

# PRESTON CITY COUNCIL

## COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

1973 to 2019 – 57 Members  
2019 Onwards – 48 Members

<i>Municipal Year</i>	<i>Political Party</i>			Majority
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal	
1973 / 74	19	<b>38</b>	0	19
1974 / 75	19	<b>38</b>	0	19
1975 / 76	19	<b>38</b>	0	19
1976 / 77	<b>43</b>	13	1	29
* 1977 / 78	<b>43</b>	13	1	29
1978 / 79	<b>37</b>	18	2	17
(i)	<b>38</b>	18	1	19
1979 / 80	<b>30</b>	26	1	3
1980 / 81	25	<b>31</b>	1	5
* 1981 / 82	25	<b>31</b>	1	5
1982 / 83	24	<b>30</b>	3	3
1983 / 84	24	<b>30</b>	3	3
1984 / 85	21	<b>31</b>	5	5

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal				Majority
* 1985 / 86	21	<b>31</b>	5				5
1986 / 87	18	<b>34</b>	5				11
1987 / 88	16	<b>35</b>	6				13
(ii)	17	<b>35</b>	5				13
			Liberal Democrat				
1988 / 89	16	<b>36</b>	5				15
* 1989 / 90	16	<b>36</b>	5				15
1990 / 91	16	<b>35</b>	6				13
1991 / 92	17	<b>34</b>	6				11
1992 / 93	20	<b>32</b>	5				7
* 1993 / 94	20	<b>32</b>	5				7
1994 / 95	19	<b>31</b>	7				5
1995 / 96	18	<b>31</b>	8				5
1996 / 97	13	<b>32</b>	12				7
* 1997 / 98	13	<b>32</b>	12	Independent			7
(iii) (a)	13	<b>31</b>	12	1			5
(b)	13	<b>30</b>	12	2			3
(c)	13	<b>29</b>	12	3			1
					Labour Independent		
(iv) 1998 / 99	13	<b>29</b>	13	1	1		1
(v) (a)	13	<b>30</b>	13	0	1		3
(b)	13	<b>29</b>	13	0	1		2
(c)	13	<b>30</b>	13	0	1		3
(d)	13	<b>29</b>	14	0	1		1
(e)	13	28	15	0	1		NOC
(f)	13	<b>29</b>	14	0	1		1
1999 / 2000	13	28	14	0	2		NOC
(vi) (a)	13	<b>29</b>	13	0	2		1
(b)	13	28	13	1	2	People's Party	NOC
(c)	13	28	12	2	2		NOC
(d)	13	28	13	1	2		NOC
(e)	13	28	11	1	2	2	NOC
(f)	12	27	11	1	2	2	NOC
(g)	13	28	11	1	2	2	NOC
(h)	13	28	10	1	2	2	NOC

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Independent	Labour Independent	People's Party	Majority
2000/01	17	24	12	0	3	1	NOC
(vii) (a)	17	24	12	1	3		
					Labour Independent and Independent		
(b)	17	24	11	1	4		NOC
(c)	17	24	10	1	4		NOC
(d)	17	25	10	1	4		NOC
* 2001/02	17	25	10	1	4		NOC
					Labour Independent		
2002/03	19	25	11	0	2		NOC
(viii) (a)	19	25	10	0	2		NOC
(b)	19	24	10	0	2		NOC
(c)	19	24	9	1	2		NOC
(ix) 2003/04	18	25	10	2	2		NOC
(x) (a)	17	25	10	3	2		NOC
					Respect - The Unity Coalition		
(b)	17	25	10	2	1	2	NOC
(c)	17	24	10	2	2	2	NOC
2004/05	18	24	10	2	1	2	NOC
(xi) (a)	18	24	11	1	1	2	NOC
(b)	18	24	11	1	1	2	NOC
(c)	18	23	11	2	1	2	NOC
(d)	18	23	11	1	2	2	NOC
* 2005/06	18	23	11	1	2	2	NOC
(xii) (a)	17	23	12	1	2	2	NOC
(b)	16	23	13	1	2	2	NOC
2006/07	17	24	12	2		2	NOC
(xiii)	18	24	11	2		2	NOC
					Respect - Save the NHS		
(xiv) 2007/08	20	24	10	1		2	NOC
						Deepdale Independent	
(xv) (a)	20	24	10	1		2	
					Respect		
(b)	20	24	10	1		2	NOC
2008/09	21	24	9	1		2	NOC
(xvi) (a)	22	24	8	1		2	NOC
					Independent Socialist		
(b)	22	24	8	1		2	NOC
* 2009/10	22	24	8	1		2	NOC
(xvii)	22	23	8	1		2	NOC
(xviii) 2010/11	22	24	8	1		2	NOC
(xix)	22	25	7	1		2	NOC

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Deepdale Independent		Majority
2011/12	21	<b>29</b>	6	1		1
					Sharoe Green Independent	
(xx) (a)	20	<b>29</b>	6	1	1	1
(b)	19	<b>29</b>	6	1	1	2
(c)	19	<b>28</b>	6	1	1	1
					Independent Socialist	
2012/13	19	<b>31</b>	5	1	1	5
* 2013/14	19	<b>31</b>	5	1	1	5
(xxi) (a)	19	<b>30</b>	5	1	1	4
(b)	19	<b>30</b>	5	1		5
2014/15	19	<b>32</b>	5	1		7
2015/16	19	<b>32</b>	5	1		7
(xxii) 2016/17	19	<b>33</b>		5		9
(xxiii) (a)	18	<b>33</b>		5		10
(b)	18	<b>32</b>		5		9
*(xxiv) 2017/18	19	<b>33</b>		5		9
(xxv) 2018/19	17	<b>35</b>		5		13
					Independent Conservative	
(xxvi) (a)	16	<b>35</b>		5	1	13
(b)	15	<b>35</b>		5	2	13
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Independent		Majority
(xxvii) 2019/20	9	<b>30</b>	9	0		12
(xxviii) 2020/21	8	<b>30</b>	9	0		13
					Independent Labour	
(xxix) 2021/22	11	<b>30</b>	7	0		12
(xxx) (a)	11	<b>29</b>	7	1		10
(b)	11	<b>28</b>	7	1		9
					Other	
(xxxi) 2022/23	11	<b>30</b>	7			12
(a)	11	<b>29</b>	7	1		10
(b)	10	<b>29</b>	7	1		11
(xxxii) 2023/24	10	<b>31</b>	7			14
(xxxiii) 2024/25						
(a) and (b)	6	<b>30</b>	12			12
(xxxiv) (a)	6	<b>29</b>	12			11
(b and c)	6	<b>29</b>	13			10

**Note**

- (a) From May 1973 to May 2002, the Council had 19 electoral wards with 3 Councillors representing each Ward, making a total of 57 Councillors. All served a term of four years.
- (b) The whole Council was elected in June 1973 and May 1976. The Council then passed the appropriate resolution and from May 1978 the elections were by thirds (one Councillor per Ward). The whole Council was elected in May 1990 following electoral ward boundary changes and then the elections held thereafter were by thirds. All councillors serve a term of four years. (The fourth year is when the elections for the Lancashire County Council (LCC) are held.)
- (c) Following further electoral ward boundary changes, the whole Council was elected in May 2002. Elections were henceforth held by thirds. The Council then had 22 electoral wards with 13 wards having 3 councillors and 9 wards having 2 councillors. The latter were allocated so that each of the following electoral cycles would apply to 3 wards :-
  - (i) 3 - 3 - LCC - x; (ii) 3 - x - LCC - 3; (iii) x - 3 - LCC - 3 resulting in elections being held in 19 of the 22 Wards on each occasion that the City Council elections were held.
- (d) The current ward structure and electoral arrangements are described at (xxvii) below.

## (2) Key

The figures in **bold type** indicate the majority Group on the Council for that particular year. "NOC" indicates that there was no overall control of the Council by any one political party.

\* Indicates that no Borough (City) Council Elections were held that year due to Lancashire County Council Elections.

(3) The Council was run as a minority administration by the Labour Group from 1999/2000 to 2006/07 (inclusive) and then by the Conservative Group, with broad Liberal Democrat support, from 2007/08 to 2010/2011 (inclusive).

(4) The Council was granted City Status with effect from 15 May 2002 to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

(5) see after (xxvii) below.

(i) For the first time during this period a seat changed hands at a by-election - held on 26 April 1979. A seat previously held by the Liberal Party was won by the Conservative candidate. This would not happen again until 2001.

(ii) In early 1988, a Liberal Councillor (J. J. Brincat-Smith) joined the Conservative Party.

(iii) During 1997/98, the following changes took place:-

(a) In December 1997, a Labour Councillor (J. Monk) became Independent.

(b) This was followed, in early 1998, by another Labour Councillor (T. Cartwright) becoming Independent.

(c) Shortly afterwards, a further Labour Councillor (A. D. Reid) became Independent. This action was a preliminary to his resignation from the Council just prior to the Election in May.

(iv) The Labour Councillor (T. Cartwright) who had become Independent at (iii) (b) above was elected as "Labour" but assumed the designation of "Labour Independent".

- (v) *During 1998/99, the following changes took place :-*
- (a) *In May 1998, the Labour Councillor (J. Monk) who had become Independent at (iii) (a) above rejoined the Labour Party.*
  - (b) *On 28 July 1998, a Labour Councillor was disqualified from membership of the Council, due to the filing of a Bankruptcy Order.*
  - (c) *The Bankruptcy Order was subsequently annulled and that Councillor was re-elected as a Labour Councillor following a by-election on 1 October 1998.*
  - (d) *In December 1998, the Labour Councillor (J. Monk) at (iii) (a) and (v) (a) joined the Liberal Democrat Party. This had the result that the Liberal Democrats became the first Opposition Group.*
  - (e) *In January 1999, a Labour Councillor (A. Jones) joined the Liberal Democrat Party.*
  - (f) *On the following day, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (M. Moulding) joined the Labour Party.*

(vi) *During 1999/2000, the following changes took place:-*

- (a) *On Election Night, a Liberal Democrat Councillor ( A. L. Foster) joined the Labour Party.*
- (d) *On the following day, the Liberal Democrat Councillor (M. Moulding) who had joined the Labour Party at (v) (f) became Independent.*
- (c) *Two days later, a Liberal Democrat Councillor ( J. V. P. Whittle) became Independent.*
- (d) *During the following week, the Liberal Democrat Councillor (M. Moulding) who had become Independent at (vi) (b) rejoined the Liberal Democrat Group.*
- (e) *On 29 September 1999, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (J. Fitzgerald) resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group. He was joined by the Liberal Democrat Councillor (A. Jones) who had joined the Liberal Democrat Party at (v)(e). They announced that they were forming the People's Party. As a result, the Conservatives became the first Opposition Group.*
- (f) *On 8 November 1999, a Conservative Councillor (G. E. Gates) died and two days later, a Labour Councillor (G. Walmsley) died, leaving two vacancies on the Council.*
- (g) *A Conservative Councillor and a Labour Councillor were elected to fill the two vacancies on the Council following two by-elections held on 20 January 2000.*
- (h) *A Liberal Democrat Councillor (Mrs. A. A. Green) resigned from the Council on 23 March 2000 leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 4 May 2000.*

(vii) *During 2000/01, the following changes took place:-*

- (a) *In May 2000, Councillor Fitzgerald became the only member of the People's Party on the Council and as a consequence, he requested that he be known as an Independent member.*
- (b) *On 10 October 2000, the Liberal Democrat Councillor (M. Moulding) who had rejoined the Liberal Democrat Group at (vi) (d) resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group and, together with the three Labour Independent Group members, formed a new group entitled the Labour Independent and Independent Group.*
- (c) *A Liberal Democrat Councillor (J. V. C. Willacy) was disqualified from membership of the Council on 17 November 2000, as he had failed to attend a meeting of the Council for a six months' period.*

(d) *A Labour Councillor was elected to fill the vacancy on the Council at the consequent by-election held on 29 March 2001. This was the first time that a seat had changed hands at a by-election since 1979.*

(viii) *During 2002/03, the following changes took place :-*

(a) *On 7 March 2003, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (W. D. Chadwick) resigned from the Council leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 1 May 2003.*

(b) *On 12 March 2003, a Labour Councillor (S. Natha) resigned from the Council, leaving a second vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 1 May 2003.*

(c) *Later in the month, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (A. Valentine) resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group and announced that henceforth he would sit as a Liberal Independent. He was included under the heading of Independent Members*

(ix) *Councillor M. A. K. Lavalette was elected on 1 May 2003 as a Socialist Alliance Against the War candidate and was included under the heading of Independent Members.*

(x) *During 2003/04, the following changes took place :*

(a) *On 2 May 2003, a Conservative Councillor (Mrs. R. Edmondson) announced that she had resigned from the Conservative Group and wished to be known as an Independent Member.*

(b) *On 19 March 2004, Councillor M. A. K. Lavalette indicated that he no longer wished to be known as the member for Socialist Alliance Against the War and that, henceforth, he would sit as a Councillor for the political party Respect - The Unity Coalition.*

(c) *On 26 April 2004, a Labour Councillor (Mrs. E. E. Abbot) joined the party Respect - The Unity Coalition.*

(xi) *During 2004/05, the following changes took place:-*

(a) *On the day following the Municipal Election (11<sup>th</sup> June), the Conservative Councillor (Mrs. R. Edmondson) who had become an Independent Member at (x) (a) joined the Liberal Democrat Group.*

(b) *On 24 June 2004, the Liberal Independent Councillor (A. Valentine) referred to at (viii) (c) indicated that he wished to be known as an Independent Member.*

(c) *In January 2005, a Labour Councillor (S. Brooks) resigned from the Labour Group. He indicated that for the immediate future, he would sit as an Independent Member.*

(d) *On 1 March 2005, the Labour Councillor (S. Brooks) who had become an Independent Member at (xi) (c) joined the party Respect - The Unity Coalition.*

(xii) *During 2005/06, the following changes took place:-*

(a) *On 10 April 2006, a Conservative Councillor (Mrs. M. Milne) resigned from the Conservative Group and joined the Liberal Democrat Group.*

(b) *On 10 April 2006, a Conservative Councillor (Mrs. S. Riley) resigned from the Conservative Group and joined the Liberal Democrat Group.*

(xiii) *During 2006/07, the following change took place:-*

*On 22 August 2006, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (Mrs. J. Dodd) resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group and joined the Conservative Group.*

- (xiv) *The Councillor (M. A. K. Lavalette) who had stated that he would sit for the political party Respect - The Unity Coalition at (x) (b) was elected under the description "Respect - Save the N.H.S".*
- (xv) *During 2007/08, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 9 May 2007 the Labour Independent Group changed its name to Deepdale Independent.*
- (b) *In June 2007 the Councillor (M. A. K. Lavalette) discussed at (x) (b) and (xiv) stated that he wished his party designation henceforth to be just "Respect".*
- (xvi) *During 2008/09, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 25 September 2008, a Liberal Democrat Councillor (Mrs. C. Abram) resigned from the Liberal Democrat Group and joined the Conservative Group.*
- (b) *On 11 November 2008 the Councillor (M.A.K. Lavalette) discussed at (xv)(b) changed his designation from "Respect" to "Independent Socialist".*
- (xvii) *During 2009/10, the following change took place:-*
- On 16 March 2010, a Labour Councillor (J. Davenport) resigned from the Council leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 6 May 2010.*
- (xviii) *The Councillor (Mrs. C. Abram) who had joined the Conservative Group at (xvi) (a) became the first member who had resigned from a political group in order to join another political group to be subsequently elected as a representative of the recipient group.*
- (xix) *During 2010/11, the following change took place:-*
- A Liberal Democrat Councillor (L. Pennington) who had been elected in May resigned three weeks later. At the consequent by-election, held on 15 July 2010, the Labour candidate was elected. This was the third instance of a seat changing hands at a by-election. In each case the party which lost the seat was the Liberal/Liberal Democrat party.*
- (xx) *During 2011/12, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 24 October 2011, a Conservative Councillor (T. Thompson) resigned from the Conservative Group. He indicated that he would sit under the style of Sharoe Green Independent.*
- (b) *On 14 March 2012, a Conservative Councillor (Mrs. K. Calder) resigned from the Council, leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 3 May 2012.*
- (c) *On 14 March 2012, a Labour Councillor (T. Shamsuddin) resigned from the Council, leaving a second vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 3 May 2012.*
- (xxi) *During 2013/14, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 8 February, 2014 a Labour Councillor (T. Burns) died, leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 22 May, 2014.*
- (b) *On 28 February, 2014 the Independent Socialist Councillor (M. Lavalette) resigned from the Council, leaving a second vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 22 May, 2014.*



- (xxii) *The surviving Deepdale Independent Councillor (T. Cartwright) retired at the Municipal Elections in 2016. As a result, the Council became comprised entirely of representatives of the three main parties for the first time since December, 1997.*
- (xxiii) *During 2016/17, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 19 November, 2016 a Conservative Councillor (T. Davies) died, leaving one vacancy on the Council until the ensuing by-election was held on the same day as the County Council Elections on 4 May, 2017.*
- (b) *On 13 March, 2017 a Labour Councillor (Mrs. A. Vodden) resigned from the Council leaving a second vacancy on the Council until a by-election was held on 4 May, 2017.*
- (xxiv) *During 2017 the County Council elections took place. Alongside those elections were two by-election to fill the vacancies created by those detailed in (xxiii), (a) and (b) above. Councillors Ron Woollam and Mrs Elizabeth Atkins were duly elected.*
- (xxv) *Eleven Members retired from the Council and eleven Members were elected at the Municipal Elections on 3 May 2018. A Labour Councillor, Councillor Freddie Bailey, took a seat in College Ward from the Conservative Party, as did a Labour Councillor (Councillor Anna Hindle), who took a seat in Garrison Ward from the Conservative Party.*
- (xxvi) *During 2018/19, the following changes took place:-*
- (a) *On 25 July 2018, Councillor Mrs Lona Smith resigned from the Conservative Group and requested be known as an Independent Conservative.*
- (b) *On 1 August 2018, Councillor Mrs Rowena Edmondson (See also (x) (a) and (xi) (a) above) resigned from the Conservative Group and joined Councillor Lona Smith as an Independent Conservative. Therefore, on 1 August 2018, the Independent Conservatives formed a Group with Councillor Lona Smith being the Independent Conservative Group Leader.*
- (xxvii) ***The Local Government Boundary Commission undertook a review of electoral arrangements for Preston which were approved by full Council on 18.10.18 and took effect from the local elections held on 2.5.19. This resulted in the total number of elected Members for Preston being reduced from 57 to 48. The new arrangements also resulted in changes to the number of Wards, from 22 to 16. Boundaries for all the Wards changed. As a result of the Boundary Commission review the Council reduced by 9 Members.***
- (5) *In 2020 an outbreak of a virus named COVID-19 attacked the globe as a pandemic was declared. A lockdown was ordered by the Government. As such, the Government suspended local elections due to take place on 7.5.20. Those elections would now take place in May 2021 which should have been the year in which the Council would not hold elections as the four yearly County Council elections were due. The Government also suspended any by-elections that may become due as a result of resignations or death. Any by-election would also take place in May 2021 with any vacant positions remaining vacant until then. The City Council would therefore hold its elections alongside the County Council elections in 2021.*
- (xxviii) *During 2020/ 21 the following change took place:-*
- As of 7.5.20 Councillor Ian Donnell resigned his position. Due to the Coronavirus, see (5) above, former Councillor Donnell's position would remain vacant until the May 2021 elections. Due to the Conservative vacancy the Liberal Democrats became the first Opposition Group with 9 Members to the Conservatives 8 Members. Labour retained control of the Council with 30 Members.*

(xxix) *Whilst the COVID Pandemic continued, the Government allowed for the 2021 elections to take place. All 16 Wards stood candidates. Labour retained overall control and the Conservatives gained 2 seats from the Liberal Democrats whilst retaining the position left vacant by former Councillor Donnell. The Conservatives became the first Opposition Group.*

*To fall in line with previous elections which are done in thirds and to allow for the fourth year to be retained as a County Council election only, all Members elected in 2021 were given a 3 year term of office which would terminate in 2024.*

(xxx) *During 2021/ 22, the following changes took place: -*

(a) *On 24 February 2022, Councillor Peter Moss resigned from the Labour Group and became Independent Labour as a party of one reducing the Labour Members from 30 to 29.*

(b) *In March 2022, a Labour Councillor (J.W.Browne) died leaving one vacancy on the Council until the Municipal Elections on 5 May 2022.*

(xxxi) *At the Council elections on 5 May 2022 the political balance was Labour 30, Conservative 11 and Liberal Democrat 7.*

*During 2022/23, the following changes took place:-*

(a) *At Budget Council on 23 February 2023, the Leader, Councillor M Brown, advised that Councillor Ismail Bax was removed from all Council Committees and the Labour Group with immediate effect. This followed his removal from the national Labour Party whereby an internal investigation was taking place following a complaint. Councillor Bax continued on the Council but under the style "Other". The political balance then became Labour 29, Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat 7, Other 1.*

(b) *On 14 March 2023, Councillor G Jolliffe resigned from the Council, reducing the Conservative Membership from 11 to 10 pending the municipal elections on 4 May 2023.*

(xxxii) *The increase to 14 for Labour's majority presented Labour with its largest majority since 1989/90.*

(xxxiii) (a) *The Liberal Democrats achieved their highest number of seats since May, 2006. The Conservatives were reduced to their lowest ever number of seats. As a result the Liberal Democrats became the First Opposition Group.*

(b) *The Labour Party lost one seat, the first time that this had occurred since 2010. This was the first Election since 2000 at which it incurred a net loss of a seat.*

(xxxiv) *During 2024/25, the following changes took place:-*

(a) *On 23 May 2024, Councillor David Borrow resigned from the Council. The consequent by-election to be held on 4 July 2024 together with the General Election.*

(b) *The result of the by-election was a win for the Liberal Democrat candidate. This meant that the seat changed hands, only the fourth such occurrence at a by-election in the history of the Council. It was the first occasion on which the Liberal Democrat party had gained a seat at a by-election, and also the first time that any other party had lost a seat at a by-election. (See also note (xix) above.)*

(c) *The addition of this seat to their total yielded the highest number of councillors for the Liberal Democrats since April, 2006. (See note (xii) (b) above.) It also produced the highest ever proportion of seats on the Council for that party - 27%. (See note (v) (e) above for the occasion of the previous highest.)*

Member Services  
Resources Directorate  
July 2024