

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

24th October 2024

A meeting of the Health and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 24th October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor S. Dhillon (Chair)

Councillors: J. Hartshorn (Vice-Chair), J. Bonner, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, B. Pandher, T. Venson, K. Price (substituting for Councillor B. Hughes) and Mrs D. Ross.

Apologies: Councillors B. Hughes and K. Wilson.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

HCR 9 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 27th June 2024 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

HCR 10 **Declarations of Interest**

As Councillor K. Price was a substitute Councillor for this meeting, her Declarations of Interest were not detailed in the Schedule attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes, with the addition of the Declarations of Interest for Councillor K. Price.

HCR 11 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health (Councillor T. Jenkins), the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Service (Councillor S. Hey) and the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) were in attendance at the meeting. No questions were asked by the Panel.

HCR 12 **Managing Attendance of the Council's Workforce**

The People Services Manager reported on the 2023/24 end of year performance for Sickness Absence. The report gave the Panel an opportunity to consider Sickness Absence statistical and trend data, along with initiatives that have been used in an effort to improve attendance

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

Following the presentation, the Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Support available for staff in various areas – including mental health.

- Council sickness targets – comparison with other authorities is useful.
- Absence levels and targets – during Covid, Covid was not designated/classed as sickness. Delays in hospital/GP appointments and operations etc during Covid has resulted in more people being off now as the NHS deals with backlogs.
- Working from home means staff sometimes continue to work where they may have booked off as sick if they had to come into the Office.
- Return to Work interviews, including late completions, are monitored and information is reported monthly to Managers.
- New initiatives to support mental health – the importance of new initiatives to engage with men in particular was recognised.
- Mental Health First Aiders and EAP Service, and information on the intranet and noticeboards etc to try and engage.
- Employee benefits include Occupational Health, Bupa Healthcare and early intervention.
- Workplace injuries – manual handling training is given and any injuries monitored, recorded and investigated.

RESOLVED that the report noted.

HCR 13

Integrated Performance Report – First Quarter 2024-25

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Panel Members with appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel. The report has been adapted to reduce the volume of data (as previously reported under the former scrutiny panel arrangements), whilst still providing the Panel with sufficient information to monitor results to address issues arising.

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Freedom of information – late responses and the introduction of Directorate Champions who will be responsible for chasing Officers to ensure responses are timely.
- Risk description for Safeguarding – there is a Safeguarding Officer who liaises with various bodies.
- Panel Members were asked to review the Integrated Performance Report prior to meetings, and submit questions prior to meetings. For specific queries, Officers can be requested to attend via the Chair.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be considered and noted.

HCR 14

Youth Council

A report of the Elections and Democratic Services Manager gave the Panel an opportunity to give consideration to NBBC meeting with Warwickshire Youth Council Members with regard to the possible creation of a bespoke Youth Council for Nuneaton and Bedworth, or

alternative means for involving young people in decision making at NBBC.

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- It was felt it would be a positive step to engage with young people and encourage interest in the Council.
- Schools could be included.
- A cross party working group could meet to discuss ideas and see if/how a Youth Council could work.
- OSP Members initially including Councillors J. Bonner, S. Dhillon, J. Hartshorn and M. Kondakor will form a Working Group to look further into the possibility of setting up a Youth Council and engaging with young people.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be considered and noted; and
- b) a Working Group be formed to discuss and look further into setting up a Youth Council, and/or what possibilities are available.

HCR 15

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st November 2024, was provided to the Panel for information.

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

HCR 16

Feedback from Cabinet on Recommendation from the OSP

The Panel noted the response from Cabinet in relation to their request at the meeting held on 27th June 2024 in respect of Cabinet reviewing the report relating to St Benedict's House.

Cllr S. Hey advised that work is ongoing, and an update will be given to this OSP once a report has been to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet response be noted.

HCR 17

Work Programme Suggestion Form – Emergency Planning

A work programme suggestion form was received from Councillor M. Kondakor in respect of Emergency Planning.

Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith

RESOLVED that the work programme suggestion of Emergency Planning be added to the Health and Corporate resources OSP Work Programme.

HCR 18 **Work Programme Suggestion Form – Blue Mental Health Support Education**

A work programme suggestion form was received from Councillor S. Dhillon in respect of Blue Mental Health Support Education.

RESOLVED that the report and document be given to the relevant Cabinet Member for sharing internally and externally (for example Schools) as appropriate.

HCR 19 **Work Programme 2024-2025**

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2024-2025.

RESOLVED that the 2024-2025 work programme be noted.

Chair

**Health and Corporate Resources –
Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2024/2025**

| | Name of Councillor | Disclosable Pecuniary Interest | Other Personal Interest | Dispensation |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011 | | | Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership |
| | J. Bonner | Employed by Etone College (Matrix Academy Trust) - Teacher | The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of: - The Labour Party - National Education Union | |
| | S. Dhillon | Employed by UHCW NHS Trust | Member (Rep) at Unison – UHCW Trust Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee • Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board | |
| | J. Hartshorn | Employed by Asda Nuneaton | Member of Nuneaton Conservatives | |
| | B. Hughes | Full Time Carer | Member of the Labour Party. Member of the National Trust. Member of the Caravan and Motorhome Club Member of CAMRA Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - George Elliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors | |

| | Name of Councillor | Disclosable Pecuniary Interest | Other Personal Interest | Dispensation |
|--|--------------------|--|--|--------------|
| | A. Khangura | Self-Employed | | |
| | M. Kondakor | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the Green Party - Member of Nuneaton Harriers AC - Chair – Bedworth Symphony Orchestra | |
| | B. Pandher | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of Warwickshire County Council. - Member of the Conservative Party - President & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple Coventry; - Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; - Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; - Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust - Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group | |
| | T. Venson | Employed by Freightliner Heavy Haul | <p>ASIEF Trade Union The Labour Party</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building Control Partnership Steering Group - Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee | |
| | K.D. Wilson | Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts & West Midlands and Warwickshire Bailiffs, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association - Nuneaton Conservative association (sponsorship) - Board Member of the Conservative Councillors' Association. - Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director. <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGA People & Places Board (Member) - Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) - Director of Grayson Place (NBBC) Ltd | |