

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 29th MAY 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Whipp (in the Chair)

Councillors

*S. Ahmed
A. Bell
M. Hanif
D. Hartley
A. Mahmood
L. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

Councillor A. Sutcliffe

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>Wajed Iqbal</i>	<i>Licensing Officer</i>
<i>Ryan Gifford</i>	<i>Acting Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Iqbal.



LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT – PORTFOLIO HOLDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Leader of the Council reported that at the meeting of Annual Council when he had been appointed Leader of the Council, he had then appointed an Executive to comprise three further Liberal Democrat Councillors; three Independent Group Councillors and the Leader of the Conservative Group. Subsequent to that meeting, the Leader of the Conservative Group had informed the Leader that the Conservative Group would not be taking up the seat on the Executive offered to them.

The Leader of the Council then informed the meeting of the names of the Executive Members and portfolio roles and responsibilities as follows:

Leader Portfolio – Cllr David Whipp
Economic Growth Portfolio – Cllr Asjad Mahmood
Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure Portfolio – Cllr Lola Whipp
Corporate and Human Resources Portfolio – Cllr Andy Bell
Community and Performance Portfolio – Councillor David Hartley

Health and Leisure Services Portfolio – Cllr Mohammad Hanif
Housing and Customer Services Portfolio – Cllr Mohammed Iqbal

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillors M. Hanif, A. Mahmood and D. Whipp all declared personal interests in Minute 14 (Former Garage Colony Site – Colne Market Hall) as they were all Members of the Pearl Joint Venture.

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 20th March and 14th May 2025 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR PENDLE

The Acting Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which requested the Executive to review and approve recommendations of the Climate Change Strategy for Pendle Borough Council.

In introducing the report, the Acting Head of Economic Growth commented that the Pendle Borough Council had declared a climate emergency in 2019 to react to the challenge of climate change and since 2020 had been implementing its own Climate Emergency Action Plan, approved in March 2020.

This Strategy, as proposed, would be the Council's first formal Climate Change Strategy and intended to build on progress made to date.

The proposed Strategy was appended to the report, along with a Graph – showing carbon savings in Pendle 2005-2022.

Members commented and suggested some minor amendments to the proposed Strategy as verbally outlined at this meeting.

Cllr D. Whipp added that the Council's target for being carbon neutral by 2030 was not now realistic, which was disappointing. He also commented on Air Source Heat Pumps and usage and for a reference to domestic as well as commercial to be included in the Performance Indicators.

Phillip Spurr, Director of Place, also commented on the report and responded to questions and queries raised by Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- (1) That Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Climate Change Strategy, incorporating the amendments to the Strategy document as outlined at this meeting and its actions; and
- (2) That Council is recommended to approve an amended carbon neutrality target from within the Strategy, from aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 to achieve significant levels of carbon savings across all sectors by 2030.

REASON

In order that the Council will have a clear action plan to achieve carbon reduction across key priority areas as a means of mitigating the negative impacts of climate change in Pendle

5. 2024/25 PROGRAMMES PROGRESS REPORT

The Director of Resources submitted a report which provided an annual update to the Executive on a number of key programmes overseen by the Policy Team (Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme; Household Support Programme (HSF); Together an Active Future, Healthy Weight Collaboration).

The Director of Resources provided an overview of the salient points in the report and regarding HSF funding, which had been reduced from the previous year's allocation, and on plans for 2025/26 and provided an update that it had been confirmed there would be a further HSF funding tranche to be introduced later this year.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Executive notes the 2024/25 update for the four programmes covered in this report; and;
- (2) That Executive agrees to receive a separate report in July, 2025 on Together an Active Future plans for the next phase and the implications this was likely to have on local delivery

REASON

To recognise the impact of the programmes in contributing to the health and wellbeing of Pendle's residents

6. TENDER FOR DESIGN AND BUILD OF A SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION AT PENDLE WAVELENGTHS

The Director of Resources submitted, for information, details of tenders which had been received for a proposed single storey extension at Wavelengths Leisure Centre, Nelson.

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The final tender evaluation was still on-going.

RESOLVED

That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to agree a contract award at the conclusion of the final tender evaluation process.

7. PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT – 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

The Director of Resources submitted a report on performance monitoring information for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

By the end of April 2025, 22 out of the 35 corporate priorities were green and had been completed as planned. The remaining 13 were to be carried forward for delivery in 2025/26 and details of these were as shown in Appendix A to the submitted report.

Cllr D. Whipp commented on Governance and particular in relation to Joint Ventures that had been raised by external auditors. He also raised issues about the high levels of sickness (Red rating) in the Council. The Director of Resources responded on the robust sickness absence management work that continued to be undertaken by Human Resources and that the Interim Chief Executive was sending personal letters of thanks to staff members who had full attendance over a period of time.

Executive Members also commented on the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- PBC 5a KPI – Percentage of “Major” planning applications determined within 13 weeks (Green rating).
- Communications – Online payments (Red).
- Customer Services (Red/Amber).

RESOLVED

(1) That the report be noted; and.

(2) That the Executive's thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the Council's Planning Services team for the consistently high performance in determining applications within 13 weeks as outlined in the report.

REASON

To inform the Executive of performance monitoring information relating to the Council's services.

8. STREET TRADING AND GAMBLING POLICY

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report regarding the updated Street Trading Policy and the Gambling Policy of the Council.

The Licensing Officer introduced the report and drew Members attention to four consultation responses received on the proposed updated Street Trading Policy, as detailed at Appendices 3-6 of the submitted report regarding requests for the limiting the number of vendors for ice cream vans.

Executive Members welcomed the proposal that the policy would prevent the sale of vehicles on a public highway.

Executive further discussed the proposal regarding the hours of street trading in residential areas as proposed as outlined in paragraph 8 of the submitted report and it was agreed that this should be subject of further clarity and discussion between Officers and in consultation with the Leaders of the three main political groups and for the draft policy to thereafter be amended accordingly prior to its submission to Council for approval and adoption. Cllr A. Sutcliffe also commented on this matter.

It was moved by D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif:

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

(1) That Council be recommended to approve and adopt the updated Street Trading Policy as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report (subject to any further amendments resultant from the discussions with Group Leaders as outlined in the preamble to this minute); and

(2) That Council be recommended to approve and adopt the updated Gambling Policy of the Council as set out at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

REASON

In order that Pendle has up to date policies on Street Trading and Gambling.

9. COLNE MARKET WORKING GROUP

To consider nominating two Executive representatives onto the Colne Market Working Group.

RESOLVED

That Councillors A. Bell and D. Whipp be appointed as the Executive's two representatives on the Colne Market Working Group.

REASON

To provide appropriate Council representation on the Working Group.

10. ITEMS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) St Philip's C of E Primary School - Land at Oakfield Street, Nelson

At a meeting of the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 6th May 2025 it was resolved:

“(1) That the Executive be recommended to approve the surrender of part of the existing Lease held by Pendle Leisure Trust for the land on Oakfield Street, Nelson, as shown hatched on the plan attached at Appendix 1, subject to satisfactory negotiations.

(2) That the Executive then be recommended to grant delegated authority to the Director of Resources to negotiate the terms of the transfer of the site to Blackburn Diocese for the St. Philip’s C of E Primary School building project, subject to satisfactory negotiations.”

It was moved by A. Mahmood and seconded by Councillor M. Hanif:

RESOLVED

(1) That the surrender of part of the existing Lease held by Pendle Leisure Trust for the land on Oakfield Street, Nelson, as shown hatched on the plan attached at Appendix 1, be approved subject to satisfactory negotiations.

(2) That the Director of Resources be granted delegated authority to negotiate the terms of the transfer of the site to Blackburn Diocese for the St. Philip’s C of E Primary School building project, subject to satisfactory negotiations.

(b) Land to the rear of 17 Boulsworth Crescent, Nelson

At a meeting of the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee on 6th May 2025 it was resolved:

“(1) That the Executive be recommended to declare the land to the rear of 17 Boulsworth Crescent, Nelson, as shown edged in black on the plan attached to the report at Appendix 1, surplus to requirements and further approve a sale to the adjoining owner.

(2) That the Executive then be recommended to grant delegated authority to the Director of Resources to agree a sale price for the land”.

It was moved by M. Hanif and seconded by Councillor S. Ahmed:

RESOLVED

(1) That the land to the rear of 17 Boulsworth Crescent, Nelson, as shown edged in black on the plan attached to the report at Appendix 1, be declared surplus to requirements and that Executive further approves a sale to the adjoining owner.

(2) That authority be granted to the Director of Resources to agree a sale price for the land.

(c) Environmental Crime

At a meeting of the Colne and District Committee on 8th May 2025 it was resolved:

“(1) That the Executive -

(i) be advised of this Committee’s concern over the small number of Fixed Penalty Notices

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issued in the Colne and District area in relation to the amount of littering and dog fouling offences taking place;

(ii) be asked to recognise that issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for such offences will act as a deterrent and therefore be further asked to take action to increase the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued, as appropriate”.

Cllr A. Sutcliffe spoke on this item in support of the resolution of Colne and District Committee.

Cllr D Whipp and other Executive Members also spoke on this matter including in relation to civic pride, enforcement measures, budgets and the limited number of Enforcement Officers the Council had to cover all areas of the Borough.

It was moved by Cllr D. Whipp, seconded by Cllr A. Bell and:

RESOLVED

That the reference from Colne and District Committee be noted.

11. WORKING GROUPS

RESOLVED

That the following working groups be established for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year:

Budget Working Group (2:2:2)

Asset Transfer and Cost Sharing Working Group (2:2:2)

REASON

To maintain consistency.

12. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive's draft Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st June 2025 was submitted for information.

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following item of business in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, in relation to exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

14. FORMER GARAGE COLONY SITE - COLNE MARKET HALL

The Director of Resources submitted a report which informed the Executive of the proposed residential development of the above Council owned land and the options for the potential disposal of said land, on terms as detailed in the submitted report.

Members of the Executive commented on the proposal.

Cllr Sutcliffe commented on and welcomed the report. He also commented on the Plans attached to the submitted report and added he felt that the frontages of any housing built on the site would be more beneficial if they were south facing.

It was moved by Cllr L. Whipp, seconded by Cllr D. Whipp and:

RESOLVED

That Executive grants delegated authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to dispose of the site as per the recommendation to Executive as detailed in the submitted report.

REASON

To ensure the Council demonstrates best consideration in a disposal of the land for residential purposes.

Chair _____