



**Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

Affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils

**T: 01772 750900 E: [office@lalc.org.uk](mailto:office@lalc.org.uk)**

**Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meeting, held virtually at 5:00pm on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

Members present:

Cllr Pat Hastings (Chair)

Cllr Alan Neal

Cllr Phil Orme

Officers present:

Jessica Dibble, LALC Secretary

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, Cllr. Pat. Hastings, called the meeting to order at 17:00. Apologies were received from Cllr. Gordon Smith, Cllr. Iain Hamilton, Cllr. Jacqueline Hampson and the LALC Chief Officer, Debra Platt.

**2. To approve the minutes of the Finance and Committee meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

The minutes of the Finance and Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr. Alan Neal and seconded by Cllr. Phil Orme. The minutes were duly approved.

**3. Matters of Update**

Under Matters of Update, it was noted that the proposed motion jointly written by Cllr. Gordon Smith and Cllr. Keith Martin has now been submitted to NALC for consideration at their forthcoming AGM. The motion, entitled Delivering Net Zero Faster, Smarter and Cheaper, calls on NALC to support and advocate for urgent action to ensure local knowledge is integrated through effective engagement with Parish and Town Councils in the early stages of Net Zero energy development.

Additionally, members discussed the concerns raised regarding the wording of Appendix 4 of the revised Constitution, specifically regarding the eligibility of current councillors to serve as President. Following feedback from several members who felt that the existing clause was too restrictive, it was acknowledged that the original intention was likely to ensure that the President provides an independent, non-political perspective rather than being aligned with any one council, and to avoid conflicts of interest. However, it was agreed that the wording should be revised to allow current councillors to apply, whilst maintaining impartiality through non-voting status.

Consequently, Appendix 4, bullet point three under the subheading 'Role and Functions - President', was amended to read: 'Be an Executive Committee

Member (non-voting)' in place of the previous wording, 'Be an Executive Committee Member (non-voting), not currently a local councillor offering a valued independent perspective.' This revision therefore allows existing councillors to be considered for the role while remaining impartial as non-voting members.

Finally, it was agreed that the nomination form should be amended to include a request for a brief summary of the nominee's background and expertise, to help members better understand their suitability for the role. A note has therefore been added to read: *'NB: A short summary of the nominee's background and expertise is welcomed, either by CV or covering statement, to assist members in understanding their suitability for the role.'* These amendments were approved by all members present.

The Chair concluded the Matters of Update by informing members that she would be arranging an online meeting with the Chairs and Area Secretaries to discuss and explore ways of standardising procedures and practices across the association.

#### **4. Officer updates to be received**

##### **4.1 Finance updates 30.08.2025 - Reports previously circulated**

It was reported that the LALC remains in a healthy financial position, with a recorded surplus of £30,296.22 for August and earmarked reserves of approximately £36,000. It was noted that training income continues to show a significant discrepancy between the budget and actual income. Members discussed the likelihood that potential end-of-year spending by councils could further improve the situation. It was also reported that there have been increased efforts to pursue outstanding membership payments, which has resulted in improved revenue. Overall, members expressed satisfaction with the current financial status and the positive outlook moving forward.

##### **4.2 Area Support Officer Update – Reports previously circulated**

The Committee noted the latest reports as previously circulated.

#### **5. Budget Planning 2026-2027**

The Committee reviewed the budget document for the financial year 2025-2026 and discussed the proposed project allocations for 2026-2027. It was agreed that the following projects; Recruitment and Retention of Membership (£2,500), Mentoring for Councils in Difficulties (£2,800), and Support for the Smaller Sized Local Councils (£2,500) should be linked together as a packaged project, recognising the shared outcomes of supporting and strengthening local council engagement.

During the discussion, Cllr. Phil Orme mentioned the Best Kept Village Award sponsorship and noted previous conversations regarding the possible purchase of plaques. He expressed a preference that LALC continue to support the competition through sponsorship, rather than identifying specific items for purchase. It was therefore agreed that LALC would sponsor the Best Kept Village Competition in the sum of £2,000.

## 6. Items for Finance and Management Committee on 3rd December 2025

It was agreed that the budget should be included as an item on the next agenda, with proposals to be submitted to the Chief Officer in advance of the meeting. Members were encouraged to put forward any proposals or ideas for consideration, noting that these would need to be reviewed and agreed collectively. It was also noted that Devolution will need to be included as a future agenda item for further discussion and planning.

## 7. Items for Executive Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

As above.

## 8. Future meetings listed below for your diary

Wednesday 3rd December at 5pm.

Meeting closed 6pm.

Minutes drafted by: Jessica Dibble  
LALC Secretary  
07/10/2025

Finance & Management Wednesdays at time 5.00pm Virtual	Executive Saturdays at 10am virtual unless indicated
Wednesday 3 December 2025	Saturday 1 November 2025 AGM @ LCC conference Saturday 13 December 2025