


**RECORD OF EXERCISE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY OFFICER PURSUANT TO  
REGULATION 13 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS)  
(MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 &  
THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014**

<u>SUBJECT OF DECISION</u>	
Procurement of a Green and Grey Belt Review.	
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	<u>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE</u>
DO/76/2025 (MB)	Cabinet meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025, resolved in the minutes on 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, paragraph CB93.
<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	<u>DECISION MAKER (Name and Job Title)</u>
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	 <b>Maria Bailey</b> <b>Strategic Director for Place and Economy</b>
<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>	
<p>a) The issue</p> <p>The aim and purpose of the proposed Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 1 is to provide the Council with an objective, evidence-based and independent assessment of how the parts of the West Midlands Green Belt, that fall with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough’s administrative boundary, contribute to the five purposes of Green Belt, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, and to identify any areas of Grey Belt land.</p> <p>b) The Decision</p> <p>To procure a Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 1 with the potential for a later Stage 2 Review.</p>	

## REASON FOR THE DECISION

Procurement of a Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 1. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024) requires Local Planning Authorities to identify land which can be classified as Grey Belt, within their administrative boundaries, and also requires Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to undertake an immediate, subsequent review of the Borough Plan Review, once it is adopted (anticipated April – June 2025). The Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 1 will be a vital piece of evidence to enable the selection of the most appropriate locations for growth, while minimising harm to the wider Green Belt and its purposes when reviewing the Borough Plan Review.

It is also anticipated that there will be a need to undertake a more detailed, site-specific Green and Grey Belt Assessment, as the next Local Plan Review progresses. This will form the Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 2. The Stage 2 Review will need to consider the cumulative impact on the wider West Midlands Green Belt if all reasonable, identified site options were released from the Green Belt, for example.

The Green and Grey Belt Review – Stage 1 (and potentially a later Stage 2 Review) would be best produced by professionals with knowledge and experience of producing these assessments, which is not available within the Planning Policy team. Therefore, this piece of work is best outsourced.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED IN MAKING THE DECISION

Employing a Critical Friend was considered but was rejected due to resource pressures and the Review document's role as an integral piece of evidence for the next Local Plan Review.

## WARD RELEVANCE

All.

## FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Stage 1 Review will cost approximately £60k. The Council has been successful in being awarded £70k (2024/25 financial year) from the Green Belt Review Fund from National Government (MHCLG).

A potential Stage 2 Review would be funded from the Capital Budget (2025/26).

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MEMBERS/OFFICERS

- Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder – Housing.
- Portfolio Holder – Planning and Enforcement.
- Assistant Director for Planning.
- Strategic Director for Place and Economy.
- Strategic Director for Corporate Resources.

<p><u>ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER CONSULTED</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><u>IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT BY A CABINET MEMBER, ANY DISPENSATION GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE</u> (Note if the decision is a non-executive decision, no dispensation can be given).</p> <p>N/A.</p>
<p><u>EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS (including any Equality Impact Assessment)</u></p> <p>The successful contractor would be expected to comply with the Equality Act (2010).</p>
<p><u>HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><u>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>Covered under financial and budget implications.</p>
<p><u>HEALTH EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><u>SECTION 17 CRIME &amp; DISORDER IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><u>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The Council has committed itself through the Local Development Scheme (February 2025) to an immediate, subsequent review of the Borough Plan Review, in line with the requirements of the NPPF (December 2024). The Review will form an important part of the evidence base of the next Local Plan Review, which could be found unsound by the Planning Inspectorate, if it is not consistent with the NPPF (December 2024). This would mean that the next Local Plan Review could be at risk of non-adoption.</p> <p>The Council could also be at risk of speculative applications which we would be unable to defend without robust, up-to-date evidence.</p>
<p><u>SME (SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) &amp; LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The required contract is SME friendly.</p>
<p><u>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The Specification outlines environmental requirements that the contractor is expected to support.</p>

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

No.

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MADE OR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER**