

Local Government Reorganisation

A Town Council Working Group



Agenda 16 September 2025

1 Welcome.

2 Apologies.

3 Terms of Reference.

For members to review the Working Group's Terms of Reference (enclosed).

4 Nomination for Chair and Vice Chair.

For members of the Working Group to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair.

5 Background/Overview

Ribble Valley Borough Council could be abolished in the biggest shake-up of local government in over 50 years.

The Government has asked Lancashire authorities to draw up plans for a substantial reduction in the number of councils in the county.

The shake-up will see Lancashire County Council, unitary authorities in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen and the county's 12 district authorities, among them Ribble Valley, scrapped.

They will be replaced by a handful of unitary authorities covering larger areas of about 500,000 residents each and delivering all council services on their patch.

[What is Local Government Reorganisation?](#)

6 Questionnaire

[Give My View](#)

7 Assets.

For discussion

8 Actions and Next Steps.

Suggestions:

- Actively seek views of residents and businesses.
- Look to join forces with adjacent councils
- Proactively engage with RVBC

9 Date of Next Meeting.

For consideration



Terms of Reference

Local Government Reorganisation Working Group

Adopted: 16/09/2025

Chair:

Minute Ref:

1. Introduction and Background

Longridge Town Council, as a local authority serving the residents of Longridge, recognises the ongoing developments in local government reorganisation across the UK. Reorganisation involves the transfer of powers, responsibilities, and funding from central government to local and regional bodies, such as combined authorities or mayoral models. This working group is established by the Full Council to examine the implications of these changes for Longridge Town Council and its residents, ensuring the council is prepared to respond effectively and advocate for local interests.

2. Purpose of the Working Group

The primary purpose of the Working Group is to facilitate informed discussions on local government reorganisation, assess its potential impacts on Longridge Town Council, and develop recommendations to maximize benefits for residents while mitigating any risks.

3. Objectives

The working group will:

- Monitor national and regional developments in reorganisation and provide updates to the Full Council.
- Solicit and consider the views and needs of Longridge residents, businesses, and community groups.
- Engage with Ribble Valley Borough Council.
- Respond on behalf of the Town Council to surveys and questionnaires.

4. Scope

The working group will focus on reorganisation as it pertains to local government in the Ribble Valley and Lancashire with particular emphasis on impacts at the Longridge Town Council level

5. Membership

The Working Group shall consist of:

- Cllrs. Eccles, Stubbs, Rainford and Jackson plus the Town Clerk
- A Chair to be elected at the first meeting.
- Co-opted Members: Up to 3 additional participants, which may include representatives from local community groups, businesses, or external experts.
- Membership will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure balance and expertise.
- Members are expected to declare any conflicts of interest at the outset.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Chair: Lead meetings, set agendas, ensure objectives are met, and represent the group in council discussions.

Members: Actively participate in discussions, contribute research or insights, and review documents.

Secretariat: Provided by the Town Clerk, responsible for minute-taking, agenda circulation, and administrative support.

All members must maintain confidentiality where appropriate and adhere to the council's code of conduct.

7. Meetings and Procedures

- **Frequency:** Meetings will be held as required.
- **Quorum:** A minimum of 3 members, including the Chair or deputy.
- **Format:** Meetings may be held in person at the Town Council offices, virtually, or in a hybrid format to accommodate participants.
- Agendas and papers will be circulated in advance of the meeting.
- Decisions will be reached by consensus where possible; otherwise, by majority vote.
- Guest speakers or experts may be invited as needed.

8. Reporting and Accountability

- The Working Group will report to the Full Council at least quarterly, or sooner if significant developments arise.
- Outputs may include interim reports, final recommendations, position papers, or action plans.
- All recommendations will be subject to approval by the Full Council.
- The group will ensure transparency by making non-confidential summaries of discussions available to residents via the council's website.

9. Timeline and Review

- The working group will operate for an initial period of 12 months from its inception, subject to extension if devolution processes evolve.
- A mid-term review will be conducted after 6 months to assess progress and adjust terms if necessary.
- The group may be dissolved earlier if its objectives are met or if devolution changes render it redundant.

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