

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 10th JULY, 2025**

PRESENT –

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

Councillors

M. Adnan

F Ahmad

N. Ahmed

S. Ahmed

Z. Ali

R. Anwar

N. Ashraf

A. Bell

C. Church

D. Cockburn-Price

S. Cockburn-Price

M. Iqbal

M. Kaleem

S. Land

D. Lord

A. Mahmood

K. Salter

M. Stone

M Strickland

A. Sutcliffe

Y. Tennant

D. Whipp

L. Whipp

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Aslam, N. Butterworth, D. Hartley, D. Gallear, M. Hanif, Y. Iqbal, B. Newman, R O'Connor)



21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and other registrable interests.

22. MINUTES

It was moved by Cllr D Whipp and seconded by Cllr A. Mahmood that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 15th May, 2025 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 19th June, 2025 be agreed as correct records and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the of the Annual Council meeting held on 15th May, 2025 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 19th June, 2025 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor had circulated his Mayoral update since the Annual Council meeting (reproduced below for information purposes) by e-mail to all Members of the Council prior to this meeting.

“As Mayor of Pendle, I pledged at the Annual Full Council Meeting back in May, “to be a Mayor for the whole of Pendle – committed to unity, understanding, and bringing together our wonderfully diverse communities through the platform of this office.” I reflected this in my multi-faith Mayoral Sunday service at St. John’s Church in Nelson. This service is a blessing on the work of The Mayor and The Council for the year ahead. That was at the start of my Mayoral year. In more recent weeks I have again put this into practice by participating in the Pendle Festival of Culture. This wonderful festival, organised by Building Bridges Pendle and This is Nelson, was a wonderful celebration of the people, places, faiths and talent in Pendle through food, music, performance, arts, crafts and conversation.

Here at Pendle Council, we should all be judged by the effective results we deliver. I have worked hard over the last 2 months to be both an excellent delivery vehicle for the Council and an ambassador across and for this Borough. In the newly updated and renamed Council Plan 2025 – 2028, formerly known as the Council Plan, The Leader, Councillor David Whipp, outlines a number of key initiatives, including “building key skills for young people through the YES Hub”. I visited this excellent youth employment service in June and Dave Marshall, Pendle Yes Hub Lead, emailed my office afterwards stating, “Thanks for organising the new Mayor to visit today, what a brilliant addition to Pendle. He was really impressed with our work and very supportive.” I have been invited back for the end of July to their next Pendle Borough Council/Active Lancashire Steering Group. I very much look forward to supporting this event, where the previous 3 months’ work of the YES Hub will be presented.

Another key initiative of the Council Plan is “improving health inequalities through partnership working with health and community partners”. In the middle of June I participated in a Recipe4Health event here at Nelson Town Hall. Recipe4Health is an LCC scheme which “encourages local food businesses to offer healthier choices on their menu to promote healthier eating and lifestyle choices”.

On the subject of health, I gladly accepted Cllr. Yvonne Tennant’s invite to participate in the unveiling of a new defibrillator at Hodge House.

In my speech at Annual Full Council I mentioned that I “look forward to engaging with our schools.” I was therefore delighted to accept an invite to attend the Year 6 Graduation which took place yesterday at Walverden Primary School.

Engaging with the young people of Pendle is very important to me. I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in one of Cllr. Dorothy Lord’s discos for young adults with learning disabilities at Colne Town Hall.

I was also delighted to attend a Creative Arts Exhibition at Nelson and Colne College.

I am enjoying engaging with all sectors of the Pendle community. It was an honour to host a recent Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony, attended, amongst many others, by Pendle Council Armed Forces Champions. I accepted a kind invite from Cllr. Andy Bell, one of these Armed Forces Champions, to attend Colne Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club last Saturday.

With regards to champions, I have chosen to champion 2 outstanding causes during my term of office as my chosen charities: Derian House Children’s Hospice and Samaritans of Pendle,

Burnley, Craven and Rossendale. Please help me support them by putting a date in all your diaries: The Mayor of Pendle's Charity Ball on Friday 27th March 2026 at Fence Gate, Fence.

This is just a fraction of the activities I've participated in. It is a privilege to highlight organisations that are doing a great job for the people of Pendle".

Councillor David Whipp, Leader of the Council, referenced his report on the work of the Executive (Minute 26 below) and provided a verbal update on recent meetings undertaken with all Lancashire Councils in relation to Local Government Re-organisation in Lancashire.

24. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

25. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER, A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

26. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Executive.

The Leader of the Council commented on his report and decisions made by Executive since the last ordinary meeting of Council.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

27. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Chris Church, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report on the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

28. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION – REVIEW OF BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION AND REPLACEMENT WASTE CONTAINERS

The Assistant Director, Operational Services submitted a report which provided Council with the opportunity to review the recommendations regarding the restrictions on Bulky Waste Household Waste Collections and delivery of Replacement Waste Containers made on 19th December 2024.

Council was asked to either reconsider the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations in respect of Bulky Household Waste Collection and Replacement Waste Containers or revise the resolution to align with the capability of the Council's customer facing systems.

Cllr D Whipp, the Leader of the Council commented that as the budget decisions relating to this matter were made at Special Budget Council in February, that Council could not reconsider this matter until six months had elapsed in accordance with Council Constitutional Procedure Rules

Councillors A. Bell, D. Cockburn-Price, D. Lord, A. Mahmood and A. Sutcliffe commented on the report.

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

RESOLVED

That the matter report be referred to the August, 2025 meeting of the Executive for further consideration and for Executive to make comments thereon and the report, with Executive's recommendations to then be considered by Full Council at its September 2025 meeting.

29. STREET TRADING POLICY AND GAMBLING POLICY

The report of the Assistant Director, Operational Services was submitted which sought Council's approval of the Street Trading Policy and Gambling Policy which were appended to the report.

At the meeting of Executive on 29th May, 2025, it was recommended:

- (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.

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor Z. Ali –

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the updated Street Trading Policy and Gambling Policy be approved.

30. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR PENDLE

The report of the Acting Head of Economic Growth was submitted which sought the Council's approval of the Strategy and its actions.

At the meeting of Executive on 29th May, 2025, it was recommended:

- (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.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price, who also chaired the Council's Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) welcomed the Strategy and added that the document would provide a greater focus with more tangible goals for the Council to achieve in this important area of work.

It was moved by Councillor D. Whipp and seconded by Councillor S. Cockburn-Price and –

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy for Pendle and its actions be approved.

31. 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.

Councillor A. Mahmood enquired whether the website could be made a bit more user-friendly?

Councillor D. Whipp responded whereas it would not be cost effective to undertake major changes to the website now bearing in mind LGR, and the relative short period Pendle BC was likely continue to exist before a Unitary Council(s) came into existence, small improvements could be looked at.

Councillors A. Bell, D. Cockburn-Price and N. Ahmed also commented on the proposed Strategy.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Customer Contact and Digital Strategy 2025-28 and the ICT Strategy be approved, including the above recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

32. 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; and
- (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.

Councillors D. Whipp, C. Church and A. Mahmood commented on the proposed policy.

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

RESOLVED:

That the revised Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults be approved including the above recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

33. COLNE MARKET PUBLIC REALM WORKS AND LIFT REPLACEMENT

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided an update as to progress on the redevelopment of Colne Market Hall and recommended that Full Council approves an addition to the budget to enable the next phases of the project to progress.

Councillor D. Whipp introduced the report which had been considered by the Executive. He added that he felt the quality of the public realm paving used was important to the Colne Market Hall development and moved that the option of “Yorkstone” paving should be used (budgeted costings £200,000) along with arrangements to be made to provide for a safe and operational service lift in Colne Market Hall for the next 10 years (£70,000). Councillor D Whipp subsequently moved, seconded by Councillor A. Bell, that the Council approve an addition to the Colne Market Capital Project of £270,000; and that the Director of Resources be asked to look at the possibility of the funding for these works through the use of internal reserves in the first instance, otherwise borrowing to fund required public realm works and a potential lift replacement be agreed.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price, seconded by Councillor A. Sutcliffe moved an amendment that the non-highway public realm at the front of Colne Market Hall to be surfaced in ‘Kellen’ paving (budgeted costings £150,000) along with the arrangements to be made to provide for a safe and operational service lift in Colne Market Hall for the next 10 years (£70,000). Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

Council then voted on the original motion of Councillor D. Whipp's, which became the substantive motion, that Council approves an addition to the Colne Market Capital Project of £270,000; and that the Director of Resources be asked to look at the possibility of the funding for these works through the use of internal reserves in the first instance, otherwise borrowing to fund required public realm works and a potential lift replacement be agreed. Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council approves an addition to the Colne Market Capital Project of £270,000; and
- (2) That the Director of Resources be asked to look at the possibility of the funding for these works through the use of internal reserves in the first instance, otherwise borrowing to fund required public realm works and a potential lift replacement be agreed.

34. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council received and considered nominations for two vice chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one each from the Conservative and Independent Groups respectively.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors D Cockburn-Price and Y Tennant be appointed to the positions of vice-chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

35. MAYORALTY

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A. Bell is selected by the Liberal Democrat Group to be Deputy Mayor for 2026/27.

36. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to provide Council with the opportunity to review (and amend where necessary) the Council appointments of representatives on outside bodies 2025/26 which were made at Annual Council on 15th May, 2025.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services added that Council was asked to review (and amend where necessary) the Council appointments of representatives on outside bodies 2025/26 as a result of changes that were now required due to both the change in the political leadership, a new Leader that was appointed at Annual Council and changes in portfolio holders and responsibilities which were only announced at the first Executive meeting following the Annual Council meeting. Council was also reminded that it would need to resolve to suspend Council procedure rules - Paragraph 25.1 of the Council Rules of Procedure states (Suspension

and Amendment of Council Procedure Rules) for this item to allow for any changes to representatives on Outside Bodies to be made.

It was moved by Cllr D Whipp and seconded by Cllr A. Mahmood and

RESOLVED:

to suspend Council procedure rules - Paragraph 25.1 of the Council Rules of Procedure states (Suspension and Amendment of Council Procedure Rules) for this item to allow for any changes to representatives on Outside Bodies to be made.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services brought to Council's attention the changes now required which were considered and agreed by Council as detailed in the resolution to this minute below:

It was further moved by Cllr D Whipp and seconded by Cllr A. Mahmood and

RESOLVED:

That changes to the representatives on Outside Bodies be made as follows:

- (a) Joint Venture Company (PEARL Board 1, PEARL Board 2, PEARL BOARD BRIERFIELD, and PEARL TOGETHER) – Cllr C Church appointed as a Council representative for 2025/26 in place of Councillor M. Hanif.
- (b) LCC Lancashire Waste Partnership – Cllr M. Iqbal appointed for 2025/26 as the Council representative for 2025/26 in place of Councillor Z. Ali.
- (c) Nelson Town Deal Board – Although the membership was Leader + 1 each from the three main political groups, the Leader of the Council agreed to forego 1 Liberal Democrat seat to Councillor M. Iqbal to ensure there was a Nelson area ward Councillor representation on this Board.
- (d) North Western Local Authorities Employers Organisation – Councillor D. Whipp (as Leader of the Council) appointed in place of Councillor A. Mahmood.
- (e) Pendle Public/Private Partnership with Liberata (it was clarified the membership was 2 Conservative; 2 Independent; 1 Liberal Democrat (2:2:1). The Independent Group chose to appoint Councillor M. Iqbal in place of Councillor M. Ammer as one of its members on this group.
- (f) Pendle Vision Board (membership Leader + 1 each from the three main political groups). Cllr M Strickland appointed as a Council representative for 2025/26 in place of Councillor M. Hanif.
- (g) Pendle Leisure Trust Board (membership 1 from each of the three main political groups) – Councillors M. Hanif, D. Lord, M. Stone reappointed for 2025/26.

(Cllrs D Cockburn-Price and S Cockburn-Price left the meeting at this juncture).

37.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Conflict in Palestine

It was 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.

Several Members spoke in support of this Motion.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(b) Supporting Residents and Upholding International Law

It was 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 upholding 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.

Several Members spoke in support of this Motion.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(Cllrs Z. Ali and M. Iqbal left the meeting at this juncture).

(c) Local Government Reorganisation

It was 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(d) Make Votes Matter

(Note: Before the vote was taken, Cllr D. Whipp moved a friendly amendment to the original motion, which was accepted, that the words “Supplementary Vote (SV) System” be replaced with the words “Alternative Vote (AV) System” in resolutions (1) and (2) respectively as now proposed. The amended motion voted on by Council was a set out below).

It was 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 Alternative Vote (AV) 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 Alternative Vote (AV) system for the election of the Lancashire Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(e) Driving Tests

(Note: Before the vote was taken, Cllr D. Whipp moved a friendly amendment to the original motion, which was accepted, that the word “Reading” be replaced with the word “Pendle” in line 2 of proposed resolution (1). The amended motion voted on by Council was a set out below).

It was 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 Pendle.
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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(Cllrs M. Kaleem left the meeting at this juncture).

(f) Martyn's Law

It was 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

(g) Human Rights

It was moved by Councillor C. Church and seconded by Councillor A. Bell–

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 its 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.

Upon being put to the vote it was –

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

His Worship the Mayor _____