



# MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025

AT 6.30 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](http://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/NIMa2louTL0>

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

**Paul Preston tel: 01282 661648**

[paul.preston@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:paul.preston@pendle.gov.uk)

**DEAN LANGTON, 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 they have 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.

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

3. Minutes of Council

**Enc.** To approve as correct record, or otherwise, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 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. Adoption of Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition 2021-2040

**Enc.** To consider the attached report of the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services, to be presented by the Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure.

The appendices can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:  
[Agendas, reports and minutes | Pendle Borough Council](#)

10. Independent Review of the Planning Function

**Enc.** To consider the attached report of the Chief Executive, to be presented by the Leader of the Council.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:  
[Agendas, reports and minutes | Pendle Borough Council](#)

11. Fees and Charges Review (2026/27 Budget Setting and MTFP)

**Enc.** To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources, to be presented by the Leader of the Council.

The appendix can be found on the Council's website by clicking on the following link:  
[Agendas, reports and minutes | Pendle Borough Council](#)

12. Notices of Motion

**(a) Care Home Closures**

To be moved by Councillor Andy Bell and seconded by Councillor Dorothy Lord.

Council notes that Reform-run Lancashire County Council is consulting people on the closure of care homes, as part of a wider review of the county council's in-house care services, and that Favordale is on the initial closure list, together with four other care homes and five day centres, including Byron View at Colne.

Council further notes that these care home closures are being driven by a cuts-at-any-cost culture at County Hall that's putting £s before people. Council condemns the county council's administration for treating some of the most vulnerable people in our community inhumanely, considering care homes as a 'market', placing little or no value on care itself, and considering capital receipts above residents.

Council expresses particular concern at:

- the affect these closure proposals have had on residents, their families, care staff and the wider community;
- the fundamentally flawed basis of the closure plans using out-of-date condition surveys;
- the deceit of saying it's about improving conditions -when no funding is earmarked for work;
- the tactics of gagging staff and stifling protest;
- and closing care homes to new residents.

Council endorses the Leader's response strongly opposing: the closure of Favordale and linked Byron View day centre; the inadequacies of the Evaluation Framework proposed as the ground rules for the wider review; and the underlying basis of the county council's strategy.

In addition, Council notes that the chronic national underfunding of Adult Social Care, cost shunting from Health Services, the care-workforce crisis, together with the failure of successive Governments to address these issues have left social care authorities at the heart of an impossible equation with inexorably rising costs and massive underfunding.

Council resolves that:

1. The Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care at Lancashire County Council be informed of the terms of this resolution, and that the LCC Cabinet meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be advised of its content;
2. County councillors representing Pendle be asked to oppose the closure of Favordale and the adoption of the Evaluation Framework for the wider review;
3. The Prime Minister and Secretary of State be requested to address underfunding of social care as a matter of extreme urgency;
4. Members of Parliament representing Pendle be requested to support this council's request for adequate Government funding for adult social care.

#### **(b) GP waiting times and neighbourhood health services**

To be moved by Councillor Chris Church and seconded by Councillor Bryony Hartley

Council notes new national research that shows GP waits over two and four weeks will hit a record high in 2025. Since 2020, there has been a 50% rise in patients waiting over 14 days – from 19.7 to 43 million appointments – and a 67% increase in those waiting over 28 days – from 5.8 to 12.9 million.

In 2025, nationally, almost one in five people have waited over two weeks, and one in 20 over four. Locally, it appears that the situation is much worse.

Council believes years of neglect by the previous Government broke our NHS and now the current Government is failing to grasp this spiralling-out-of-control crisis. General Practice is on the brink, with fewer and fewer GPs and surgeries closing every week nationwide. Family doctors are becoming responsible for hundreds more patients who are having greater and greater difficulties to get help.

According to the Royal College of GPs, nearly three-quarters of GPs now say patient safety is compromised by their workload.

Council believes the Government should implement an emergency package to ensure every patient can be seen within 7 days, or 24 hours if urgent. This could be achieved through a strategic fund for a recruitment and retention drive to secure 8,000 more GPs.

Council also expresses grave concern that neighbourhood health services in West Craven are virtually non-existent, with people requiring health checks, attending clinics or needing treatment having to routinely travel out of area to access services, while the so-called Newtown 'Clinic' in Barnoldswick remains virtually empty, and general practices are stretched beyond breaking point.

Council resolves to:

- Formally endorse the principal that residents in Pendle should not have to wait more than 7 days for a GP appointment, and be able to see a GP in 24 hours in cases of an emergency;
- Write to the Secretary of State for Health to convey the Council's position on this matter;
- Request Pendle's MPs to support an emergency package of measures, together with comprehensive neighbourhood health services serving the whole of Pendle;
- Refer this issue to the Pendle Health and Wellbeing Board requesting that a report is provided to all councillors about GP waiting times in the borough.
- Develop a questionnaire to distribute to all GPs in Pendle to give Council their insight into the pressures GP surgeries and patients are under with historically high waiting times and demands on service;
- Reaffirm Council's previous demands for a proper Health Centre in Barnoldswick, with the capacity to provide comprehensive neighbourhood health services under one roof;
- Request the Executive to pursue the Council's request for a Health Centre with NHS providers and other relevant parties.

### **(c) Cost-of-living Crisis, Energy Costs and Council Tax**

To be moved by Councillor David Whipp and seconded by Councillor Susan Land.

Council notes:

- the continuing crisis with the cost-of-living, with more households falling into debt and fewer families having enough money for discretionary spending as remorseless increases in food and essentials prices consume greater and greater shares of incomes;
- wealth and income inequalities are now off the scale and growing still further;
- freezing tax allowances will drag more low-income households into taxation;
- increases in the regressive Council Tax demanded by the Government will disproportionately impact people less able to afford this back-door taxation;
- Investment in national energy infrastructure totally £28bn will be paid for by hard-pressed consumers.

Council further notes:

- the effect of the Government's 'fair funding' review on Pendle and Lancashire;
- the imposition of new burdens on councils like Pendle, such as weekly food waste collections costing £1.6m;
- Cost-shunting from Lancashire County Council for waste transfer, estimated to cost Pendle residents £560,000;
- and loss of business rates income.

Council resolves that:

1. The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy be requested to uncouple energy costs from global gas prices and allow cheap renewable supplies to bring down household bills;
2. The Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer be requested to urgently consider alternatives to the unfair Council Tax;

3. The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government be requested to fully fund new burdens falling on local councils;
4. The Leader of the County Council be requested once again to review LCC's cost-shunting onto Pendle Borough Council, and meet with the Leader and Chief Executive to discuss this and other issues affecting the borough;
5. Pendle's Members of Parliament be asked to support the above requests on behalf of the residents that they represent.

#### **(d) Inaccessible Nelson and the M65**

To be moved by Councillor David Hartley and seconded by Councillor Brian Newman.

This Council notes:

1. Electricity, gas and county council roadworks around Nelson 'co-ordinated' in such a way as to virtually cut the town off.
2. Continuing, persistent, flooding on the M65 causing serious safety concerns.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to Lancashire County Council requesting an immediate improvement in disruption on the road network around Nelson with a guarantee of better co-ordination in future, and that the county council takes urgent effective action to prevent flooding on the M65.