

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 25th JUNE 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmood (in the Chair)

Councillors

*Z. Ali
M. Ammer
M. Hanif
D. Lord
L. Whipp*

Also in attendance:

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price, 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>Karen Spencer</i>	<i>Director of Resources</i>
<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control & Regulatory</i>
<i>Jane McDonnell</i>	<i>Assistant Director, Human Resources and Organisational Change</i>
<i>Howard Culshaw</i>	<i>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</i>
<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Paul Preston</i>	<i>Democratic Services Manager</i>

Public: 6

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



19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute 24 below as Chair of the Board of Trustees, Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG) but had a dispensation, and Other Registrable Interests as a Town Councillor on Colne Town Council (Minute 24) and as a Director on Pearl (Minute 25).

Councillor L. Whipp declared an Other Registerable Interests as a Barnoldswick Town Councillor (Minute 24) and as a Director on PenBrook Joint Venture (Minute 25).

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Councillor M. Hanif declared an Other Registrable Interests as a Councillor on Brierfield Town Council (Minute 24) and as Director on PEARL (Minute 25).

Councillor Z. Ali declared an Other Registrable Interest as a Councillor on Nelson Town Council (Minute 24)

Councillor A. Mahmood declared Other Registrable Interests as a Director of PEARL and PenBrook.(Minute 25)

Howard Culshaw, Head of Legal and Democratic Services clarified that regarding the Companies Annual Report (Minute 25 below), there were no dispensations for Members and accordingly these were Other Registrable Interests and that Members who had declared them were advised to take no part in the debate and leave the room before the matter was considered and voted on (See Member declarations made at Minute 25 below).

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price declared an Other Registrable Interests as a member of the Board of Trustees, Colne Youth Action Group (CYAG) but had a dispensation, and a Town Councillor on Colne Town Council. (Minutes 24)

Councillor D. Lord declared an Other Registrable Interest as a Town Councillor on Colne Town Council. (Minute 24)

20. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28th May, 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price commented on the minutes (Minute 5) regarding Gib Hill Guardians. The Leader of the Council responded and reconfirmed that Gib Hill was not an asset which was to be transferred.

22. FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND UPDATE TO MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2027/30

The Leader of the Council submitted a report which provided Executive with details of the Financial Strategy and an update to the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2027/30.

Appended to the report were:

- Appendix A – Summary Medium Term Financial Plan 2027/30;
- Appendix B – Forecast of Reserves and Balances 2027/30;
- Appendix C and D – Scenario Analysis;
- Appendix E – Outline Financial Strategy.

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Councillor D. Cockburn-Price commented on a number of aspects of the report.

The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and other Executive Members commented on the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive:

- (a) notes the update to the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2027/30 as presented at Appendix A;
- (b) grants delegated authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to lobby MHCLG for the continuation of the Adjustment Support Grant;
- (c) notes the position with the Council's Reserves and Balances (and that this is subject to review following the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2025/26)
- (d) notes the scenario analysis shown at Appendix D and E which models 'worse/better' case scenarios around the baseline MTFP as part of the assessment of potential financial risks facing the Council.
- (e) agrees in principle the outline Budget Strategy for 2027/28 as set out in the report and request the Corporate Leadership Team to use this as the basis of developing the budget proposal for the year; and
- (f) subject to the work above and agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, agree that some form of public and business-based consultation on the Council's budget (and corporate priorities) should take place to inform decisions on the Council's budget for 2027/28.

23. POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS THEMATIC GROUPS – ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Member – Communities Portfolio and Executive Member – Health and Leisure Services Portfolio and Finance jointly introduced the Policy and Partnerships Thematic Groups Annual Report.

Councillor Z. Ali expressed concern at the cost-of-living challenges facing many families in the Borough and the high number of households still reliant on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. He also referred to and welcomed the taking on an Environment Warden in Nelson. He further commended the "Bin a Banger" campaign undertaken in the area in conjunction with Lancashire Constabulary.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price commented regarding the Colne area and highlighted some excellent work undertaken by the Council's Community Engagement Officer in the Policy team. regarding Art and Culture, she also wanted to see the convening of future meeting of the Arts and Culture Steering Group by Pendle Leisure Trust. Councillor A. Sutcliffe and Dean Langton, Chief Executive also spoke on this and the intentions of progressing future meeting of the Arts and Culture Steering Group.

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price commented on also highlighting the role of promoting partners and the roles partners played in partnership working with Council. He also talked around funding sources and HAF.

RESOLVED: That Executive

- (a) Note the progress made across thematic priority areas;
- (b) Recognise the impact of partnership working in delivering positive outcomes for Pendle's communities.
- (c) Note the changing delivery context, including the end of UKSPF funding and transition to Local Government Reorganisation; and
- (d) Support continued partnership-led approaches across the thematic areas of Community Cohesion, Arts & Culture, Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing.

24. PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

A public speaker, Dianne Hamnett, a resident of Earby, addressed the Executive, spoke in a personal capacity regarding the Pride in Place Impact Fund and specifically in relation to the allocation of funding in Earby.

The Leader of the Council explained on the objective scoring procedure undertaken by Council Officers across all Projects submitted and how the PIPF funding had been allocated.

The Deputy Leader of the Council provided a response and clarity to matters raised by Diane Hamnett regarding her comments in relation to Earby Town Council West Craven Area Committee.

As a background, Executive was reminded that Projects were selected by the Executive for Pendle's Pride in Place Impact Fund in March 2026 on the basis that only half the programme would be committed to at that time using the first 50% of funds already received in November 2025 from government. The second half would be planned for but not committed to until remaining funds were received.

This report provided an update to the Executive on the progress of the first half of the programme, as well as an update in respect to the second half of funds from Government and sought a decision from Executive on unallocated funds and updates within the programme.

The Deputy Leader of the Council noted the need to progress schemes and referred to public consultation and suggested delegated authority be given to Officers, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader to progress matters. Dean Langton responded the matter was an Executive decision and could not be made by Leader and Deputy Leader under delegation.

Dean Langton, Chief Executive spoke and reminded Executive there was now a need to progress schemes as detailed in the recommendations of the report now submitted. The Area Committees would report their respective views back to Executive for decision on the proposals now put forward in the report's recommendations.

Councillor Z. Ali commented on the views and actions of Jonathan Hinder, MP in this matter.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price commented on the report, with specific reference to Colne projects.

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RESOLVED: That Executive

(a) notes progress of the programme; and

(b) approves the recommendations on unallocated funds and variations within the Programme as set out at Sections 3.9 to 3.17 of the submitted report.

25. COMPANIES ANNUAL REPORT

(Councillors S. Cockburn-Price, M. Hanif, A. Mahmood and L. Whipp all declared Other Registrable Interests regarding their respective Directorships in Companies and left the room before the matter was discussed and voted on. In the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader, Councillor Z. Ali chaired the meeting for this item)

The submitted report which was presented to the Executive to ensure it had oversight of the Council's Joint Venture (JV) companies – PEARL, PEARL2, Pearl Together, PEARL (Brierfield Mill) and PenBrook Developments Ltd, to carry out their shareholder oversight function.

The report reflected on the historical delivery of Joint Venture company projects over the previous 18 months and sets out what was being proposed in 2026/2027. The report highlighted the success as well as the challenge for delivery of the schemes and demonstrates how these challenges were being addressed across the JVs. The report also updated members about recent changes at Growth Lancashire.

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, the Director of Place introduced the report and highlighted key aspects of the report.

Councillor A. Sutcliffe commented on the report, which he found the content generally very positive. He further commented on PEARL and Brierfield Mill.

Councillor D. Cockburn-Price further commented on the report and on the need to get approved projects underway and around the impact of Local Government Reorganisation.

Dean Langton responded there were a myriad of companies across all Local Authorities in Lancashire and work was on-going looking into this matter.

RESOLVED: That Executive

(a) acknowledges its role in exercising the Shareholder function of the Council in relation to the Joint Venture Companies;

(b) notes the work undertaken by the Council's Joint Venture arrangements and the proposed work programme for 2026/27; and

(c) notes the winding up of Growth Lancashire Ltd for the reasons set out in the report.

26. PENDLE LOCAL PLAN 5th EDITION 2025-2045

The Executive Member, Planning and Infrastructure portfolio presented a report which informed the Executive of the Pendle Local Plan 5th Edition 2025-2045.

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The submitted report responded to new legislation and guidance on plan-making published by the Government on 4 March 2026.

This introduced a statutory requirement for Pendle Council to start work on the preparation of a new Local Plan, supporting the implementation of transitional arrangements of the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), under which the Pendle Local Plan Fourth Edition 2021-2040 was examined.

The report also outlined the key stages and milestones that the Council must meet during the 30-month period allowed for plan preparation.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory briefly commented on the Plan and timescales.

Councillors S. Cockburn-Price and D. Cockburn-Price both commented on the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive:

- (a) agrees to publish a new local plan timetable to formally replace the Local Development Scheme 9th Revision (LDS), which was approved at Executive on 20 March 2025;
- (b) agree to publish, by no later than Tuesday 30 June 2026, a formal 'notice of intention to commence local plan preparation'.
- (c) agree to the formation of a Local Plan Steering Group to retain oversight of the preparation of a new Local plan in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local planning) (England) Regulations 2026.
- (d) agree to consult on a scoping report inviting feedback on what the Local plan should contain and how the public and key stakeholders will be encouraged to engage in the plan-making process.
- (e) delegate authority to the Assistant Director: Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning to:
 - (i) Publish the Local plan timetable and submit it to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by no later than 30 June 2026.;
 - (ii) Agree that subsequent updates to the Local plan timetable can be made as required.
 - (iii) Agree the content and timing of the statutory consultation on the Scoping Report, which must be concluded prior to publication of the statutory Gateway 1 self-assessment on or before 31 October 2026.
 - (iv) Approve, publish and submit the documents required to conduct the for statutory Gateway 1 and Gateway 2 assessments.

27. PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL – PLAY STREETS

A public speaker, Karen Clark, addressed the Executive and spoke in support of this Play Street application.

The Executive Member, Planning and Infrastructure portfolio presented a report which informed the Executive of the Pendle Borough Council – Play Street and was supportive of this scheme, but that the Play Street procedure was far too rigid.

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The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory explained the process and need to obtain Court Orders for road closures.

Councillors Z. Ali, Hanif, D. Lord and A. Sutcliffe all spoke in support of this application.

Councillor Z. Ali also requested local Councillors were informed of any applications for Play Streets within the procedure..

Executive was informed that Play streets were well established ways of allowing roads to be temporarily closed off to allow children to play on them for temporary periods of time. Pendle did not have a procedure in place for considering play streets.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory explained the process and need to obtain an Order for road closures.

RESOLVED: That Executive:

- (a) adopts the procedure set out at Appendix A of the submitted report for the processing of applications for Play Streets;
- (b) authorise staff to pursue a road closure order under the Town Police Clauses Act to facilitate a play street on Belgrave Road, Colne as set out in the application form at Appendix B of the submitted report; and.
- (c) Delegates authority for the Technical Support and Events Coordination Officer to deal with future Play Street applications.
- (d) That liaison take place between Area Committees with Town Councils to provide support any Play Street applications within their areas and assist event organiser with support for cones/barriers etc. for road closures.

28. PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL – ANTI -FRAUD, THEFT AND BRIBERY POLICY AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY

The Executive Member, Finance, Health and Leisure Services portfolio presented a report which asked Executive to consider and approve the Pendle Borough Council Anti-Fraud, Theft and Bribery policy and Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

Councillor D Cockburn-Price made a few comments, observations and highlighted some minor textual amendments to the report. The Director of Resources provided a response.

RESOLVED That the Policy be approved and adopted.

29. PENDLE BOROUGH COUNCIL – DEBT COLLECTION AND WRITE OFF POLICY

The Executive Member, Finance, Health and Leisure Services portfolio presented a report which asked Executive to consider and approve the Pendle Borough Council Debt Collection and Write Off Policy.

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Councillor D Cockburn-Price made a few comments, observations and highlighted some minor textual amendments to the report. The Director of Resources provided a response.

RESOLVED That the Policy be approved and adopted.

30. APPRENTICESHIP APPROACH 2026

The Executive Member, Housing, Corporate and Performance portfolio presented a report which asked Executive to consider the Apprenticeship Approach 2026.

This report outlined the cost implications of increasing the current apprentice pay rate. It also provided an overview of how previous apprenticeship funding has been utilised and sets out recommendations for 2026/27 budget allocation.

The Deputy Leader of the Council spoke in support of the apprenticeships approach report and the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price commented on the report and added she would like to see the apprentice rate applied not the National Minimum wage.

Councillor A. Sutcliffe spoke in support of the report but enquired how the Council would measure the success of the scheme.

Dean Langton responded on the apprenticeship training opportunities. He added, it was hoped that when fully trained up and having completed their apprenticeships, especially in difficult to recruit to professions within the Council, then it was hoped they would apply for and get jobs within the Council when opportunities occurred.

RESOLVED: That Executive:

- (a) agrees to increasing apprentice rates of pay to the National Minimum Wage.
- (b) Notes the current number of apprentices and employees undertaking development programmes within the Council.
- (c) agrees the recruitment of new apprentices funded from the budget approved at Budget Council.

31. ITEMS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Colne Area Committee

(i) Environmental Crime Enforcement Action taken during Quarter 4 within Colne and District

At a meeting of the Colne Committee on 14th May 2026, it was resolved:

The Committee noted that there had been zero Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Quarter 4 and felt that this was wholly unacceptable, particularly in view of the continuing problem with littering and dog fouling. It was felt that a dedicated team of people was needed to

address the problem.

RECOMMENDATION. That the Executive be asked to consider the views of this Committee and take appropriate action.

Councillors D. Cockburn-Price and S. Cockburn spoke and highlighted some public complaints about the detrimental effect of environmental crime in Colne.

Councillor D. Lord also raised concern about litter and dog fouling and would welcome the potential employment of an Environmental warden, she also enquired what education was being undertaken in the schools.

Councillor A Sutcliffe commented and re-iterated the comments outlined by Councillor D. Lord.

RESOLVED

(1) That the views of the Colne Committee be noted; and

(2) That a report on Environmental Enforcement/Dog Fouling etc. be submitted to the August, 2026 meeting of the Executive.

(ii) Reforms to Development Management

At a meeting of the Colne Committee on 14th May 2026, it was resolved:

(Extract of Minute)

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report, for information, on the forthcoming changes to how planning applications would be dealt with under new regulations.

In a verbal update, the Committee was advised that the date at which the Regulations would come into force had changed from 30th September 2026 to 31st October 2026.

It was explained that, under the draft Regulations planning applications would fall within Schedule 1 or Schedule 2. A list of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 applications was provided as an appendix to the report.

Any planning application falling within Schedule 1, subject to certain exceptions, could only be determined by a planning officer. The Regulations also stated that a Council could not put any measures in place that fettered the ability of officers to make decisions.

Applications in Schedule 2 could not automatically be referred to a committee and would first need to go through a gateway test. This would be undertaken by a nominated officer and a nominated councillor.

The Committee questioned how the nominated councillor would be chosen. Currently, Pendle applications were considered across four different area committees. It was therefore suggested that provision could be made, within the Council's Constitution if appropriate, to

ensure that the councillor nominated to carry out the gateway test with a nominated officer, be a representative of the area committee under which the application fell.

It was explained that deputies could be appointed, but decisions to refer to a committee could only be made by one officer and one councillor. Those nominated could only agree to refer an application to a committee if the application raised economic, social or environmental issues that were of “significance”.

In cases where the nominated officer and councillor could not agree, the application would remain to be dealt with by officers.

Members were disappointed by the proposed reforms and expressed concern at the impacts it may have. It was the view of the Committee that the decision to deny Elected Members the authority to determine planning applications was undemocratic. The Committee felt that the proposals removed the opportunity for Members to use their local knowledge to inform the decision-making process which, in terms of this Committee, had proved helpful in agreeing minor improvements to applications.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive be asked to support this Committee in its view on the proposed planning reforms and asks that a formal objection be submitted to the Prime Minister.

REASON: The local knowledge amassed by Elected Members is a useful resource in determining planning applications. The decision to deny Elected Members the authority to determine planning applications takes away democracy and this valuable local knowledge contribution.

The Deputy Leader of the Council with portfolio responsibility for Planning and Infrastructure commented on this referral from the Area Committee.

The Leader of the Council agreed with the Colne Area Committee’s general views on the proposed planning reforms but added that it would be best for Full Council to make any recommendations / objections to Government and that a Motion had been submitted to Full Council for consideration of this matter on 16th July 2026.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the views of the Colne Committee be noted; and
- (2) That Colne Area Committee be informed this matter would be considered under a Notice on Motion at Full Council on 16th July, 2026.

b) West Craven Area Committee

(i) Flags on Street Light across the Borough

At the meeting of the West Craven Committee on 31st March, a request was made to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for the removal of the St. George flags hanging from Streetlights around the Borough. LCC’s Highways Operation Manager has responded that “LCC will only remove flags from the public highway if we consider they are causing a

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hazard to road users". The West Craven Committee further resolved if LCC would not remove the flags, the matter be referred to Executive for consideration.

The Deputy Leader of the Council expressed concerns regarding the impact on Community Cohesion whilst these flags remained in place hanging from Streetlights across the Borough.

The Leader of the Council added that the matter could be referred to LCC again.

Councillor D. Lord also commented that some of the flags had covered up some of the CCTV cameras which was detrimental to community safety.

Councillor A. Sutcliffe commented on the flag flying and added that some flags were also being displayed at this moment in time due to the World Cup 2026 currently taking place.

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price mentioned that when Colne celebrated St George's day they put flags up around the Town to celebrate the occasion but also took the flags back down after the event had concluded.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the views of the West Craven Area Committee be noted; and
 - (2) That a letter be sent to the Leader and Cabinet Members at LCC expressing the issues and concerns raised by West Craven Area Committee and the views now expressed by Executive Members and Councillors at this meeting as outlined in the pre-amble to this minute.
- (ii) Street naming and numbering –

At the meeting of the West Craven Committee on 9th June, 2026, a report was submitted asking Members to consider whether they wished to register a new street name for three new-build dwellings off Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook, or reject the developer's request and continue the evens numbering from Dotcliffe Road.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive be recommended to register Mill Yard as the new street name for three new-build dwellings on Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook.

RESOLVED:

That Executive agrees to register Mill Yard as the new street name for three new-build dwellings on Dotcliffe Road, Kelbrook.

32. TENDER – ROOF No.1 MARKET STREET, NELSON

The Executive Member, Asset, Highways and Transport portfolio presented a report detailing Tenders received and which sought Executive’s approval to the award of the contract to Sanderoof Limited.

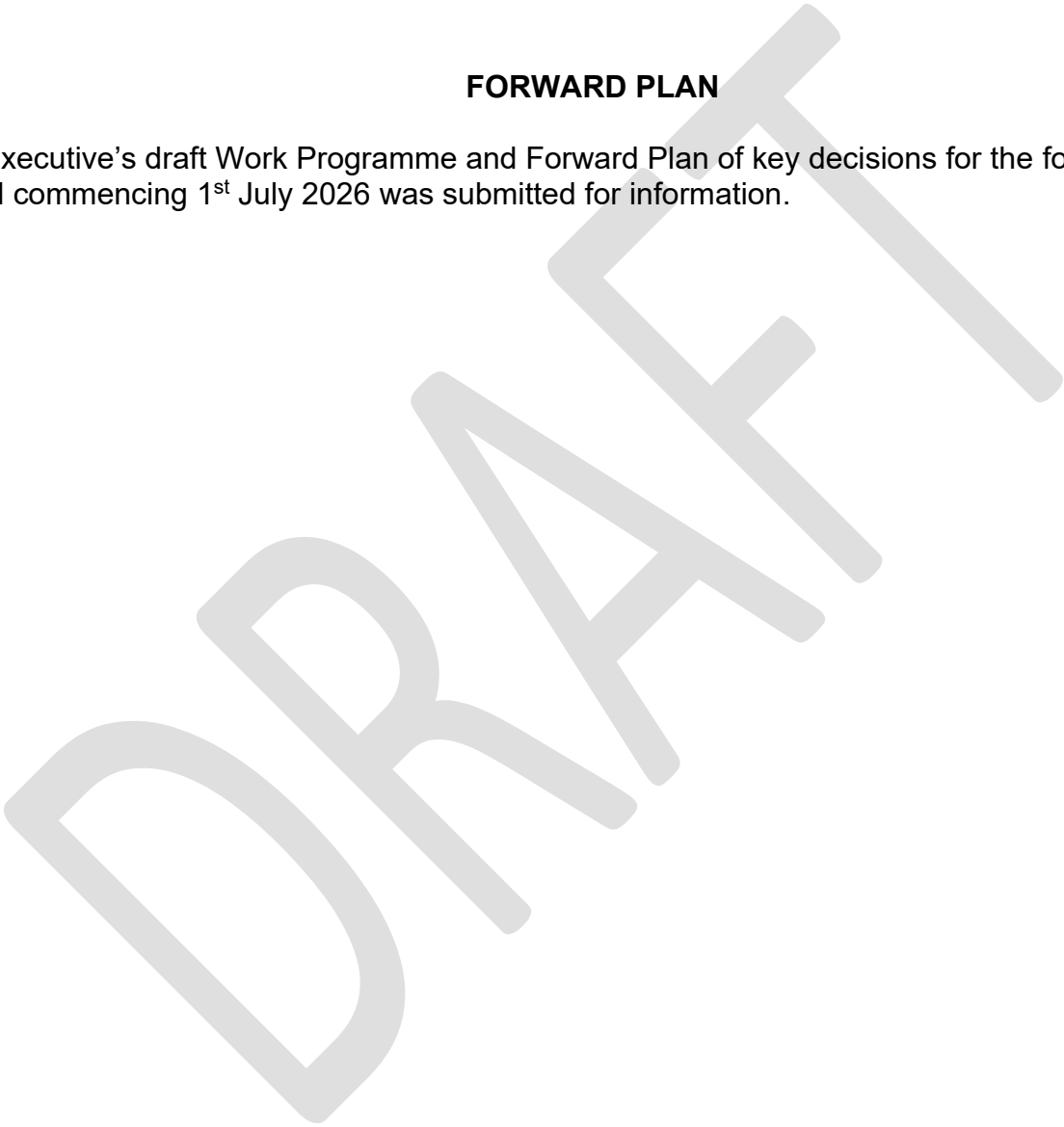
RESOLVED:

That Executive approves the award of the contract to Sanderoof Limited.

33.

FORWARD PLAN

The Executive’s draft Work Programme and Forward Plan of key decisions for the four-month period commencing 1st July 2026 was submitted for information.



Chair _____