

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 19th DECEMBER, 2024**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

<i>M. Adnan</i>	<i>M. Iqbal</i>
<i>F Ahmad</i>	<i>Y. Iqbal</i>
<i>N. Ahmed</i>	<i>M. Kaleem</i>
<i>S. Ahmed</i>	<i>S. Land</i>
<i>Z. Ali</i>	<i>D. Lord</i>
<i>M. Ammar</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>R Anwar</i>	<i>B. Newman</i>
<i>N. Ashraf</i>	<i>R. O'Connor</i>
<i>C. Church</i>	<i>M. Strickland</i>
<i>D. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>M. Stone</i>
<i>S. Cockburn-Price</i>	<i>A Sutcliffe</i>
<i>D. Gallear</i>	<i>Y Tennant</i>
<i>M. Hanif</i>	<i>D. Whipp</i>
<i>D. Hartley</i>	<i>T. Whipp</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Butterworth, K. McGladdery, T. Ormerod and K. Salter).



45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor D. Whipp declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute number 48 as he was the subject of this Member Code of Conduct hearing and left the Council Chamber whilst the matter was considered.

Councillor M. Adnan declared disclosable pecuniary interests in minute numbers 47 and 56 as he held a taxi driver's licence.

46.

MINUTES

Note: Prior to the consideration of this item, Council's attention was drawn to the need for the inclusion of Resolution 4, Minute 42 – Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition in the minutes now submitted for approval, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council prior to this meeting, which had been inadvertently omitted from the version of the draft minutes circulated previously with the agenda papers for this meeting.

It was moved and seconded and –

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th September 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

47.

NOTICE OF MOTION (MOTION (a) – TAXI APP)

(Note: This item was brought forward with the agreement of the Council, in view of 30 persons in the Public Gallery attending to observe the discussions and outcome of this matter).

(a) Taxi App

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by F. Ahmad –

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.

Councillor D Whipp moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor T. Whipp, for the deletion of the words "force through the introduction of the taxi App with a deadline of February 2025 for taxi drivers to use," and inserting "implement stronger taxi safety measures"; deleting "Council notes the lack of partnership working with the taxi trade which has led to the breakdown in trust of the council."; and deleting, "To scrap the taxi app with immediate effect and instructs", and insert, "request", and add, "including the introduction of digital vehicle safety checks as previously agreed."

The amended resolution to now read:

1. Council notes the decision of the meeting of 21 March 2024 to implement stronger taxi safety measures.
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.

Council resolves to:

Request 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, including the introduction of digital vehicle safety checks as previously agreed.

Councillor Y. Iqbal commented on the motion and the amendment raised. He concurred that safety was paramount and must be at the forefront of the Council's decision making. However he added he had always been against the introduction of the App and felt there were other and better options to explore as a way forward. He also referenced the Taxi Licensing Policy in Wolverhampton and that Pendle drivers could apply for a licence there which would allow them to drive anywhere in the country, including Pendle where there would be no requirement for them to use the App.

Councillor D. Lord commented she used taxis on a regular basis and remarked on some examples of excellent customer service she had received. However, she stressed that the mechanical safety of taxis she or indeed other members of the public travelled in was crucial.

Councillor N. Ahmed commented and also agreed that taxi safety was paramount. He responded to Councillor M. Iqbal's motion and expressed the view that the use of the words "forced through" in point 1 of his motion was incorrect and he would not be supporting the motion. He also challenged the actual current number of drivers using the App. He added that any dispute was between the trade and the current shared administration. There had been a lack of progress on safety. He added he could not support the amendment put forward by Cllr D Whipp either.

Councillor R. O'Connor spoke and commented that he used to be a taxi driver for 23 years in the Bradford area. At that time, there was an MOT and a taxi test and if there was an issue you would get it fixed. He added he currently worked as a truck driver, and his first job each day was a fifteen-minute check he had to undertake of the road worthiness of the vehicle. He added that if there was a serious problem, the vehicle was immediately taken off the road. He supported the retention of the App.

Councillor M. Stone commented he was not convinced listening to the discussion about the App. He welcomed the discussions about safety and the opportunity to engage with the Trade.

His Worship the Mayor commented that he was an MOT tester by profession and commented on safety of vehicles.

Councillor Z. Ali, commented on that further dialogue needed to be had between the taxi trade and Council. He added the App wasn't the answer and should be scrapped and added his support to Councillor M. Iqbal's motion.

Councillor Ash Sutcliffe commented and referenced vehicle safety and vehicle safety checks. He added the need for more detailed digital training could be added to Cllr D Whipp's proposed amended motion as a friendly amendment.

Councillor D. Hartley commented that whilst he did not use taxis himself, his daughter used them with her three young children for some journeys. He stressed all taxis needed to be

safe. He supported the use of the App and the need to work with it and towards achieving 100% safety for all taxis.

Councillor D. Whipp responded to Cllr A. Sutcliffe's friendly amendment to his moved amendment for the inclusion of appropriate training to be offered to drivers.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment put forward by Councillor D Whipp was carried. This motion then became the substantive motion.

Councillor M. Iqbal further responded to the further comments raised by Members. He added he still stood by his amendment but was happy to delete the words "force through" in point 1 of the wording of the Motion.

Councillor N Ahmed proposed a further amendment to the substantive motion for the Council to introduce a mandatory paper checklist to be introduced by end of February, 2025.

Councillor Y Iqbal stated he couldn't support the motion now being put forward by Councillor Ahmed.

Councillor D. Whipp felt the amendment put forward by Councillor N. Ahmed was out of order and sought legal advice from the Council' Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer added that the effect of his amendment was to negate the motion and in accordance with the Council's Constitution was out of order.

Councillors M. Ashraf, Y. Iqbal, A. Sutcliffe and N. Ahmed further commented.

His Worship, the Mayor, however overruled the advice of the Monitoring Officer and allowed Councillor N Ahmed's amendment to be put forward and voted on. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment put forward by Councillor N. Ahmed was lost.

Councillor M. Iqbal then put forward a further amendment to the substantive motion of Councillor D. Whipp. He added and proposed that in regard to the resolution it should read: request the Taxi Licensing Committee to enter into meaningful dialogue with hackney carriage and private hire representatives to address the safety of vehicles serving the people of Pendle and deleting the wording after that. The addition of a further resolution that the implementation of any App or substitute is suspended until the outcome of meaningful dialogue with the trade.

Councillor Y. Iqbal seconded Councillor M Iqbal's further amendment and spoke to the further motion. Councillors Z. Ali and S.Cockburn-Price further commented.

Councillor M. Iqbal requested a named vote, which was seconded to be taken on the amendment to the substantive motion. The vote was as follows:

A recorded vote on the above amendment was taken and was as follows:

For: 14	Councillors F. Ahmed, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A. Mahmood, M. Stone, Y. Tennant
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Against: 13	Councillors C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, R. O'Connor, M. Strickland, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstain 1	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam

The above amendment, as carried, then became the substantive motion and was voted on as follows:

For: 14	Councillors F. Ahmed, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A. Mahmood, M. Stone, Y. Tennant
Against: 13	Councillors C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Gallear, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, R. O'Connor, M. Strickland, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstain 1	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam

RESOLVED

Council resolves to:

- (a) Request 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; and
- (b) that the implementation of any App or substitute is suspended until the outcome of meaningful dialogue with the trade was known.

48. MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT - COUNCILLOR D. WHIPP

Following a recommendation from the Standards Hearing Committee at a meeting held on 28th October, 2024, Council was asked to consider the sanctions recommended by the Standards Hearing Committee with regard to the Member Code of Conduct and Councillor David Whipp.

RESOLVED

That the outcome of the Standards Hearing be accepted.

49. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Both His Worship the Mayor and Councillor A. Mahmood, Leader of the Council referenced that Rose Rouse, Chief Executive would be leaving the Council's employment in Spring, 2025 to take up a promotional opportunity at another Local Authority, thanked her for her work and achievements at Pendle BC and wished her well for the future.

His Worship the Mayor provided Council with the following verbal update on engagements and visits he had undertaken since the last Full Council meeting:-

“As Mayor of Pendle I have continued to be busy in the local community since the last Council meeting in September. I have been visiting and talking to those involved in numerous initiatives throughout Pendle.

It is an honour to work with the young people of the Borough. At the end of September, I participated in a charity McMillan Coffee Morning at St. Philip’s Primary School in Nelson.

In October I was a Community Judge at a First Give Charity Event at Pendle Vale College. It is brilliant that the charity First Give supports the young people to gain the knowledge and skills to make a real difference to the local community in Pendle.

The young people of Pendle continued to be a focus when The Mayors of our two twin towns, Creil and Marl visited the Borough for a couple of days to mark two significant milestones. The purpose of the visit was to advance joint working projects between the towns. With much of the joint twinning working focussing on young people, there was a visit to the Pendle Youth Employment and Skills (YES) Hub.

We also visited Pendle Community High School and College. Creil and Marl are keen to make links between Pendle Community High School and College and Pendle YES Hub and similar organisations in their towns.

The Mayors were also very interested in learning about some of Pendle’s initiatives, such as our Bin It, Don’t Dump It! Campaign, Climate Fresk and Beat the Street.

I attended the Inside-Out Pendle Climate Change Event at Colne Muni recently and I will be attending a Beat the Street Celebration Event.

Moving on from a focus on young people to the wider community, it was a privilege to attend the Let’s Be Foundation Intergenerational Tea Party in October. Last weekend I attended the Christmas Fair at Favordale Home for Older People in Colne. This was to raise money for Favordale’s residents for entertainment and trips out, for example.

It was an honour to attend Pendleside Hospice Corporate Challenge Awards in November where Pendle Council won ‘Best Newcomer’ Award.

Pendleside Hospice is one of mine and The Mayoress’ chosen charities, as is Armed Forces Support Group in Barrowford.

It was an honour to lay the Council’s wreaths at a number of Remembrance Sunday services across Pendle alongside Pendle veterans.

It was also an honour to attend the Freemanship of Foulridge Certificate Ceremony of Paralympian Gregg Stevenson, a former veteran.

I recently supported another event which Gregg Stevenson was invited to – A Children in Need fundraiser at Asda in Colne.

This is just a fraction of the activities I’ve participated in since the last Council meeting in September. It is a privilege to highlight organisations that are doing a great job for the people of Pendle”.

50. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

51. 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.

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

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

The Leader of the Council commented on his report and decisions made since the last ordinary meeting of Council. He also highlighted the following notable achievements in the period October – December, 2024 including a Partnership Summit held on 8th November, 2024 attended by more than 20 partner organisations, facilitated by Prof. Kersten England, CBE; Pendle Vision Board held on 15 November, 2024, where businesses discussed the impact of the budget; and winning at the Lancashire Insider Property Awards for Northlight.

Councillor N. Ahmed asked a question regarding the Further Clough Head Infrastructure works and whether Lancashire County Council (LCC) had accepted responsibility for and to meeting the full expenditure cost of the embankment work and the potential cost implications to the Council? In response, the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council provided verbal updates. LCC supervised work then said after signing it off the work, the cost to this Council was £30k.

Councillor M. Stone commented on the Council's worsening financial position of £547k in year. Councillor D. Whipp commented the position was a consequence of the failure of the previous Pendle Conservative administration regarding the Levelling Up fund scheme in Colne and particularly the Pendle Rise revenue costs that totalled £500k. The Shared Administration was trying to economise when it could now whilst still trying to provide services.

Councillor D Whipp commented on the provisional local government financial settlement and Central Government grant to Pendle BC and asked the Leader if the Council if he agreed that central Government had let Pendle BC down? He also referred to the impact of national Insurance changes.

Councillor A. Mahmood, Leader responded to a question from the Pendle Vision Board meeting and the feedback from businesses on the impact of the budget.

53. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Chris Church, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report on the work of the Committee.

Councillor N. Ahmed, commented that he was disappointed that Executive did not discuss in detail the review of the Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste containers.

54. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Councillor Chris Church, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023/24.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and noted.

55. REVIEW OF BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND REPLACEMENT WASTE CONTAINERS

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

- (1) "That the report be received and noted by the Executive"; and
- (2) "That the 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".

Councillor D Whipp stated that the Liberal Democrat group supported a cap on free replacement wheelie bins of no more than one a year and free bulky waste collections of no more than 8 items a year.

The Leader of the Council responded that he did not support the introduction of charges but was supportive of the cap on replacement wheelie bins of no more than one a year and bulky waste collections of no more than 8 items a year as now raised by Cllr D. Whipp, as outlined above.

It was moved and seconded that –

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste be received.
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations be noted, but that the recommendations for introducing charges as set out in the report are not accepted;
- (3) That a cap on free replacement wheelie bins of no more than one a year and free bulky waste collections of no more than 8 items a year be approved.

56. FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26

The Council considered the report of the Director of Resources.

Note: further to consideration of the Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste report (Minute 55 above), Bulky Waste and Waste container charges were not introduced, as outlined at paragraph 2:3 of the submitted report.

Councillor D. Whipp moved, seconded by Councillor D. Hartley, an amendment that in respect of cemeteries, these charges should be increased by 5%.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

It was then moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded that the Fees and Charges for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix B to the submitted report, including those in relation to Pest Control as set out in paragraph 2:3 of the submitted report, be approved and implemented.

RESOLVED

That the Fees and Charges for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix B to the submitted report, including those in relation to Pest Control as set out in paragraph 2:3 of the submitted report, be approved and implemented.

57. PENDLE COUNCIL CONCESSIONARY RENTS POLICY

The Council considered the report of the Director of Resources.

Councillor D. Whipp moved an amendment that the proposed resolution 2 should include delegated authority including himself as the Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor N. Ahmed commented on and welcomed the policy and agreed with the proposed amendment to the resolution put forward by Councillor D. Whipp.

Councillor A. Sutcliffe also commented.

It was moved and seconded to approve the report and approve the Concessionary Rents Policy to consolidate the Council's approach for community / voluntary organisations requesting rent concessions as Council commercial property tenants

RESOLVED: That the Council:

- (1) Approves the Concessionary Rents Policy (Appendix 1 of the submitted report), this Concessionary Rents Policy to then be the reference point for future decision making; and
- (2) Delegates Authority to the Director of Resources and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to allow a further reduction if the organisation provides a service that the Council would otherwise be required to fund and resource.

58. REFUSAL OF DRIVING LICENCE: CONSIDERATION OF THE REMOVAL OF SECTION 5:4 FROM THE TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The report of the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services was submitted which asked Council to consider the removal or amendment of Section 5.4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy.

At the meeting of 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”

It was moved and seconded and –

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the amendment to Section 5:4 from the Taxi Licensing Policy with the incorporation of the following wording: “Further applications will not normally be granted until 12 months has elapsed from the original refusal/revocation”.

59. ACE CENTRE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM

The report of the Director of Resources was submitted.

At the meeting of 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) Recommend 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).

Councillors N. Ahmed and A. Sutcliffe commented on the report.

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood, seconded by Councillor Z. Ali and –

RESOLVED:

(1) That the addition to the Capital Programme of the ACE Centre Air Conditioning System at a total cost of £150k be approved; and

(2) 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).

60. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Taxi App

See Resolution at Minute 47 above.

(b) Increase in Poverty of Many Families Across Pendle

It was moved by Councillor R. Anwar and seconded by Councillor Z. Ali -

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 and Jonathan Hinder MP to seek a reversal of this decision to help struggling families across Pendle

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(c) Local Government Reorganisation

(Note: With the agreement of Council, an amended version of this Notice of Motion from that circulated with the agenda was verbally outlined to Council by Councillor D. Whipp as set out below.)

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

This week we have seen the publication of the Government's White Paper and its Orwellian world of a centric and status Government. The White Paper is tantamount to the status of local democracy. The White Paper says that new Unitary Councils should be formed with populations ideally of half a million people. Coincidentally, one of our two MPs published a paper actually calling for that Greater Blackburn Monster Authority to be created for the Government to follow his wishes. The MP had no consultation with any Councillors he was aware of with any Councillor in Pendle nor with the leadership in Burnley.

Council resolves:

To reaffirm its previous position opposing the creation of such monster Councils and 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 the White Paper will have significant short term and medium-term financial costs, not savings. That the impact on services will be severely detrimental and will create a massive democratic deficit with power being centralised further away and into fewer hands.

The attention and problems affecting residents will be diverted into local government reorganisation discussions.

Accordingly, Council resolves to work with neighbouring authorities, Burnley, Rossendale and Ribble Valley to achieve the best possible outcome for local people with respect to the trust of local governance and we request Pendle's two MPs to work alongside this Council to achieve this aim.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Homelessness

(Note: With the agreement of Council, an updated version of this Notice of Motion, as detailed below, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting was considered.)

It was 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, that more people than ever are being affected currently, and that the additional Government funding of £126,000 recently announced falls far short of the amount being spent on this service in Pendle.

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 continues to be 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

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

It was 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(f) M65 Safety

It was 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____