



MEETING OF THE

COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER, 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 followed by the "Council" tab.

The meeting will also be live streamed and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/PAJT1wg85HM>

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
Paul Preston, Democratic Services Manager
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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 26th September 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 28th October 2024.

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. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023-24

Enc. The annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its work during 2023-2024.

11. Review of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers

At a meeting of the Executive on 28th November, 2024 it was resolved:

(1) That the report be received and noted by the Executive; and

(2) That report be referred to Full Council for consideration and for Full Council to provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations following a scrutiny review of the Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers following this meeting.

Enc. A report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached.

12. Fees and Charges 2025/26

Enc. To consider the report of the Director of Resources. **(REPORT TO FOLLOW)**

13. Pendle Council Concessionary Rents Policy

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources.

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

At a meeting of the Executive on 31st October, 2024 it was resolved:

"That Executive endorses the proposed changes and recommends to Council that the following wording be incorporated into Section 5:4 of the Council's taxi policies:"

"Further applications will not normally be granted until 12 months have elapsed from the original refusal/revocation."

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

15. ACE Centre Air Conditioning System

At a meeting of the Executive on 28th November, 2024 it was resolved:

(1) "A recommendation to Council that the addition to the Capital Programme of the ACE Centre Air Conditioning system, at a total cost of £150k be approved"; and

(2)" Recommended that Council approves a supplementary Capital Estimate (unfunded) to be spent during 2024/25 of £104k and accepts the contribution from Nelson and Colne college of £46k (funded by Town Deal Grant).

Enc. To consider the attached report from the Director of Resources.

16. Notices of Motion

(a) Taxi App

To be moved by Councillor M Iqbal, MBE.

1. Council notes the decision of the meeting of 21 March 2024 to force through the introduction of the taxi App with a deadline of February 2025 for taxi drivers to use.
2. Council also notes that out of almost 900 drivers registered in Pendle only 3% of taxi drivers have signed up and are using the App.
3. Council notes the lack of partnership working with the taxi trade which has led to the breakdown in trust of the council.

Council resolves

- To scrap the taxi app with immediate effect and instructs the taxi licensing committee to enter into meaningful dialogue with hackney and private hire representatives to address safety of vehicles serving the people of Pendle.

(b) Increase in Poverty for Many Families Across Pendle

To be moved by Councillor R Anwar.

Council notes with regret the decision of the current Labour government to continue to increase poverty for many families across Pendle hit by the decision of the previous Conservative government to introduce the benefits cap at 2 children.

Council resolves to

- Write to HM Government and both Pendle Members of Parliament, Oliver Ryan MP & Jonathan Hinder MP to seek a reversal of this decision to help struggling families across Pendle

(c) Local Government Reorganisation

To be moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley

Council notes the Government's White Paper due to be published on 16th December setting out their intentions with regard to local councils in our area and other two-tier areas.

Council also notes the proposal drawn up by one of Pendle's MPs to create a monster council covering the whole of East Lancashire including Blackburn with Darwen unitary authority, and that the MP had no discussions with local councillors in Pendle before submitting the proposal.

Council reaffirms its previous resolutions on local government reorganisation and reiterates its requests that local services and facilities continue to be provided by truly local councils sensitive to the needs of, and accountable through the ballot box to, local residents.

Council believes that reorganisation ensuing from the White Paper will have significant short- and medium-term financial costs, not savings, that the impact on services will be severely detrimental, and that attention to problems affecting residents will be diverted into LGR discussions.

Accordingly, Council resolves to work with neighbouring authorities to achieve the best possible outcome for local people with respect to the structure of local governance, and requests Pendle's two

MPs to work alongside this council to achieve this aim.

(d) Homelessness

To be moved by Councillor D. Lord and seconded by Councillor C. Church

Council notes the huge increase in the need for temporary accommodation in Pendle in recent years, with the number of people affected growing almost exponentially and the cost increasing from £5,540 in 2018 to £303,262 in the last financial year, with a net cost to the council over the past four years of £863,000, and that more people than ever are being affected currently.

Council further notes that this is an issue affecting people and councils across the country, and that grant aid from central government for temporary accommodation is woefully short of actual expenditure.

Furthermore, Council notes that increasing numbers of vulnerable people are becoming homeless in Pendle, even though the borough has a significant number of long-term vacant properties.

Council resolves:

1. To ask Pendle's MPs to support requests for adequate funding to address homelessness in the current and future financial years;
2. That Overview and Scrutiny be requested to carry out a review of homelessness, including its causes and options for local solutions;
3. That Lancashire County Council be requested to review its Adult Social Care policies and procedures around vulnerable people at risk of homelessness.

(e) Planning Reform, Housing Numbers and the Draft Local Plan

To be moved by Councillor T. Whipp and seconded by Councillor S. Land

Council notes:

- The publication of the Government's 'Planning Reform paper- Planning Committees' and statements by the Deputy Prime Minister;
- Reports from the planning manager that this authority's performance in determining planning applications is top class;
- The completion of the final consultation on the draft Local Plan prior to its examination in public by an inspector;
- The demands by Government for an annual housing target in Pendle that's more than double the number of homes;
- The number of long-term vacant properties in Pendle.

Contrary to the views of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Deputy Prime Minister, Council believes that the input of residents' observations and that of local representatives on planning matters leads to better decision making, and that national delegation would fundamentally undermine accountability and any respect of the planning process.

Council believes that the imposition of housing targets well in excess of the numbers required by demographic growth will lead to a damaging distortion of the local housing market and needless destruction of green fields in our borough, particularly in view of the affordable terraced properties widely available in Pendle and neighbouring authorities. Also, that the Government proposals will

favour development of executive houses but do little to boost the construction of truly affordable homes and social housing.

Council resolves that this authority respond accordingly to the consultation on planning reform and liaises with like-minded and neighbouring councils on the matter, and that Pendle's two MPs are asked to support this council's views.

(f) M65 Safety

To be moved by Councillor B. Newman and seconded by Councillor M. Strickland

This Council notes:

- a. That in 2023 the M65 was estimated to be handling circa 75000 journeys per day. An increase of circa 15% since 2013.
- b. The spate of major incidents on the M65 this year, which has included two fatalities.
- c. that Highways England are considering the removal of all remaining lighting on the M65.
- d. That flooding is a significant safety concern, particularly on the LCC maintained section through Pendle.

This Council resolves to write to National Highways, Lancashire County Council, the Secretary of State for Transport, and the local MPs to:

- 1. request an urgent review of the general safety of the M65 given the frequency of accidents, with a view to assess this stretch of motorway for safety improvements, including but not limited to the need for lighting, with the aim of enhancing road safety, reducing accident risks and ensuring the wellbeing of all road users;
- 2. reject any proposal that removes any of the remaining lighting on the M65;
- 3. request that funding be provided to conduct a feasibility study and secure investment to bring back lighting to sections of the M65 where it has been removed, to improve safety and reduce the risk of accidents;
- 4. Request that Lancashire County Council takes effective action to mitigate the risk to road users from the frequent flooding of the M65.