

## **Part 2 - Article 2 (The Full Council)**

### **Meetings of the Full Council**

All County Councillors meet together as the Full Council. The Full Council meets at least six times each year in accordance with the calendar of meetings agreed annually.

Meetings are open to the public but they may be excluded where information of an exempt or confidential nature is being discussed – see Access to Information Procedure Rules set out at Appendix 'H' to this Constitution.

The functions of the Full Council shall be as follows:

1. To approve the Council's Constitution and any subsequent amendments.
2. To elect the Chair and appoint the Vice-Chair of the Council at its Annual Meeting.
3. To appoint and remove the Leader of the Council, who shall be the Leader of the Cabinet. The Leader shall be appointed at the first Annual Meeting after an ordinary Council Election and also as a vacancy arises.
4. To determine the Policy Framework of the Council, which currently comprise the following plans, policies, strategies and agreements of the Council, to review these annually, and to add to or delete from the list of plans, policies and strategies comprising the Policy Framework as it deems appropriate:
  - (a) the Corporate Strategy;
  - (b) the Youth Justice Plan;
  - (c) the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement;
  - (d) the Local Transport Plan;
  - (e) Annual Library Plan (if required);

- (f) Development Plan documents contained in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework, including the following functions under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004:
- i. approve a development plan document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination (S.20).
  - ii. approve the making of an agreement to prepare one or more joint development plan documents (S.28).
  - iii. approve the making of an agreement to establish a joint committee to be the local planning authority (S.29).
  - iv. approve adding to the functions of a joint committee previously established (S.30) and approve the making of a request to the Secretary of State for the revocation of an order constituting a joint committee (S.31).

The Full Council shall also consider adopting any proposed modifications to these plans, policies and strategies.

In respect of each of these plans, policies and strategies the Full Council may set the limits within which the Cabinet may make variations (including Budget virement) in the light of circumstances without reference back to the Full Council.

5. To determine on an annual basis the Council's Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Policy and Council Tax levels in accordance with the provisions of Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
6. To note the Council's Statement of Accounts and the Lancashire County Pension Fund Statement of Accounts.
7. To receive reports, for information only, from the Combined Fire Authority.
8. In determining the Policy Framework and the Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, the Treasury Management Policy and Council Tax levels the Full Council shall consider the detailed proposals of the Cabinet including the views of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

9. In considering for adoption certain plans and strategies for which the Council does not have the sole responsibility (such as the Community Strategy and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies) the Full Council shall bear in mind the responsibility and involvement of those other bodies.
10. To determine all matters which are normally reserved for the Cabinet to decide which are not in accordance with the Budget or Policy Framework of the Council, and make appropriate arrangements in the Standing Orders for such matters to be dealt with where those matters cannot await the next meeting of the Full Council.
11. To review and determine whether any decision by or on behalf of the Cabinet, not yet implemented, referred to it by any Overview and Scrutiny Committee, should be re-considered by the appropriate decision taker in accordance with the Standing Orders.
12. To approve and adopt all Standing Orders and Financial Regulations applying to the Full Council, the Cabinet and all Committees of the Council.
13. To specify, before the beginning of each financial year, the amounts of expenditure and savings that shall be regarded as significant for the purposes of Standing Order C19 (key decisions).
14. Before the beginning of each financial year, to approve a Member Allowance Scheme, and to determine the allowances payable to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the County Council.
15. To approve the appointment or dismissal of the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer.
16. To designate the positions of Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Returning Officer and all other statutory positions and to appoint any individual officer to any office other than an office in which he/she is employed by the Council.
17. To consider all reports which the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, any Committee of the Cabinet or of the Full Council may submit to it.
18. At its Annual Meeting or at other meetings as necessary:
  - (a) To determine the constitution and membership, including any Co-optees required or deemed desirable, of the following Committees, including the appointment of Chairs and Deputy-Chairs, and to establish, where necessary, timetables for their meetings:
    - the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and any Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees;

- the Conduct Committee;
- the Regulatory Committee;
- the Development Control Committee;
- the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee;
- the Pension Fund Committee;
- the Local Pensions Board;
- the Employment Committee;
- the Urgency Committee;
- the Student Support Appeals Committee;
- the Health and Wellbeing Board
- other Committees and Panels which the Full Council may establish;

and:

(b) To make appointments to the following organisations:

- the Combined Fire Authority;
- the outside Organisations, Committees and Panels to which the County Council is entitled to appoint representatives, other than those to be dealt with by the Cabinet.

19. To establish, at its discretion and where permissible, Committees to carry out any of its functions and also Working Groups and Panels to provide advice and make recommendations.
20. To establish a Committee of the Full Council comprising twelve County Councillors (of whom no more than two shall be members of the Cabinet) to deal, except for those matters which cannot be delegated under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, with any matter requiring a decision by the Full Council which cannot await its next meeting, including any matters which have been delegated to the Committee by the Full Council.

21. To consider proposals for the promotion of Local Legislation which affects the interests of the Council and to promote bylaws and Local Acts as appropriate.
22. To be responsible for considering and formulating views upon all matters relating to local government boundaries, including any future proposals for local government reorganisation.
23. To be responsible for any matter relating to changes in the areas, status or functions of local authorities and the revision of County Electoral Divisions and matters relating to elections.
24. To receive an Annual Report from the Pension Fund Committee on the state of the Pension Fund and on investment activities during the preceding year.
25. To establish a Committee of the Full Council comprising eight County Councillors (at least one of whom shall be a Member of the Cabinet) to deal with the appointment and dismissal of the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer (subject to paragraph 15 above), and to deal with the appointment of the Director of Children's Services, the Director of Adult Services and the Director of Public Health
26. To determine the conditions of employment of employees of the County Council.
27. To consider and respond to petitions in accordance with the Council's petitions scheme – see Appendix 'O' to the Constitution.