

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2016**

*PRESENT –*

*His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Nawaz Ahmed – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

<i>M. Adams</i>	<i>J. M. P. Henderson</i>
<i>R. B. Allen</i>	<i>M. Horsfield</i>
<i>M. Ammer</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>E. Ansar</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. H. Ashraf</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>A. Aziz</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>S. A. Benson</i>	<i>G. Roach</i>
<i>W. Blackburn</i>	<i>M. Sakib</i>
<i>N. Butterworth</i>	<i>K. E. Shore</i>
<i>R. E. Carroll</i>	<i>J. K. Starkie</i>
<i>D. Clegg</i>	<i>C. Teall</i>
<i>S. E. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>C. Wakeford</i>
<i>J. Cooney</i>	<i>G. Waugh</i>
<i>T. A. Cooney</i>	<i>D. Whalley</i>
<i>L. Davy</i>	<i>D. M. Whipp</i>
<i>M. S. Foxley</i>	<i>P. White</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	<i>S. Wicks</i>
<i>K. Hartley</i>	

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nadeem Ahmed, M. Arshad, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, A. R. Greaves, D. E. Lord, N. McEvoy, J. A. Nixon, B. N. Parker, I. W. Tweedie and N. Younis).*



**73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any pecuniary or substantial non-pecuniary items of business.

**74. MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and –

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 and the Special Budget Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any pecuniary or substantial non-pecuniary items of business.

**76. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader announced that Phil Storey, Chief Executive of Pendle Leisure Trust, was retiring after working for Pendle Leisure since 1970. On behalf of the Council the Leader and Group Leaders wished him well in his retirement and acknowledged his hard work and achievements over the past forty six years.

The Leader and Group Leaders also, on behalf of the Council, acknowledged the work undertaken by Councillor Smith Benson over his twenty five years as being a Councillor in the Borough and wished him well in his retirement.

**77. MAYORALTY**

**(a) To consider the Mayoralty for 2016/17**

It was moved by Councillor J. Cooney, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and –

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That Councillor Rosemary Carroll be invited to be Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

**(b) To consider the Deputy Mayoralty for 2016/17**

It was moved by Councillor S. Wicks, seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood and -

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That Councillor David Whalley be invited to be Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

**78. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**79. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER, A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Blackburn asked the Leader if he agreed with him that, following the resignation of Ian Duncan Smith over further proposed disability cuts in the Budget, any further cuts to social security that could affect ill and disabled people within Pendle should be suspended. The Leader said he had no powers to tell the Government what to do but he acknowledged the difficulties these cuts would have on disabled people in the Borough. He suggested that the Scrutiny Management Team consider undertaking a review to look at the impact these cuts would have on residents in Pendle.

Councillor Wakeford asked the Leader that in the light of The Meadows, Colne planning decision by the Planning Inspectorate, did the Leader owe the people of Barrowford an apology for not giving them the same opportunity to present their case. In response the Leader said that Conservative Members should apologise to the people of Barrowford as when the Trough Laithe site was included in the Local Plan the Council was under Conservative leadership. He continued if the

Trough Laithe planning application had been refused then there would be a significantly higher financial risk for the Council. Also the Planning Inspectorate had awarded costs against the Council in relation to The Meadows planning decision which together with the Council's own costs of defending the appeal amounted to an estimated c£40k.

Councillor T. Cooney asked the Leader to join the Conservative Group in guaranteeing the long term future of Marsden Golf Course. In response the Leader said that at a meeting with local residents he and the Deputy Leader of the Council had indicated the Council was looking at the long term sustainability of the golf course. He had nothing further to report at this stage.

In response to supplementary questions from Councillor White and Councillor Whipp the Leader said he was not aware at this stage of any proposals for a housing development of the site and he referred to the need for the Council to identify substantial savings following the recent cuts by the Government and the consequent budget reductions the Council had to make to live within these Government reductions.

Councillor White asked the Leader if he had decided how he intended to vote in the referendum. The Leader said he would be voting for Britain to stay in the European Union. He said it was evident that areas like Pendle significantly benefitted from being in the EU.

#### **80. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE EXECUTIVE'S WORK**

The Leader submitted, for information, a report on the work of the Executive since the last meeting.

#### **81. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Team submitted a report on Overview and Scrutiny activity since the last meeting of the Council.

#### **82. MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

The following Member Champions gave an update to Council on the activities they had been involved in since being appointed Member Champions at the Annual Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2015:

Councillor Wayne Blackburn – Disability and Mental Health Member Champion

Councillor David Whalley – Older People and Dementia Member Champion

Councillor Lyle Davey – Young People Member Champion

#### **83. COMBINED AUTHORITY FOR LANCASHIRE**

The Strategic Director submitted a report which provided an update on progress with proposals for a Combined Authority. The report also contained a response to the public consultation exercise and sought agreement for the Council to become a constituent member of a Combined Authority for Lancashire.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

#### **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- (1) That the report be noted.

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- (2) That the appended response to the public consultation on the Combined Authority proposals be noted.
- (3) That it be agreed that the Council become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority and submit proposals to do so to the Secretary of State.
- (4) That in the interim period, it be agreed that the Council form a shadow Lancashire Combined Authority.
- (5) That any future proposals for a devolution deal with the Government be brought back to Council for agreement.

**84. CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN**

The Strategic Director submitted a report on the draft Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan which dealt with issues raised by the Peer Team. Following the review a Corporate Peer Challenge Task and Finish Group had been convened and they were asked to consider the findings and recommendations in the Peer Team report. From their considerations the draft action plan attached to the report was submitted for approval.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

**RESOVLED UNANIMOUSLY**

That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan attached to the report as Appendix B be approved.

**85. BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY REGENERATION STRATEGY  
A 10 YEAR VISION**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted for consideration the Brierfield and Reedley Regeneration Strategy: A 10 Year Vision. The document set out a framework for place shaping and physically regenerating the area over the next decade. This was based around five priorities:

- Town Centre Enhancement
- Development Sites
- Physical Connectivity and Townscape
- Housing and its Green Assets
- Place Shaping and Image

The Vision had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 with a recommendation that it be adopted.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- (1) That the Brierfield and Reedley Strategy: A 10 Year Vision, as shown at Appendix A attached to the report, be approved.

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- (2) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be authorised to agree the illustrated version of the Strategy and the Summary.

**86. PAY POLICY 2016**

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual pay policy statement for 2016 was submitted for approval.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and –

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council's website.

**87. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2016/17**

The Financial Services Manager submitted for consideration the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2016/17.

The Strategy set out how the investment and borrowing operations of the Council were to be managed within the framework established by the Treasury Management Policy Statement.

The Strategy had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 with a recommendation that it be approved.

It was movement by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17 be approved as detailed in Appendix A attached to the report and in particular –

- The Prudential Indicators and limits referred to in Sections 2 and 3 of the Strategy document.
- The statement by the Financial Services Manager, as detailed in paragraph 9 in the report, indicating compliance with the requirement to keep borrowing below the Council's Capital Financing Requirement over the medium term.
- The policy of the Medium Revenue Provision (MRP) (Section 2.3 of the Strategy) and in particular the circumstances in which MRP may not be required.

**88. CHARGING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report which suggested a way forward for the Council for calculating charges for providing environmental information.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney and

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- (1) That the costing exercise outlined in paragraph 12 of the report be approved and a Schedule of Charges be published for supplying environmental information.
- (2) That an initial assessment of those services which are likely to be affected by this issue be undertaken including identifying the areas where the Council does or does not currently charge.

**89. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Youth Engagement**

It was moved by Councillor L. Davy, seconded by Councillor P. White –

The number of 18 year olds registered to vote in Pendle was down by 24% in December 2015 compared with the year before and it is important that we encourage as many young people as possible to engage directly in the democratic process.

Many youth groups in the area discuss issues that affect them and sometimes issues over which this Council has jurisdiction but there is sometimes a lack of communication between the Council and the Youth Groups in terms of how policies and decisions may affect young people.

Pendle has a good network of youth groups whose insight would be valuable to Councillors in Pendle to help form their decisions.

There is a lack of understanding amongst young people in the community about the role of Councillors about the functions of this Council.

Council therefore resolves that a Youth Engagement Scrutiny Panel be set up to include the Member Champion for Young People, representatives of the Youth Group and Education sectors and the Council's Communication and Localities team to develop and implement a plan to:

- Encourage more young people to join the Electoral Register.
- Establish a mechanism for better consultation with young people on decisions taken.
- Ensure young people better understand the functions of Pendle Borough Council and what it does for them.

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

