



MEETING OF THE

COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 10th JULY 2025

AT 7.00 p.m.

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT NELSON TOWN HALL

Minutes of all meetings held since the last Council meeting can be accessed via the Council's website www.pendle.gov.uk followed by the "Council" tab.

The meeting will also be live streamed and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/ei0syD78Avs>

Members are reminded that it is now not necessary to submit amendments in writing prior to the start of the meeting. Members are however urged wherever possible to continue to do this so that the effect of amendments can be fully understood.

For further information please contact
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LAWRENCE CONWAY, INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

If you would like this information in a way which is better for you, please telephone us.



اگر آپ یہ معلومات کسی ایسی شکل میں چاہتے ہیں، جو کہ
آپ کے لئے زیادہ مفید ہو تو براہ مہربانی ہمیں بتائیے۔

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies 2014, people attending open meetings can film, audio record, take photographs or use social media. Oral commentary is not allowed during meetings as it would be disruptive. If you are attending a meeting you need to be aware that you may be filmed by others attending. This is not within our control.



A G E N D A

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

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

A Member must declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he/she has in any item on the agenda. A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any item may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

In addition the Council's Standing Orders require a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest to leave the room where the meeting is held while any discussion or voting takes place.

3. Minutes of Council

Enc. To approve as correct records, or otherwise, the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 15th May, 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th June, 2025.

4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader of the Council (if any)

5. Questions on Notice from the Public to the Leader (if any)

6. Questions on Notice by Members to the Leader, a Committee Chairman or a Representative on an Outside Body on Matters not otherwise on the Agenda (if any)

7. Report by the Leader on the Work of the Executive

Enc. A report of the Leader on the work of the Executive since the last Council meeting is attached.

8. Report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Enc. A report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on recent overview and scrutiny activity is attached.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Recommendations for the Executive's Consideration – Review of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Assistant Director, Operational Services.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

10. Street Trading and Gambling Policy

At the meeting of the Executive held on 29th May, 2025, it was: **Recommended 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.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

11. Climate Change Strategy for Pendle

At the meeting of the Executive held on 29th May, 2025, it was: **Recommended 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.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Acting Head of Economic Growth.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

12. Customer Contact and Digital Strategy 2025-28 and ICT Strategy 2025-28

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26th June, 2025, it was:
Recommended to Council:

That Council be recommended to –

(1) agree the Customer and Digital Strategy 2025-2028, subject to the inclusion of further detail on the findings of the customer engagement survey in relation to website use; headlines on staff findings; and recognition of the ICT Strategy 2025-2028 when referencing staff skills;

(2) agree the ICT Strategy 2025-2028, subject to the inclusion of direct and accurate referencing to the Council Plan.

Enc. To consider the attached of the Director of Resources.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

13. Safeguarding Policy

At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26th June, 2025, it was:
Recommended to Council:

That Council be recommended to –

- (1) agree the revised Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults;
- (2) agree the Policy implementation process, with a recommendation that all mandatory staff training also be made mandatory for Elected Members;
- (3) request that the introduction of compulsory basic DBS checks for Elected Members be explored;
- (4) seek clarification on whether all taxi drivers licensed outside of the Borough, but operating in Pendle, have undergone appropriate safeguarding training and DBS checks.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

14. Colne Market Public Realm Works and Lift Replacement

At the meeting of the Executive held on 19th June, 2025, it was **Recommended to Council:**

- (1) That Council be provided with a range of costed options in respect of the public realm works from the basic paved surface as outlined to the report through to a natural stone treatment and any potential intermediary options that there might be;
- (2) That Council agree to the replacement of the service lift if necessary.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Director of Place.

The report considered by the Executive at its meeting held on 19th June 2025 can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3453/council>

15. Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To receive and consider nominations for two vice-chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (one each from the Conservative and Independent Groups).

16. Mayoralty

Council is advised that the Deputy Mayor for 2026/27 is to be selected from the Liberal Democrat Group.

17. Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Council is asked to consider and approve several changes to the Appointments to Outside Bodies further to those appointed at the meeting of Annual Council and/or to reflect the changes in the political leadership and portfolios subsequently announced.

Enc. To consider the attached report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

18. Notices of Motion

(a) Conflict in Palestine

To be moved by Councillor M. Iqbal, and seconded by Councillor R. Anwar –

- Council notes the continuing genocide in Palestine by Israeli government forces resulting in the death of tens of thousands of innocent people.
- Council notes with concern the use by the Israeli government of denying basic human needs to the people of Palestine
- Council notes with regret the continued silence of world leaders on the genocide in Palestine.
- Council notes the decision by HM government to continue to supply components for Israeli jets to bomb and kill innocent Palestinians.
- Council notes the suppression by HM government of conversation in our society of this and other conflicts

Council resolves to:

- (1) condemn the continued genocide by Israeli government forces in Palestine.
- (2) call upon Hamas to release all Israeli hostages held since October 2023.

- (3) call HM government to take effective diplomatic actions against Israeli government ministers behind the genocide in Palestine.
- (4) call upon both Pendle Members of Parliament to speak up publicly against the genocide and ask HM government to seek actions in conjunction with world leaders to resolve this crisis.
- (5) call upon world leaders to immediately arrange lifting of the blockade by the government of Israel of basic human needs including food and medicine.
- (6) calls upon the department of education to not restrict education providers to allow discussion of conflicts with students.

(b) Supporting Residents and Upholding International Law

To be moved by Councillor M. Stone, and seconded by Councillor Y. Iqbal –

This Council –

- Expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the continuing conflicts in Israel, Palestine and the recent conflict involving Israel, the United States and Iran. To those in our area who have been affected by these conflicts we offer support in this difficult time.
- Notes that June 26 was the 80th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter which explicitly aimed to ‘save succeeding generations from the scourge of war’, and in Article 2(4) outlawed the use of force except for self defence or missions authorised by the UN Security Council.
- Notes that whilst Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been repeatedly condemned by London for violating the ‘rules-based international order’, there has been no condemnation of the recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran which are also clear violations of international law and the ‘rules based order’.
- Believes that the UK’s moral authority and soft power are fatally undermined by its inconsistent approach to up-holding international law.
- Believes that the only credible basis for long-term peace and regional stability is the delivery of a Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel.
- Believes the tragic recent events in Israel, Gaza, Palestine and Iran must not be allowed to divide our communities in Pendle.
- Believes Jews, Muslims and people of all faiths and none should feel safe in our borough.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Explore how the Council can better support and facilitate events for people of all faiths and none, where they can come together and express solidarity and sadness in response to these events.

(2) Offer appropriate support to any local resident who needs assistance as a result of these violent events.

(3) Stand ready to provide support and open our arms to innocent people displaced and affected by these events.

(4) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs to call on the UK Government to:

Adopt a consistent approach, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to up-holding international law and the 'rules based order'.

Condemn violations of the UN Charter and international law consistently in order to attempt to restore its soft power influence in the world.

Do all in its power to support those that are committed to regional stability in the Middle East.

(c) Local Government Reorganisation

To be moved by Councillor D. Whipp –

Council notes that all 15 local authorities in Lancashire are working together on the evidence base for a single submission to Government on LGR in the county, with the intention that alternative options for unitary councils are put forward in that submission.

Council reaffirms its resolutions of 19th December 2024, "to work with neighbouring authorities, Burnley, Rossendale and Ribble Valley to achieve the best possible outcome for local people," and 17th March 2025, "states its preference for exploring only options [for] 4 and 5 [unitary councils]", as part of the consideration of the wider options now being tabled.

Given the Government's continued determination to reorganise local government, Council strongly reiterates that a new unitary shouldn't include the whole of East Lancashire, and that two authorities covering the east of the county remain the council's preference, and resolves accordingly.

Council also resolves to carry out thorough consultation with residents on the different unitary council options being considered, with such research included in the evidence base of the subsequent submission to Government, and that the Chief Executive is authorised to commission this work.

(d) Make Votes Matter

To be moved by Councillor L. Whipp and seconded by Councillor S. Land –

Council notes the failure of the First Past The Post voting system to reflect the diverse nature of today's electorate in the outcome of elections.

Council believes that a proportional representation electoral system should be introduced for all local and national government elections and that the current proposed, reorganisation of

two-tier local government in England into unitary authorities is the perfect opportunity to introduce a proportional representation electoral system at local government level.

Council resolves:

1. That the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on behalf of the Council, to recommend that elections for the proposed unitary authorities use the Single Transferable Vote proportional electoral system for multimember divisions in the new unitary authorities, and the Supplementary Vote (SV) system for the election of the Lancashire Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner.
2. That the Chief Executive writes to the Members of Parliament for the Pendle constituencies, on behalf of the Council, urging them to support the introduction of the Single Transferable Vote, proportional representation system for elections of Councillors in the proposed unitary authorities, and to support the passage of the Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill through Parliament, and the Supplementary Vote system for the election of the Lancashire Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner.

(e) Driving Tests

To be moved by Councillor M. Strickland and seconded by Councillor D. Hartley –

This Council notes:

- That learner drivers in Pendle and across the country are facing unacceptably long delays in securing driving test appointments, with average waiting times far exceeding the DVSA's target of nine weeks.
- That this is causing significant distress and disruption to young people, students, apprentices, and those seeking employment who rely on obtaining a driving licence for work or education.
- Reports from the BBC and other media highlight that the Nelson, Skipton and Steeton test centres have among the worst delays in the country, with some learners waiting over six months for a test slot.
- That concerns have been raised in both the last and current Parliaments by MPs of many parties, who have challenged Ministers on both the long delays and the role of third-party booking services in worsening availability.
- That parliamentary questions have highlighted the Government's limited action to address these issues and the lack of regulation or enforcement around third-party software tools that snap up appointments to resell them.

This Council believes:

- That the Government must take urgent action to bring down waiting times for practical driving tests and ensure fair access for all learners.
- That the practice of third-party software companies bulk-booking or reselling test slots is exploitative and undermines the integrity of the DVSA booking system.

- That local young people in Pendle are being unfairly disadvantaged, with consequences for education, employment, and social mobility.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the Government and the Department for Transport to publish a clear action plan to reduce waiting times for driving tests nationwide, specifically in Reading.
2. Call for urgent reform of the DVSA booking system to prevent third-party software from monopolising test appointments and to protect access for ordinary learners.
3. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, and to Pendle's Members of Parliament, urging them to take immediate steps to resolve this growing crisis for learner drivers.
4. Promote awareness of this issue locally and support efforts by MPs and Councillors to campaign for fair access to driving tests for all.

(f) Martyn's Law

To be moved by Councillor A. Bell and seconded by Councillor D. Lord –

This Council notes that:

- On 3 April 2025, Martyn's Law gained Royal Assent. Officially titled the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 – Martyn's Law aims to improve public safety by requiring venues, including outside spaces, to consider and prepare for the threat from terrorism.
- Such venues include community centres, sports grounds, town halls, schools, street markets, temporary events, places of worship, and civic offices.
- Venues with a capacity of 200 up to 799 people will be required to conduct basic terrorism risk assessments, identify protective measures, and implement plans to secure the premises during an incident. Venues with a capacity of 800 people or more, must undertake rigorous risk assessments, monitor CCTV, and create detailed security and response plans.
- The Government has outlined a 2-year implementation period before the law becomes sanctionable to allow venues and organisations time to prepare. However, this timeframe will be seriously reduced if the terror risk increases, therefore venues need to be ready.

This Council believes that:

- Whilst measures must be taken to improve public safety, the cost and administrative implications for event organisers and the council is significant. The requirements for this new legalisation may be disproportionately challenging for local organisers such as charities and organisations, especially those who hold ad hoc events, or annual fundraisers;
- Events such as Colne's Blues Festival and Gala, Barnoldswick's Bands On The Square and similar events throughout Pendle will be significantly affected.
- Furthermore, the practical and financial implications on Parish and Town Councils, small and medium sized businesses, and community groups, operating on limited budgets, should be acknowledged.

This Council resolves to ask the executive to:

- Brief Councillors, and Parish and Town councils, on the upcoming legal requirements and the impact Martyn's Law will have;
- Prepare an impact assessment on how Martyn's Law will affect venues managed or operated by Pendle Borough Council;
- Engage with Parish and Town Councils, local businesses, community groups, Colne BID and voluntary organisations to gather feedback on potential challenges and resource requirements;
- Use appropriate communications channels to raise public awareness of Martyn's Law and share support available to assist affected organisations to comply with the new legal requirements.

(g) Human Rights

To be moved by Councillor C. Church –

Council notes the significant positive impact the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) has had on Britain since it came into force in 1953. The convention has made important interventions to protect children from abuse, worker's rights and civil liberties.

Council also notes that the ECHR was established after World War 2 to protect fundamental human rights in Europe with Winston Churchill one of it's key architects.

One of the most important protocols on the ECHR is Article 10, which provides the right to freedom of expression and information. This article protects the public's right to hold opinions, to freely express them, to protest and demonstrate and to receive information from a free press.

Council notes that the ECHR has come under attack from certain political parties recently, included Reform UK who planned to remove the United Kingdom from the ECHR in their 2024 General Election manifesto.

Council believes this would be a disastrous decision that would leave fundamental civil liberties such as freedom of expression and protest at risk from Government interference.

Council resolves to:

- Foster a culture of freedom of expression in Pendle and to review our engagement and consultation policies to be as open and transparent as possible.
- Write to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice to express Council's support for the ECHR and the protection it gives our fundamental freedoms.