



Be a Councillor Information Evening

Welcome to Lancashire County Council



Welcome

Clare Coupe, Head of Communications and Public Affairs



Itinerary

- Role of the county council

Leader CC Phillippa Williamson & Mark Wynn, Interim Chief Executive

- Being a councillor

Virginia Ponton, Local Government Association (LGA)

- Who can be a councillor?

Lisa Vines & Claire Standring, District Election Managers

- Support for councillors

Josh Mynott, Democratic Services

- Quiz time

- Questions



Role of the county council

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, Leader of Lancashire County Council
and Mark Wynn, Chief Executive (Interim)



Lancashire



- 4th largest authority in England
- Population of 1.27m
- Workforce of over 13,000
- 627 schools
- 50,000 university students
- 13 local authorities
- Visitor economy worth £4.8bn
- 48,000 businesses
- 4,600 miles of highways



Our services



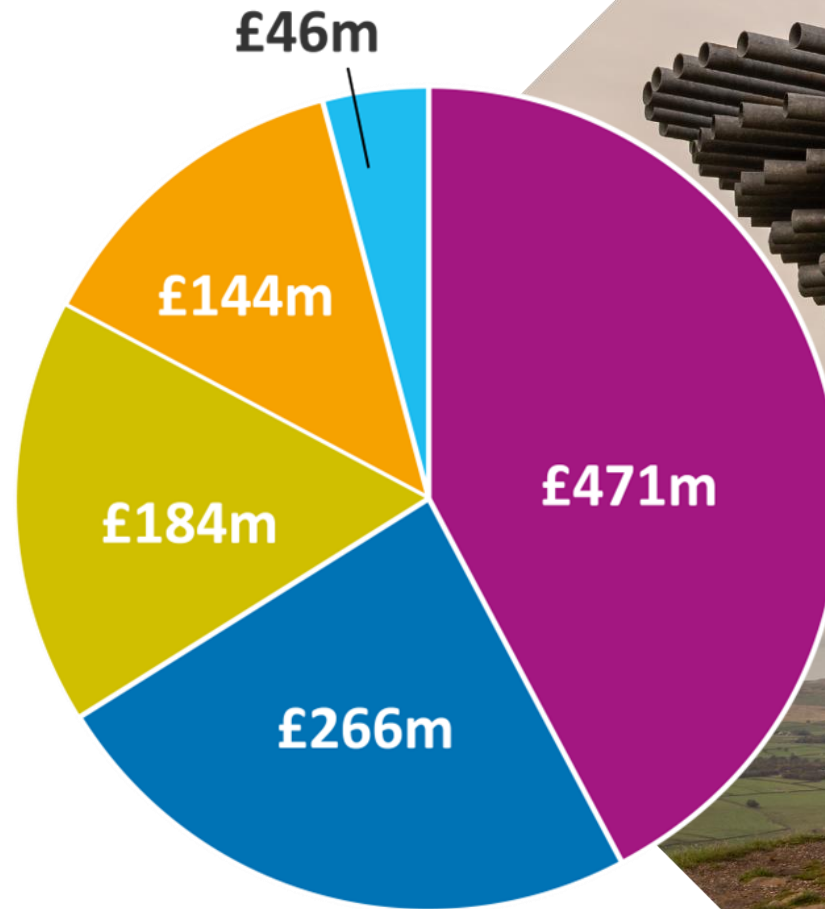
- Adult social care
- Education and children's services
- Economic development
- Environment
- Fostering and adoption
- Highways and transport
- Libraries, museums & archives
- Public health
- Registrars
- Waste and recycling



Budget

Net budget £1.1b

- Adult Social Care
- Education & Children's Services
- Growth, Environment, Transport & Health
- Resources & Chief Exec Services
- Financing charges



Political balance

Conservative	48
Labour	27
Independents	3
Green	2
Liberal Democrats	2
No description	2



Opportunities

- A new Council Plan
- Devolution
- Convention of the North



Opportunities

- Economic growth
- Change Programmes



Future challenges

- Financial challenge
- Workforce development
- Inspections
- Technological advancements



How we deliver for Lancashire

Officers

- Are paid staff
- Are impartial and apolitical
- Provide advice
- Implement decisions
- Run day-to-day services
- Are held to account by councillors

Councillors

- Are elected representatives
- Are political
- Set policy direction
- Make key decisions
- Represent their community
- Are held to account by each other and the public



Councillor role in Lancashire

Challenges

- Complexity of the role and council services
- Scale of challenges
- Managing casework
- Work/life balance

Rewards

- Shaping the future of your community
- Ensuring community can access the right services
- Representing the views of your community
- Making a positive impact!



'Being A Councillor'

Virginia Ponton, Local Government Association (LGA)



Serve and represent the community

- Talking to constituents
- Queries / issues (casework)
- Communicating
- Reading agendas, reports, research
- Attending formal meetings
- Regulatory functions
- Working collaboratively
- Building strong relationships
- Encouraging people to get involved



Shape the future of the local area

- Council meetings
- Vision, strategy, planning
- Decision-making and scrutiny
- Partnership working

Protocols and behaviour standards

- Constitution
- Code of conduct
- Principles of public life
- Corporate parent

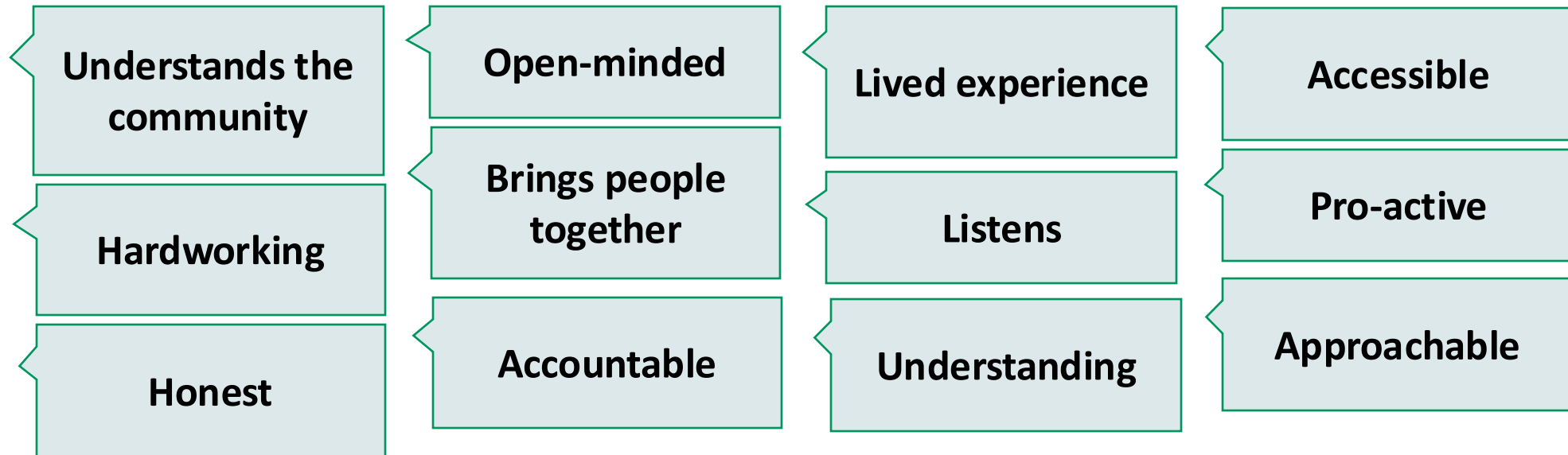


Exercise:

- What characteristics, attributes, and behaviours make a good councillor?
- What impacts would you like to make?



Characteristics, attributes, behaviours



Skills

- Community leadership
- Communication skills
- Partnership working and team working
- Problem solving, questioning, analytical
- Being flexible, adaptable and open-minded
- Being organised, good time management
- Political understanding



Who can be a councillor? What next?

Lisa Vines and Claire Standring – Lancashire District Election Managers



What we will be covering

- Being a candidate – who can and who can't stand for election at the Lancashire County Council Elections on Thursday 1st May 2025.
- The nomination process.
- Where to get information.



Who can stand for the County Election?

- Over 18.
- British Citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a qualifying European Union Citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights; and/or
- Registered elector in the Lancashire County Council area; and/or
- Occupier as owner/tenant of property/land in the LCC area; and/or
- Work in the LCC area for the preceding 12 months; and/or
- Live in the LCC area for the preceding 12 month period.



Who can't stand for the County Election?

- Employed by county council, or holds a paid office under the Authority (including a resignation period).
- Politically restricted post.
- Bankrupt.
- Sentenced to a term of imprisonment.
- Disqualified under the Representation of the People Act.
- Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act.
- Conviction for Intimidation towards candidate, future candidate, campaigner, officer.
- Conviction under the Localism Act 2011 to hold office.



Standing as a Candidate

- Complete a nomination form – Name/commonly used name.
- Description [name of political party or independent].
- Home address form (can request not made public).
- Proposer/Seconder - signatures of 2 registered electors who live in the division you are standing in.
- Consent to nomination.
- Certificate of Authorisation (political parties only).
- Request for use of Political Emblem (political parties).
- Nomination packs available from early March 2025.



Standing as a Candidate

- Take care when completing your nomination papers, as mistakes may invalidate your nomination.
- Nomination papers must be delivered in person .
- You must book an appointment to return completed forms. Each council will have information nearer the time on their website about informal checks.
- Nomination Period - 24th March 2025 to 4.00pm on 2nd April.
- Please don't leave it till the last minute as it may be too late to amend the nomination paper.
- Withdrawing a paper can only be done during the nomination period above.



The Campaign

- You must ensure that all campaign material includes an imprint of the name of the printer and promoter. This includes digital material. Further guidance on the Electoral Commission website.
- When you are out and about campaigning, please encourage everyone to apply early to register, apply for postal votes and apply for Voter Authority Certificates (if they don't have photo ID).



Further Information

- Standing for a Political Party? Make contact with the party direct - they select candidates early.
- Electoral Commission – www.electoralcommission.org.uk
Information on all aspects of standing as a candidate, including the nomination process, campaigning and spending rules.
- Lancashire County Council website and local council websites for lots of information about the election events, forms, guidance and information for electors.



Support for councillors

Josh Mynott – Head of Democratic Services





OUR FIRST COUNTY COUNCIL

Once you're elected

- You will receive
 - ICT equipment and support
 - Full induction and ongoing training and development
 - Basic allowance – currently £13,777
 - A "buddy"
- If you are employed, you have the right to "reasonable" time off for council duties



Ongoing support

- A comprehensive training and development programme
- Access to the council's wellbeing support
- ICT support, equipment and training
- Health and Safety and Personal Safety support and advice
- Support for councillors with disabilities
- Support for councillors who have caring responsibilities

