't rely on two-councillor wards in Ormskirk or a long central rural ward, it did require that Bickerstaffe and Lathom South parishes be combined in a borough ward with a substantial part of Ormskirk extending almost to the town centre.

54 The Conservatives proposed that Aughton parish be divided into two using the current ward boundary. The northern part of Aughton would be linked with the southern part of Ormskirk, extending into Ormskirk town centre. The current Aughton & Downholland ward would be extended by the addition of either Bickerstaffe and Simonswood or Halsall. Those approaches would link either Halsall or the western part of Ormskirk with Scarisbrick and Rufford, which we are not persuaded to recommend.

55 A proposal put forward by the Council Officers would combine Aughton's Christ Church parish ward with south-west Ormskirk, and the remainder of Aughton with Bickerstaffe and Simonswood. Another suggestion would combine Holt Green and the rural western part of Aughton in a ward with the parishes which make up the rural western parts of the borough. Bowker's Green would be placed in their central rural ward and the remainder of Aughton parish with the southern part of Ormskirk.

56 As indicated above, proposals for Aughton have direct or indirect consequences for Bickerstaffe, Lathom South and Simonswood. Bickerstaffe Parish Council, opposing a reduction in council size, has stated that it wishes to retain a single-councillor ward for its area, does not want the parish to be divided between wards and does not want Bickerstaffe to be combined with Aughton. Bickerstaffe's current single-councillor ward includes Simonswood and Lathom South parishes. The Parish Council has said, however, that if its primary wishes are not met, then the

addition of 'Westhead and parishes out towards the south and east' to its ward would be preferable to being combined in a ward with Aughton. Councillor Rigby shared Bickerstaffe Parish Council's principal views. One resident also said that it would be appropriate to combine Westhead and Bickerstaffe in the same ward.

57 It was clear, therefore, that the proposals we initially received did not present a single view of future electoral arrangements for Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Lathom South and Simonswood and several did not reflect the legislative constraints to which we must have regard. In forming our draft recommendations, however, we endeavoured to reflect many of the points made to us about these areas.

58 We proposed a three-councillor Bickerstaffe & Westhead ward which combines the parishes of Bickerstaffe, Lathom South and Simonswood with the Westhead area, Bowker's Green and Holt Green. Bowker's Green and Holt Green, whilst part of Aughton parish, has a more rural character than the more densely developed northern part of the parish. Our ward would also include the campus of Edge Hill University and parts of the unparished area of Skelmersdale which lie to the south of the M58 motorway and to the west of Railway Road. It would avoid splitting Bickerstaffe, Lathom South and Simonswood between wards.

59 We also proposed a three-councillor Aughton & Holborn ward consisting of the built-up areas of Aughton parish, Town Green and Aughton Park with the Holborn Hill area in the south of Ormskirk.

60 Aughton Parish Council supported our draft recommendations to reduce the total number of borough councillors and to separate Aughton and Downholland parishes, which are currently warded together. However, the Parish Council's preference was that the whole parish should form a single ward. The Parish Council was supported by Councillor O'Toole. They argued that representation of people in Aughton would be compromised by placing the parish in two wards.

61 As stated in paragraph 51, a ward comprised solely of the whole of Aughton parish would have good electoral equality but would result in consequential wards which would impact adversely on the parishes in our proposed Bickerstaffe & Westhead ward. Whilst that ward attracted objections from both Bickerstaffe and Lathom South Parish Councils and from Councillor Rigby, we have not been persuaded that there are exceptional circumstances which would warrant a departure from a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

62 The creation of a ward for Aughton parish as a whole would require the addition of Lathom and part of Newburgh parish to our proposed Bickerstaffe & Westhead ward. Alternatively, we could add a substantial part of Ormskirk town or more of Skelmersdale to Bickerstaffe & Westhead. Each of those approaches would contradict the support for our draft recommendations regarding those areas and the

evidence offered by Bickerstaffe and Lathom South Parish Councils, and from Councillor Rigby. We therefore are maintaining our approach for this area in our final recommendations.

63 Councillor Rigby argued that should we include Holt Green in our Bickerstaffe & Westhead ward, it should extend westward only as far as the A59. However, we consider that Back Lane, Sudell Lane and Swan Lane are better related to Holt Green than to other parts of Aughton parish and so are retaining our draft recommendation for that area.

64 In our draft recommendations report, we particularly invited comment on ward names. Aughton Parish Council favoured the names 'Aughton' and 'Greater Aughton', while Lathom South Parish Council preferred that we use the name of the parish than 'Westhead'. Councillor Rigby suggested the name 'South East Parishes', referencing the Council's Local Plan. However, it is not clear to us that our ward would have boundaries which would match people's understanding of the Local Plan's use of the name. We do not consider that 'Greater Aughton' would effectively reflect Bickerstaffe, Lathom South and Simonswood. Nevertheless, we acknowledge dissatisfaction with the name proposed in our draft recommendations and propose that the ward which includes Bickerstaffe, Bowker's Green, Holt Green, Lathom South and Simonswood be named Rural South.

Ormskirk East and Ormskirk West

65 In one of the Conservatives' and one of the Officers' schemes, the Liverpool–Preston railway would, with the exception of a small area at Black Moss Lane, form the boundary of a ward covering the whole of Ormskirk's eastern unparished area. We recognised that the railway would represent a strong boundary, but our proposals involving Westhead and Edge Hill University meant that the remainder of the eastern part of this area cannot form a ward with good electoral equality. We therefore needed to consider proposals for wards which cross the railway.

66 We did not consider that there are exceptional reasons to provide two-councillor wards in Ormskirk and therefore did not recommend the Council Officers' approach based on such wards.

67 Whilst the second of the Conservatives' and the third of the Council Officers' schemes provided wards which did cross the railway line, we were not persuaded to accept the elements of those schemes which combined the western parts of Ormskirk's built-up area with Rufford. Furthermore, we were not persuaded to adopt a central rural ward extending from Simonswood almost to Rufford.

68 The Labour Group proposed Ormskirk North and Ormskirk South wards, both of which would cross the railway line. Their proposal would not place any part of

Ormskirk in a ward with parts of Aughton parish. In aiming to provide good electoral equality, their proposal placed Westhead, Edge Hill University and all of the housing in Ormskirk between Wigan Road and St Helens Road in their Rural South ward. We did not consider that combining such an extensive part of Ormskirk's housing with Bickerstaffe and Lathom South would reflect community interests and identities. We were not, therefore, persuaded to recommend the Labour Group's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

69 We proposed, as part of our draft recommendations, Ormskirk East and Ormskirk West wards. Our Ormskirk West ward covered the part of Ormskirk which lies to the west of the railway line and includes Coronation Park, the Town Centre and all parts of Ormskirk lying to the north of them. Our Ormskirk East ward covers the rest of the town, except for Edge Hill University and the Holborn Hill areas.

70 We received no objections to our proposals for Ormskirk area save for those objections to our proposals for other areas which would have an impact on Ormskirk. We are not persuaded to change our recommendations for the town and therefore confirm those proposals as part of our final recommendations.

Rural West

71 The western part of the borough is made up of Downholland, Great Altcar, Halsall and Scarisbrick parishes. This is an area of low-lying and highly productive agricultural land, criss-crossed by drainage channels and narrow lanes and tracks. This is a sparsely populated area with small concentrations of housing at hamlets such as Bescar, Brown Edge, Halsall, Haskayne and Shirdley Hill. The schemes we received presented a range of warding options for this area.

72 Responding to our initial consultation, Downholland Parish Council requested that no change be made to West Lancashire's electoral arrangements. Halsall parish currently constitutes a single-councillor borough ward, and the Parish Council appeared to support the continuation of this arrangement. However, we are obliged to address both electoral inequality and the presumption for three-councillor wards, given the Council's electoral cycle. We also agreed with the Council's proposal to reduce the total number of councillors and see no reason to depart from this. One resident put forward the view that Downholland and Aughton should not be combined in a borough council ward, a view subsequently shared by Aughton Parish Council, whilst another proposed that Great Altcar and the part of Downholland parish which lies to the west of A5147 be combined with Halsall and Scarisbrick parishes.

73 All of the whole-borough schemes we received proposed three-councillor wards for the western parts of the borough. However, the only features common to the six schemes were that Downholland and Great Altcar parishes should be represented in

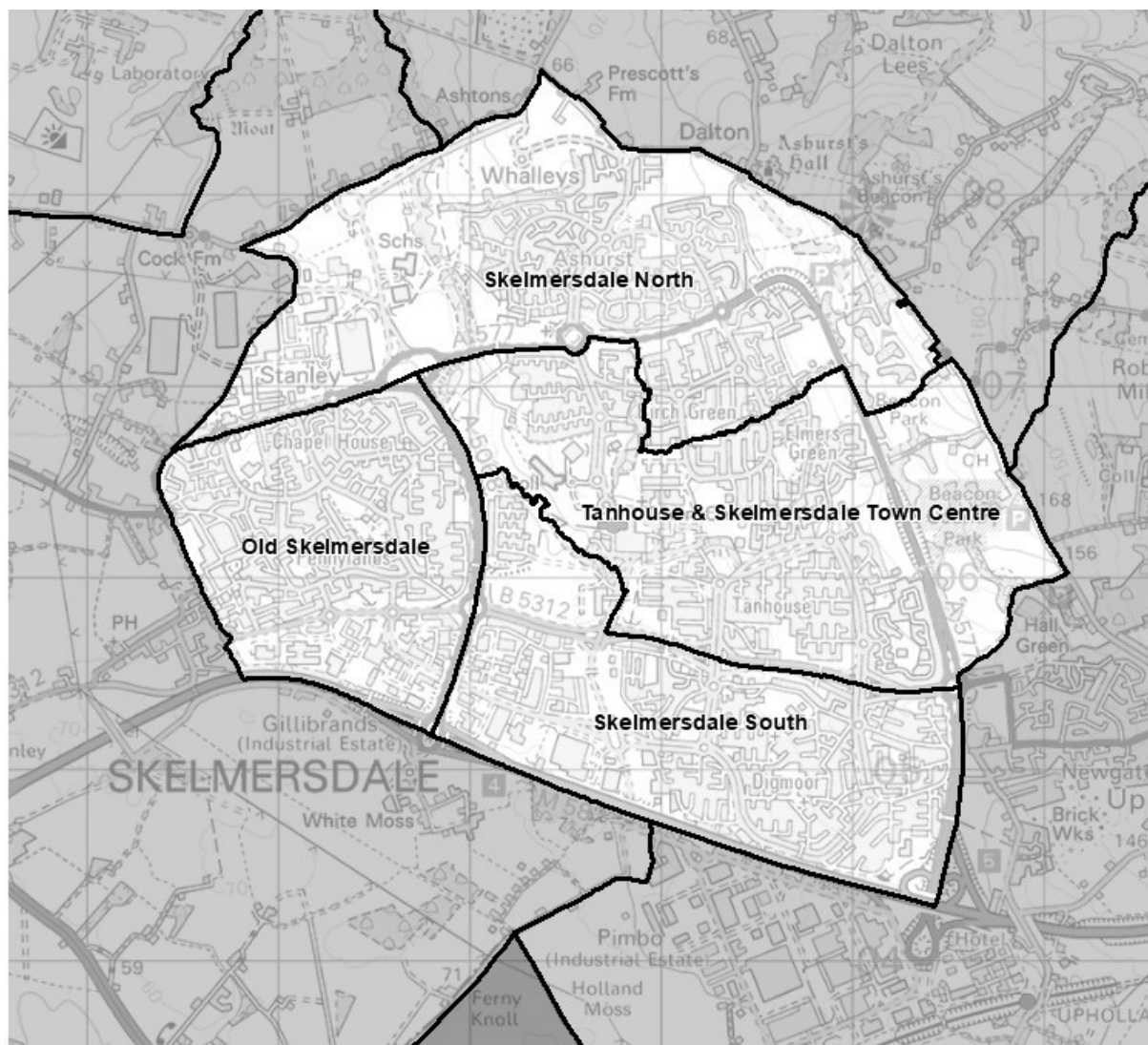
the same ward. The schemes proposed by the Labour Group and the Council Officers would add parts of Aughton, Burscough or Ormskirk to the parishes which make up the western part of the borough.

74 Our draft recommendations were for a Rural West ward consisting of Downholland, Great Altcar, Halsall and Scarisbrick parishes in their entirety and without the addition of parts of neighbouring parishes. This would mean that for the Rural West ward, there are 10% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2027. Whilst this is a relatively high electoral variance, we considered that our recommendations better reflected community identities by avoiding the need to split parishes between wards in this part of the borough.

75 We have not received any submission which persuades us to depart from the presumption for three-councillor wards in this area. We consider that the 'A' and 'B' roads provide effective links between the parishes, fed by a network of minor roads, narrow lanes and tracks.

76 The support for our draft recommendations for a Rural West ward persuades us to confirm that ward as final.

Skelmersdale



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Old Skelmersdale	3	8%
Skelmersdale North	3	4%
Skelmersdale South	3	-4%
Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre	3	6%

Old Skelmersdale, Skelmersdale North, Skelmersdale South and Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre

77 One local resident commented that, given population increases in Skelmersdale North and Skelmersdale South wards, the creation of east and west wards as well as a north and south was arguably beneficial. In acknowledging that a range of considerations must be made, this respondent also said that the review may involve surrounding wards.

78 The six borough-wide schemes we received all proposed three-councillor wards for Skelmersdale and all the proposals provided for good electoral equality. Whilst only one of the whole-borough schemes we received retained the current boundaries of Ashurst ward, the remaining five added Fawcett and Fairburn from Birch Green. The Labour Group proposed extending Ashurst ward westwards as far as Glenburn Road, encompassing the high schools there, whilst the Council Officers' schemes included that area north of Neverstitch Road, principally an employment area and a single dwelling at Spa Lane.

79 The Conservatives proposed a straight merging of the current Birch Green and Tanhouse wards in one of their schemes, whilst in the other, they would exclude Fawcett and Fairburn. Whilst broadly agreeing with the proposal to combine Birch Green with Tanhouse in a ward, the Labour Group excluded Eskbank, Eskbrook and Eskdale.

80 The Conservatives proposed a ward which combined Lathom South parish with the current Skelmersdale South ward, and a further ward combining Moorside ward in Skelmersdale with Hall Green and the area broadly to the south of Ormskirk Road. We were not persuaded to combine parts of Up Holland parish with Skelmersdale. The parish can form a three-councillor ward with good electoral equality and as shown below, this contributes to the wider pattern of wards for the eastern parts of the borough.

81 The Labour Group proposed an Old Skelmersdale ward, combining the area between Glenburn Road and Railway Road with the Stanley Way and Gillibrands employment areas, as well as the White Moss area to the south of the M58. The Council Officers' Old Skelmersdale ward would be bounded by Neverstitch Road, Glenburn Road, the M58 and Railway Road.

82 Our draft recommendations took on board elements of all the proposals received. We proposed a Skelmersdale North ward based on the current Ashurst ward, but extended it to include the Stanley Way employment area. We recommended a Skelmersdale Central ward which would combine the Birch Green and Tanhouse wards with the exception of the Eskdale area described in paragraph 79. We also included the Council Officers' proposals for Skelmersdale South and Old Skelmersdale wards with one exception. We proposed that the housing at Yewdale be included in our Skelmersdale South ward.

83 In response to our draft recommendations, Councillor Cooper and one resident argued that the Eskdale area should form part of the Tanhouse ward. Making this change would require an amendment to our proposed Skelmersdale North ward in order to maintain acceptable electoral variances in Skelmersdale. Including Heathgate, Helmsdale and Heversham in Skelmersdale North ward would achieve this. Having carefully considered the evidence received, we are persuaded to make

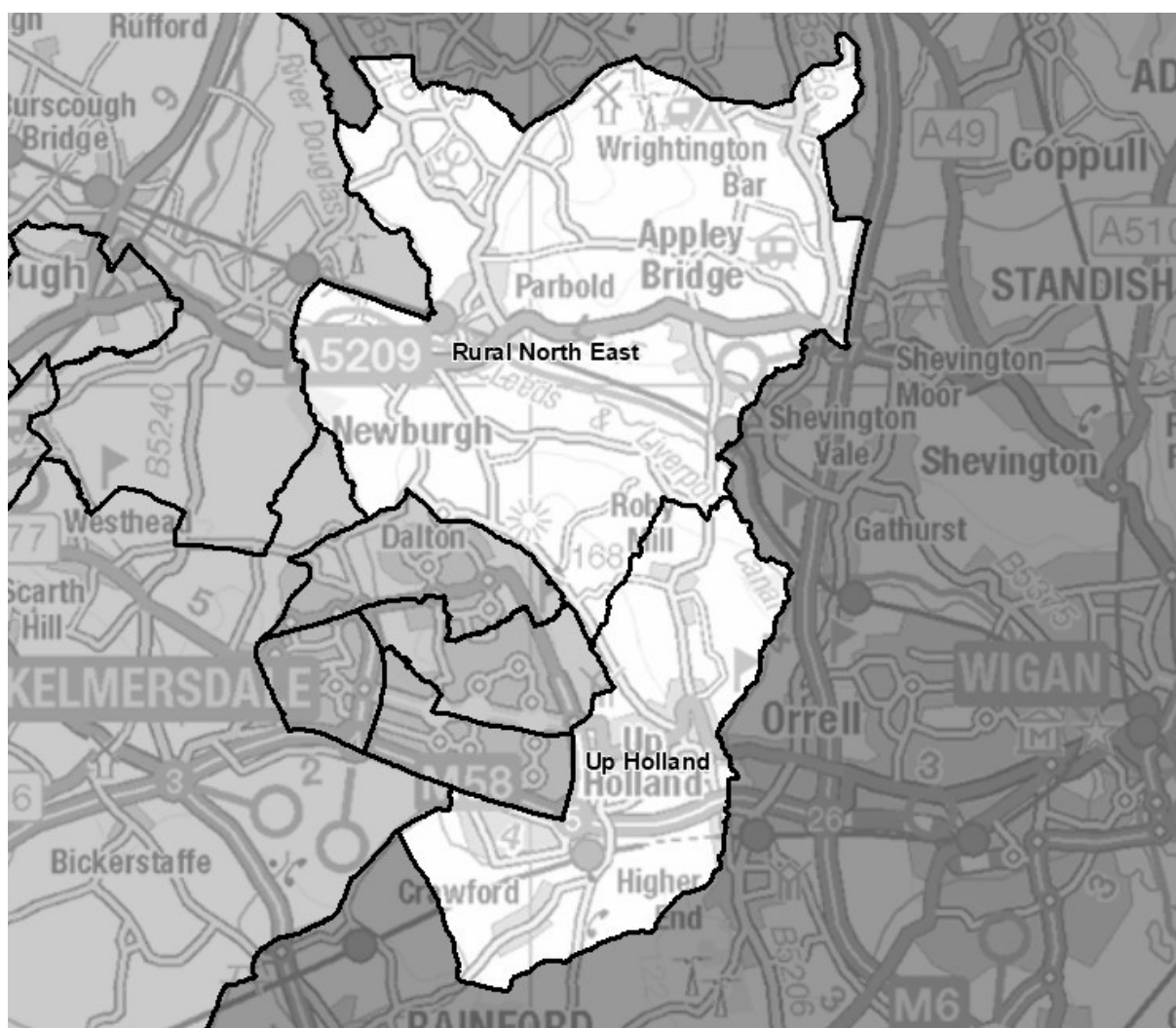
the change suggested by Councillor Cooper and the consequential change to Skelmersdale North ward.

84 We received a number of comments regarding our proposed use of the name Skelmersdale Central. It was pointed out that, as our proposed ward does not equate to the Lancashire County electoral division of that name, our proposed name would cause confusion amongst the electorate about the representation of people in this part of Skelmersdale. We accept that the concerns raised are valid and therefore recommend the name Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre.

85 Whilst we noted that the area to the south of the M58 includes a modern employment area, we also note that it is a substantial area of well-farmed agricultural land and that housing at Moss Lane and Holland Moss is of a rural character.

86 Whilst we have considered requests to include the West Gillibrands area and other unparished areas in the vicinity in Skelmersdale wards, doing so would result in the Old Skelmersdale ward having an electoral variance of 20% by 2027. In addition, our Rural South ward would have 20% fewer electors than the average, meaning that we would then have to include more built-up areas at Aughton or Ormskirk in that ward. We therefore are confirming, as final, our recommendations for Old Skelmersdale and Skelmersdale South wards.

Up Holland and the North East



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Rural North East	3	3%
Up Holland	3	2%

Rural North East and Up Holland

87 Currently, the two-councillor Parbold ward comprises the parishes of Bispham, Dalton, Hilldale and Parbold. Dalton Parish Council expressed a wish to remain in a ward with neighbouring Parbold and its adjacent parishes. One resident argued that the inclusion of part of Up Holland parish in the current Wrightington ward 'makes no sense' and proposed that the Roby Mill area be warded with the rest of Up Holland parish.

88 The Conservatives put forward an alternative view, proposing a ward in which Parbold parish would join Newburgh, Lathom and part of Burscough. That would mean that Dalton, Wrightington, Bispham and Hilldale would join the larger part of Up Holland parish in the Conservatives' proposed Wrightington ward. The Labour

Group proposed that the current Parbold ward be augmented by the addition of Newburgh and Wrightington parishes to form a three-councillor ward having good electoral equality. The Council Officers made the same proposal in one of their schemes but in two others, would replace Newburgh with the Roby Mill area in that grouping.

89 We considered it preferable to recommend a ward using Up Holland's parish boundaries than to combine parts of it in wards with either Skelmersdale or Parbold. Furthermore, we were not persuaded that Wrightington parish relates better to the Roby Mill area or the most southerly parts of Up Holland parish than to the parishes of Parbold, Bispham and Hillside. We therefore based our draft recommendations on the Labour Group's proposed Rural East ward but, noting that Up Holland also forms a substantial part of the borough's eastern area, proposed the name Rural North East.

90 In addition to the general support for our draft recommendations, we received support for these wards from Up Holland Parish Council and three residents. We received no objections to our proposals and therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this area as final.

Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in West Lancashire, referencing the 2020 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	45	45
Number of electoral wards	15	15
Average number of electors per councillor	1,948	2,002
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

West Lancashire Borough Council should be made up of 45 councillors serving 15 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for West Lancashire Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for West Lancashire on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

92 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

93 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, West Lancashire Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

94 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Aughton, Burscough, Hesketh-with-Beaconsall and Tarleton.

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Aughton parish.

Final recommendations

Aughton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Christ Church	4
Delph	3
Holt Green	1
North East	2
Town Green	2

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Burscough parish.

Final recommendations

Burscough Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Burscough Manor	2
Ellerbrook	4
New Lane	1
Red Cat	2
Richmond Park	2
St Johns	2
Stanley	1

97 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Hesketh-with-Beaconsall parish.

Final recommendations

Hesketh-with-Beaconsall Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Beaconsall	4
Hesketh Bank	7

98 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Tarleton parish.

Final recommendations

Tarleton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	7
Hesketh Lane	4
Mere Brow	1

What happens next?

99 We have now completed our review of West Lancashire Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

Equalities

100 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for West Lancashire Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Aughton & Holborn	3	6,668	2,223	14%	6,417	2,139	7%
2	Burscough Bridge & Rufford	3	5,762	1,921	-1%	5,694	1,898	-5%
3	Burscough Town	3	4,994	1,665	-15%	5,550	1,850	-8%
4	North Meols & Hesketh Bank	3	5,743	1,914	-2%	5,977	1,992	0%
5	Old Skelmersdale	3	6,524	2,175	12%	6,463	2,154	8%
6	Ormskirk East	3	6,325	2,108	8%	6,429	2,143	7%
7	Ormskirk West	3	6,066	2,022	4%	6,298	2,099	5%
8	Rural North East	3	6,375	2,125	9%	6,212	2,071	3%
9	Rural South	3	4,380	1,460	-25%	5,538	1,846	-8%
10	Rural West	3	5,574	1,858	-5%	5,385	1,795	-10%
11	Skelmersdale North	3	5,528	1,843	-5%	6,247	2,082	4%

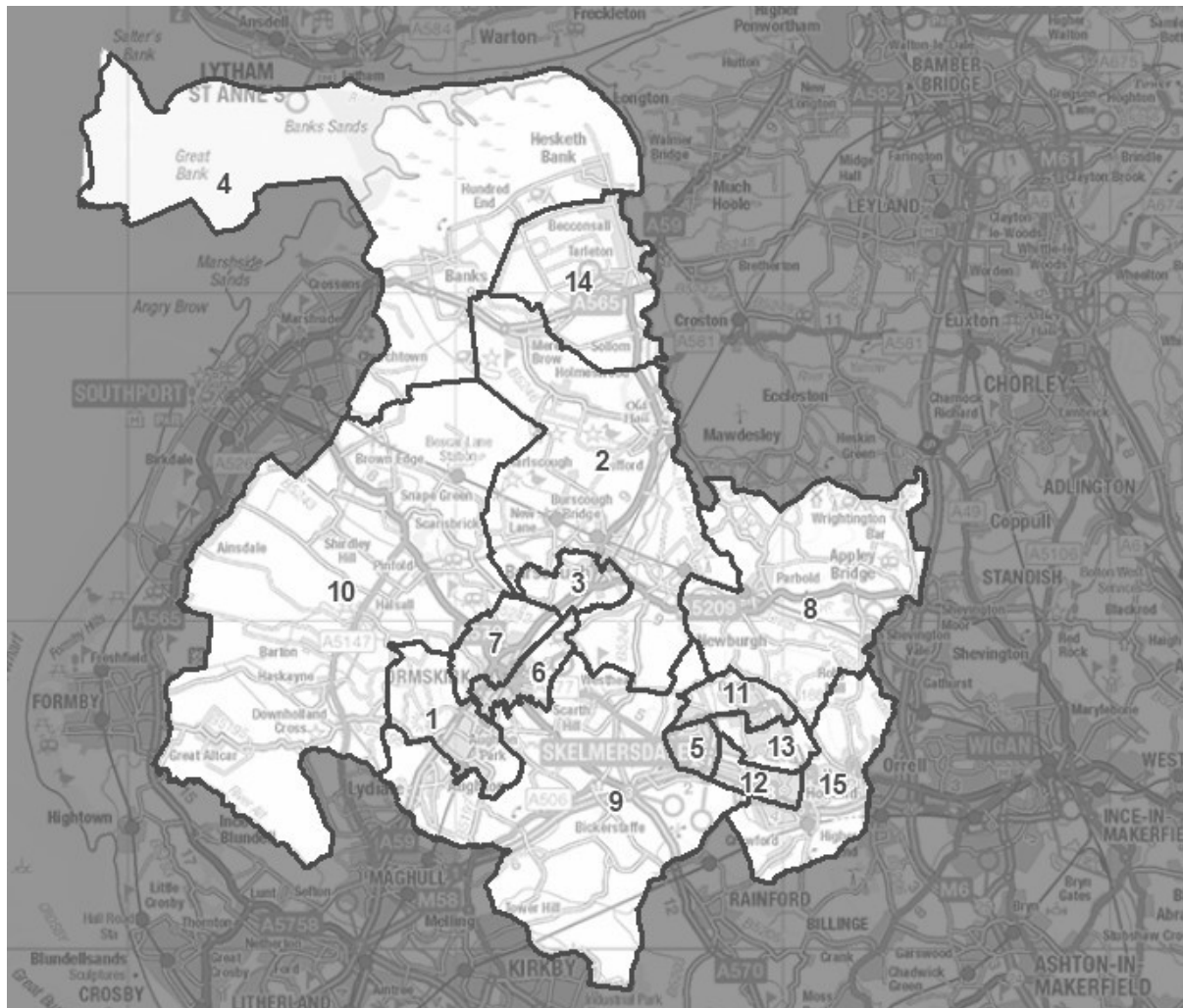
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12	Skelmersdale South	3	5,852	1,951	0%	5,774	1,925	-4%
13	Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre	3	6,352	2,117	9%	6,384	2,128	6%
14	Tarleton Village	3	5,479	1,826	-6%	5,588	1,863	-7%
15	Up Holland	3	6,030	2,010	3%	6,112	2,037	2%
	Totals	45	87,652	-	-	90,068	-	-
	Averages	-	-	1,948	-	-	2,002	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by West Lancashire Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name	Number	Ward name
1	Aughton & Holborn	9	Rural South
2	Burscough Bridge & Rufford	10	Rural West
3	Burscough Town	11	Skelmersdale North
4	North Meols & Hesketh Bank	12	Skelmersdale South
5	Old Skelmersdale	13	Tanhouse & Skelmersdale Town Centre
6	Ormskirk East	14	Tarleton Village
7	Ormskirk West	15	Up Holland
8	Rural North East		

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/west-lancashire

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/west-lancashire

Local Authority

- West Lancashire Borough Council Officers

Political Groups

- West Lancashire Borough Council Conservative Group

Councillors

- Councillor G. Clandon (West Lancashire Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Cooper (West Lancashire Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Gordon (West Lancashire Borough Council)
- Councillor D. O'Toole (Lancashire County Council)
- Councillor I. Rigby (West Lancashire Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Turpin (West Lancashire Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Witter (West Lancashire Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Aughton Parish Council
- Bickerstaffe Parish Council
- Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council
- Lathom South Parish Council
- Up Holland Parish Council

Local Residents

- 52 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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APPENDIX 3

Equality Impact Assessment Form



Directorate: Transformation & Resources		Service: Legal and Democratic Services	
Completed by: Thomas Lynan		Date: 25/03/2022	
Subject Title: WEST LANCASHIRE ELECTORAL REVIEW – LGBCE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS			
1. DESCRIPTION			
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	No		
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	Yes		
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No		
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No		
Is a programme or project being planned:	No		
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	No		
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	No		
Details of the matter under consideration:	Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Final Recommendations for West Lancashire.		
<p><i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i></p>			
2. RELEVANCE			
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	-		
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders): <i>If you answered Yes go to Section 3</i>	-		
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups:	-		

3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and or other stakeholders.
If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	All groups are equally affected.
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity	All equally affected. No No No No No No No No No
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	Members of the public, employees, elected members and or other stakeholders currently use the service because it is a universal service integral to the function of the Borough Council.
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Changes to the West Lancashire Borough Wards within which they reside and vote.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	There have been several periods of consultation over the last 18 months.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	The LGBCE's report on the Final Recommendations for West Lancashire.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	-
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	
In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	Changes to the West Lancashire Borough Wards within which they reside and vote.

6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	N/A
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	N/A <i>If no actions are planned state no actions</i>
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	N/A

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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