

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 20th NOVEMBER, 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
A. Bell
M. Hanif
D. Hartley
A. Mahmood
L. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price and A. Sutcliffe

Officers in attendance

<i>Dean Langton</i>	<i>Chief Executive</i>
<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, Regulatory and Building Control</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>



71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

Councillor D. Whipp declared an Other Registrable Interest in Minute 74 below as he was an Elected Member on Lancashire County Council.

Councillor A. Mahmood declared a non-registrable interest in Minute 75. Below.

Councillors A. Mahmood and D. Whipp both declared disclosable prejudicial interests in Minute 84 below as both were members of the Pearl Joint Venture (JV) company and took no part in the meeting and left the room whilst this matter was considered and voted on. In the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor L Whipp was appointed from the remaining Executive membership to Chair the meeting for this item.

72. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) OPTIONS – CONSIDERATION AND DECISION ON LGR OPTIONS FOR UNITARY MODELS

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council introduced the report on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options – consideration and decision on LGR options for Unitary models.

In doing so, he also informed Executive for information purposes, that Lancashire County Council (LCC) had met earlier in the day and had agreed to submit a business case for a two Unitary model for local government in Lancashire. In addition, the Leader of Lancashire County Council would be submitting a covering letter to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) expressing the political leadership of LCC's views that there should be just one single unitary authority covering the whole of Lancashire

Appended to the submitted report were:

Appendix A – Strategic Business Case for a Five-Unitary Model of Local Government in Lancashire.

Appendix B – Lancashire Local Government Reorganisation Survey report – Community/Stakeholder Survey Reports.

Appendix C – Local Government Reorganisation in Burnley and Pendle: Consultation Survey Findings

Appendix D – Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 17th November 2025.

As a background, Executive was reminded that Burnley Borough Council and Pendle Borough Council supported a proposal for five Unitary Councils across Lancashire and had jointly prepared a business case for this. He added the Council wanted a Unitary Council which covered Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale and would serve approximately 272,000 residents and that a smaller Unitary Council would mean being closer to residents and more able to engage with people and deliver good quality services like adult social care, health services, highways and waste services.

At the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 17th November, 2025, Council considered a report on LGR – draft strategic business case for a five-unitary Council model of local government in Lancashire. That draft Strategic Business Case had set out how Lancashire looked today,

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reflecting on the challenges and opportunities that existed across the County area. It also considered the current model of Local Government.

Council subsequently resolved to recommend to Executive that the Strategic Business Case for a Five-Unitary model of Local Government in Lancashire be submitted as Pendle Borough Council's response.

RESOLVED: That Executive -

- (1) Notes the outcome of the various consultations and engagement activities on local government reorganisation in Lancashire, details of which were set out at Appendices B and C of the submitted report;
- (2) Note the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 17th November 2025 as set out at Appendix D to the submitted report;
- (3) Gives approval to submit the Strategic Business Case (and related information such as the shared evidence base, outcome of consultations etc) for a Five-Unitary model of Local Government in Lancashire as set out at Appendix A of the submitted report to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on or before 28th November 2025;
- (4) In doing so, gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any final minor and administrative amendments to the Strategic Business Case as appropriate; and
- (5) Given the deadline for submission and that this matter had been subject to consideration by Council, resolve that the decision of the Executive here was urgent and not subject to call-in as set out in Part 4 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 15(h).

75. NELSON PRIDE IN PLACE (NPIP) - UPDATE

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council introduced a report which requested the Executive to agree to the Council acting as the Accountable Body for the Nelson Pride in Place (NPIP) (formerly known as the Nelson Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme). The report also provided an update on the Nelson Pride in Place (NPIP) part of the Pride in Place Programme; and highlighted the responsibility of Pendle Borough Council in supporting the NPIP Board to produce and deliver a Regeneration and Investment Plan for the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Councillor A. Mahmood commented on and welcomed the proposal for Pendle Borough Council (PBC) act as the Accountable Body for the Nelson Pride in Place Programme

RESOLVED: That Executive -

- (1) Approves that Pendle Borough Council (PBC) act as the Accountable Body for the Nelson Pride in Place Programme; and
- (2) Notes progress to date on the NPIP and the requirement to submit the Nelson Board approved Regeneration and Investment Plans.

76. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (2025-2045) – PROPOSED CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure introduced a report which set out the proposed methodology and content of the revision of the Lancashire Local Transport Plan (“LTP”) and made recommendations on the proposed comments to support Pendle in the development of the Plan.

As a background to the report, Executive was informed that LTP was underpinned by an evidence base consisting of a carbon emissions assessment and an integrated sustainability appraisal. The Plan suggested 4 workstreams to underpin transport planning up to 2045. These were: Connecting Lancashire, Transforming Travel Choices, having Safe and Vibrant Communities, and having Future Ready Networks.

The LTP at this stage was an overarching document that contained broad areas for the development of transport related matters up to 2045. The Plan set out a balanced approach to having investment in new infrastructure to support growth whilst investing in areas such as EV charging points and looking at innovative ways of providing public transport.

What the LTP did not do was to prioritise a list of short, medium and long-term schemes in an Implementation Plan. This would be the crux of whether it would be successful with the need to find ways of funding what was an important but extensive agenda. It would be critical that Pendle participated and shaped the content of the Implementation Plan.

Members of the Executive commented on the report and proposed Council response to the Consultation as set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. Councillor L. Whipp further commented that all of Pendle should be included in the document (parts of West Craven were missing); was supportive of the move to include social and environmental value in the document.

Councillor A. Mahmood further commented on East – West connectivity and improvements needed, especially public transport and rail. The need for investment and suggested discussions with the Elected Mayors of Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Liverpool would be welcomed.

The Leader of the Council mentioned the role and responsibility of the Lancashire Combined Authority in this matter.

RESOLVED: That Executive agrees that -

- (1) Council respond to the consultation as set out at Appendix 1; and
- (2) Pendle actively engages in the development of the Implementation Plan(s) that would come forward subsequent to the adoption of the Transport Plan.

77. LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROVIDER SERVICES REDESIGN (IN-HOUSE) – RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

The Leader of the Council introduced a report that informed the Executive of a consultation being undertaken by Lancashire County Council on a strategic review of in-house Provider Services.

The review included a proposal to accelerate the re-provision of several Older People Services. Included in this proposal was an accelerated review of Favordale Residential Home and Byron View Day Centre, both located in Colne.

Appended to the submitted report were:

Appendix A – In-House Provider Services Redesign Consultation Letter;

Appendix B – In-House Provider Services Redesign Consultation

The Leader of the Council added that given the potential impact on residents (and families) in the Borough, some of whom would both be resident at the Care Homes and would use the Day Centre and acknowledging the need for such facilities, delegated authority was sought from Executive by the Chief Executive to submit a response to the consultation.

Member of the Executive and Councillors D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price and A. Sutcliffe also spoke and expressed concerns at the County Council's proposals in this matter and its method of consultation.

Favordale had a "Good" rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

RESOLVED: That Executive –

(1) Notes Lancashire County Council's consultation on a strategic review of in-house Provider Services and proposals for the accelerated review of provision from the Favordale Care Home and Byron View Day Centre in Colne; and

(2) Gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council to prepare and submit a response to the consultation (as set out at Appendix B) on behalf of the Council.

78. PERFORMANCE UPDATE REPORT

The Portfolio Holder for Community and Performance introduced a report which provided the Executive with performance monitoring information for the period 1st April, 2025 – 30th September, 2025.

Appended to the submitted report were:

Appendix A – Performance Summary – Quarter 2, 2025/26.

Appendix B – SRR Update Summary - Quarter 2, 2025/26.

Members of the Executive commented on the report. Councillor A. Bell commented on monthly meetings he jointly attended with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Performance and the Corporate Performance Manager and raised the subject of staff sickness absence and assistance to help employees recover and return to work, such as working with the Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) to assist recoveries from colleagues who had suffered physical injuries causing sickness absence, such as through physiotherapy.

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price commented on several of the performance matters highlighted and the Strategic Risk Register attached to the report.

RESOLVED:

That the performance monitoring information for the period 1st April, 2025 – 30th September, 2025 be received and noted.

79. QUARTER 2 – REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26

The Leader of the Council introduced a report which provided Executive with a revenue and capital forecast outturn, as at Quarter 2 2025/26. The position at Q2 indicated a projected overspend on revenue budgets of £0.742m, which increased 2025/26 use of reserves to £1.238m. The Capital update included details of adjustments to the programme, including the removal of the Earby FAS scheme. As at Quarter 2 the prudential borrowing required to fund the capital programme for this financial year was £9.060m.

Attached to the report at Appendix A was the Q2 Detailed Capital Monitoring.

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price commented on several matters highlighted in the report.

The Leader of the Council referenced the Earby Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) and proposed an additional recommendation that the Council should protest vigorously at central Government's withdrawal of that funding.

RESOLVED: That Executive -

- (1) Notes the Quarter 2 position on the Council's Revenue Budgets for 2025/26.
- (2) Notes the loss of Earby FAS GIA funding allocation and, as a result, the deletion of the Scheme from the Programme.
- (3) Notes the Quarter 2 position on the Council's revised Capital Programme for 2025/26.
- (4) In light of the significant projected overspend, requests Officers to bring back proposals to mitigate the projected overspend thereby reducing the reliance on reserves.
- (5) That this Council reiterates its request for the restoration of funding for Earby FAS 3 and to ask Jonathan Hinder, MP to support our request for funding to the relevant Secretary of State.

80. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2025/26

The Leader of the Council introduced a report which advised Executive of the treasury management activities of the Council for the period ending 30th September 2025 in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

Attached to the report at Appendix A was the mid-year report 2025-26.

RESOLVED:

That Executive notes the work on the Council's treasury management activities for the period 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025 and the mid-year report (Appendix A)

81. UPDATE ON THE MID YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/29

The Leader of the Council introduced a report which provided Executive with an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29.

The report updated the Executive on the challenging financial position of the Council which was set against a backdrop of significant uncertainty. The national financial position remained a challenge with the prospect of a tight funding settlement for Local Government. Added to that was the Government's ambition to reform the Local Government Finance System, details of which were provided in the report.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/29 showed a funding deficit of £3.043m, with the most immediate issue being a funding gap of £1.491m in 2026/27.

The Council's Strategy of '*Grow, Charge, Save and Stop*' combined with a prudent use of reserves continued to be pursued. This report reaffirmed this and set out an approach within that framework as a means of delivering a balanced budget in 2026/27.

Attached to the report were the following Appendices:

Appendix A – Summary Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/29

Appendix B – Assessment of Funding (Fair Funding Review 2.0)

Appendix C – Forecast of Reserves and Balances 2026/29

Appendices D and E – Scenario Analysis

Members of the Executive and Councillor D. Cockburn-Price commented on the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive -

(1) notes the update the Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/29 as presented at Appendix A and acknowledges the challenging financial position of the Council;

(2) notes the significant amount of uncertainty with future funding allocations due to the Government's proposed Local Government Finance reforms;

(3) Notes the scenario analysis shown at Appendix D and E which models 'worst/better' case scenarios around the baseline MTFP as part of the assessment of potential financial risks facing the Council.

(4) requests the Corporate Leadership Team to identify and bring forward budget proposals that would achieve a balance and sustainable budget for 2026/27; and

(5) subject to the work above and agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance (the Leader of the Council), agree that some form of public and business-based consultation on the Council's budget (and corporate priorities) should take place to inform decisions on the Council's budget for 2026/27.

82.

FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan published on 14th November 2025 was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the Executive Forward Plan and information contained therein be noted.

83.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the next items of business when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted that there would be disclosure of exempt information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

84. COLNE MARKET HALL – FUTURE OPERATION

Councillor L Whipp, Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure chaired the meeting for this item and introduced a report.

The presented report sought Executive's approval to a series of decisions which were required to appoint an operator for Colne Market Hall.

A discussion ensued around the use of proposed funding from the existing Asset Transfer Capital budget as detailed in the exempt report, with two different viewpoints expressed and voted on.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 , 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of the submitted exempt report.

85. REFERRAL FROM BARROWFORD AREA COMMITTEE – REQUEST TO PURCHASE GARDEN LAND UNDER A GARDEN TENANCY

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of a referral from the Barrowford Area Committee and a request to purchase garden land under a Garden Tenancy.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the submitted exempt report.

**86. REFERRAL FROM NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY AREA COMMITTEE –
REQUEST TO PURCHASE A FREEHOLD / EXTEND THE LEASEHOLD OF ONE OF THE
TOWN CENTRE SHOPS IN NELSON**

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of a referral from the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Area Committee and a request to purchase a freehold / extend the leasehold of one of the town centre shops in Nelson.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the submitted exempt report.

CHAIR _____