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**BRENT DAVIS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
Town Hall, Nuneaton,  
Warwickshire, CV11 5AA

Our Ref: KB

Your Ref:

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **FINANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at **6.00 p.m.**

Please note that meetings will be recorded for future publication on the Council's website.

Yours faithfully,

Brent Davis

Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Finance and  
Public Service Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel

Councillors D. Brown (Chair), C. Watkins (Vice-Chair),  
R. Baxter-Payne, L. Downs, B. Hammersley, S.  
Harbison, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, M. Tromans and  
Mrs D. Ross.

## A G E N D A

### PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Virgin Money Building (formerly the Yorkshire Bank) on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

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

Chair to advise the meeting if all or part of the meeting will be recorded for future broadcast.

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

3. MINUTES - To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023, attached (**Page 5**)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and of the Party Whip in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 4E, Paragraph 16(b).

#### 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 members to be appended to the agenda (**Page 12**). 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 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 member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform 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 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.

Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Audit & Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council's Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Members of the Public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.
6. QUESTIONS TO CABINET – In accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.E.8 c) 20 minutes shall be set aside for questions to a member of the Cabinet from the Panel in relation to matters in respect of which the Panel has powers or duties.
7. WORK PROGRAMME SUGGESTION FORMS –  
a) A Town Council for Bedworth - submission from Mr S. Margrave **(Page 14)**
8. FORWARD PLAN – attached for information **(Page 18)**.
9. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME – for approval, attached, **(Page 28)**
10. ANY OTHER ITEMS which in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified)

# **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

## **Building A Better Borough**

*Nuneaton and Bedworth 2032: working in partnership, restoring pride in our borough*

### **AIM 1: LIVE**

We want to make our borough a place where our residents enjoy living and in which others choose to make their home.

**Priority 1: Promote residents' health and wellbeing**

**Priority 2: Enable appropriate housing development**

**Priority 3: Sponsor a sustainable green approach**

**Priority 4: Prioritise community safety and empowerment**

### **AIM 2: WORK**

Using our prime location within the national road and rail networks and responding to the needs of private companies, we want to make our borough a place in which businesses choose to locate and where our residents enjoy a range of employment options.

**Priority 1: Grow a strong and inclusive economy**

**Priority 2: Champion education and skills**

**Priority 3: Embrace new and emerging technology**

**Priority 4: Support local businesses**

### **AIM 3: VISIT**

Taking advantage of our open green spaces, our heritage, and our location within the West Midlands, we want our borough to be a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. A place where people and families want to spend time relaxing, socialising and taking part in leisure and cultural activities.

**Priority 1: Create vibrant and diverse town centres**

**Priority 2: Stimulate regeneration**

**Priority 3: Celebrate and promote our heritage**

**Priority 4: Improve the physical environment**

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

A meeting of the Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton. The meeting was recorded for publication on the Council's website.

**Present**

Councillors C. Watkins (Vice - Chair)

Councillors: R. Baxter-Payne, L. Downs, B. Hammersley, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, M. Tromans, M. Walsh (substituting for Councillor D. Brown) and Mrs D. Ross.

Apologies: Councillors D. Brown and S. Harbison.

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**FPS10 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair; and
- b) the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**FPS11 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Baxter-Payne declared he has changed employment. As Councillor M. Walsh was a substitute Councillor for this meeting, his declarations 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 M. Walsh.

**FPS12 Questions to Cabinet**

Councillor S. Markham (Portfolio Holder for Public Services) was in attendance to answer questions from members of the Panel. Councillor S. Croft (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate) was unable to attend the meeting, and it was agreed that any questions would be forwarded to him, with a request for a written response which would be shared with Members.

**Councillor K. Kondakor asked a question for the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate:**

I think it's important to know what is happening with the Bridge to Living Scheme where we've actually bought up the shops along Bridge Street opposite Wilko's and Debenhams. We've actually got rid of the tenants, or getting rid of the tenants there, and that's obviously putting a cost pressure on the Council because we're either paying the business rates for empty shops, or those business rates now are not being collected. In which case we lose the business rate income, so I would like Councillor Croft to tell us what's happening in terms of the revenue budget from the delay to that project.

**Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Public Services:**

Firstly, about the Physical Activity Centre. As you, Cabinet Member, you've changed the project to make it more affordable, to reduce the cost of 30 million, but it looks like you're sort of kicking the can down the road by actually going for a retendering in various processes now, so actually it won't move forward till the next administration. But I really do not believe we'll still be able to, we haven't got the 30 million yet, the housing developments in particularly Bedworth Woodlands wouldn't like to happen, the ones in Albury are going to be running late with the economic situation. So can I ask a Cabinet member is there a plan C which actually builds the new pool on the existing site rather than do the costly dual running, and maybe taking it down to six lanes rather than eight. Thank you.

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded:**

It won't be going to the next administration. We're hoping that it's going to be going to Planning either January or February, back to Planning because it has to go back to Planning because they've altered it, and that's why they've had to get it redone. As soon as it's gone back to Planning, if it's approved at Planning, then we're hoping to get it underway soon after. So we're not trying to wait until after the next administration, we are trying to get it done this time, you know, early next year. And your other the question was about the money?

**Councillor Kondakor then asked:**

Obviously the funding, a bit of that is from our Section 106 that we have already got, but a lot of the other Section 106 is either going to be very late or highly dubious. I mean we keep promising people we won't build on Bedworth Woodlands. But that Section 106 is still in the funding package for the pool, so some clarity about that will be useful.

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded:**

The funding side of things it obviously isn't mine, but if it goes ahead it will be signed off by our finance lady, so she will be able to answer those questions. But they won't let it go ahead if we haven't got the money to do it.

And the other question that you asked was could we, put in other words, knock the other one down and then build it on the same site. I don't think that's an option because we'll be without a baths for two or three years while it's being built, and I don't think it's cost effective.

**Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Public Services:**

The recycling overspending. Coventry has put their charges up, and can you give us some background as to what actually they're charging extra for,

because the level of service in my view is not very good. We get lots of caddies going in the back of lorries, and I'd love to change the contractors anyway. But can you explain why we've had this hike and what we can do about it, because we can't just have contractors hiking charges on us.

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded:**

The increase that we received was the cost of living increase. Instead of giving us it with notice, they actually dropped it on our toes in February which was after we did the budget. And that's why the actual increase for the recycling that we've got now, again is down to cost, to contamination and what have you. But the actual costs that Coventry gave to us at the beginning of the year was an inflationary hike.

**Councillor Kondakor then stated:**

I've had issues at our house with the caddy being put in the back of the recycling lorry, and quite a few other residents have. Talking to Officers it seems that when people recycle a lot of paper the staff actually said it's too heavy to lift, just leave the caddy in the bin and then put the bin in the back, rather than give feedback to residents, and we've had lots of contamination issues. We don't seem to have a mechanism to claw back contamination caused by the operators from Coventry City Council. So the worse job they do, the less people recycle, and there's no sort of financial loop to actually get compensation for when they're not actually either doing their job, or if they're not able to do their job, putting a tag on the bin saying it's too heavy, rather than just letting the bin contaminate the rest. So I know things are going to change with the new contract but we do need to get on top of these contracts where poor performance can actually contaminate our loads and then we get less money for our recycling.

**Councillor Watkins then added:**

We could just mention for the public as well when we do go to co-mingle, so just to get the message out there again.

**The Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded:**

Yes, the reason we haven't said that yet is because of the change that we're having next week, and we didn't want it all to sort of get lost. We have spoken to Coventry, because we know that some of the operatives at Coventry have actually told residents that we've already started with the co-mingling, and that's why they've taken the caddy. So we've had that fed through to us, and we have actually spoken to Coventry and that's in hand at the moment. The co-mingling is still, we're going to put it out in about three weeks, because it's not until the end of October we go live. So we want to get this embedded first with the new rounds before we start talking to people about mixing the recycling together, because if we do it too soon they're just going to do it all together.

**Councillor K. Kondakor asked a question for the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate:**

The road renaming outside the Council House, obviously a costly and pointless thing to do. Can we get Councillor Croft to confirm that stupid plan has now been scrapped? Thank you.

### **FPS13 Integrated Performance Report – First Quarter 2023-24**

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer. The Panel were presented with a report which seeks to provide 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.

The Panel asked a number of questions and discussed a variety of issues including:

- Member Enquiry Forms – the figures given were for the first quarter, and non were Fol related.
- Risk Register – two risks in particular were discussed including Finance (effectively managing Council finances) and the change of IT systems (including the website).
  - The Council's financial situation needs to be monitored and reviewed, looking at the challenges the Council is facing and the risks this can bring.
  - Cyber security is a concern and risks around IT migration are being considered and monitored.
- Risk Assessments – look at what mitigations have been brought in to reduce the risk, and review regularly.
- Reduced outcome from parking and the bus depot – more clarity was requested in relation to how much has been lost for each area.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the contents of the report be noted; and
- b) information on the new website (and risks) be brought to a future Scrutiny Panel Meeting.

### **FPS14 Managing Attendance of the Council's Workforce**

The Head of People and Culture presented the Panel with a report detailing the 2022/23 end of year performance for Sickness Absence, in order for Members to scrutinise the work activity and trends relating to the Attendance Management of the Council's Workforce, and to consider the additional initiatives that have been used in an effort to improve attendance.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- More information on the numbers of staff in each Authority to allow for easier comparison.
- Each Authority provides different services so benchmarking and comparison is not always 'like for like'. Details of the services offered can be looked into.
- There is anecdotal evidence that people (which will include NBBC staff) are waiting longer for treatment and operations, which impacts on recovery times and attendance figures.
- NBBC offer counselling and physio to employees where there is evidence it could improve return to work times.
- Risk Assessments are carried out in the workplace and work related accidents reported. However it is not always clear if some absences are fully work related or personal.



**RESOLVED** that

- a) the information contained within the Appendices be noted; and
- b) that feedback and comments for consideration be given to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate.

**FPS15 Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, was provided to the Panel for information.

It was suggested that it would be useful to get an Officer to talk through the Capital Programme if the Portfolio Holder is not available to attend the Scrutiny meeting. An update relating to the Capital Fund would be welcomed.

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan be noted.

**FPS16 Draft Work Programme 2023/24**

The Draft Work Programme for the Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel was submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Work Programme be noted; and
- b) the Work Programme suggestions agreed on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be added to the document.

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Chair

## Finance and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	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"> <li>- Housing matters</li> <li>- Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992</li> <li>- An allowance, payment given to members</li> <li>- An indemnity given to members</li> <li>- Any ceremonial honour given to members</li> <li>- Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> <li>- Planning and Licensing matters</li> <li>- Allotments</li> <li>- Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
	R. Baxter-Payne	Employed by Vinci Construction Major Projects UK Ltd (VCMP UK Ltd); County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder  Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee</li> <li>• Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute)</li> </ul>	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.  Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhall Education Foundation (Council appointment).</li> </ul>	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane Little Caesars Donuts Limited NBBC Council Contract for market pitch	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity</li> </ul>	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C.  Employed by FedEx Express UK Ltd	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party Member of UNITE the Union  Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EQUIP</li> </ul>	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic and Embedded Software Design Engineer (self-employed)	Unpaid Director of 100% Renewables UK Ltd  Green Party (E&W)	
	M. Tromans	Warwickshire County Councillor (Galley Common)  Share in a rental property in Hydes Pastures, Nuneaton	Member of WI  Member of the Conservative Party	
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL)</li> </ul>	

## Finance and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

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	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astley Charity</li> </ul>	
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**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME SUGGESTION FORM**

**Suggested Work Programme Item**

For officers to bring forward a report and for the District Council to:

- (a) Pass a Council resolution to create a Town Council for Bedworth which will comprise of an area consisting of all the existing Council Wards in Bedworth and;
- (b) Agree to provide a grant to Bedworth Town Council for the provision of Council and Community services to be decided by Bedworth Town Council to enable any precept to be nil and therefore at no extra cost to taxpayers, in lieu of a lack of current investment or service provision in Bedworth Town Centre.

**Reasons for this suggestion**

**Benefit to Bedworth of a Town Council:**

- Giving Bedworth the ultimate say on plans for Bedworth and where money goes, in Bedworth, not at meetings in Nuneaton.
- New Powers for the people of Bedworth and local business and others in the area.
- To put Bedworth First, allowing a Council to exist in Bedworth that is focused on delivering for Bedworth with a majority of votes from and by Bedworth Councillors (as Bedworth Councillors are currently out numbered in any decision about Bedworth by Nuneaton Councillors).
- To set out a Plan for Bedworth, by enabling a Town Council to get funding and to carry out a Neighbourhood plan to set out the vision of people who live, work, study, and use Bedworth.
- To give Transforming Bedworth Proper democratic Oversight from Bedworth Councillors.
- To have Councillors who are not paid and who will be able to assist existing Councillors in their work in representing and helping residents at no increased cost.
- To focus on the details that matter in Bedworth on a local level.
- To bring back community events such as Bedworth in Bloom or the Carnival.
- To tackle local issues, locally.
- To offer challenge or suggestions to the Borough and County Council on decisions about Bedworth.
- Importantly to support the big society in Bedworth, volunteering and community groups, by bringing people together, providing grants and getting action for the town.
- Getting funding to the town that the Borough Council cant currently access.
- To meet the gap of current service provision and to take on any services where it will deliver a better deal for Bedworth and its people.
- Hold annual and other Council meetings throughout the year in Bedworth because there are currently no meetings held in Bedworth where decisions are made and residents can attend to have their say.
- Employment of Youth Workers or provision of a Youth Hub
- A Plan for business in the town and the high street
- So much more!

There are also other exciting ideas or plans that could take place with the right funding and governance arrangements that a Parish Council would provide. From protecting green space, to employing youth workers or even preventing the demolition of Bedworth Water Tower or Civic Hall.

**Cost of a Town Council:**

Many Town or Parish Councils have a nil or very low cost to taxpayers. Some Councils in Warwickshire also have assets the Council would need to pay for such as Civic Centres, etc. This isn't the case in Bedworth.

A Town Council doesn't need to cost anything if the Borough Council allocates a grant like some other districts, to the Town for them to decide where they spend money. Since there is no area office in Bedworth, and very little money from the NBBC budget is spent in the Town Centre or town. The Civic Hall will soon be cost neutral. So unlike Nuneaton which will still have £500,000 for the museum, the cost of the Town Hall £1m's, and other facilities or services, Bedworth won't have a fair share. Instead of officers overseeing any spend in Bedworth anyway, it would be much cheaper for community volunteers to manage this.

A Town Council in Bedworth would not have significant costs, but important decision making powers and small resources that would go far in tackling the inequality the Town faces when compared to investment in neighbouring areas. There may be a part time town clerk, and maybe some office space, but this could be in partnership with others and at a very low cost. There is no need for a chamber or the large scale facilities which some Town Councils in Warwickshire have. If you take out the cost of those assets, then those Town Councils would actually cost residents pennies a week not pounds. For example Coleshill or Whitnash Town Council has a high precept. Bedworth will never have such a high precept because it won't have the overheads. Kenilworth or Atherstone Town Council is a good example to refer to. Though again the costs would be much lower. Leamington was around £20 per household per year, with those getting Council tax support not paying extra. The cost therefore of a precept in Bedworth is more likely to be around £10 - £15 per year or 20p - 50p per week, per household. While bringing in much more money to the area. Though this would not be needed if the district provides a grant. Some Town or Parish Councils have a precept set at £0. In fact the Borough or County Council tax could come down if the Parish took on extra services and could provide them for less cost.

For example Bedworth does not have a Youth Hub. In the case of the Civic Hall's woes recently, if there had been a Town Council, then a similar arrangement to the one made in Stourport could have been undertaken. Town Councils can bring community and voluntary groups together, access funding the Borough Council can not, and take on service provision, providing services at less cost than the Borough Council or other bodies. Meaning Town Councils can actually cost taxpayers less money. Especially as Councillors are unpaid, and that would save hundreds of thousands of pounds in the cost of elected Members allowances.

### **Town Councils across Warwickshire:**

Every other district in Warwickshire has a Town or Parish Council! Other Councils in Warwickshire have created new Town Councils since 2000, such as Royal Leamington Spa Town Council formed in 2002.

Across Warwickshire other districts have Town Councils. Conservatives, Labour and other parties vye to get elected to these Councils so their existence must be good for residents as Atherstone, Warwick, Leamington, Stratford and other Town Councils which would be abolished if they are really as bad as NBBC Councillors make out. The opposite is true, Town Councils bring money to an area and actually end up costing residents more by not having them.

Other areas across Warwickshire benefit from Parish Councils. With each house just paying 20-50p extra a week. Communities can see hundreds of thousands of extra funding in the local community, with volunteer Councillors and powers to be a strong voice for local people. As well as extra staff such as youth workers.

### **National Context and other comments:**

The Conservative Government in 2015 made it easier to set up a Town or Parish Council which can now also be called community or village councils.

Government encourages new community councils to be set up as part of the localism and levelling up agenda. Nuneaton and Bedworth shouldn't lose out.

Further information on starting a council can be found at : [Create a Council - 'Power to the People' \(walc.org.uk\)](https://www.walc.org.uk) and [Create a Council \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk).

The benefit of Town Councils to the local economy, best value, and decision making is well known. Some reasons why a Town Council is needed for Bedworth is set out in appendix 1. Rhyl Town Council also explain the benefits of a Town Council at the cost of just £7.57 per household

[benefits of a community or town council.pdf \(rhyltowncouncil.org.uk\)](#) Thurrock also explore the benefits of a Town Council [here](#) as does the NALC [here](#) along with a number of case studies showing what can be gained and [here](#) in respect of how local Councils can benefit from the levelling up agenda.

Previously a report came to a Council OSP which I submitted in May 2021. At that meeting Councillors refused to look at developing (a) Create a policy on supporting residents to establish a Parish Council; and how the Council will support residents who wish to petition the district authority for a review or the establishment of a Parish in line with statutory legislation or (b) Agree to undertake a governance review and to look at creating a pilot Parish/Community Council to improve the local community.

One of the comments Councillors appeared to cite at the OSP and in response to a question at Full Council was the cost. Councillors raised that there is no cap on the level of precept that can be levied and another Councillor who previously promised voters a Town Council, cited Councils that have very high taxes and even some figures were misquoted or not comparable. One Councillor even suggested that a Town Council for Bedworth would cost more than residents pay the Borough Council in tax, which was untrue.

Because there appears to be no existing policy currently setting out any information or support by the Borough Council, for Residents who wish to petition for a Parish or Town Council we are unable to put together the correct legal wording.

Parish and Town Councils do a job District and County Councils do not. They are rooted at the heart of their community localities. There are huge advantages for parished areas evidenced within academic research including better consultation and decision making.

As Councils need to do more with less, and as we see the emergence of a new big society, local devolution has an important role to play in levelling up, by providing very local services that meet community need.

As an expert in Local Government, an academic and former Councillor; I have seen the potential for a Town Council; especially in Bedworth.

In May 2021 I said in a work programme suggestion that a Town Council would “play an important role in funding and organising community activity to protect Civic life for future generations. As well as a role in listening to the community and giving local people a greater voice on issues in their local area”. Over the last year as residents came together to save the Civic Hall, we have seen how important a Town Council would have been in that process and that it would have offered residents support in putting together a bid to take over a service from the Borough Council and access to Millions in funding such as through the Community Ownership Fund.

As Bedworth moves forward, and local government has to do less with more, a Town Council and a Neighbourhood Forum set up by a Town Council could set out the people's priorities and a plan for my home town.

There is no need to wait until local Government reorganisation, if it ever arrives, the need is there now. We only need to look at every other district in Warwickshire, to see everyone who levels up, has a Parish or Town Council.

These proposals are not party political. They seek to put in place lasting structures that fundamentally shift power to local residents and to meet the needs of individual communities.

I believe in localism. I believe that Bedworth should have a greater say on its future.

I want to secure a Town Council for my home town. It's something I care greatly about. I believe it is a failure of all past politicians not to deliver this or for those who broke promises on this issue. It impacts decision making, access to funding and the long term plan for Bedworth and it's people.

I was first elected 20 years ago at 21 for Poplar, before that I have always been a community campaigner. This has been an issue I've raised in all that time and even as recently as 2018 residents were promised a Town Council by some Councillors who then went on to be elected.



I really hope in time both main parties will see a Town Council for Bedworth is sensible, cost effective and advantageous.

The benefits a town Council could bring to Bedworth is huge and it is seen in other areas across Warwickshire.

I hope you can support the above proposals and action to give Bedworth its own Town Council like the rest of Warwickshire.

**Desired outcome of the review**

1. The creation of a Town Council for Bedworth which will comprise of an area consisting of all the existing Council Wards in Bedworth and;
2. Provide a grant to Bedworth Town Council for the provision of Council and Community services to be decided by Bedworth Town Council to enable any precept to be nil and therefore at no extra cost to taxpayers, in lieu of a lack of current investment or service provision in Bedworth Town Centre.

**Name: Sam Margrave on Behalf of the Campaign for a Bedworth Town Council**

**Date: October 2023**

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

FORWARD PLAN SHOWING THE KEY DECISIONS THAT WILL BE MADE IN THE 4 MONTHS BEGINNING 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AND EXEMPT INFORMATION DECISIONS THAT ARE TO BE MADE DURING DECEMBER, 2023.

The table below shows the likely date the listed key decisions will be made and by whom and also lists the subject of decisions to be made under Exempt Information rules. Please contact the officer mentioned in the seventh column if you wish to know:-

- ◆ the groups or organisations whom the decision maker will consult before making the decision;
- ◆ how such consultation will be undertaken;
- ◆ what documents the decision maker will consider in making that decision; or
- ◆ how, and by when, you can make any representations about the proposed decision.

Items highlighted in **yellow** are new or amended items for this publication.

<b>Date entered:</b>	<b>Item - Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>In Private Session</b>	<b>Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	<b>OSP</b>
30/09/20	<b>Local Government Devolution</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	<b>Brent Davis</b> ☎02476 376347	<b>Brent Davis</b> ☎02476376347	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
22/08/22	<b>Johnson Road, Bedworth – Housing Development / Community Use proposal</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Katie Memetovi c-Bye</b> ☎02476 376147	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Service

21/02/23	<b>General Fund Budget Monitoring Q2</b>	Cabinet	No		November 2023	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>HRA Budget Monitoring Q2</b>	Cabinet	No		November 2023	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>Capital Monitoring Q2</b>	Cabinet	No		November 2023	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>General Fund Budget 2024/25</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>HRA Budget 2024/25</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>Treasury Strategy 2024/25</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services

21/02/23	<b>General Fund Budget Monitoring Q3</b>	Cabinet	No		March 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>HRA Budget Monitoring Q3</b>	Cabinet	No		March 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
21/02/23	<b>Capital Monitoring Q3</b>	Cabinet	No		March 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
31/03/23	<b>Parks &amp; Green Spaces Strategy</b>	Cabinet	No		January 2024	<b>David Truslove</b> ☎02476 376569	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476 376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services
31/07/23	<b>Local Levelling Up Plan</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	<b>Tom Shardlow</b> ☎02476 376004	<b>Tom Shardlow</b> ☎02476 376004	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
31/05/23	<b>Share Enforcement Agency Contract</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	<b>Jade Fuller</b> ☎0247637 6165	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance & Public Service

31/05/23	<b>Markets Review</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	<b>Jonathan White</b> ☎02476 376549	<b>Tom Shardlow</b> ☎02476 376004	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
31/05/23	<b>Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan</b>	Cabinet	No		January 2024	<b>Jonathan White</b> ☎02476 376549	<b>Tom Shardlow</b> ☎02476 376004	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
31/05/23	<b>Polling District and Polling Place Review</b>	Cabinet/Council	No		November 2023	<b>Martyn Harris</b> ☎02476 376218	<b>Brent Davis</b> ☎02476376347	Finance and Corporate	Finance & Public Service
30/06/23	<b>Bedworth Civic Hall - Update</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Katie Memetovic-Bye</b> ☎02476 376147	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services
30/06/23	<b>Borough Plan Approval for Submission of Examination (Reg 20 stage)</b>	Cabinet/Council	No		December 2023	<b>Maria Bailey</b> ☎02476 376144	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Planning and Regulation	Business, Regen & Planning
31/07/23	<b>General Fund Revenue Outturn 2023/24</b>	Cabinet	No		July 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services

31/07/23	<b>HRA Revenue Outturn 2023/24</b>	Cabinet	No		July 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
31/07/23	<b>Capital Outturn 2023/24</b>	Cabinet	No		July 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
31/07/23	<b>Collection Fund 2023/24</b>	Cabinet	No		July 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
31/07/23	<b>Treasury Annual Report 2023/24</b>	Cabinet	No		July 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
07/08/23	<b>Co-Mingled, New refuse collection Routes and New MRF (recycling)</b>	Cabinet	No		February 2024	<b>Glen McGrandie</b> ☎02476 376049	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services
25/09/23	<b>General Fund Budget Monitoring Q1</b>	Cabinet	No		September 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services

25/09/23	<b>HRA Budget Monitoring Q1</b>	Cabinet	No		September 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
25/09/23	<b>Capital Monitoring Q1</b>	Cabinet	No		September 2024	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476 376002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
25/09/23	<b>Bedworth Physical Activity Hub Update</b>	Cabinet	No		January/February 2024	<b>Katie Memetovic-Bye</b> ☎02476 376147	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services
30/09/23	<b>Infrastructure Funding Statement</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	<b>Maria Bailey</b> ☎02476 376144	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Planning & Regulation	Business, Regen & Planning
30/09/23	<b>Article 4 Directions</b>	Cabinet & Council	No		December 2023	<b>Maria Bailey</b> ☎02476 376144	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Planning & Regulation	Business, Regen & Planning
30/09/23	<b>Leisure Decarbonisation Submission</b>	Cabinet	No		November 2023	<b>Katie Memetovic-Bye</b> ☎02476 376147	<b>Kevin Hollis</b> ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services

30/09/23	<b>Draft General Fund Budget</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
11/10/23	<b>Treasury – Half Yearly report</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476376002	Finance and Corporate	Finance and Public Services
11/10/23	<b>Supported Housing (Regulatory) Act 2023- NBBC Strategy</b>	Cabinet	No		January 2024	Jane Grant ☎02476 376483	Dawn Dawson ☎02476376408	Housing and Communities	Housing, Env and Health
11/10/23	<b>Delivery of Phase 2 Reimagining Nuneaton Museum &amp; Art Gallery</b>	Cabinet	No		December 2023	Catherine Nisbet ☎02476 376483	Kevin Hollis ☎02476376143	Public Services	Finance and Public Services
31/10/23	<b>Housing Strategy 2024-29</b>	Cabinet	No		March 2024	Jane Grant ☎02476 376483	Dawn Dawson ☎02476376408	Housing and Communities	Housing, Env & Health
31/10/23	<b>Homelessness and Rough sleeping Strategy 2024-29</b>	Cabinet	No		March 2024	Jane Grant ☎02476 376483	Dawn Dawson ☎02476376408	Housing and Communities	Housing, Env & Health



<b>Cabinet – Exempt Items</b>									
<b>Date entered:</b>	<b>Item - Description</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>In Private Session</b>	<b>Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	<b>OSP</b>
06/05/22	<b>Regeneration Projects Update</b>	Cabinet	Yes	The report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information)	November 2023	<b>Les Snowden</b> ☎02476 376249	<b>Tom Shardlow</b> ☎02476 376004	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
12/10/23	<b>Revised Governance Arrangements</b>	Cabinet	Yes	The report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information)	November 2023	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎0247637 6002	<b>Victoria Summerfield</b> ☎02476376002	Finance & Corporate	Finance and Public Services

<b>Individual Cabinet Member Decisions</b>
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Date entered:	Item - Description	Portfolio Holder	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	OSP
02/05/23	<b>Housing Financial Assistance Policy</b>	Housing and Communities	No		November 2023	<b>Paul Coopey</b> ☎0247637 6400	<b>Dawn Dawson</b> ☎02476376408	Housing, Env and Health
<b>Individual Cabinet Member Decisions – Exempt Items</b>								
	None							

<b>Officer Decisions</b>									
Date entered:	Item - Description	Directorate	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	Cabin et Portfo lio	OSP
	None								
<b>Officer Decisions – Exempt Items</b>									

The Cabinet Members are:

Business and Regeneration (Leader) - Councillor K. Wilson  
Housing and Communities (Deputy Leader) - Councillor C. Golby  
Finance and Corporate - Councillor S. Croft  
Public Services - Councillor S. Markham  
Planning and Regulation - Councillor R. Smith  
Health and Environment - Councillor J. Gutteridge

Observer:  
Leader of the Main Opposition Group - Councillor C. Watkins

Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Signed: K. Wilson (Leader of the Council)

Finance and Public Service Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2023/24

<b>Date added</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Scrutiny/Over view</b>	<b>Proposed Committee Date</b>	<b>Include in Work Programme</b>	<b>Report Submission to Chair</b>
	Rachel Fleeson	Gambling	The Panel establish a Working Group to look at and assess the impact of gambling on the health and well-being of the residents on Nuneaton and Bedworth.		TBC		
	TBC	Environmental Sustainability Strategy	Environmental Sustainability Strategy Action Plan Progress.	All member briefing	TBC		
Dec 2019	Dawn Dawson	Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan	The new Capital and Asset Strategy and Asset Management Action Plan to be developed for the period 2020 onwards and be brought to the Panel as soon as possible in 2020 for consideration and comment.		14 March 2024		
	Kevin Hollis Katie Memetovic-Bye	SLM Annual Report	Annual report of SLM to update and provide performance information for Members on how its work is meeting the corporate aims of the Council and its contract. Including Passport to Leisure update		25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		
	Glen McGrandle	Kerbside Recycling and Refuse Collection	Performance update on recycling targets and the recycling and refuse collection service.		14 March 2024		
	David Truslove	Allotment Action Plan	As part of the Allotment Strategy the Action Plan will be monitored by the OSP	All member briefing	January 2024		
	Tom Shardlow	FOI and Complains Update	Monitor the numbers and response rates at a departmental level	All member briefing	January 2024		
	Linda Downes	Integrated Performance Report	The Operational Integrated Performance Quarterly Reports by relevant service area and at a strategic level	Performance Monitoring	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		

	Catherine Nisbet	Museum	Update including outreach work. Arts development funding. Identify the strategy that is in place, what progress is being made, can it link with the outreach work being done by the Museum with the Civic Hall?	Performance monitoring	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		
	Jonathan White	Changing Places Toilet Facilities	The Panel establish a working group to determine cost, location and potential use of Changing Places Toilets across Nuneaton and Bedworth, including any potential within the Playing pitch strategy.	All member briefing	March 2024		
	TBC	Impact of Welfare Reform on Housing	To consider the impact that the new legislation e.g. Bedroom Tax, Universal Credit, benefit changes.	All member briefing	25 January 2024		
	Kevin Hollis	Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility			14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Nicola Bottrill	Budget and update of cost for the refurbishment of 196-198 Church Road to Temporary Accommodation	For an update report to be brought to a future meeting once the project is completed.		14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Nicola Bottrill	Independent Living Unit (remodelling)	A report to provide information about the project, including budget, dates and deadlines. To look into the 'difficult to let' properties which may not be fit for purpose.		14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Nicola Bottrill	Homeless Hostel Conversion	A briefing note be received for review by this Panel following the HRA review		14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024		