



Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Executive

52 Derby Street
Ormskirk
West Lancashire
L39 2DF

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

TO: THE MAYOR & 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, 11 DECEMBER 2024** at **7.30 PM** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

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

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey
Chief Executive

AGENDA
(Open to the Public)

1. **PRAYERS**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 11 - 12
If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest he/she is advised to contact the Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer, 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).
4. **MINUTES** 13 - 26
To receive as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 October 2024.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND/OR THE CHIEF**

EXECUTIVE

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:
- 7a **Planning Committee - Thursday, 3 October 2024** 27 - 32
- 7b **Licensing & Gambling Committee - Tuesday, 1 October 2024** 33 - 34
- 7c **Policy & Resources Committee - Tuesday, 19 November 2024** 35 - 40
- 7d **Planning Committee - Thursday, 21 November 2024** 41 - 44
- 7e **Audit & Governance Committee - Wednesday, 30 October 2024** 45 - 50
8. **GRA Q2 BUDGET MONITORING** 51 - 56
To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer).
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson)
9. **GRA CAPITAL Q2 2024/25 MONITORING REPORT** 57 - 66
To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer).
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson)
10. **HRA Q2 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL** 67 - 76
To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer).
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Nicola Pryce-Roberts)
11. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT Q2 2024/25 MONITORING REPORT** 77 - 84
To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources (Section 151 Officer).
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson)
12. **FINANCIAL SAVINGS/EFFICIENCIES - REVIEW OF MAYORAL SERVICE AND LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES** 85 - 90
To consider the report of the Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen)
13. **REPORT ON 2025/26 PROPOSED BUDGET EFFICIENCIES & SAVINGS** 91 - 96
To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson)

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| 14. | <p>NEW CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES</p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of Finance & Corporate Resources.</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson)</p> | 97 - 170 |
| 15. | <p>APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBERS</p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer (Monitoring Officer).</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen)</p> | 171 - 172 |
| 16. | <p>REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE 2024/25</p> <p>To consider the report of the Acting Chief Executive.</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen)</p> | 173 - 176 |
| 17. | <p>TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2025/26</p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer (Monitoring Officer).</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen)</p> | 177 - 180 |
| 18. | <p>CONSULTATION RESPONSE: ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS</p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Legal & Democratic Services Officer (Monitoring Officer)</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen)</p> | 181 - 210 |
| 19. | <p>APPROVAL OF REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY REQUIRED BY THE LICENSING ACT 2003</p> <p>To consider the report of the Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services.</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Gareth Dowling)</p> | 211 - 264 |
| 20. | <p>APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY AND AUTHORISATIONS REQUIRED BY THE GAMBLING ACT 2005</p> <p>To consider the report of the Assistant Director of Planning & Regulatory Services.</p> <p>(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Gareth Dowling)</p> | 265 - 302 |
| 21. | <p>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>It is recommended that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (Financial/Business Affairs) 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.</p> | |

PART 2 - NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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| 22. | PUBLIC CONVENIENCES
To consider the report of the Director of Housing & Environment.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Nicola Pryce-Roberts) | 303 - 316 |
| 23. | FLEETWOOD FARM, BANKS CONDITIONAL LAND PURCHASE
To consider the report of the Director of Housing & Environment.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Nicola Pryce-Roberts) | 317 - 332 |
| 24. | MARYVALE CONDITIONAL LAND PURCHASE
To consider the report of the Director of Housing & Environment.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Nicola Pryce-Roberts) | 333 - 348 |
| 25. | WHEATSHEAF WALK 4-6 WETHERSPOONS
To consider the report of the Director of Housing & Environment.
(Relevant Lead Members: Councillor Mark Anderson & Melissa Parlour) | 349 - 360 |
| 26. | PROPOSED SALE OF LAND NEW COURT WAY
To consider the report of the Director of Housing & Environment.
(Relevant Lead Member: Councillor Mark Anderson) | 361 - 374 |

PART 3 - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 27. MOTIONS**
To consider the following Motions included on the agenda at the request of the Members indicated:
- 27a **No Confidence in the Council Leader and Lead Member for Leisure - Motion from Councillor Adrian Owens on behalf of Our West Lancashire Group**

Council notes that among the Council's Priorities are to:

- Foster inclusive and healthy communities
- Reduce health and wellbeing inequalities.
- Design services around residents and communities

Council notes with deep concern:

- The proposals to close the council's swimming pools at Nye Bevan and Park Pools
- The failure to work with Lancashire County Council to bring any community sports back to the Glenburn site
- The poor condition of many of the council's grassed football pitches and facilities
- The failure of the council to complete the Ormskirk-Burscough linear park for walking and cycling

Council believes that its priorities in the area of health, wellbeing and leisure are not being effectively advanced under the current political

leadership impacting severely on the health, wellbeing and opportunities of the residents of West Lancashire,

Therefore, Council resolves that it has no confidence in the Leader of the Council, Councillor Gagen nor in the Lead Member for Leisure, Councillor Coughlan, and calls on them to resign their positions with immediate effect.

27b Increase to the bus fare cap - Motion Included on the Agenda by Councillor de Freitas on behalf of the Conservative Group

Council notes that:

The recent budget announced by the Labour Government increases the current bus fare pricing cap with effect from the 1st January 2025. Due to the Labour Government increasing the cap by 50%, from £2 to £3, a commuter commuting on a bus five days a week will suffer a yearly fare increase of several hundred pounds.

Council believes that:

The increase in the bus fare cap will

Result in declining passenger numbers.

Will have a catastrophic impact on the essential bus services, particularly those in our rural areas, which so many residents in West Lancashire rely on.

Will have a negative impact on young people travelling to access education, and those reliant on buses to reach their place of employment.

Will have a negative impact on elderly people who do not drive but need to access services, healthcare and visit family.

At a time when many residents in West Lancashire are struggling with soaring costs and expenses, this sudden increase in fares will punish some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Increasing the fare cap will discourage sustainable travel and remove an incentive to use public transport to access our town centres, increasing the number of cars on the road.

Council resolves:

To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Transport Secretary to outline the Council's dismay at this decision and ask the Government to reconsider.

27c Family Farm Tax - Motion Included on the Agenda by Councillor de Freitas on behalf of the Conservative Group
Council notes:

- That according to the National Farmers' Union, there are around 400 farm holdings in West Lancashire, which represent 10% of the business in the borough. In 2021, there were 2,387 people working directly in the borough's agricultural sector.
- That the 2024 Autumn Budget introduced a change to Agriculture Property Relief and Business Property Relief.
- That because of the price of land, farms may be worth a lot on paper, but this is often not reflected in a farmer's income.

- That analysis by the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers suggests 75,000 farms are likely to be affected nationally by these changes over the coming generation.
- That farming families could see bills in the hundreds of thousands of pounds – or even millions - when the land is passed on, and that this may result in farms having to be sold to raise the funds.

Council believes:

- These changes could damage the ability of farmers to pass on their farms to their children, and for the next generation to continue to farm that land.
- This will threaten food security by forcing the sale of family farms and make British food production harder, at a time when international supply chains are becoming less dependable.
- Numerous rural and farming organisations such as the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association have warned that countless farms will be harmed, threatening food security and rural areas.
- Tenant farmers will be particularly vulnerable to these changes, as less land may be available to rent as owners seek to use their land for other purposes – or sell entirely.
- It is regrettable that these changes come at a time when many farmers in West Lancashire are struggling with soaring costs and energy prices.

Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's concern at this decision and calls upon the Government to reconsider the plans.
- To request that a copy of this motion is sent to the two Members of Parliament representing our borough – Ashley Dalton MP and Patrick Hurley MP.
- To continue to work with local farmers and rural community representatives to ensure that our agricultural sector is supported.

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**.