

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 16th OCTOBER, 2025**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

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

Also in attendance:

Councillors 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>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Planning, Regulatory and Building Control</i>
<i>Gemma-Louise Wells</i>	<i>Head of Finance</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Phil Kirby</i>	<i>Head of Property and Engineering</i>
<i>Rebecca Ferguson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Hartley).



60. 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.

61. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

62.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

63. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) OPTIONS APPRAISAL – PROGRESS

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council and Dean Langton, Chief Executive both provided detailed verbal updates on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) options appraisal and progress.

The Leader of the Council firstly welcomed Dean Langton to his first meeting of the Executive following his recent appointment as Chief Executive of Pendle Borough Council. He added Mr Langton had been involved in LGR matters at his previous local authority in Lancashire and was very familiar with the Pendle area having previously been employed with the Council in a Chief Officer position a few years ago.

He further informed Executive of the online “Have your Say” consultation on the Pendle Borough Council website on Local Government Reorganisation with 826 responses received to date.

Burnley Borough Council and Pendle Borough Council supported developing proposals for five Unitary Councils across Lancashire and were jointly preparing 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. He added 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. The vast majority of responses received to date supported the above.

The Chief Executive reiterated the points made by the Leader of the Council and also outlined the internal process moving forward prior to the submission of final proposals. There would be an All-Member seminar on LGR in the week commencing 10th November, 2025; and Extraordinary Council meeting on 17th November, 2025 and finally a meeting of the Executive on 20th November, 2025, with Executive making the final decision on the submission of LGR proposals to Central Government. It was expected Central Government would make its decision on LGR in Lancashire around mid-2026.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

64. KEIGHLEY ROAD CONSERVATION AREA

The Assistant Director, Planning, Regulatory and Building Control Services briefly introduced this matter.

Appended to the submitted report were the Keighley Road Conservation Area Appraisal (Appendix 1) and public consultation responses (Appendix 2).

He added that the Keighley Road Conservation Area Appraisal document had been further updated since the version circulated with the agenda and he had forwarded a copy of the document to the Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure for comment.

As a background to the report, he further informed Executive that Local Authorities were obliged from time to time to consider designating areas of historic importance as conservation areas. An appraisal had been undertaken of the area around Keighley Road in Colne to assess whether it merited such a designation. The appraisal report assessed that it had historical and architectural significance sufficient to warrant designating the area as a conservation area.

Councillor L. Whipp, Portfolio Holder for Strategic and Local Planning and Infrastructure commented on the proposal, consultations undertaken to date and the updated version of Keighley Road Conservation Appraisal document. Councillor L. Whipp had concerns that there had not been many comments from the public about the proposed designation and wanted to get more insight into the public's views on it.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price, as a Boulsworth and Foulridge Ward representative and as a member of the Colne and District Committee also spoke on this matter. She added that all the funding and impetus for such a Keighley Road Conservation Area had come from the Area Committee. She further added that initial consultation responses had been very poor despite letters outlining the proposal having been sent individually to all householders who would be affected by this proposal. She suggested that a major consultation event on the Keighley Road Conservation Area proposal should be undertaken at Colne Cricket Club to ascertain as many views as possible. The Leader of the Council and Executive indicated they were supportive of such a course of action.

Councillor M. Hanif also commented and added that all methods of consultation should be explored to get as many views as possible on this proposal.

RESOLVED

That Executive agrees a further consultation be undertaken, including through a consultation event on the proposals to be held at Colne Cricket Club on a date to be determined, before this matter is brought back before Executive to then determine whether to designate a new conservation area, (to be named Keighley Road Conservation Area if approved).

65. REFERRAL FROM NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE – GARDEN LAND TO REAR OF HILLSIDE CLOSE AND PENNINE WAY, BRIERFIELD

The Leader of the Council presented a report which had been referred from the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee which recommended that Executive declares the above-mentioned

parcels of garden land (as shown edged black on the Committee Plan attached to the submitted report) surplus to requirements to enable the Director of Resources to negotiate terms for its disposal.

RESOLVED

That Executive declares the garden land to the rear of Hillside Close and Pennine Way, Brierfield (as shown edged black on the Committee Plan attached to the submitted report) surplus to requirements and that the Director of Resources be granted authority to negotiate terms for its disposal.

66. REFERRAL FROM THE WEST CRAVEN AREA COMMITTEE – TREE PLANTING AT BAILEY STREET, EARBY

The Leader of the Council reported verbally on the following preamble and resolution of a meeting of the West Craven Area Committee held on 2nd September, 2025:

“Tree planting at Bailey Street, Earby- There was an opportunity to plant a 200m² micro forest on a triangular piece of land off Bailey Street to the rear of Aspen Grove at no cost, with donated trees planted by volunteers, and support from contractors working on the Spring Mill housing development. This was being organised and overseen by LCC.

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the tree planting initiative at Bailey Street, Earby and the Executive be asked to endorse the scheme”.

The Leader of the Council requested that Executive endorse the scheme.

RESOLVED

That Executive endorses the Tree Planting Scheme at Bailey Street, Earby.

67. FORWARD PLAN

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

RESOLVED

(1) That the Executive Forward Plan and information contained therein be noted; and

(2) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to review the Forward Plan.

68. 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.

69. YEAR 4 UKSPF TENDERS

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of the UKSPF Year 4 Funding scheme tender results and sought Executive's agreement on the award of contracts.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendations as set out in paragraphs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 of the submitted exempt report for the awards of contracts for public realm works at Barnoldswick (paragraph 2.2); Earby (paragraph 2.3) and Brierfield (paragraph 2.4).

70. PENDLE RISE SHOPPING CENTRE DEMOLITION TENDERS

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre Demolition Scheme tender results and sought agreement on the award of the contract.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the submitted exempt report for the award of the contract for the Pendle Rise Shopping Centre demolition tender.

CHAIR _____