

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 22nd JANUARY, 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor D. Whipp (Chair)

Councillors

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

Also in attendance:

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

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>David Walker</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Operational Services</i>
<i>Iftikar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Sarah Whitwell</i>	<i>Head of Housing and Environmental Health</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

Public: 12

Press: 1

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Hartley



100. 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.

Councillors A. Mahmood and D. Whipp both declared Other Registrable Interests in Minute 103 below (Bankhouse Road Site) as they were both members of the Penbrook 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,

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Councillor L Whipp was appointed from the remaining Executive membership to Chair the meeting for this item.

Councillor M. Hanif declared an Other Registrable Interest in Minute 106 below (Pendle Leisure Trust – Proposed Lease extension) as a Council appointee to the Pendle Leisure Trust Board but had been granted a dispensation to remain in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting on this item.

101. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

102. MINUTES

The minutes of the under-mentioned meeting were moved and seconded as a correct record.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

103. BANKHOUSE ROAD SITE

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth introduced the report which provided Executive with an update on the Bankhouse Road site in Bradley, Nelson following the conclusion of the open marketing exercise. Appended to the submitted report was the Bankhouse Road site plan.

RESOLVED: That Executive agrees -

- (1) to take a scheme forward on the Bankhouse Road site through the Council's Joint Venture company PenBrook Developments; and;
- (2) to agree an in-principle transfer of the site to PenBrook on the understanding that a further report would be brought back to Executive to agree a formal transfer once the details of a viable scheme had been agreed.

104. DOMESTIC FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services introduced a report which provided Executive with an update on the progress and planned activities for the introduction of weekly domestic food waste collections within the Borough and thanked the Assistant Director, Operational Services and his team for the work undertaken and in the actions progressed and to be taken in relation to the introduction of the Domestic Food Waste Collection Scheme.

Councillors D Whipp commented on the lack of New Burdens funding from Central Government towards the introduction of this new service. He also welcomed the environmental benefits of the scheme and that less food waste would be sent to landfill following its introduction of collections.

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He also mentioned the successful pilot collection service undertaken in terraced areas which proved popular.

Cllr A. Bell also commented on and welcomed the introduction of this scheme, as did Cllr S. Cockburn-Price mentioning the “green” benefits the scheme would bring.

RESOLVED:

That Executive endorses the actions taken and that were to be taken.

105. TENDER REPORT – DEVELOPMENT OF THE HALIFAX ROAD CEMETERY SITE

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure Services introduced a report which informed Executive of the results of a recent procurement exercise completed for the development of the Halifax Road Cemetery site.

Following tender submissions and evaluations, as detailed in paragraph 3 of the submitted report, Executive was recommended to award the contract for the award of the development of the Halifax Road cemetery site to Biba’s Landscapes Limited.

Twelve members of the public attended for this item and two of them, Mr Allan Nizinkiewicz and Mr Peter Wilkinson, both Pendle residents who had direct interests in this matter addressed Executive. They outlined a number of concerns, including the tender process, bids, evaluation, and the ability of the successful tenderer to undertake the complexity and nature of the work. They also raised several other concerns including relating to drainage, flooding and environmental permits.

Councillor D. Whipp, Leader of the Council responded to the points raised by the speakers and both Dean Langton, Chief Executive and Karen Spencer, Director of Resources responded in respect of the tendering process, specialist advisers the Council had used and due diligence in respect of the award of the contract.

Phillip Spurr, Director of Place and David Walker, Assistant Director, Operational Services also commented and responded to questions raised.

Cllrs A. Bell, M. Hanif, A. Mahmood and S. Cockburn-Price also commented.

It was further moved by Cllr M. Hanif and seconded by Cllr Z. Ali that the following additional wording be included and added to the proposed Executive resolution: “subject to the completion of due diligence”.

RESOLVED:

That Executive approves the Council entering into agreement with Biba’s Landscapes Limited to develop the site for use as a cemetery subject to the completion of due diligence.

106. PENDLE LEISURE TRUST – PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Leisure Services presented a report which sought Executive's agreement to the extension of the current management and facility lease agreements between the Council and Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) from October, 2028 to 31st March, 2033.

The report highlighted the financial efficiencies and service improvements achieved under the current partnership arrangements, concluding that an extension of the current arrangements represented the most efficient and value for money way forward.

Cllr S. Cockburn-Price commented on paragraph 5:2 of the submitted report welcoming the Climate and Bio-Diversity implications that the proposed habitat creation and enhancements to the site to create a net gain in bio-diversity and that habitats such as grassland and trees currently found upon the site would be developed for the required 30 year period as best practice for bio diversity net gain.

Cllrs A. Bell and A. Mahmood also commented on the report.

RESOLVED:

That Executive grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree an extension of Pendle Borough Council's (PBC) management agreement and facility leases with PLT from October 2028 to 31st March, 2033, subject to the receipt of detailed procurement and subsidy control advice.

107. UPDATE TO THE MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2026/27 – 2028/29

The Leader of the Council introduced a report which provided an update on the development of the Council's budget for 2026/27. The report also provided an update on the outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and what this meant for the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Attached at Appendix A to the submitted report was a letter sent by the Leader of the Council dated 31 December, 2025 to the Local Government Finance Settlement Team, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government with a response to Consultation – Provisional Local Government Settlement 2026/27.

Cllr D. Cockburn-Price commented on the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive

- (1) notes the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2026/27 – 2028/29 as set out in the report;
- (2) notes the response to the Provisional 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation as set out at Appendix A to the submitted report;
- (3) notes that further work was required to determine the estimate of Business Rates Retained for 2026/27 which would reflect the Council's local knowledge/circumstances and that this work had begun following the release of guidance from Government on this matter;

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- (4) acknowledge that the estimates of Council Tax income presented in this report were subject to decision by Budget Council on 26th February, 2026 and were therefore indicative at this stage; and
- (5) notes that the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/27 – 2026/29 and that this would be further updated once decisions on the Council's budgets were taken at Budget Council on 26th February, 2026.

108. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

The Leader of the Council informed Executive that following the Council resolution in September, 2025 this report sought Executive's approval to include a specific provision within the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) under Section 13A and Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to provide increased council tax reductions for residents who were terminally ill.

Councillor Y. Iqbal, who had raised this matter through a motion at Full Council, commented and welcomed the report however sort clarity on the use of the wording "Reduction" rather than "Exemption" from Council Tax. Karen Spencer, Director of Resources explained the rationale and reasoning for the use of the word "reduction" in the document which had come from learning how to best introduce a scheme from Manchester City Council that had introduced a similar scheme some time ago.

Cllrs A. Sutcliffe and S. Cockburn-Price both spoke in support of the proposed new policy – Council Tax Terminally Ill – Additional Council Tax Support.

RESOLVED: That Executive -

- (1) Approves the inclusion of additional Council Tax Resolution for terminally Ill Residents as part of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme under Section 13A and Schedule 1A as set out at Appendix A to the submitted report; and
- (2) Delegates authority to the Section 151 Officer (Director of Resources) to make minor operational amendments where required.

109. REFERRAL FROM WEST CRAVEN AREA COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd DECEMBER 2025 – HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION IN WEST CRAVEN

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

He informed Executive about discussions at the December, 2025 meeting of the West Craven Area Committee specifically about the lack of local health services in the area, residents struggling to get a GP appointment, even a telephone appointment. This was particularly difficult for people who were working. There would be increased pressure on current services when the new houses were built in Barnoldswick and residents were having to travel out of town for simple treatments. The new NHS provision at Newtown was not being utilised.

The Area Committee had made the following recommendation - Executive was asked to take up the issue of health service provision in West Craven with the NHS again.

RESOLVED

That the Executive take up the issue of health service provision in West Craven with the NHS again and a meeting be sought with Dr Sakthi Karunanithi and the Integrated Care Board.

110. REFERRAL FROM NELSON, BRIEFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE – LAND TO THE REAR OF THE GARDEN ZONE, FLEET STREET, NELSON

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

At the meeting of the Nelson Brierfield and Reedley Committee held on 5th January, 2026, the Committee considered a request by Bodies in Motion (Registered Charity) to be granted a Lease so that they can secure grant funding for the creation of an outdoor adventure facility and forest school and made the following recommendation(s) to Executive: “That the request by Bodies in Motion be approved and that the Executive be asked to approve the granting of a lease”.

RESOLVED

That the request by Bodies in Motion be approved and Executive approve the granting of a lease.

111. REFERRAL FROM COLNE AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE – DISPOSAL OF CAR PARK – LAND, COLNE CRICKET AND BOWLING CLUB, BYRON ROAD, COLNE

The Leader of the Council introduced this item.

Executive was asked to consider recommendations from the Colne and District Area Committee following its meeting on 8th January, 2026.

At that meeting, the Committee considered a request for disposal of car parking land, Colne Cricket and Bowling Club, Byron Road, Colne and made various recommendations to Executive.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Executive declare the car parking land off Byron Road, Colne surplus to requirements for transfer to Colne Cricket and Bowling Club at nil consideration; and
- (2) That the Director of Resources be delegated authority to agree the terms and conditions of disposal.

REASON

A disposal of the land would allow the Club to invest and improve the ground’s facilities and would remove a potential maintenance liability for the Council.

112. FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Forward Plan published on 15th January 2026 was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

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

113. 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 and/or in relation to exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

114. ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW – PREPARATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNEMENT REORGANISATION

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of proposed changes to the Council's organisational structure and responsibilities within it as part of the process of preparing for and creating capacity to manage the impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

RESOLVED

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

115. EMPTY PROPERTY OPTIONS - BARNOLDSWICK

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Customer Services introduced a report which provided Executive with reviews of four long term empty properties in Barnoldswick and set out options for bringing them back into use.

The Leader of the Council responded to the report, discussed alternative options with Executive and Officers' for those empty properties to those listed in the exempt report and proposed way forward for each property was discussed and agreed at the meeting

RESOLVED; That Executive:

- (1) Notes the position of for each property as set out in paragraphs 2(a) of the submitted exempt report;
- (2) Agrees alternate actions, as now outlined at this meeting, in respect of the properties outlined at paragraphs 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; and 3.4 of the submitted exempt report;
- (3) That monthly reports on progress be submitted to the West Craven Area Committee; and

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(4) That a further progress report be submitted to Executive in due course.

116. REFERRAL FROM COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE – LAND TO THE REAR OF 189 COTTONTREE LANE, COLNE

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of a referral from the Colne and District Area Committee and a request to declare garden land surplus as set out in the exempt report.

At the meeting of the Colne and District Committee held on 8th January, 2026, the Colne And District Committee made the following recommendations to Executive:

- (1) That the Executive be recommended to declare the garden land to the rear of 189 Cottontree Lane, Colne as shown edged black on the plan attached to the report, surplus to requirements.
- (2) That the Director of Resources be delegated authority to negotiate terms for the sale of the parcel of land to the resident of 189 Cottontree Lane, Colne.

RESOLVED

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

REASONS

(1) *There are no operational uses for the land by the Council. Disposal of the land would provide a continued wellbeing benefit to the resident in providing outdoor amenity space and long-term security in their use of the land.*

(2) *To ensure the Council receives market value for the land and accords with best value.*

117. REFERRAL FROM COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE – LAND AT MILL GREEN, WATERSIDE ROAD, COLNE

The Leader of the Council presented a report which informed the Executive of a referral from the Colne and District Area Committee and a request from the new leasehold owners to purchase the freehold and the offer made as set out in the exempt report.

At the meeting of the Colne and District Committee held on 8th January, 2026, the Colne and District Committee made the following recommendation to Executive:

That the Executive defer a decision on the disposal of the Council's Freehold interest in land at Mill Green, Waterside Road, Colne, as shown in the plan attached to the report, until the conclusion of the asset transfer discussions with Colne Town Council.

REASON

To ensure all information is considered.

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Executive considered the request for deferral, however determined to approve the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in this site.

RESOLVED

That the Executive agrees the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the submitted exempt report.

CHAIR _____