

Enquiries to: Salewa A-Ogunleye

Direct Dial: 024 7637 6600

Direct Email: [salewa.aogunleye@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:salewa.aogunleye@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk)

Date: 4 April 2025

Our Ref: SPB/SA

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the **SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER BOARD** will be held on Friday 4 April 2025 at 12.30 pm at The Saints, Newdegate Street, Nuneaton, CV11 4ED.

Yours faithfully

TOM SHARDLOW

Chief Executive Officer

To: All Members of the Simplification Pathfinder Board:

Sean Farnell (Chair), Marion Plant (Vice-Chair).  
Councillors: Nicola King (NBBC), Steve Hay (NBBC), Jan Matecki (WCC)  
Alison Thompson, Amanda Bourne, Jenni Northcote, Jet Jones, Jodie Gosling (MP),  
Leo Pollak, Les Ratcliffe, Lindsey Randle, Marion Plant, Rachel Taylor (MP) and  
Stuart Noss.

## AGENDA

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. APOLOGIES - to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES – of the meeting held on 17 January 2025 attached (Page 4)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

**Declaring interests at meetings**

If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

Arrangements have been made for interests that are declared regularly by Board Members to be appended to the agenda (**Page 8**). Any interest noted in the Schedule at the back of the agenda papers will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Committee Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Board Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.

There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the Board Member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the Board Member must inform the Chair of the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.
2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Council's Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

5. HIGHLIGHT REPORT – presented by the Programme Manager (NBBC).

6. COMMUNICATION UPDATES – updates by the Programme Manager (NBBC)

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Recommended that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

9. RISK REGISTER – presented by the Programme Manager (NBBC).

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 13 June 2025 at 12.30 pm, Location – MIRA Tech Park, 1 Eastern Ave, Nuneaton CV10 0UX

Future meeting dates:

Friday 19 September – site visit to Bedworth Physical Activity Hub

Friday 19 December– location TBC

## **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER BOARD**

**17 January 2025**

A meeting of the Simplification Pathfinder Board was held on Friday 17 January 2025. The meeting was held in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton.

**Present:** Sean Farnell (CWLEP) - Chair, Alison Thompson (WCAVA), Marion Plant (NWSLC), Lindsey Randle (Horiba-Mira), Nicky King (Councillor), Steve Hey (Councillor), Garry Palmer (WCC), Jodie Gosling (MP), Dr Elinor Parsons

**Officers in attendance:** Maria Bailey (NBBC), Sandy Johal (NBBC), Joanne Pierson (NBBC), Salewa A-Ogunleye (NBBC) - Mins

**Apologies:** Mark Farmer (NBBC), Jan Matecki (Councillor), Jenni Northcote (NHS), Jet Jones (Together for Change), Richard Baxter- Payne, Stuart Noss (KEGS), Rachel Taylor (MP), Les Ratcliffe (CWC)

SPB21 Site visit to Grayson Place to see progress of Phase 2.

SPB22 Chair's welcome and announcements

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting and introductions took place.

SPB23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2024, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

SPB24 Declarations of Interests

Board members' interests for the meeting were as set out in a Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

SPB25 Highlight Report

The Regeneration Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted a Highlight Report (which had been circulated prior to the meeting) to update Board members on the status of the Simplification Pathfinder programme and individual projects. The report detailed the overall Simplification Pathfinder programme financial status, the key risks and upcoming activities.

- Grayson Place – Phase 1 – hotel up and running. Phase 2 – formal signing of contract took place on 20 December 2024. Food hall building almost complete. Steels in place for college.
- George Eliot Visitors Centre - Planning application – some objections were received (Victorian Society), it should be going to committee in February.

- Saints – JP informed the project is on track, with work starting on site in September 2024. Prior to a site visit yesterday, they were a couple of weeks ahead of the original deadline, however due to a delay in receiving cubicles for the gent's toilets. they are now a week over original deadline. JP reassured the Board that they are still on track to meet the revised deadline around 22 March. The grand opening is scheduled for 7 April. The Board's next meeting will take place at the Saints, to allow the Board to see the completed project before the grand opening.
- Parks Revival - moving ahead with RIBA stage 3. Anticipate appointing a consultant team by March. Concept has been agreed with the Leader.
- E-mobility - waiting to appoint Oxford DPS, small project, no concerns regarding meeting the deadlines.
- Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – progressing nicely, steel frames have now been installed, and on target. Upcoming PR event called the "Bolt out" which will be the next stage of works and will look to celebrate the progress on the project. Operating assessments need to be taken by the Council, but they are expected to get an early outcome for summer, which is again on target for this project.
- Bridge to Living –one tenant still in the unit, still negotiating with them to find a suitable alternative unit. In the process of going through procurement to demolish site. The Leader has requested the site is demolished at the same time as County carry out demolition of Vicarage Street (currently April 2025). Following demolition, will be looking at an options analysis of what to do with the site. JG asked about the purpose and potential use of the Bridge to Living site while assessments are being made.  
MB responded that they are looking at the options in terms of what to do with the site, acknowledging it is very much the gateway to George Eliot Gardens and Riversley Park. As part of the demolition, there will be some preparatory work, it won't be hoarded off and left. The team is exploring options to potentially make the cleared site into a usable open space in the interim.

SPB26

### **Any Other Business**

- a) Marketing - MP raised concerns about marketing Nuneaton's transformation and the need for a clear communication strategy. She expressed fear that the town could have a wonderful new town centre, but struggle to get people to come and enjoy it if the changes are not effectively communicated.

A discussion took place on this. SJ confirmed starting to look at refreshing the communications strategy. She acknowledged that the current approach feels a bit outdated, and with new people joining the

team, it is a good time to work with the internal communications team to develop a more effective plan.

MB added that they have started making connections with Destination Coventry and colleagues across Warwickshire to align marketing efforts. She also mentioned the ongoing marketing for the new hotel, which is helping promote Nuneaton as a destination.

SF suggested, and it was agreed, to make communications a standing item on future agendas to keep this front and centre and ensure the team is consistently singing the praises of what has been achieved and what is to come.

LR suggested creating a slide deck with photos, bullet points, and updates that could be shared with the 40+ companies located on the local tech park, on the tech park's app, so those businesses and people can stay informed and engaged with the progress.

SJ responded, indicating that some good visual presentation materials would be brilliant to help push the messaging around the town's transformation.

LR noted that they are already successfully pushing the marketing for the new hotel, which has resulted in attracting visitors.

- b) Arts/Culture – JG queried how we can get our thriving arts / heritage / history communities and social clubs into our town centres, representing that rich history and whether opportunities to build that in and safety features, designing a crime free town centre. Rewrite narrative of ASB in town centre. SF agreed, but it's not necessarily the remit of this Board whose task it is to get the projects on their way and completed, but if there is anything the Board can do to help, then it will.

MB stated that “public space protection order – ASB Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres” was presented at Cabinet this week (15/01/2025) and approved.

SJ Informed the Board that there is a project called Creative Explorers that is focused on culture and heritage in the town.

- c) AT stated WCAVA are leading on the Arts Council Creative People and Place. The bid was submitted yesterday, if successful will get £1M funding. The bid leans heavily into the transformation agenda, referenced the TIP and My Town feedback. The project will be called “Rooted” and it's about heritage. Working with NBBC colleagues Kevin Hollis and Katie Memetovic-Bye

- d) Gyrotory Scheme –County scheme for Wheat Street was in the press yesterday.
- e) All schemes – SF felt it would be useful to have a plan of where all the schemes are including art, County, etc. JG requested a summary of the projects and the ends dates. GP will bring an update of the County Schemes, although they are not part of the Board, to the next meeting.

SPD27 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 9172, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information on the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

SPB28 Risk register

The Programme Manager (NBBC) submitted an updated Programme Risk Register. The Board considered the specific risks raised by the updated register.

Distributed prior to the meeting. No significant changes.

---

Chair of the Board

**SCHEDULE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - TOWN DEAL BOARD**

| Name of Board Member          | Disclosable Pecuniary Interest  | Other Personal Interest  | Dispensation |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Alison Thompson</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Manager, Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action</li> <li>• Service Level Agreement between WCAVA and NBBC for services to support the voluntary and community sector</li> <li>• WCAVA Leases with NBBC: Newtown Centre, Newtown Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4HG and 1 Donnithorne Avenue, Nuneaton, CV10 7AF</li> <li>• Director, Arts in Arts CIC, lease with NBBC for 22 Abbey Street, Nuneaton CV11 5BT</li> <li>• Spouse/Partner: A-Dec Dental UK Ltd</li> <li>• Owner of a property in Nuneaton</li> </ul> |  |              |
| <b>Amanda Bourne</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing Director, FindaBiz Ltd</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair, Nuneaton BID Steering Group</li> <li>• Secretary, Nuneaton Business Alliance</li> <li>• FSB Representative Nuneaton and Bedworth</li> <li>• Representative Warwickshire Town Forum</li> <li>• TC Partnership</li> </ul> |              |
| <b>Catherine Marks</b>        | None  | None   | None         |
| <b>Councillor Jan Matecki</b> | None  | None   | None         |
| <b>Councillor Nicola King</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employed by Love Hair and Beauty</li> </ul>  |  |              |
| <b>Councillor</b>             | Director:<br>- Heywire Ltd  |  |              |



|                           |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Steve Hay</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brilliant Bookings Ltd</li> <li>- Member of the Labour Party</li> <li>- National Trust</li> <li>- CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)</li> <li>- Royal Photographic Society</li> </ul> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Employers Board (NBBC representative)</li> <li>• Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board</li> <li>• West Midlands Employers</li> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <b>Jenni Northcote</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust - Director of Strategy, Service Improvement and Primary Care</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| <b>Jet Jones</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Regeneration and Community Transformation of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Church of England.</li> <li>• CEO of Together for Change - Together for Change lease Saints, Nuneaton</li> <li>• Spouse is curate of St Nicholas Parish Church and St James Parish Church, Nuneaton</li> <li>• Daughter works for Creative Live</li> <li>• Son works for Walsgrave Mega Bowl</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trustee of Bedworth Parish Church</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Jodie Gosling (MP)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid role as Member of Parliament for Nuneaton</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unpaid directorship of Jelly Beans Nurture Nursery.</li> <li>• Unpaid trustee Lifelines Arley Whitacre, a small charity.</li> <li>• Borough Councillor for Arley and Whitacre, North Warwickshire Borough Council. This is an unpaid role.</li> </ul> |  |

|                                  |   |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Leo Pollak</b>                | •   | •  |  |
| <b>Les Ratcliffe</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing Director - Community Engagement Limited</li> <li>• Director - Engineering in Motion Ltd.</li> <li>• Non-Executive Director - Verity Housing</li> <li>• Spouse/Partner: Director Community Engagement Ltd</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman – Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Place Board</li> <li>• Board Member – CWLEP Growth HUB</li> <li>• Deputy Lieutenant – West Midlands Lieutenancy</li> <li>• Board Member – Coventry &amp; Warwickshire NSPCC Business Group</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Lindsey Randle</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MIRA</li> <li>• Spouse/Partner: MIRA</li> <li>• Owner of a property in Hartshill</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <b>Marion Plant (Vice Chair)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal &amp; Chief Executive, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC)</li> <li>• North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College Property/land</li> <li>• Spouse/Partner: Relations Manager, Christian Aid</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Midland Academies Trust (07191874), Chief Executive Officer and Director (company dormant, no financial interest)</li> <li>• Skills Advisory Panel, West Midlands Combined Authority, Member</li> <li>• Trustee, National Council Church of England</li> <li>• Chair, Director and Trustee WorldSkills UK (0210423)</li> <li>• Director The Skills Show Ltd (05880193)</li> <li>• Local Skills Accountability Board, Member (Coventry and Warwickshire and Leicester and Leicestershire)</li> <li>• Colleges West Midlands (NWSLC) is a member</li> <li>• Coventry Skills Board member</li> <li>• Aoc Portfolio Group for Climate Change, Member</li> <li>• Coventry University Lifelong Steering Group, Chair</li> <li>• Health and Social Care Skills for Care Group</li> </ul> |  |

|                                 |  |   |      |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------|
|                                 |  | (Coventry University led), Member<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Social Care Future Skills Board (NHS), Member</li> <li>• P1k Programme Board (NHS), Member</li> </ul>  |      |
| <b>Rachel Taylor (MP)</b>       | None   | None  | None |
| <b>Sean Farnell FCA (Chair)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burgis &amp; Bullock, Chartered Accountants</li> <li>• Burgis &amp; Bullock Management Ltd (dormant)</li> <li>• Burgis &amp; Bullock Ltd (dormant)</li> <li>• CCWP Ltd (dormant)</li> <li>• Burgis &amp; Bullock (Audit) Ltd (dormant)</li> <li>• Burgis &amp; Bullock Corporate Finance Ltd</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust Ltd</li> <li>• Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd</li> <li>• Growth Hub Business Solutions Ltd</li> <li>• Director of Coventry &amp; Warwickshire Growth Hub Ltd Board</li> </ul> |      |
| <b>Stuart Noss</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal of King Edward VI College, Nuneaton</li> </ul>  |   |      |