

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

29th January 2025

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 29th January, 2025 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader and Housing)
Councillor J. Sheppard (Deputy Leader and Environment & Public Services)
Councillor S. Hey (Resources & Customer Services)
Councillor T. Jenkins (Leisure, Communities and Health)
Councillor R. Roze (Planning & Enforcement)
Councillor N. King (Business and Regeneration)

CB75 Apologies

None

CB76 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

CB77 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th January 2025, be approved, and signed by the Chair

CB78 Local Government Devolution

The Chief Executive submitted a report to Cabinet providing a brief and highlighting subsequent implications for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, the Council and the administration of Local Government services within Warwickshire.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the Leader to continue to work with HM Government, Consultants, Industry bodies, Local Stakeholders, and neighbouring Local Authorities to represent the interests of Nuneaton and Bedworth, and to explore and negotiate options for the Borough.
- c) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the portfolio holder for Resources & Customer Services to review Nuneaton and Bedworth Council's employment terms and conditions, against neighbouring authorities, to manage staff retention.

- d) Cabinet will consider the concept of Local Government Devolution and Reorganisation should be debated at Council, and whether a single 'Council' view can be formed for Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Speakers:

Mr Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- a) To approve the recommendations and undertake actions detailed.
b) To take another course of action, as determined by Cabinet.

Reasons

To ensure that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, engages in the Governments Reform and Devolution agenda, ensuring the best outcome for the residents of the borough and Warwickshire.

CB79 NBBC Corporate Colours and Logo

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources submitted a report to Cabinet for an update to the Council's corporate colours, font and logo to ensure compliance with accessibility standards.

RESOLVED that

- a) the corporate colours in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and adopted from 1st April 2025.
b) the corporate font of Verdana in Appendix 1 of the report be approved and adopted from 1st April 2025.
c) the revised versions of the corporate logo in Appendix 1 of the report are approved and adopted from 1st April 2025.

Speakers:

Mr Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- a) To approve the recommendations
b) To reject the recommendations and propose alternative actions

Reasons

Ensuring the Council is compliant with accessibility standards is a legislative requirement. Currently we are not compliant which presents a disadvantage to members of the community served by the Council.

CB80 Fees and Charges 2025/26 Car Parking

The Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration submitted a report to approve the 2025/26 car parking fee charges

RESOLVED that

- a) the new car parking charges as part of the revised Fees and Charges for financial year 2025/26 be approved, to ensure new charging structure can meet the statutory notice period required under the Road Traffic Act 1988; and
- b) the report be marked not for call in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution due to the timeframes for meeting the statutory notice period and implementation of charges by 1st April 2025.

Speakers

Mr Keith Kondakor

Councillor Michele Kondakor

Written Statement from Mr Sam Margrave noted.

Options

- a) Approve proposed charges
- b) Continue with existing charging structure
- c) Revise proposed pricing structure – May impact on implementation of charges due to not meeting the required notice periods.

Reasons

The revised car parking fees are designed to provide flexibility of stay for users, increase the turnover of spaces in the most popular car parks, increase use of leisure facilities and green spaces and provide an affordable option in Harefield road car park for those working in the town centre and commuters.

It is forecast that adopting this fee structure together with improved compliance provided by the new parking payment solutions will increase total revenue by as much as 10% compared to the current fee structure.

CB81 Tenant & Leaseholder Engagement Strategy

The Assistant Director – Social Housing and Community Safety submitted the new Tenant & Leaseholder Engagement Strategy to Cabinet for approval and adoption.

The Strategy outlines 5 key priority areas:

- 1) Empowering Engagement
- 2) Enhancing Accountability
- 3) Shared Design
- 4) Amplifying tenant and leaseholder voices
- 5) Transparency & Communication.

RESOLVED that the Tenant & Leaseholder Engagement Strategy 2024-29 be approved by Cabinet as a document, which informs tenants and leaseholders about the opportunities available to them in order to influence the housing services they receive.

Speakers

Mr Keith Kondakor

Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- a) Adopt the Tenant & Leaseholder Engagement Strategy 2024-2029
- b) To not adopt the Tenant & Leaseholder Engagement Strategy 2024-2029

Reasons

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are required to comply with the **Regulator of Social Housing Consumer Standards**, which have been refreshed and launched in April 2024. The Regulator of Social Housing is empowered to set these standards through the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.

There are four consumer standards, which are:

- Safety and Quality Standard.
- Tenancy Standard.
- Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard.
- Neighbourhood and Community Standard.

The Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard sets out the key requirements for landlords in relation to tenant and leaseholder engagement, with expectations such as:

- Landlords must treat all tenants and leaseholders with fairness and respect.
- Utilising relevant data to understand tenant and leaseholder needs and requirements.
- Ensuring communication is timely, relevant and accessible.
- Making sure that services are accessible.
- Taking the views of tenants and leaseholders into account about how services are delivered.
- Giving tenants and leaseholders opportunities to influence and scrutinise strategies, policies and services.
- Carrying out a Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) programme, made up of a perception survey and other management information.
- Publishing performance information to show tenants and leaseholders how their landlord is performing.
- Improving the complaints process, to ensure that it is easily accessible and complaints are responded to in a timely and effective manner. Landlords must also be able to evidence how they understand and utilise the learning from complaints that they receive to improve services.

CB82 Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (ASB)

The Assistant Director – Social Housing and Community Safety submitted the ASB Strategy 2024-2027 for cabinet approval. This sets out Council's commitment on how we will tackle ASB through a framework of early intervention, support, and enforcement. It also sets out how we will do this in partnership with other agencies (statutory, non-statutory and voluntary).

RESOLVED that the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2024-27 be approved

Speakers

Mr Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- a) Adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2024-2027
- b) To not adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2024-2027

Reasons

ASB continues to affect all wards across the borough and is subject to seasonal changes. The revised strategy, supported by robust governance, will help to ensure that we continue to reduce both the volume and the impact of ASB whilst ensuring victims and perpetrators receive support relevant to their needs and circumstances.

CB83 Council Tax Empty Homes Premium Policy 2025

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet to seek approval of the Council Tax Empty Homes Premium Policy 2025. The Council has resolved to implement Empty Homes Premium for Council Tax properties with effect from 1st April 2025.

RESOLVED that the Council Tax Empty Homes Premium Policy 2025, as per Appendix A of the report be approved.

Speakers

Mr Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

1. Approve the policy
2. Seek amendments to the policy
3. Reject the policy

Reasons

To reduce the empty homes across the borough following cabinet approval on the 9th October 2024 to implement the following charges on Empty Homes with effect from 1st April 2025:

- 100% levy of the council tax on a property empty for 1 year or more
- 200% levy of the council tax on a property empty for 5 year or more
- 300% levy of the council tax on a property empty for more than 10 years

CB84 Recommendations From Overview and Scrutiny Panels

None

CB85 Any Other Items

i) Regeneration Project Update

The Strategic Director – Economy and Place submitted an update on the regeneration projects across the Borough.

RESOLVED that

- a) the content of the report be noted
- b) Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director for Economy and Place, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and in consideration of commercial or market forces, to finalise the outputs of the programme, and manage all associated contractual matters, up to agreed budget levels; and
- c) the report be marked not for call in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution due to the timeframes in meeting construction deadlines.

Speakers

Mr Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

To approve the recommendations
To reject the recommendations

Reasons

To ensure the effective delivery of publicly funded projects

Chair

PUBLICATION DATE: 4th FEBRUARY 2025

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 12th FEBRUARY 2025

Cabinet - 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
	S. Hey	Director – - Heywire Ltd - Brilliant Bookings Ltd	Member of the Labour Party, National Trust, CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), Royal Photographic Society. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Employers Board (NBBC representative) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board • West Midlands Employers • Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum 	
	T. Jenkins	Managing Partner – Gribblybugs LLP Employed by Mary Creagh MP (Coventry East)	The Labour Party (sponsorship) - Committee Member of Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team - Member of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Member of Equity – Trade Union Members of National Trust and English Heritage Representative on the following Outside Bodies:	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum, • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board, • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, • Biodiversity Champion • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • Exhall Education Foundation • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. King	Employed by Love Hair and Beauty	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Town Deal Board 	
	R. Roze	Director – InfiniTEN Ltd	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside of London) Joint Committee Services. • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bedworth Town Deal Board 	
	J. Sheppard		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Nuneaton Neighbour Watch Committee 	
Director of Wembrook Community Centre.			Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre	
Member of Labour Party				

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	<p>Representative on the following outside bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee • Local Government Association • Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership • West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCA) • West Midland Combined Housing and Land delivery Board 	