

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 10<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2020**

*PRESENT –*

*His Worship the Mayor (Councillor K. Hartley – in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

G. Adam  
N. Ahmed  
Z. Ali  
M. Ammer  
E. Ansar  
Mohammed Arshad  
N. H. Ashraf  
M. Aslam  
N. Butterworth  
R. E. Carroll  
C. Carter  
D. Clegg  
S. E. Cockburn-Price  
T. A. Cooney  
L. M. Crossley  
M. Goulthorp  
A. R. Greaves  
M. Hanif

M. Iqbal  
Y. Iqbal  
C. Lioni  
D. E. Lord  
N. T. McCollum  
N. McGowan  
A. Mahmood  
A. R. Mann  
J. M. Mills  
B. Newman  
M. Sakib  
Y. M. Tennant  
K. Turner  
G. Waugh  
D. M. Whipp  
T. Whipp  
S. Wicks

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Ammer, Musawar Arshad, V. Fletcher, M. Foxley, P. Foxley, J. Henderson, N. McEvoy, J. Nixon, S. Petty, J. Purcell, Q. Shazad and K. Shore ).*



**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**2. RECORDED VOTES**

As the meeting was being conducted remotely and via Microsoft Office Teams it had been agreed prior to the meeting with Group Leaders that a recorded vote would be taken on the following item for all motions and amendments.

**3. COMBINED AUTHORITY AND DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR**

The Chief Executive submitted a report on proposals to create a Combined Authority for Lancashire with a Directly Elected Mayor.

A Combined Authority was a statutory body comprising representatives (normally the Leaders) from the constituent local authorities for the area. A Combined Authority would be additional to, not in place of, the local authorities in the area.

## Extraordinary Council (10.07.2020)

In most cases a condition of each 'devolution deal' agreed to date was that an area should have a Directly Elected Mayor. The Government's view was that it was important to have a single point of accountability for an area that was responsible both locally and nationally for the delivery of the 'devolution deal.'

In December, 2015 and January, 2016 the Council had agreed to become a constituent member of a Lancashire Combined Authority but did not at that time include any proposals for a Directly Elected Mayor.

The report set out the current position and what this meant for Pendle. The issue of devolution for Lancashire had not progressed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, as attention was gradually turning to recovery from the Pandemic, recent discussions with MHCLG indicated that the Government remained committed to both devolution and local government reform.

At a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 the matter of devolution was again considered with general support amongst Lancashire Leaders for the creation of a Combined Authority and Directly Elected Mayor.

Four options were set out in the report:

1. Do nothing
2. Oppose the creation of a Combined Authority and a Directly Elected Mayor
3. Resolve to agree, in principle, to support the creation of a Combined Authority only (without a Directly Elected Mayor)
4. Resolve to agree, in principal, to support the creation of a Combined Authority with a Directly Elected Mayor

The next steps would depend on the outcome of each Council's deliberations on this matter.

Timescales had not been defined and would be subject to a range of matters. However, a Combined Authority could be created within the next 18 months to 2 years with any devolution deal agreed within a similar timeframe if it was deal with concurrently. An Elected Mayor election could take place as early as May 2023.

## **MOTION**

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

Council notes:

- (1) The Government's desire with the support of Pendle's Member of Parliament to pursue a policy of devolution in Lancashire, resulting in a Combined Authority with an Elected Mayor and local government reorganisation resulting in the abolition of Pendle.
- (2) The previous decision of the Council on a Combined Authority without an Elected Mayor in the absence of any decision by Government.
- (3) The desire to protect local democratic accountability for the residents of Pendle.

Council therefore resolves to:

## Extraordinary Council (10.07.2020)

- (1) Write to HM Government after the publication of the anticipated Government White Paper on English Devolution this Autumn and the development of any proposed models for devolution and improved governance arrangements which are to be produced following the recent request of Lancashire Leaders.
- (2) To seek clear information on the devolution deal for Lancashire and any proposals for local government reorganisation arising from proposals to establish a Combined Authority with an Elected Mayor.
- (3) To reconsider all options at a future meeting once all the above facts are established.
- (4) At this stage due to the lack of clarity does not proceed with a Combined Authority with an Elected Mayor.

### **AMENDMENT**

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor M. Goulthorp –

This Council welcomes the potential extra investment and integrated strategy for our region that is likely to follow from the creation of a Combined Authority, with or without, a Directly Elected Mayor. However, as Councillors, we know how costly and confusing it is for residents to be part of three layers of Local Government, so we believe the addition of a fourth layer, without significant scrutiny, prior to any streamlining reorganisation and optimisation, would be wasteful folly. We therefore support waiting until we have more information on which to base our decision, especially the anticipated Government White Paper on English Devolution and the potential improved governance arrangements to be put forward by the Local Governance Association. After the uncertainty caused by the Global Pandemic, it is more important than ever to be in possession of the pertinent facts before coming to a decision that will have long lasting consequences for all residents of Pendle.

Upon being put to the vote the **amendment** was **LOST**.

*In accordance with minute number 2 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:*

*Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were:*

*Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, S. E. Cockburn-Price, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, C. Lioni, N. T. McCollum, N. McGowan and G. Waugh*

*Those Members voting against the amendment were:*

*Councillors G. Adam, M. Ammer, N. Ashraf, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, M. Sakib, Y. Tennant, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks*

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) Write to HM Government after the publication of the anticipated Government White Paper on English Devolution this Autumn and the development of any proposed models for

Extraordinary Council (10.07.2020)

devolution and improved governance arrangements which are to be produced following the recent request of Lancashire Leaders.

- (2) To seek clear information on the devolution deal for Lancashire and any proposals for local government reorganisation arising from proposals to establish a Combined Authority with an Elected Mayor.
- (3) To reconsider all options at a future meeting once all the above facts are established.
- (4) At this stage due to the lack of clarity does not proceed with a Combined Authority with an Elected Mayor.

Upon being put to the vote the **motion** was **CARRIED**.

*In accordance with minute number 2 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue:*

*Those Members voting in favour of the motion were:*

*Councillors G. Adam, Z. Ali, M. Ammer, N. Ashraf, D. Clegg, L. M. Crossley, A. R. Greaves, M. Hanif, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, M. Sakib, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, D. M. Whipp and T. Whipp*

*Those Members voting against the motion were:*

*Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, S. E. Cockburn-Price, T. A. Cooney, L. M. Crossley, M. Goulthorp, C. Lioni, N. T. McCollum, N. McGowan and G. Waugh*

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