

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 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  
M. Atkinson  
A. Bell  
N. Butterworth  
C. Church  
D. Cockburn-Price  
S. Cockburn-Price  
D. Gallear  
M. Hanif  
D. Hartley*

*M. Iqbal  
Y. Iqbal  
M. Kaleem  
S. Land  
D. Lord  
A. Mahmood  
B. Newman  
R. O'Connor  
K. Salter  
M. Stone  
M. Strickland  
A. Sutcliffe  
Y. Tennant  
D. Whipp  
T. Whipp*



**1. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH**

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor D. Whipp, supported by Councillors M. Kaleem and Y. Iqbal –

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor M. Ammer be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

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

**2. MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor A. Mahmood and –

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**3. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR**

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

**RESOLVED**

That the best thanks of the Council be hereby tendered to Councillor M. Aslam and his Mayoress Mrs S. Aslam for their services as Mayor and Mayoress during their term of office.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor M. Stone, seconded by Councillor B. Newman, supported by Councillor S. Ahmed and –

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor N. Ahmed be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**5. MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE**

**MOTION**

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

**RESOLVED**

That an allowance of £6,130 be paid to the Mayor for the purpose of enabling him to meet the expenses of the office and that such allowance be paid to the credit of the Mayor at the Council's bankers and any credit balance remaining at the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council be re-appointed to the Council's account.

**6. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Mayor reported that he had appointed Reverend Lorelli A. Hillyard and Imam Quari Khalid Mehmood to the office of Mayor's Chaplain for the Municipal Year 2025/26 and duly signed such appointments to the Council.



*The time having reached 6.40 p.m. the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned and there was a short break to allow the Mayors guests to leave the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 7.00 p.m. The Mayor welcomed Councillor M. Atkinson, the newly elected Councillor in the Vivary Bridge Ward to her first meeting of Council.*



**7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

*(At this juncture, Councillor M. Iqbal requested the Mayor to agree to a short adjournment to allow Political Group Leaders' further time to hold discussions and come to an agreement regarding the appointment of a Leader of Council. The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes).*

*The meeting reconvened at 7.15pm*

**8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE**

**(a) Appointment of Leader**

It was moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, seconded by Councillor D. Lord and –

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor D. Whipp be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**(b) Appointment of Deputy Leader**

The Leader of the Council announced that the Deputy Leader of the Council would be Councillor A. Mahmood for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**(c) Appointment of Executive**

The Leader of the Council reported that his Executive would comprise himself and three other Liberal Democrat Councillors; three Independent Group Members (comprising the Deputy Leader and two other members of that Group) and the Leader of the Conservative Group.

**9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989  
POLITICAL BALANCE RULES**

It was reported that, whenever the allocation of seats on Committees was reviewed, the Council was required to apply the statutory political balance rules. The rules applied to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Development Management Committee, Licensing Committee, Taxi Licensing Committee, Accounts and Audit Committee and the Employment Appeals Committee, the Standards Hearing Committee and the Senior Management Appointments Committee. They did not apply to the Area Committees or the Executive.

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

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **10. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

### **(a) Appointment to Committees**

Council considered the appointment of Members to Committees for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

### **MOTION**

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

That the following be agreed:

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (b) Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
- (c) Taxi Licensing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 7 Members
- (d) Employment Appeals Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 3 Members
- (e) Standards Hearing Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (f) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 9 members
- (g) Development Management Committee – a politically balanced Committee of 12 members
- (h) Senior Management Appointments Committee - a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (i) Area Committees – not politically balanced

## **11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COMMITTEES**

### **(a) To appoint the Chair of Committees**

The Leader of the Council offered the Conservative Group the opportunity to put the name forward of a Councillor to be appointed a Chair of the Accounts and Audit Committee. The Conservative Group declined the offer. The Leader of the Council then put forward Councillor R. Anwar for the Chair of that Committee.

The Leader of the Council thereafter also proposed, which was seconded, that Councillor M. Adnan (Chair, Development Management Committee); Councillor Y. Tennant (Chair, Licensing Committee); Councillor C. Church (Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee), adding that two Vice-Chairs should also be appointed to this Committee; Councillor D Whipp (Chair, Senior Management Appointments Committee); and Councillor B. Newman (Chair, Taxi Licensing Committee) be appointed.

Councillor Y. Iqbal proposed an amendment, seconded by Cllr S. Ahmed that Councillor N. Ashraf be appointed Chair of the Taxi Licensing Committee. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried 15-14 (the Mayor used his casting vote in favour of Cllr Ashraf). This amendment was voted on as the substantive motion and carried

### **MOTION**

It was then moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D. Lord that the Chair of the following Committees be agreed as:

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee – Councillor R. Anwar
- (b) Development Management Committee – Councillor M. Adnan
- (c) Licensing Committee – Councillor Y. Tennant
- (d) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor C. Church
- (e) Senior Management Appointments Committee – Councillor D. Whipp
- (f) Taxi Licensing Committee – Councillor N. Ashraf

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**12. APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS**

The Leader of the Council introduced this item and proposed, which was seconded by Councillor M. Iqbal, that Governance Working Group be renamed the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group and be cross -party representing the four political groups on the Council with a 2:2:2:1 membership

**MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor A. Mahmood and seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed that –

The following Working Groups be appointed for the Municipal Year 2025/26 -

- (a) Climate Emergency Working Group – 7 Members (3 Conservatives :2 Independent Group: 2 Liberal Democrat Members).
- (b) Local Government Reorganisation Working Group – 7 Members (2 Conservatives :2 Independent Group: 2 Liberal Democrat; 1 Pendle True Independents Member).

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**13. DATES AND TIMES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2025/26**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor M. Ammer seconded by Councillor N. Ahmed –

- (1) That meetings of the Full Council be held on the following dates:

19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Extraordinary) – 6pm  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Special Budget)

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 (Annual Council)

- (2) That the dates of other meetings set out on the attached schedule be approved.

In respect of the dates of other meetings, Councillor D. Whipp added the following caveat be included regarding the venue(s) for meetings of the Development Management Committee as follows: "That meetings of the Development Management Committee be normally held at Nelson Town Hall but that where there is a major application (such as for 65 houses or more) in a locality in the Borough, then the Development Management Committee should be held for that meeting at an appropriate venue within that locality.

Upon being put to the vote, with the caveat included re: venue location as now outlined above, it was –

## **RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

## **14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **(a) Appointment to Organisations and Associations**

## **MOTION**

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

That the following amendments to the schedule be agreed:

### **Organisation**

### **Representative**

Airedale General Hospital Foundation Trust  
Burnley and Pendle Citizens Advice Bureau  
Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale CVS Board

Councillor C. Church  
Councillor M. Hanif  
Councillor M. Hanif  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor R. Anwar  
Councillor B. Newman

District Councils Network  
District Early Years Development and Childcare Forum  
Forest of Bowland National Landscape Joint Advisory Committee

Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor N. Ahmed  
Councillor A. Mahmood  
Councillor D. Whipp

Growth Lancashire Ltd.  
Joint Venture Brookhouse Group

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price  
Councillor M. Hanif  
Councillor A. Mahmood  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor C. Church

Joint Venture Company (PEARL Board 1, PEARL Board 2,  
PEARL Brierfield Mill and PEARL Together)

LCC Health Scrutiny Committee

## Annual Council (15.05.2025)

Lancashire Leaders  
Lancashire Police and Crime Panel  
LCC Lancashire Waste Partnership  
Local Government Association  
(a) General Assembly  
(b) Voting re: Lancashire Leaders Group  
Nelson Town Deal Board

Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor Z. Ali  
Councillor D. Whipp

North Western Local Authorities Employers Organisations  
Pendle Community Safety Partnership Steering Group

Councillor N. Ahmed  
Councillor M. Iqbal  
Councillor A. Mahmood  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor A. Mahmood  
Councillor Z. Ali  
Councillor D. Lord  
Councillor A. Sutcliffe  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor B. Newman

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Board  
Pendle Leisure Trust Board

Councillor – 1 x Cons Member  
Councillor-1 x Lib Dem Member  
Councillor – 1 x Ind. Member

Pendle Public/Private Partnership (with Liberata)

Councillor M. Ammer  
Councillor D. Cockburn-Price  
Councillor M. Hanif  
Councillor A. Sutcliffe  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor D. Whipp  
Councillor K. Salter  
Councillor A. Mahmood  
Councillor B. Newman

Pendle Vision Board

Members requested that in respect of the Pendle Leisure Trust Board whether a fourth Councillor (representing the Pendle True Independents) could also be included as a member of this Board? Officers would follow this request up following this meeting.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

### **RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

### **(b) Member Champions**

It was by Cllr A. Sutcliffe and seconded that Councillor S. Cockburn-Price be appointed as the Council's Young People and Every Child Matter Member Champion. An amendment was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded that Councillor D. Lord be appointed as the Council's Young People and Every Child Matter Member Champion. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

## Annual Council (15.05.2025)

It was further moved by Cllr A. Sutcliffe and seconded that Councillor S. Cockburn-Price be appointed as the Sustainable Travel Member Champion. An amendment was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded that Councillor T. Whipp be appointed as the Council's Sustainable Travel Member Champion. Upon being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor D Hartley, that Councillor A. Bell be also appointed an Armed Forces Member Champion. Councillor N. Butterworth added that as there were now four member champions, with the agreement of Council, could Councillor K. Slater also be designated "Lead Member Champion".

The substantive motion, incorporating the above, was moved by Councillor D. Whipp, seconded by Councillor M. Hanif and it was –

### **RESOLVED**

That the following Councillors be appointed as Member Champions for the Municipal Year 2025/26 –

Armed Forces	Councillor A. Bell, Councillor N. Butterworth, Councillor D. Hartley and Councillor K. Salter (Lead Member)
Dementia, Disability and Mental Health	Councillor D. Lord
Health and Wellbeing	Councillor M. Iqbal
Older People	Councillor N. Butterworth
Young People including Every Child Matters	Councillor D. Lord
Sustainable Travel	Councillor T. Whipp

## **15. REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023-27 AND ACTION PLAN 2025-27**

The report of the Interim Chief Executive was submitted which sought Council's approval of a new Council Plan of priorities 2025/28 and updated Council Action Plan 2025/27.

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and Councillor Chris Church, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor A. Mahmood, the former Leader of the Council both reported back on meetings held respectively on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 on this matter.

The Interim Chief Executive further outlined changes put forward to Council's consideration and agreement for the adoption of a new Council Plan of priorities 2025/28 and updated Council Action Plan 2025/27.

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price and N. Ahmed commented on the Plan and Action Plan proposed.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Council Plan of Priorities 2025/28 and updated Council Action Plan 2025/27 be approved and adopted.

## **16. COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The report of the Director of Resources was submitted which sought Council's approval of the Community Cohesion and Community Engagement Strategies which were appended to the report

At the meeting of Executive on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, it was resolved:

“(1) That the additional comments, as now outlined, by Councillors at this meeting, be taken into account before the final version of both strategies are submitted to Full Council for approval”.

(2) That the Community Cohesion Strategy be recommended for approval; and

(3) That the Community Engagement Strategy be recommended for approval”

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

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Community Cohesion Strategy and the Community Engagement Strategy be approved and adopted.

## **17. LAND AND PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2025-2028**

The report of the Director of Resources was submitted which sought Council's approval of the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy which was appended to the report

At the meeting of Executive on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, it was resolved:

“(1) That the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy 2025-28 as now proposed be approved and adopted as the basis for the Council's management of it's Land and Property Assets; and

(2) That the Action Plan contained within the Strategy be approved for implementation”.

The Leader of the Council added that subject to the more proactive approach included in the newly adopted Council Plan for transfer of Assets to Parish and Town Councils, that this Land and Property Asset Management Strategy 2025-2028 as now proposed be approved and adopted.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Land and Property Asset Management Strategy 2025-2028 be approved and adopted.

**18. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(a) Road and Pavement Repairs**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor A. Bell -

Council welcomes the promise by the new administration at Lancashire County Council to properly repair every pothole.

Accordingly, this council resolves to invite the appropriate new cabinet member at LCC to visit Pendle to see some of the potholed highways in the borough accompanied by representatives from all groups on the authority.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

**(b) Lancashire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Service**

**MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor D. Lord and seconded by Councillor C. Church –

Council notes the widespread failings in Lancashire's SEND provision identified in the recent OFSTED/CQC inspection of county council services; the policy statements issued by the party now running the county council; and the impact that this has on families in Pendle.

Council resolves to request the new administration at Lancashire County Council to provide a clear improvement plan setting out how failures identified in the report will be addressed.

Councillor M. Iqbal also added a friendly amendment, that was accepted by the mover and seconder, that the Council further resolves to ask both Members of Parliament (MP's) covering the Pendle area, for them to arrange a meeting for representatives from the cross-party administration at Pendle BC, along with the new administration at Lancashire County Council (LCC) to attend with the relevant Minister to discuss the concerns relating to the widespread failings in Lancashire's SEND provision

Upon being put to the vote it was –

**RESOLVED**

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor \_\_\_\_\_