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Executive members

Last Modified May 14, 2026



Individual executive members appointed to the positions or holding the cabinet member responsibilities mentioned below may discharge any executive function falling within or to any extent touching upon the areas of responsibility described, subject to the limitations identified.

In circumstances where a cabinet member is absent or otherwise unable to act or the position is vacant, the Leader may arrange for executive functions in respect of the relevant areas of responsibility to be discharged, in whole or in part, by one or more other cabinet members (including the deputy leader).

Members of the executive

The executive consists of the following members:

- [Councillor Lynn Williams MBE- Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture](#)
- [Councillor Neal Brookes \(Statutory Deputy Leader\) - Deputy Leader of the Council \(People\) and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care](#)
- [Councillor Jane Hugo - Deputy Leader of the Council \(Place\) and Cabinet Member for Climate Change](#)
- [Councillor Kath Benson - Cabinet Member for Young People and Aspiration](#)
- [Councillor Paula Burdess - Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Highways](#)
- [Councillor Jo Farrell - Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing](#)
- [Councillor Jim Hobson - Cabinet Member for Children's Services](#)
- [Councillor Mark Smith - Cabinet Member for Economy and Built Environment](#)
- [Councillor Dave Flanagan - Cabinet Member for Housing](#)

Councillor Joel McKeivitt has been appointed as a Cabinet Assistant to assist the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism, Arts and Culture: Councillor Lynn Williams MBE

The leader will provide executive leadership to the council on all matters and particularly all major strategic, corporate cross-cutting, financial reputational and commercially sensitive issues.

The leader may without prejudice discharge any executive function and has a particular responsibility for the following functional areas:

- Tourism and marketing services
- Tourism-based regeneration
- Arts and culture
- Illuminations
- Built heritage
- Planning and land use
- Corporate services (ICT, HR, Customer First, communications)
- Corporate strategy development and research
- Financial management
- Performance Management
- Governance

[Contact Councillor Lynn Williams MBE](#)

[Deputy Leader of the Council \(People\) and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care: Councillor Neal](#)

Brookes (Statutory Deputy Leader)

In the absence or unavailability of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader of the Council (People) may in line with the Council's Constitution exercise the powers of the Leader of the Council and may without prejudice discharge any executive function.

The Deputy Leader (People) may without prejudice discharge any executive function within the 'People' portfolio which covers the following Cabinet Member areas:

- Children's Services
- Communities and Wellbeing
- Young People and Aspiration

and also provides strategic leadership in these cabinet member areas.

The Deputy Leader (People) as Cabinet Member for Adult Services also has direct responsibility for the following functional areas:

- Adult provider services including commissioned services for adults
- Adult social care assessment and support
- Adult respite, day services, care at home, supported living and residential services
- Adult safeguarding
- Reablement and intermediate care
- Health integration including funding and services delivery
- Regulated care sector/inspection/quality monitoring
- Adult mental health, learning disability, frail older people and physical disability services

[Contact Councillor Brookes](#)

Deputy Leader of the Council (Place) and Cabinet Member for Climate Change: Councillor Jane Hugo

The Deputy Leader (Place) may without prejudice discharge any executive function within the 'Place' portfolio which covers the following Cabinet Member areas:

- Street Scene and Highways
- Economy and Built Environment
- Housing

and also provides strategic leadership in these cabinet member areas.

The Deputy Leader (Place) as Cabinet Member for Climate Change also has direct responsibility for the following functional areas:

- Climate change
- Energy and environment
- Flood and water management
- Coastal defence schemes and sea water quality
- Strategic waste management
- Parks and green environment
- Life events (including cemeteries and crematorium, registrars and coroner's support)

[Contact Councillor Hugo](#)

Cabinet Member for Young People and Aspiration: Councillor Kath Benson

The cabinet member for young people and aspiration has responsibility for the following areas:

- Schools under LA control, community schools
- Children with educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- LEA support to academies and voluntary aided schools
- School place planning, organisation and buildings
- Education diversity and support units/service e.g. pupil referral units
- Youth services
- Youth employment and education

[Contact Councillor Benson](#)

Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Highways: Councillor Paula Burdess

The cabinet member for Street Scene and Highways has responsibility for the following areas:

- Parking Services
- Highways and traffic management
- Street lighting
- Integrated transport services including adults, children and Rideability Community Transport Services and school crossing patrol
- Street cleansing including trade waste, Household Waste Recycling Centre, Local Environmental Action Team and building cleaning

[Contact Councillor Burdess](#)

Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing: Councillor Jo Farrell

The cabinet member for communities and wellbeing has responsibility for the following areas:

- Public health and health protection
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Harm reduction
- Domestic abuse
- Leisure services including leisure management, Active Blackpool, community sport, PE and schools' sports and outdoor pursuits
- Libraries
- Housing options and homelessness
- Decent homes
- Housing related support and sustaining private sector tenancies
- Catering
- Equality and diversity
- Adult learning
- Getting people into work Including Positive Steps, youth employment and education and business growth prosperity
- Relationships with Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus
- Social value
- Welfare benefits and Council Tax reduction scheme

[Contact Councillor Farrell](#)

Cabinet Member for Children's Services: Councillor Jim Hobson

Also the statutory lead member for children's services under the Children's Act 2004. The cabinet member for children's services has responsibility for the following areas:

- Care leavers
- Children's social care and targeted intervention services
- Children's commissioning
- Early help
- Early years
- Family hubs
- Fostering/adoption/permanence planning

[Contact Councillor Hobson](#)

Cabinet Member for Economy and Built Environment: Councillor Mark Smith

The cabinet member for economy and built environment has responsibility for the following areas:

- Economic development based regeneration including growth and prosperity
- Enterprise zones
- Town deal and community renewal funding
- Asset management/council owned properties
- Planning and land use
- Strategic transport management
- Building services
- Business Improvement District (BID)
- Relationships with Council wholly owned companies and the shareholder lead Cabinet Member
- Relationships with partner organisations
- Contracts, policy and purchasing

Cabinet Member for Housing Councillor Dave Flanagan

The cabinet member for Housing has responsibility for the following areas:

- Strategic housing
- Private Sector Housing Licensing / Selective Licensing
- Public protection including environmental protection, Trading Standards, licensing, food control, health and safety, housing and planning enforcement
- Community safety, CCTV, security and civil enforcement
- Empty Properties Task Force

[Contact Councillor Flanagan](#)

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