

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 14th MAY 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmood (Chair)

Councillors

*M. Adnan
M. Iqbal*

Also in attendance:

Cllr C. Church

Officers in attendance

<i>Lawrence Conway</i>	<i>Interim Chief Executive</i>
<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Karen Spencer</i>	<i>Director of Resources</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Z. Ali and M. Hanif)

Members of the public attending - 0



147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

148. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

**149. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2027 AND ACTION PLAN 2025-2027
(INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)**

The Leader of the Council, as a background to this item, reminded the Executive that at the meeting of Council held on 27th March, 2025, via an agreed motion, the Interim Chief Executive was instructed to review the existing Corporate Plan 2023-2027 and its corresponding key actions, with particular reference to the Transfer of Assets to Town and Parish Councils within the context of Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

Councillor C. Church Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended the meeting. He informed Executive that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the same report

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and appendices as those submitted to the Executive the previous evening and had scrutinised and assessed the draft changes made to the Corporate Plan 2023-27 and its corresponding action plan. Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee had been requested to provide both feedback and recommendations to this Meeting and the Full Council meeting on 15th May, 2025.

Councillor C. Church then reported back as follows:

The O&S Committee had reviewed the proposed revisions to the existing Corporate Plan, undertaken by the Interim Chief Executive at the instruction of Full Council in March 2025.

The original remit was to overlay the potential requirements of Local Government Organisation throughout the plan, and to undertake a more pro-active position on the Transfer of Assets to Town and Parish Councils.

At the O&S Committee meeting, the Interim Chief Executive outlined those proposed changes, along with a refresh of the existing priority themes and actions, to bring the Plan fully up to date. The O&S Committee was given a full briefing of all the proposed draft changes, as contained in the report, along with the reasoning behind each of the proposed changes.

Starting with the Corporate Plan itself, the O&S Committee had raised a number of questions and points, for example, the necessity to include the Transfer of Assets to Town and Parish Councils under Priority 2, rather than just another action in the action plan. Furthermore, the O&S Committee wished to see the inclusion of the expansion of existing cemetery sites, rather than just one named site.

The O&S Committee agreed that these particular points must be included in the Corporate Plan final version. The Committee had no further questions or comments on the proposed draft Corporate Plan and therefore agreed to the changes as suggested.

The O&S Committee then considered the Action Plan 2025-27. The Interim Chief Executive again outlined the proposed changes and rationale behind the suggested changes, explaining each under their respective Priority Theme.

The O&S Committee asked a series of questions and comments, which were answered satisfactorily by the Interim Chief Executive, for example, the Action Plan must clearly state what it is, as no definable title existed in the draft, and this might result in a lack of clarity when referring to the document in future.

The O&S Committee also discussed the removal of the commencement of work on a new Local Plan, whilst the existing new Local Plan was currently being inspected, and the outcome was not yet known. This could be re-inserted at a future date if required.

As there were no further questions, the O&S Committee agreed that the proposed changes should be received and agreed as written, with reference to the action plan title issue being adopted.

Further discussion then took place with the Committee and Interim Chief Executive as to whether any of the actions may need additional visibility and monitoring in light of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the Council's financial sustainability.

At the meeting, it was suggested by the Interim Chief Executive that the following actions receive further attention and monitoring to ensure the Council's continued ability to deliver on its priorities and be best placed to tackle Local Government Reorganisation:

Priority 1 Providing High Quality Services and Facilities

Financial Resilience

Continue to deliver a balanced three year medium term forecast whilst delivering effective services and identify savings as part of service improvements.

This would be done via the Budget Working Group, with reports to Full Council in due course.

Local Government Reorganisation

Submit final proposal with neighbouring authorities as per Council preferred options.

It was suggested that this take place via a cross-party working group to monitor the work that needs to be undertaken in a timely manner to allow the Council to make its decisions based on all the information available.

Liberata Contract

Agree and begin delivery of the Customer Contact Strategy

Agree and begin delivery of the IT strategy

Deliver the workforce Strategy

Governance

Complete the review of the Constitution

Transfer of Assets

Implement the next wave of asset transfers

It was also suggested by the Interim Chief Executive that a new item be added to cover Member Learning and Development events and opportunities to increase knowledge with regards Local Government Reorganisation and its potential future impacts.

Priority 2 Proud and Connected Communities and Places

Confident Communities

Continue to develop the Pendle Partnership and support related actions

Community Cohesion

Deliver the new Community Cohesion and Community Engagement Strategies and action plans.

Priority 3 Good Growth

An ambitious Local Plan

Proceed with the examination and adoption of the Local Plan

Links with Local Businesses

Establish a skills and employment framework

Carry out a business confidence survey

Priority 4 Housing and Healthy Communities

Health and Well-being

Work with Pendle's Health and Well-being Partnership to deliver its priorities

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were satisfied with the answers received and agreed that the suggested changes made to the draft action plan be accepted and adopted.

The Leader of the Council and Executive Members thanked Cllr Church for his Committee's detailed feedback and welcomed and endorsed the recommended changes as now put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for submission to Full Council for its consideration at its meeting to be held on 15th May, 2025.

The Leader of the Council added that the Corporate Plan was a key document, along with the Council's Constitution and Local Plan, that would enable Pendle BC to identify, deliver and influence others in the pursuit of Pendle's communities' needs and aspirations.

The four Council priorities remained a solid foundation to work on and the vision to work towards. There was the suggestion that to clearly identify these priorities in our own minds, in the minds of our community and partners, that the Plan is renamed the Council Plan. This would engender a greater sense of ownership across all areas of work and all partners, and was easily identifiable as our plan for our communities.

Executive agreed that it should be recommended to Full Council that the plan as now proposed should cover the period up to and including 2028, so to avoid the costs of updating and preparing a whole new plan for one single year, due to the potential impacts of LGR. Regarding the Action Plan, we agree it should be reviewed and updated each year, and that this should not affect any of the outcomes in our Priority themes, but would also enable the Council a further year to achieve them.

With regards to the action plan, this would remain the Council's action plan for the period up to 2027.

In summary, all these changes would put Pendle BC on a clear path to whatever the Council's collective future may hold; and would be the narrative the Council uses with all our partners to collaborate in achieving our priorities and actions.

It was moved by Cllr A. Mahmood and seconded by Cllr M. Iqbal and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Executive thanks the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Officers for their consideration and feedback.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

- (2) That the Executive endorses the comments and recommendations as put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and for those comments and recommendations as outlined in the preamble of these minutes to be submitted to Full Council requesting approval.

Chair _____