

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

*S. Ahmed
A. Bell
M. Hanif
D. Hartley
A. Mahmood*

Also in attendance:

Councillor A. Sutcliffe

Officers in attendance

<i>Lawrence Conway</i>	<i>Interim Chief Executive</i>
<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Karen Spencer</i>	<i>Director of Resources</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Iftikar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Z. Ali and L. Whipp).

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**52. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT – WITHDRAWAL OF AGENDA ITEM 8 (EXEMPT ITEM) –
FURTHER CLOUGH HEAD – ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council, informed Executive that further work needed to be undertaken on the additional costings and consequently the report would need be withdrawn from consideration at this meeting.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

53. 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

54. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

55. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

56. PRELIMINARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) OPTIONS APPRAISAL – PROGRESS

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council and Lawrence Conway, Interim Chief Executive both provided detailed verbal updates on the preliminary Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options appraisal.

The Leader of the Council introduced the item. He informed Executive of on-going work and discussions between all 15 Local Authorities in Lancashire to draw up baselines; possible configuration of Unitary Councils; business cases and potential LGR options that needed to be worked through prior to the submission date of proposals to Central Government by 28th November, 2025.

The Leader further mentioned other work that had been undertaken, including a comprehensive report on the economic position in the County and that work was continuing at pace. He added that an All-Member seminar had been arranged for all Pendle Borough Councillors immediately prior to Full Council on 25th September, 2025, which would be webcast, when a more comprehensive update on the preliminary Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options appraisal would be given.

The Interim Chief Executive further added that extensive work had and continued to be undertaken by PBC Council Officers and commented on discussions with other Lancashire Local Authorities and potential options.

He added that Dean Langton, the Pendle Borough Council (PBC) incoming Chief Executive was also very involved with LGR discussions throughout Lancashire at his current local authority. The interim Chief Executive also spoke about "next steps" in the process, public consultation and dialogue with local MPs.

The Leader of the Council indicated that at a political level he had also sought meetings with the two local MPs and with Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Member of Parliament for Chorley on LGR.

Executive commented on the update and noted that the Leader of Rossendale Council had declined to engage with Pendle on LGR. Mention was also made of the substantial budget pressures facing the existing Lancashire Unitary Councils in providing both Adult and Children's Social Care Services and wanting to keep services "local" under whatever LGR structure was finally adopted by Central Government.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

57. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan published on 15th September 2025 was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

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

58. 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 item 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.

59. JADU UPGRADE & RENEWAL – RENEWING CONTRACT WITH JADU FOR OUR EXISTING DIGITAL SERVICES AND UPGRADING OUR WEBSITE

The Executive Member for Corporate and Human Resources presented a report of the Director of Resources for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the exempt report as submitted for renewing the contract with Jadu for the Council's existing digital services and upgrading the Council's website.

Executive placed on record its thanks and appreciation to Stephanie de Looze, Digital Customer Journey Lead, Policy and Commissioning, PBC for her work and efforts in progressing this matter.

REASON

To maintain the Council's existing digital services and upgrade the Council's website.

CHAIR _____