

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND CORPORATE RESOURCES
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

13th February 2025

A meeting of the Health and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 13th February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor S. Dhillon (Chair)

Councillors: J. Hartshorn (Vice-Chair), B. Hughes, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, B. Pandher, T. Venson, K. Wilson and C. Smith (substituting for Councillor J. Bonner).

Apologies: Councillor J. Bonner and Mrs D. Ross.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

HCR 20 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 24th October 2024 be approved and duly signed by the Chair.

HCR 21 **Declarations of Interest**

As Councillor C. Smith was a substitute Councillor for this meeting, his 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 C. Smith.

HCR 22 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services (Councillor S. Hey) and the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) were in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

What discussions and progress is being made in bringing healthcare facilities to the town centre, because with the new redevelopment and things that would really help footfall. I know obviously the Council don't do that per se, but they have a strong influence and obviously have been at meetings regarding future healthcare provision.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

We are just seeing some of this in the budget next week, but I mean this is going on all the time. We want to make sure that we get all this stuff into the town centre, we want to revitalise the town centre. I mean, I know you agree with this on that and we're doing it all the time. It is a bit difficult at the moment because of course the building work and everything is going on, but I think it's important that we build into all that, the events and what have you.

Is that what you're talking about, Michelle?

Councillor Kondakor followed up with:

Having some sort of healthcare facility, you know, the new town centre is very sort of limited in terms of space for, where they do all the blood tests and things there. So having some new sort of medical centre type thing within the town centre would really bring people in, you know, and help footfall alongside everything else.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing replied:

The talks are ongoing with the healthcare all the time and if something comes to it, we'll let you know when it comes around.

Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Have you got managed to recruit to the legal department? Because the legal things underpin so many things across a lot of the stuff that the Council is responsible for, you know, from Planning, Housing, what have you, and they all need legal backup and things. So I just wondered how the recruitment is going on that.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

You're quite right to raise this. It's something that's worrying me quite a bit because everything we do at some point has to go through, usually some sort of contract or legal. We have struggled to recruit two Solicitors to the Council. There's a report going I think to Cabinet next week, and that says how we can arrange a system whereby we can actually share facilities with other authorities, and actually get some of the work done more quickly and get specialist expertise in when we need, perhaps don't need some expertise in all the time. So it is something I am actively engaged in.

Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Will the organisation chart be restored to the Members section on the website? It's really useful to know who has what role and things. For example, if I send in a Members inquiry about things and get a response, but with just a name, it's very hard to know where that person fits into the hierarchy. It used to be there, I just got an error message the last time I tried it, said it was being sorted with IT and now it's disappeared altogether. There's not even the button that sends you to an error message. There is the organisation chart on the public website, but that doesn't give any names other than the Directors.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

There are a number of things that I've been doing with the Officers to improve whole areas of IT and services to Members and what have you. The old sort of organisation chart was on a system called Dash, which is being phased out in favour of using a new Microsoft system called SharePoint, which everybody would be able to get to. So that's being sorted out and on top of that, the Members inquiry form system is also being revamped and I'm told that after I've seen the next version of

it, it will be available in early March. So we'll have a better system for that. I am trying with all these things.

Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

How is the hotel trading now it's up and running. It's been nearly five months and is there going to be a subsidy required next year or is it sort of holding its own?

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

I cannot answer that question, Councillor Kondakor. My understanding is of course, that the next Shareholders Committee, which so far has been considering NABCEL business, that will be coming to that next. I'm not going to comment on that before all that's available, sorry.

HCR 23

Healthwatch

A presentation of the Chief Executive and Company Secretary, and the Engagement and Outreach Worker (Healthwatch) provided the Panel with information including a background, the objectives, feedback received, the impact and the priorities of Healthwatch.

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

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

- People contact Healthwatch when they have issues and things are not going well.
- Getting provisions in Town Centres and outreach work.
- Government priorities shifting – hospital to community, from treatment to prevention.
- Concerns are fed back to the Integrated Care Board.
- Surgeries in special measures – what is being done to ensure GP surgeries are working effectively and are sustainable. GMC is responsible for concerns about specific GP practitioners.
- Healthwatch can put pressure on relevant groups, but have no powers to compel action (but they can advise and use pressure).
- Need to increase knowledge of Healthwatch – more information will be sent to all panel members from the Engagement and Outreach Worker (via Democratic Services).
- Pharmacy prescribing – need to build confidence, some concerns discussed but there are many positives.
- NHS app – disparity between different GP Practices – a need to standardise. Some people may be digitally excluded.
- The mental health 'legacy' from COVID, the effects are still being felt from delayed treatments etc.
- Work with veterans and working with/getting views from diverse communities is ongoing.
- Comments on social media and reports to Healthwatch are more likely to be negative – people are less likely to comment and report positive experiences.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the representatives of Healthwatch be thanked for their presentation and for attending.

HCR 24 **George Eliot Hospital Update**

The Chief Strategy, Service Improvement and Partnerships Officer presented a report which provided Members with an update which included NHS planning guidance, the challenges being faced and their objectives for 2025/26. Information and updates on the effect of winter and the coronavirus, the Trust's financial position, quality and safety, and hospice beds were also covered.

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Ongoing work with veterans.
- The new Community Diagnostics Centre – led to improvements relating to diagnostics and is a real asset with benefits being seen.
- Award winning volunteer programme and how this impacts on service.
- Care in the Community – need to look at prevention to reduce the numbers needing to go to hospital (e.g. vaccinations and health checks).
- Pushing positive messages about how people can help themselves and where the best place is they can go to get help if needed. The need to education people.
- NHS111 referrals and the numbers advised to go to A&E from this service and GP's.
- Appointment wait times, including for tests meaning slower results and diagnosis – work is taking place around this area.
- Waiting times for treatments – the 'COVID' impact and improving patient experiences.

HCR 25 **Integrated Performance Report – Second 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 K. Kondakor

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

HCR 26 **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st March 2025, was provided to the Panel for information.

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

HCR 27 **Work Programme 2024-2025**

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

Public Speaker: Mr K. Kondakor

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
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor of Stockingford Maintained Nursery School 	
	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. <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGA People & Places Board (Member) 	