MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 13TH OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT –

Councillor C. Church – (Chair)

Councillors

D. Cockburn-Price
S. Cockburn-Price
S. Land

Officers in attendance

Sarah Astin-Wood	*Head of Policy and Partnerships*
Lynne Rowland	*Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Iqbal and Y. Tennant.)

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13. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15. OPERATIONAL SERVICES – BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS

In response to a request from the Committee, the Assistant Director, Operational Services provided Members with an update on what was being done in developing behaviour change campaigns to encourage responsibility and pride in local communities, including picking up litter and taking care of Pendle's parks, as detailed in Priority 2 of the Council Plan.

The update provided details of engagement with schools, community groups and businesses throughout the borough. This included –

- The use of "Dennis to the Rescue" mobile classroom which supported local authorities' social value commitments and was tailored to each council's waste management operations;
- The delivery of a range of educational and community initiatives;

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- Offering advice to shopkeepers on their responsibility to keep surrounding areas clear of waste and to dispose of commercial waste correctly;
- Supporting a community litter pick at one of Pendle's parks;
- Supporting a high school in undertaking a variety of tasks from litter clearance to tree planting within local parks and greenspaces;
- Supporting a high school in fulfilling their volunteering element of the Duke of Edinburgh award;
- Community engagement events supporting the rollout and the continued participation in the weekly domestic food waste and other kerbside recycling services. The sessions also addressed concerns and gathered feedback to improve communications and operations.
- Continued improvement to signage and visitor information across all parks, including improvements to site interpretation and Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) information, which helped communicate behaviour change messages to visitors and support responsible use of the parks and open spaces. Target signage had been installed in hotspot areas to inform and educate around the harm of dumping food waste by duck ponds.

The Committee welcomed the information and acknowledged the work that had been carried out to date. However, it was noted that many of the campaigns and educational activities had only reached a small audience, and that litter and dog fouling continued to be a problem in the borough.

Members believed that dog fouling offences were likely being committed by a few individuals rather than many and that, due to lack of action, littering had almost become socially acceptable. It was noted that fly-tipping tended to be repeated in troublesome hotspots.

The use of social media was discussed, recognising that this would be an effective way to reach a mass audience, particularly if used in interesting and inventive ways. This, alongside on-street enforcement, was viewed as a positive way forward.

Enforcement

The Committee was advised of a report on environmental enforcement that had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 24th September 2026, following a referral from Colne and District Committee.

The report advised that from 2019 through to March 2023, the Council had made use of a third party provider to educate and enforce against lower levels of environmental crime, including littering and failure to clear fouling. Following withdrawal of the third party provider, this work has been delivered by Operational Services. However, due to limited resources the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued had been low.

The Executive had been invited to consider the benefit of re-establishing an agreement with a third party provider or providing internal resources. As the referral had come from Colne and District Committee, an alternative consideration was to support the introduction of a presence within Colne, using a Nelson Town Council model. This would involve the employment of an additional resource within Operational Services, dedicated to activities within the Colne and District Committee area, entirely funded by Colne and District Committee. Income generated would be ringfenced back to the Committee.

It was noted that the latter option had been agreed and that this was to be considered at the next meeting of Colne and District Committee.

Social Media

The discussion continued with reference to Priority 2 of the Council Plan and the pro-active action to develop behaviour change campaigns. It was recognised that future monitoring of impact should take place with campaigns where there had been intervention, and that these could be accompanied with a social media presence. The use of social media could be facilitated through the Council's communications team, Councillors and relevant partners.

Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that a Pendle-wide solution for on-street fining of littering and dog fouling was needed. However, it was accepted that evidence to support this view was required.

RESOLVED

That information on environmental enforcement arrangements be obtained from other local authorities.

16. PENDLE YES HUB

Further to the Committee including an update on the operation of the Pendle Youth Employment Support (YES) Hub in its 2026/27 work programme, the Head of Policy and Partnerships submitted a report for consideration.

The report included an overview of how the service operated, its performance and throughput, and the funding and budget arrangements that supported delivery.

It was explained that the YES Hub provided dedicated support for young people aged 16-24 who faced barriers to employment, education and training. The service was delivered by Active Lancashire, in partnership with Pendle Borough Council (PBC), the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), local colleges, employers and community organisations.

The Hub operated five days per week and offered both appointment-based and drop-in support.

It was noted that the YES Hub operated through a blended funding model. Details of the current funding sources were provided in the report, one of which was Nelson Pride in Place.

Under the Nelson Pride in Place funding arrangement, annual performance targets had been set for 2026/27.

Quarter 1 performance information highlighted that, overall, the project was on track, operating within budget and achieving planned outcomes. Referral targets had been achieved; employment outcomes were progressing ahead of profile; partnership working continued to strengthen; and a positive contribution was being made to youth employment, skills development and social inclusion.

However, a small number of challenges and risks had been recognised. Demand for support continued to increase, particularly around learning, employment support and wellbeing services, and staff retention remained a key risk.

The Committee discussed the content of the report, with some providing information on their personal interaction with the YES Hub and the young people supported by the service. The staff

and work of the Hub was highly praised, and the challenges were acknowledged. It was recognised that the work was benefitting and improving local communities and employers and aligned with the Pendle Economic Growth Strategy.

During discussion, Members expressed an interest in learning more about the Hub's funding model; its reach across Pendle; the balance of support across the age demographic; and its employer/business contact network. This would support further understanding of how the Hub was contributing to the delivery of the Economic Growth Strategy and any opportunities for development.

RESOLVED

That representatives of the YES Hub be invited to a future meeting of this Committee.

17. NHS CORRIDOR CARE

At the last meeting of this Committee, Members considered a request from Council to undertake a review of NHS East Lancashire Trust.

The Committee had felt that Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) Health Scrutiny Committee was best placed to carry out such a review and therefore referred the matter to LCC for consideration.

In an update, Members were advised that LCC had confirmed that corridor care across NHS trusts in Lancashire was scheduled for discussion at its early October Health Scrutiny Steering Group meeting.

The information obtained through that discussion would contribute to the committee's broader consideration of NHS and adult social care winter planning for 2026/27 at the meeting of the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on 4 November 2026.

It was confirmed that the matters raised by this Committee would be taken into account as part of the discussions.

18. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme/Forward Plan, published on 15th September 2026, was submitted for information.

CHAIR _____