

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 24th MARCH, 2022**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

*M. Adnan
F. Ahmad
N. Ahmed
D. Albin
Z. Ali
R. Anwar
N. Ashraf
M. Aslam
R. Carroll
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Goulthorp
M. Hanif*

*D. Harrison
K. Howarth
M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
C. Lioni
K. McGladdery
N. McGowan
B. Newman
J. Purcell
M. Sakib
A. Sutcliffe
D. Whipp
T. Whipp*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adams, D. Lockwood, D. Lord and A. Mahmood).



67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

68. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council meetings

69. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

There were no announcements from the Mayor or Leader of the Council.

70. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

71. 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 N. Ashraf asked if the Leader supported the continuance of Area Committees allowing local councillors to deal with local matters, including planning.

In response the Leader said he supported all local representation but we shouldn't pre-judge the transformation process. The governance would be considered along with numerous other issues and it was ultimately a decision for all Councillors to make at the appropriate time.

In a supplementary question Councillor D. Whipp asked the Leader if he agreed that Area Committees provided a vital avenue for local residents to influence decisions within their local areas and that it was crucial that this important link be retained and strengthened in the future and not done away with.

The Leader said he agreed that all meetings were important for the public to be able to attend and to speak on items of interest. He said it was important that the public continue to be offered this option.

Councillor M. Iqbal asked if the Leader agreed with him that mental health of local people had suffered since the COVID pandemic.

The Leader agreed with Councillor Iqbal and thanked the public for their resilience during this difficult time. He referred to the Government's £500m investment in the Mental Health Recovery Action Plan to expand the mental health services. He said this had been a direct response to Covid and the impact of the pandemic itself. It had been aimed at certain groups most affected, such as the young and front line services. He acknowledged that the whole country had suffered but some people had suffered more than others.

In a supplementary question Councillor M. Iqbal asked what areas of work the Council's Mental Health Champion had done over the past twelve months. In response the Leader said it was not just the duty of the Mental Health Champion but a duty for all Councillors to champion the issues of mental health within our communities. He said funding had been distributed to various projects to assist with health and wellbeing.

72. 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 issuing of defective fixed penalty notices by District Enforcement; the implications of events being cancelled by Pendle Leisure Trust; the distribution of the Household Support Fund and progress with the measures to restrict access to car parks in Nelson Town Centre.

73. MAYORALTY

Council were advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 was to be selected from the Liberal Democrat Group.

It was announced that Councillor B. Newman would be the Deputy Mayor for 2022/2023.

74. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23

The Chief Finance Officer submitted for approval the Council's Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23. The document 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. It was noted that the Statement should be read in conjunction with the Council's Capital Strategy which was approved by the Council on 24th February, 2022.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor D. Cockburn-Price and –

RESOLVED

That the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, incorporating the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix A attached to the report be approved.

75. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022

In accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 the annual Pay Policy Statement for 2021 was submitted for approval.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 financial year be approved and that it be published on the Council's website.

76. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2022/2027

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report seeking approval and adoption of the reviewed Pendle Borough Council Contaminated Land Strategy 2022/2027.

The report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 17th March, 2022 where it was resolved "that Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Contaminated Land Strategy 2022/2027, as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report."

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor D. Albin and –

RESOLVED

That the Contaminated Land Strategy 2022/2027, as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be approved and adopted.

77. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

In accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, His Worship the Mayor agreed that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency, the ground being that a decision was needed prior to the next Council meeting as the Scheme was to be implemented from April, 2022.

78. £150 ENERGY REBATE SCHEME

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which set out arrangements for the delivery of the above Scheme.

On 3rd February, 2022 HM Treasury announced an Energy Rebate Scheme for households in England. One element of the Scheme was that households in Bands A-D would receive £150 Council Tax rebate from April, 2022. The rebate was to be administered by each Billing Authority across the area.

It was proposed that Liberata UK be appointed to deliver the Scheme. Timescales on how the Scheme would be delivered were set out in the report.

Some concerns were expressed over various aspects of the delivery of the Scheme.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed, seconded by Councillor D. Whipp and –

RESOLVED

That Liberata UK be appointed to deliver the £150 Energy Rebate Scheme but following on from concerns raised over aspects of the support for customers the Chief Finance Officer be requested to discuss these issues further with Liberata UK.

79. UKRAINE UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update on the Council's response in relation to the situation in Ukraine.

The report provided updates on the setting up of an officer Ukraine Co-ordination Group; refugee schemes, housing and support; energy contact review; cyber security; civic arrangements and communications.

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

RESOLVED

That the arrangements put in place for the Council's response in relation to the situation in Ukraine be noted.

80. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Ukraine

It was moved by Councillor Y. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor Z. Ali -

Council notes:

- (1) The crisis in Ukraine which has led to too many innocent lives being lost as a result of attacks by the Russian regime.

Council (24.03.2022)

- (2) Condemns all attacks against innocent civilians in Ukraine, Palestine, Kashmir and other areas of the world.
- (3) The role of Pendle residents in humanitarian efforts.

Council resolves:

- (1) To write to HM Government to continue to play an increased role to end all conflicts across the world and continue to adopt a fair and level foreign policy approach.
- (2) To stand in unity with fellow humans caught up in conflicts.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Ukraine

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor S. Cockburn-Price –

The Council notes:

The horrific invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the brutality and suffering that it has unleashed. We are proud to be elected representatives of one of this country's democratic institutions. This aggressive assault on a European state that has been building similar democratic institutions over a generation threatens our common values, so we stand in solidarity with all those in Ukraine who are defending both their country and their freedoms.

The Council proposes:

As a sign of our support and commitment to the Ukrainian people, that the Ukrainian flag is raised over Nelson Town Hall.

In addition, we propose a range of pragmatic and practical steps including:

- Urgently review the Council's commissioning activity and our own supply chain to ensure that there is no exposure to Russian interests that could, in any way, help finance President Putin's regime and its aggressive policies.
- In recognition of the fact the current crisis exacerbates a number of the risks that we face as an organisation, review our position regarding our cyber security around our systems and communications.
- Ask LCC to consider the Local Government Pension Scheme's exposure to Russian assets and, where it is possible, to divest those holdings.
- Continue to monitor the current situation as it evolves so that the Council can stand ready to support a multi-agency response across the Borough and County regarding the crisis and the likely influx of Ukrainian refugees.
- Make contact with Pendle's Ukrainian residents and ask them if we can offer their families practical help.

Council (24.03.2022)

- Continue to work closely with the Lancashire Refugee Integration Team at Lancashire County Council, which has formulated an impressive raft of support in schools, employment, safeguarding, family support and is also carrying out property checks, supported by funding from the DLUHC within Government.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____