

press stuff  
From local  
MP (Labour)

**From:** SMITH, Cat [mailto:cat.smith.mp@parliament.uk]

**Sent:** 08 February 2017 21:11

**Subject:** Press release: Cat Smith MP calls on Councillor Paul Moon to decide which council he represents

Press Release: for immediate use

### **CAT SMITH MP CALLS ON COUNCILLOR PAUL MOON TO DECIDE WHICH COUNCIL REPRESENTS**

Cat Smith MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood has today written to Conservative Councillor Paul Moon calling upon him to resign from his Preesall seat on Wyre Borough Council.

Councillor Moon was elected to the Preesall ward on Wyre Borough Council in May 2015. A year later at the May 2016 elections he was elected to West Lancashire Borough Council for the Hesketh-with-Beconsall ward. Although Councillor Moon is not breaking any laws by doing this it denies both communities a councillor who truly lives in and represents the communities.

Ms Smith highlights some inconsistencies in Councillor Moon's voting record, supporting a charge for green waste collection in Wyre, but opposing the charge in West Lancashire Council.

Ms Smith said,

***"I have been approached by constituents in Preesall who are upset that the councillor who they elected to serve them has moved out of the area to live in the West Lancashire area, they are angry that he has not done the decent thing and resigned his Wyre Borough Councillor seat. The people of Preesall deserve a councillor who doesn't split his time juggling commitments on two borough councils 30 miles apart. I hope that Councillor Moon does the honourable thing and tenders his resignation so that the people of Preesall can have a full-time local councillor."***

Ends

Attached: scanned copy of the letters sent my Cat Smith MP to Councillor Paul Moon, at both his addresses listed on both council websites.

Cat Smith MP

Representing Lancaster and Fleetwood

Lancaster office: 01524 566551 | Fleetwood office: 01253 490440 | Westminster office: 0207 219 6001





HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Councillor Paul Moon  
3 The Brow  
Hesketh Bank  
Preston  
Lancashire  
PR4 6SJ

8 February 2017

Dear Councillor Moon,

It has been raised with me by a number of my Preesall constituents that you are currently serving as a councillor on Wyre Borough Council and on West Lancashire Council, which as you will no doubt be aware covers very different geographical footprints and are approximately 30 miles apart. It is my understanding that you were elected to Wyre Borough Council for the Preesall ward in May 2015, and then in May 2016 you were elected to West Lancashire Council for the Hesketh-with-Becconsall ward without resigning your seat on Wyre Borough Council.

My constituents feel that it is not possible to truly represent both communities on these councils, and I agree with them. Some have raised concerns about inconsistencies in your voting record, i.e. supporting a charge for green waste collection in Wyre, but then opposing the same policy in West Lancashire. They also feel that it's potentially a conflict of interest, after all whose area are you really serving first? The Southport Visitor reports that you currently receive an allowance from both borough councils that totals just over £9,000 for the year, some people might question if this is your motivation for not resigning from Wyre Borough Council. I'm sure that you will deny this and perhaps you can prove this is not your motivation by resigning your seat.

I acknowledge that what you are doing is not illegal however, you must admit it looks self-serving? At a time when politicians are not always held in highest regard you really do a disservice to all those who go into public service. I call upon you to reflect on how bad this looks, and do the honourable thing, admit you have moved to West Lancashire and resign from Wyre Borough Council so that the people of Preesall can have a councillor who does live in the area and doesn't have to split him or herself across two borough councils.

Yours sincerely,

**Cat Smith**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Lancaster and Fleetwood**

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