

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 13TH MAY 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor C. Church (Chair)

Councillors

*D. Gallear
S. Land
Y. Tennant*

Officers in attendance

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Lawrence Conway</i> | <i>Interim Chief Executive</i> |
| <i>Karen Spencer</i> | <i>Director of Resources</i> |
| <i>Sarah Astin-Wood</i> | <i>Head of Policy and Commissioning</i> |
| <i>Lynne Rowland</i> | <i>Committee Administrator</i> |

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Stone.)



31. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

32. REVIEW OF CORPORATE PLAN 2023-27 AND ACTION PLAN 2025-27

Following a review of the existing Corporate Plan 2023-2027 and its corresponding key actions, as requested by Council, the Interim Chief Executive submitted a report; updated draft Council Plan Priorities 2025-2028; and updated draft Council Action Plan 2025-2027. The Interim Chief Executive attended the meeting to present the proposals. The 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.

It was explained that the Corporate Plan, proposed to be renamed the Council Plan, was the key strategic document, along with the Constitution and Local Plan, to provide an overarching vision and delivery of the Communities and Council's priorities. It was proposed that the new Council Plan be extended to 2028 to take into account the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). However, the Council Action Plan would continue to 2027 and would be annually updated.

The Committee was invited to scrutinise and assess the draft changes and provide feedback and recommendations to the Executive and Council.

It was noted that, by not considering or adopting the updated plans, the Council may be at risk of not achieving its priorities and may not be prepared for the potential implications of the LGR. It was expected that the financial expenditure for any work associated with the LGR and Devolution could be in the region of £1m to £1.5m which was not yet factored into the Council's financial statements.

The Committee considered the information provided, starting with the Corporate Plan. It was noted that the Council request for a review of the existing Plan and corresponding key actions had asked for particular reference to be made to the transfer of assets to town and parish councils. Although the implementation of the next wave of asset transfer was a key action for 2025-26, there was no specific reference in the Council Plan priorities. It was therefore requested that this be included under Priority 2 of the Council Plan.

Members also commented on the reference to a new cemetery site under Priority 2 of the Plan. It was felt that this statement could be expanded further to take into account other sites within Pendle. It was therefore suggested that the statement include 'and the expansion of existing facilities'.

There were no further questions or comments on the Corporate Plan, so the Committee then moved on to consideration of 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 lack of a definable title to the Plan was noted and was agreed that a title be added to ensure there would be no lack of clarity when referring to the document in future.

A recommendation to remove the commencement of work on a new Local Plan, whilst the existing one was being inspected, was accepted and was acknowledged that this could be brought back at a future review if felt necessary.

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 –

- **Priority 1 Providing High Quality Services and Facilities**

Financial Resilience

Continue to deliver a balanced 3-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 needed 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 review of the Constitution.

Transfer of Assets

Implement the next wave of asset transfer.

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 plan.

- **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 Wellbeing Partnership to deliver its priorities.

RESOLVED

That, having scrutinised and assessed the proposals and being satisfied with the answers received, this Committee agrees with the suggested changes to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027 and its corresponding action plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be recommended to accept and adopt the suggested changes to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027 and its corresponding action plan and agree the priority actions as detailed above, for approval by Council.

CHAIR _____