



MEETING OF THE  
  
**COUNCIL**  
  
TO BE HELD ON  
  
**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**  
  
AT 7.00 p.m.

**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

Minutes of all meetings held since the last Council meeting can be accessed via the Council's website [www.pendle.gov.uk](http://www.pendle.gov.uk) followed by the "Council" tab.

The meeting will also be live streamed and can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@pendlecouncil7565/streams>

Members are reminded that it is now not necessary to submit amendments in writing prior to the start of the meeting. Members are however urged wherever possible to continue to do this so that the effect of amendments can be fully understood.

For further information please contact  
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**ROSE ROUSE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

If you would like this information in a way which is better for you, please telephone us.



اگر آپ یہ معلومات کسی ایسی شکل میں چاہتے ہیں، جو کہ  
آپ کے لئے زیادہ مفید ہو تو براہ مہربانی ہمیں بتائیے۔

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies 2014, people attending open meetings can film, audio record, take photographs or use social media. Oral commentary is not allowed during meetings as it would be disruptive. If you are attending a meeting you need to be aware that you may be filmed by others attending. This is not within our control.



## A G E N D A

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

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

A Member must declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he/she has in any item on the agenda. A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any item may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

In addition the Council's Standing Orders require a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to leave the room where the meeting is held while any discussion or voting takes place.

3. Minutes of Council

**Enc.** To approve as a correct record, or otherwise, the Minutes of

- (a) the Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- (b) the Special Budget Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

4. Councillor Aslam

**Enc.** The attached apology from Councillor Aslam is submitted for information.

5. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader of the Council (if any)

6. Questions on Notice from the Public to the Leader (if any)

7. 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 (if any)

8. Report by the Leader on the Work of the Executive

**Enc.** A report of the Leader on the work of the Executive since the last Council meeting is attached.

9. Report by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on recent overview and scrutiny activity is attached. **TO FOLLOW**

10. Mayoralty

Council is advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2024/25 is to be selected from the Labour Group.

11. Appointment of Director of Resources and s151 Officer

At the Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 members approved the appointment of Damon Lawrenson as Interim Director of Resources and s151 Officer. Interviews have now been held for a permanent appointment and the Interviewing Panel has offered the position to Karen Spencer and she has accepted.

It is anticipated that she will take up the position on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the appointment of Karen Spencer as Director of Resources and s151 Officer be confirmed with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

12. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25

**Enc.** To consider the attached report from the Director of Resources (Interim).

13. Proposed Measures to Improve Taxi Safety

**Enc.** To consider the attached report from the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services.

14. Pay Policy Statement 2023

**Enc.** To consider the attached Pay Policy Statement for 2024.

15. Appointment of Independent Person

To consider the appointment of an additional Independent Person.

16. Notices of Motion

**(a) New Cemetery**

To be moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor C. Church –

Council notes:

- (1) The resolution of Council on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to purchase land for a new cemetery in Nelson (without the benefit of site investigations or environmental studies).
- (2) The inclusion of £1.4m in the capital programme for the cemetery and assurance by the then Leader of the Council on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 that this was for “purchase and work”, and that the cemetery would increase burial spaces from 1,100 to “over 7,000”, providing “70 years” of burial capacity.
- (3) The purchase of the land from Lancashire County Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for the sum of £840,000.
- (4) That subsequent site investigations have now shown that at least one quarter of the site is unsuitable for burials.
- (5) That the number of proposed burial plots has reduced for c6,000 to 4,700.
- (6) That an additional £2m has been included in the capital programme for the cemetery’s development, with a further £1m being required in future, taking total expenditure to £4.4m, equivalent to almost £1,000 per plot.

Council therefore resolves:

That there be an urgent review of the proposed cemetery provision in Nelson with a view to contain costs within reasonable amounts, and that this review be reported to the Council's Executive at the earliest opportunity.

**(b) Gaza**

To be moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor Y. Iqbal -

This Council –

- Expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the continuing conflict in Israel and Palestine. To those in our area who have been affected by this conflict we offer support in this difficult time.
- Condemns the murder of Israeli civilians, the taking of hostages by Hamas and subsequent death and destruction in Gaza. Believes that the urgent priority must be to stop the deaths and suffering of yet more civilians in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine.
- Hopes for an immediate further release of all hostages and release of Palestinian prisoners held without charge and an immediate permanent ceasefire to allow aid, medical assistance and the possibility of a peaceful resolution.
- Believes that the only credible basis for long-term peace is the delivery of a Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel.
- Believes the tragic recent events in Israel, Gaza and Palestine must not be allowed to divide our communities in Pendle.
- Believes Jews, Muslims and people of all faiths and none should feel safe in our borough.
- Condemns the increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence and abuse in the UK and believes all forms of racism have no place in our area.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Reaffirm the resolution of 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- (2) Explore how the Council can better support and facilitate events for people of all faiths and none, where they can come together and express solidarity and sadness in response to these events.
- (3) Offer appropriate support to any local resident who needs assistance as a result of these violent events.
- (4) Stand ready to provide support and open our arms to innocent people displaced and affected by these events.
- (5) To ask all Group Leaders to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs to call on the UK Government to press all parties to agree:
  - An urgent permanent, bilateral ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine and to make every effort to resume the peace process.
  - To guarantee that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws.
  - To allow the Red Cross immediate access to hostages and innocent civilians in Gaza, in order to provide urgent medical aid to the elderly, the sick and the wounded

and to ensure all civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access to medical supplies, food, electricity, fuel and water.

- To call on the UK Government to do all in its powers to support those that are committed to a permanent peace and a two-state solution.

### **(c) Interfaith Funding**

To be moved by Councillor C. Church and seconded by Councillor S. Land –

Council notes:

- The considerable and positive work done by Building Bridges, an interfaith association.
- That Building Bridges brings people of all faiths and none closer together with mutual respect, understanding and cooperation.
- Reports of a concerning rise in hate crimes in the UK, including increased cases of antisemitism and Islamophobia.
- The decision of the UK Government to end all funding for the Interfaith Network for the UK, which will result in the closure of the charity.

Council believes:

- The work of Interfaith Associations has never been more important.
- At this time, every effort should be made to bring faith communities together to tackle the challenges our society faces.
- That it is deeply regrettable that the Government has decided to end all funding for the Interfaith Network for the UK.

Council resolves:

- (1) That the Chief Executive write to the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, outlining this Council's opposition to this decision and urging that it is reconsidered.
- (2) Requests that all Group Leaders write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities supporting the Council's position.
- (3) That Pendle MP Andrew Stephenson is asked to support the Council's representations.

### **(d) Maintenance of Roads and Pavements**

To be moved by Councillor D. Lord and seconded by Councillor M. Strickland –

Council notes:

- The significant problems affecting roads and pavements in recent months.
- That, despite a generally mild winter, the inadequate response to ice and snow caused significant problems for residents in many parts of Pendle with untreated pavements and roads and unfilled grit bins.
- And that road and pavement surfaces are now in a much worse condition than we have seen for many years.

Council further notes:

- That despite claims that extra £millions are being spent on repairs by Lancashire County Council, only four Pendle locations are listed for resurfacing schemes in their recently approved capital programme.
- And that most potholes are being bodged up with bags of cold bitmac, rather than being cut out, filled with hot material and properly sealed.
- That this poor-quality patchwork approach has meant continuing dangers for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Council therefore resolves to seek an urgent member-level meeting with the County Councillor responsible for highways, County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, in order to discuss this Council's very great concern at the condition of our roads and pavements and the inadequacy of the County Council's winter maintenance programme.

#### **(e) Telecommunication Poles**

To be moved by Councillor Y. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor N. Ashraf –

The Council supports the Government's aspiration to provide gigabit broadband access across the nation. Nevertheless, the Council expresses concern over the relaxation of planning regulations by the Government to facilitate the installation of new telegraph poles as "permitted development" to aid the expansion of various networks.

This relaxation has resulted in the construction of many unsightly wooden and steel poles. The Council observes a concerning increase in the number of companies installing telegraph poles throughout Pendle with minimal prior notification.

These poles and masts are seen as unwelcome additions to the already cluttered streetscape, causing significant inconvenience to nearby residents and pedestrians, especially those with visual impairments.

The companies responsible seem to have limited or no communication with the local authority regarding the placement or installation of these poles and masts. Concerns from the public are growing regarding the increasing number of poles being put up.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Instruct the Chief Executive to prepare a report to all Members of the Council to include information on:
  - (a) What powers the Council has to control the activities of the companies responsible.
  - (b) What actions will be taken to minimise the street clutter and inconvenience to the public.
- (2) Ask the Chief Executive to arrange a meeting with the relevant stakeholders for Members of the Council to discuss the concern of residents.
- (3) Carry out a review of several installations to ensure that the work carried out is of satisfactory quality and does indeed fall within the definition of "permitted development" and take relevant enforcement actions against any works which fall short of the required standard.