

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 30th JANUARY 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmood (Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
M. Hanif
M. Iqbal*

Also in attendance:

*Cllr N. Ahmed
Cllr D. Cockburn-Price
Cllr S. Cockburn-Price
Cllr D. Lord
Cllr M. Stone
Cllr D. Whipp*

Officers in attendance

<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Karen Spencer</i>	<i>Director of Resources</i>
<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

Members of the public attending - 0



103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

104. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

105. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

106. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME

The Director of Resources submitted a report which informed the Executive of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and which sought approval for a new management model for the Pendle Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme 2025/26, subject to continued HAF funding; and further sought agreement to delegate authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake decision making for 2025/26 Pendle Holiday Activities and Food Programme, as part of the transition process to Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT).

Members of the Executive commented on this programme, welcomed the proposed new management model as detailed in the submitted report. In terms of Member involvement, Councillor M. Iqbal added the HAF programme fell under his portfolio remit. In response to a question regarding the 2025/26 Pendle HAF grant, the Director of Resources informed the Executive the exact amount of grant had still not yet been determined by Lancashire County Council (LCC).

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

RESOLVED: That the Executive:

- (1) That the Executive agrees that the 2025/ 26 Holiday Activity and Food Programme is coordinated by Pendle Leisure Trust going forwards, subject to continuation of the HAF grant; and
- (2) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, for any financial decisions as part of the transition handover from Pendle Borough Council (PBC) to PLT.

REASONS

- (1) To support vulnerable children/young people and their families over the three main school holidays whilst releasing capacity for the council.***

107. PROVISION OF OUTSOURCED INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Director of Resources submitted a report, for information, which informed the Executive of tenders that had been received and accepted.

In response to a question from Councillor D. Cockburn-Price regarding both the tender accepted, tender figure and day rates, Karen Spencer, Director of Resources outlined more details regarding the tender procurement process and evaluation submission score which had resulted in the contract being awarded to Mersey Internal Audit Agency.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

108. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – ROUND 2 (INTERIM YEAR)

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report which informed the Executive of plans for a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) interim year, April 2025 to March 2026.

Councillor D. Whipp commented around the potential use of revenue streams towards Capital projects in making best use of the resources available. He also enquired whether the delegation of the decisions, bearing in mind their importance to the Borough could also be made in consultation with the two largest opposition groups on the Council? Executive confirmed that in respect of this matter, they were amenable to this request.

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

RESOLVED:

That delegated authority for project selection decisions is given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Conservative Group and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

REASON

(1) Due to short timescales involved in preparing a programme for 2025/26.

109. PLANNING REFORM WORKING PAPER: PLANNING COMMITTEES

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report which informed the Executive of the proposed changes and sought the Executive's agreement to any response to the consultation.

A proposed response, for Executive's consideration was set out at Appendix 1.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services highlighted the salient points in the proposed response and responded to Members comments and questions thereon.

The Executive and other Members thanked the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory for preparing it for Executive's consideration and endorsed the proposed response.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Executive agrees the response as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

REASONS

(1) In order that Pendle has an input into how planning and planning committees will function in the future.

110. MUTUAL AID ARRANGEMENTS – WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Assistant Director of Operational services submitted a report which provided the Executive with an overview of the collaborative arrangement relating to the provision of localised highway winter maintenance services on footways.

The Executive was asked to note the information in the report and confirm whether the Borough Council should continue to support the Highway Authority when requested.

Councillor D. Whipp, D. Lord, D. Cockburn-Price and S. Cockburn-Price commented on the report and arrangements and highlighted a number of issues they had experienced in their respective wards during the period of snow and ice that occurred in early January, 2025.

The Executive also noted the response of the West Craven Committee to LCC and the matter being referred to today's Executive meeting for consideration.

The Executive that records showed it was 2010 when the Executive supported the joint working between the Council and LCC when the request was considered in 2010. It was now felt timely for a Members/Officers meeting between Pendle Borough Council (PBC) and LCC to discuss mutual aid arrangements – winter maintenance moving forward.

It was moved by Cllr Z. Ali and seconded by Cllr A Mahmood and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Executive confirms that PBC should continue to support the Highway Authority when requested;
- (2) That a cross-party Members/Officers meeting be arranged between Pendle Borough Council (PBC) and LCC to discuss mutual aid arrangements – winter maintenance moving forward

REASONS

- (1) To ensure Members are fully advised on the Borough Council's priorities and commitments under the collaborative arrangement; and***
- (2) To ensure Members are advised of the support provided by the Highway Authority which assists the Borough Council in delivering winter maintenance services in areas of need.***

111. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MECHANICAL STREET CLEANSING (COMPACT SWEEPERS)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which requested Executive's consideration of and response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations following a review of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service.

Cllr Z. Ali, Executive Member with portfolio responsibility for Environment and Climate Change responded to the report and added he welcomed initiatives that helped to reduce the Council's carbon footprint. He acknowledged the cross-party Task and Finish group in producing this report and moved it be referred to full Council for consideration and response.

Cllr D. Whipp commented on the mechanical street cleansing vehicles not only in his ward, but across the Borough and didn't wish to see a reduction in this service. He also raised concerns at the costs the proposed provision would incur of £6,120 in Year 1 by reducing the number of sweepers from 5 to 3.

Cllr D. Cockburn-Price, who had been the Task and Finish Group's review leader, outlined the external cross-party work that had resulted in the findings. He also thanked David Walker, the Council's Assistant Director, Operational Services, for providing a background report on the service, attending the review group meeting and answering questions from the group. In response to the point raised by Cllr D Whipp regarding the proposed new provision and Year 1 costs, he referenced the longer-term significant savings of £48,664 identified for Years 2 and 3.

It was moved by Cllr Z. Ali and seconded by Cllr M. Iqbal and

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be received and noted by the Executive; and
- (2) That report be referred to Full Council for consideration and for Full Council to provide a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in respect of the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service.

REASONS

- (1) ***Overview and Scrutiny have made its recommendations based on the evidence presented which supports the introduction of changes to the mechanical street cleansing (compact sweepers) service. The changes proposed respond to the changing operational environment and the needs of residents. They will enable a more effective service to be provided and will assist the Council in achieving targets within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).***
- (2) ***By introducing these changes, it will meet the Council's Priorities 1 and 2 in ensuring the Council is delivering value for money, listening to people and driving a customer focussed ethos, developing a service that is as effective and efficient as it can be and encouraging and fostering community pride for a safer, cleaner environment by protecting our parks and amenity areas through encouraging residents and visitors to take pride in our green, blue and surrounding urban, retail and commercial areas.***

112. FOR INFORMATION – TENDER AND OTHER CONTRACT RELATED MATTERS

The Director of Resources submitted a report, for information, on tenders that had been received and accepted.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

113.

FORWARD PLAN

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

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price enquired of Councillor A. Mahmood regarding the three now vacant Executive portfolio positions following the resignation of the three Liberal Democrat members who had served on the Executive the previous day. Councillor A. Mahmood responded he was now considering his options regarding the vacated Executive portfolios moving forward.

Chair _____