



MEETING OF THE

COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 27th MARCH, 2025

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/0GvZMU48Vsw>

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
paul.preston@pendle.gov.uk

LAWRENCE CONWAY, INTERIM 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. Presentations of Petitions – 1,600 signature Petition to be presented to Council by Mr Ian Chapman – Re: Renewable Energy and Battery Storage Facilities

In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution, Paragraph 10 – Presentation of Petitions, a member of the public may present a petition on any matter relevant to the Borough on giving notice to the Chief Executive at least seven clear days before the meeting.

The presentation of the petition shall take place as soon as practicable at the start of the meeting.

The person presenting the petition may speak for up to five minutes in support of the petition.

4. Minutes of Council

Enc. To approve as a correct record, or otherwise, the Minutes of

- (a) the Council meeting held on 19th December 2024;
- (b) the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29th January, 2025; and
- (c) the Special Budget Council meeting held on 27th February 2025.

The appendices to the minutes of the Special Budget Council meeting held on 27th February 2025 can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3407/council>

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.

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. Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

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

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3407/council>

11. Pay Policy Statement

Enc. To consider the attached Pay Policy Statement for 2025.

12. Prohibited Types and Dangerous Dogs Policy

At its meeting held on 20th March, 2025, the Executive was recommended to adopt the Prohibited Types and Dangerous Dogs Policy and for the report be sent to Council for approval.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Assistant Director, Operational Services

13. O&S Recommendations – Member Code of Conduct

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16th January, 2025 it was resolved following the work of a Task and Finish Group - Implementation of the Member Code of Conduct:

That the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group be agreed and Council be recommended to approve the following -

- (1) That Council notes the proposed changes to the Hearings Panel Hearing Procedure and approves the revised procedure as set out as an appendix to the report.
- (2) That Council adopt the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct in full, without amendment.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

14. Changes to Scheme of Delegation - Exercise of Powers Relating to Land

At the request of both Directors, Council is asked to re-delegate the below powers, currently delegated to the Director of Place, to the Director of Resources. It is more appropriate for these powers to be exercised by the head of the Resources Directorate, because as the title implies, the administration of property matters now rests there.

15. To agree terms and enter into leases at Market Rent of land and buildings and to negotiate and agree all new and ongoing terms relating to such agreements.

16. Disposal of land and building – to agree terms and sell any land or buildings of the council at Market Value up to a value of £100,000 which are declared surplus to requirements in accordance with criteria and procedures agreed from time to time by the Executive.

17. Acquisition of land - to agree terms and acquire the freehold or leasehold of any land and buildings where the estimated Market Value of the freehold up to £100,000 or annual rent does not exceed £10,000.

18. To settle all compensation payments in connection with the compulsory acquisition of land.

15. Notices of Motion

(a) Protecting Disability Benefits and Defending the rights of Disabled Residents

To be moved by Councillor M. Iqbal

Council notes:

The Labour Government is proposing severe cuts to disability benefits, which will have a detrimental impact on disabled residents across Pendle.

These cuts include:

- Restricting access to Personal Independence Payment (PIP): This would make it harder for disabled people to receive essential financial support to cover the extra disability costs, such as therapies, treatments, and specialist equipment
- Forcing disabled people into unsuitable work: Moving thousands of people currently too ill to work into the main Universal Credit category, meaning they will lose financial support and face sanctions if they turn down work that could worsen their health.
- Reducing and freezing benefit rates: Freezing PIP rates and cutting the Limited Capability for Work element of Universal Credit effectively reduces the income of disabled residents even if they meet tougher eligibility criteria.

Council believes:

- That these cuts violate the Labour Government's manifesto pledge to fully co-produce disability benefits rules with disabled people and their organisations.

- These changes do not support disabled people into employment but instead remove financial lifelines from some of the most vulnerable members of our community.
- These measures will further entrench poverty, inequality, and social isolation among disabled residents across Pendle, many of whom are already struggling with the cost of-living crisis.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions expressing this Council's opposition to the proposed cuts and calling for meaningful co-production with disabled people in shaping disability benefits policy.
- Work with local disability organisations to assess and publicly report on the impact these changes will have on disabled residents in our community.
- Call on both Pendle MPs to oppose these cuts and raise concerns in Parliament about their impact on disabled constituents.
- Explore ways to support disabled residents locally, including signposting them to advice, advocacy services, and hardship funds.

(b) Pendle Priorities

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

Council notes the impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on the short and medium-term priorities of the authority and the consequent need to re-set strategies in light of the new circumstances, and the risk that consideration of LGR will distract attention from the pressing problems currently facing residents in Pendle.

Council also notes that the advent of unitary councils on a much larger footprint than the present Pendle boundaries will result in an erosion of local control over services and facilities used by residents across the borough, and that the council has a well established programme of service and asset transfer to town and parish councils

Council therefore resolves that the interim Chief Executive be requested to review the Corporate Plan as a matter of urgency, with a view to an updated plan being agreed at the Annual Council in May, and that the new plan includes as a priority an accelerated programme to localise assets and services important to local people, rather than see them become transferred to a remote successor authority with the consequential reduction in local influence over them.

(c) National Health Service

To be moved by Councillor A. Bell and seconded by Councillor C. Church

Council notes that life-expectancy and health outcomes for many people in Pendle are much lower than in other parts of the country; that inadequate preventative and primary care, including shortages of GPs, Dentists and Pharmacists, continue to have a negative impact on the health of local residents, and that there's a chronic crisis in acute services with over-run A&E departments and failing hospital trusts.

Council also notes the recently announced changes to the administration of the NHS together with the reported halving of budgets of Integrated Care Boards.

Council welcomes any changes to NHS structures that result in better health care, but expresses concern at budget reductions which will lead to a continued spiral of decline of treatment for Pendle residents.

Council is also concerned at: the apparent lack of local democratic input in the reforms that have been announced; continued gross underfunding of social care; the failure of successive Governments to tackle inadequate cross-border patient information communication; and, the inadequacy of primary health facilities, particularly in West Craven.

Council resolves to instruct the chief executive to relay the concerns of the council to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and that Pendle's MPs are asked to support the council's position on these issues.

(d) Planning and Infrastructure Bill

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

Council notes that the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will effectively remove the ability of local residents to influence the outcome of development proposals, and that the role of elected representatives in planning matters will be significantly eroded as the Bill stands.

Accordingly, Council resolves to request Pendle's MPs to support residents' rights to comment on planning applications and take part as at present when applications are decided, and that the MPs also support the continued input of locally elected representatives in planning matters.

(e) Road and Pavement Repairs

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

Council notes the continued downward spiral in the condition of local roads and pavements, despite claims that record amounts are being spent on resurfacing, and that the administration at County Hall has consistently failed to deal with priority issues in Pendle during the eight years it's been in control.

Council also notes that pavement improvements are being carried out in some Pendle townships despite Lancashire County Council's refusal to fund work, and that the work, funded by Pendle Council and with UKSPF monies puts LCC's efforts to shame with their short-lived patchwork potholing approach.

Therefore, Council resolves to put on record its dismay at the continuing unsatisfactory state of pavements and streets in Pendle and the wasteful pothole bodging, and that the county council be advised accordingly.

(f) Taxi Safety

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

Council notes that it's now three months since the use of an 'app' to record daily safety checks on taxis was suspended, pending "meaningful dialogue" with hackney and private hire representatives to address the safety of vehicles serving Pendle residents.

Council also notes that the absence of adequate national standards for taxi licensing, the subsequent "shopping around" for licenses at different councils, and the inadequate controls inherent in the current system severely undermines confidence in taxi-safety. It's also noted that new structures in local government may lead to different arrangements being put in place.

Council resolves that a detailed report on these taxi-safety issues is presented at the earliest opportunity to the Taxi-licensing Committee, and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the current local and national arrangements as soon as possible.