

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 29th JULY, 2021**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N. Butterworth – in the Chair)

Councillors

<i>M. Adams</i>	<i>K. Howarth</i>
<i>M. Adnan</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>F. Ahmad</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>D. Lockwood</i>
<i>D. Albin</i>	<i>C. Lioni</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>K. McGladdery</i>
<i>R. Anwar</i>	<i>N. McGowan</i>
<i>N. H. Ashraf</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>M. Aslam</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>R. E. Carroll</i>	<i>J. Purcell</i>
<i>D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>M. Sakib</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>A. Sutcliffe</i>
<i>M. Goulthorp</i>	<i>D. M. Whipp</i>
<i>D. Harrison</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Ansar, L. Crossley and D. E. Lord).



17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

18. MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor J. Purcell and –

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17th May, 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader announced that the Council had been successful in being awarded £25m of Towns Fund to regenerate Nelson. On behalf of the Council he thanked all Council officers who had worked hard to secure this funding.

20. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

21. 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 Z. Ali said that the Leader at the Policy and Resources Committee on 24th June, 2021 said his party's policy was to develop brownfield sites for housing, would the Leader say which brownfield sites he was progressing for housing?

In response the Leader said a bid had been submitted to One Public Estate for the Brownfield Release Fund for £200k for the Bankhouse Road site in Nelson. The Town Deal also included an element of brownfield sites. He said it would also be possible to submit a brownfield bid in the next round of the Levelling Up Fund. Work was also ongoing with the Council's Joint Venture Pearl Together to bring forward the Spring Mill site in Earby (formerly the Country Cottages site).

Councillor M. Iqbal asked what lobbying of Government was the Leader doing to secure additional Levelling Up Funding for Pendle.

The Leader said a bid had been submitted in round one of the Levelling Up Fund amounting to £6.5m for Colne and further bids were possible. He also said he had written to Robert Jenrick MP and Pendle's MP Andrew Stephenson as well as meeting with Andrew in the Town Hall.

22. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Leader responded to questions in relation to the Climate Emergency budget and land at Gib Hill, Nelson.

23. STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Corporate Director submitted a report requesting confirmation of interim appointments to its three statutory officer posts:

- Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
- Monitoring Officer
- Chief Financial Officer

The Chief Executive was leaving the Council at the end of the month and the post of Chief Financial Officer was still vacant. Recruitment to both posts had commenced. In the interim a consultant, Kelvin Turner, had been engaged as the Chief Financial Officer and it was proposed he be appointed as the Interim s151 Officer.

The proposal was also that Philip Mousdale, Corporate Director, stand in as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service and Howard Culshaw, Head of Legal Services stand in as Interim Monitoring Officer.

During discussion of this item Group Leaders acknowledged Dean Langton's contribution to the Council in his roles as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Executive and his lead in the COVID19 pandemic.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor K. McGladdery and –

RESOLVED

- (1) That Philip Mousdale, Corporate Director stand in as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service until an appointment has been made.
- (2) That Howard Culshaw, Head of Legal Services and currently Deputy Monitoring Officer stand in as the Interim Monitoring Officer.
- (3) That Kelvin Turner, a consultant, be engaged as the Council's Chief Financial Officer for the interim as well as the s151 Officer.

24. STRATEGIC PLAN 2020/23 – ANNUAL REFRESH 2021/22

The Chief Executive submitted the Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2023: Annual Refresh 2021-2022 which had been recommended for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee.

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

RESOLVED

That the Strategic Plan 2020-2023: Annual Refresh 2021-2022 be approved.

25. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Corporate Director submitted a report on the Boundary Commission for England's (BCE) initial proposal for new parliamentary constituencies.

The review was bound by the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 and the requirement that constituencies must have an electorate no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. The existing Pendle constituency was outside this range.

The BCE had approached the review on a regional basis. This had resulted in the allocation in the North West of 73 constituencies. The initial proposal for Pendle was that the existing constituency would have added to it the Briercliffe and Lanehead wards from the existing Burnley constituency giving it an electorate of 74,732.

The consultation on the initial proposals was open until 2nd August. Following publication of the comments on the BCE's website there would be a second round of consultation following which proposals would be developed and submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor A. Sutcliffe and –

RESOLVED

That the Council support the initial proposal for Pendle.

26. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED

That Councillor K. McGladdery be appointed Chairman of the Taxi Licensing Committee.

27. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) COVID 19

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

Council notes:

- The 'Big Bang' approach being pursued by the Government in response to the continuing pandemic;
- Persistently high rates of COVID 19 infection in Pendle;
- Relaxing face-covering requirements will add to the spread of the virus. In many occupations, people have no choice about being close to other people and for many there aren't any other protections in place;
- There's no requirement or support for better ventilation in schools and workplaces, or more support for those in isolation;

Council further notes that:

- Over one in five people are under the age of eighteen and haven't generally been offered a vaccination. Some young people will be seriously affected by COVID, including around one in ten who'll suffer from Long COVID.
- Vaccination rates for younger age groups reduced sharply when Government messages said infections for younger people didn't matter;
- Vaccinations are ineffective, or even impossible to administer, for people whose immune systems are compromised, leaving some people without any protection;
- For those with protection from vaccination, a risk from a large reservoir of infections is that natural selection of the virus could lead to the emergence of a strain that gets round vaccine defences;
- More people will get sick, some of them very sick;
- Levels of hospitalisation will continue to increase and an exhausted NHS, struggling to catch up with a backlog of treatments, is likely to become stressed by COVID 19 cases.

Accordingly, Council resolves that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Health and Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson to request that:

- Full vaccination is encouraged and enabled through easily accessible vaccination centres across Pendle;
- Requirements for mandatory face coverings are reintroduced;
- Improvements in COVID secure arrangements, such as ventilation, are required and supported in workplaces, including schools;

Council (29.07.2021)

- And, the Government review its 'hands-off' approach and provide greater clarity about the measures required to reduce the transmission and impact of COVID 19.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor D. Cockburn-Price and seconded by Councillor J Purcell –

COVID 19 has been a challenge for everybody. From not being able to see loved ones to having weeks off work, we have come together as a country in a bid to beat the global pandemic.

Council notes:

- The Government has delivered the fastest vaccine roll-out programme in the world.
- Thanks to Brexit, the UK was free to pursue its own vaccine programme that saw us be free of the slow moving, bureaucracy of the EU's roll-out and as a result, has helped to prevent the deaths of thousands more from COVID 19.
- The fantastic NHS has been instrumental in helping to roll out the vaccines across Pendle and the country and thanks to the efforts of NHS staff, assisted by volunteers and the military, we're protecting millions of people.
- The Government's support for Pendle's local businesses, seeing millions of pounds invested to keep people in jobs and stop businesses from going under.
- The Government is continuing to promote vaccination uptake across Pendle and has provided multiple vaccination centres across Pendle.
- The encouraging reduction in cases in recent days.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, to thank him and his Government for their efforts in helping to secure the fastest vaccine roll-out in the world.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, to thank him for the support the Government has provided to local businesses and to people throughout the Pandemic.
- Write to the Chief Executive of the East Lancashire Hospital Trust and the Chief Executive of Airedale Hospital to thank nurses, doctors and hospital staff for the fantastic work they have done throughout the Pandemic.
- Continue to ensure that vaccinations are available within Pendle and continue to promote vaccination among those parts of the community where take-up is lower.
- Work with all relevant bodies to support a smooth roll-out of booster vaccinations throughout the Borough this Autumn.

RESOLVED

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

(b) Planning Reforms

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

Council notes:

The significant concerns over the Conservative Government's Planning Reforms.

Council (29.07.2021)

Local resident concerns about their reduced ability to object to building works under Permitted Development Rights and Planning in Principle which have been extended under this Government.

Widespread concerns and condemnation of the Planning White Paper proposals across Local Government, The Planning and Architecture Sector and organisations concerned with protecting green spaces and heritage.

Council is concerned that:

Government proposals to deregulate planning will remove the rights of residents to influence or object to inappropriate development where they live.

The Government's proposals will decimate the character of our Borough and give carte blanche to developers to build what they please across large 'zones' without needing planning permission.

Council believes that:

Residents have the right to a say over development that will change the area they live in.

Local councils, in consultation with their businesses and residents are best placed to understand the issues in their area and respond with a spatial strategy tailored to that area.

Council calls for the Government to:

Scrap its Planning White Paper and instead –

- Undertake a wholesale review of Permitted Development Rights and Planning in Principle.
- Make the Bristol-based Planning Inspectorate more accountable to local people.
- Implement stronger controls to ensure Ministers making decisions on planning applications are not connected either financially or personally with the developers or related parties to the application.

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor S. Cockburn-Price and seconded by Councillor M. Goulthorp –

Council notes:

That the Planning White Paper consultation concluded in late 2020 and responses were submitted by the Council and other interested local parties.

That residents have the right to a say over development that will change the area they live in.

Local Councils, in consultation with businesses and residents, are best placed to understand the issues in their area and respond with a spatial strategy tailored to that area.

The Council's Policy is to look to transform derelict and brownfield sites and bring them forward for development.

Council (29.07.2021)

Council resolves to:

- Review the register of Brownfield sites in Pendle that can be targeted for development and create a strong bid for the second round of the Levelling Up Fund as well as seeking other funding sources and mechanisms to address poor viabilities.
- Embrace the digitisation of the planning process, so that more residents can easily view and respond to planning applications.
- After the completion of the town masterplans, work to develop Design Codes for our settlements, so our towns and villages see beautiful, appropriate and sustainable development.
- Champion and support Pendle's settlements in developing Neighbourhood Plans, drawing on the power of grassroots planning.

RESOLVED

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

His Worship the Mayor _____