

<b>Report Title</b>	Review of Council Plan 2026-28
<b>Meeting and dates</b>	Executive – 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Council – 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Report Author</b>	Sarah Astin-Wood – Head of Policy and Commissioning
<b>Directorate</b>	Resources
<b>Lead Executive Member(s)</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt</b>	Public
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	App A - Updated draft Council Plan 2026-2028

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Council agreed the Council Plan for 2025-28, which was an update of the previous Corporate Plan 2023-2027. The revisions included particular reference to the Transfer of Assets to Town and Parish Councils, within the context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution.
- 1.2 This report brings a further update of the Council Plan for 2026-28, which now includes an additional, fifth priority: Preparing for LG R, recognising that this matter is now progressing at pace and the Council will need to consider prioritising its resources accordingly.

## 2. Recommendations

**For the reasons set out in this report, it is requested that:**

- 2.1 Executive:
- a) Recommends to Council the adoption of the new draft Council Plan 2026-2028 to include a fifth priority in its own right: Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation.
- 2.2 Council:
- a) Receives the feedback and recommendations from Executive;
  - b) Approves and adopts the draft updated Council Plan 2026-28.

### **3. Information: Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Council Plan is a key strategic document that, amongst other matters, articulates a range of priorities (and related actions) that guide the delivery of services and projects provided by the Council to meet the needs of the Borough's communities. This is within the overall vision of creating '*a richly characterful place with ambition, opportunities and strong connections*'. Implementation of the Council Plan informs the allocation of Council resources as part of the approach to service, financial and human resource planning.
- 3.2 The Council Plan sits alongside other key policies and documents, such as the Constitution and Local Plan, to provide an overarching vision and delivery of the communities and Council's priorities.
- 3.3 In conjunction with the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, the Chief Executive has undertaken a review of the existing Council Plan in the light of the increasing focus of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). An update draft of the Council Plan is attached to this report.  
Aside from bringing the Plan up-to-date with current data where it is considered appropriate to do so, the most fundamental change is the inclusion of a fifth priority: Preparing for LGR to sit alongside the other priorities of the Council.
- 3.4 Councillors will be aware of the progress made with LGR in Lancashire. At the end of November 2025, Councils in Lancashire submitted a range of proposals for the unitarisation of local government in the area. These proposals are currently the subject of consultation by the Government.
- 3.5 Up to now, actions associated with LGR have been included in other priority areas, rather than it being considered a priority area in its own right. Given the pace at which LGR is now progressing, it is now considered appropriate that it sits alongside other priorities, not least because the range of actions associated with it is likely to increase and will likely draw on the wider resource base of the Council. Ultimately, given the resources available to the Council, this may require some reconsideration of priority actions or additional resources.
- 3.6 Subject to Council adopting the updated Council Plan 2026-28, and as with existing priorities, further detailed work will be undertaken to develop the specific actions that will be undertaken to deliver on the additional priority. And, as is normally the case, progress on the delivery of Council Plan actions will be subject of quarterly reports to the Executive.

### **4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Healthy Communities)**

- 4.1 This report outlines updated content to the Council Plan 2025-28. It links to all Priorities.

## **5. Implications**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising from the contents of this report suffice to say that the budgetary implications of LGR are considered in a report elsewhere on the Agenda for this meeting.

### **5.2 Legal and Governance Implications**

No further legal or governance implications, over and above the Council Plan 2025-2028 adoption are affected by this report. The introduction of Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution is likely to be subject to numerous future reports to Council, where these issues will be addressed.

### **5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications**

Whilst there are no additional implications for Climate and Biodiversity in terms of delivery programmes, it should be recognised that Climate and Biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme affecting all areas of the Council's influence and direct actions.

### **5.4 Human Resources Implications**

Whilst there are no immediate implications contained in this report, due consideration should be taken regards the potential future impact on Members and staff, due to both Local Government Reorganisation and the Councils available resources, human, built and financial.

### **5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications**

An equality screening has taken place, and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan 2023-2027 was subject to a programme of community and partner consultation during its original creation.

## **7. Alternative Options Considered**

- 7.1 Council could decide not to consider or adopt the changes made to the draft updated Council Plan 2026-28.

By not considering or adopting the updated plan, the Council may be at risk of not achieving its Priorities on behalf of its communities, may not ready itself, partners and its community, for the potential implications of Local Government Reorganisation and may not identify and resource the financial expenditure it may incur for any work associated with Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, or re-prioritisation of key actions.

**8. Statutory Officer Sign off** (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

**9. Background Documents**

Council Plan 2025-2028: [Council Plan 2025-2028 | Pendle Borough Council](#)  
Draft Updated Council Plan 2026-2028

**Contact Officers**

Dean Langton, Chief Executive: [dean.langton@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:dean.langton@pendle.gov.uk)

Sarah Astin-Wood, Head of Policy and Commissioning: [sarah.astin-wood@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.astin-wood@pendle.gov.uk)