



MEETING OF THE

**COUNCIL**

TO BE HELD ON

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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://youtube.com/live/Jnulw0nCEWg>

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 the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

4. Member Code of Conduct - Councillor D. Whipp

**Enc.** The Council is asked to consider the sanctions recommended by the Standards Hearing Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

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

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

10. Mayoralty

Council is advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2025/26 is to be selected from the Conservative Group.

11. Capital Programme 2024/25

At a meeting of the Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 it was resolved:

“That Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix C attached to the report.”

**Enc.** Appendix C attached.

12. Environmental Health Enforcement Policy

At a meeting of the Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 it was resolved:

“That Council be recommended to approve the revised Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.”

**Enc.** Report attached.

13. Disabled Facilities Grant Policy

At a meeting of the Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 it was resolved:

“That Council be recommended to approve the revised Disabled Facilities Grant Policy.”

**Enc.** Report attached.

14. Refusal of Driver's Licence: Consideration of the Removal of Section 5.4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy

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

15. Hackney Carriage Licence for Horse Drawn Carriages

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

16. Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition

**Enc.** To consider the attached report from the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services further to recommendations that are made at the Executive meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

The appendices can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:  
<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3349/council>

17. Lancashire Devolution Deal

**Enc.** To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive.

18. Notices of Motion

**(a) Winter Fuel Payments for Pensioners**

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

Council notes:

1. The recent decision by the Labour Government to discontinue universal winter fuel payments, limiting eligibility to only those receiving Pension Credits and similar benefits.
2. That the Government's own statistics show a significant drop in the number of pensioners eligible for winter fuel payments across England and Wales, decreasing from 11.4 million to just 1.5 million.
3. The announcement will negatively affect pensioners in Pendle, who will no longer receive benefits they have previously relied upon.

Council expresses its concern:

1. That thousands of pensioners in Pendle, particularly those on low and middle incomes, will face real hardship due to the loss of the £200 or £300 annual winter fuel payment.
2. The announcement appears to have been a rushed policy decision without a wide-ranging consultation which is being implemented this winter rather than delaying the process. The government's own figures suggest that more than 750,000 eligible pensioners (many of whom are vulnerable) will not apply.
3. That the Energy Price Cap is set to rise by 10% in October, and combined with the removal of winter fuel payments, this will push many local pensioners into fuel poverty.

Council resolves to:

1. Promote an active advertising campaign to encourage pensioners to apply for pension credit if they are eligible.
2. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a reversal of the policy on winter fuel payments.
3. Additionally, request that the Chief Executive write to the two MPs representing the Pendle Council area, asking them to formally support efforts to stop changes to winter fuel payment eligibility.

### **(b) Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty**

To be moved by Councillor M. Stone and seconded by Councillor D. Gallear -

#### **Council Notes:**

- The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.
- The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.

- The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Pendle and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.
- The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.
- The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

**Council believes:**

- That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.
- While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Pendle sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.
- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

**Council resolves to:**

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
- Request that the Council Leader write to the Member of Parliament for Pendle and Clitheroe, urging him to lobby the government for a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and requesting the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
- Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Pendle are supported in claiming their entitlement.

**(c) Winter Fuel Payments**

To be moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor B. Newman -

Council notes that people in Pendle are particularly badly affected by the withdrawal of Winter Fuel Payments because of the levels of fuel poverty, high cost of fuel and poor insulation in many local homes.

Council therefore resolves to urge the Government to reconsider its decision to axe the payments, that the Chief Executive write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer accordingly, and that the MPs for Pendle be asked to support this request.

#### **(d) Misuse of Fireworks**

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

This Council notes that:

1. Over the summer months, there have been many complaints regarding the misuse of fireworks at anti-social times in Pendle.
2. The Council has attempted to address this in the past but now government action is needed.
3. The police have launched an active campaign to highlight the issue, but more preventative measures need to be considered.
4. Applying the same Challenge 25 legislation to fireworks as there is with Alcohol will ensure that less young people will be injured by fireworks.

This Council resolves to:

- Actively promote a public awareness campaign asking residents to submit any video evidence to the police of fireworks being used outside the legally permitted times with a view to enforcement action including fines being issued.
- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- Ask the chief executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and ask him to highlight the issues with local inspectors with a view to taking enforcement action against the perpetrators.
- Arrange a meeting between leaders of groups and the police to encourage a multi-agency response.
- Applying Challenge 25 legislation to the sale of fireworks in Pendle.

#### **(e) Accessible meetings**

To be moved by Councillor D. Lord and seconded by Councillor T. Whipp -

Council notes its responsibility to make reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities, further notes that some speakers at council meetings aren't audible to all those present, and that current arrangements for livestreaming of meetings is due to be reviewed.

Council resolves that the use of microphones and amplification is considered as part of this review, and that such facilities are used in venues equipped with microphones.

## **(f) Electoral Inequalities**

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

Council notes that first Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect the parliaments of more than 80 countries. These countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of both local communities and of the nation.

MPs better reflecting the communities they represent in turn leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. The 2024 General Election saw a government with 63% of the seats in Parliament elected by 34% of the vote. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. Fair, proportional votes also prevent 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is the national policy of the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Reform UK and Women's Equality Party along with a host of Trade Unions and pro-democracy organisations.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its use should now be extended to include Westminster.

This Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections.

## **(g) Healthcare Facilities**

To be moved by Councillor Chris Church and seconded by Councillor Susan Land.

Council notes the emphasis on Neighbourhood Health Centres in the latest Government commissioned report into fixing the NHS. Council also notes the withdrawal of yet another healthcare service in West Craven with the withdrawal of the anti-coagulation clinic from the Park Road Surgery in Barnoldswick, and the continued virtually vacant Newtown "Clinic" in Barnoldswick.

Council reaffirms its previous resolutions on the need for a decent modern Health Centre to serve residents in the West Craven area and resolves that this issue is escalated with the Health Service, and that Pendle and Clitheroe MP Jonathan Hinder is asked to assist secure a new purpose-built facility for the area.

## **(h) Advanced Engineering Economy**

To be moved by Councillor Mick Strickland and seconded by Councillor David Hartley.

Council notes the strength of advanced engineering skills in Pendle and the strong contribution to the local economy.

Council also notes that the bedrock of aero-engineering in the area, Rolls-Royce's Bankfield site in Barnoldswick (where the revolutionary Whittle jet engine was developed), is the subject of significant downsizing through demolition and consolidation.

Council believes that the skills of our area should be harnessed for a fresh revolution in new renewable energy technologies to complement the existing engineering base.

Council resolves to convene a meeting of interested parties to pursue this aim and requests Pendle and Clitheroe MP Jonathan Hinder to support this initiative.