

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

A meeting of the Housing, Environment and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 29 June 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton, the meeting was recorded for publication on the Council's website.

**Present**

Councillor K. Evans (Chair)

Councillors: E. Shiers (Vice-Chair), B. Beetham, T. Cooper, S. Harbison, K. Kondakor and B. Pandher.

Apologies: Councillor C. Cape and Councillor C. Golby.

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

HEH1 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

HEH2 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these Minutes.

HEH3 **Questions to Cabinet**

The portfolio holder for Health and Environment (Councillor J. Gutteridge) was in attendance to answer questions from the Panel. The portfolio holder for Housing and Communities (Councillor C. Golby) was unavailable, and it was agreed that she would be contacted with any questions and asked to submit a written response to the Panel where appropriate.

**Councillor Kondakor asked questions for the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities:**

On page 66 of our agenda it said the new hostels open in June 2023, in Stockingford. I just wanted confirmation that that date has actually been met and is actually taking people in the 14 rooms.

Secondly, you may know Chair, that we had flooding on the ceiling of one of the units on Cleaver Gardens about a week and a half ago. That was a result of some maintenance that hadn't been done from the last time it happened, and it needed a capital project because the gutters aren't fit for purpose and climate change. So I was going to ask Councillor Golby if the resourcing issues which caused that work not to be done have now been solved, because it was identified a year and a half ago that it was a problem, but we seem to have had a big turnover of staff in housing capital projects. So, I just want some reassurance that we are either up to staff again, or going to be up to staff to get these issues sorted. Thank you Chair.

**Following the meeting, Councillor Golby and an Officer advised that:**

- a) The hostels in Stockingford opened in June, and are taking people in the 14 rooms.
- b) Clearing and clearance of the gutters was completed across all three sites in July 2023. We have assessed the size of the gutters to the problem blocks and

found them to be adequate. Regular maintenance/cleaning of the gutters will be required going forward. Installing additional downpipes to these gutters will improve the flow of water from the roofs and I am discussing these works with a contractor at the moment. I will provide a further update once I have timescales.

Removal of a large tree on the site was also suggested to reduce the maintenance liability for the gutters. This is a good suggestion, but would not be my first course of action as it is difficult to guarantee an outcome/result with so many factors at play and trees on the site. This could however be considered as long term strategy in the future.

**Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment:**

You're responsible for our Climate Change Liaison etcetera roles and we're having a management restructure as well with our medium/middle Managers etcetera, and I wanted Councillor Gutteridge to give us an update on where action on climate change was going to sit in future, and if we were going to actually be have any budget to do stuff. I particularly asked this because the new proposed Cinema, I just read that when we do a new building we have a BREEAM energy standard forecast for it, and it gets one out of thirteen points. The new Cinema will be incredibly energy inefficient which really alarms me, and so I want to ask Councillor Gutteridge who was going to be the point of contact for climate change, and are we going to start to do something about it? Thank you.

**The Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment replied:**

Thank you Councillor Kondakor. Yes I have already met with Director Kevin Hollis, and I have already met with the Assistant Director, Katie, and we will be putting plans into action and as soon as we are ready we will notify you. Thank you.

**Councillor Kondakor then asked the Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment:**

I just want to also ask Councillor Gutteridge if he's been attending the Warwickshire Climate Change meetings, and if he had anything to report in terms of where we're going as far as the County is concerned, thank you.

**The Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment replied:**

I have attended, but I've missed the last one due to a clash of meetings, which I couldn't get out of the one meeting.

HEH4 **Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Annual Review (including JSNA).**

A presentation of the Director of Public Health provided the Panel with an update on strategy priorities, progress and plans for 2023/24.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- The impact of loneliness, not only on the elderly, but also the younger generation, especially following Covid where people are not integrating or socialising as a community like they used to. This concern will be taken back to the JSNA board, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board at WCC will also be contacted.
- It was noted that suicide is becoming a big problem in lots of communities, due to issues such as money, relationships and people struggling with life – especially in the current climate. A new 'Suicide Co-ordinator' is becoming instrumental in bringing information together, looking at the statistics including age ranges. Suicides amongst young men are high on the radar for

concern. A suicide strategy was approved in January, and information about what the strategy involves was requested.

- People becoming less active following Covid, and the need for more promotion of events and activities. Whether physical activity is a choice or due to access and availability, including peoples priorities.
- 95% of the budget for cycling has been spent in the Warwick District, there is a continuing lack of investment from WCC in other areas, including Nuneaton.
- The need to review work carried out in the past and progress made, and learn from what worked, and what didn't. A multi-agency approach is often required to get people working together on issues. There is a need to follow through on strategies and monitor projects to ensure results.
- The correlation between funding cuts and the current situation, there is a need to invest in prevention.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) the contents of the presentation be noted; and
- b) the HWBB Chair at WCC be contacted in relation to concerns raised about loneliness.

HEH5 **Autism Waits Progress Report**

A progress report from the Medical Director (CWPT), Senior Joint Commissioner for Learning Disabilities and Autism, Director of Joint Commissioning and General Manager of Community Learning Disabilities and Neurodevelopment (CWPT), provided the Panel with an update on the Neurodevelopmental Services waiting list for Autism assessments.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- How Nuneaton and Bedworth compares to the rest of Coventry and Warwickshire.
- The data is still being validated, Nuneaton and Bedworth make up around 16% of referrals, but there is clinical priority.
- Funding to deal with the backlog – the finding was used to increase capacity and should also be available this year.
- Consideration into what capacity is required, and looking at the impact of waiting times and meeting targets. Still on plan, but some re-modelling work is required.
- School engagement – training and managing within schools. Working with Schools on education and strategies.
- Pathological Demand Avoidance, lack of recognition and diagnosis – a set of symptoms and it was felt it should be dealt with as an assessment of needs.
- Patients are prioritised through a triage system.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

HEH6 **The Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Housing Revenue Account**

A report of the Assistant Director – Social Housing and Community Safety provided an update on the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), in particular the monetary impact.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Reporting is increasing – there is increased engagement and teamwork which is having positive results between the Police, Council and residents.
- Working more effectively as a Community to resolve issues in order to take action.

- Sharing information with other agencies is important, especially in preventing just moving a problem around.
- Intentional homelessness, and the work that can be done around this.
- The fact the Council has responsibilities and obligations that Housing Associations do not have in relation to homelessness.
- For the Assistant Director – Social Housing and Community Safety to liaise with the NBBC Communications Team about getting some information and figures out to residents, in relation to the true costs of ASB, and the impact on the HRA. (Important not to ‘demonise’ specific areas – Borough wide figures to be used).
- It was recognised that the vast majority of tenants are responsible and respectful.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

HEH7 **Integrated Performance Report - End of Year (Fourth Quarter) 2022/23**

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:

- Demand for housing, including evictions and the availability of social housing.
- Suggestions were made in relation to the presentation of information.
- The importance of making properties available for social housing.
- Delays with developments, ensuring that monitoring takes place in relation to some developers. Chair agreed to write to Midland Heart and Highways, and will discuss issues with relevant Ward Councillor.
- Planning permission for affordable homes – ensure levels are good.
- The Parks Team – performance is good and standards improving.
- A briefing note was requested in relation to financial information (once available).

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

HEH8 **Work Programme Suggestion Form**

Councillor C. Cape submitted a Work Programme Suggestion Form relating to– ‘Oversight of the allocation of monies for environmental offsetting and mitigation included in planning applications S.106 contributions.

**RESOLVED** that the Chair of the Housing, Environment and Heath OSP arrange a meeting with the Chair of the Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP to look at the possibility of holding a joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.

HEH9 **Forward Plan**

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

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

HEH10 **Work Programme**

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2023-2024.

**RESOLVED** that the Work Programme be approved.

HEH11 **Any Other Items**

Briefing notes that had been received in relation to Parks and Grounds Maintenance were noted and discussed. The briefing notes were useful, especially the breakdown by Ward. It was confirmed that that the Council will be bedding out All Saints Square this year.

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Chair

## Housing, Environment and Health 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>
	B. Beetham	Senior PowerBi Lead at Wye Valley Hospital Trust; Warwickshire County Council – Camp Hill	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	C. Cape	Director of Capability Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces Covenant Meeting</li> </ul>	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board</li> <li>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	
	K. Evans (Chair)	Employed the Local Government Association	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North Warwickshire Conservative Association  Membership of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substitute Member of the West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee</li> </ul>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Member of the Bedworth Conservative Club Member of the Conservative Party.	
	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>	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic and Embedded Software Design Engineer (self-employed)	Unpaid Director of 100% Renewables UK Ltd  Green Party (E&W)	
	B. Pandher		Member of Warwickshire County Council  Treasurer & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple; Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group  Member of the following Outside Bodies: Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity	
	E. Shiers (Vice-Chair)	Employed by and Director of Cannon Enterprise Ltd. Director of The Fresh Dessert Company	The Labour Party Coventry East Credit Union  Member of the Pride in Camp Hill Board.  Member of the governing board for Camp Hill Primary School.  Member of the Board of Trustees of Camp Hill Community Association  Volunteer for the Coventry and Warwickshire district RSPCA	
	J. Singh	Self-employed at Sedgie's News Agents.		