

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 27th FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

M. Adnan
F. Ahmad
N. Ahmed
S. Ahmed
Z. Ali
M. Ammer
R. Anwar
N. Ashraf
C. Church
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
M. Hanif
D. Hartley
M. Iqbal

Y. Iqbal
M. Kaleem
S. Land
D. Lord
A. Mahmood
B. Newman
K. Salter
M. Strickland
M. Stone
A. Sutcliffe
Y. Tennant
D. Whipp
T Whipp

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Butterworth, D. Galleary and R. O'Connor)

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63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

64. RECORDED VOTES

Members were reminded that in accordance with Rule 19.4 of the Procedure at Full Council all votes on budget issues would be recorded. This included all motions and amendments.

65. STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with normal practice the Council suspended Rule 16.3 of the Procedure at Full Council to allow Group Leaders to speak on minute numbers 67 and 68 for longer than five minutes.

66. REVIEW OF THE MECHANICAL STREET CLEANSING (COMPACT SWEEPERS SERVICE)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report.

At a meeting of the Executive on 30th January, 2025, 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 in respect of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service.

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor B. Newman that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations following a scrutiny review in respect of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service be not accepted.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 9	Councillors C. Church, D. Hartley, Y Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, M. Strickland, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 19	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A Mahmood, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant

67. GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2025/26 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST (2025/26 TO 2027/28)

The Director of Resources submitted a report which proposed General Fund Revenue and Capital budgets, and other related matters for 2025/26 and considered the Medium-Term Financial Forecast for 2025/26 to 2027/28.

Attached at Appendices A, B and C respectively to the report were details of reserves; service level budgets; and capital programme.

Members were advised to take this report into account when making decisions on the 2025/26 budget and associated level of Council Tax. Statements from the Director of Resources (as the Council's Section 151 Officer) were set out in the report.

Councillor D. Whipp introduced and put forward the Liberal Democrat group's budget proposals.

Councillor N. Ahmed introduced and put forward the Conservative group's budget proposals.

Councillor A. Mahmood introduced and put forward the Independent Group's budget proposals.

(The meeting was adjourned at 9.15pm and reconvened at 9.35pm).

Upon the resumption of the meeting, Councillor D. Whipp announced two of the political groups had come to an agreement and moved an amendment to the Liberal Democrat budget motion proposed as follows:

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

- To remove the waste transfer station: £2.21m for that project in the Capital Programme;

The £2.21m to be allocated as follows:

- For Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) for empty properties/homes - £600k;
- For works in the public realm, Barnoldswick, Brierfield and Earby - £210k;
- Additional Investment in Leisure Facilities and energy savings and other improvements - £750k;
- Feasibility Study and Design work on a crematorium - £100k;
- Asset Transfer Investments - £300k;
- Investment in Bio-Diversity net gain, Marsden Golf Course/Gibb Hill - £250k

In terms of the Liberal Democrat revenue budget, it was as stated in the circulated in the budget proposals with the addition of £50k for the apprenticeship scheme and £100k for the Community Sports Funding and the removal of increased cemetery fees increase of £37k.

Councillor A. Mahmood' seconded the motion also moved a further £30k be included towards the Save our Lives campaign. Councillor D Whipp further responded that this element had not been agreed to by his group and that Nelson and Brierfield Area Committee should fund this local campaign.

(The meeting was adjourned at 9.55pm and reconvened at 10.05pm).

Upon the resumption of the meeting, Councillor D. Whipp put forward a further proposal that if the £30k towards the Save Lives campaign was to be included then the £37k towards increased cemetery fees be also included. This was not accepted and Councillor A. Mahmood withdrew his seconding of the motion.

Councillor D. Whipp, seconded by Councillor T. Whipp then moved:

- To remove the waste transfer station: £2.21m for that project in the Capital Programme;

The £2.21m to be allocated as follows:

- For Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) for empty properties/homes - £600k;
- For works in the public realm, Barnoldswick, Brierfield and Earby - £210k;
- Additional Investment in Leisure Facilities and energy savings and other improvements - £750k;
- Feasibility Study and Design work on a crematorium - £100k;
- Asset Transfer Investments - £300k;
- Investment in Bio-Diversity net gain, Marsden Golf Course/Gibb Hill - £250k

In terms of the Liberal Democrat revenue budget, it was as stated in the circulated in the budget proposals with the addition of £50k for the apprenticeship scheme and £100k for the Community Sports Funding and the removal of the increased cemeteries fees..

Councillor M. Iqbal then proposed a further amendment, seconded by Councillor M. Hanif that £30k towards the Save Lives campaign be added.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 12	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A Mahmood, Y. Tennant
Against: 14	Councillors N. Ahmed, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Hartley, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Strickland, A. Sutcliffe, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstentions: 2	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillor M Stone

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price put forward a further amendment, seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal towards a portfolio of Conservative group budget proposals including a financial contribution towards recruiting a Conservation Officer; Marsden Golf Course - £100k; and a contribution from Nelson Town Council towards use of premises.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 8	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Kaleem, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe,
Against: 19	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M Strickland, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstentions: 1	Councillor D. Hartley,

A vote was then taken on Councillor D. Whipp's original motion, as seconded by Councillor T. Whipp.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 8	Councillors C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, M Strickland, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 20	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A Mahmood, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant,

(The meeting was adjourned at 10.45pm and reconvened at 11.00pm).

Upon the resumption of the meeting, Karen Spencer, Director of Resources addressed Council and said that if a budget was not to be set this evening, then Members would need to return on Monday 3rd March to agree a budget. She also advised Members of the costs that would be incurred if Council Tax bills which were due to be printed on Tuesday 4th March were not printed on that date.

Mr H Culshaw reminded Members that they needed to vote to continue the meeting beyond 11pm in accordance with the Constitutional rules.

It was moved by Councillor N. Ahmed and seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal and resolved by majority vote to continue the meeting beyond 11pm.

Councillor D. Whipp moved and Councillor S. Land seconded the Capital Programme as previously put forward be approved.

Councillor M. Iqbal moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor M. Hanif to agree the Capital Programme less the £2.21m

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 22	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M Strickland Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 3	Councillors S. Cockburn-Price, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe
Abstentions: 3	Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price, K. Salter

An amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley that £600k be included for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for empty properties/homes in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 28	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Strickland, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 0	

A further amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley that a sum of £210k be included for works in the public realm, Barnoldswick, Brierfield and Earby in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 20	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M Strickland Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
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Against: 6	Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe
Abstentions: 2	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillor M. Kaleem

A further amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord that a sum of £750k be included for additional Investment in Leisure Facilities and energy savings and other improvements in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 19	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M Strickland D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 0	
Abstentions: 9	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors N. Ahmed M. Kaleem. D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price K. Salter, M. Stone and A. Sutcliffe and Y. Tennant,

A further amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley that a sum of £100k be included for a feasibility study and design work on a crematorium in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 12	Councillors C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, K. Salter, A. Sutcliffe, M Strickland D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 13	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A Mahmood, Y. Tennant.
Abstentions: 3	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors N. Ahmed and M. Stone

A further amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley that a sum of £250k be included for investment in Bio-Diversity net gain, Marsden Golf Course/Gibb Hill in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 8	Councillors C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, M Strickland D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 14	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A Mahmood, M. Stone, Y. Tennant.

Abstentions: 6	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, K. Salter, and A. Sutcliffe,
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A further amendment to the substantive motion was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood that a sum of £500k be included for Asset Transfer Investments in the 2025/26 budget.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 19	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, A Mahmood, K. Salter, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant.
Against: 8	Councillors C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, M Strickland, M. Stone, D. Whipp, T. Whipp.
Abstentions: 1	B. Newman

The Director of Resources summarised the changes as now voted on for the Capital Programme as voted on for each individually amendments as above which now became the substantive motion.

This was the Capital Programme for 2025/26 as circulated with the agenda papers ahead of this meeting, with the following amendments as now voted on: plus £600k for CPO; plus £210k public realm; plus £750k for Leisure Assets; minus £2.21m for the waste transfer station; plus £500k for asset transfers -

The substantive motion was then put to the vote:

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 21	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M Strickland, Y. Tennant. D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 4	Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe,
Abstentions: 3	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam, S. Cockburn-Price and K. Salter

Councillor D. Whipp moved a motion, which was seconded that the General Fund Revenue Budget, as outlined in the Liberal Democrat Budget proposals to the budget line that did not include the £100k towards the golf course proposals.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 8	Councillors C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, M Strickland, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
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Against: 19	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price M. Hanif, M. Kaleem, Y. Iqbal, A Mahmood, K. Salter, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant
Abstentions: 1	M Iqbal

Councillor D. Whipp moved a motion, which was seconded, regarding the pay award but agreed to withdraw that. Councillor M. Hanif moved a motion, seconded by Councillor Z. Ali that everything above the EPR Budget line as detailed in the Liberal democrat proposals be agreed.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 21	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, M. Strickland, Y. Tennant, D Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 6	N. Ahmed, K. Salter, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe
Abstentions: 1	M. Kaleem

Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor M. Hanif moved an amendment to include £80k for grass roots sports

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 25	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price; M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, M. Kaleem, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, K. Salter, M Strickland, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Against: 2	Councillors S. Cockburn-Price and M. Stone,
Abstentions: 1	A. Sutcliffe,

Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor M. Hanif moved an amendment to include £60k for the apprenticeship scheme.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

For: 13	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A Mahmood, Y. Tennant,
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Against: 13	Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, K. Salter, M Strickland, M. Stone, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstentions: 2	M. Kaleem, A Sutcliffe

His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam, with the votes tied 13-13, used his casting vote in favour of ("For") this motion.

Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Z. Ali moved an amendment to include £27k for Saving Lives (to be split £9k each for Brierfield, Colne and Nelson Town Councils).

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 12	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, N. Ashraf, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, A Mahmood, Y. Tennant,
Against: 15	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price C. Church, D. Hartley, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, K. Salter, M Strickland, M. Stone, A Sutcliffe, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
Abstentions: 1	M. Kaleem,

Councillor D Cockburn-Price moved, seconded by Councillor K. Salter an amendment to include £30k towards a Conservation Officer.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 8	Councillors N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price, D. Hartley M. Kaleem, K. Salter, M. Stone, A Sutcliffe,
Against: 16	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, C. Church, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, A. Mahmood, M Strickland, D. Whipp
Abstentions: 2	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Y. Tennant,

Councillor D Cockburn-Price moved, seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed referenced the Corporate Plan and the many complaints from residents about the amount of litter and dog mess, moved that a share of profits from a new and more accountable clean streets contract aligned to the Corporate Plan, generating savings of approximately £30k.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 9	Councillors His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and N. Ahmed, R. Anwar, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price, M. Kaleem, K. Salter, M. Stone, A Sutcliffe,
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Against: 18	Councillors M. Adnan, F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, C. Church, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, A. Mahmood, M Strickland, D. Hartley Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp
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Councillor D Cockburn-Price moved, seconded by Councillor referenced the Nelson Town Council and paying its fair share for the use of Nelson Town Hall – £25k per year.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost.

For: 9	Councillors His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and N. Ahmed, D. Cockburn-Price; S. Cockburn-Price, D. Hartley, M. Kaleem, K. Salter, M. Stone, A Sutcliffe.
Against: 17	Councillors F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, C. Church, M. Hanif, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, B. Newman, A. Mahmood, M Strickland Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp

MOTION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Medium-Term Forecast position for 2025/26 to 2027/28 and the savings required over the period of the forecast be approved.
- (2) That the Liberal Democrat Group's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2025/26, as amended by Council above in the preamble to these minutes be approved, attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes.
- (3) That a Band D Council Tax for 2025/26 of £307.52 be approved, being an increase of £8.93 (2.99%) on the current level of Council Tax.
- (4) That each Service be required to operate within its budget for 2025/26 once approved, and be subject to regular monitoring and control.
- (5) That the use of reserves to support the 2025/26 revenue budget be approved. The approved budget amendments required £498k from reserves to balance the budget.
- (6) That the proposed capital programme for 2024/25 as shown in Appendix C, attached to the report, be approved with the following amendments as agreed by Council: plus £600k for CPO; plus £210k public realm; plus £750k for Leisure Assets; minus £2.21m for the waste transfer station; plus £500k for asset transfers.
- (7) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources, to determine the most appropriate method of financing the capital programme for 2025/26 to ensure the use of resources is optimised by the Council.

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the Council Tax Resolution.

MOTION

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif:

That the Council Tax calculations 2025/26 and the Council Declaration, as set out in Appendix 3 attached to these Minutes be approved.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

For: 20	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M Aslam and Councillors F. Ahmad, N. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, K. Salter, M Strickland, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe,
Against: 2	Y. Iqbal, Y. Tennant,
Abstentions: 3	C. Church, D. Whipp, T. Whipp

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 64 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

69. LOCALISATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER POLICIES FOR 2025/26

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the Localised Scheme of Support for Council Tax and other Collection Fund Policies for 2025/26.

MOTION

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

- (1) That the Council Tax Support Scheme (attached to the report as Appendix A) and the Reduction in Council Tax Liability Policy (attached to the report as Appendix B) be approved for implementation from 1st April 2025.
- (2) That War Pensions be fully disregarded as income when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit.
- (3) That the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Enforcement Policies (attached to the report as Appendices D and E) be approved from 1st April 2025.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

In accordance with minute 64 above a recorded vote was taken on this issue.

For: 22	Councillors F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, Z. Ali, M. Ammar, R. Anwar, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, D. Hartley, M Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, D. Lord, A Mahmood, B. Newman, K. Salter, M. Strickland, A. Sutcliffe, Y. Tennant, D. Whipp, T. Whipp.
Abstentions: 3	His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M. Aslam and Councillors N. Ahmed and M. Stone

70. NOTICE OF MOTION – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MOTION – RE: COUNCILLOR T ORMEROD

His Worship, the Mayor, Councillor M. Aslam, informed Council following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and noting now former Councillor T. Ormerod had resigned as a member of Pendle Borough Council since the dispatch of this agenda, ruled the Notice of Motion Out of Order.

71. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive submitted a report which advised the Council of the recruitment process underway to recruit to the role of Chief Executive following the resignation of the current Chief Executive, Rose Rouse.

The report also sought approval for the interim arrangements set out in the report to apply following the departure of the current Chief Executive until a new Chief Executive was in post.

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

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

- (1) That progress on the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive was noted; and
- (2) That the appointment of Lawrence Conway to the interim position of Chief Executive including designation as Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer be approved.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) The Council's current chief executive, who is also the Council's Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, resigned in December 2024 and is due to leave the Council towards the end of March 2025. Following her resignation, the Council has commenced the search for a new chief executive. The recruitment process will take several months, so an experienced interim chief executive is required; and

(2) The recommendations ensure interim arrangements are in place to secure leadership and designation of the statutory roles during the period between the departure of the current chief executive and commencement of the employment of the new postholder.

His Worship the Mayor _____

- Appendix 1 (a) – Liberal Democrat Budget proposals
- Appendix 1(b) – Conservative Budget proposals
- Appendix 1(c) – Independent Budget proposals
- Appendix 2 – Council Agreed Budget - Capital
- Appendix 3 – Council Agreed Budget - Revenue
- Appendix 4 – Council Tax Resolution