

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

*PRESENT –*

*His Worship the Mayor (Councillor David Whalley – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*G. Adam  
M. Adams  
Nadeem Ahmed  
Nawaz Ahmed  
E. Ansar  
Mohammed Arshad  
Musawar R. Arshad  
N. H. Ashraf  
W. Blackburn  
R. E. Carroll  
D. Clegg  
S. E. Cockburn-Price  
J. Cooney  
T. A. Cooney  
M. S. Foxley  
M. Goulthorp  
A. R. Greaves  
K. Hartley  
J. M. P. Henderson  
M. Horsfield*

*M. Iqbal  
Y. Iqbal  
D. E. Lord  
P. A. McCormick  
A. Mahmood  
B. Newman  
J. Nixon  
G. Roach  
M. Sakib  
K. E. Shore  
J. K. Starkie  
C. Teall  
K. Turner  
C. Wakeford  
G. Waugh  
D. M. Whipp  
P. White  
S. Wicks  
N. Younis*

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Crossley, L. Davy, N. McCollum, S. Petty and J. Purcell).*



**28. MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor David Whalley, seconded by Councillor James Starkie and –

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

**30. RECORDED VOTES**

Members were reminded that in accordance with Rule 17 of the Procedure at Full Council all votes on budget issues would be recorded. This was in reference to minute number 39 (Budget Savings

2018/19 (a) Grounds Maintenance; (b) Redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre – Loan to Pendle Leisure Trust) and minute number 40 (Review of Revenue Reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017).

### **31. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Council were informed that Councillor Butterworth's fiancé had recently passed away. On behalf of the Council the Mayor expressed his sympathy and offered condolences to Councillor Butterworth at this very sad time.

The Mayor reported receipt of an on-line petition against the proposed redevelopment of the sports hall at Pendle Leisure Centre to create a soft play area.

The Leader provided an update on progress with the Shadow Combined Authority. The Government had now accepted the possibility of Combined Authorities without an elected Mayor. Discussions were ongoing and a further update would be given at the next meeting.

### **32. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER**

The following questions all related to proposed changes at Pendle Leisure Centre.

**Penny Clough** was unable to attend the meeting and so on her behalf the Mayor read out her question. She asked if the increased Government nursery provision from September 2017, from 15 hours to 30 hours a week, had been taken into account for the attendance and viability of a soft play area at Pendle Leisure Centre.

In response the Leader said yes, changes to nursery provision had been considered and Pendle Leisure Trust did not believe it would have a material impact on the operation of the facility. Nursery provision was for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. During the week the Trust would be targeting non-working parents and those on maternity leave. Equally a nursery environment was completely different to a soft play environment. Also, the attendance figures assumed by Pendle Leisure Trust were based on a higher usage at weekends which were peak times and, importantly, the estimates of income were very conservative and the Trust were confident these could be achieved.

**Christine Ashton** said she was reliably informed that this Council had spent £6m on houses no one wanted and were now in debt. Why should we trust you to make a wise decision regarding our Sports Hall given your recent track record? You will presumably have to borrow money in order to give Pendle Leisure Trust their £0.5m loan. In your report you say it will cost between £39k and £55k a year to repay the loan. Ms Goode predicted making £26k a year from the new venture. Surely these sums don't add up. Will this mean that you incur even more debt?

The Leader said he did not know what Ms. Ashton's reference to "the Council spending £6m on houses no one wants" meant. He asked her to write to him providing more details and would be happy to provide a further response in due course.

He also referred Ms. Ashton to the report of the Council's independently appointed External Auditor's report which had been issued earlier in the week. Their assessment was "that the Council had in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources." The report was publicly available on the Council's website.

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In respect of the numbers quoted in the report, the estimated surplus of £26k, which was predicated to rise to c£48k by year 3, was after the repayment of charges for the loan.

**Trevor Mayes** asked if, as seems highly likely, the soft play venture failed, what would become of the sports hall? Is there a contingency plan?

The Leader said he was more optimistic and did not accept the premise of Mr. Mayes question that the soft play facility was doomed to failure. Council officers and the Executive had reviewed the business case provided by Pendle Leisure Trust for the soft play facility and were content that it was robust. Of course, any venture like this was not without its risks but, again, the Leader said he believed these had been properly considered.

He continued by saying the soft play facility would be located within the existing sports hall building which would be retained. In essence, the Trust were looking to use the space available better than it was at present, given that the current sports hall was used for less than 50% of the time it was available.

The Leader stressed that every effort had been made to accommodate existing users of the sports hall, either at the Leisure Centre or at other venues operated by the Trust.

Mr. Mayes also asked if the soft play proposal was a failure would the site of the Leisure Centre be turned into a car park like the former Urban Altitude site. In response the Leader said it was Council policy to maintain the former railway track bed for any future rail link. Therefore a building would not be erected on this site. Council had made a decision to accept a request from Boundary Mill and Lloyds BMW for additional car parking spaces on the former Urban Altitude site but avoiding the protected rail bed.

**Robert Hindle** said no one seemed to be taking responsibility for the Urban Altitude fiasco. Presumably it had to go through the same approval process as this latest venture. Who was going to put their name to this project and accept the consequences if it failed?

In response the Leader said the funding for Urban Altitude was the subject of approval by the Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 and thereafter by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2013. He did, however, acknowledge that urban Altitude was not the success that was expected, and that this was not reflective of the Trust's track record of investment in new facilities such as:-

- Inside Spa at Wavelengths and the Feelgood Factory at the Pendle Leisure Centre had both proved to be a great success.
- And, investment in the gym facilities had meant the Trust had been able to fend off competition from other facilities like Pure Gym.

In response to a supplementary question the Leader said he accepted that Urban Altitude had failed and that the Council had made a decision.

**Christine Hartley** referred to the Smith and Nephew site in Brierfield which was undergoing a £4m revamp leading to state-of-the-art leisure facilities, including a soft play area and party rooms. She asked if Pendle Leisure Trust were aware of this when producing their business plan? The area would be saturated with soft play and would lead to redundancies within the sector. Does it still seem like a good idea?

The Leader said the Pendle Leisure Trust was aware of the facilities being provided at Northlight by Burnley Football in the Community and the relocation to the mill of Lancashire Adult Learning from Chorley. They did not believe that this would have a material impact on their business plan.

**Mrs. Green** made reference to there being no reference to equality or diversity issues within the report. She asked how this could be justified when the new facility would cater predominantly for a very small age group, effectively excluding all of the adult population.

The Leader replied by saying that the assessment of equality and diversity was done in the context of the impact on the “protected characteristics” as set out in the Equality Act 2010. These included, for example, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, race and so on. Sports facilities were often provided for defined age groups (e.g. junior football pitches) or for good reasons exclude certain age groups e.g., young children in fitness rooms.

In view of the Trust’s plan to accommodate other uses of the sports halls either within the Leisure Centre or at other venues operated by the Trust, the Leader said they did not consider there to be any equality or diversity issues.

Furthermore the decision for the council related primarily to the proposal to lend the Trust the funding necessary to embark on the development. The Leader said the report was correct in that there were no equality and diversity issues arising from the consideration of that decision.

An explanation was also given on the Council’s current financial position at the last Executive meeting, which most people present had attended. It was explained that the existing facilities could not be sustained based on the cuts the Trust and the Council were required to make.

**Betty Bannister** said that the report said there were no new policy implications. She asked how this could be true when you will be restricting sporting opportunities and also making sport less accessible.

The Leader said whilst he acknowledged the proposal to redevelop the sports hall into the soft play facility changed the delivery of sports provision at Pendle Leisure Centre, it did not have any effect on or change any Council policies hence there were no new policy implications. Fundamentally, there would remain a comprehensive leisure offer across the Borough even if this proposal went ahead tonight.

**Anne Spencer** referred to various educational establishments in the area that had obtained funding from different organisations to upgrade their sporting provision. These included Nelson and Colne College, Fisher More and West Craven schools. She asked why was Pendle Leisure Trust not doing the same.

In response the Leader said the Trust had been successful in obtaining funding from a range of organisations e.g., Sport England and Lancashire County Council to deliver a range of activity. The most recent example was the delivery of the Up and Active Project which provided a range of sporting and leisure opportunities to residents of all ages. The Trust had also recently applied to Sport England’s Trackline Inactivity Fund to help the unemployed access sporting activity as a means of helping them back into the workplace and was a key partner in a Pennine Lancashire bid to Sport England for funding to help the most disadvantaged residents gain access to sporting and leisure activities.

The Leader also acknowledged the support the success other organisations had in obtaining funding for the provision of sporting facilities. The greater variety of sporting and leisure facilities there were in Pendle, the better for Pendle residents. By investing in the soft play facility, the Trust was seeking to complement the leisure offer at the Pendle Leisure Centre thereby encouraging participation in leisure activity for all ages.

**Leanne Luftrum** was unable to attend the meeting and so on her behalf the Mayor read out her question. She said the changes to the sports hall would happen very soon. People were being told it was a 'done deal' before the Executive meeting and the Council's vote today. The leisure centre was already blocking future bookings. The whole process had been shrouded in secrecy. She asked why such important decisions were being made behind closed doors by just a few people.

The Leader said this was not a 'done deal' as had been suggested. The decision to convert the sports hall into a soft play facility was taken by the Pendle Leisure Trust. However, given that the sports hall was in the ownership of Pendle Council, that the proposals was to change the use of the facility and that the Council was being asked to provide loan funding, it was ultimately a decision for the Council to consider.

In that context, the matter was brought before the last meeting of the Executive on 19<sup>th</sup> October. That meeting was open to the public and a number of the people present tonight were present and were given the opportunity to make statements/pose questions to the Executive. And, at tonight's meeting, questions were being asked and answered and the public were entitled to see the debate on this matter.

In conclusion the Leader said it was not the case that the decision was being taken in secrecy.

**Mark Nuttall** said taking into account everything which was said at last Thursday's meeting and the fact that Pendle Council were now considering whether, at huge risk, to lend Pendle Leisure Trust up to £500,000 for their new business plan, why did they not approach a bank or other lending establishment with their business proposal and seek to borrow the money from them like any other business would have to do. The Council would then not have to risk such a colossal amount of tax payers' money on such an insecure venture.

In response the Leader reiterated what he had said earlier in that the Executive had reviewed the business plan produced by the Pendle Leisure Trust for the soft play facility and were content that it was robust.

He also said that as Mr. Nuttall was probably aware, ordinarily with a loan facility from a bank, the bank would require some form of guarantee or security. As the Pendle Leisure Trust did not have the financial capacity to offer such a guarantee nor did it own any assets against which security could be given, it was inevitable that the Council would be asked to provide the guarantee/security.

That said, the Council did have access to loan funds from the Government for investment in its assets, which this proposal was about.

**33. 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**

There were no questions from Members to the Leader, a Committee Chairman or a representative on an outside body on matters not otherwise on the agenda.

**34. 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.

**35. 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.

**36. MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT – COUNCILLOR ROSEMARY CARROLL**

Following consideration of a complaint from Councillors W. Blackburn and M. Iqbal regarding a racist joke being shared on Councillor Carroll's Facebook page Council were asked to consider the sanctions recommended by the Councillor Code of Conduct Hearings Panel.

It was acknowledged that of the four sanctions proposed by the Panel two were already being implemented.

It was moved by His Worship the Mayor Councillor D. Whalley, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and

**RESOLVED**

That the following sanctions recommended by the Panel be approved:

- (1) That Councillor Carroll be censured.
- (2) That Councillor Carroll be removed from any committees other than West Craven Committee for a period of 12 months from the date of this meeting.

**37. UPDATED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY**

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report on the updated Risk Management Policy and Strategy to the Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. At that meeting it was resolved "that the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy be endorsed and Council be recommended to approve and adopt the document."

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by His Worship the Mayor Councillor D. Whalley and

**RESOLVED**

That the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy be approved and adopted.

**38. THE HOUSING AND PLANNING ACT 2016 CIVIL PENALTIES**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and Civil Penalties to the Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. At that meeting it was resolved –

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- “(1) That Council be recommended to approve the Policy and Matrix for the use of Civil Penalties and its inclusion into the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.
- (2) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be granted delegated authority to issue, use and enforce civil penalties as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under.
- (3) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be granted delegated powers to issue, use and enforce rent repayment orders as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under.
- (4) That the money received from civil penalties returns to the housing revenue budget to fund further enforcement activity.”

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves and

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That Council be recommended to approve the Policy and Matrix for the use of Civil Penalties and its inclusion into the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.
- (2) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be granted delegated authority to issue, use and enforce civil penalties as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under.
- (3) That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be granted delegated powers to issue, use and enforce rent repayment orders as detailed in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any regulations made there under.
- (4) That the money received from civil penalties returns to the housing revenue budget to fund further enforcement activity.

**39. BUDGET SAVINGS 2018/19**

**(a) Grounds Maintenance**

At the Executive meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2017 it was resolved “that the following savings proposal be recommended to Council for approval: Grounds Maintenance.”

A copy of the savings pro-forma was submitted for information.

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. R. Greaves and

**RESOLVED**

That the savings proposals for grounds maintenance be approved.

*In accordance with minute 30 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.*

*Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:*

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*G. Adam, M. Adams, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, J. Kl. Starkie, C. Teall, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, S. Wicks and N. Younis.*

*Those Members voting against the Motion were Councillors:*

*R. E. Carroll, S. E. Cockburn-Price, M. S. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, M. Horsfield, P. A. McCormick, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, G. Waugh and P. White.*

*Those Members who abstained from voting were Councillors:*

*Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, Musawar Arshad, T. A. Cooney and K. Turner.*

## **(b) Redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre – Loan to Pendle Leisure Trust**

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report on proposals for the redevelopment of Pendle Leisure Centre. The proposal was for the conversion of the sports hall into a soft play area and fitness/dance studio. At the Executive meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 it was resolved “that Council be recommended to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.5m in the current year in support of the project.”

During discussion it was felt that a consultation exercise should be carried out prior to any decisions being made regarding the request for a loan from the Leisure Trust. As a result a recorded vote was not required.

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That this item be deferred pending a consultation exercise on the soft play proposal for the sports hall at Pendle Leisure Centre.
- (2) That following discussion with Pendle Leisure Trust a further consultation exercise be undertaken on the future provision of leisure and sports facilities within the Borough.

*The time having reached 8.50 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting be adjourned and there was a short break for to allow members of the public to leave the Chamber. The meeting reconvened at 9.00 p.m.*

## **40. REVIEW OF REVENUE RESERVES AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2017**

The Financial Services Manager submitted a report to the Executive on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 on the review of Revenue Reserves as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017. At that meeting it was resolved “that the proposal to transfer £235k in 2017/18 from specific reserves to the Budget Strategy Reserve, as set out in paragraph 11 in the report, be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval.”

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp and



## **RESOLVED**

That the proposal to transfer £235k in 2017/18 from specific reserves to the Budget Strategy Reserve, as set out in paragraph 11 in the report, be approved.

*In accordance with minute 30 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.*

*Those Members voting in favour of the Motion were Councillors:*

*G. Adam, M. Adams, Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, E. Ansar, Mohammed Arshad, Musawar Arshad, N. H. Ashraf, W. Blackburn, R. E. Carrol, D. Clegg, S. E. Cockburn-Price, J. Cooney, M. S. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, J. M. P. Henderson, M. Horsfield, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, P. A. McCormick, A. Mahmood, B. Newman, J. Nixon, B. N. Parker, G. Roach, M. Sakib, K. E. Shore, J. K. Starkie, C. Teall, K. Turner, C. Wakeford, G. Waugh, D. Whalley, D. M. Whipp, P. White, S. Wicks and N. Younis.*

### **41. BOUNDARY COMMISSION – REVISED PROPOSALS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

It was reported that the Boundary Commission for England had published its revised proposals for parliamentary constituencies following public consultation on its initial proposals. The revised proposals had hardly changed from its initial proposals which the Council strongly opposed. These were to abolish the present Pendle constituency and move West Craven, Colne and District and Barrowford and Western Parishes into a new constituency with Clitheroe and other Ribble Valley wards, and Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley into a new constituency with Burnley.

The revised proposals were open for consultation until 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

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

## **RESOLVED**

That the Corporate Director, in consultation with the three Group Leaders, formulates and submits a response to the revised proposals.

### **42. MEMBER CHAMPIONS**

Council received updates from the following Member Champions:

Councillor A. R. Greaves – Cycling Champion  
Councillor D. Whalley – Dementia Champion  
Councillor W. Blackburn – Disability and Mental Health Champion  
Councillor D. E. Lord – Every Child Matters Champion  
Councillor P. A. McCormick – Older People's Champion  
Councillor Y. Iqbal – Young People's Champion

### **43. LANCASHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

Council already appoints a representative (politically balanced) onto the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel which for 2017/18 was Councillor D. M. Whipp.

To ensure representative attendance at all meetings Members were asked to consider nominating a further representative, from the same political group, to act as a substitute when the panel member was unavailable.

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and

## **RESOLVED**

That Councillor B. Newman be appointed substitute on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel for the municipal year 2017/18.

## **44. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **(a) Pendle Housing Needs Figures**

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor K. Hartley –

Pendle Council notes the publication of the Government's consultation report: "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places: Consultation Proposals" by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the accompanying table: "Application of Proposed Formula for Assessing Housing Need."

It notes the detailed responses made to the consultation report by the Executive on behalf of the Council.

It further notes that the table sets out a figure of 165 as an indicative assessment of the annual need for new housing units in Pendle compared with 260-340 at present (which resolves to 298 in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy). This was a reduction of 133 units per annum.

It further notes that the Government has stated that the new figures will not apply until the Core Strategy has been revised, which was likely to take up to five years, and that Part 2 of the Local Plan (Site Allocations) was currently being prepared on the basis of the present higher figure of 298.

Council therefore resolves that:

- (1) The determination of a lower figure following the consultation is noted since the existing figure is probably not achievable.
- (2) It does not wish to be placed in a position in which it is forced by the Government to grant approval for more new housing than will be required under a new Government's figure when formally approved following the current consultation, which is likely to lead to the unnecessary approval of new housing on many greenfield sites.
- (3) Management Team be instructed to present reports to the Executive setting out the position as it develops, and probing ways in which this problem can be tackled.
- (4) The Member of Parliament for Pendle is requested to take vigorous action within the Government to persuade them to resolve the problem that they (the Government) could be forcing the Council to give planning approval for more new housing than they (the Government) state is needed.

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(b) Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools**

It was moved by Councillor D. M. Whipp, seconded by Councillor J. Cooney –

Pendle Council notes:

- (a) That the medium term financial projections for its revenue budget produced by Management Team include the need to reduce spending by around £4m over the next three years.
- (b) That in order to achieve these savings Management Team proposes that consideration should be given to closing one of the three leisure centres and swimming pools in the Borough that are run on the Council's behalf by Pendle Leisure Trust.

The Council considers that in view of the unique geographical and social configuration of Pendle, such a proposal will not be acceptable to Pendle residents.

It therefore resolves that:

- (1) Every effort must be made to keep the three leisure centres and swimming pools in Barnoldswick, Colne and Nelson. The closure of any of these facilities is not acceptable to people in Pendle.
- (2) Management Team and Pendle Leisure Trust be asked to continue to seek savings in other ways and notably those which do not involve major losses of service.

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(c) Elderly Care**

It was moved by Councillor K. Hartley, seconded by Councillor D. E. Lord –

This Council notes and welcomes the decision of the LCC Executive to allocate £6.6 million to upgrade the 17 Council owned residential care homes for the elderly across the County, which include those within the Borough of Pendle. It also recognises that those 17 care homes are only 5% of the registered 340 care homes in Lancashire.

However, it also notes with grave concern that St. Andrews House in Barnoldswick has now joined the more than 50 Lancashire care homes placed in special measures by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

It also notes with equally grave concern the recently announced imminent closure of Belgarth Care Home in Barrowford following a recent CQC inspection rating the establishment as requiring improvement. Belgarth has thus joined the 50 or so care homes which are being closed every year in Lancashire.

In a sector of the economy where demand for care home services is increasing and forecast to do so for the foreseeable future and the number of available places are declining and/or sub-standard. It is the view of this Council that the current situation is very unsatisfactory and a serious threat to the continued safety and wellbeing of the ageing population of this Borough.

Council therefore resolves that:-

- (1) The Strategic Director writes to the Leader of Lancashire County Council making him aware of our concerns, and requests that the administration of the County Council make available to individual Boroughs a detailed and funded plan to take remedial action where care homes are deemed to have an unsatisfactory level of service or are threatened with closure.
- (2) That the Strategic Director writes to the Director of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group expressing this Council's concerns and pledging the council's support to them in commissioning sufficient care home places in Pendle to satisfy current and projected future demand.
- (3) That the Strategic Director writes to the member of Parliament for Pendle advising him of our concerns and soliciting his support to secure additional central government funding to combat the shortfall of allocated funding for social care currently being experienced and forecast to increase over the next few years.
- (4) That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be charged with monitoring progress towards a resolution of the Council's concerns including specific actions being taken at County level and by the LCC Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and that they be also charged with presenting periodic progress reports to Council.

## **RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

### **(d) White Ribbon Accreditation**

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor D. M. Whipp –

Council welcomes the fact that it has shown its commitment to tackling domestic abuse by joining the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Police and all other Lancashire councils in becoming accredited as White Ribbon organisations. This has led to Lancashire becoming the first White Ribbon County.

In support of this commitment Council:

- (1) Requests the Executive and Community Safety Partnership to keep progress on the action plan under regular review.
- (2) Encourages male Councillors and staff to lead by example by signing up to become ambassadors.
- (3) Will work with partner local organisations such as the business sector, sports clubs and licensed premises on how they can inform men about violence against women and girls and encourage them to challenge it.

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(e) Universal Credit Roll Out**

It was moved by Councillor Y. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor W. Blackburn –

This Council notes that Universal Credit is a single monthly payment which replaces 6 working age benefits (known as legacy benefits). These are Housing Benefit, Income Support, Working Tax Credits, Child Tax Credit, Employment and Support Allowance (income-related) and Jobseekers Allowance (income-related). It supports residents on low incomes who are both in and out of work.

The Government's roll-out of Universal Credit has been described by Citizens Advice as a "disaster waiting to happen," with housing associations reporting an increase of up to 50% in the eviction of tenants with rent arrears due to Universal Credit. Even Sir John Major, the former Conservative Prime Minister, described Universal Credit as "operationally messy, socially unfair and unforgiving."

With the roll-out of the full service of Universal Credit due to come to Pendle in August 2018, this Council has many concerns about Universal Credit, including the wait times between the date of application and date of assessment; the level of deductions applied to monthly payments to claw back advance payments and sanctions; and the number of sanctions made against Universal Credit claimants.

This Council therefore calls upon the Government to suspend the roll-out of Universal Credit and ensure that changes are made to fix the issues with Universal Credit; and that letters be sent to the local MP Andrew Stephenson and the Secretary of State asking them to support this.

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(f) Pick Up for Pendle**

It was moved by Councillor J. Cooney, seconded by Councillor P. White –

This Council notes the work being carried out by the volunteers involved with Pick Up for Pendle across the Borough, with over 794 hours volunteered, 1035 bags of rubbish collected and 55 incidents of fly-tipping reported in the first year by the group.

The Council thanks the volunteers for their hard work for the people of Pendle and resolves to support their efforts where possible.

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

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