MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 1st OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor N. Ahmed – in the Chair)

Councillors

F. Ahmad
S. Ahmed
M. Ammer
N. Ashraf
M. Aslam
M. Atkinson
R. Bashir
C. Church
D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
B. Hartley
D. Hartley
M. Iqbal
Y. Iqbal
S. Land
A. Mahmood
N. McCollum
B. Newman
R. O'Connor
M. Sakib
M. Stone
A. Sutcliffe
L. Whipp

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adnan, Z. Ali, D. Gallear, M. Hanif, D. Lord, Y. Tennant, M. Waddington, A. Whitehead and G. Whittaker).

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27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and other registrable interests.

28. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th July 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by His Worship the Mayor.

29. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor provided an update on various visits and events he had attended since the last Council meeting. This included:

- Attending the Merchant Navy Day Flag Raising

- Sponsored Walk up Pendle Hill to help raise funds my chosen charities
- Opening of the new Wickes Store on North Valley Retail Park, Colne
- Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Sea Cadets Awards Evening and AGM
- Showcased Pendle to Civic Heads across Lancashire on my Civic Tour. Part of the Tour included a visit to the Pendle Community High School and College campus and their wonderful Vocation Education Centre and Café on Barkerhouse Road, Nelson.
- Visit to Bancroft Mill Steaming Day
- Pendleside Repair Café in Roughlee
- Summer Fair at Marsden Grange
- Visited Council Staff at Fleet Street, Nelson Town Hall and No. 1 Market Street, Nelson
- Celebrated 100 years of Colne Dramatic Society
- Attended Trawden Agricultural Show
- Presented certificates to Barrowford in Bloom Environmental Group
- Annual procession from Ghausia Mosque
- Attended Sunday church services in Newchurch, Higherford, Barrowford and Fence
- Attended Nelson Food Festival along with visits to Armed Forces Support Group and the new Pendle Police Station
- Attended the 100th Anniversary of Foulridge War Memorial
- Macmillan Coffee Morning at Colne Town Hall

The Deputy Mayor thanked the people of Fence and the surrounding areas who took part in the Harvest Festival at Wheatley Lane Methodist Church and donated 5 large boxes of food which were distributed the various organisations in Pendle.

The Leader gave an update following the Government's decision on 7th September 2026 to pause, reflect on and review its decisions on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire. He expressed his disappointment with this decision and acknowledged the considerable amount of work which had already been undertaken to implement the government's decision.

The Leader advised that he had written to the government in response to its decisions expressing his disappointment and highlighted a number of matters, including the significant impact this decision was having on staff in the council who were back in limbo not knowing what the future would hold.

In response the Minister stated that the government was committed to reforming the state and devolving power from Westminster to local communities.

He continued by stating that the government would listen carefully to the concerns raised about recent Local Government Reorganisation decisions. As a new administration the government wanted to pause and reflect before implementing final decisions, ensuring the programme was aligned to their wider visions for reforming the state and evolving power to local communities. Decisions in these areas had not been withdrawn but would be considered as part of the process.

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The Leader reported that the Chief Executive, along with the Chief Executives from other councils in Lancashire had met with the Civil Servants earlier in the week. Whilst they were unable to provide a definitive answer to questions about their scope and timeline for the review, they did say that Jim McMahon the Minister for State of Local Government and Devolution was to provide an update on Local Government Reorganisation to Parliament on the week commencing 12th October 2026.

The Leader acknowledged the huge amount of time, energy and resources staff had invested to develop strong Local Government Reorganisation proposals and plans to deliver them which were now in advanced stages to progress the proposals.

30. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE LEADER

There were no questions from members of the public.

31. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS TO THE LEADER, A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR A REPRESENTATIVE ON AN OUTSIDE BODY ON MATTERS NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

There were no questions from Members of the Council.

32. REPORT BY THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the work of the Executive.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

33. REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Chris Church Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted the Committee's Annual Report for 2025/26.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report for 2025/26 be noted.

34. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

A report on various constitutional amendments was submitted for consideration.

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The report set out amendments to the Articles of the constitution, Area Committee and Development Management Committee functions, the Scheme of Delegation relating to the functions of the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services along with good practice amendments to the terms of reference of the Accounts and Audit Committee, a redrafting of the Council's Code of Conduct for Employees and updated Contract Procedure Rules.

It was moved by Councillor Nadeem Ahmed and seconded by Councillor Lola Whipp:

(1) That the amendments of the Articles of the constitution, the Area Committees and Development Management Committee functions in the terms set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the proposal that the following remain within the functions of the Area Committees be approved:

- To consider all enforcement and other action, including legal proceedings, under the Town and Country Planning Acts.
- To deal with all matters relating to tree preservation and protection of hedgerows, including the making or orders and the institution of legal proceedings.
- To deal with all matters relating to designated Conservation Areas.

(2) That the amendment of the Scheme of Delegation relating to the functions of the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services, as set out in Appendix 2 attached to the report be approved.

(3) That the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Accounts and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the report be approved subject to the Independent Members appointments being extended for an additional three years, if appropriate.

(4) That the redrafted Code of Conduct for Employees as set out in Appendix 4 attached to the report be approved.

(5) That the updated Contract Procedure Rules be approved with the addition of wording relating to 'community benefit' being added to 40.2(b).

AMENDMENT

It was moved by Councillor Mohammed Iqbal and seconded by Councillor Naeem Ashraf:

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That this Council fundamentally disagrees with the government taking away local democratic accountability on planning matters and does not agree to the proposed amendment to the Articles of the Constitution, the Area Committees and Development Management Committee

functions in the terms set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the proposal that the following remain within the functions of the Area Committees also not be approved:

- To consider all enforcement and other action, including legal proceedings, under the Town and Country Planning Acts.
- To deal with all matters relating to tree preservation and protection of hedgerows, including the making or orders and the institution of legal proceedings.
- To deal with all matters relating to designated Conservation Areas.

(3) That the amendment of the Scheme of Delegation relating to the functions of the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services, as set out in Appendix 2 attached to the report not be approved but the amendments to the Building Safety Levy Functions be approved.

(4) That the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Accounts and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the report be approved subject to the Independent Members appointments being extended for an additional three years, if appropriate.

(5) That the redrafted Code of Conduct for Employees as set out in Appendix 4 attached to the report be approved.

(6) That the updated Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix 6 attached to the report be approved with the addition of wording relating to ‘community benefit’ being added to 40.2(b).

There was a short adjournment whilst the motion was clarified before the vote was taken.

Upon being put to the vote the **AMENDMENT** became the **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** where upon being put to the vote it was: -

RESOLVED

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That this Council fundamentally disagrees with the government taking away local democratic accountability on planning matters and does not agree to the proposed amendment to the Articles of the Constitution, the Area Committees and Development Management Committee functions in the terms set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the proposal that the following remain within the functions of the Area Committees also not be approved:

- To consider all enforcement and other action, including legal proceedings, under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

- To deal with all matters relating to tree preservation and protection of hedgerows, including the making or orders and the institution of legal proceedings.
- To deal with all matters relating to designated Conservation Areas.

(3) That the amendment of the Scheme of Delegation relating to the functions of the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services, as set out in Appendix 2 attached to the report not be approved but the amendments to the Building Safety Levy Functions be approved.

(4) That the amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Accounts and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the report be approved subject to the Independent Members appointments being extended for an additional three years, if appropriate.

(5) That the redrafted Code of Conduct for Employees as set out in Appendix 4 attached to the report be approved.

(6) That the updated Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix 6 attached to the report be approved with the addition of reference of 'community benefit' being added to 40.2(b).

In accordance with Rule 18.4 of the Standing Orders and at the request of two members a recorded vote was taken.

Those Members voting in favour of the Amended Motion were:

Councillors F. Ahmad, S. Ahmed, M. Ammer, N. Ashraf, M. Aslam, M. Atkinson, R. Bashir, C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, D. Hartley, M. Iqbal, Y. Iqbal, S. Land, A. Mahmood, N. McCollum, B. Newman, R. O'Connor, M. Sakib, M. Stone, A. Sutcliffe and L. Whipp.

Those Members who abstained from voting were:

Councillors N. Ahmed, S. Cockburn-Price and B. Hartley.

35. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) M65 Flooding

It was moved by Councillor Susan Lord and seconded by Councillor Bryony Hartley:

This Council reaffirms its previous resolutions about safety on the M65, particularly in regard to frequent and repeated flooding on the County Council maintained section from Burnley to Colne, with the risk of collisions multiplied by the lack of lighting on the route.

Council notes that Lancashire County Council reports that they have been unsuccessful in getting an estimated £15 million for the work from the Government's 'Structures Fund' and that the urgent work is un-funded in LCC's budget.

Council also notes the proposals at LCC's Environment, Economic Growth and Transport Scrutiny Committee to make the M65 a Toll Road or close the County Council stretch completely by Reform County Councillors from Lancaster, Chorley and Accrington.

Council deplores the continued lack of funding for vital and urgent work necessary for road safety on LCC's stretch of the M65, and the disregard shown by some County Councillors to the safety and amenity of residents and motorists in Pendle by their actions at LCC's Scrutiny Committee.

Council resolves:

(1) To reaffirm and reiterate previous resolutions calling for action on flooding and other M65 safety issues.

(2) To urgently request Lancashire County Council and the Department for Transport to fund the necessary drainage and other safety work on the County Council section of the M65.

(3) To write to the Leader of Lancashire County Council and appropriate Cabinet Members asking them to support these urgent requests.

(4) To write to the Prime Minister and appropriate Secretaries of State requesting their support to provide urgent funding.

(5) To write to the Members of Parliament representing Pendle requesting their support for urgent work to be carried out.

(6) To request the support of all councils served by the M65, together with neighbouring authorities in Yorkshire who are similarly served by this East/West route to resist any part of the M65, together with neighbouring authorities in Yorkshire who are similarly served by this East/West route, to resist any part of the M65 becoming a Toll Road or being completely closed.

(7) To condemn the proposals put forward by Reform County Councillors to close the M65 or completely close the motorway.

(8) To call upon those County Councillors to withdraw their proposals and apologise for their light-hearted treatment of vital road safety issues.

(9) That National Highways England be requested to formally adopt a section of the M65 between Junctions 10 and 14.

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Upon being put to the vote it was:

RESOLVED

Accordingly.

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His Worship the Mayor _____