



MEETING OF THE  
**ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
TO BE HELD ON  
**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY, 2026**  
**AT 6.00 p.m.**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

(For further information please contact **Paul Preston** [paul.preston@pendle.gov.uk](mailto:paul.preston@pendle.gov.uk))

The meeting will also be live streamed and can be accessed via the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/WB0VF6VpDDU?feature=share>

**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 Regulations 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. Election of Mayor of the Borough

Mover : Conservative A. Sutcliffe  
Seconder : Councillor A. Mahmood  
Supported by : Councillor L. Whipp  
Supported by : Councillor Y Iqbal

**MOTION:** That Councillor Nadeem Ahmed be hereby elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Nadeem Ahmed to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by law.

Councillor Mohammad Ammer to vacate the Chair in favour of the Mayor.

Speech by His Worship the Mayor.

## 2. Minutes

Mover : The Mayor  
Seconder : Cllr A Mahmood

**MOTION:**

**Enc.** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 copies having been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

## 3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

Mover : Councillor M Iqbal  
Seconder : Councillor A Sutcliffe

**MOTION:**

That the best thanks of the Council be hereby tendered to Councillor Mohammad Ammer and his Mayoress Mrs Ghulam Kibria for their services as Mayor and Mayoress during their term of Office.

His Worship the Mayor will present commemorative badges of office to Councillor Mohammad Ammer and Mrs Ghulam Kibria.

Speech by the retiring Mayor.

4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

Following the Lib Dem Group's nominated Deputy Mayor for 2026/27, former Councillor Andy Bell, not being re-elected at the May 2026 Elections, the Lib Dem Group has chosen Councillor Brian Newman to serve as Deputy Mayor for 2026/27.

Mover : Councillor D. Harley  
Seconded : Councillor M. Hanif

**MOTION:**

That Councillor Brian Newman be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Brian Newman to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by law.

Speech by the Deputy Mayor.

5. **Mayor's Allowance**

Mover : Councillor A. Sutcliffe  
Seconded : Councillor A. Mahmood

**MOTION:**

That an allowance of £6,130 be paid to the Mayor for the purpose of enabling him to meet the expenses of the office and that such allowance be paid to the credit of the Mayor at the Council's Bankers and any credit balance remaining at the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council be re-appropriated to the Council's Account.

6. **Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor to report that he has appointed Reverend Nick Murray and Imam Qari Khalid Mehmood the office of Mayor's Chaplain for the Municipal Year 2026/27 and to duly signify such appointment to the Council.



7. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

A Member must declare a disclosable pecuniary interest which he/she has 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.

8. **Appointment of the Leader of the Council and the Executive**

**(a) Appointment of Leader**

Mover: Councillor  
Seconder: Councillor

**(b) Appointment of Deputy Leader**

The Leader to report on the appointment of a Deputy Leader.

**(c) Appointment of Executive**

The Leader to report on the appointment of Members of the Executive for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

9. **Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 – Political Balance Rules**

Whenever the allocation of seats on Committees is reviewed, the Council is required to apply the statutory political balance rules.

The rules apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Development Management Committee, Licensing Committee, Taxi Licensing Committee, the Accounts and Audit Committee, the Standards Hearing Committee and Senior Management Appointments Committee. They do not apply to the Area Committees or the Executive.

**Enc.** Attached is a note on the review.

10. **Appointment to Committees**

To consider the appointment of Members to Committees for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 5 Members
- (b) Development Management Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 12 Members
- (c) Employment Appeals Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 4 Members
- (d) Licensing Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
- (e) Overview and Scrutiny Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
- (f) Senior Management Appointments Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 4 Members
- (g) Standards Hearing Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 6 Members
- (h) Taxi Licensing Committee** – a politically balanced Committee of 9 Members
- (i) Area Committees** – not politically balanced

11. **Appointment of Chairmen of Committees**

To appoint Chairs of the following Committees:

- (a) Accounts and Audit Committee
- (b) Development Management Committee
- (c) Licensing Committee
- (d) Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- (e) Senior Management Appointments Committee
- (f) Taxi Licensing Committee

12. **Appointment to Working Group**

To appoint the following Working Group:

Local Government Reorganisation Working Group – 9 Members (2 Conservatives :3 Pendle Community Independents Group: 2 Liberal Democrats; 1 Reform UK and 1 Pendle True Independent Member).

13. **Dates of Council Meetings for 2026/27**

Mover : His Worship the Mayor  
Seconder : The Deputy Mayor

**MOTION:**

That meetings of the Full Council be held on the following dates:

16<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2026  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2027 (Special Budget)  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2027  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2027 (Annual Council) – 6pm

**Enc.** That the dates of other meetings set out on the attached schedule be approved.

14. **Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

**(a) Appointment to Organisations/Associations**

Mover : Councillor A. Mahmood  
Seconder : Councillor A. Sutcliffe

**MOTION:**

That the persons set out in the schedule, previously circulated to members, be appointed or nominated as this Council's representatives on the bodies specified to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2027 or such other dates as are indicated.

**N.B. The appointment of representatives to those outside bodies which are required to be made by the Area Committees are not included in this list.**

**(b) Member Champions 2026/27**

To consider nominations for the following:

| <b>Member Champion</b>                     | <b>Current Member Champions</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Armed Forces                               | Councillor D. Hartley           |
| Dementia, Disability and Mental Health     | Councillor D. Lord              |
| Health and Wellbeing                       | Councillor M. Iqbal             |
| Older People                               | Vacant                          |
| Young People including Every Child Matters | Councillor D. Lord              |
| Sustainable Travel                         | Councillor L. Whipp             |

**15. Review of the Constitution**

**Enc.** Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services attached.

**16. Notices on Motion**

**(a) East Lancashire Safer, Greener, Healthier Streets Programme and Accessible Nelson Projects – A Waste of Money**

To be moved by Councillor Y Iqbal and seconded by Councillor M Stone.

This Council notes that the East Lancashire Safer, Greener, Healthier Streets programme and the Accessible Nelson scheme forms part of a wider £55 million investment across Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, and Rossendale, with the stated aim of connecting homes, jobs, and services through measures including pedestrian-friendly streets, reduced traffic speeds, and changes to local road layouts.

The Council also notes that these projects include scheme such as wider pavements, new crossings, and traffic calming measures. Council further notes that the scheme's intended purpose was to improve public spaces, road safety, and active travel opportunities.

However, Council expresses serious concern that, in practice, many residents and businesses believe these schemes represent poor value for public money and are likely to increase congestion, journey times, and disruption across already pressured local road networks.

Council is concerned that:

- Traffic-calming measures and road alterations are displacing traffic onto surrounding residential roads;
- Reduced road capacity is worsening congestion at peak times;
- Local businesses are suffering from reduced accessibility and delays;
- Emergency services, public transport reliability, and everyday commuting could be negatively impacted;

- The long-term economic and environmental benefits claimed for the programme have not been sufficiently demonstrated.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (1) Request a full review of the Safer, Greener, Healthier Streets and Accessible Nelson schemes currently planned or underway within the borough;
- (2) Seek detailed evidence regarding projected traffic impacts, congestion modelling, environmental outcomes, and value for money;
- (3) Ensure meaningful ongoing consultation with residents, businesses, and community groups before further phases are implemented;
- (4) Call on Lancashire County Council and relevant authorities to prioritise practical transport solutions that reduce congestion rather than increase disruption for motorists, residents, and local businesses;
- (5) Publish regular monitoring reports assessing the real-world impact of the schemes on traffic flow, air quality, local trade, and public satisfaction.

#### **(b) Tackling Disruptive Roadworks in Pendle**

To be moved by Councillor Y Iqbal and seconded by Councillor N Ashraf.

This Council recognises the growing frustration felt by residents and local businesses due to lengthy and disruptive roadworks across Pendle, particularly when works overrun and cause unnecessary delays.

It also notes that other councils have introduced lane rental schemes which allow charges of up to £2,500 per day for works that cause major disruption on key roads. Money raised through these schemes can then be reinvested into local transport and community improvements.

This Council believes that utility companies and contractors should carry out works efficiently, complete them on time wherever possible, and reduce disruption to the public.

The Council further believes that any income generated through a lane rental scheme should be used directly to benefit local communities across Pendle.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (1) Request that Lancashire County Council explores the introduction of a lane rental or roadworks charging scheme in Pendle, based on successful models used elsewhere.
- (2) Support the principle of charging up to £2,500 per day for roadworks that overrun or create significant disruption on traffic-sensitive routes.
- (3) Ask that any revenue raised is ringfenced for local priorities including pothole repairs, road maintenance, traffic management, pedestrian safety improvements, and wider community projects across Pendle.
- (4) Request a report setting out the legal powers available, the potential benefits of such a scheme, and the options for introducing it locally.

**(c) M65 Flooding**

To be moved by Councillor B Newman and seconded by Councillor S Land

Council welcomes the 'emergency' work carried out of the M65 in Pendle following the resolution about flooding at our last meeting, but notes that Lancashire County Council estimates that a full solution to flooding and other issues will cost £15 million.

Council also notes that the Government is inviting bids to a 'structures' fund for highway work, but that Reform-led LCC has not indicated it would apply.

Council resolves to request Lancashire County Council to submit a bid for work on the M65 for the structures funding, and that the MPs representing Pendle are requested to support the bid.

**(d) Make Votes Matter**

To be moved by Councillor L Whipp and seconded by Councillor D Hartley

Council notes that First Past The Post voting has had its day. Elections should grant everyone a vote that matters, but ours deprive most of us of a representative of our choosing. With 5 parties and independents polling strongly, our voting system is delivering chaos and turning elections into a lottery - where few people get what they want. It simply can't cope with the multi-party politics we have in the UK.

Council also notes, with concern, reports of voters receiving their postal votes late and people being turned away due to presenting photo ID that is not accepted under the government's Voter ID rules. Council believes that voting should be accessible, and effortless, to allow anyone to exercise their right to vote without hindrance and that even one voter turned away due to 'inadequate' ID is one too many. 16,000 people were turned away from the polling station in the 2024 General Election while levels of impersonation have always been extremely low. There were only 10 convictions between 2019 and 2023 out of the tens of millions of votes cast.

The government's Representation of the People Bill is set to expand the list of acceptable forms of ID and reduce the number of people locked out of voting by the last government's rules. This highly anticipated bill should make significant changes to the scheme to scrap the need for photo ID and allow common types of non-photographic ID that many more voters will have access to, such as bank cards, but Council believes this is not enough - a poll card should be sufficient.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Write to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Samantha Dixon MBE MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Building Safety, Fire, and Democracy), and Jonathan Hinder MP to demand an end to this broken system and ask that the government adopt Proportional Representation in our elections — so that every vote counts equally at every election, and to put an end to voter ID requirements to restore people's right to vote.
- (2) Investigate and report on delayed postal votes and electors turned away due to 'improper' ID.

**(e) Palantir in our NHS**

To be moved by Councillor C Church and seconded by Councillor B Hartley

Council notes with grave concern the expansion of NHS contracts to Palantir, and the sharing of private health data without patient consent. Palantir is a US software company whose tools are currently used by the Israeli military as they commit genocide against Palestinians in occupied Gaza. Palantir also supplies ICE with tools that are used to track and surveil citizens and migrants in the US. In 2023 NHS England awarded a £330 million contract to Palantir to provide a new data platform.

Council further notes that on the 11th May, Palantir was given 'unlimited access' to identifiable patient data, without informing patients.

Council resolves to write to Wes Streeting MP Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Dr Zubir Ahmed MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health Innovation and Safety, and Pendle's MPs, to demand that the government:

- (1) End Palantir's involvement in the NHS as soon as possible and not award them any more contracts
- (2) Consult on alternatives which respect patients and protects our public NHS

**(f) Co-Operative Development Network**

To be moved by Councillor L Whipp and seconded by Councillor A Mahmood

Council notes the success of the Preston Model in developing their local cooperative economy by putting local residents and businesses first, and the Council's resolution to become a cooperative council in March. Part of Preston's strategy is a development network to assist the formation, conversion, and running of co-operatives and act as a platform for local knowledge sharing. Pendle is proud to host excellent co-operatives already operating in the Borough, In-situ in Brierfield, Trawden Forest Community Centre and Shop, Co-op food, and co-op funeral care among others.

This council recognises the benefits of community, resident, customer, and worker-controlled businesses, housing and services for community resilience and the need to establish parallel systems to private companies that ensure investment and profits are re-directed back into Pendle for the benefit of all. The establishment of a co-op development network with full or part time staff would be a legacy that Pendle Borough Council would leave to our local economy, alongside the projects funded by the legacy fund established previously.

Council resolves to:

- (1) Establish in principle a Pendle Co-op Development Network, aiming to support new and existing cooperatives, CICs, and other non-profits, with a report to the executive on the potential financial and governance arrangements.
- (2) Engage with Cooperatives UK, the Cooperative Bank, and Town and Village councils on working jointly to grow the network.