

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 24th SEPTEMBER, 2020**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

G. Adam
M. Adams
N. Ahmed
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
N. H. Ashraf
M. Aslam
N. Butterworth
R. E. Carroll
C. Carter
D Clegg
S. E. Cockburn-Price
T. A. Cooney
V. A. Fletcher
M. S. Foxley
P. J. Foxley
M. Goulthorp
A. R. Greaves
M. Hanif

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

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Musawar Arshad, J. Henderson and N. McCollum).



4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. RECORDED VOTES

As the meeting was being conducted remotely and via Microsoft Office Teams it was agreed that a recorded vote would be taken on all motions and amendments where there was no overall agreement on a decision.

6. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of meetings of the Council held on 17th December, 2019, 27th February, 2020 and 10th July, 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor said he had attended VJ celebrations on 15th August which had been carried out under Covid-19 guidelines.

On behalf of the Council the Leader expressed his thanks to all staff and members of the public who had worked tirelessly to keep everyone safe during the Coronavirus pandemic. He particularly thanked all staff who had continued to maintain services and in some areas often beyond the call of duty.

8. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADERS, A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were no questions from Members.

10. REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A report by the Leader on the Work of the Policy and Resources Committee since the last Council meeting was submitted, for information. Attached as an appendix to the report was the Council's Business Recovery Plan in response to the Coronavirus emergency.

In response to questions the Leader provided an update on the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate extension.

11. VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

The Corporate Director submitted a report on the three vacancies in the office of Councillor which had arisen and which the Council was required to formally declare.

The vacancies had arisen as a result of non-attendance at Council or Committee meetings for a period of six consecutive months. It was acknowledged that there had been some disruption to the normal pattern of meetings with some cancellations, alterations of start times and the change to remote meetings due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

However, the legal requirement in s85 of the Local Government Act 1972 to attend meetings was unchanged. Immediately upon his/her failure to attend a meeting for six consecutive months the Councillor automatically ceases to be a member of the Council. There was no discretion for the Council over this.

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That the offices of Councillor held by Christian Wakeford, Steve Petty and Qamar Shazad be declared vacant.

- (2) That public notice be given of the casual vacancies.

12. POLITICAL BALANCE REVIEW

In light of the vacancies referred to in minute 10 above a revised political balance was submitted to Council for information.

13. CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (s151 OFFICER)

The Corporate Director reported that in December, 2019 the Council appointed the Chief Executive as the s151 Officer with effect from 1st January, 2020. Under the Regulations relating to statutory officer appointments it was possible to combine the roles of Head of Paid Services and s151 Officer.

With the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic and the additional work this placed on the Chief Executive, it became necessary to re-engage Mr. Vince Green as Chief Financial Officer on a temporary basis. This and his designation as s151 Officer was approved by Group Leaders under the Exercise of Urgent Powers Protocol on 8th June, 2020.

The temporary appointment had now come to an end and the Council was in the process of recruiting a Chief Financial Officer on a permanent basis. In the meantime it was necessary to re-appoint the Chief Executive

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

RESOLVED

- (1) That will immediate effect the Chief Executive be appointed s151 Officer.
- (2) That special thanks be extended to Vince Green, the Finance Team and colleagues in Liberata for the work they had undertaken over the past six months, much of which was on top of their day-to-day duties.

13. STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023

The Council's Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 was submitted for consideration. The Plan had been submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee on 25th June, 2020 where it was resolved "that Council be recommended to approve the Council's Strategic Plan for 2020-2023."

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

RESOLVED

That the Council's Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 be approved but it be noted that with the continuing impact of Coronavirus the Plan may need to be reviewed later in the year.

14.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) COVID-19

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord –

This Council expresses its great thanks and gratitude to the bereaved families throughout Pendle who have suffered the loss of loved ones and those now suffering lifelong effects as a consequence of the current epidemic.

This Council expresses its great thanks and gratitude to all the staff at every level of Pendle Council, the County Council, NHS and other health agencies, together with the emergency services, community groups, individual volunteers and all essential workers and their families who are carrying out invaluable roles in the fight against Covid 19, often well beyond the call of duty.

Council also thanks all the citizens of Pendle who have shown such fortitude in the face of unprecedented peace time impacts on their daily lives.

Council declares its determination to stamp out the Covid 19 virus in Pendle working alongside all the other agencies at local and national level.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Job Losses

It was moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Clegg –

Council notes with dismay the announcement by Rolls-Royce that the manufacture of the crown jewels of the company, wide-chord fan blades, is to be offshored to Singapore, with the loss of hundreds of skilled jobs and the knock-on consequences for the supply chain throughout Pendle and beyond.

Council also notes the announcements of thousands of other job losses across Pendle in recent weeks and the consequent grave impact on the local economy across all business sectors.

Council therefore resolves that:

- (1) HM Government is requested to urgently enact legislation prohibiting the offshoring of critically important strategic manufacturing processes such as wide-chord fan blade manufacture (known as the crown jewels of British manufacturing).
- (2) Government urgently provides support for people becoming redundant with a view to retaining people losing their jobs, providing opportunities for young people to gain employment and creating economic conditions leading to new job creation.
- (3) The Chief Executive writes to the MP for Pendle, other Lancashire MPs and other local authorities in the region seeking their support for the above measures.

- (4) Council welcomes the support of Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson in efforts to achieve the above measures.

AMENDMENT

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

Council notes with dismay the announcement by Rolls-Royce that the manufacture of the crown jewels of the company, wide-chord fan blades, is to be offshored to Singapore, with the loss of hundreds of skilled jobs and the knock-on consequences for the supply chain throughout Pendle.

Council also notes the announcements of other job losses across Pendle in recent weeks and the consequent impact on the local economy across all business sectors.

Council therefore resolves that:

- (1) We strongly encourage government to implement legal restrictions on moving any manufacturing processes outside of the UK.
- (2) Government continues to review all aspects of unemployment support and growth initiatives, set against the National and Global impact of Covid-19.
- (3) The Council acknowledges the major commitment shown and given by our MP Andrew Stephenson on the ongoing Rolls Royce issue and would welcome further meetings to include the three Group leaders along with the Chief Executive of Pendle Borough Council to explore all opportunities available.

(A copy of the amendment was circulated prior to the meeting).

In accordance with minute number 5 above a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.

Those Members voting in favour of the amendment were:

Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslalm, N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, S. E. Cockburn-Price, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, C. Lioni, N. McGowan, J. A. Nixon, J. Purcell and G. Waugh.

Those Members voting against the amendment were:

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

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** and it was –

RESOLVED

- (1) That HM Government is requested to urgently enact legislation prohibiting the offshoring of critically important strategic manufacturing processes such as wide-chord fan blade manufacture (known as the crown jewels of British manufacturing).

- (2) That Government urgently provides support for people becoming redundant with a view to retaining people losing their jobs, providing opportunities for young people to gain employment and creating economic conditions leading to new job creation.
- (3) That the Chief Executive writes to the MP for Pendle, other Lancashire MPs and other local authorities in the region seeking their support for the above measures.

In accordance with minute number 5 above a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were:

Councillors M. Adams, M. Ammer, N. H. Ashraf, D. Clegg, V. A. Fletcher, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, M. Sakib, Y. M. Tennant, K. Turner, D. M. Whipp, T. Whipp and S. Wicks.

Those Members voting against the motion were:

Councillors N. Butterworth, R. E. Carroll, S. E. Cockburn-Price, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, C. Lioni, N. McGowan and J. A. Nixon.

The following Members abstained from voting:

Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, M. Goulthorp, J. Purchell and G. Waugh.

(c) Unitary Authority

It was moved by Councillor A. R. Greaves and seconded by Councillor B. Newman –

This Council notes the submission by Lancashire County Council of an outline business case to the Secretary of State for the creation of three Unitary Councils covering Greater Lancashire, following a decision by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the County Council without any consultation with residents of Lancashire, other local authorities or indeed the full membership of the County Council itself.

Council also notes that the proposal put forward also entail the imposition of an Elected Mayor for the whole of Greater Lancashire, with the consequent concentration of powers in the hands of a single person.

Council therefore resolves:

- (1) That the Secretary of State is informed that Pendle Council does not agree to the creation of Unitary Authorities in Lancashire, or the creation of an Elected Mayor for the wider county area (including Blackpool and Blackburn-with-Darwen).
- (2) That the elimination of Covid 19, responding to the fallout from the virus and the health and economic consequences of the epidemic should be the top priority for all tiers of Government, rather than wasting time and energy on such shuffling of deckchairs.
- (3) That other local authorities in Lancashire be informed of the terms of this resolution.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED** and it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute number 5 above a recorded vote was taken on the motion.

Those Members voting in favour of the motion were –

Councillors G. Adam, M. Adams, M. Ammer, N. H. Ashraf, M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, D. Clegg, A. R. Greaves, K. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, D. E. Lord, A. Mahmood, A. R. Mann, J. M. Mills, B. Newman, M. Sakib, Y. M. Tennant, D. M. Whipp and T. Whipp.

Those Members voting against the motion were –

Councillors N. Ahmed, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, S. E. Cockburn-Price, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, J. A. Nixon, K. Turner and G. Waugh.

(d) Climate Emergency

It was moved by Councillor J. Mills and seconded by Councillor M. Adams –

This Council welcomes the publication of the citizens Assembly Summary Report “The Path to Net Zero” published on 10th September, 2020 and in principle broadly supports the recommendations to government contained therein. We also recognise that everyone from the private individual, through voluntary, commercial and industrial organisations and all levels of governance, from local councils to Central Government, have a role to play, if the recommendations are to be achieved.

Council notes the work of the Climate Emergency Working Group in Pendle and the initiatives being taken by the Group in spite of the difficulties caused by the current epidemic.

In particular, this Council –

- (1) Wishes to thank the individual members of the Citizens Assembly for their hard work and diligence in considering the difficult questions posed by the problem of climate change.
- (2) Stands willing to play our part in facilitating a solution and takes responsibility for our own actions which contribute to the problem itself.
- (3) Calls upon our Member of Parliament, along with the higher Civil Authorities, Lancashire County Council and Parliament to adopt with urgency the recommendations of the Assembly.
- (4) Calls upon the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to expedite legislation and funding in order to implement the changes required.
- (5) Calls upon Central Government, without delay, to provide the necessary leadership and guidance to achieve the stated objective of net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, if at all possible.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED** and it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Test, Trace and Isolate

It was moved by Councillor A. Mann and seconded by Councillor D. Whipp –

Council notes with alarm that the chaos in the national test, trace and isolate systems for Covid 19 is contributing to the disease accelerating across the country. Council further notes that the failures of the Government's systems has created a situation where they are locking us into lockdown in Pendle.

Council welcomes the announcement of new measures to support people on low incomes financially with one-off payments, but questions whether the checks proposed to be undertaken by the flawed national tracing scheme through phone calls will provide adequate assurance that those in self-isolation are abiding by the requirement to quarantine and whether the police are adequately resourced to enforce those found to be in breach of the legislation.

Council also notes that people in Pendle are suffering from one of the most restrictive regimes in the country but that the number of reported cases has the greatest increase in those areas with the highest level of restrictions.

Council believes that oppressive regulations are counter-productive to the fight against Covid 19 and are generating mental health issues and undermining social cohesion across the borough. Given the confusion created as a consequence of the different measures in place and the mixed messages, muddle and mismanagement coming from national agencies, Council calls for a fresh start in the fight against the virus.

Accordingly, Council requests the following:

- (1) That Government issue a simple set of principles setting out the steps individuals should take to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus and that this clear guidance underpins efforts to bring the disease under control.
- (2) That the emphasis is on supporting people to live their lives in accordance with the guidance, rather than a reliance on virtually unenforceable regulations and 'Covid Marshals.'
- (3) That Government provide sufficient resources for Pendle Council and its partners to have an effective Test, Trace and Isolate programme involving population screening, targeted individual testing, a local end to end tracing programme and adequate support for individuals required to self-isolate, together with monitoring of such isolation to ensure its effectiveness.
- (4) That the Government implement these changes as a matter of extreme urgency.
- (5) That the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Pendle's Member of Parliament requesting implementation of these proposals without delay.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED** and it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute number 5 above a recorded vote was taken on the motion.

Those Councillors voting in favour of the motion were:

Councillors G. Adam, 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. M. Tennant, K. Turner, D. M. Whipp and T. Whipp

Those Councillors voting against the motion were:

Councillors N. Ahmed, M. Aslam, R. E. Carroll, C. Carter, S. E. Cockburn-Price, V. A. Fletcher, M. S. Foxley, P. J. Foxley, M. Goulthorp, J. A. Nixon and G. Waugh.

His Worship the Mayor _____