

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 18th JULY 2024**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor M. Aslam – in the Chair)

Councillors

N. Ahmed
S. Ahmed
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
R. Anwar
C. Church
D. Galleir
D. Hartley
Y. Iqbal
M. Kaleem

D. Lord
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
R. O'Connor
M. Stone
A. Sutcliffe
Y. Tennant
D. Whipp
T. Whipp

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ashraf, N. Butterworth, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, S. Land, K. McGladdery, T. Ormerod, K. Salter and M. Strickland).



16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor D. Whipp declared a non-prejudicial interest during discussions in item 24 as he was a member of the PEARL Board.

17. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 16th May 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

18. COUNCILLOR M. ASLAM

Following a recommendation from the Standards Hearing Committee at a meeting held on 18th October 2023, a written apology from Councillor Aslam was submitted to Members of the Council for information.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor and other members of the Council thanked the retiring Democratic Services Manager, Jane Watson, for her long, unbroken, loyal and dedicated service to the

Council over forty-two years and particularly for the help she had given to each of them in their role as councillors.

Damon Lawrenson the Interim Director of Resources was also thanked for the work he had undertaken, and advice given to members during his time working with the Council, along with everyone's best wishes for the future.

19. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

20. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER, A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

21. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Executive.

22. INTERIM AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 AND 2023/24

Georgia Jones from Grant Thornton Auditors presented their interim report on value for money arrangements taking account of any risks of significant weakness in the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The conclusions were summarised in the report submitted to Council along with key recommendations.

The four key recommendations were set out in the report with any explanation of why, the Auditor's judgement, summary of findings and management comments:

Key Recommendation 1	Financial Sustainability
Key Recommendation 2	Governance – Planning
Key Recommendation 3	Governance – Members
Key Recommendation 4	Governance – Joint Ventures

The report also set out improvement recommendations, based on good practice along with follow-up comments of previous recommendations.

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

RESOLVED

That the Interim Auditor's Annual Report 2021/22 and 2023/24 be received.

24. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2023/24

The Director of Resources (Interim) submitted the refreshed Corporate Plan milestones for 2024/25. The Plan had been before the Executive at its meeting on 30th May 2024 where it was "recommended that the Plan be agreed, subject to the addition/amendment of the following:

Priority 1

- **Continuous Improvement**
Implement actions from the enforcement review – amend “to consider” instead of implement.
- **Governance**
Implement the actions from the Best Value review by external audit – amend “to consider” instead of implement.
- **Waste and Recycling**
Add reference to securing funding from LCC in relation to the management of waste materials and domestic weekly food waste collections.

Priority 2

- **Climate Emergency**
Continue to deliver electric vehicle charging schemes. This initiative had not been implemented so the wording needed to reflect this.
- **Community Safety**
Relaunch of the Domestic Abuse Forum – amend to make it clear working with partners.
- **Bereavement Services**
Add “review of cemetery services with a view to making them financially viable.”
- **Community Cohesion**
To include better links and provision for community cohesion in the Borough.

Priority 3

- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**
Add “Earby” to the first bullet point.
Add “to plan further phases.”
Add “to seek funding support from the County Deal for continued work.”
- **Development Control (add)**
Add a priority that says “develop systems to comply with the new arrangements to ensure timely decisions.”

Priority 4

- **Indoor Leisure Review**
Add “complete phase one of the refurbishment programme currently underway.”
Add “plan/implement energy saving schemes.”
Add “review operational management of the leisure centres.”
- **Health and Wellbeing**
Add “seek to encourage health providers to deliver a health centre in Barnoldswick.”

MOTION

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

That the Corporate Plan Refresh 2023/24 be agreed, subject to the addition/amendment of the following:

Priority 1

- **Continuous Improvement**
Implement actions from the enforcement review – amend “to consider” instead of implement.
- **Governance**
Implement the actions from the Best Value review by external audit – amend “to consider” instead of implement.

- **Waste and Recycling**

Add reference to securing funding from LCC in relation to the management of waste materials and domestic weekly food waste collections.

Priority 2

- **Climate Emergency**

Continue to deliver electric vehicle charging schemes. This initiative had not been implemented so the wording needed to reflect this.

- **Community Safety**

Relaunch of the Domestic Abuse Forum – amend to make it clear working with partners.

- **Bereavement Services**

Add “review of cemetery services with a view to making them financially viable.”

- **Community Cohesion**

To include better links and provision for community cohesion in the Borough.

Priority 3

- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Add “Earby” to the first bullet point.

Add “to plan further phases.”

Add “to seek funding support from the County Deal for continued work.”

- **Development Control** (add)

Add a priority that says “develop systems to comply with the new arrangements to ensure timely decisions.”

Priority 4

- **Indoor Leisure Review**

Add “complete phase one of the refurbishment programme currently underway.”

Add “plan/implement energy saving schemes.”

Add “review operational management of the leisure centres.”

- **Health and Wellbeing**

Add “seek to encourage health providers to deliver a health centre in Barnoldswick.”

AMENDMENT

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

That the Council supports the roll out of air-source heat pumps throughout the Borough.

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

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Plan Refresh 2023/24 be agreed, subject to the addition/amendment of the following:

Priority 1

- **Continuous Improvement**

Implement actions from the enforcement review – amend “to consider” instead of implement.

- **Governance**

Implement the actions from the Best Value review by external audit – amend “to consider” instead of implement.

- **Waste and Recycling**

Add reference to securing funding from LCC in relation to the management of waste materials and domestic weekly food waste collections.

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Continue to deliver electric vehicle charging schemes. This initiative had not been implemented so the wording needed to reflect this.

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- **Development Control** (add)

Add a priority that says “develop systems to comply with the new arrangements to ensure timely decisions.”

Priority 4

- **Indoor Leisure Review**

Add “complete phase one of the refurbishment programme currently underway.”

Add “plan/implement energy saving schemes.”

Add “review operational management of the leisure centres.”

- **Health and Wellbeing**

Add “seek to encourage health providers to deliver a health centre in Barnoldswick.”

25. CONSTITUTION

A draft protocol between the Executive and members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was submitted to Council for consideration and inclusion in the Council’s Constitution.

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

RESOLVED

That the draft protocol between the Executive and members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved and included in the Council’s Constitution.

26. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor M. Stone and Councillor M. Ammer were appointed Vice-Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

27.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) New Government

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

Council notes the result of the General Election and election of MPs for the two new seats covering Pendle, and thanks former MP Andrew Stephenson for his work and congratulates the two new PMs elected for the parliamentary constituencies of Pendle and Clitheroe and Burnley.

Council further notes the continuing impact of austerity on residents in Pendle, with further cuts in services required to produce a balanced budget for future years.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Invite the MPs for Pendle and Clitheroe and Burnley constituencies to an early meeting with the council to discuss issues affecting our Borough.
- (2) Request the Prime Minister and relevant secretaries of state to provide a fair funding settlement for local councils that adequately addresses the level of need, and that the two MPs for the Borough be asked to support this request as vigorously as possible.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____