MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 29th OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT –

Councillor A. Mahmood (in the Chair)

Councillors

M. Ammer
M. Hanif
B. Newman

Also in attendance:

Councillors C. Church, D. Cockburn-Price, S. Cockburn-Price and A. Sutcliffe

Officers in attendance

Dean Langton	*Chief Executive*
Phillip Spurr	*Director of Place*
Karen Spencer	*Director of Resources*
David Walker	*Assistant Director Operational Services*
Howard Culshaw	*Head of Legal and Democratic Services*
Sarah Whitwell	*Head of Housing and Environmental Health*
Jane Watson	*Democratic Services Manager*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Z. Ali, D. Lord and L. Whipp)

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The following person attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated -

Leanne Barrett	*Access to Health Services in West Craven*	*Minute No. 88(b)*

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79. 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 Registerable Interests and Non-Registerable Interests.

The following person declared an Other Registerable Interest in the item indicated for the reason stated: -

Councillor M. Hanif	Tenders	Member of Brierfield Town Council	Minute No. 87

80. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Leanne Barrett asked a question relating to Pride in Place Funding in Barnoldswick. Objections had been submitted relating to the Town Square Project. Ms Barrett was concerned that Pendle Council could compel Barnoldswick Town Council to erect a permanent structure in the Square if the variation wasn't accepted. These concerns had been expressed following sight of a covenant for the area which said that no fixed structure could be erected on the Town Square.

Ms Barrett also referred to the Pump Track Project where a request had been made for a public consultation. She was aware that officers had worked with the Town Council to assess various sites for a pump track. She was concerned that money would be spent on a costly consultation when the site chosen had already been deemed viable where the other sites had not.

In response Ms Barret was advised that a report would be submitted to next Executive meeting on both projects. Further work was required to understand where they were at, along with an opportunity to review the position and understand what opportunities there were to provide a solution that might be amicable for everyone.

81. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82. FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND UPDATE TO THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2027/2030

A report which provided an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2027/28 to 2029/30 (MTFP) was submitted for consideration.

The MTFP for 2027/30 showed a funding deficit of £2,778m with the most immediate issue being a funding gap of £1.142m in 2027/28. This position had deteriorated since the last report on this matter in June 2026 and the reasons were outlined in the report.

It was reported that the Council's strategy 'Grow, Charge, Save and Stop' combined with a prudent use of reserves continued to be pursued. But the Government's decision to pause and reflect on the decisions for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) may mean the Council was unlikely to be abolished until 31st March 2029 at the earliest. This meant, that contrary to the previous report which stated that 2027/28 would be last year for which the Council would be required to set a budget, that was likely to be 2028/29.

A consequence of this was that the Council would need to take a medium-term view of its budgetary position. Acknowledging this, and subject to confirmation from Government about the next stages of LGR, the Executive was asked to agree a revised strategy to achieve a balanced budget for both 2027/28 and 2028/29.

RESOLVED

(1) That the updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2027/30 as presented at Appendix A attached to the report be noted.

(2) That the position with the Council's Reserves and Balances be noted (and that this remains subject to review following the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2025/26).

(3) That the outline revised budget strategy for 2027/28 as set out in the report be agreed in principle and the Corporate Leadership Team be requested to use this as the basis of developing the budget proposal for the year with an initial savings target of £1.2m.

(4) That the intention to use the Budget Working Group (as set out by the Executive in May 2026) to consider the draft budget proposals made by the Corporate Leadership Team as part of the development of the Council's Budget for 2027/28 be noted.

(5) That subject to the work above and agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, it be agreed 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.

REASON

To achieve a balanced budget.

83. COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2026/2029

The Executive considered a report on the Council's Commissioning and Procurement Strategy for 2026/29. The Strategy provided a clear framework for achieving value for money, complying with procurement legislation and Council rules, strengthening commercial and contract management practice, and securing wider economic, social and environmental benefits for Pendle.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Commissioning and Procurement Strategy for 2026/29 attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved subject to review by the Co-operative Working Group.

(2) That the Director of Resources be authorised to make minor factual, legislative or presentational amendments where these do not materially change the Strategy.

(3) That following approval of the Strategy an Action Plan be developed to support implementation.

REASON

To update the Strategy to reflect the Council Plan 2026/28, the Procurement Act 2023 and Procurement Regulations 2024, current procurement thresholds and the Council's operating environment.

84. DOMESTIC FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Executive were presented with an update on the domestic weekly food waste collection service following its introduction on 30th March 2026.

Following the initial peak in enquiries about the scheme and its introduction the service appeared to have been relatively well received. It was acknowledged that the service was yet to be delivered over potential peak periods such as Christmas. It was likely the reported figures for both weight and participation levels would be impacted by seasonal variations.

To increase participation in the scheme the service had participated in 7 feedback meetings with resident groups and housing providers. Social media messages and banners on the side of vehicles had also been used to promote the scheme and further promotion was planned.

Early indications were that the new scheme would improve the Council's recycling rate, and it was noted that the service was being delivered within budget.

RESOLVED

That the action taken and to be taken be noted.

REASON

To continue to support the Council's drive to reduce its impact on the environment.

85. CUSTOMER AND DIGITAL STRATEGY 2025/2028 UPDATE

A report outlining progress with the delivery of the Council's Customer and Digital Strategy 2025/28 was submitted for consideration.

The report provided updates on an upgrade to the website, the Customer Feedback Project, improved customer journeys, digital inclusion, digital approach for Elected Members, Cyber Essentials (+) Accreditation and training as well as Customer and Digital Strategy performance.

RESOLVED

That progress made in the delivery of the Strategy be noted.

REASON

To continue to deliver the Strategy to help facilitate improved service delivery to Pendle residents alongside modernised, effective and efficient ways of working for staff.

86. LEASING PROPERTIES FOR HOMELESS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION USE

A report was submitted seeking approval to lease an initial eight self-contained properties from Together Housing Group for use as temporary accommodation, with a break clause included in the lease.

It was proposed the leasing arrangement be implemented within 6 months and would be expected to deliver a significant reduction in temporary accommodation expenditure as detailed in the report. There would also be an improvement in the quality and stability of temporary accommodation and help to make homelessness brief and non-recurring.

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It was acknowledged that the case data indicated that additional properties may be required but officers would review performance, demand, household outcomes, affordability and value for money before deciding whether to expand the scheme through further leasing agreements.

RESOLVED

(1) That the leasing of eight properties from Together Housing Group for use as temporary accommodation be approved subject to satisfactory lease terms and confirmation that the proposal was affordable within approved homelessness budgets.

(2) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Head of Housing and Environmental Health, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree the final property mix and lease terms and enter into the necessary agreement with Together Housing Group for the properties.

(3) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Head of Housing and Environmental Health, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to expand the scheme by entering into further leasing agreements with Together Housing Group following an internal review of the initial eight properties, taking account of performance, demand, household outcomes, affordability and value for money.

(4) That officers be authorised to use the properties for eligible homeless households in accordance with the Council's statutory duties, allocation arrangements and temporary accommodation policies.

REASON

To reduce reliance on costly nightly paid and bed and breakfast placements and provide better value for the Council as well as responding to demand.

87. TENDERS

The Executive received, for information, a report on tenders which had been received and accepted.

88. ITEMS REFERRED FROM AREA COMMITTEES

(a) Earby Memorial Park – Toilets

At a meeting of the West Craven Committee on 6th October 2026 it was resolved "that the Executive be asked to agree to the reopening of the toilets in Earby Memorial Park 7 days a week from April to November (31 weeks) between the hours of 8am and 7pm based on the following options/costings:

Option 1 – 3 toilets at £175 per week, total cost £5,425
Option 2 – standalone toilet at £87.50 per week, total cost £2,712.50"

RESOLVED

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the request for funding be referred back to the West Craven Committee with a request that they work together with Earby Town Council to find funding for the reopening of the toilets at Earby Memorial Park.

REASON

To identify funding for the possible re-opening of the facility.

(b) Access to Health Services in West Craven

At a meeting of the West Craven Committee on 6th October 2026, it was resolved "that the Executive be asked to pursue the issues with accessing health services in West Craven, working with the Town Council and the Area Committee, and that they follow up the resolution from their meeting on 22nd January 2026 to request a meeting with Lancashire's Director of Public Health, Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi, and the Integrated Care Board to discuss these issues."

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged with Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi and the Integrated Care Board to discuss issues with accessing health services in West Craven.

REASON

To provide accessible, local health services for residents of West Craven.

89. FORWARD PLAN

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

90. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

91. COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS

The Executive considered the compulsory purchase of 4 properties.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations set out in the report to pursue compulsory purchase of 4 properties identified in the exempt report be approved.

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REASON

To improve the properties and bring them back into use.

92. COLNE MARKET HALL

A report was submitted with proposals to reconsider the management model for Colne Market Hall. The report also referred to proposals to complete the fit out of the first-floor units to enable them to be let for commercial use.

RESOLVED

(1) That the use of reserves, as set out in Appendix A attached to the report be approved to support the operation of the Market Hall in 2026/27.

(2) That the proposed conversion of the food court area to expand the provision of market stalls be approved and a capital budget of up to £100k be approved to meet the costs of doing so.

(3) That a capital budget of £350k to complete the first-floor refurbishment be approved so that the units can be made available for letting at the earliest opportunity.

(4) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader to identify a budget for (2) and (3) above.

(5) That a further report on the operation of Colne Market Hall be submitted to the Executive in due course, once the proposed changes had been made, providing details of how the facility was operating.

REASON

To maximise the Market Hall's full potential.

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Chair _____