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Date: 27th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Wednesday, 6th March 2024** at **6.00 p.m.**

The public can follow the decision making online:-
www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/virtual-meeting.

Please note that meetings are recorded for future broadcast.

Yours faithfully,

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of Cabinet

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

Also invited:

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader of the Main Opposition Group and Observer)

AGENDA

PART I

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 Lloyds 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.

I would also advise that all or part of the meeting will be live streamed and recorded for future broadcast.

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 members to be appended to the agenda (**Page 6**). 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 and 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.

4. MINUTES - To confirm the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 21st February 2024 to follow.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – Members of the Public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items, if notice has been received.

Members of the public will be given three minutes to speak on a particular item and this is strictly timed. The Chair will inform all public speakers that: their comments must be limited to addressing issues raised in the agenda item under consideration: and that any departure from the item will not be tolerated.

The Chair may interrupt the speaker if they start discussing other matters which are not related to the item, or the speaker uses threatening or inappropriate language towards Councillors or officers and if after a warning issued by the Chair, the speaker persists, they will be asked to stop speaking by the Chair.

The Chair will advise the speaker that, having ignored the warning, the speaker's opportunity to speak to the current or other items on the agenda may not be allowed. In this eventuality, the Chair has discretion to exclude the speaker from speaking further on the item under consideration or other items of the agenda.

6. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2024-2029– report of the Assistant Director – Strategic Housing attached (**Page 9**)
7. BEDWORTH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY HUB– report of the Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture attached (**Page 102**)
8. BUILDING A BETTER BOROUGH DELIVERY PLAN 24/25 – report of the Assistant Director – Central Operations to follow
9. GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING Q3 – report of the Strategic Director – Finance & Governance to follow
10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING Q3 – report of the Strategic Director – Finance & Governance to follow
11. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING Q3 – report of the Strategic Director – Finance and Governance attached (**Page 135**)
12. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME – report of the Assistant Director – Finance to follow
13. STREET RENAMING CIVIC HONOURS– report of the Assistant Director – Governance and Democracy attached (**Page 146**)
14. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS
None
15. 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)
16. EXCLUSION OF 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 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.
17. NUNEATON MARKETS OPERATIONAL REVIEW – report of the Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration
18. REVISED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – report of the Strategic Director – Finance & Governance

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

Cabinet - 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"> - 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
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board West Midlands Employers	
	C. Golby		Member of Warwickshire County Council Membership of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. • Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board • Warwickshire Housing and Support Partnership • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel • George Eliot Hospital 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<p>NHS Trust – Public/User Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors • District Leaders (substitute) • Local Enterprise Partnership (substitute) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (substitute) 	
	J. Gutteridge		<p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board <p>Member of NABCEL</p>	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – WCC (Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services)	<p>Governor at Ash Green School</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities • Trustee for Abbey Theatre 	
	R. Smith		<p>Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington;</p> <p>Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club;</p> <p>Director of NABCEL;</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership; • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee; • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Combined Authority and Land Delivery Board 	
	K.D. Wilson	Acting Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	<p>Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association</p> <p>Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director.</p> <p>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee • District Council Network • Local Government Association • LGA People & Places Board (Member) • West Midlands Combined Authority 	



Cabinet

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 6th March 2024

Subject: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029

Portfolio: Housing and Communities

From: Assistant Director- Strategic Housing

Summary:

The Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a duty on all Local Housing Authorities to carry out a review of homelessness in their area, and to formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy, based on the findings of that review, at least every five years. The Councils current Strategy expires in April 2024.

The Strategy, appended to the report at APPENDIX A, developed in consultation with our partners, includes findings from the homelessness review concluded during 2023 attached to the report at APPENDIX B. The Strategy includes priorities for tackling homelessness and rough-sleeping within the Borough over the next five years from 2024 to 2029.

Recommendations:

1. That the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029, attached as Appendix A be approved.

Options:

1. Approve the Strategy as appended to the report.
2. Seek amendments to the Strategy following consideration of the report.
3. Reject the Strategy

Reasons:

1. The Council is statutorily required to have a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in place.
2. The Councils current Strategy is out of date and without a replacement the Council will not be compliant with Statutory legislation.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Portfolio Holder- Housing and Communities
Strategic Director- Housing and Community Safety
Homelessness Forum Partnership members- Statutory and Third sector agencies
DLUCH
Equalities and Safeguarding Officer

Subject to call-in: Yes

Ward relevance: Borough wide

Forward plan: Yes

Building a Better Borough Aim: 1

Live

Building a Better Borough Priority: 1

Promote residents' health and wellbeing

Relevant statutes or policy:

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Housing Act 1996

Homeless Act 2002

Equalities Implications:

Please see Appendix C for the Equality Impact Assessment conducted by our Equality and Safeguarding Officer

Human resources implications:

None

Financial implications:

As with other Local Housing Authorities nationally, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is experiencing increased demand for homelessness support including temporary accommodation. The costs for the provision of temporary accommodation is placing a significant strain on the Council's General Fund finances. This strategy prioritises resources to prevent homelessness and provide secure accommodation as quickly as possible, therefor mitigating some of the financial pressures upon the General Fund.

Health Inequalities Implications:

Homelessness, and in particular rough sleeping can have a detrimental impact on an individual's mental and physical health. Households and individuals that are homeless or threatened with homelessness are some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This Strategy serves to deliver services to those most in need and therefore address any existing inequalities due to a household's accommodation situation.

Please see Appendix D - HEAT assessment as part of the Councils commitment to HIAP

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications: There are occasions where rough sleeping can result in ASB. The Strategy seeks to prevent rough sleeping and address homelessness, which in turn may help with any potential for ASB related to rough sleepers.

Risk management implications: none

Environmental implications: none

Legal implications: The Council is Compliant with Statute by producing a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Contact details:

Jane Grant Assistant Director-Strategic Housing 02476376483

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 6th March 2024

From: Assistant Director- Strategic Housing

Subject: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029

Portfolio: Housing and Community Safety

Building a Better Borough Aim: 1

Building a Better Borough Priority: 1 and 2

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

2.2 That the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029, attached as Appendix A be approved.

3. Background

3.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a duty on all Local Housing Authorities to carry out a review of homelessness in their area, and to formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy based on the findings of that review, at least every five years.

3.2 The Council's current Strategy expires in April 2024.

3.3 The strategy developed in consultation with our partners, includes findings from the homelessness review concluded during 2023 attached at APPENDIX B of the report and priorities for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping within its Borough over the next five years from 2024 to 2029. The review can be found at APPENDIX B to this report.

4. Body of Report

- 4.1 Rough sleeping in England is increasing and returning to the levels seen before the pandemic and the “Everyone In” campaign in 2020.
- 4.2 Councils are required to conduct an annual rough sleeper count every November. The 2023 count evidenced an increase in rough sleepers in the borough for the first time in 4 years. This replicates the National picture.
- 4.3 Homelessness in England is a major concern, set against a period of significant national challenges. We are living amidst a rising cost of living crisis, households are experiencing an unprecedented and increasingly unaffordable housing market, coupled with a major shortage of affordable homes to rent.
- 4.4 Our strategy for homelessness and rough sleepers reflects the wider social and economic causes and effects. By working collaboratively with our statutory and third sector partners we aim to continue to develop a wide range of innovative solutions to effectively prevent and respond to those who are homeless or who are at risk of losing their homes, including the most extreme form of homelessness: rough sleeping.
- 4.5 Through this strategy we want to build on the collaborative work we do by setting out our plans for the prevention of homelessness and our approaches to ensure that sufficient accommodation and support will be available for people who become homeless or who are at risk of becoming so.
- 4.6 Our aim is to better understand and address the underlying causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. This will enable multi-disciplined approaches for people with multiple/complex needs; collaborative wrap-around support for those who are at high risk of repeat homelessness, and to enable early interventions to prevent those at risk from losing their home.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Tackling the causes and impact of homelessness cannot be achieved by the council alone. Without the support and close collaboration of partner statutory and third sector organisations, the council’s ability to deliver comprehensive and effective prevention and relief initiatives would be considerably reduced.

5.2 This multi-agency strategy, led by the council, but developed in partnership with stakeholders working closely to tackle the causes of homelessness and prioritising prevention is to be welcomed. The council will continue to consider any and all initiatives to collaboratively address homelessness.

6. Appendices

6.1 **APPENDIX A-** Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-29

6.2 **APPENDIX B-** Nuneaton and Bedworth Homelessness Review

6.3 **APPENDIX C-** Equality Impact Assessment

6.4 **APPENDIX D-** HIAP HEAT assessment

7. Background Papers none

Jane Grant Assistant Director - Strategic Housing

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2024 - 2029





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FOREWORD

It is a statutory requirement for all Local Housing Authorities to have a homelessness and rough sleeper strategy. This document serves to demonstrate to members, stakeholders, residents, customers and the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities (DLUHC) that the Council has carried out a review of homelessness in the Borough and has developed a Strategy for addressing needs and preventing homelessness where possible.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council recognises that investing resources into homeless prevention is an important element of the services it delivers to tackle homelessness in the Borough. It is with this in mind that the recent appointment of dedicated Homeless Prevention Officers has seen an enhanced Housing Solutions Service that will continue to deliver excellent customer centric services to those that are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Although the Council has taken the lead in developing this strategy, it must be acknowledged that without strong partnership working with our statutory and third sector agencies, all who deliver services to often the most vulnerable people in our communities; the prevention of homelessness, the delivery of homelessness services, and finding solutions to housing need would be extremely difficult. The Council has long recognised the value of our partner agencies who contribute to enabling homeless prevention and tackling housing need. There is a shared commitment to tackling the issue of homelessness in our Borough.

As Deputy Leader, and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety I endorse the commitment to this strategy and its delivery and wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all partners involved in tackling homelessness.



**Councillor Clare Golby
Portfolio Holder for Housing and
Communities at Nuneaton and
Bedworth Borough Council**



INTRODUCTION

The Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a duty on all local housing authorities to carry out a review of homelessness in their area, and to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, significantly reformed England's homelessness legislation making amendments to the Housing Act 1996 Part 7 (Homelessness) and introduced new legal duties for local housing authorities. This Act focuses on prevention and relief of homelessness, regardless of priority need.

This strategy is developed in consultation with our partners; includes the findings of our homelessness review and sets out the Council's priorities for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping within its Borough over the next five years from 2024 to 2029. It has been developed against the backdrop of significant national and local challenges.

Our strategy for homelessness and rough sleepers reflects the wider social and economic causes and effects. By working collaboratively with our statutory and third sector partners we aim to continue to develop a wide range of innovative solutions to effectively prevent and respond to those who are homeless or who are at risk of losing their homes, including the most extreme form of homelessness, rough sleeping.

Through this strategy we want to build on the collaborative work we do by setting out our plans for the prevention of homelessness and our approaches to ensure that sufficient accommodation and support will be available for people who become homeless or who are at risk of becoming so.

Our aim is to understand better and address the underlying causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. This will enable multi-disciplined approaches for people with multiple/complex needs; collaborative wrap-around support for those who are at high risk of repeat homelessness, and to enable early interventions to prevent those at risk from losing their home.

OUR VISION

To reduce homelessness in the Borough by providing information, advice, and early interventions to prevent those at risk losing their home. To support people who are homeless to find a safe and secure place to call home and reduce the use of temporary accommodation. To end rough sleeping for good.

PRIORITIES 2024 TO 2029:

Priority 1: To provide access to free housing advice and/or assistance to all who are homeless or facing homelessness:

Priority 2: To enable homelessness prevention:

Priority 3: To relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity to enable suitable alternative accommodation for those becoming homeless:

Priority 4: To enable access to suitable and affordable accommodation that is sustainable, with support provided where appropriate.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Homelessness in England is a major concern, set against the backdrop of significant national challenges. We are living amidst a rising cost of living crisis, households are experiencing an unprecedented and increasingly unaffordable housing market, coupled with a major shortage of affordable homes to rent, and the additional pressures to support the resettlement of asylum seekers and foreign nationals displaced by war and conflicts.

LEVELS OF HOMELESSNESS CONTINUED TO RISE ACROSS ENGLAND OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS:

ENGLAND HOMELESSNESS 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023	LEVEL (DLUHC STATISTICS)
Households assessed for homelessness duty	311,990
Household owed a homelessness duty	298,430 (95.7%)
Owed a prevention duty	140,790 (45.1%)
Owed a relief duty	157,640 (50.5%)
No duty owed	13,560 (4.3%)
Duty owed with at least one support need	157,470 (52%)
History of mental health - support need	79,000 (26.6%)

DLUHC = government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

ENGLAND – HOMELESSNESS DUTIES OWED:

PREVENTION DUTY OWED	LEVEL (DLUHC STATISTICS)
Reasons for loss of home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End of private rented tenancy (38.6%) 2. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (25.3%) 3. Domestic Abuse (7%)
Household Type	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single adult male (27.8%) 2. Single female with dependent children (25.3%) 3. Single adult female (20.4%)
RELIEF DUTY OWED	LEVEL (DLUHC STATISTICS)
Reasons for loss of home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (31.9%) 2. Domestic Abuse (16.8%) 3. End of private rented tenancy (12.8%)
Household Type	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single adult male (45.7%) 2. Single adult female (21.4%) 3. Single female with dependent children (18.1%)

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CHANGES:

Since we published our last strategy in 2019 there have been legislative and policy changes that impact on how we tackle homelessness and the wider delivery of housing services.

THE TENANTS FEE ACT 2019:

This Act banned the charging of letting fees by Lettings Agents and introduced financial caps reducing the amount that private renters are required to pay up front.

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021:

This introduced new statutory duties on local authorities and changed homelessness legislation to give automatic priority need to survivors of domestic abuse.

It provided the first legal definition of domestic abuse and recognises the many forms domestic abuse can take.

ENDING ROUGH SLEEPING FOR GOOD 2022:

This builds on the progress made since the Government's 2018 Rough Sleeper Strategy and sets out what actions they will take to meet their aim to end rough sleeping for good. It focuses on four themes, prevention; intervention; recovery and ensuring a joined up transparent approach.

SOCIAL HOUSING REGULATION ACT 2023:

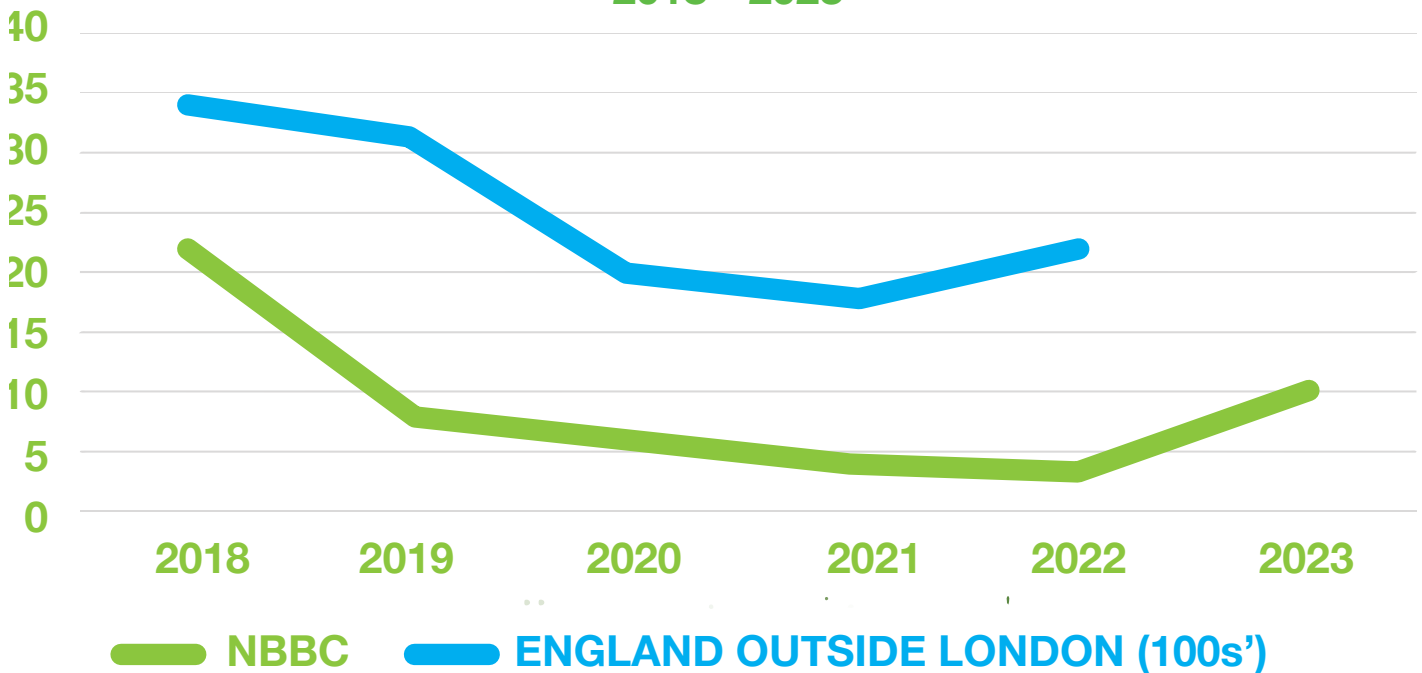
Introduces measures aimed at improving fairness and accountability for tenants. The Act strengthens the rights of tenants and gives greater powers to tackle failing social landlords and tenants living in unsafe homes.

ROUGH SLEEPING IN ENGLAND

Rough sleeping in England is increasing and returning to the levels seen before the pandemic and the “Everyone In” campaign in 2020. The 2022 annual rough sleeper spotlight count estimated that on any night in England (outside of London) 2,211 people were sleeping rough, with a further 858 people estimated in London, the total for England was estimated to be around 3,069 on any typical night in October or November.

The graph below shows the level of rough sleeping for all England (outside of London) and Nuneaton and Bedworth as recorded during the annual rough sleeper spotlight counts in the autumns of 2018 to 2022, this shows the trend in figures both nationally and locally. This graph includes the Borough’s 2023 count; the number of rough sleepers counted rose from three to 10 in a year, the 2023 figures for England were not available at the time this document was created.

ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEP SPOTLIGHT COUNT ENGLAND AND NBBC 2018 - 2023



WHAT IS CAUSING HOMELESSNESS NATIONALLY?

Research into the causes of homelessness nationally have identified a range of factors; the lack of affordable housing, and the unaffordability of housing outside of the social housing sector are obvious major contributory factors. There are other less obvious, and often a combination of multiple reasons as to why people are homeless. Unexpected life events such as domestic abuse, family/relationship breakdown, losing a job, mental and physical health problems are all major contributors to homelessness.

Below is a list of commonly given reasons, however due to the complex nature of homelessness the following are not exclusive:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Reduced number of households moving to home ownership:
- Loss of private rented sector homes due to:
- Termination of assured shorthold tenancies
- Inability to afford rent rises.
- Rent level exceeds local housing allowance.
- Family or friends no longer able to, or willing to accommodate.
- Domestic abuse
- Relationship breakdown
- Mental and/or physical ill health
- Drug and/or alcohol misuse that impacts on a person's ability to maintain a home.
- Discharge from prison/hospital and the care system
- Loss or change of income or welfare benefits.

IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING



Promote residents' health and wellbeing

Supporting an improvement to the health and wellbeing of residents is a fundamental priority. The Council will work to ensure facilities and services take advantage of opportunities to realise that improvement. Reducing the levels of poorer health experienced by our residents, including both mental and physical health.

Losing your home can be extremely traumatic to individuals and families. The impact on health and wellbeing must never be underestimated. In 2022 Homeless Link published the findings of their homeless health needs audits, the findings show the harsh reality of the impact homelessness has on people's physical and mental health, and that people experiencing homelessness suffer from worse physical and mental health than the general population.

Below are the key findings from their report:

- 63% reported long-term illness, disability, or infirmity.
- 82 % diagnosed mental health problem; increase from 45% in 2014.
- 45% self-medicate with drugs and alcohol to cope with their mental health.
- 48% used hospital Accident and Emergency in the last year: three times more than the general population.
- 38% admitted to hospital within the last 12 months with a mental health condition including self-harm or attempted suicide.
- 25% discharged to the streets from hospital.
- Barriers to accessing physical and mental health support means homeless people are over reliant on emergency health care services.

Homeless Link, Unhealthy State of Homelessness 2022, Homeless Health Audits 2018 - 2022

In 2022 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported over 741 deaths recorded were while the person was homeless; the majority 87.3% were male. The mean age of deaths whilst homeless is 45.4 years for men and 43.5 years for women. Over 50% of the deaths were due to three main causes:

- 35% Drugs
- 9.6% Alcohol
- 13.4% suicide

ONS Death Registration Statistics 2022

In 2018 the Salvation Army estimated the average age of a rough sleeper at death was just 44 for men, and 42 for women.

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Annual Rough Sleeper Spotlight Count in November 2023 found the average age of those sleeping rough in our Borough to be 40.

In 2022 Crisis estimated rough sleepers are 17 times more likely to be victims of violence, and 8 out of 10 rough sleepers say they had suffered some form of violence, abuse, or anti-social behaviour within the last year.

These startling facts are key reminders of how serious the impact of homelessness and rough sleeping have on a person's health and wellbeing.



LOCAL CONTEXT - OUR BOROUGH

Nuneaton and Bedworth is one of the five borough and district councils in Warwickshire. A completely urban authority, covering 79 square kilometres; it is the smallest geographically of the five, but has the third largest population according to the census in 2021. The Borough is the 10th most densely populated of the West Midlands' 30 local authority areas and is amongst 33% of the most densely populated English local authority areas. According to the 2021 census this represented 12.1 people living on each football pitch-sized piece of land.

The population rose by over 8,000 between 2011 and 2021 to 134,200 people residing in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and it continues to rise, ONS estimate the population will rise steadily by around 15% to over 154,000 by 2046.

TENURE TYPES (CENSUS 2021)

- **Homeownership (68%) down 3% from last census 2011.**
- **Private sector rented (17%) 5% rise since 2011.**
- **Social rented (14%)**
- **Shared ownership (below 1%)**

The level of demand for rented accommodation is high and continues to grow as people struggle to be able to afford homeownership. High demand for private sector rented accommodation, rising cost of living and substantial rent rises in the private sector over the last two years means that the current level of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is now consistently below average rents for the Borough, meaning most private rented properties are now unaffordable to those in receipt of benefits and/or on low incomes.

In November 2023 in recognition of the impact LHA levels are having on homelessness; the Government announced that LHA will be raised to the 30th percentile of local market rents from April 2024. It is anticipated that this will help to increase the affordability of private sector rented homes and in turn ease some of the burdens of homelessness the Borough face.

The Indices of Multiple deprivation (IMD) continue to highlight significant inequalities between the Warwickshire districts and boroughs. The Borough has areas that are amongst the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. The IMD demonstrates the Borough has the highest levels of deprivation as well as high numbers of priority families and defined children living in poverty in Warwickshire, all of which contribute to the profile of the Borough's homelessness.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN OUR NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH



Enable appropriate housing development

Our residents deserve an excellent quality of life, fundamental to which is the homes that are available. We will seek to provide the right homes, with the right services in the right places, to meet the need of our residents. This means homes that are affordable to both buy and rent, and which are good quality.

The lack of availability of affordable social housing, and the increasing reliance on the private rental sector for those who would normally have looked to buy a property is affecting rises in the level of private rents which is reducing the amount of affordable rental options available in our borough. End of private rented tenancies is already a main reason for homelessness, and we are seeing an increase in households having no option but to give up their homes due to affordability.

This has affected a rise in demand for affordable social housing, and although the lack of affordable housing is not the sole cause of homelessness, it is a major contributory factor.

In the five years April 2018 to 31 March 2023, 877 new affordable homes were built in our Borough: 565 affordable rent and 312 affordable home ownership.

Affordable Home ownership	2022/ 2023	2021/ 2022	2020/ 2021	2019/ 2020	2018/ 2019	2017/ 2018
Affordable Rent	127	116	57	110	103	52
Affordable Home ownership	88	59	67	36	33	29
Total Affordable dwellings	215	175	124	146	136	81

Source: NBBC Planning Policy

Despite a substantial building of new affordable homes, the demand for affordable rented housing continues to outweigh the supply. The figures above include 32 new Council homes built since 2018, however these do not compensate for the reduction in council housing effected by tenants exercising their right to buy; in the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023 178 Nuneaton and Bedworth tenants purchased their council home.

We will: continue to work closely with Registered Providers, Developers, and our colleagues in the Borough’s planning department to maximise opportunity to not only increase the supply of affordable housing but also ensure that the right type of housing is made available in the Borough to help to ease homelessness and rough sleeping.

We continue to look for innovative ways to ensure the best use of Council housing stock; in 2024 we will be introducing an incentive scheme to encourage and support tenants under occupying family sized properties to “right size”. The aim of the scheme is to house people in homes that meet their household size, by providing them with practical support and financial compensation to free up much needed large family homes. The intention is for the rightsizing move to create a further chain of moves for people on our waiting list with the final property in the chain going to a homeless household.



HOMELESSNESS IN NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

HOMELESSNESS REVIEW 2023

The Borough has a statutory duty to carry out a review to examine homelessness in Nuneaton and Bedworth. It enables us to identify and understand the trends in homelessness that are used to shape homelessness and rough sleeper services and priorities for the next five years. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced new processes and terminology for the way local authorities manage homelessness applications.

The act legally obliges local authorities to assess and provide more meaningful assistance to all people who are eligible and homeless, or

threatened with homelessness, irrespective of their priority need status.

The act focusses on prevention, it places duty on local authorities to intervene early and attempt to prevent homelessness. If prevention cannot be achieved the local authority must relieve homelessness; this means helping the homeless individual/household to find suitable accommodation with at least a six-month tenancy.

Below are some of the main finding from our review and statistics from the DLUHC homelessness data for the Borough for the year 2022 to 2023:

NBBC Homelessness 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	Level (DLUHC statistics)
Households assessed for homelessness duty	877
Household owed a homelessness duty	815 (92.9%)
Owed a prevention duty	299 (34.1%)
Owed a relief duty	516 (58.8%)
No duty owed	62 (7.1%)
Duty owed with at least one support need	511 (58.8%)
History of mental health - support need	229 (28.1%)

HOMELESSNESS DUTIES OWED 2022/2023: Prevention:

NBBC Prevention duty owed	Level (DLUHC statistics)
Reasons for loss of home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End of private rented tenancy (44.8%) 2. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (21.1%) 3. Domestic Abuse (13%)
Household Type	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single female with dependent children (31.4%) 2. Single adult male (19.1%) 3. Single adult female (18.1%)

Relief:

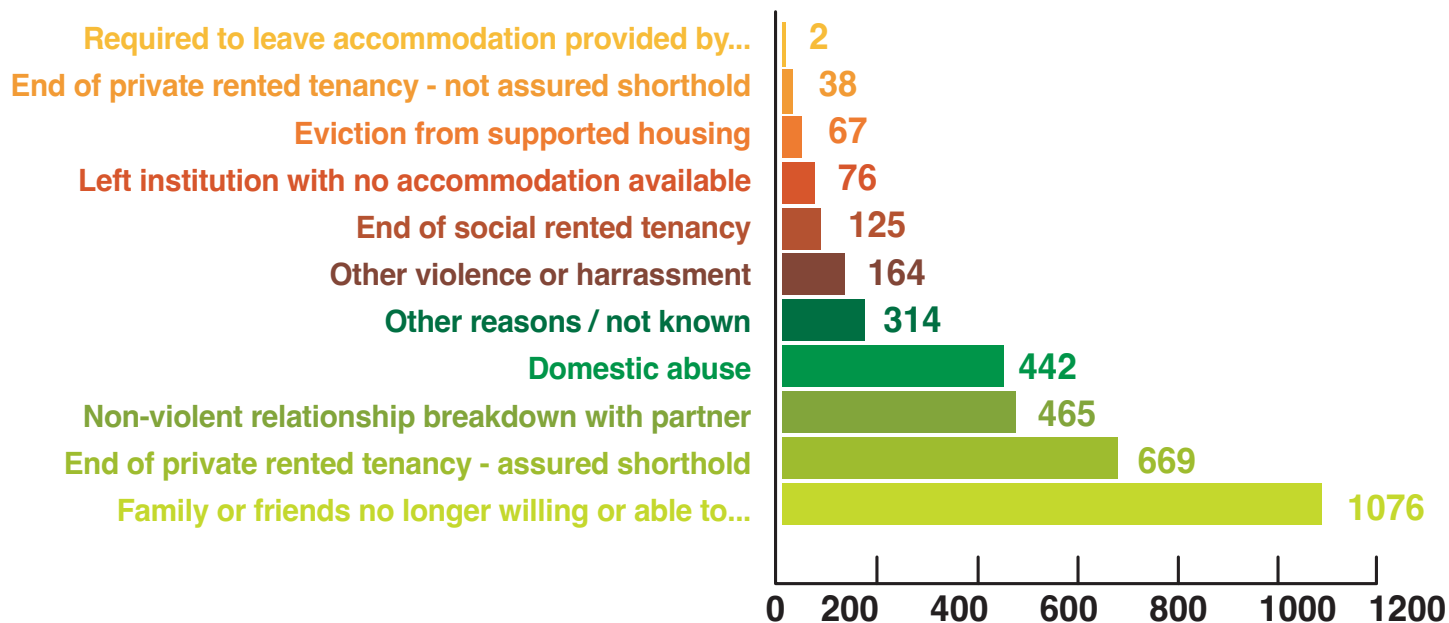
NBBC - Relief duty owed	Level (DLUHC statistics)
Reasons for loss of home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (33.3%) 2. Domestic Abuse (21.3%) 3. Relationship Breakdown (14.1%)
Household Type	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single adult male (42.4%) 2. Single female with dependent children (20.9%) 3. Single adult female (19%)

MAIN REASONS FOR HOMELESSNESS

The reasons for homelessness all duties owed are consistent with the national reasons. The table below shows the collective reasons for homelessness for the last four years:

NBBC HOMELESS DUTY OWED - REASON FOR LOSS OF LAST SETTLED HOME

4 YEARS TOTAL 2019 TO 2023



In the year April 2022 to March 2023 the most common reason for homelessness in the Borough (36%) for all duties owed was the ending of private sector assured shorthold tenancies; this is an increase of over 34% from the previous year and is a clear indication of the impact of the rising rents, and lack of affordability of private sector rented accommodation is having on homelessness.

AGE:

• 25 to 34

continued to be the highest age band throughout the last four years.

• 18 to 24

remains the secondary homelessness age group but has fallen over the last four years by almost 24%.

• 35 to 44

the number in this age group fell year on year until 2021 to 2022, we have seen an increase of duties owed within this band over the last two years.

• 16 to 17

substantially reduced since 2019 and has remained below 10 for the last two years.

• 55 to 64

constantly low in number, homelessness in this age group dropped in to its lowest during the pandemic but has continued to increase since 2021.

• 65 to 74

years, low in number overall homelessness in this age band has steadily risen year on year from 13 in 2019/2020 to 24 in 2022/2023; the equivalent to an increase of 85%.

• Over 75's

homelessness within this age group remained small and the smallest group owed a duty.

• 45 to 54

there was a consistent number form this age group over the last 4 years.

ETHNICITY

The ethnicity of those owed a duty is consistent with the ethnicity of the Borough recorded in the 2021 census. Most households owed a duty 89.4% identified as British white; 2% Black African/Caribbean/British Black; 1.9% Asian/Asian British; 1.4% Mixed/Multiple ethnic group; 1.3% Other and 4% unknown ethnicity.

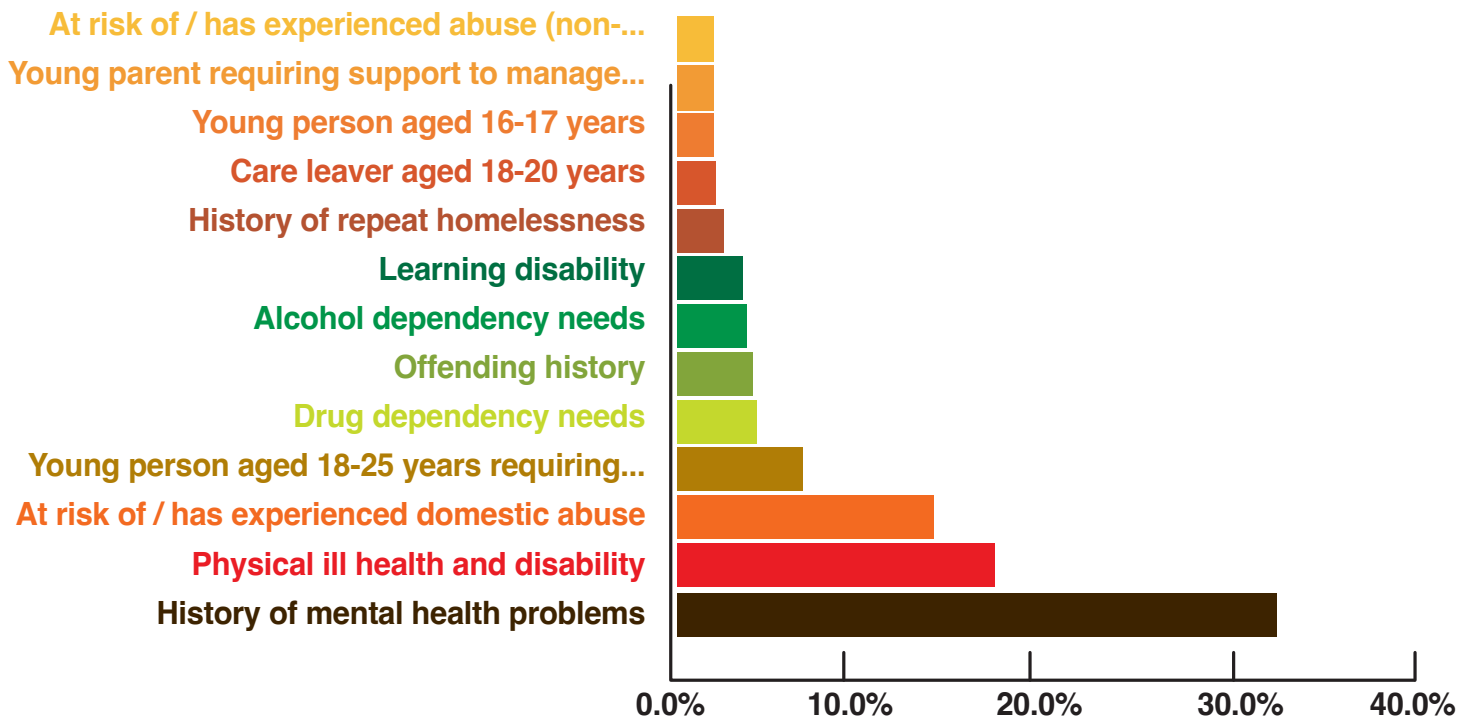
SEXUALITY

Between 2020 to 2023, 90% of applicants owed a prevention or relief duty identified as heterosexual or straight and 2% as homosexual (Gay or Lesbian). The remaining 6% of applicants chose not to disclose, with 2% selecting 'Other'. The number of homeless households owed a duty is consistent with the sexuality of the population of the Borough as per the 2021 census data.

SUPPORT NEEDS

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH - MOST COMMON SUPPORT REASON OF PEOPLE OWED A HOMESLESSNESS DUTY

1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2023



The most common support need of households owed a homelessness duty in the Borough and all England, is mental ill health; over the last four years around 32% of all homeless applicants in the Borough identified as having a mental health support need. This is followed by people with physical ill health and disability and then thirdly with the most marked increase, is the number of people identifying as having a support need due to being at risk of or who have experienced domestic abuse, with an increase of over 127% between April 2019 and March 2023.

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE

By combining the economically inactive categories to compare with those classed as economically active (those in full time and part time employment, and full-time students), it shows that on average across the four years over 73% of those owed a homelessness duty were not economically active. This is starkly different to the percentage of economically inactive for the Borough recorded in the last census in 2021, only 42% of the adult population in the Borough were considered economically inactive.

This shows there is a clear link between unemployment and homelessness, whilst it may appear a little obvious that people who are not working are less likely to be able to afford private housing, it also must be noted that being homeless makes it more difficult for people to secure employment.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Single male homeless applicants continue to form the largest percentage of those owed a homeless duty between 2019 to 2023, however those single males owed a prevention duty decreased substantially in the last two years from the peak in 2020/2021.

The number of households owed a duty with dependent children remains lower than households without dependent children throughout the four-year period.

REASON FOR LOSS OF LAST SETTLED HOME:

The four main causes of homelessness over the four years from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023 have been:

- **Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate - main reason relief duty owed.**
- **End of a private rented assured shorthold tenancy - main reason prevention duty owed.**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Non-violent relationship breakdown**

ACCOMMODATION TYPE AT TIME OWED A HOMELESSNESS DUTY

PREVENTION

The types of accommodation occupied at the point a prevention duty is accepted, has been predominantly renting in the private sector and living with family. The other two main reasons are living with friends and renting in the social housing sector.

RELIEF

Living arrangements of households owed a relief duty is as expected different from those at the prevention duty stage and reflects the circumstances and acute housing need of households at this stage. At the relief stage, we can see higher proportions of applicants coming from insecure housing or without accommodation. The numbers of people at risk of or who are rough sleeping are higher.

STAFFING RESOURCES

In 2023 we carried out a fundamental review of our Housing Solutions and Landlord Services staffing structure, and duties they perform. The review included looking in depth into the resources needed to deliver the homelessness services and in particular our preference to increase the prevention of homelessness wherever possible.

Following the review, a restructure of staffing was put in place, this included the creation of the Homelessness Prevention Officer role. This new role reinforces and focusses on preventing homelessness and incorporates the preventative work that was already being done by the existing Financial Inclusion Support Officers. The new job description gives a clearer more specific focus on our early intervention and preventions; the restructure is not a new resource but a repurposing of staffing hours and current job roles.

HOMELESSNESS DUTIES

The Homeless Reduction Act places a duty on the Authority to prevent people becoming homeless (the prevention duty). If the person is already homeless, the authority has a duty to help them secure accommodation for at least six months (the relief duty).

The Housing Solutions Team completed a total of 3,767 initial assessments of homeless households during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023. In reality, a much higher number of people contacted the team, but not all contacts led to a homeless application as many were resolved with advice and assistance.

NBBC Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed 2019 - 2023	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Households Assessed	990	989	915	873
% Total owed a duty	94.4%	92.8%	84.2%	92.9%
% Prevention Duty owed	48.6%	48.0%	30.4%	34.1%
% Relief duty owed	45.8%	44.9%	53.8%	58.8%
% No duty owed	5.6%	7.2%	15.8%	7.2%

PREVENTION DUTY

A prevention duty is owed when the Council is satisfied a person or household is eligible and threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Working with the homeless applicant a personalised housing plan is created that determines what prevention activities are required to prevent the applicant becoming homeless.

PREVENTION DUTY ENDS

- If the prevention activities remove the homelessness threat
- If after 56 days if the applicant becomes homeless
- If the applicant refuses an offer of suitable accommodation

RELIEF DUTY

Relief duty is owed when the Council is satisfied a person or household is eligible and is homeless. The Council has a duty to assess and provide a personalised housing plan.

RELIEF DUTY ENDS

- If the relief activities work and the applicant is no longer homeless
- If suitable accommodation is available for six months
- If the applicant deliberately and unreasonably refuses to cooperate
- If the applicant refuses a suitable offer of accommodation



The table below shows the number of homelessness cases that were prevented or relieved in Nuneaton and Bedworth from April 2019 to March 2023.

Homelessness prevented or relieved April 2018 to March 2023	No. prevented cases	No. relieved cases	Total cases
2018/2019	69	143	212
2019/2020	215	150	365
2020/2021	227	153	380
2021/2022	99	187	286
2022/2023	117	171	288
Totals 2018 to 2023	727	804	1531

Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Statutory Homeless Levels

This shows that between April 2018 and March 2023, homelessness was successfully prevented, or relieved for a total of 1,531 households; this is a 46% increase from the 824 households in the period April 2012 to March 2018.

The Council's preference is to prevent someone from becoming homeless rather than help them to find a new home. From April 2018 to March 2023, 727 households were prevented from homelessness compared to April 2012 to March 2018 where 603 were prevented, this is only a 17% increase; it is the Council's aim to increase the number of homelessness preventions in addition to introducing early intervention initiatives.

This duty is currently carried out by the Housing Solutions team.

Their role is to assist households who are –

- Living in all tenure types of accommodation where notice has been given.
- Living with family or friends and they have been asked to leave.
- Homeless or think that they are likely to become homeless.
- Experiencing domestic abuse
- Having difficulties paying their rent or mortgage
- In need of information on accessing privately rented accommodation

The Housing Solutions Officer discusses the various options with the tenant including:

- Negotiating with landlords, family, or friends to remain in the property.
- Providing information about how to apply for social, supported, or shared ownership housing.
- Providing information on how to access the Homeless Prevention Support Scheme (see section on page 18).

HOMELESSNESS

ADVICE AND INFORMATION

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 extended the existing duty to provide advisory services for people faced with homelessness and placed a duty on all councils to provide free information and advice to any person in their district on preventing and relieving homelessness. The change ensured that all people have access to the same help in the first instance, including providing advice and information that is detailed and tailored to specific needs on:

- **the rights of homeless people or those threatened with homelessness.**
- **the help available from the Council or others and how to access that help.**

This service is important in enabling households to help themselves and seek support or solutions to their current situation, in order to prevent their homelessness. This is an important service that means that opportunities to prevent homelessness are not missed; in particular providing advice and information to single homeless people that the Council do not owe the main homelessness duty.

WE HAVE:

- Developed and trained our staff to provide bespoke advice and information that is tailored to meet the needs of the individual or household who are homeless or likely to be at risk of homelessness. The needs are determined when the individual or household first approach the Council.
- Developed the homelessness area of the Borough's website to provide instant 24/7 access to information about what to do if faced with homelessness. This includes a suite of advice leaflets and guidance that provide general advice for those faced with homelessness, and specific homeless situations. Below is a list of the guidance and advice we provide:

GENERAL GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

- Homelessness Reduction Act - What it means to you.
- **Homelessness how we can help.**
- **Know your housing options.**
- **Applying as homeless flowchart**
- **Specific homelessness situations:**
- **Advice for finding a place to stay if you are street homeless.**
- **Useful contact details for local support groups**
- **A guide to stop house repossession.**
- **Homeless released from prison.**
- **Suffering mental illness or impairment and threatened with homelessness.**
- **Homeless – Armed Forces**
- **Help and housing for care leavers.**
- **What is domestic abuse?**
- **Options and facilities for older people**
- **Advice about evictions and the ending of a tenancy**
- **Advice on parental eviction**
- **Non-violent relationship breakdown**
- **Homeless after leaving hospital.**

ACCOMMODATION GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CARE LEAVERS IN WARWICKSHIRE

In addition, we provide links to the Warwickshire County Council websites for young people and care leavers:

- **Accommodation guide for 16- and 17-year-olds who may be homeless in Warwickshire.**
- **Accommodation guide for Care Leavers**

Below is the Link to the advice leaflets and guidance:

https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/info/20021/housing_solutions_and_homelessness/193/homelessness/5

WE WILL:

- Continue to provide good quality accurate information and guidance for those faced with homelessness.
- Include homelessness guidance and advice training in inductions for all new Housing Solutions team members.

- Regularly review, at least annually, and update as needed; the information, guidance, and advice we provide to ensure that it is current and reflects legislative and policy changes, local support service provision, and good practice.
- At least annually or in the event of a legislative, or internal policy change, review the Homelessness area of the Council's website to ensure all pages are accessible, relevant, and current.

PREVENTION

How we intend to prevent homelessness

From 2012 to 2018, the Housing Solutions team had access to various homeless prevention funds and initiatives. In 2019, the initiatives were reviewed to develop the Housing Solutions Support Scheme; administered by our Landlord Solutions team and strengthened in 2021 by the recruitment of a dedicated Early Intervention Prevention Officer, the scheme's aim is to prevent private sector evictions as early as possible.

OUR INTENTIONS ARE TO

- Work with both landlords and tenants to resolve any issues before a notice is served, or in the early stages of an eviction notice with the aim being able to sustain the tenancy where possible, and if required, assistance in finding alternative accommodation. We will also look to work in conjunction with partnership agencies to provide additional support where needed.
- Provide a free specialist project for landlords considering serving a notice, or for tenants who are at risk of losing their tenancy. We recognise the importance of early intervention working with both the landlord and tenant to prevent homelessness and any subsequent potential eviction.

- Recognise for landlords that eviction is often the last resort and is a costly process as well as a stressful time for both the landlord and tenant.
- Help clients who are threatened with homelessness in advance of our statutory duty, which is owed 56 days prior to becoming homeless.

WE HAVE

- Assisted 41 clients with bond and/or rent in advance to secure a private rented property.
- Assisted 30 clients with various funding interventions to secure new accommodation, prevent eviction, provide furniture packs and white goods.
- Assisted 27 clients who applied for Government funding for people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding for each case ensured eviction was prevented, or to help secure alternative accommodation to prevent homelessness.

- Dealt with around 212 tenant/landlord cases, working to prevent homelessness by providing mediation, advice and support, and sign posting to relevant support agencies. Where preventing eviction was not possible, giving advice and guidance on securing rented accommodation and assisting with funding.
- Added 47 new landlord contacts to our already extensive mailing list for engagement.
- Received 76 “property to rent” enquiries from landlords or letting agents, with 51 being positive in that property options were available to our clients or potential future options and engagement.
- Undertaken a review of staffing and service provision required to improve the prevention of homelessness.

WE WILL

- Enhance the number of early intervention/prevention officers to meet the Council’s preference to prevent someone from becoming homeless rather than helping them to find a new home. This dedicated team will support all tenure types not just the private rented sector.
- Promote early intervention with tenants and landlords and continue to offer a free specialist project for landlords considering serving a notice, or tenants who are at risk of losing their home.
- Review our Housing Solutions Support Scheme to ensure it is current with today’s economic climate.
- Further engage with landlords and agents for available properties to support our customers transition into the private sector.
- Support customers to maximise their income and provide budgeting advice to ensure that homes remain sustainable.

The delivery of the scheme and the Homeless Prevention Officers will sit under the Landlord Solutions Team Leader who is a dedicated member of the National Residential Landlord Association (NRLA). The NRLA help members navigate challenges and offer learning resources and market intelligence within the private

In addition, working with our partners to ensure our customers are given robust advice around the support options available within the Borough.

OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES INCLUDE:

COMPLEX CASE REVIEWS

Universal Credit was introduced in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area in 2017, the impact that this has had on local authority rent arrears and the threat of eviction is still a concern, the Council continue to engage with a joint review board. The group consists of senior officers, from the Council’s Benefits and Recovery Department, Enforcement, and Housing.

The review board is used to ensure that appropriate support is given to households with high rent arrears or those with complex issues. It is the opportunity for all teams to consider the support options for customers; on average 10 households are supported at any one time.

TENANCY SUPPORT OFFICER

NBBC Tenancy Support Officer’s (TSO) role is to provide a support service to Council tenants to help them overcome any problems that may affect their ability to maintain accommodation. The TSO gets involved at an early intervention stage and will focus on engaging and delivering support.

The TSO will help Council tenants with

- Staying in their present accommodation
- Settling into a new home
- Filling in forms such as benefit claims and ensuring that they are claiming the benefits they are entitled too.
- Living Independently

RELIEF

How we intend to relieve homelessness

Homelessness relief is action taken to relieve homelessness. Relief duty is owed when the Council is satisfied a household is eligible for assistance, has a local connection and is homeless. The Council has a duty to take reasonable steps to secure accommodation that they are satisfied would be available for at least six months, this could be for example by giving debt advice or providing a rent deposit.

Relief duty lasts for up to 56 days regardless of whether a person is considered a priority need. Those considered to be eligible and have a priority need, will be provided with temporary accommodation while the Council take reasonable steps to resolve their homelessness. During the period 2019 to 2023 we relieved a total of 804 cases of homelessness, by providing temporary accommodation for those in priority need, and assisting households to secure accommodation for at least six months, including finding homes in the private rented sector.

OUR INTENTIONS ARE TO

- Work closely with clients to provide a personalised housing plan to find permanent housing solutions for those in temporary accommodation, including working with landlords to secure private rented homes.
- Reduce the overall number of clients in temporary accommodation.
- Reduce the length of time clients spend in temporary accommodation.
- Provide suitable, appropriate, and good quality temporary accommodation options, to eradicate the need to use expensive Bed and Breakfasts (B&B) and Hotels.
- Reduce the temporary accommodation cost

burden for the Borough.

- Work with our partners to find alternative/additional solutions for temporary accommodation.
- Increase and maximise the availability of affordable housing for homeless clients, by ensuring we provide prompt responses for vacant property allocations and nominations.

WE HAVE

- Increased the number of temporary accommodation units available (see below)
- Reduced the use of B&Bs and hotels for temporary accommodation.
- Worked with developers, registered providers of housing and planning to ensure the maximum amount of affordable rented housing is delivered.

WE WILL

- Review the solutions to relieve homelessness including the provision of debt advice and financial assistance for example rent deposits.
- Continue to review the level of temporary housing needed to ensure supply meets demand.
- Review all temporary housing solutions available to reduce costs to the Borough.
- Continue to work with clients and landlords to find private rented housing solutions.
- Ensure prompt allocation, and nomination for vacant social housing properties.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS

The Council has a legal duty to provide temporary accommodation to some households who are homeless and have no accommodation available to them. Not all households qualify for this; the Council has a duty provide temporary accommodation for those who are eligible and in priority need as detailed in the Homeless Reduction Act 2017.



The Council has developed its own temporary accommodation, we previously had a Homeless Hostel, providing 14 rooms with shared facilities across two buildings in Nuneaton. This hostel remains in use and is due to be refurbished in 2024.

THE COUNCIL NOW HAS A FURTHER THREE HOSTELS

- 37 room hostel in Nuneaton Town Centre, with shared facilities or the option of self-contained units, with emergency crash pads providing a place for people in crisis such as severe weather.
- eight room hostel in Bedworth with shared facilities.

- 14 room hostel in Nuneaton that are self-contained and allow pets.

In addition, the Council has furnished 13 of its own flats to use as temporary accommodation.

We continue to contract with Nuneaton and Bedworth Commercial Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) Homes to manage our hostels; NABCEL have two bed and breakfast hostels comprising of 17 rooms with shared facilities that the Council are able to use for temporary accommodation.

This brings the total number of rooms and self-contained units to 103. The Council will continue to increase this stock to avoid the use of temporary accommodation out of our area and to avoid the use of hotels.

Year	Total cost of temporary accommodation	Number of households placed into temporary accommodation
April 2019 – March 2020	1,162,610.63	244
April 2020 – March 2021	1,849,797.65	280
April 2021 – March 2022	1,480,716.52	277
April 2022 – March 2023	1,445,118.36	278

ROUGH SLEEPERS

Rough sleeping is the most visible and acute form of homelessness; rough sleepers are extremely vulnerable and often have a history of repeat homelessness and struggle to break the cycle. In 2018 the Government published the Rough Sleeping Strategy to reduce rough sleeping numbers and, more importantly, to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society. This has been driven and delivered by the hard work and collaboration of local councils, central government, the voluntary, community and faith sectors and other delivery partners.

In September 2022, the Government published a refreshed strategy, Ending Rough Sleeping for Good. It focuses on a “four-pronged approach” of prevention, intervention, recovery and ensuring a joined-up transparent approach supported by over £2 billion worth of funding available up to 2025.

- **Prevention – activities to stop people sleeping rough for the first time.**
- **Intervention – Support for those currently sleeping rough to move off the streets.**
- **Recovery – Support for those who have slept rough to ensure they do not return to the streets.**
- **Joined-up transparent approach (System Support) – Systems and structures to embed changes and monitor progress.**

In our previous strategy we advised that we did have incidences of rough sleeping in the Borough, and that numbers were on the increase, so this announcement and funding opportunity was welcomed. The Council has managed to increase the services available to Rough Sleepers with the funding opportunity. We saw a significant drop mid last strategy and our number remained low until mid-2023. However, we have seen, and are continuing to see as are many local authorities, a return to the number of rough sleepers reported pre-pandemic in 2020.

ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEPERS COUNT

All local authorities are required to carry out an annual rough sleeper “snapshot” count and submit their findings to DLUHC, to indicate the number of people sleeping rough in their area on a ‘typical’ night between 1 October and 30 November. A local authority can use one of three approaches (listed below)

- **Count-based estimate - a full physical count of visible rough sleeping**
- **Evidence-based estimate meeting - using evidence from different partner agencies, which may include people in hidden rough sleeping sites.**
- **Evidence-based estimate, including a spotlight count – this combines the two methods above.**

All approaches record only those people seen or expected to be found sleeping rough on a single ‘typical’ night. The Borough have chosen the “evidence-based estimate, including spotlight count” approach for the last three years. This method gives our partners who work closely with people sleeping rough the opportunity to provide evidence to ensure that well known and entrenched rough sleepers are counted, especially those who refuse to engage or choose to stay well hidden from the outreach services. Partners who have provided evidence include health outreach, homelessness, drug and alcohol and disability services as well as the police, faith, and charity organisations who regularly interact with rough sleepers.

Below is the definition of rough sleeping provided in the DLUHC guidance; this definition is shared and discussed with our partners in advance of our count:

For the purpose of the estimates, people sleeping rough are defined as: People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”). A bash, or bender, is a makeshift shelter structure, often made from tarpaulin or wood.

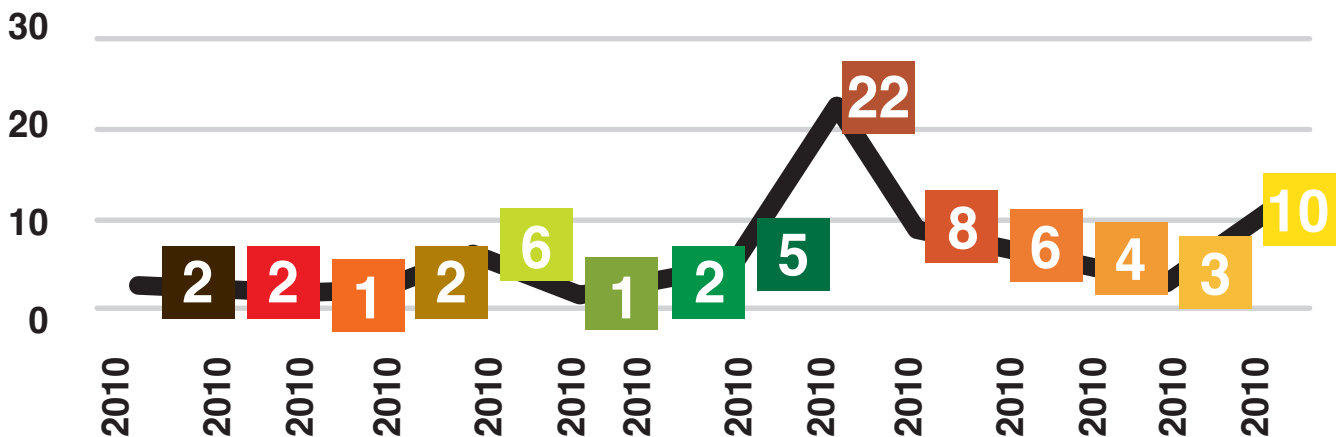
Following the count, we meet with our partners to discuss the evidence received to verify our findings to ensure those identified meet the definition of rough sleeping before meeting with an independent partner to agree our final submission figure. For the last two years the Salvation Army have acted as our independent partner.

In 2018, the Borough reported its highest number of rough sleepers since 2010. From 2019 the number reduced year on year until the 2023 count. Although still considerably low compared to many other authorities, the rise in numbers from three to 10 over the period of a year represents an increase of over 200% and is reflective of the reported numbers throughout 2023.

The number of rough sleepers recorded in the Borough in 2023 is an acknowledgement of the collaborative work we do, and the information our partners provide. Our 2023 annual spotlight count recorded 10 known rough sleepers, of these only two were seen bedded down on the night of the count; the other eight are all long term well known rough sleepers that all partners agreed should be included during our evidence meeting.

The graph below shows the Nuneaton and Bedworth annual spotlight figures since the count began in 2010.

NBBC ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEPER SPOTLIGHT COUNT 2010 TO 2023



Since our first homelessness strategy published in 2019, we have seen significant changes in terms of Government rough sleeping priorities, funding opportunities, and a national pandemic.

Page 25 demonstrates what we have achieved; what we will continue to do, and how we intend to achieve to meet the four-pronged approach to end rough sleeping for good.



PREVENTION

ROUGH SLEEPERS OUTREACH TEAM

WE HAVE

worked with the charity P3 and their rough sleeper outreach team who regularly visit the street homeless in the Borough, offering them help to access support services, and secure suitable accommodation.

WE WILL

- continue to work with P3 and their outreach team; they seek out and find rough sleepers using their knowledge of known sites, reports from Streetlink, and information provided by partners such as the police, health professionals, and support agencies.
- continue to work with our partners to:
 - raise awareness and promote the services available to people at risk of rough sleeping.
 - promote the importance of, and how to report the locations of people seen sleeping rough.
 - promptly disseminate and share important information to help to prevent the risks to the health and safety of rough sleepers.

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

WE HAVE

Supported the night shelter for rough sleepers which ran from 1 December to 28 February in six local churches and community centres: providing a hot meal, bed, and breakfast, and in some centres, shower and clothes washing facilities. This service was vital but could not continue during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak in Spring 2020. With the reduction on numbers of rough sleepers in the Borough and the opening of our crash pads at Eaton House we have not needed night shelters for the last three years.

WE WILL

Annually review the need for local night shelters through our four-weekly Rough Sleeper Outreach Forum and in liaison with the Salvation Army and other local churches through the No Second Night Out (NSNO) meetings. We recognise in times of high levels of rough sleepers, night shelters can offer an invaluable service, we will continue to work in partnership to help people off the streets into more settled accommodation.

RECOVERY

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT SERVICE CONTRACT - ROUGH SLEEPER INITIATIVE (RSI)

From 2022, DLUHC allocated RSI funding to be awarded on a three-year basis commencing in 2022, we were successful, and our funding application was agreed, the funding is over a three-year period and reduces in years two and three as rough sleeping is prevented. P3 were the successful bidder and are required to work collaboratively with the Council.

In year 1, the aim of the service was to temporarily accommodate individuals who are sleeping rough in the Borough by placing them in a room in a hostel with shared amenities and 24/7 on-site support: in addition, supporting other rough sleepers in other temporary accommodation locations.

The support to be provided included helping individuals to gain the skills, knowledge, and experience required to enable them to secure and maintain their own accommodation, to live independently, and to access and sustain permanent secure accommodation as part of a move on plan.

WE HAVE

- provided a direct access hostel with five bed spaces that is owned by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, providing person centred, housing-related support for homeless single people aged 18 and over that were at risk of, or who were already, sleeping rough.
- provided floating support at the same level for up to 10 (at any one time) to other single homeless people staying in other temporary accommodation who were at risk of, or already sleeping rough.

YEAR 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS FOR SERVICES

Service Type	Number of referrals	No. of referrals accepted
Floating Support	53	36
Rough Sleeper Initiative	22	13

REASONS REFERRAL REFUSED FOR FLOATING SUPPORT AND RSI YEAR 1

FLOATING SUPPORT

Reason referral refused; Floating	Number of referrals refused
Person ineligible for the service	6
Failed to attend assessment	6
Support needs greater than service can meet	1
Declined service no longer required	3
Person withdrew their request for the service	1

RSI

Reason referral refused: RSI	Number of referrals refused
No availability of service – accessed floating support	4
Ineligible for service referred to alternative service	2
Did not meet the criteria, potentially referred in error	2
Person withdrew application no longer required service	1

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ACCESSING BOTH SERVICES IN YEAR 1

Service Type	No. of people accessing service
Floating Support	35
Rough Sleeper Initiative	22

NUMBER OF PEOPLE MOVING ON FROM SERVICE RSI IN YEAR 1

No. leaving RSI Year 1	No. planned	No. unplanned
14	7	7

REASONS FOR PLANNED MOVE ON FROM RSI SERVICE YEAR 1

Reason for planned move on from RSI Year 1	No. planned move on
Left to live with partner	1
Moved to long term supported living	1
Moved to private rented accommodation	2
Moved to local authority accommodation	1
Transferred to floating support	2
Moved to long-term residential care	1

REASONS FOR UNPLANNED MOVE ON FROM RSI IN YEAR 1

Reason for Unplanned move on from RSI Year 1	No. Unplanned move on
Abandoned accommodation (all female)	3
Moved out of area due to previous abusers finding location	1
Left due to non-engagement with support	1
Left due to service charge arrears and no engagement with support.	2

The two people who left due to service charge arrears and non-engagement had previously been successful in the RSI project and it was the longest period of time that they had remained in stable accommodation.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LEAVING FLOATING SUPPORT IN YEAR 1

No. leaving Floating Support Year 1	No. planned	No. unplanned
32	16	16

REASONS FOR PLANNED MOVE ON FROM FLOATING SUPPORT YEAR 1

Reason for Planned move on from Floating Support Year 1	No. planned move on
Transferred to RSI	11
Moved to private rented accommodation	1
Moved in with family or friends	2
Moved to Local Authority accommodation – had completed programme of support	1
Completed programme of support & remained in temporary accommodation	1

REASONS FOR UNPLANNED MOVE ON FROM FLOATING SUPPORT YEAR 1

Reason for Unplanned move on from Floating Support Year 1	No. Unplanned move on
Failed to engage with support placement ended	3
Accommodation abandoned left to stay with family	3
Taken into custody following physical assault	1
Placement in Temporary accommodation ended due to ASB	3
Placement ended due to breaches of license agreement	3



WE WILL

Years 2 and 3: we will continue to provide a direct access hostel with five bed spaces, providing person centred housing related support, for homeless single people that are at risk of, or who are already sleeping rough, aged 18 or over.

In addition, the Council will provide self-contained independent properties to be let to a selected number of rough sleepers who have been able to demonstrate their commitment to becoming tenant ready and wanting to maintain their own tenancy. Let on a starter tenancy license agreement, a dedicated support worker contracted to work 37 hours a week will provide those selected with intensive one-to-one

support for the first 12 months to help maintain their tenancy and acquire the necessary life skills to prevent them becoming homeless again. This will be available for a maximum of five to six people at any one time.

This will replicate a Housing First-type model which is an approach to ending homelessness through housing and support provision. It prioritises access to permanent housing with tailored, open-ended wraparound support for the individual that emphasises choice and control.



SUPPORT SYSTEMS

COLLABORATIVE WORK

To end rough sleeping and maximise the impact of the support available the Council recognises that services need to work together. The pandemic brought systems and partners closer together than ever before, seeing rough sleeping as a housing and health problem, we have learned from this that partnership working has a positive impact, better joined-up service provision and multi-agency collaboration was one of the factors credited to the success of the pandemic response, which we have built on, and will continue to build on in the long-term.

WE HAVE

- Continued to strengthen our partnership working through regular Homelessness, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rough Sleeper Outreach meetings, discussing, and identifying individuals known to be at high risk of, or who are already, sleeping rough.
- Worked collaboratively with the physical and mental health outreach nurses who provide services to homeless people on the street, in temporary accommodation and working with partners at hubs and homelessness drop-in services. The nurses are vital and active members of the Rough Sleeper Forum, and critical to providing information about those sleeping rough.

- Undertaken a major review of the Rough Sleeper Outreach forum; we recognised a need to change and revitalise the format of the meetings. In March 2023, we relaunched our Rough Sleeper Outreach Forum; this included:
 - adopting a more formal approach.
 - a new terms of reference that clearly set out the aims and objectives for the group.
 - a reviewed, refreshed, and extended membership to ensure that the right key partners who work with and have knowledge of rough sleepers were included.

The meetings are held every four weeks and have grown from strength to strength; the intel provided about rough sleepers is now robust and based on clear evidence rather than hearsay and has allowed us to gather a wider understanding of those who are rough sleeping in our Borough, especially those who were previously hidden.

The forum has substantially strengthened collaborative partnership working to ensure individuals sleeping rough are referred to, and provided with the multiple services they need.



- Continued to attend the NSNO meetings chaired and hosted by the Salvation Army. The NSNO meeting brings together representatives from the wider community such as local churches/ faith groups and foodbanks who support rough sleepers, as well as our homelessness partners P3, Doorway, St Basil's, and health outreach nurses. These meetings enable us to gather a better understanding of the high level of need and reliance rough sleepers have on other organisations and has strengthened our ability to reach out to individuals who are reluctant or refusing to engage with support.

WE WILL

- Continue to strengthen our collaborative working through our Rough Sleeper Forum by meeting regularly to identify, review, and discuss the support needs of individual rough sleepers in our Borough.
- We will through our discussions focus on the individual person and the holistic support they require to end their rough sleeping journey for good; including understanding and overcoming the barriers they face to accessing services and their reluctance or refusal to engage when offered help.
- Continue to be an active participant in the NSNO meetings.
- Share and disseminate information to raise awareness of rough sleepers and factors that pose risks to their safety, health, and wellbeing.

WE WILL: work with our partners overcome the barriers and challenges faced by those rough sleeping, to end rough sleeping in Nuneaton and Bedworth for good and prevent repeat homelessness through:

- **Prevention**
- **Intervention**
- **Recovery**
- **Joined up transparent approach**



DOMESTIC ABUSE

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a number of tools and powers that will positively impact on Warwickshire's victims-survivors, their children, and perpetrators.

The Act placed a Safe Accommodation duty on Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to develop and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy to provide an overall and holistic approach to deliver a rounded offer of support to victims in safe accommodation. Tier 2 district and borough authorities have a duty 'to cooperate' with the Domestic Abuse Act. The Act defines Safe Accommodation as "Solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse including expert support". For WCC to deliver there is a requirement for all District and Borough authorities to co-operate. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council are working closely with WCC and partners to achieve the five objectives of the Strategy.

THE FIVE OBJECTIVES ARE:

- **Early intervention and prevention**
- **Accessible services**
- **Appropriate safe accommodation**
- **Multiagency delivery**
- **Support to return home or move on**

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR AND WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE:

EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

- We have recruited a specialised Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator so that victim-survivors are supported at an early stage. We have provided survivors with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness or are assisting to find more suitable accommodation if the option to remain at home is not safe. To date the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has helped 77 victim-survivors.
- We will work in partnership with victim-survivors, our partners and neighbouring district and boroughs to learn, ensuring that victim-survivors are at the centre of our provision. We will listen and understand their wishes to provide appropriate options for accommodation and support.

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

- We have trained officers, so they have the knowledge on how to refer victim-survivors to receive specialised help and support, we have provided a single point of contact, we have published on our website the services that are available.
- We will continue to work with partners to ensure that all services are known, continue with officer awareness training throughout our workforce, ensure that information is accessible, reach out to hidden victim-survivors through community groups and charitable organisations. Appropriate Safe accommodation
- We have provided accommodation options and ensured appropriate support is in place for all victim-survivors who need it, such as refuge support, self-contained temporary accommodation, supported with sanctuary schemes (which is a multi-agency victim-survivor centred initiative which aims to enable households at risk of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes), provided permanent social housing.
- We will through our prevention of homelessness initiatives be working in partnership with our private landlords to provide suitable permanent housing which will provide more housing options for victim-survivors.

MULTI-AGENCY DELIVERY

- We have worked in partnership with partners to share information and develop joint plans to protect victim-survivors and hold perpetrators to account through Warwickshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings, take a joint approach to risk assessment and safety planning for victim-survivors living in Warwickshire.
- We will continue to work together to consider the wishes of the victim-survivor, working together to provide options, reviewing the options available and the option gaps so individuals feel safe in their home, in addition reviewing the powers that can be used to hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour.

SUPPORT TO RETURN HOME OR MOVE ON

- We have worked with partners for victim-survivors to return home safely and/or to move into alternative permanent accommodation, our Allocations Policy gives the highest priority band to those who require urgent re-housing for those escaping domestic abuse. Our Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator is a single point of contact for victim-survivors who are applying for social housing, to date 44 victim-survivors have been permanently housed through the support of our Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator.
- We will continue to give applicants a single point of contact to assist with housing applications; working in partnership, we will consult with victim-survivors on their experiences of applying for social housing to review our processes.

The Borough recognises that Domestic Abuse can affect anyone regardless of their age, gender identity or reassignment, race, religion, class, sexual orientation, and marital status. Notwithstanding this, evidence shows women are more likely to experience repeat victimisation, be physically injured or killed as a result of domestic abuse and experience non-physical abuse including emotional and financial abuse, and we have taken this into account when designing and delivering our services.



ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS

The Armed Forces Covenant is about fair treatment. For most of the armed forces community, the Covenant is about removing disadvantage; so that they get the same access to services as the civilian community. The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government, and the armed forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the armed forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated.

Our Housing Solutions Team have a long-established, mutually supportive working relationship with Veteran Contact Point (VCP) in Nuneaton. We work collaboratively to find wraparound solutions to housing and preventing homelessness. We recognise the importance of the Armed Forces Covenant within our Housing Strategy, and how fortunate we are to have a VCP in Nuneaton.

All applicants completing our online application process for housing, are asked to identify if they are serving or former members of the armed or reserve forces. Once they identify themselves, they are automatically sent a digital support leaflet that give specific advice and important links to external services for the armed forces. Our Allocation policy closely follows the statutory requirements for the armed forces to award additional preferences, placing them in the highest priority banding for housing, providing they meet the other eligibility criteria to join our waiting list.

Our Rough Sleeper Outreach Forum meet every four weeks to discuss the risks, concerns, and housing needs of rough sleepers, and includes representation from health, homelessness, substance misuse and disability support agencies; all partner agencies identify former armed forces personnel sleeping rough as part of their assessment process. We work together to provide multi-agency support, tailored to the individual's needs, including working with VCP to try to find long term solutions for armed forces veterans with multiple complex needs who are homeless and/or sleeping rough.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO TACKLE HOMELESSNESS

We are proud of the relationship we have with our partners, and never underestimate how important collaborative working is for providing successful outcomes for homeless people in our Borough. The collaborative work and achievements especially during the pandemic are testament to how strong, and successful the relationship we have with both the statutory and voluntary sector partners is. We would like to thank our partners in general, but more so for the way we came together during Covid to help those who were at risk of becoming, or already homeless including rough sleepers, and for the platform this has established on which we can continue to grow our relationships and shape future service offers.

OUR PARTNERS

The Council works with many agencies, both in the statutory and voluntary sectors. The excellent partnerships established over the years in the Borough have enabled a multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness and the causes of homelessness, including rough sleeping. Without the ongoing support for clients, and the excellent services delivered by these organisations the Council would struggle to deliver a comprehensive homelessness prevention service in the Borough.

It is important that we recognise the individual role and services provided by our partners that support the delivery of priorities within this strategy. Our homelessness partners provide bespoke specialised services that prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping. They provide information and guidance, bespoke and often intensive support, and temporary accommodation solutions. Through their interventions people at risk of homelessness, or who are homeless, find successful outcomes and do not need to seek additional homelessness duty from the Council.

HOMELESSNESS PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Homelessness Partnership Forum is hosted and chaired by the Council, and meeting every quarter the forum has grown from strength to strength. Attendees include representatives from both statutory and third sector organisations who come together to explore homelessness prevention, reduction, and relief, and to share information and promote good practise within homelessness services. The forum acts as a support network for members, and provides a platform for sharing successes, discussing new initiatives, and problem solving.

The Council is firmly committed to strengthening partnerships to continue to support the delivery of first-class services to those who are homeless, threatened with homelessness or who have a housing problem.

WIDER REPRESENTATION

In addition to the remit of various posts and roles within the Council, the Housing and Community Safety Directorate plays an active part in county-wide and sub regional fora.

NBBC Housing representation is present at the

- **West Midlands Combined Authority Homelessness Taskforce**
- **West Midlands Housing Officers Group**
- **Warwickshire Housing Partnership Group**
- **Warwickshire Strategy Officers Group**
- **Warwickshire Heads of Housing,**
- **Warwickshire Migration/Resettlement partnership**
- **No Second Night Out**
- **Warwickshire Better Together (Housing) Group**
which includes County council social care and Health partners
- **Warwickshire Public Health**
- **Warwickshire North Health and Wellbeing**

- **Warwickshire Safe Accommodation**
- **Nuneaton and Bedworth Private Sector Landlords Forum**
- **Warwickshire Housing Related Support Group**

To name but a few ... these fora serve to consider, consult, and develop best practice initiatives to prevent and relieve homelessness. By sharing good practice and learning from other organisations we maximise the potential to reduce homelessness.

Registered providers (Housing Associations)

We work closely with the registered providers in our Borough to ensure people on our housing list have maximum opportunity to access the homes they provide. We work with those developing new homes to maximise the delivery of properties that best meet the needs of our waiting list, this includes working together to determine the property type, bedroom size, and tenure mix that will best support local housing need and in turn reduce homelessness.

REGISTERED PROVIDERS IN OUR BOROUGH INCLUDE:

- **Anchor**
- **Bromford**
- **Citizen**
- **Clarion**
- **Derwent**
- **Housing 21**
- **MHA**
- **Midland Heart**
- **Orbit**
- **PA Housing**
- **Platform**
- **Sage**
- **Sanctuary**
- **Stonewater**
- **WHG Housing**

Registered providers enter into a formal nomination agreement that sets the proportion of lettings they will make available annually to households on the Borough's housing register. Although we set these proportions, the majority of our registered providers no longer hold their own waiting lists and choose to advertise all vacant properties through our choice-based lettings system. This ensures local properties go to local people in the greatest housing need, many of whom are homeless households in

WHO WE CURRENTLY WORK WITH

Below are details of some of our partners including service descriptions from organisations working with the Council at the time of publication of this strategy:

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is the social services authority for the area and the commissioner of housing-related support services.

In 2021 the county council with the five district and borough councils in Warwickshire, co-produced the first ever Warwickshire-wide homelessness strategy: Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire: a multi-agency approach.

Developed by the six councils and working in partnership with both statutory and voluntary organisations this strategy is important because it supports the district and borough council's own homelessness and rough sleeper strategies. It aims to address the broader underlying issues of homelessness and brings together the organisations working in those other policy areas to help to develop the way forward to reduce homelessness in Warwickshire.

THE WARWICKSHIRE FIVE KEY HOMELESSNESS PRIORITY AREAS:

- **Health**
- **Financial Inclusion**
- **Young people**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Offending**

The Preventing Homelessness in Warwickshire strategy is currently under review and is not due to be published until after the publication of this strategy.

Housing related support services are commissioned by WCC. The services they commission are for clients with support needs that place them on the edge of care, supporting them to maintain a tenancy and helping with issues that could lead to homelessness. Some of the services include short-term accommodation to support households who are homeless.

WARWICKSHIRE POLICE:

Warwickshire Police work in partnership with a number of other organisations to address Domestic Abuse in Warwickshire, including specialist services commissioned to work directly with victims or survivors. Domestic Abuse affects all districts & boroughs within the county and victims can be of any age or gender. Safe accommodation is a significant issue in cases of domestic abuse as victims are often forced to flee their home, leaving them in need of immediate and long-term support.

Warwickshire Police work closely with local authority housing colleagues to provide housing support for victims, including through the county Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process which allows high risk cases to be discussed between partner agencies and a plan of support agreed for victims.

Warwickshire Police currently work in partnership with local authorities and key partners across the county to address modern slavery. Public bodies have certain obligations to identify and support potential victims of Modern Slavery, however no single agency has all the knowledge, skills, and resources to do this effectively. It is known that adult victims of Modern Slavery can often experience challenges in accessing accommodation both in an emergency and as they move towards recovery which can lead some individuals to present as homeless. In many cases victims can also present with additional or complex needs including physical or mental health, immigration status or substance misuse. Through our strong multi-agency relationships we will work with local authority housing teams and charitable organisations to secure safe accommodation for victims of modern slavery.

The link between Modern Slavery and Homelessness has been identified nationally; in Warwickshire there have been previous cases identified where victims were recruited into exploitation whilst homeless and the offer of accommodation used as an inducement.

NHS OUTREACH NURSING TEAM:

The Homeless Nursing Service/Street Outreach Team has been operational since January 2020, provided by the Warwickshire Foundation Trust, and funded via public health and rough sleeper initiative monies. The service has adapted to meet the needs of homeless individuals, whether on the streets or in temporary accommodation. It has grown considerably in scope and number of contacts.

In collaboration with the mental health service, weekly clinics are held outside of the Salvation Army in Nuneaton in a camper van, offering privacy and dignity in the healthcare assessment process. Health interventions include wound care, long-term condition management, drug and alcohol support, GP registrations, and liaising with other agencies. The team is often the first point of contact for individuals seeking homelessness support.

The work is aimed at seeing the individual on the street to prevent frequent hospital emergency department admissions. This proactive response has also seen collaborative working with acute hospital nurses, vaccinators, and mental health services. The strong relationships formed create trust and reliability, enabling patients to receive valuable ongoing care.

Initiatives have included arms-length treatments for blood-borne viruses, urgent dental care for the homeless, fit note provision to support unregistered individuals to register with the Department of Work and Pensions and prescribing for minor ailments.

NABCEL (NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE LTD):

Formed in 2013, NABCEL is the commercial arm of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. NABCEL provides accommodation and property-related services across Nuneaton, Bedworth, and the West Midlands.

In response to the increasing requirement for suitable temporary accommodation, the Council, through NABCEL, has provided two Bed and Breakfast properties to supplement our homeless hostels in Nuneaton. These additional 17 rooms, with shared cooking facilities means that homeless households are more adequately accommodated while permanent housing is sourced, or whilst further investigations are conducted into their homelessness situation.

DOORWAY: YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-25 YEARS:

Doorway is a Nuneaton based charity for homeless young people aged 16 to 25 years in Warwickshire. Our organisational vision is “to prevent youth homelessness and minimise its impacts by ensuring that all young people have a safe and secure place to live, a productive fulfilling purpose, positive relationships with others and good health to enjoy them”.

Our Advice Quality Standard (AQS) accredited Advice Service aims to prevent homelessness by identifying appropriate housing options focused on young people’s individual needs combined with advice to maximise their income which may also reduce the likelihood of homelessness. New Home Workshops help them to prepare for living independently in accommodation including budgeting and understanding occupancy agreements. In the year to March 2022, the Advice service received 389 referrals and of these 232 were from the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council area with 32 young people reporting sleeping rough at first point of contact.

Doorway manages 53 units of accommodation in the Borough and as this does not meet the demand it is important to work in partnership across the Borough to identify preventative options and solutions. Finding appropriate accommodation is essential for young people

and a platform to leading productive and fulfilling lives. Those who move into our accommodation are referred to Doorway’s Support Service where our support workers adopt a strengths-based approach in both floating and accommodation-based support. Our focus on understanding their individual needs means using flexible and innovative methods in our approach to ensure successful outcomes for the young people. Our Wellbeing Service delivers a range of activities such as weekly Jobwise and Healthwise sessions, along with cooking, gardening, and craft sessions. As well as developing their independent living skills the activities have a huge impact upon improving their physical, mental, and sexual health.

Doorway has a drop-in centre which is open Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm where young people can be seen daily for advice, support, and wellbeing advice. We also have a shower for use by people sleeping rough and a warm space for them. Thanks to generous donations from the local community, we are able to provide clothing and food to them if required. In addition, donations enable us to provide starter packs of household items when young people move into our accommodation.

www.doorway.org.uk

ST BASILS:

St Basils is one of the largest organisations in the country working with young people who are homeless. A registered charity and a registered provider of social housing they provide a range of accommodation and support services to young people aged 16 to 25 years who are homeless, vulnerable or at risk.

P3:

P3 is a national registered charity with offices in Nuneaton. P3 carry out vital work with people aged over 25 who are homeless or likely to become homeless. They provide floating support services to prevent homelessness before it happens by working with people whose accommodation is at risk.

P3 also have a Street Outreach team who visit known rough sleeper locations in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area in the early hours of the morning to identify people who are sleeping on the streets and offer them the help they need to find suitable accommodation.

REFUGE: DOMESTIC ABUSE:

Refuge is a national charity providing specialist support for women and children experiencing domestic violence. The largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK, on any given day their services support thousands of women, and their children, helping them to overcome the physical, emotional, financial, and logistical impacts of abuse and rebuild their lives free of fear.

People experiencing abuse or violence will often leave their home to escape the situation.

In the majority of cases, it is women who flee the family home with their children and come to the Council for help. Domestic violence is one of the major reasons for homelessness in the Borough and obviously has a traumatic effect on the victim and any children that have witnessed it and been made homeless. The Nuneaton and Bedworth Refuge provides a safe house and specialist support to women and children escaping domestic and other forms of violence.

The Council works in partnership with Refuge to help accommodate women and children and find them a more settled home when they are ready to move on.

CGL (CHANGE GROW LIVE): DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTIONS:

Those with addictions can be evicted from their homes if they prioritise the funding of an alcohol or drug habit over paying their rent or mortgage. Anti-social behaviour due to addiction can also cause them to lose their social or private sector tenancy.

CGL delivers a recovery-focused service designed to support people to take control of their recovery and achieve their recovery goals. Services will include counselling, emotional support, and supported access to mutual aid.

CGL also provides support in accessing training and employment and works with the Council and other third sector organisations to help with housing and homelessness issues.

TOGETHER: PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND LEARNING DISABILITIES:

Together is a national registered charity. Together Warwickshire provides housing related support to people with disabilities which includes, physical and learning disabilities, mental health, sensory impairments, and autism. They support people aged 16 years and over.

Together provide floating support services to prevent homelessness before it happens by working with people whose accommodation is at risk. They also support people to set up, understand, manage, and maintain their tenancies. They do this by one-to-one support usually within their home via self-directed support sessions. The aim is to empower people so that they can independently maintain their tenancies once support comes to end.

Together also provide support via a SWIFT Service, to those who may not require our full floating support service. This offer is usually over the phone, by text or email, and provides short-term help and guidance on how best a client can approach their immediate housing need.

Together work in conjunction with other agencies/professionals and the Council and look forward to this partnership continuing.

WARWICKSHIRE PROBATION SERVICE:

The Probation Service Warwickshire manages People on Probation who are subject to Community Orders, Suspended Sentence Orders or Licence/Post Sentence Supervision (PSS). Stable accommodation is a key element in the rehabilitation of people on probation and the probation Service works closely with the Council, strategic partners and third sector organisations, such as P3, to address housing and homelessness issues.

Whilst not an accommodation provider the Probation Service currently provides a very limited scheme - Community Accommodation Service (CAS3) - for some prison leavers, aged 18 years or older, who will be homeless on release from prison. A requirement of CAS3 is that a Duty to Refer must have been submitted and all other housing options explored. The accommodation provided is limited to a maximum of 84 days and its intention is to

provide some initial stability, to enable the Person on Probation to secure more longer-term accommodation.

Alongside CAS3 the Probation Service also has a contract with National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) to provide two Accommodation Support workers in Warwickshire. These officers work with our People on Probation to help them find accommodation and/or support them to maintain accommodation.

HOME AND ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE TEAM (HEART):

The HEART service provides assessments for, and delivery of, disabled facilities, adaptations, home improvement grants and home safety prevention work. It is a shared service bringing together teams from the six councils in Warwickshire.

The service aims to maintain residents living independently in warm and safe homes and carry out preventative work to reduce accidents.

In turn this prevents housing crisis as residents are able to continue living independently, accidents are prevented, and health and safety is protected. This is especially true for the older residents who may end up in care, hospital or unsuitable housing following a general decline in ability, accident or housing related ill health. Although unlikely to become homeless in the traditional sense, it does help prevent the need to move from unsuitable accommodation into more expensive care or hospital settings.

The organisations above have been consulted on this document and have had the opportunity to contribute where appropriate. Their input has been much appreciated and demonstrates a clear commitment for continued partnership working. We all have a common agenda to prevent, relieve and tackle homelessness and support the most vulnerable people in our community in this respect.

PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES 2024 - 2029

PRIORITY

OBJECTIVES

PRIORITY 1

Provide access to free housing advice and/or assistance to all who are homeless or facing homelessness

- To provide good quality accurate information and guidance for those faced with homelessness.
- To ensure staff are trained and equipped to provide good quality, accurate homelessness advice and guidance.
- To ensure that the information, guidance, and advice we provide is current and reflects legislative and policy changes, local support service provision, and good practice.
- To ensure the homelessness information, guidance, and links on the Homelessness area of the Council's website are accessible, relevant, and current.

PRIORITY 2

To enable homelessness prevention

- To ensure staffing resources meet the Borough's preference to prevent someone from becoming homeless rather than helping them to find a new home.
- To Promote early intervention with tenants and landlords and offer a free specialist project for landlords considering serving a notice, or tenants who are at risk of losing their home.
- To ensure our Housing Solutions Support Scheme is current with today's economic climate.
- To ensure through engagement with landlords and agents our customers are supported to transition into the private sector.

PRIORITY 3

To relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity to enable suitable alternative accommodation for those becoming homeless

- To provide innovative and alternative solutions to relieve homelessness including the provision of debt advice and financial assistance.
- To ensure the level of temporary housing needed meets demand.
- To ensure temporary housing solutions are value for money and reduce costs to the Borough.
- To ensure private rented housing solutions are available and accessible.
- Ensure prompt allocation, and nomination for vacant social housing properties.

PRIORITY 4

To enable access to suitable and affordable accommodation that is sustainable, with support provided where appropriate

- To ensure social and affordable housing stock in the borough is let to those in greatest need.
- To work with developers, registered providers, and planning colleagues to maximise the delivery of affordable housing that meets local needs.
- To further develop initiatives with private sector landlords to improve access to the private rented sector.

NOTES:

NOTES:



APPENDIX B

Nuneaton and Bedworth
Borough Council
Homelessness Review 2023

NBBC Homeless Review 2023

This Homelessness Review examines homelessness in Nuneaton and Bedworth during the last 4 years. It enables us to identify and understand the trends in homelessness that are used to shape homelessness and rough sleeper service and priorities for the next 5 years.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) introduced new processes and terminology for the way local authorities manage homelessness applications.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 legally obliges local authorities to assess and provide more meaningful assistance to all people who are eligible and homeless, or threatened with homelessness, irrespective of their priority need status.

The Act focusses is on prevention, it places duty on local authorities to intervene early and attempt to prevent homelessness. If prevention cannot be achieved the local authority must relieve homelessness; this means helping the homeless individual/household to find suitable accommodation with at least a six-month tenancy.

Homelessness duties:

Advice and Assistance:

Anyone can approach the Council for housing and homelessness advice and assistance.

Prevention Duty:

A prevention duty is owed when the Council is satisfied a person/household is eligible and threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Working with the homeless applicant a personalised housing plan is created that determines what prevention activities are required to prevent the applicant becoming homeless. Prevention duty ends:

- If the prevention activities remove the homelessness threat
- After 56 days if the applicant becomes homeless
- If the applicant refuses an offer of suitable accommodation

Relief Duty:

Relief duty is owed when the Council is satisfied a person/household is eligible and is homeless. The Council has a duty to assess and provide a personalised housing plan. The duty ends:

- If the relief activities work and the applicant is no longer homeless
- If suitable accommodation is available for six months
- If the applicant deliberately and unreasonably refuses to cooperate
- If the applicant refuses a suitable offer of accommodation

Main Duty:

The 'main' duty is defined in section 193 Housing Act 1996 and applied to priority need homeless applicants only. Homeless applicants are excluded from the full duty if they:

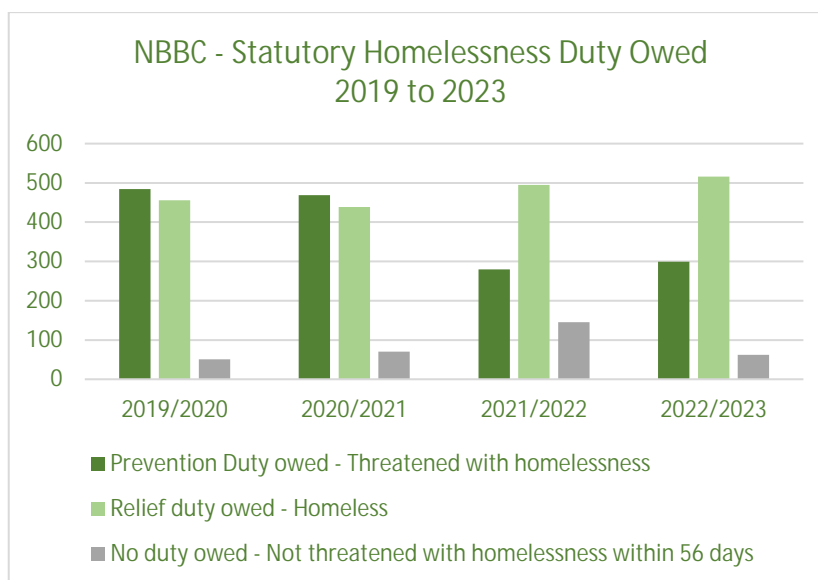
- Deliberately and unreasonably refused to cooperate, in this case they are still entitled to a 'final offer' of a 6-month private sector tenancy
- Refuse a final offer of suitable accommodation at the relief stage

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA), enacted April 2018, placed new statutory duties on local authorities and extended many of the responsibilities set out in the Housing Act 1996. The legislative changes, focus on homelessness prevention, this approach has been adopted and is fully embedded into the Housing Solutions service.

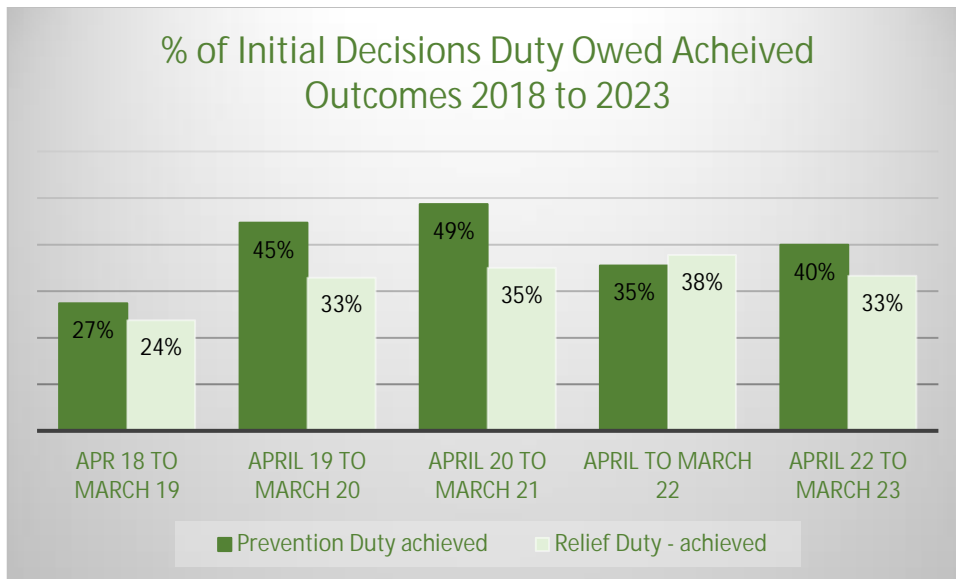
The Housing Solution Team completed a total of 3767 initial assessments of homeless households during 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023. In reality, a much higher number of people contacted the team, but not all contacts led to a homeless application as many were resolved with advice and assistance.

NBBC Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed 2019 - 2023	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Total 2019 to 2023
Households Assessed	990	989	915	873	3767
% Total owed a duty	94.4%	92.8%	84.2%	92.9%	
% Prevention Duty owed	48.6%	48.0%	30.4%	34.1%	
% Relief duty owed	45.8%	44.9%	53.8%	58.8%	
% No duty owed	5.6%	7.2%	15.8%	7.2%	

DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

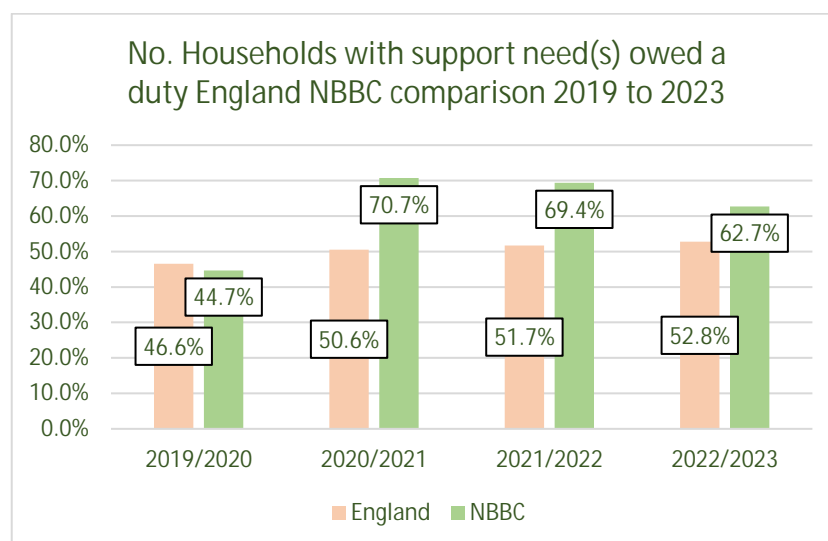


The number of initial assessments remained high for the last 4 years; duties owed were similarly split between prevention and relief, however, between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, the Borough saw an increase of almost 14% of homeless applicants declined for prevention duties and increased for relief duties.

Homelessness and support needs

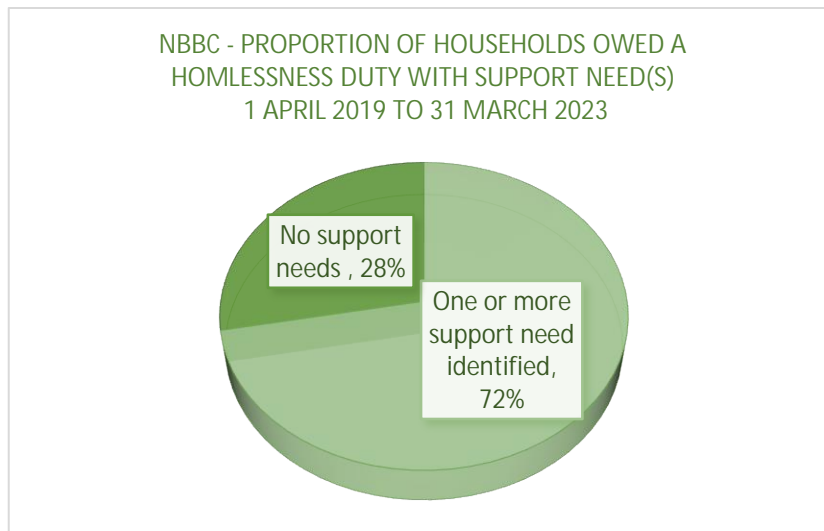
Since the introduction of the HRA, the number of households in the Borough owed a homelessness duty identifying as having one or more support needs has been consistently higher than the percentages for England as a whole. Over the last 4 years more than 70% of applicants owed a homeless duty in the Borough identified as having one or more support needs compared with 46% across all England

The charts below show the proportion of households of homeless households identifying with at least one support need in Nuneaton and Bedworth compared with the figures for England.



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

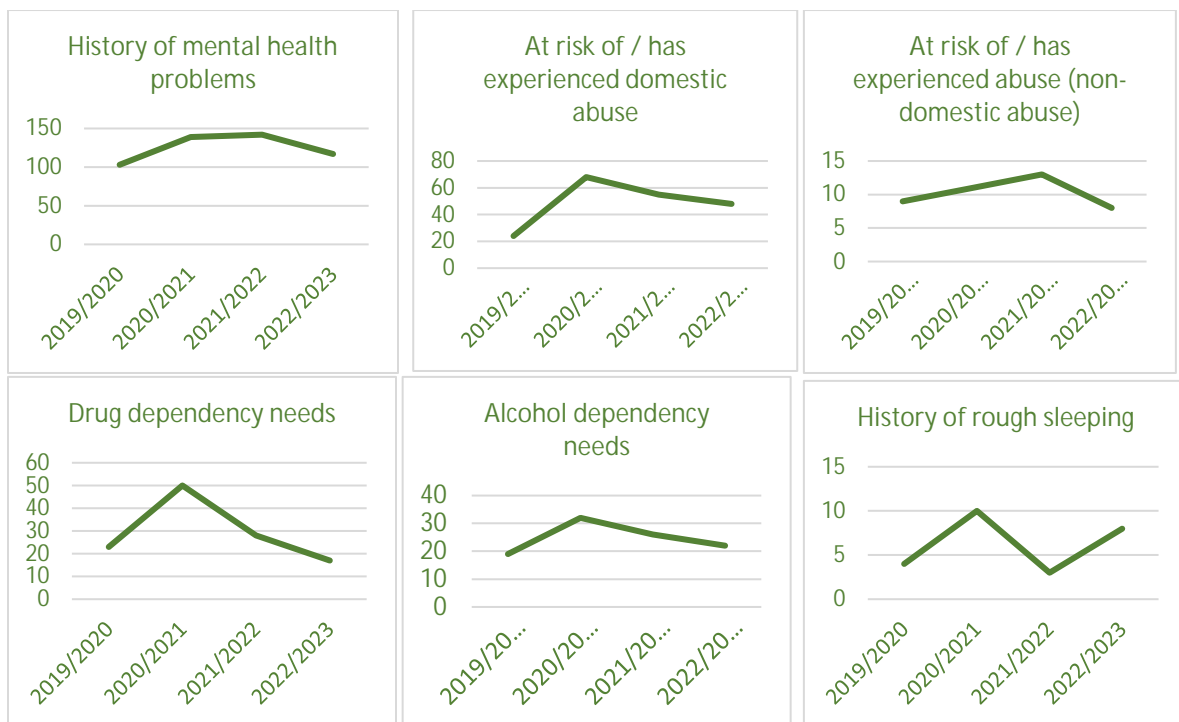
The chart below shows the local level comparing those with and without support needs.

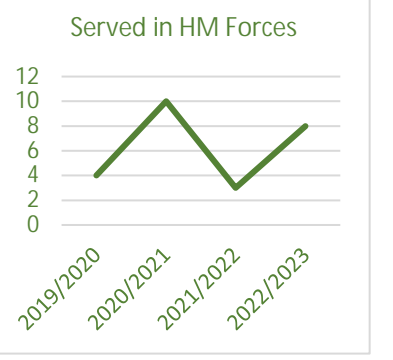
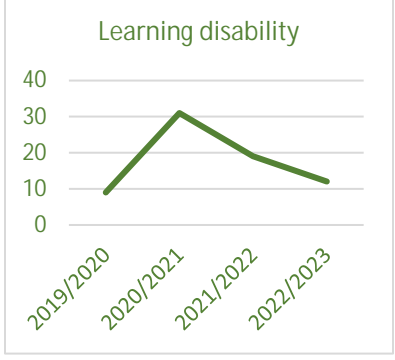
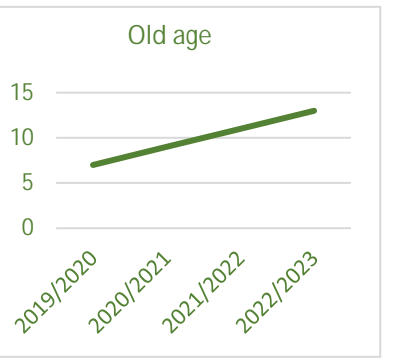
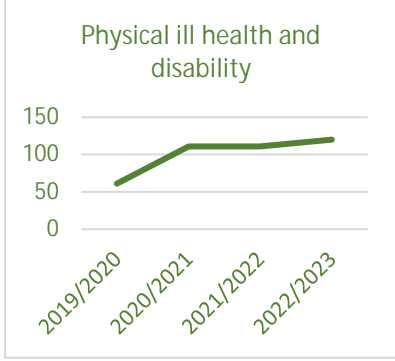
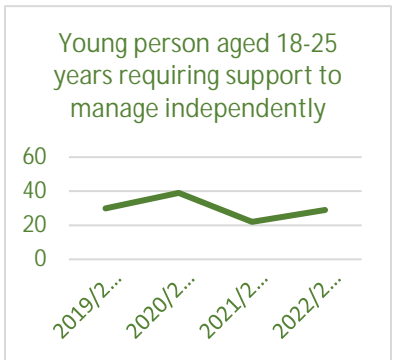
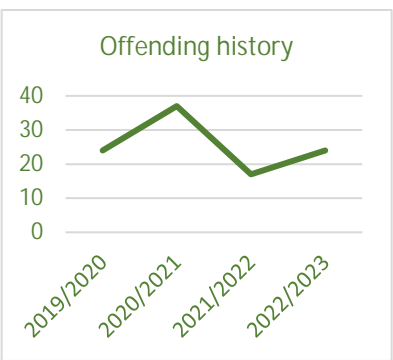


DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

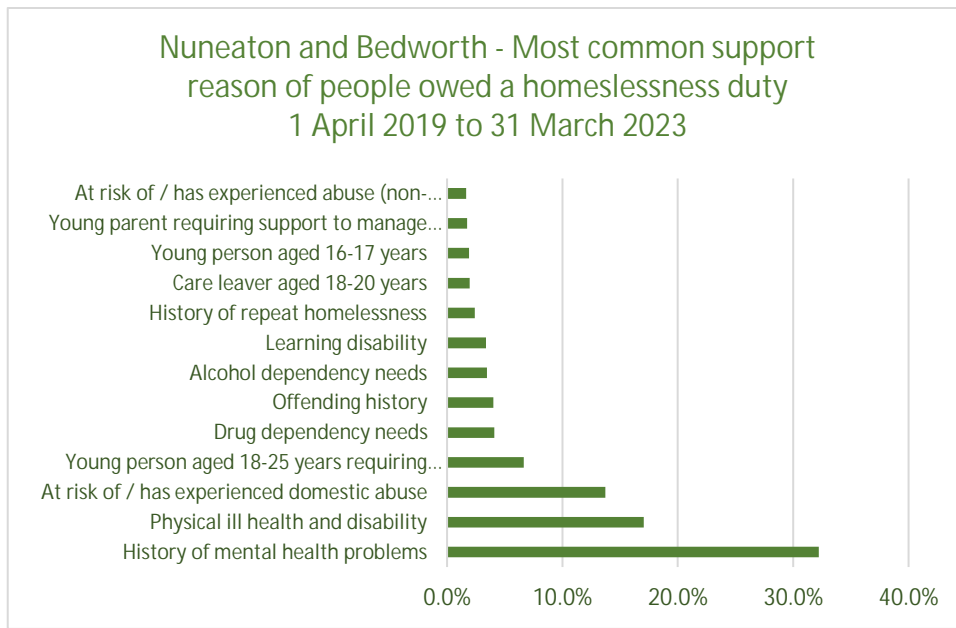
The most common support need of households owed a homelessness duty in Nuneaton and Bedworth and England is mental ill health; over the last 4 years around 32% of all homeless applicants in the borough identified as having mental health support needs. This is followed by people with physical ill health and disability and then thirdly with the most marked increase is the number of people identifying as having a support need due to being at risk of or who have experienced domestic abuse has seen an increase of over 127% between April 2019 and March 2023.

Below are the charts showing trends in individual support areas:





The chart below collates the most common support needs recorded during 2019 to 2023:



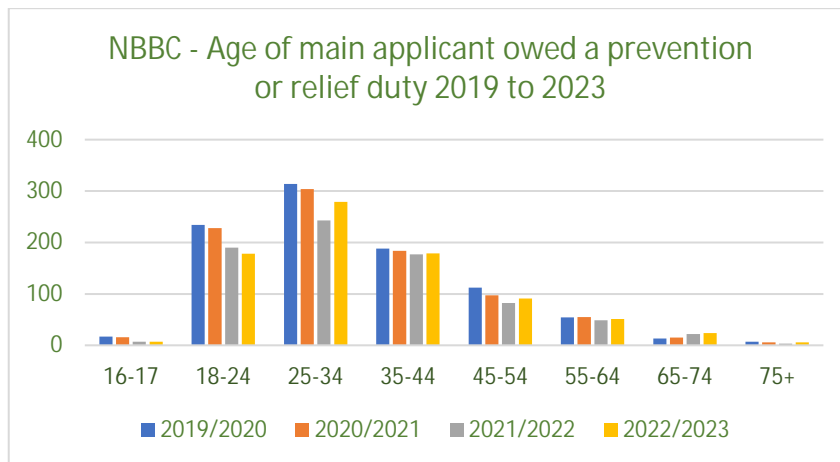
DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Further analysis shows if combining the substance misuse groups, it became one of the five most common support needs. The reality is that many applicants have multiple and complex needs, mental ill health underlies many other related support needs.

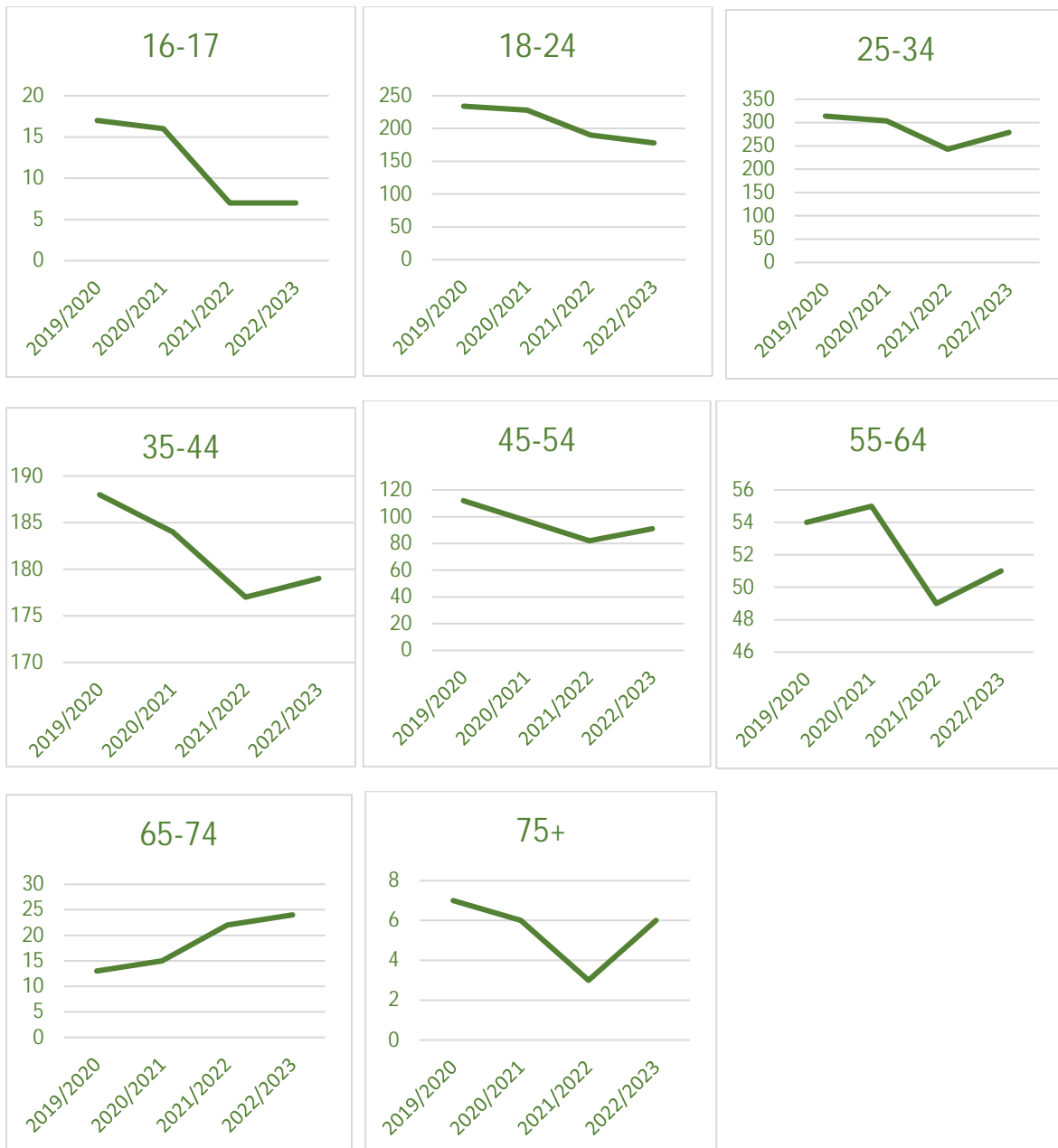
Homelessness and Age

The highest band of applicants owed a homelessness duty is to those aged 25 to 34 years; more than two thirds of all applicants owed a prevention or relief duty between 2019 and 2023 fall into the 25 to 64 age group and over 24% fall into the 18 to 24. This indicates homelessness tends to affect working age households, often with children.

The graph below shows the age range for all Nuneaton and Bedworth homeless applicants owed a duty between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2023.



Below are graphs showing the trend by age group for the last 4 years:



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

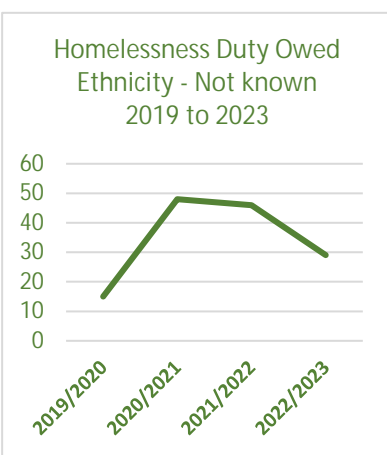
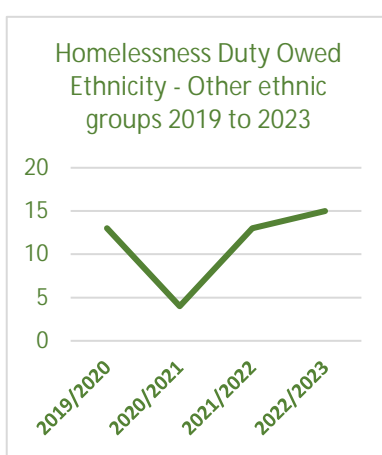
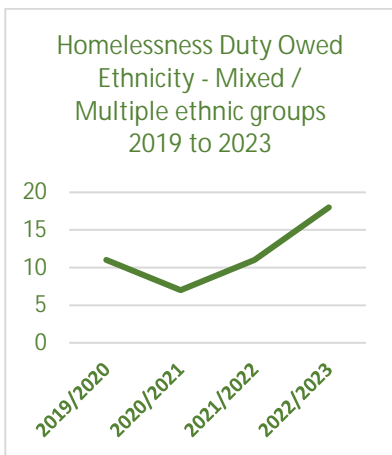
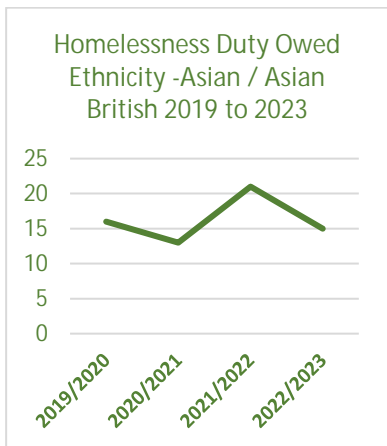
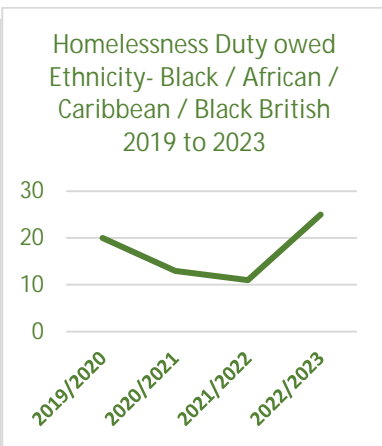
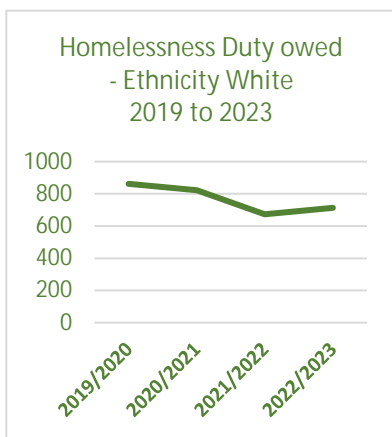
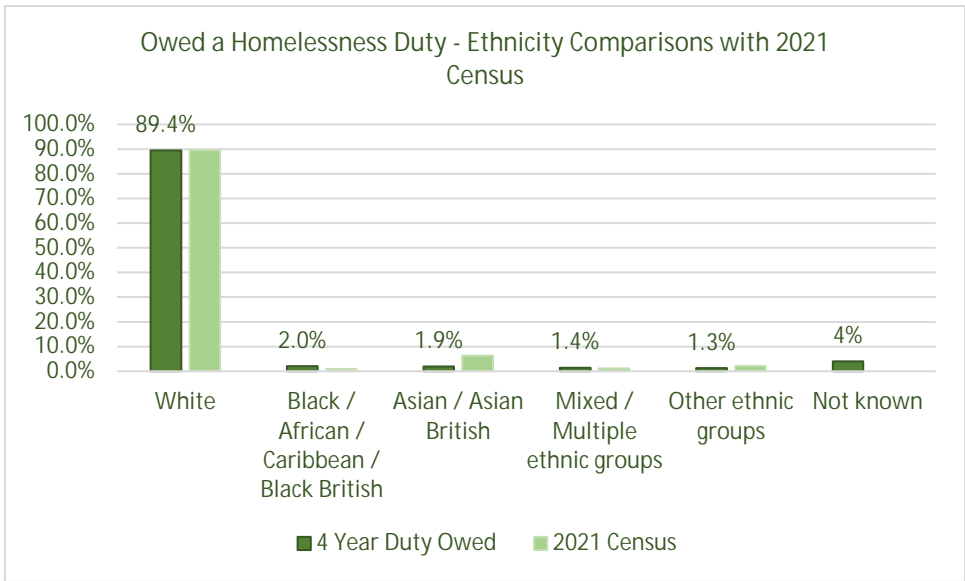
The age of the main applicant has been consistent across the 4 years since our last strategy was published; the highest number of those owed a duty remained in the age bracket 25 to 34, the two age groups either side of this 18 to 24 and 35 to 44 were consistent and make up a similar percentage of those owed a duty.

In the other age bands the figures are reasonable low but it is noticeable to the drop in the number of 16 to 17 year olds and the increase of those aged 65 to 74 and over 75 years.

Homelessness and ethnicity

The most common ethnicity of the main applicant owed a housing prevention or relief duty is White, at 89.4%, this is reflective of the ethnicity of the Borough as recorded in the 2021 Census that reported 89.5% of the population of Nuneaton and Bedworth consider reported their ethnic origin as White.

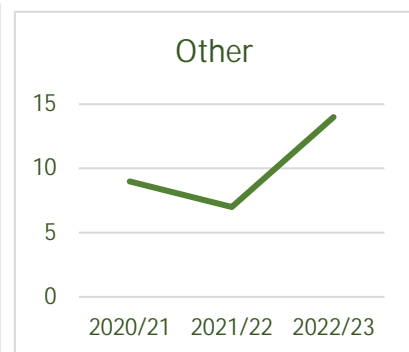
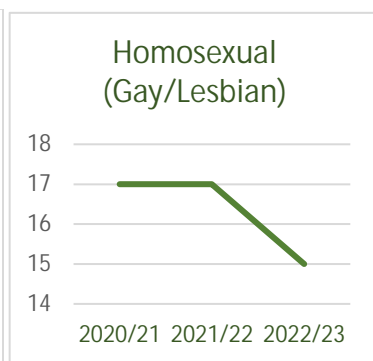
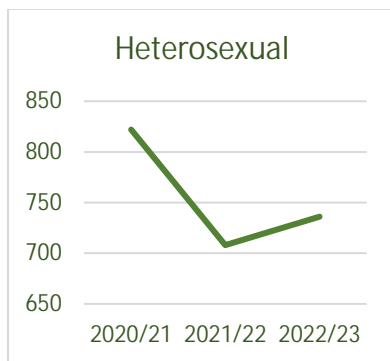
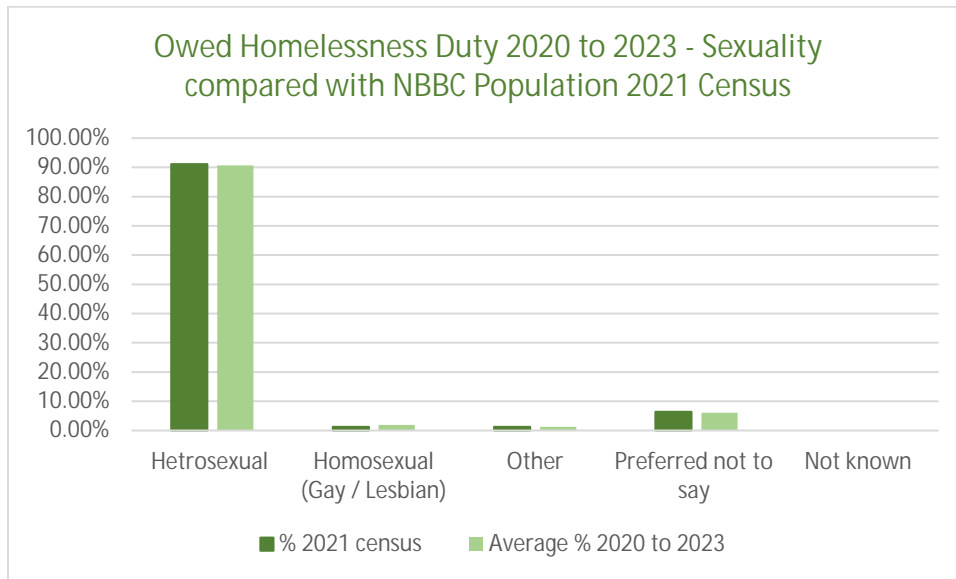
Below is a graph comparing ethnicity with the 2021 census data:



Homelessness and sexual identification

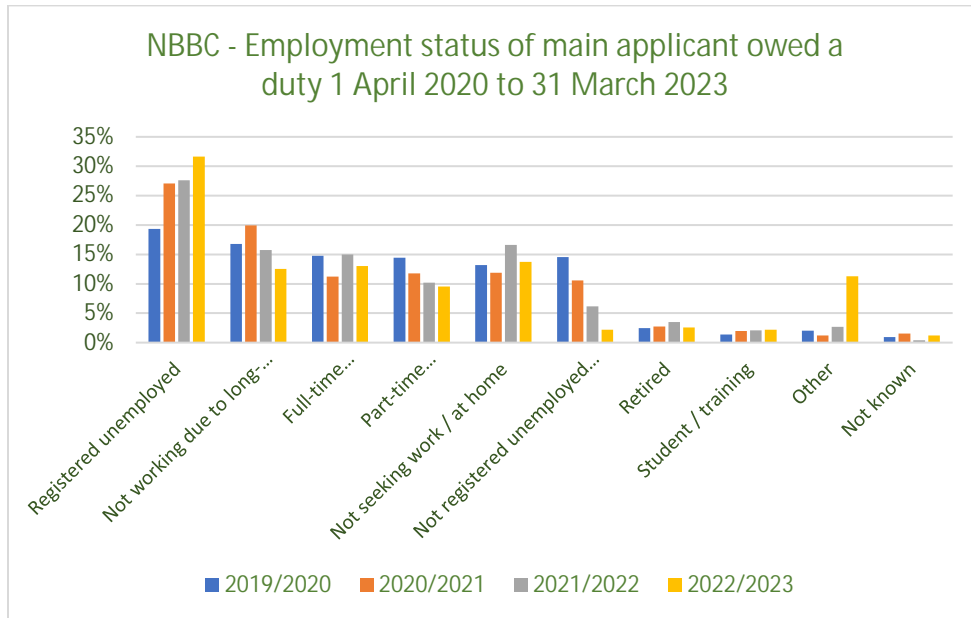
Understanding the specific housing issues facing the LGBTQ+ community is important and helps to shape the advice, assistance, and accommodation options available. The following information has been recorded through the homelessness data collection to government.

Between 2020 to 2023, a total of 90% of applicants owed a prevention or relief duty identified as heterosexual or straight and 2% as homosexual (Gay or Lesbian). The remaining 6% of applicants chose not to disclose, with 2% selecting 'Other'. The number of homeless households owed a duty is consistent with the population on the borough as per the 2021 census data.



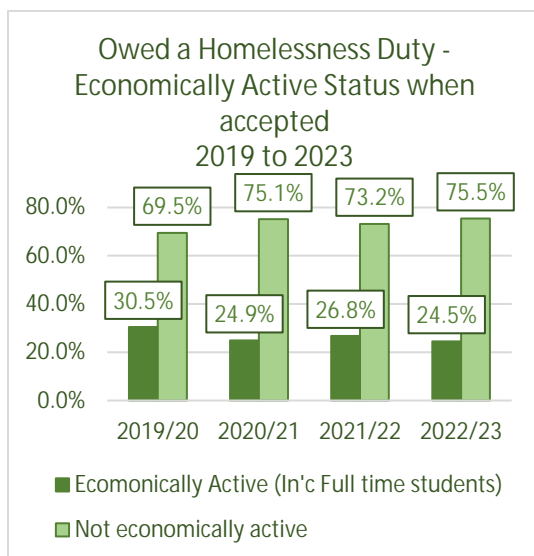
Homelessness and employment status:

Looking at the totals for the 3 years 2020 to 2023 almost 60% of applicants owed a homelessness duty were classed as not working: 30% were registered unemployed, 16% not able to work due to ill health or disability and 16% were at home not seeking work. 24% were working either full or part time.



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Below are two charts showing economic status when accepted for a homelessness duty and a comparison based on the information from the 2021 census:



By combining the economically inactive categories to compare with those classed as economically active, those in full time, part time, and full-time students, it shows that on average across the 4 years over 73% of those owed a homelessness duty are not economically active. This is starkly

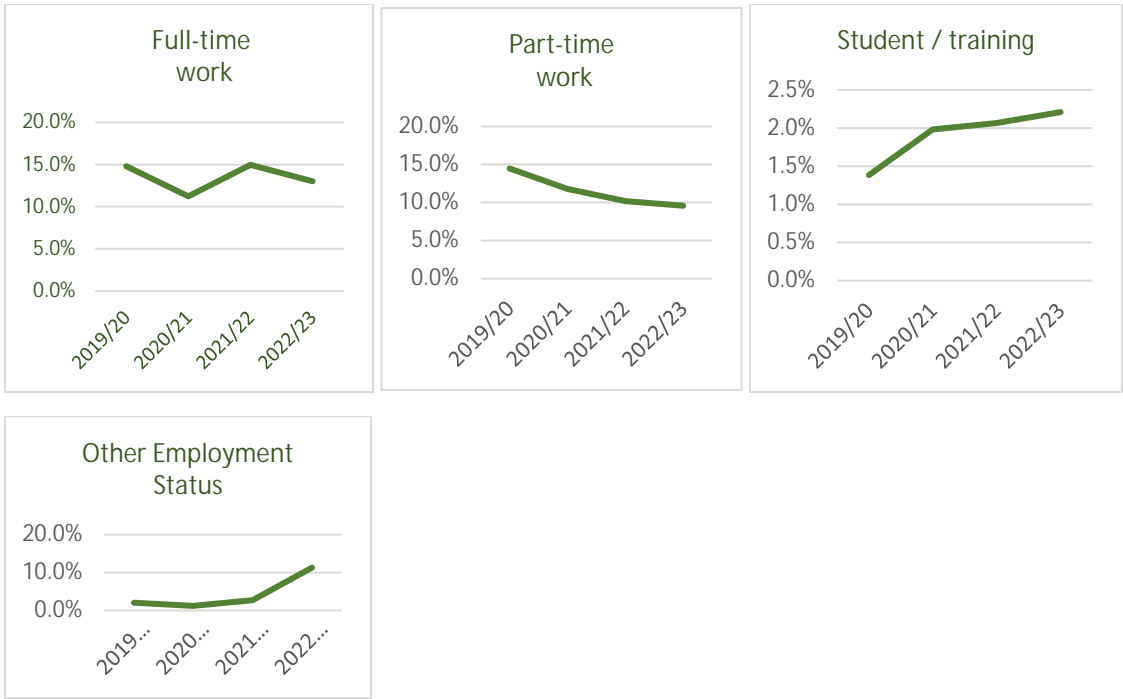
different to the percentage for the borough recorded in the last census in 2021, only 42% of the adult population in Nuneaton and Bedworth were considered economically inactive.

This is not shows there is a clear link between unemployment and homelessness, whilst it may appear a little obvious that people who are not working are less likely to be able to afford private housing, it also must be noted that being homeless makes it more difficult for people to secure employment.

According to Shelter the lack of a stable and settled home makes it extremely difficult for individuals to find and maintain employment. Being homeless can present issues which act as barriers to finding work; poor health both physical and mental is very common amongst homeless people, and especially amongst rough sleepers; other barriers such as drug and alcohol misuse, lack of skills training and education, employment history, gaps in employment and inability to provide job references are just a few that reduce the chances of homeless people finding and maintaining a job. This is more profound, and a contributory factor for those experiencing repeat homelessness as their issues become further entrenched.

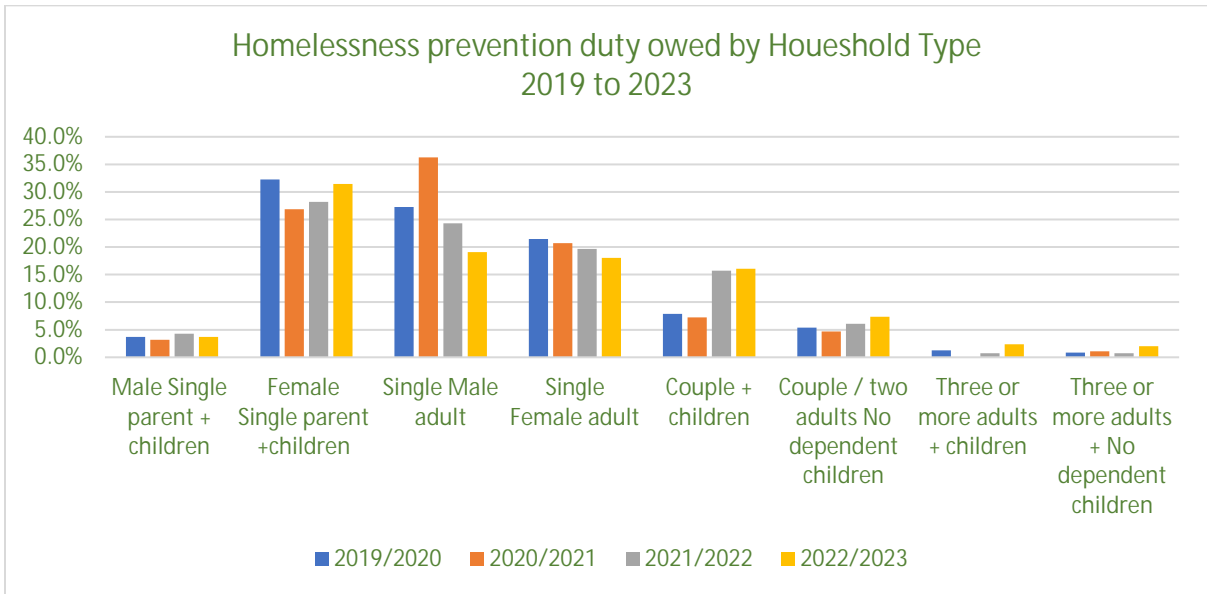
Below are the charts showing trends of employment status for the last 4 years:





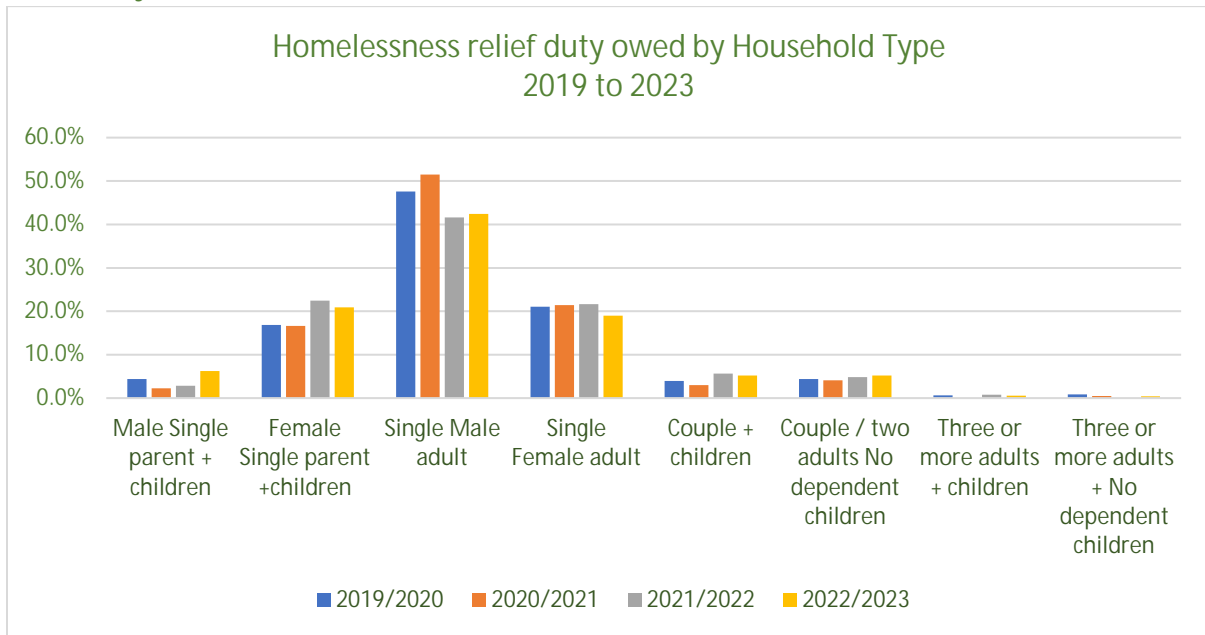
Homelessness and household composition

Prevention duty owed:



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

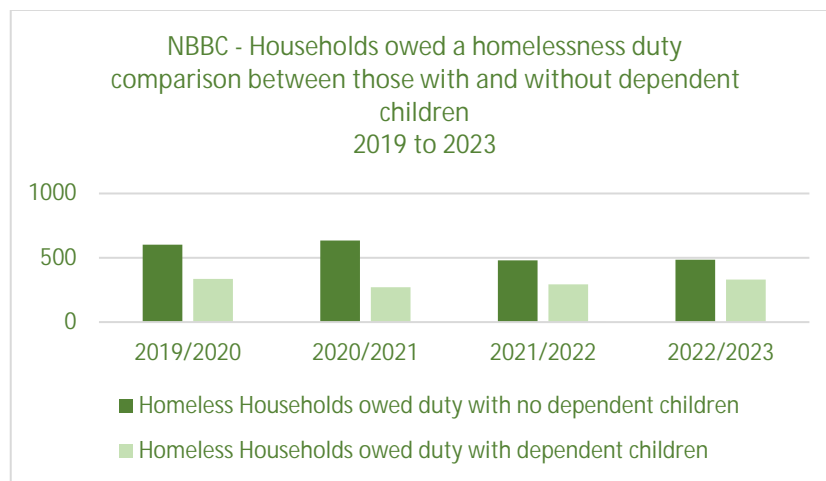
Relief duty owed:



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

The charts above show that single male homeless applicants continue to form the largest percentage of those owed a homeless duty between 2019 to 2023, however those single males owed a prevention duty decreased substantially in the last 2 year from the peak in 2020/2021.

The number of households owed a duty with dependent children remains lower than households without dependent children throughout the 4-year period.



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

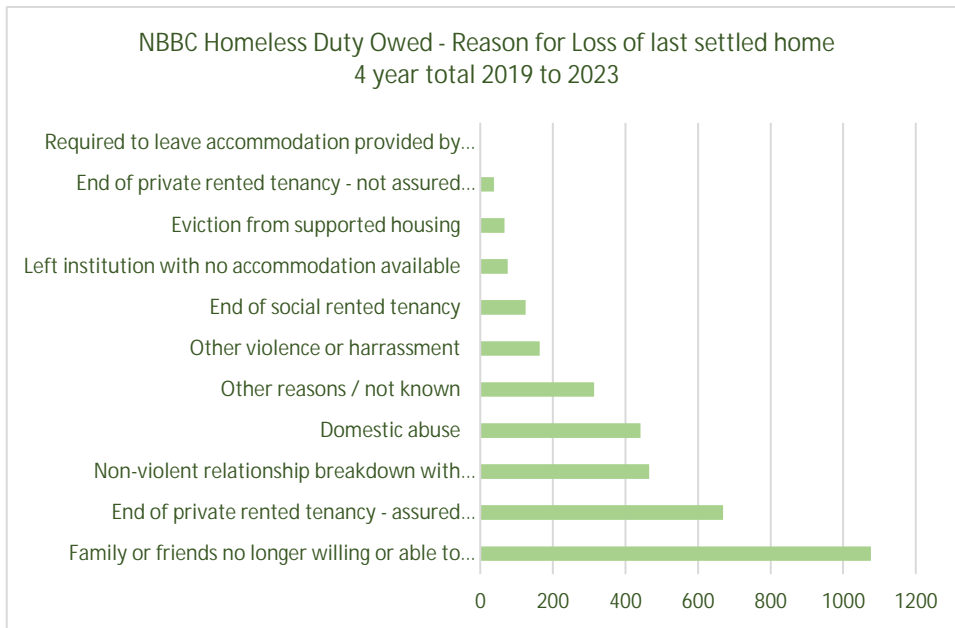
The number of couples with dependent children owed a duty has continued to increase since 2021. There are almost half as many single female applicants owed a duty during the same period as male, the number of single parent females with dependent children owed a duty remained constant.

Homeless duty owed – reasons for loss of last settled home.

The four main causes of homelessness over the four years from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023 have been:

- Family or friend no longer willing or able to accommodate - main reason relief duty owed.
- End of a private rented assured shorthold tenancy - main reason prevention duty.
- Domestic abuse
- Non-violent relationship breakdown

The charts showing the main reasons for loss of last settled home to those owed homelessness duties for the last 4 years collectively and the four main reasons by year and homelessness duty owed.



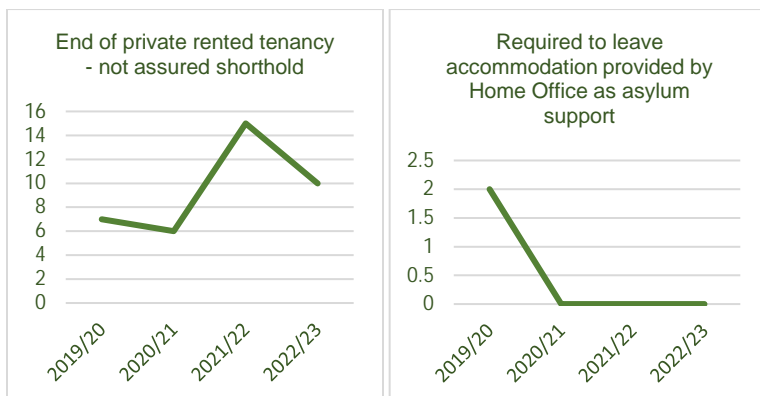
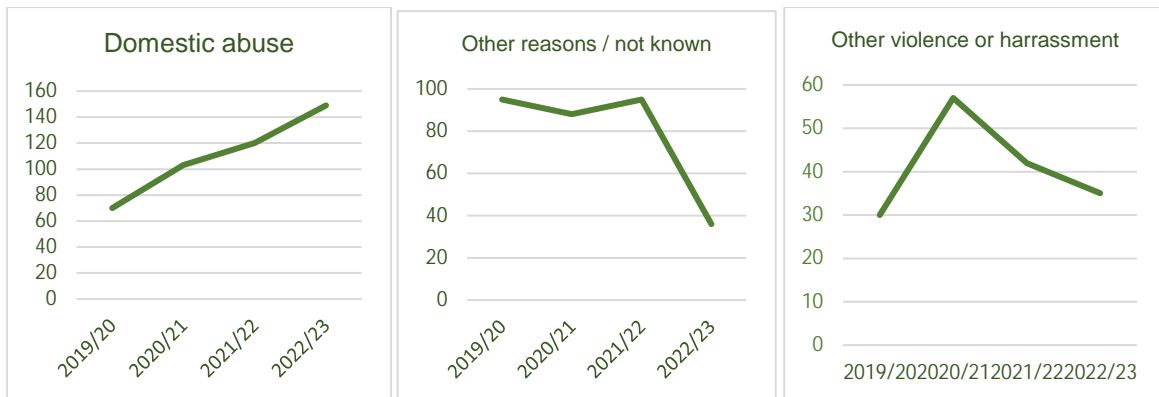
DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Main 4 reasons for loss of last settled home – homelessness prevention duty owed 2019 to 2023:



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

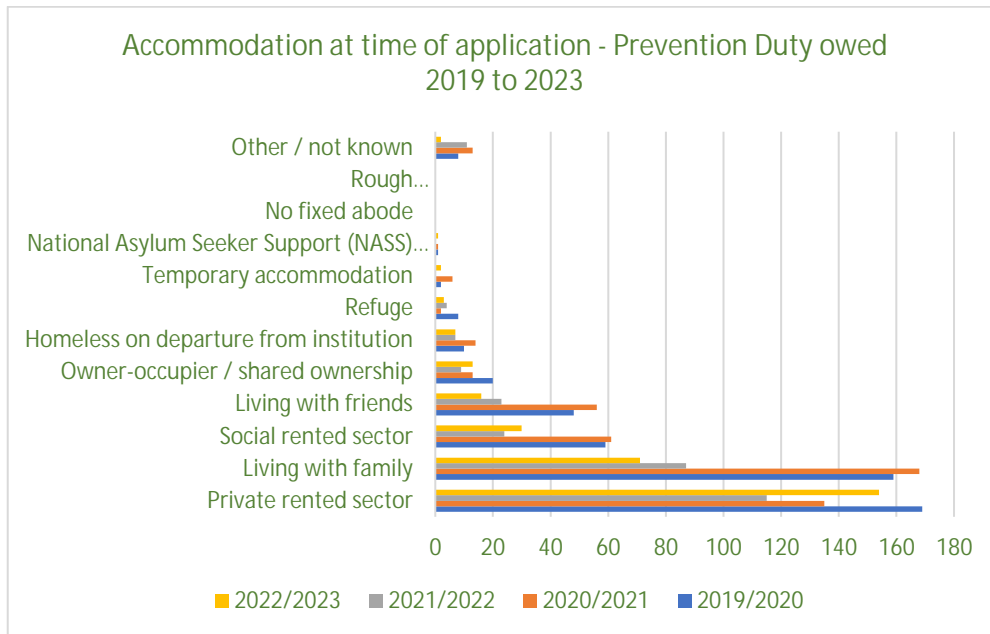
Below graphs show the trends in reason over the last 4 years for those owed a prevention duty:



Accommodation type occupied at time of prevention duty:

The type of accommodation occupied at the point a prevention duty is accepted have been predominantly, renting in the private sector and living with family. The other 2 main reasons are living with friends and renting in the social housing sector:

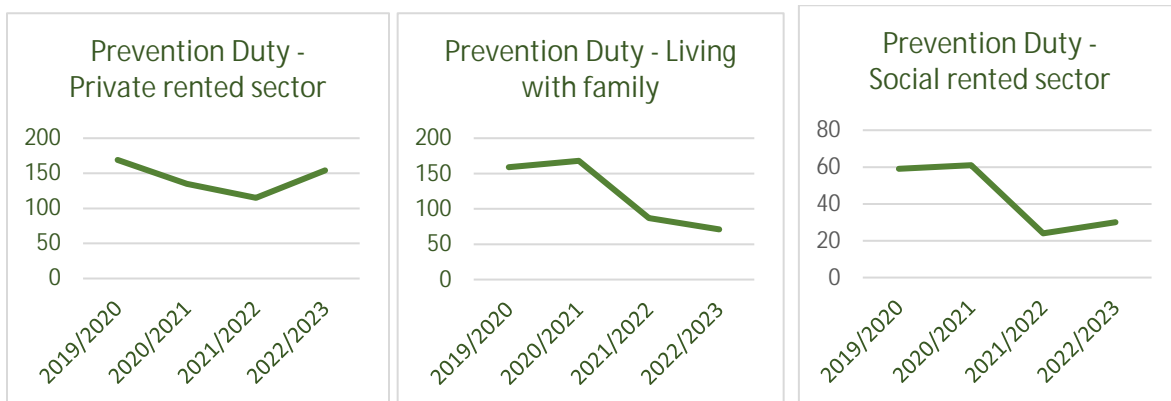
Accommodation type:

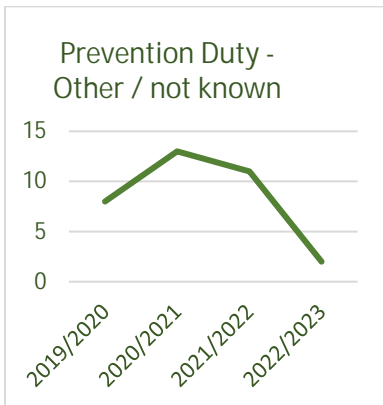
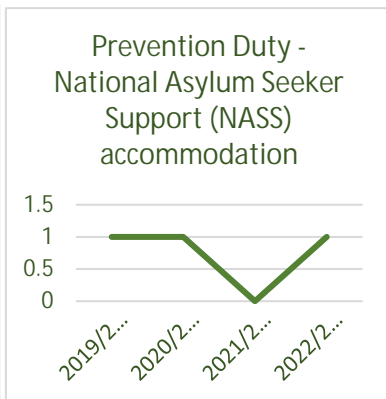
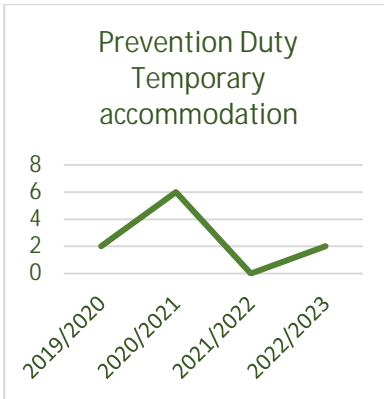
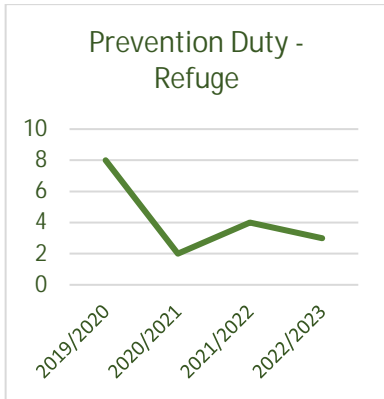
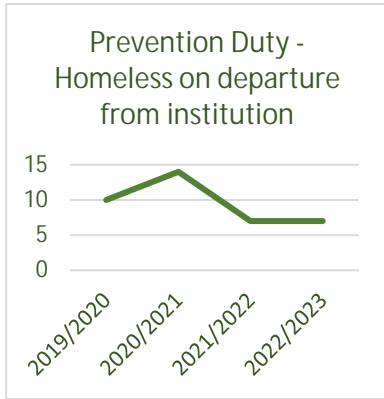
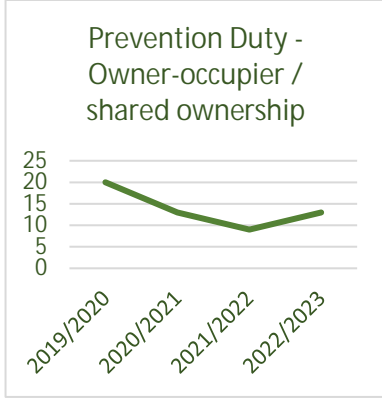
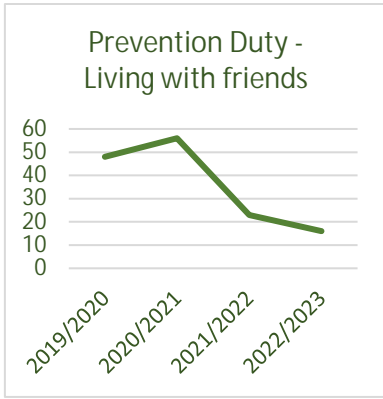


DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Below are charts that show the trends by accommodation at point prevention duty accepted over the last 4 years:

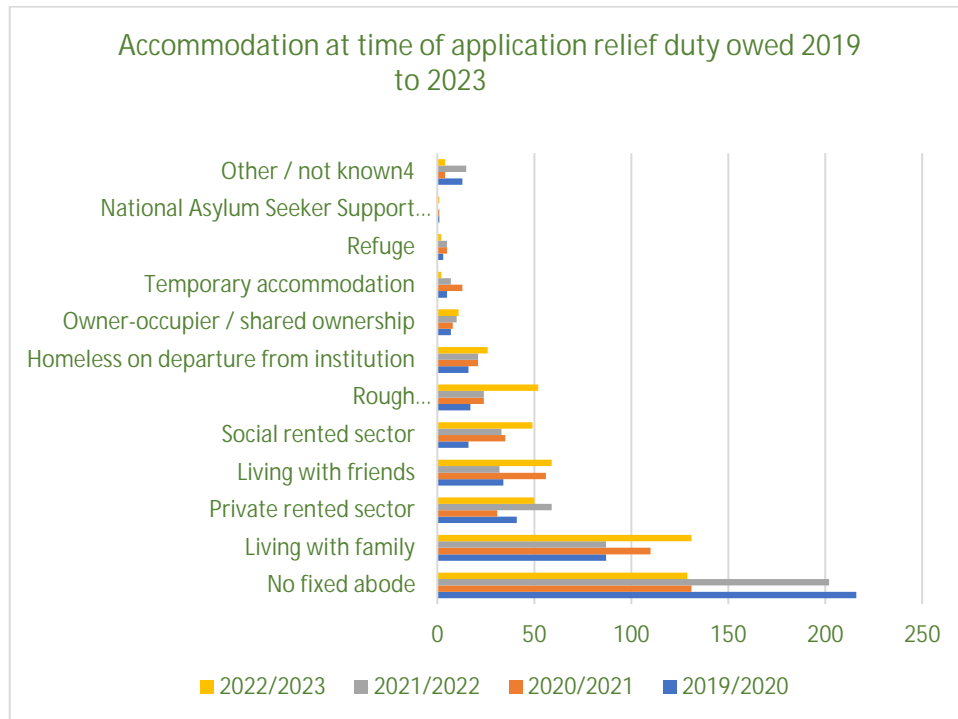
Prevention Duty – Type of Accommodation 4-year trends:





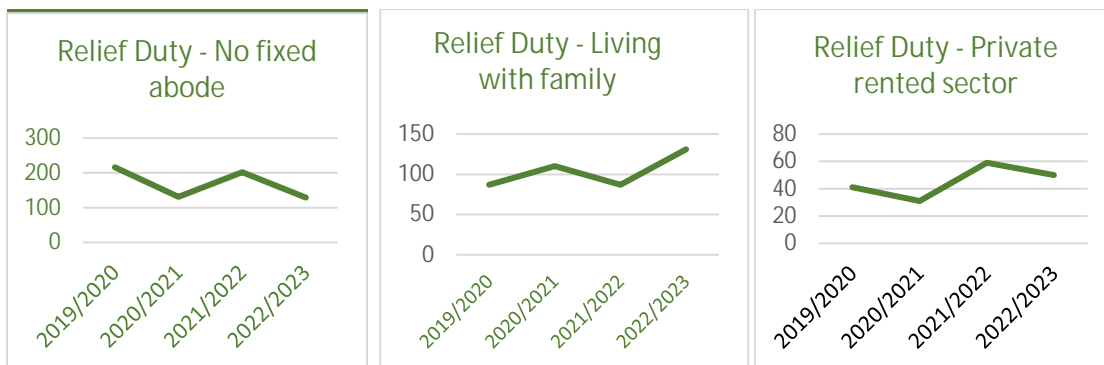
Below are charts that show the trends by accommodation at point relief duty accepted over the last 4 years:

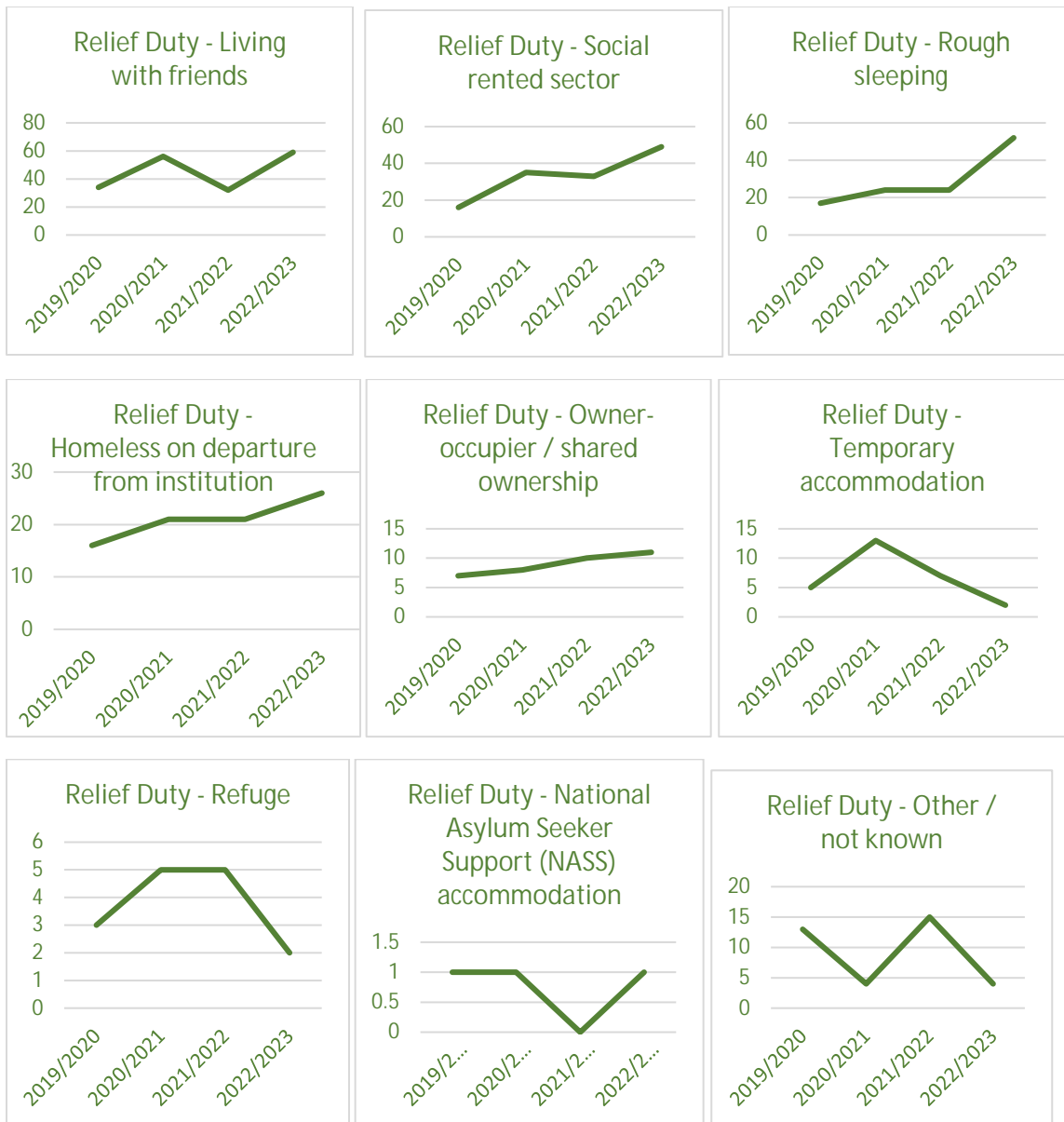
Relief Duty – Type of Accommodation 4-year trends:



DLUHC Statutory Homelessness Statistic Reports financial years 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Below are charts that show the trends by accommodation type at point relief duty over the last 4 years:





Living arrangements of households owed a relief duty is as expected different from those at the prevention duty stage and reflects the circumstances and acute housing need of households at this stage. At the relief stage, we can see higher proportions of applicants coming from insecure housing or without accommodation. The numbers of people at risk of or who are rough sleeping are higher.

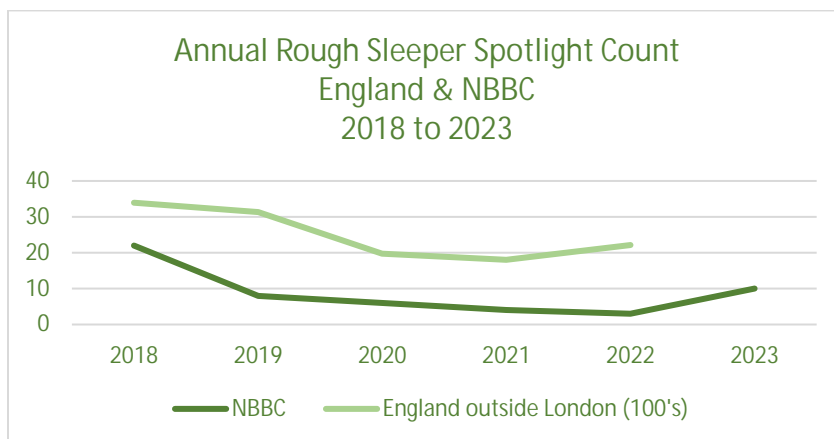
Rough Sleepers:

Rough Sleeping is the most visible and acute form of homelessness; rough sleepers are extremely vulnerable and often have a history of repeat homelessness and struggle to break the cycle. In 2018 Government published the Rough Sleeping Strategy to reduce rough sleeping numbers and more importantly to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society. This has been driven and delivered by the hard work and collaboration of local councils, central government, the voluntary, community and faith sectors and other delivery partners.

A refreshed strategy, Ending Rough Sleeping for Good, was published in September 2022. It focuses on a "four-pronged approach" of prevention, intervention, recovery and ensuring a joined-up transparent approach supported by over £2 billion worth of funding available up to 2025.

The graph below shows the number of people sleeping rough reported during our annual Rough Sleeper Count from 2019 to 2023.

Since autumn 2010, all local authorities have been required to carry out an annual rough sleeper snapshot count and submit their findings to DLUHC; to indicate the number of people sleeping rough in their area on a 'typical' night between 1st October and 30th November.

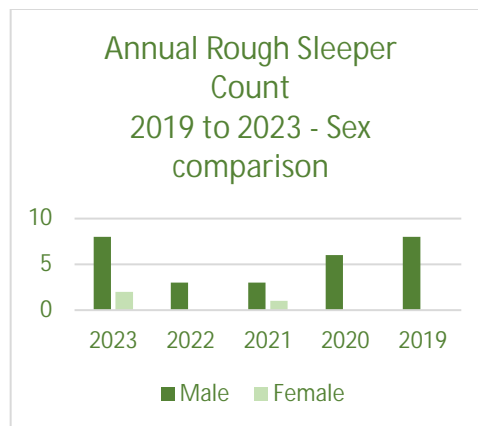
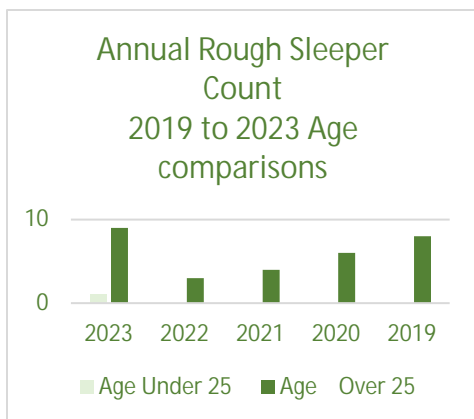


Rough Sleeper Count basic demographic collected 2019 to 2022:

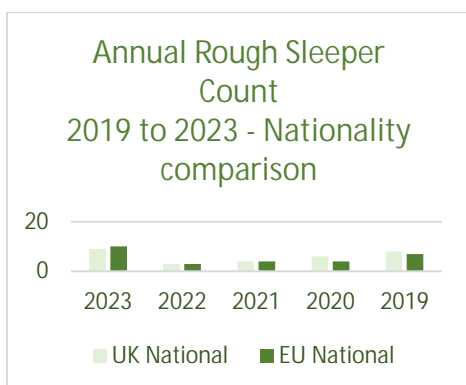
The data collected and submitted is very basic; below are the comparison by age, sex and nationality. The age data ranges changed in 2021, for these graphs the age bands of over 25 and under 25 have been used.

Age:

Sex:



Nationality:



Below is an overview of the latest count in 2023, due to our increased gathering of information and knowledge of those sleeping rough in the borough we can give a more detailed profile of those sleeping rough.

Annual Spotlight count 2023:

- 10 people known to be or found to be sleeping rough in our annual rough sleeper count in 2023.
- 8 male and 2 female
- Age range:
 - All sexes 24 to 59 years of age
 - Men 24 to 59 years
 - Women 34 & 41 years
- Average age of Rough Sleepers in borough 2023 is 40.
- 2 people seen bedded down during spotlight count.
- 2 people evidenced as bedded down by partners.
- 6 well known entrenched rough sleepers not visible on night of count.

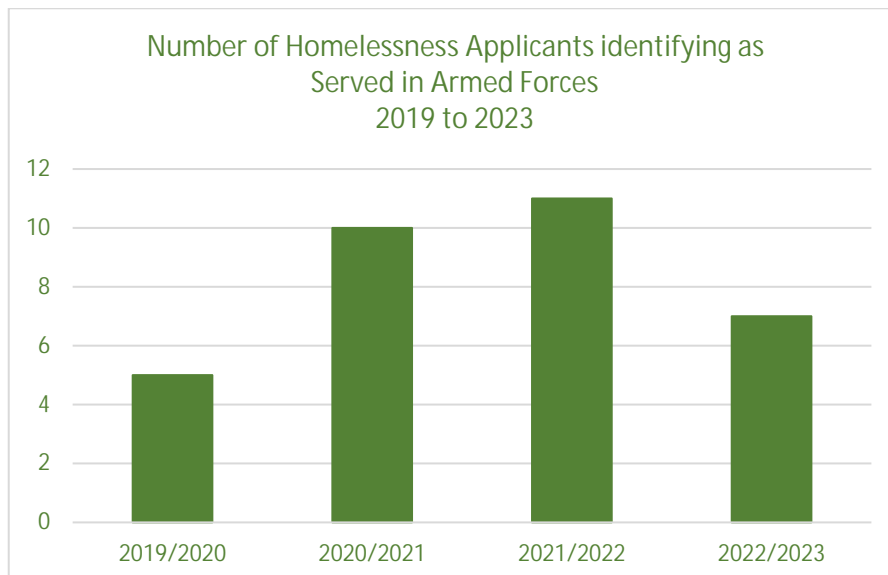
A further 15 people were considered by partners to be potentially sleeping rough; they are considered to be the “hidden homeless” who occasionally sleep out; are regular “sofa surfers” or choose to remain well hidden from and refuse to engage with the street outreach services. These people were not included in annual count as there was insufficient evidence of being seen bedded down, and they failed to meet the definition of rough sleeping.

Those sleeping rough or considered at risk of sleeping rough are reviewed; partners share their current involvement with individuals and discussions take place to consider any additional support needed from other partners.

Homelessness Applications identifying as - Served in Armed Forces

Over the 4 year period between April 2019 and March 2023 the borough received 33 homelessness applications from people identifying as serving in the armed forces.

Below is a chart showing the distribution and trend of homeless applications for the last 4 years:



Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People:

The borough has no evidence over the last 4 years of homelessness applications from households within these communities.

The Housing Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework places a duty on all local authorities to undertake regular assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers either living in or resorting to their area. Whilst local authorities have the powers to provide, they are under no statutory duty to make provisions for Gypsies and Travellers.

Nuneaton and Bedworth recognise that the culture needs of Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People may differ from the rest of the population, and that it is important that consideration is given to culturally specific differences when considering residential provisions for the borough. The Borough Plan therefore considers the residential requirements of all parts of our community including specific provisions for Gypsies and Travellers.

According to the 2021 Census the number of people identifying as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnicity living in Nuneaton and Bedworth is 94.

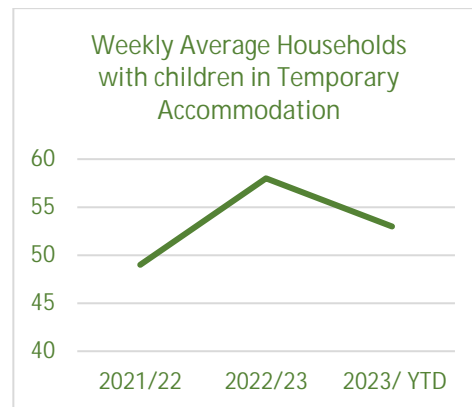
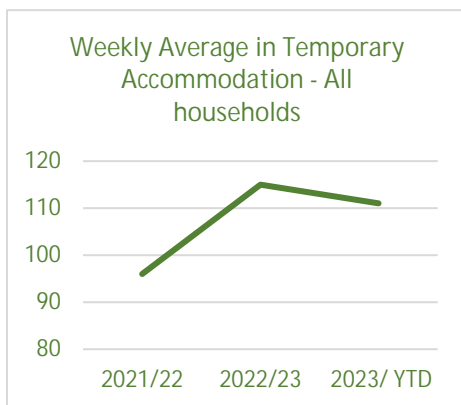
In 2021 the borough commissioned a new Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), in 2016 the previous assessment concluded the GTAA must be refreshed every 5 years to ensure that pitch and pitch provision remains appropriate.

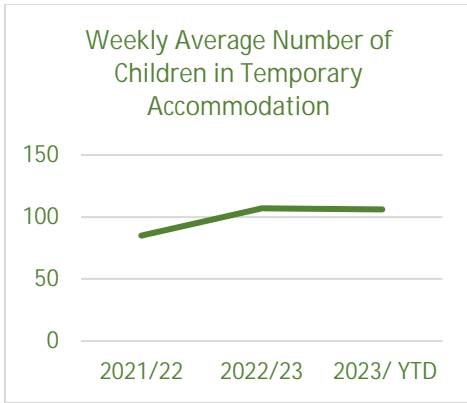
Use of Temporary Accommodation:

The lack of affordable rented accommodation and the rising cost of private sector accommodation has increased the level of homelessness in the borough which in turn has increased the need for temporary accommodation. As a result, we have increased the number of council owned temporary accommodation in an attempt to prevent the need to use expensive hotel and B&Bs often outside of the borough which is an expensive cost to the Borough.

Below shows the average numbers of households, families with dependent children and children in all temporary accommodation per week for the last 3 years up to February 2024:

Average per week in Temporary Accommodation	Children	All households	Households with children
2021/22	85	96	49
2022/23	107	115	58
2023/ YTD	106	111	53





Partners photographs and stories:

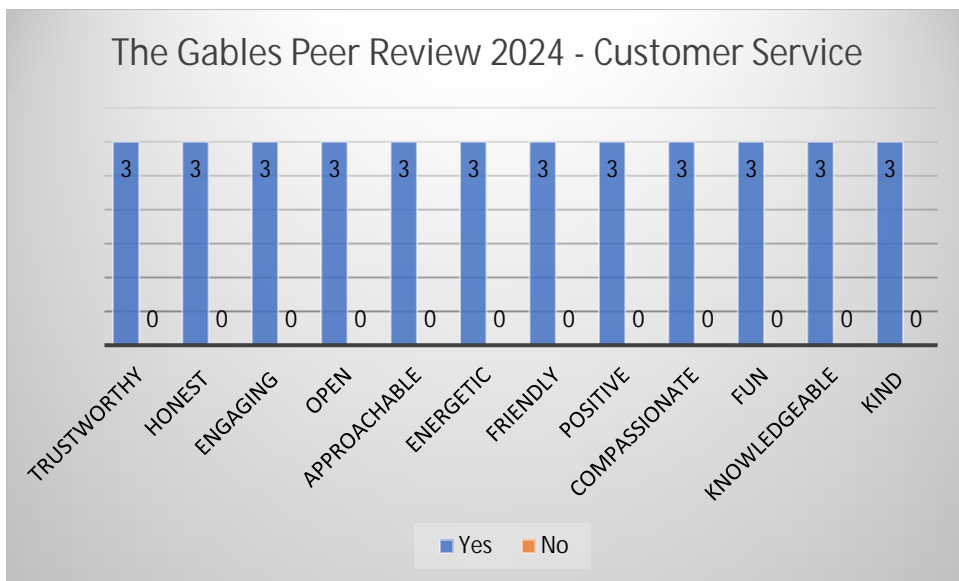
The following is additional information and photographs have been supplied by our Partners P3 and Doorway as part of our review of services for homelessness people in our Borough.

P3 – Rough Sleeper Initiative The Gables:

Quotes from Peer Review at The Gables RSI Hostel - January 2024

Peer Review Report	
The Gables 24/01/2024	
Please explain your answer: 'Does your accommodation feel safe?'	<p><i>"Staff are always coming and checking on me and all issues raised are delt with and on our doors, we have locks, and the cameras outside make us feel safe" "Just feel safe"</i></p> <p><i>"Cuckooed and was stolen from, so coming here I got to start from scratch, and now I got my life back together since I been here."</i></p> <p><i>"Night times staff check on you and if there was people in gardens".</i></p> <p><i>"Locked doors, office with staff and cameras everywhere"</i></p>
Do you have any comments on the standard of the communal spaces at your accommodation?	<p><i>"Always nice and clean, all throughout the house"</i></p> <p><i>"Up to scratch, it's all tidy and clean"</i></p> <p><i>"We all tidied up after ourselves, Played cards and entertained each other with music and all socialising, it was good".</i></p> <p><i>"All was clean and tidy" "No everything is clean and tidy, food easily accessible".</i></p>
	<p><i>"Yeah, I would recommend others, because when I came out of prison they saved my life"</i></p>

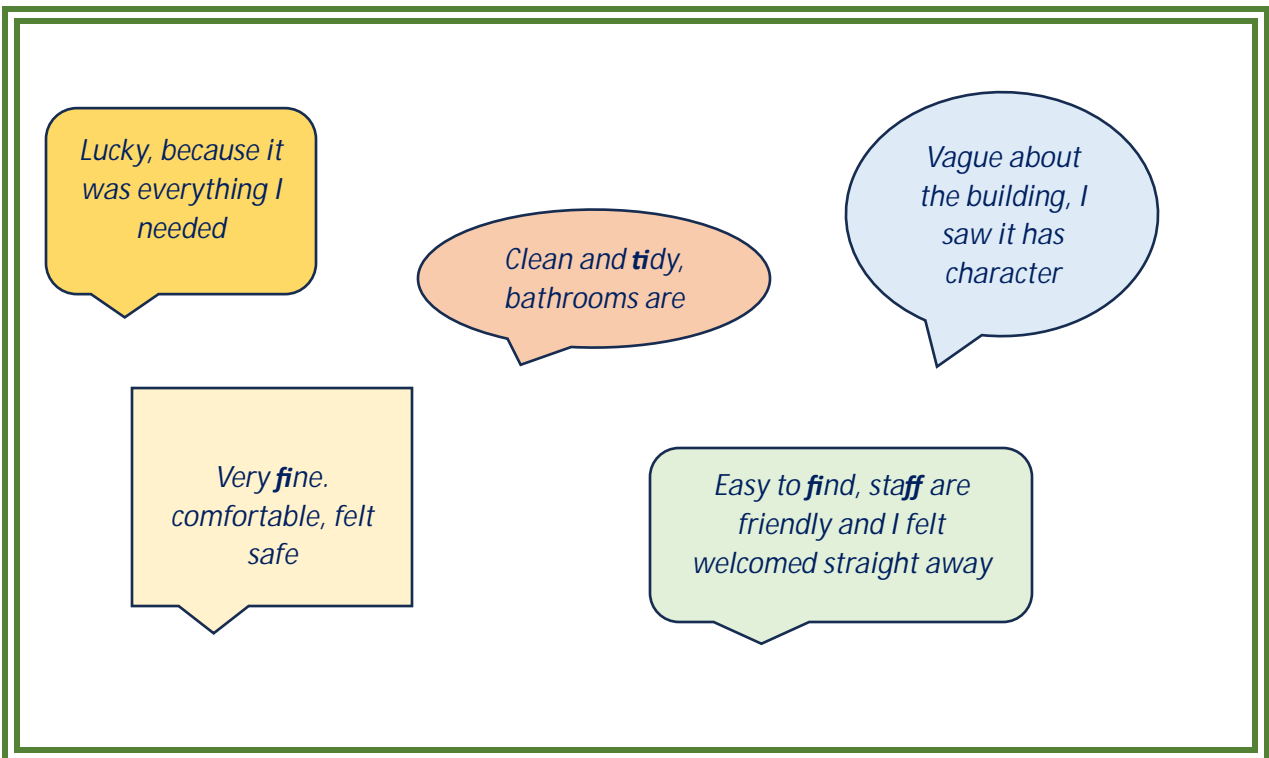
Please explain your answer: 'Would you recommend this service? '	<p><i>"I'd recommend it for having support workers to help and support you."</i></p> <p><i>"Yes because of the support"</i></p>
Do you have any other comments, feedback or suggestions in regards to Customer Service?	<p><i>"No, all is good"</i></p> <p><i>"They make you feel like you're part of a family"</i></p> <p><i>"Fixed all my problems straight away and they offer a lot of fun things to do like baking cakes and play monopoly together"</i></p>
Is there anything we can do to improve your experience?	<p><i>"No, everything is all good"</i></p> <p><i>"Staff here are brilliant"</i></p> <p><i>"No it's all good, the only problem is staying out two nights a week"</i></p>
Please explain your answer: 'Would you recommend this service? '	<p><i>"Yeah I would recommend others, because when I came out of prison they saved my life"</i></p> <p><i>"I'd recommend it for having support workers to help and support you"</i></p> <p><i>"Yes because of the support"</i></p>



Can you describe this service in three words or less:



What were your **first** impressions about your P3 accommodation?





Christmas at the RSI Hostel



Jewellery making at the RSI Hostel, the person who made this bracelet said the activity had distracted him from drinking alcohol *"I've had a lovely afternoon making jewellery, I was going to go to the pub, but I am glad I did this instead, it was much nicer"*.



Halloween at the RSI Hostel

Doorway Young Persons 18 to 25 years

Preventing homelessness:

- *A young person came to see us as he was threatened with eviction by his private landlord. He had fallen into arrears due to sickness absence from work due to mental health and so had reduced pay. We sorted out an appointment for medication for his mental health and also sorted out payment for his shortfall in rent through a grant. The landlord withdrew the notice following this. We are continuing to work with him to address his mental health and stay in work, but he is still struggling.*
- *Young person was being evicted by from a homelessness provider due to non-payment of service charge. Doorway checked with the provider if the eviction would go ahead if the young person set up a standing order and they said no. A Doorway member of staff took the young person to the bank and showed her how to do this, the eviction was cancelled.*



Halloween at Doorway (staff permissions to be confirmed – Carol Gallagher advised all YPs have given their consent).

Name of Policy/Procedure/Service	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 to 2029
Service Unit	Housing
Date of Implementation	TBC

Does this policy/procedure/service have any differential impact on the following groups/people? (please tick):

Group	This may have a positive impact	This may have a negative impact	No adverse impact
Age			X
Disability			X
Gender			X
Gender Reassignment			X
Marriage and Civil Partnership			X
Pregnancy and Maternity			X
Race – which includes ethnic or national origins, colour, caste or nationality			X
Religion or Belief – this also includes no religion/belief			X
Sexual Orientation (Including LGBT)			X
impact on Serving and/or Ex Serving Armed Forces Personnel and their families			X

Please tick if you believe that this document:

- Should proceed to a Full Impact Assessment Red
- Needs some minor changes, but does not need a Full Impact Assessment Amber
- Needs no further action Green

Recommendations (If any):

No adverse impact has been identified within the Strategy. Relevant protected characteristics have been identified as impacted by homelessness. Support provided by NBBC will endeavour to support all people who are homeless, irrespective of their characteristics.

Signed	C. Dicken
Officer completing assessment	Craig Dicken
Date	1 st February 2024



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

APPENDIX D

Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT)

Simplified version

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

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About HEAT

What is HEAT?

HEAT is a tool consisting of a series of questions and prompts, which are designed to help you systematically assess health inequalities related to your work programme and identify what you can do to help reduce inequalities. It will also help you to consider the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

When and why should I use it?

HEAT has similarities to other health equity assessment tools, but is unique in providing a lightweight yet still systematic framework for assessing and driving action on health inequalities.

It provides an easy-to-follow template which can be applied flexibly to suit your work programme. Its specific prompts ensure consideration of multiple dimensions of health inequalities.

How is it structured?

The tool has 4 stages:

1. Prepare.
2. Assess.
3. Refine and apply.
4. Review.

It is designed to be completed at the start of a work plan to help you consider its potential effects, but it can be used retrospectively. In practice, your assessment is likely to be iterative and will help you continuously improve the contribution of your work to reducing health inequalities.

Because tackling health inequalities at scale is likely to require ‘buy-in’ from senior leaders in your organisation or the system you work in, we recommend that the use of the HEAT process is sponsored by a senior leader.

This document provides a simplified version of the tool.

What should be considered when completing it?

There are a number of different dimensions or characteristics to consider when completing HEAT.

1. The protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010 are as follows:
 - age
 - sex
 - race
 - religion or belief
 - disability
 - sexual orientation
 - gender reassignment
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - marriage and civil partnership
2. Socio-economic differences by individual socio-economic position e.g. National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, employment status, income, area deprivation.
3. Area variations by deprivation level (Index of Multiple Deprivation), service provision, urban/rural or in general.
4. Vulnerable and Inclusion Health groups, for example people experiencing homelessness, people in prison, or young people leaving care.

What should be considered when completing it?

Health inequalities are unjust differences in health and wellbeing between different groups of people (communities) which are systematic and avoidable. Health inequalities in England exist across a range of dimensions or characteristics, including the nine protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, socio-economic status, geographic deprivation, or being part of a vulnerable or Inclusion Health group.

Health inequalities may be driven by:

- 1 Different experiences and distribution of the wider determinants of health or structural factors. For example, the environment, community life, income or housing. In other words, the social economic and environmental conditions in which people live, work and play.
- 2 Different exposure to social, economic and environmental stressors and adversities. These affect states of mind from an early age and throughout life. Stress and psychological wellbeing directly affect resilience, health conditions and health behaviours.

- 3 Differences in health behaviours or other risk factors between groups, for example smoking, diet, and physical activity levels have different social distributions. Health behaviours may be influenced by wider determinants of health, like income.
- 4 Unequal access to or experience of health and other services between social groups.

People who share protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, may experience poorer health outcomes as a direct result of discrimination or due to different experiences of the factors described above.

The tool

Programme or project being assessed:	Nuneaton and Bedworth Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 to 2029	
Date completed:	25 January 2024	
Contact person:	Joy Smith	
Name of strategic leader:	Jane Grant	
Question	Issues to consider	Response
1. What health inequalities (HI) exist in relation to your work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore existing data sources (see resources section – not exhaustive) on the distribution of health across different population groups. • Consider protected characteristics and different dimensions of HI e.g. socioeconomic status or geographic deprivation. 	<p><i>Homelessness and the fear of being homeless can have a devastating impact on peoples' health and wellbeing. The cause of homelessness is more than the lack of a permanent home and is often caused by a combination of reasons including physical and mental ill health, domestic abuse, relationship breakdown, loss of employment, and debt. Nationally people experiencing homelessness report poorer access to health services, diagnosis and suffer greater barriers to healthcare due to the lack of safe permanent housing.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the homelessness assessment process the Council collect detailed information about a household's health needs including mental health. This information is individually considered when determining vulnerability and homelessness duty owed.</i></p> <p><i>Poor mental and physical health are both a cause and consequence of homelessness. Lack of a permanent home often means lack or restricted access to GP services and it is common for homeless people's health needs to be ignored and often go untreated.</i></p> <p><i>Homelessness is a vulnerability and inequality in its own right; the circumstances of those experiencing, or</i></p>

		<p><i>at risk of homelessness are often complex and include multiple vulnerabilities, circumstances and inequalities including health. It is widely reported that households who have experienced homelessness are more likely to have poorer physical and mental health than the general population.</i></p> <p><i>We have specifically considered the impact's homelessness has on health and undertaken a review of homelessness in the Borough over the 4 years 2019 to 2023; reviewing and analysing the personal characteristics of those owed a homelessness duty. We have researched and considered the health inequalities and wider causes including deprivation in the NBBC area using data provided by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• DLUHC</i> <i>• Office for National Statistics</i> <i>• Warwickshire County Council</i> <i>• Crisis</i> <i>• Homeless Link</i> <p><i>We have compared our findings with the general population data for the borough as recorded in the 2021 census to ensure that the strategy is reflective of the boroughs health, age, ethnicity, sex, sexuality, and socioeconomic status, including local areas of deprivation.</i></p> <p><i>There were no additional adverse health impacts specifically on those with protected characteristics.</i></p>
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<p>2. How might your work affect HI (positively or negatively)?</p> <p>How might your work address the needs of different groups that share protected characteristics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the causes of these inequalities. What are the wider determinants? • Think about whether outcomes vary across groups, and who benefits most and least • Consider what the unintended consequences of your work might be 	<p><i>The Homelessness Prevention Act 2017 legally obliges local authorities to assess and provide more meaningful assistance to <u>all</u> people who are eligible and homeless, or threatened with homelessness, irrespective of their priority need status.</i></p> <p><i>This strategy has been formulated to ensure the Boroughs priorities for the next 5 years meet the statutory requirements and do not deliberately negatively impact on anyone at risk of homelessness or who are homeless.</i></p> <p><i>The strategy aims to positively impact on people’s health and improve and alleviate the negative impacts by preventing homelessness wherever possible and by relieving homelessness at the earliest possible opportunity to enable suitable alternative accommodation.</i></p> <p><i>The lack of affordable rented housing in the borough is impacting on the ability to find permanent homes and prevent the need for vulnerable households including those experiencing domestic abuse, and/or poor physical and mental health from having to live in temporary accommodation until a permanent home can be found. The individual needs of a household are considered when placing in temporary accommodation and are continually reviewed throughout their stay to ensure they are placed in the most appropriate type of accommodation for their household needs.</i></p> <p><i>Our strategy acknowledges the importance of collaboratively working with partners who provide services beyond housing, to better understand the wider needs of a client over and above their need for housing.</i></p> <p><i>We have worked collaboratively to develop the strategy with our statutory and third sector partners to ensure it</i></p>
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		<p><i>is inclusive of those considered to have specific needs including their health and wellbeing.</i></p> <p><i>We work closely with the Homelessness and Street Outreach Health Team nurses who have helped us to better understand the impact homelessness and in particular the serious effects sleeping rough has on a person’s physical and mental health.</i></p> <p><i>Our Homelessness Partnership and Rough Sleeper Outreach Forums provide platforms for organisations to come together to highlight and discuss the needs of their client groups. These fora provide an opportunity to discuss the wider and individual impacts homelessness is having on health. This includes alerting health risks, promoting health initiatives such as vaccination programmes and giving guidance on managing health conditions. Membership includes representatives from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NHS – Mental & physical health outreach</i> • <i>Warwickshire County Council:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Domestic Abuse</i> ○ <i>Physical, Disability & Sensory Services</i> ○ <i>Housing Related Support</i> ○ <i>House Project</i> • <i>Department of Working Pensions</i> • <i>Probation</i> • <i>Police</i> • <i>CGL – Drug and Alcohol dependencies</i> • <i>Doorway – Young People 16 to 25</i> • <i>St Basils – Young People</i>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Together – Physical, Mental & Learning disabilities</i> • <i>Refuge – Domestic Abuse</i> • <i>P3 – Homelessness and Street Outreach</i>
	<p>a) Protected characteristics</p>	<p><i>The review we carried out and homelessness data over the last 4 years shows that the NBBC homelessness service considered and included any specific needs and vulnerabilities of anyone at risk of homelessness or already homeless including those from the protected characteristics groups.</i></p>
	<p>b) Socio-economic status or geographic deprivation</p>	<p><i>This has been reviewed and considered in our development of the strategy and are findings are included.</i></p> <p><i>There is a clear link between unemployment and homelessness, whilst it may appear a little obvious that people who are not working are less likely to be able to afford private housing, it also must be noted that being homeless makes it more difficult for people to secure employment.</i></p>
	<p>c) Specific socially excluded or vulnerable groups e.g. people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers, young people leaving care</p>	<p><i>Our strategy is aimed at preventing and relieving homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough; all who present as homeless or at risk of losing their home are individually assessed for vulnerability. Vulnerable households include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Homeless households with dependent children</i> • <i>Pregnant</i> • <i>People who have been victim to or threatened with domestic abuse.</i> • <i>Physical and Mental ill health</i> • <i>Learning disability</i> • <i>Young People leaving care</i>

<p>3. What are the next steps?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific actions will you take to address health inequalities and the needs of groups/communities with protected characteristics? • Is there anything that can be done to shift your work 'upstream' to make it more likely to reduce health inequalities? 	<p><i>We will continue to monitor the characteristics of those at risk of homelessness or who are homeless through the quarterly data we collate for DLUHC. This will highlight any changes in the characteristics of those presenting as homeless and enable us to consider trends and whether additional measures need to be considered alongside the strategic direction. Our Housing Solutions Team through their work are continually reviewing and considering health impacts as part of the homelessness assessment process, the prevention and intervention actions they take seek to reduce the impacts on health.</i></p>
<p>4. How will you monitor and evaluate the effect of your work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What quantitative and/or qualitative evaluation will be established to check you have achieved the actions you set? • What output or process measures will you use? 	<p><i>Homelessness data will be reviewed regularly by the Assistant Director for Strategic Housing and the Housing Solutions Manager.</i></p> <p><i>Housing Solutions Officers will bring to the attention of the Housing Solutions Manager any significant changes in the characteristics of those making homelessness applications including increases in approaches from any excluded groups.</i></p> <p><i>The multi-agency homelessness and Rough Sleeper Outreach Forums will continue to meet, these fora provide a platform for considering the health impacts of homelessness within the borough.</i></p>
<p>5. Review (To be completed 6 to 12 months after first completion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider lessons learnt – what will you do differently? Identify actions and changes to your programme to drive improvement 	

Report Summary Sheet

Date: Cabinet 6th March 2024

Subject: Bedworth Physical Activity Hub Update

Portfolio: Public Services (Councillor S. Markham)

From: Strategic Director – Public Services

Summary:

This report provides Cabinet with a Leisure Development update in relation to Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH) enabling works and leisure management procurement timetable.

Recommendation:

1. That progress on the BPAH be noted.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Directors for Economy & Transformation and Finance & Governance in consultation with the Assistant Director for Recreation & Culture and the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Public Services, to agree and sign contract terms for the enabling works package in advance of RIBA Stage 5 for the BPAH.
3. That progress on the Leisure Management procurement work taking place, to align the delivery of the new BPAH and management of the two existing NBBC facilities of Pingles and Jubilee sports centre be noted.
4. The report be marked not for call in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Options:

- a) Accept the recommendations in full.
- b) Do not accept the recommendations and suggest alternative options.

Reasons:

To note the progress made on the BPAH project.

To deliver the project by agreed timelines, with external funds secured and achieve the first milestones that the new Physical Activity Hub building will be in completed by September 2025, as it is crucial that enabling works are undertaken on site to keep within agreed time limits.

Enabling works identified being on site in early April to establish pathway construction, site entrance for construction, hoarding and compound set up with the ability to commence earth moving works at the Bedworth MWP site. These works in advance of formally agreeing the final contract sum in June 2024, provide around three/four months of advance works.

Discussion with the project management team and BAM has been ongoing as to agreeing a formal legal way forward for the enabling works to be undertaken totalling around £3M costs, as part of the overall estimated project cost of £30.6M.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Chief Executive, Strategic Director's Finance & Governance, Economy & Transformation, Assistant Director Culture & Recreation and Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members.

Subject to call-in: No

Ward relevance: All

Forward plan: Yes

Building A Better Borough Aim 1: Live

Priority 1: Promote residents' health and wellbeing

Relevant statutes or policy:

Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's)
Procurement & Accounts Payable Strategy
Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy

Equalities Implications:

No direct equal opportunities implications

Human resources implications:

None at this time.

Financial implications:

The total project cost initially identified at £27.5M in March 2022, had risen due to many changes worldwide and the impact this has had on utilities, inflation, and construction and supply chains etc. The de-scoped option approved is a total project cost of £30.6m and includes a £1million contingency.

The Council has secured funding from Sport England not yet drawn down. This fund has been approved for it to be utilised within the 2024/2025 financial year.

The draw down of £14.95M funding secured from LUF (Levelling Up Fund), commenced to undertake work required from 1st October 2021 in delivering RIBA Stages 3, 4a and 4b and some additional ground investigation works prior in readiness for Stage 5 for the £30.6M scheme. Discussions with LUF/DLUHC have taken place in relation to phasing the project, removal of the green corridor and delivery of the pedestrian crossing element of the project which has been approved.

The RIBA Stages 4 and 5 are required to confirm the construction costs for the project and then for NBBC to confirm the finances are in place to agree a contract with the contractor.

To agree to the enabling works is committing NBBC to circa £3M of expenditure on the project. This would be requested / drawn down from the external funder DLUHC as part of the funding agreement and would be utilising external funders funds prior to NBBC's.

The £3M cost of enabling works, is included in the overall estimated cost to deliver the project at RIBA Stage 3 of £30.6M in total.

If NBBC do not deliver as per agreed outcomes of the project with external funders, then there is a risk that funding will be required to be returned unless further Project Adjustments Request (PAR's) are approved.

DLUHC and Sport England have already agreed to one PAR, and both have identified that by March 2025 their funds need to be expended and key milestone achieved by agreed timescales.

RIBA Stage 4 reports / cost analysis in well underway, but final analysis will not be ready until late May for NBBC to agree final terms / contract (subject to funding being in place). Agreeing to the enabling works does pose a risk to the Council, should the project not be fully funded / DLUHC do not approved for the requested re-allocation of capital funding. The estimated cost £3M for enabling works would be abortive and would mean enabling works would have to be corrected to the similar amount.

To reduce risk to NBBC the project being costed by BAM has been frozen and the original project / design has not altered since the initial estimates were provided at RIBA Stage 3. Any changes will be quoted as additional separate to the overall contract sum to be provided in late May early June.

Given the Miners' Welfare Park site is not the easiest to undertake the development on, ground investigation, soil surveying and earth moving strategies have and are being undertaken in advance of normal RIBA Stages / site commencement, as this area poses one of the significant risks to NBBC and the project.

There are significant financial implications relating to the delivery of this work that will require ongoing planning and modelling to ensure financial viability and sustainability. These have been updated to Cabinet and as part of the NBBC capital programme.

The Authority needs to undertake borrowing across a range of Nuneaton and Bedworth capital programme projects as reported to Cabinet / Council on 21st February 2024, as part of budget setting. The borrowing for the BPAH is now £8.48M based upon DLUHC approving the re-allocation of capital funding from the Towns and High Street funds. The request and payment of S.106 contributions from Developers to NBBC for the BPAH will be used once received, to reduce borrowing for the project.

Health Inequalities Implications:

The adopted Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy supports the Council's Building a Better Borough in improving health and wellbeing by providing opportunities and facilities for residents to access and take part in physical activity at all levels across the Borough.

The existing Bedworth Leisure Centre has a limited shelf life, without significant capital investment, which was previously considered at the commencement of the leisure strategy. Advice from Sport England and project consultants detailed that this would not be the most efficient use of resources and that a new build would provide longevity and a more efficient sustainable facility going forward and meet delivery outcomes as per our strategy.

The building will meet the Sport England gold standards of governance requirement and be Sport England compliant.

Despite the descoping of the project, the social value and return on investment for the Council, LUF/DLUHC and Sport England will still be significant to help to deliver opportunities for the communities to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

A key element of the leisure management specification is the requirement on the appointed operator to focus on programmes and activities which will increase participation, particularly by those who are inactive.

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

The increase or provision of new facilities or different leisure pursuits will give opportunities for more residents to take part in physical activities.

Risk management implications:

The success of the LUF/DLUHC and Sport England funding applications help reduce the financial risk implications for the Council by reducing the required borrowing element when submitted in June 2021. Ongoing dialogue with Sport England continues to secure additional funds towards the BPAH, this is proving positive to date.

Borrowing interest rates have increased significantly which puts further pressure on the Council. However, if the external funding were lost then NBBC would not be in a position to deliver a project of this size or nature for leisure, due to the financial strain this would place upon its finances.

Sport England has supported the de-scoped project design and inputted as a critical friend for NBBC. Meetings and discussions have also taken place with LUF/DLUHC and they are supportive of the de-scoped project. A Project Adjustment Request (PAR) has been formally agreed by LUF/DLUHC team in late 2023.

The revised value for money BCR (Benefit Cost Ratio) rate has been recalculated for this revised option, the score is now 1.7:1. This evidences that the overall project provides value.

There are many risks associated with the project and these are reviewed as part of the ongoing feedback to funders and our updates returns to DLUHC. Whilst significant surveys / estimates and design works have been undertaken for the site at the MWP, it is not one of the easiest sites to construct a new facility upon due to ground levels and past use of the site for mining. Since the pandemic costs of construction nationally have risen significantly and this has in the main contributed towards the project costs increasing and it being delayed from the original timescales.

The risk of undertaking enabling works circa £3M, in advance of the final contract being signed, poses the following:

- £3M expenditure that could be abortive costs if a final contract sum cannot be agreed.
- NBBC may need to find additional capital funds to support the delivery of the project if the £30.6M estimated project cost is increased.
- NBBC need formal approval from DLUHC in the re-allocation of capital programme funds across several projects originally submitted.

The project is being managed by professional external consultants, supported by Sport England consultants with NBBC Officers. Significant work has been undertaken to review and reduce the overall schemes costs and has meant a reduction from the original scheme, but still meeting the required KPI's for the funders.

Environmental implications:

The new build facilities will conform to the latest building regulations and consequently will provide a greener footprint and a more environmentally friendly impact on utilities going forward. The project will provide a rating of "Very Good" against industry standards based upon the criteria of BREEAM but will not be BREEAM registered as part of value engineering undertaken in the de-scoped work.

Legal implications:

Clarification with the DLUHC will be required to understand any legal implications on the funds already drawn down from this funder for the Council.

Future procurement in accordance with this strategy, OJEU procurement process and the Council's Contract procedures Rules (CPR's) will be followed.

The NBBC Legal team working with procured external Legal advice from Freeth's will provide support in the drafting of the JCT contract, clauses, and conditions to support NBBC delivering the project. Freeth's will also be asked to provide the drafting / wording of the necessary formality to be approved for the enabling works to take place.

Freeth's, external legal consultants, have been appointed to support the Council on the leisure procurement and contract Legal matters.

Contact details:

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Strategic Director – Public Services

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NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet 6th March 2024
From: Strategic Director – Public Services
Subject: Bedworth Physical Activity Hub Update
Portfolio: Public Services (Councillor S. Markham)

Building A Better Borough

Aim 1: Live

Priority 1: Promote residents' health and wellbeing

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with a Leisure Development update in relation to Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH), early works on the Miners' Welfare Park (MWP) site and the Leisure procurement process.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That progress on the BPAH be noted.
- 2.2 That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Directors for Economy & Transformation and Finance & Governance in consultation with the Assistant Director for Recreation & Culture and the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Public Services, to agree and sign contract terms for the enabling works package in advance of RIBA Stage 5 for the BPAH.
- 2.3 That progress on the Leisure Management procurement work taking place, to align the delivery of the new BPAH and management of the two existing NBBC facilities of Pingles and Jubilee sports centre be noted.
- 2.4 That the report be marked not for call in as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Project Background

- 3.1 At Cabinet on 6th September 2023 approval was given that the de-scoped design (Appendix A of the report) is NBBC's now preferred option to move forward with delivery and undertake RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stages 3 and 4. Delegated officer decision was also granted for Officers to agree RIBA Stages 5 onwards and contract terms for the delivery (with external consultants and the main contractor) of the new BPAH as per

the de-scoped option, subject to finances being in place and approved by the NBBC's 151 Officer.

- 3.2 The de-scoped option, shown in Appendix A is an estimated total capital cost of £30.6m, this includes a £1million contingency. The changes to this option from the original project specification include a smaller fitness offering (20% reduction in gym size and one studio), the swimming pool offer is reduced with a smaller Learner Pool. The building form will be rationalised to be a box shape with reduce circulation. The removal of the internal cycle facility and counter. External facilities at the initial construction phase will include the 9v9 3G all-weather Pitch, Learn to Ride and Skate Park facilities. The Learn to Ride and Skate Park facilities will be reviewed to take account of the overall budget and revisions to these areas may be made if required.
- 3.3 As presented to cabinet the RIBA Stage 3 report detailed the project estimate from the contractor BAM was totalling £30.6M. This was based on a programme completing in spring 2026. RIBA Stage 4 cost analysis is now being undertaken to have a final contract sum for the project by late May / June 2024.
- 3.4 As part of formal agreements with external funders, Department Levelling Up Housing Communities (DLUHC) and Sport England (SE) key outcomes and milestones need to be delivered by specified timescales. One key outcome being the new Bedworth Physical Activity facility be completed by September 2025.
- 3.5 In order to give NBBC the best chance of achieving agreed key outcomes and keep to the programme timetable, pre-commencement / enabling works on the site have been investigated by the contractor.
- 3.6 The enabling works discussed include commencing in early April 2024 to establish temp / pathway construction, site entrance for construction, hoarding and compound set up with the ability to commence earth moving works at the site. The final contract sum will not be known by the Council until late May for a decision to be agreed upon in early June to sign off the formal JCT contract.
- 3.7 Approval was also given at Cabinet in July 2023 for the construction of the new pedestrian toucan crossing point to commence in advance of commencement of the wider BPAH project. The Council have finalised contracts with Warwickshire County Council (formal contract signing to be undertaken) to support delivery of this element of the project. This element is planned to be completed by the end of Q2/Q3 (2024/25) and funded from the LUF/DLUHC draw down funding.
- 3.8 The Project Adjustment Request (PAR) formally submitted to DLUHC to request an alteration to the initial Levelling Up Funding (LUF) proposal for the revised design option and construction timescales, was approved in November 2023.

3.9 At Cabinet in November 2021 and in June 2022, delegated authority was approved to develop, implement, and commence the leisure operator procurement process to ensure a smooth transition from the current contract to the new management contract for the new and existing leisure sites. This has continued to progress during the pre-procurement stage and a further update is contained in section [4.7 to 4.9] of the report. It should also be noted that Cabinet agreed in July 2023, a 12-month extension was granted to the current Leisure Contract extending the contract to March 2026 at the latest.

4. Current Status

4.1 A section 73 planning notice was submitted to accommodate the revised option considering the rationalised shape and design of the building, this was approved at Planning Committee on 6th February 2024.

4.2 Pre commencement works for the project are being undertaken these include the removal of identified trees and pruning of shrubs, that fall within the red line boundary of the site. The identified trees/shrubs are ones that are within the specific development of the new facilities and prevent any construction to take place. An external ecology report has been received and shared with the Parks and Green Space Team and Planning to address any concerns. The Bird Nesting season was also factored into the pre commencement works, as works needed to be carried out prior to the end of March at the latest, so that the agreed timescales with funders would also not be delayed delivering the project.

4.3 NBBC have some specific milestone and time limits to deliver the BPAH project, agreed with external funders. If these are not delivered, then there is a risk that funders may request their funds are returned or further project adjustment request (PAR) be signed off. NBBC have previously agreed PAR's with both Sport England and DLUHC to request changes to the initial award of funds. These two partners have detailed that the funds agreed, require to be drawn down and used by March 2025 at the very latest.

4.4 In order to achieve the delivery of the new Physical Activity building and it being completed by September 2025, works on the site need to commence at the earliest opportunity to keep within the 18-month programme timetable. The demolition of the existing Bedworth Leisure Centre, construction of new car park and new all-weather football pitch and final outdoor design work will then be completed by spring 2026 as agreed.

4.5 To give NBBC the best chance of completing key milestones, enabling works commencing in early April by BAM can be considered with a formal agreement being provided in advance of the agreed final contract. The agreement of enabling works pose a risk to NBBC, in that it would be prior to agreeing a final contract sum and that costs spent could be abortive if the project was not delivered and re-instatement works required.

4.6 The Project team have produced some imagery documents through computer generated images (CGIs) to show the proposed look of the facility,

these can be seen in appendix B. These also show the initial layout of paths at RIBA 3 Stage and planting of new trees to line footpaths etc as part of the mitigation.

- 4.7 Officers have continued to work on the development and procurement of a new leisure operator contract. Several Member workshops have taken place over the last 24 months to address elements of the proposed new specification, a procurement timetable has been produced with a proposed official contract start date in August 2025 albeit it, there is acknowledgment that an operational go live date shall not be sooner than January 2026 (subject to the construction programme). The Procurement timetable is shown within Appendix C.
- 4.8. It is proposed to undertake a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation under the Concession Contract Regulations 2016 to procure, on the open market, an operator for the proposed new contract. Freeth's LLP have been appointed via the EMLawShare framework, as the Council's legal services consultant to draft the operator contract, using the Sport England model, as well as supporting the procurement process from a contract negotiation perspective. In addition, Strategic Leisure Limited has been procured via the PAGABO framework to support the Council not only in the construction project from an advisor, but also to support the procurement of the operator from a technical and professional perspective. It is anticipated the procurement will take up to 18 months to work through the several processes (selection, tender, dialogue, further tenders, and evaluation). All procurement documentation is drafted and will now be finalised through NBBC officer, consultant, and legal advisor collaboration. The specification and contract reflect the agreed outcomes identified through the Member workshops.
- 4.9 It is anticipated that a preferred bidder will be procured by late June 2025, to allow time for contract mobilisation.

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 Sport England (SE) have confirmed that the £2M capital investment offered for the Bedworth project has had formal approval for the funds to be deferred into 24/25 financial year. These are required to be drawn down by no later than March 2025. Ongoing dialogue with SE has been positive to seek additional funding towards this project.
- 5.2 LUF/DLUHC following the formal Project Adjustment Request in November 2023 being approved, funding from DLUHC requires to be drawn down by no later than March 2025.
- 5.3 If NBBC were to proceed with the enabling works this is agreeing to circa £3M costs of the overall estimated £30.6M project cost. NBBC will not have the final contract sum until late May 2024 for the overall project, with enabling works already commenced if approved.
- 5.4 The finances for the enabling works will be drawn down from the DLUHC funding, as part of the signed agreement already in place.

- 5.5 The financial position in delivering the de-scoped project (Appendix A) currently priced at £30.6M (RIBA Stage 3) for the Council, will require borrowing of £8.48M. This is as reported to Cabinet / Council on 21st February as part of budget setting. The S.106 Developers Contributions specifically for the BPAH will then be used to reduce borrowing as NBBC receive it from Developers.
- 5.6 As reported to Cabinet on 21st February 2024 as part of the Capital Programme report, the re-allocation of funding from other capital projects is required to be agreed by DLUHC, in order to support the borrowing of £8.48M for this project.
- 5.7 Cabinet have previously approved delegated authority to Strategic Directors in consultation with respective Portfolio Holders to agree contract terms. This is on the basis that the Strategic Director for Finance & Governance confirms all the finances are in place to support the project costs. In agreeing to the enabling works, in advance of the final contract sum approved, NBBC will also need to consider the risk of additional capital funds being required, if the project value exceeds the £30.6M and where this would be found from.

ENDS

Kevin Hollis
Strategic Director – Public Services

Appendices

Appendix A - Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – Preferred option design proposal

Appendix B – Proposed Images of Bedworth Physical Activity Hub

Appendix C – Procurement Timetable

- Supplier Selection Period - April 2024 - July 2024
- ITT and Evaluation Process (including negotiation if required) - July 2024 - June 2025
- Award Stage – July 2025
- Contract Start Date – August 2025
- Mobilisation Period - August - January 2026
- Leisure Operator Contract – sites Operational January 2026

Background Documents

NBBC Capital Programme report

Cabinet 21st February 2024

Leisure Development – Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH)

Cabinet 10 November 2021 – Agenda Item 8 – Minute Number CB57

Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – project delayed.

Cabinet 11 January 2023 - Agenda Item 9 - Minute number CB93

Bedworth Physical Activity Hub Update.

Cabinet 26 July 2023 – Agenda Item 20 – Minute number CB35

Bedworth Physical Activity Hub Update.

Cabinet 6th September 2023 – Agenda Item 10 – Minute number CB43

Bedworth Physical Activity Hub

Preferred Option Design Proposal

11/08/23 - P01



Project Number: 20057
Produced by: MMc
Checked by: MSu

Introduction

Proposed Options Facility Mix

NBBC – Proposed Options Facility Mix

This document presents a high level exploration of the preferred option

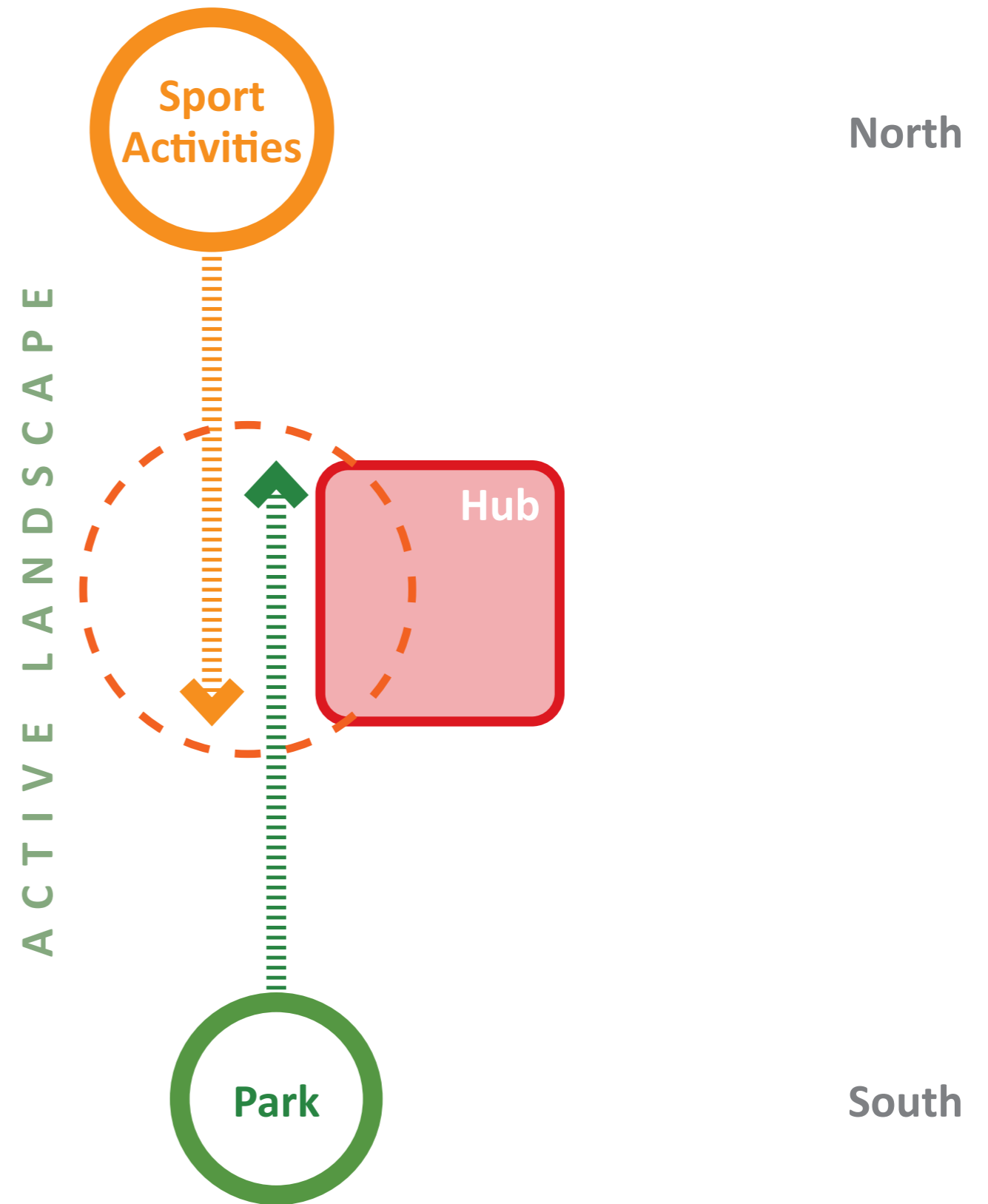
Activity Areas	Option 1 – Current (Stage 4 scheme with VE)	Option 2 – New Build (reduction in wet side and retention of Sports Hall)
Main Pool	8 lane 25m pool (fixed profile)	8 lane 25 metre pool (fixed profile)
Learner Pool	15m x 10m learner pool (with moveable floor)	13m x 7m learner pool (with moveable floor)
Wet Change Facilities	Included, with Changing Places	Included, with Changing Places
Sports Hall	4 court sports hall	4 court sports hall
Fitness Suite	120 station	100 station minimum
Studios	2 x studios	1 x studio
Spin Studio	1 x spin studio	1 x spin studio
Reception	Included	Included
Café	Included	Included
Multi-purpose room	Included	Excluded
Cycle Hub	Included	Excluded (kiosk to be allowed for)
External dry change (GF)	4 x external dry change	2 x external dry change
Fitness dry change (FF)	2 x fitness dry change	2 x fitness dry change
Football provision	9 vs 9 3G pitch	9 vs 9 3G pitch
Learn to Ride	Included	Included
Skate Park	Included	Included
Pump Track	Included	Excluded – as later phase
External facilities	Outdoor gym, Fun Fit Bank, The Oval, The Heights, Bicycle Store, Performance area (please note some areas already removed as part of the VE scheme).	As later phase

1 • Preferred Option

Preferred Option

Principals

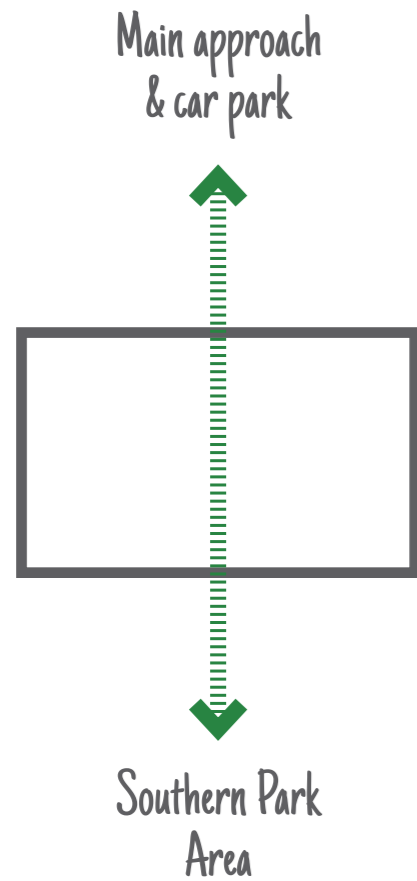
At its core, the new physical activity hub is designed to be a connecting node within Miners Welfare Park. It will be situated on the key route from north to south, linking up the formal areas of the park, the sporting activities/facilities and wider park spaces.



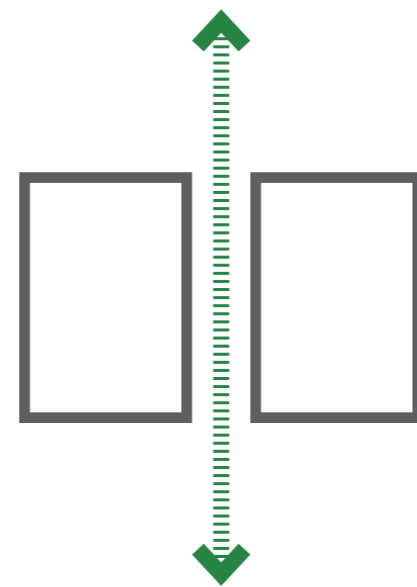
Preferred Option

Design Narrative

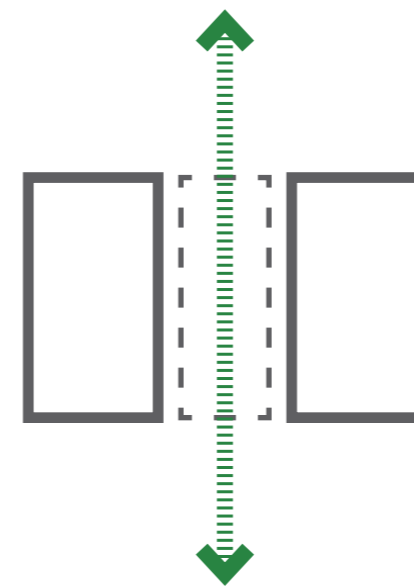
These diagrams set the scene for the overall layout of the building footprint. We have created three distinct blocks with their own character/identity



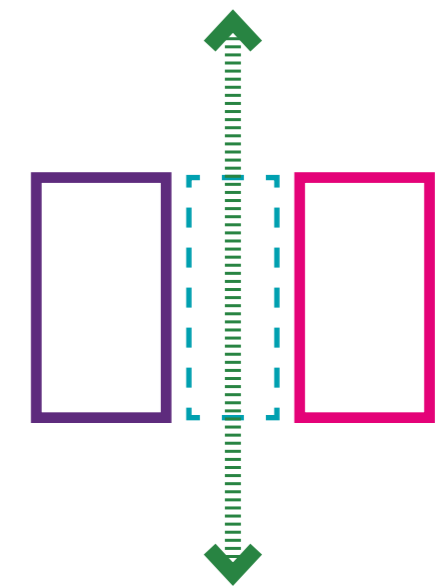
Place Hub on strategic location in the park



Allow route to run through the building



Adjust orientation to emphasise north-south route

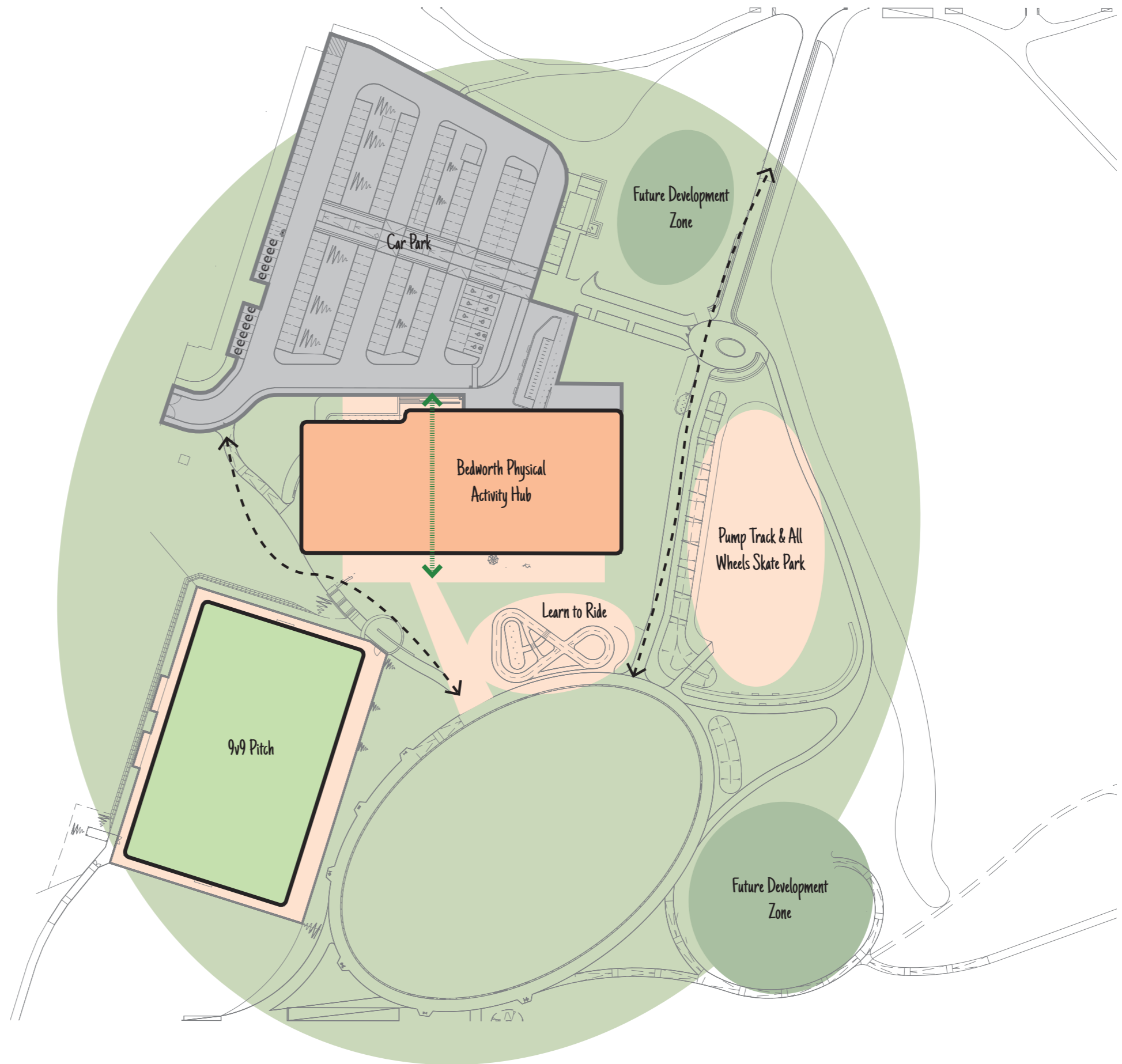


Allow each block to have their own character

Preferred Option

Site Plan

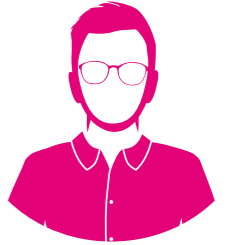
The site plan concept for the preferred option illustrates how the previously described principles & narrative can be applied to Miners Welfare Park. The new building forms a key node in the southern area of the park that responds to activity both from the main approach & car park and also the wider park area to the south. The activity offer of the park is enhanced through the 9v9 pitch, cycling facilities and walking routes.



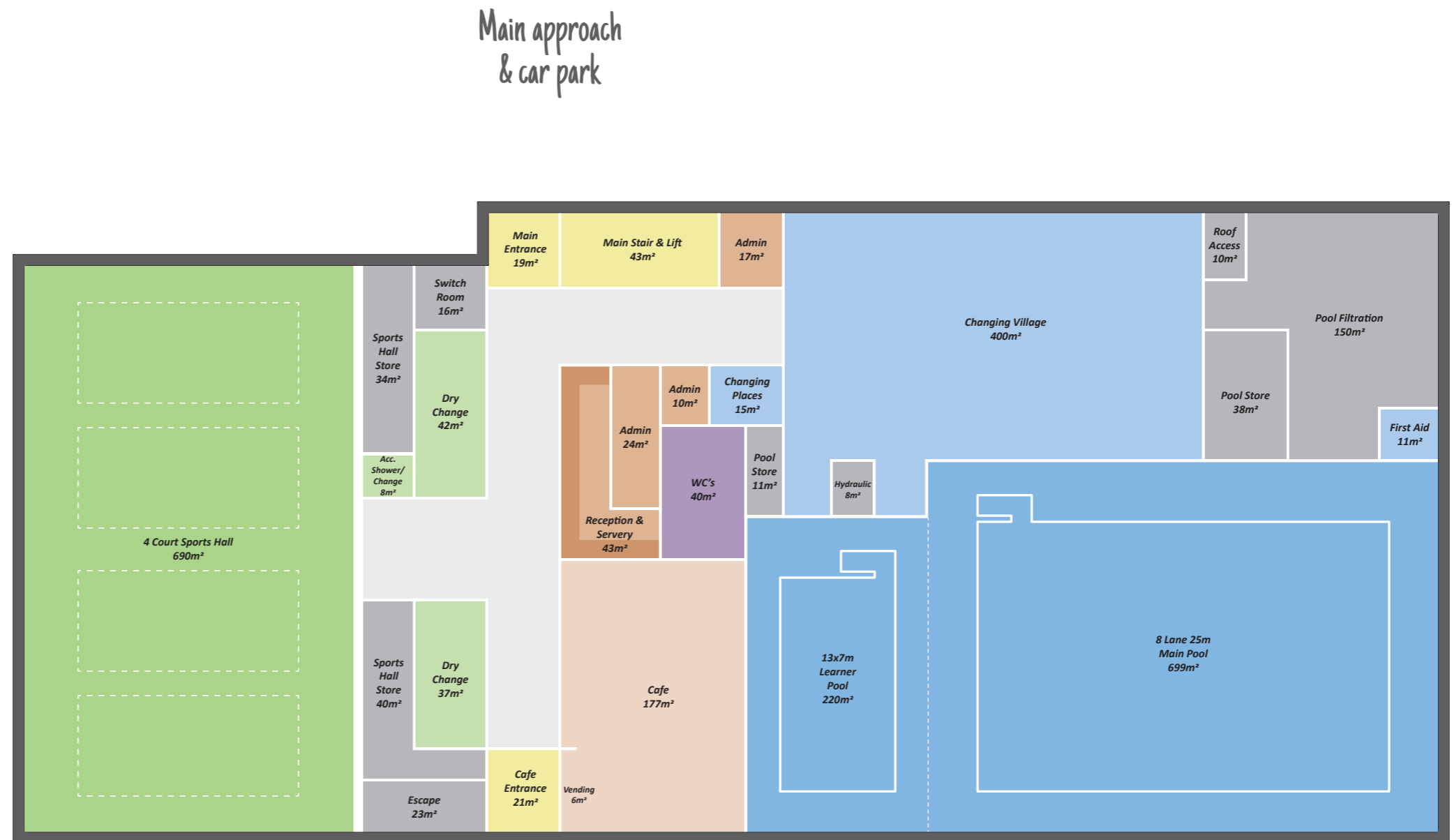
Preferred Option

Ground Floor Plan

The preferred option uses Sport England's Affordable Sports Centre Option D as a baseline which can then be adapted to suit the sites' requirements



Activity Areas	
Main Pool	8 lane 25 metre pool (fixed profile)
Learner Pool	13m x 7m learner pool (with moveable floor)
Wet Change Facilities	Included, with Changing Places
Sports Hall	4 court sports hall
Fitness Suite	100 station minimum
Studios	1 x studio
Spin Studio	1 x spin studio
Reception	Included
Café	Included
Multi-purpose room	Excluded
Cycle Hub	Excluded (kiosk to be allowed for)
External dry change (GF)	2 x external dry change
Fitness dry change (FF)	2 x fitness dry change
Football provision	9 vs 9 3G pitch
Learn to Ride	Included
Skate Park	Included
Pump Track	Excluded – as later phase
External facilities	As later phase



Ground Floor GIFA
3155sqm

First Floor GIFA
1275sqm

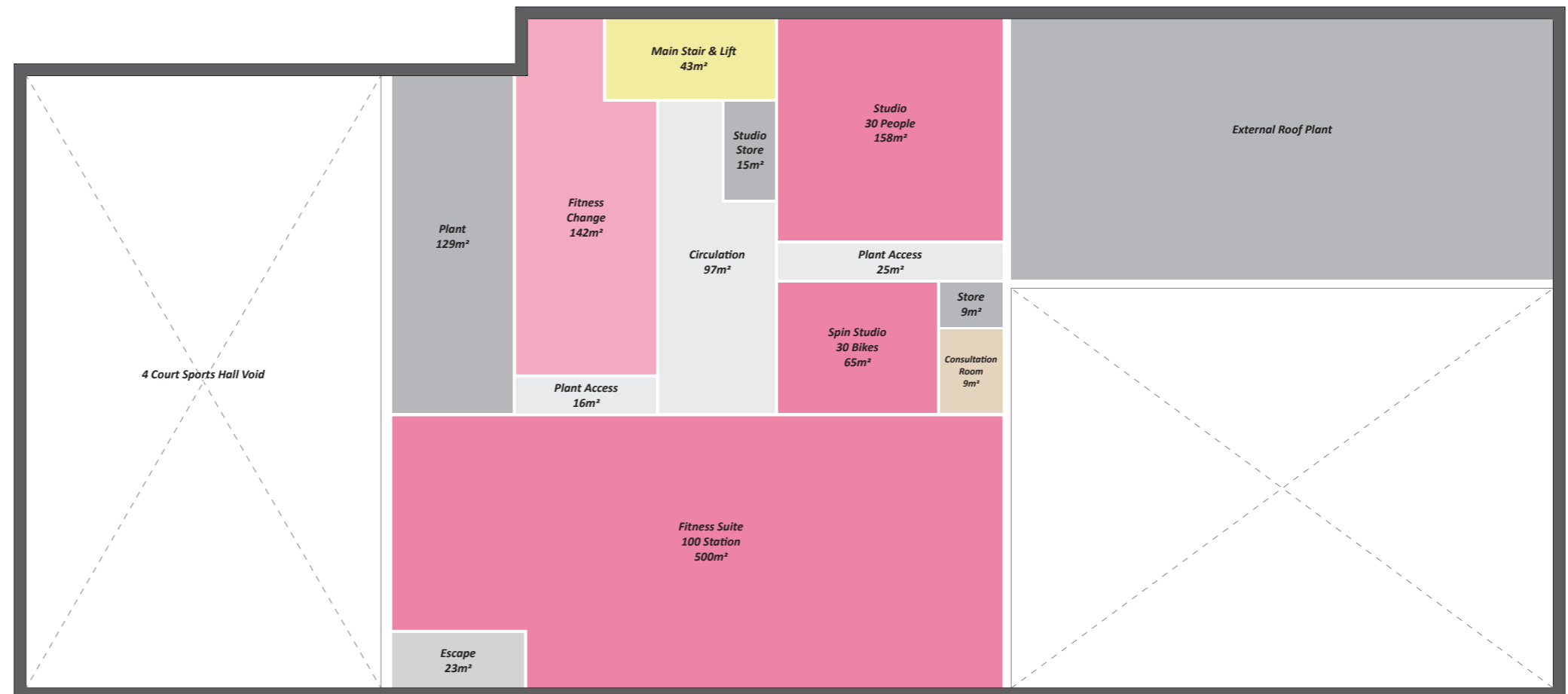
Total GIFA
4430sqm

Feasibility for discussion only. Plans subject to full design team review and coordination. Implications to planning approved scheme to be discussed. Fire strategy implications to be assessed by Fire Engineer.

Preferred Option

First Floor

Activity Areas	
Main Pool	8 lane 25 metre pool (fixed profile)
Learner Pool	13m x 7m learner pool (with moveable floor)
Wet Change Facilities	Included, with Changing Places
Sports Hall	4 court sports hall
Fitness Suite	100 station minimum
Studios	1 x studio
Spin Studio	1 x spin studio
Reception	Included
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Cycle Hub	Excluded (kiosk to be allowed for)
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Football provision	9 vs 9 3G pitch
Learn to Ride	Included
Skate Park	Included
Pump Track	Excluded – as later phase
External facilities	As later phase



Ground Floor GIFA
3155sqm

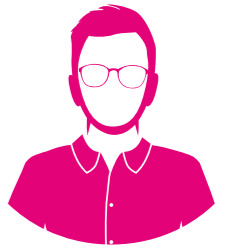
First Floor GIFA
1275sqm

Total GIFA
4430sqm

Feasibility for discussion only. Plans subject to full design team review and coordination. Implications to planning approved scheme to be discussed. Fire strategy implications to be assessed by Fire Engineer.

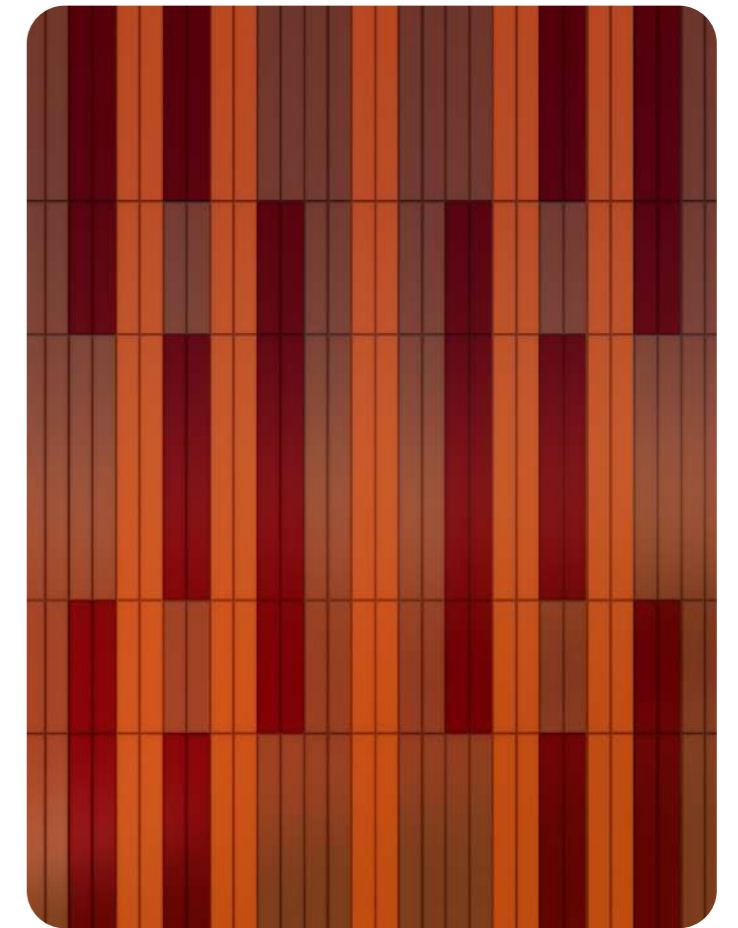
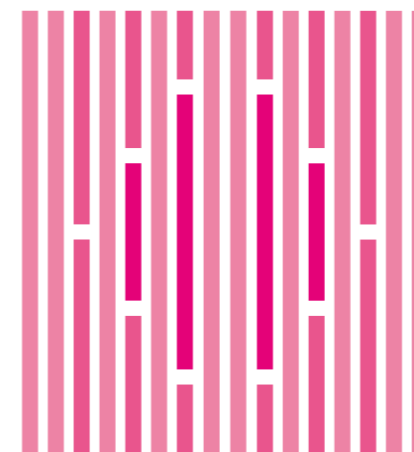
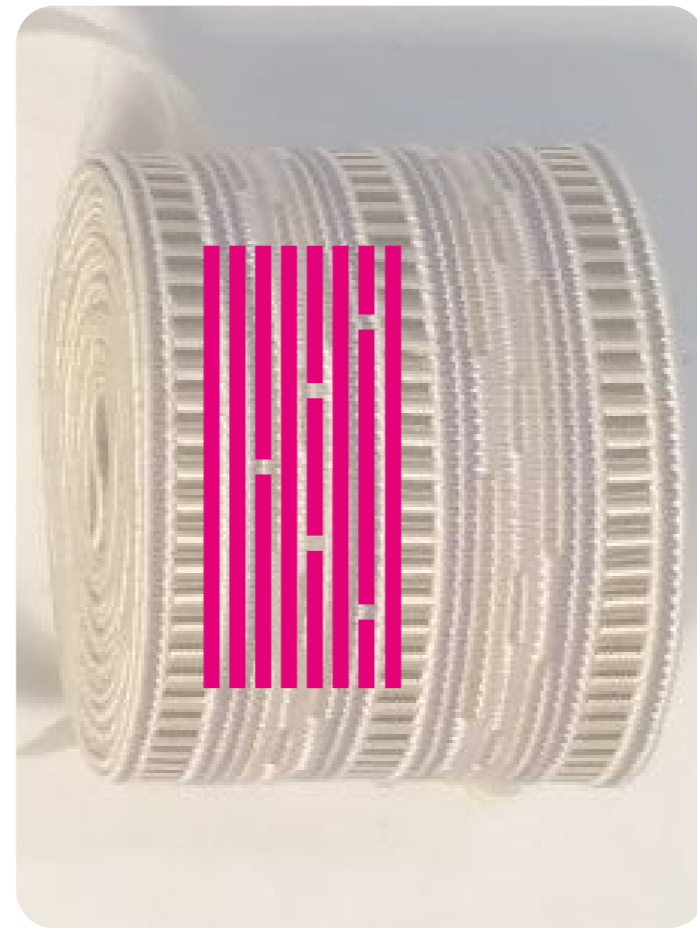
Preferred Option
Facade Concept

We revisited the Bedworth ribbon patterns to see if we could create a different facade concept using the original principles



Preferred Option
Facade Concept

Here we have undertaken a process of translating a ribbon pattern on to the facade design



Toye Kenning & Spencer Ribbon



Identifying a pattern



Abstracting the pattern

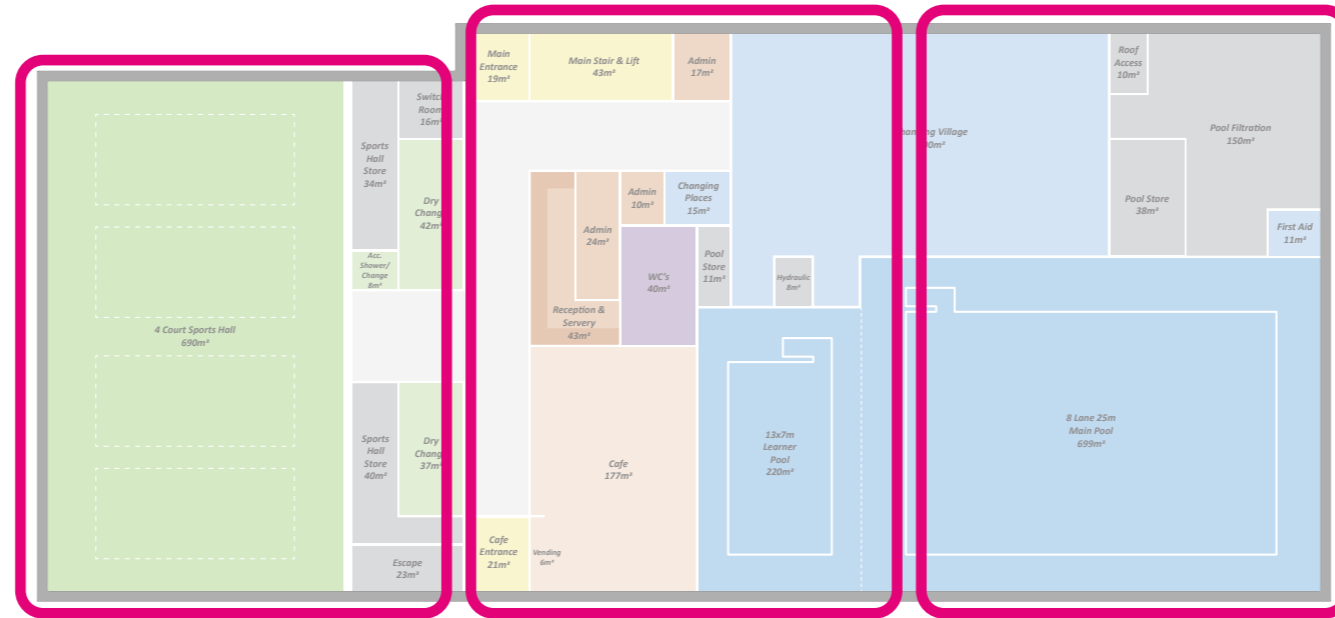


Abstracting the pattern

Preferred Option

Facade Concept

The intended design principles can still be applied to the revised building massing.



2 • Programme

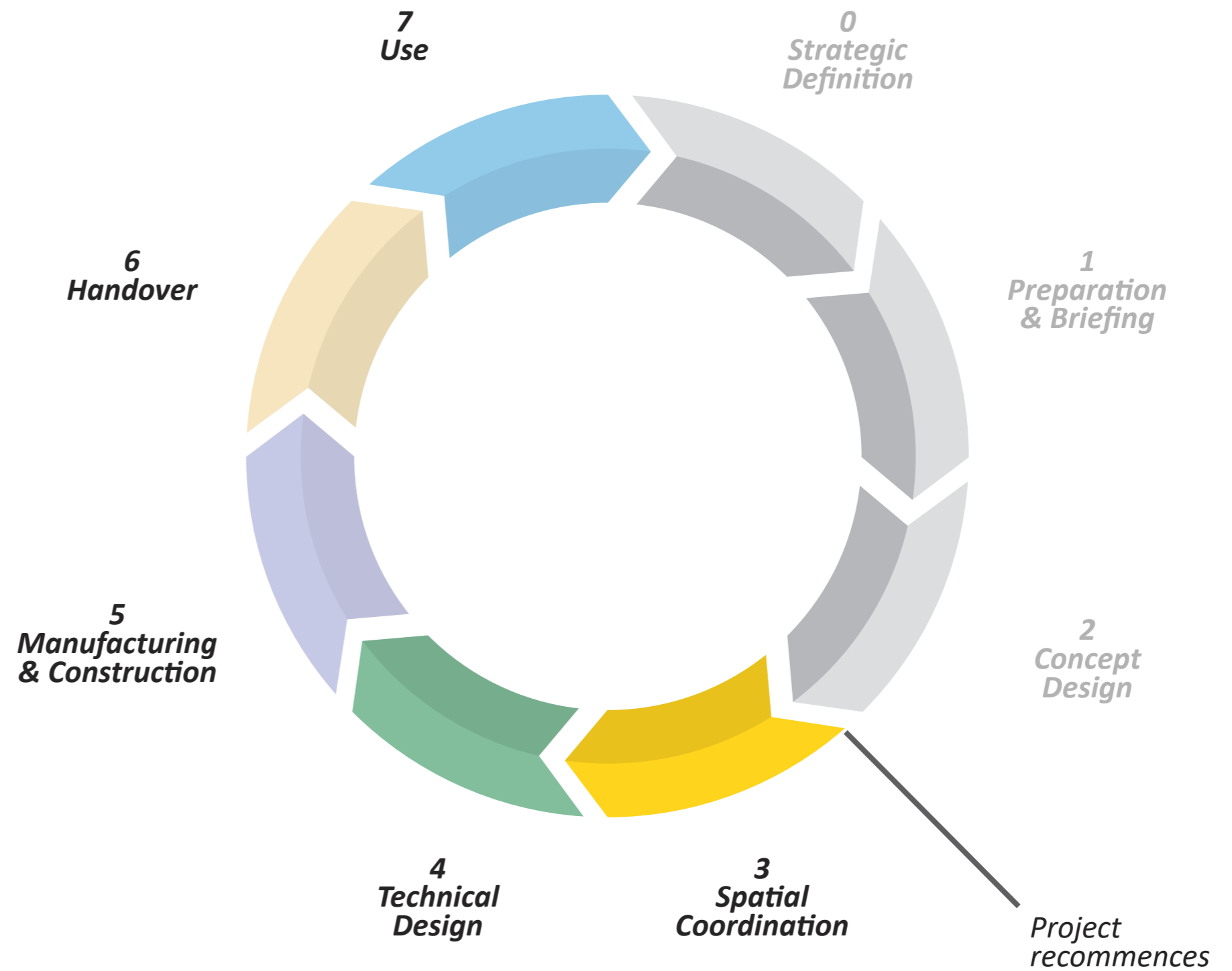
Programme

Overview

In order to progress the preferred option, we need to move the project back into RIBA Stage 3. This will allow for the development of the design and strategies required, engagement with stakeholders and refinement of the option.

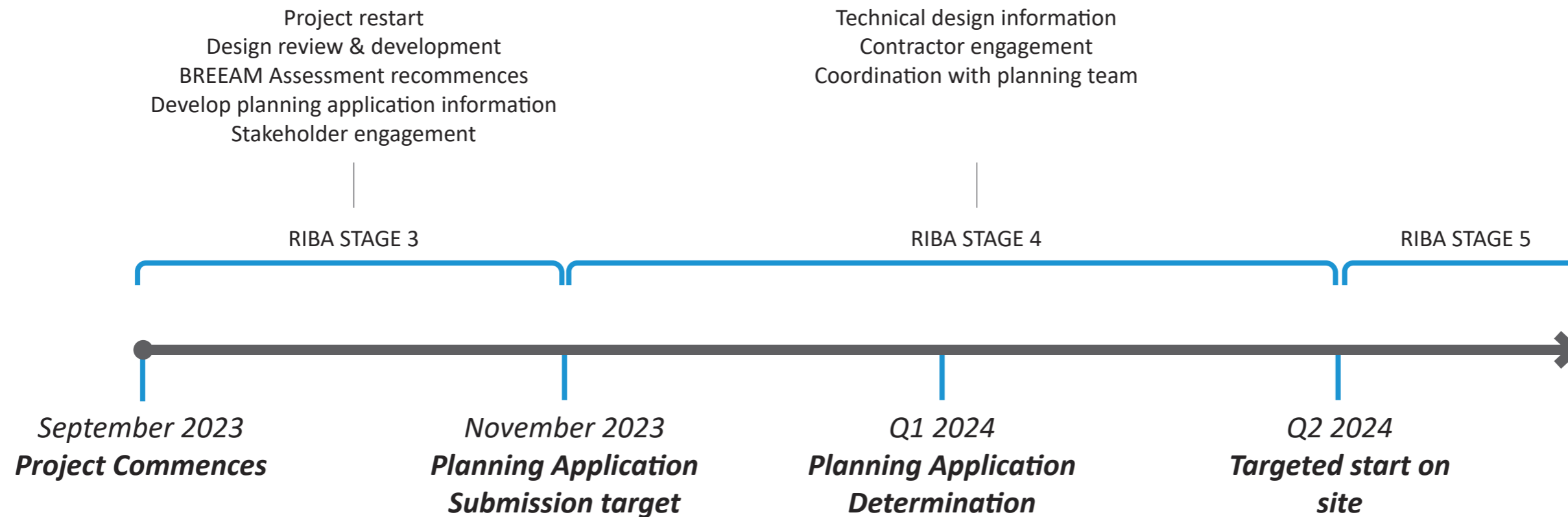
Then we will be able to progress in Stage 4 where the technical design information can then be developed.

Many of the principles previously developed can be refreshed and adjusted to support the preferred option. This includes items such as BREEAM, Site Investigations & car parking strategy.



Programme Timeline

The below timeline is indicative only and subject to further development, confirmation and input from others





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info@gt3architects.com

Nottingham Studio
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Nottingham
NG1 1LW
t: 0115 947 0800

www.gt3architects.com

Bedworth Physical Activity Hub

Visualisations

09/01/24 - Initial Issue



Project Number: 23044
Produced by: MMc
Checked by: GT3

Proposed Design

View from Miners Welfare Park



Proposed Design

View from The Oval



Proposed Design

View from the North approach



Proposed Design

View from the Main Entrance





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Cabinet/Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report Summary Sheet

Date:	6th March 2024
Subject:	Capital Monitoring 2023/24
Portfolio:	Finance & Corporate
From:	Strategic Director - Finance & Governance

<p>Summary:</p> <p>To update on the Council’s forecasted outturn position on capital expenditure for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the forecasted capital outturn position for 2023/24 for the General Fund and HRA.
<p>Options:</p> <p>To accept the report or request further information.</p>
<p>Reasons:</p> <p>To comply with regulations.</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders</p>

Finance officers, Management Team and Portfolio holder

Subject to call-in: Yes

Ward relevance: All

Forward plan: Yes

Building a Better Borough Aim:
Work

Building a Better Borough Priority:
Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Relevant statutes or policy:
Local Government Finance Act 1992

Equalities Implications:
None

Human resources implications:
None

Financial implications:
As detailed within the report.

Health Inequalities Implications:
None

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

Risk management implications:

Risk analysis is completed as part of the budget setting process and reserves are in place to support.

Environmental implications:

None

Legal implications:

None

Contact details:

Vicki Summerfield

Victoria.Summerfield@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

02476 376002

AGENDA ITEM NO.11

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet **6th March 2024**
From: Strategic Director - Finance & Governance
Subject: Capital Monitoring 2023/24
Portfolio: Finance & Corporate (Councillor S Croft)

Building a Better Borough Aim: Work

Building a Better Borough Priority: Grow a Strong & Inclusive Economy

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update on the Council's forecasted outturn position on capital expenditure for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To note the forecasted capital outturn position for 2023/24 for the General Fund and HRA.

3.0 Background

3.1 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has a large capital programme to provide community value and improve facilities. The outturn position for 2023/24 updates on how the programme is progressing.

3.2 The report presents a detailed forecast as at end January 2024.

4. Detail

4.1 The Council's capital programme covers many projects for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

4.2 General Fund projects are developed in line with strategies reported to Cabinet/Council and are funded through Section 106 developer contributions, grant funding (from the Government and other external providers), internal and external borrowing plus capital receipts generated through asset sales.

- 4.3 HRA projects are mainly for refurbishment of council houses, disabled adaptations to council housing plus new build. They are funded from HRA reserves, capital receipts from Right to Buy plus grant income.
- 4.4 The capital budget for 2023/24 of £106,627,852 was approved in February 2023 at Council with an updated budget position reported of £111,917,651 to Cabinet in July 2023 which was again amended at September 2023 Cabinet to £114,549,257.
- 4.5 A summary of the General Fund and HRA forecasted expenditure versus budget is below alongside financing of the programme with further detail included in Appendix 1.

Expenditure	Forecast £'000	Budget £'000	Variance £'000
Business & Regeneration	16,225	56,868	-40,642
Finance & Corporate	793	298	495
Housing & Communities	6,747	7,559	-811
Public Services	3,042	23,885	-20,844
Miscellaneous	0	92	-92
GENERAL FUND	26,808	88,702	-61,894
HRA	16,766	25,848	-9,082
	<u>43,574</u>	<u>114,549</u>	<u>-70,976</u>
Funding			
Grants	10,008	41,006	-30,998
Earmarked / Revenue	3,730	4,101	-371
External Contributions	575	261	314
Capital Receipts	38	1,435	-1,397
Major Repairs Reserve	8,724	8,895	-171
Borrowing	20,499	58,851	-38,352
	<u>43,574</u>	<u>114,549</u>	<u>-70,975</u>

General Fund

- 4.6 Projects are projected to underspend by £61.87m on the General Fund and £9.08m on the HRA. This will be monitored with carry forwards being requested if required as part of the final outturn report in July 2024.
- 4.7 There has been a fundamental change to the regeneration programme approved as part of the budget for 2024/25 due to the increased cost of projects plus the increased cost of interest.
- 4.8 The regeneration programme has been revised and will not incur as great a cost as initially budgeted in 2023/24. No carry forward is expected for these projects although there may be expenditure incurred

earlier than April 2024 with projects that have now been approved to progress.

4.9 The majority of the predicted underspend on the General Fund is due to regeneration which makes up £61.78m. Other projects are expected to overspend in year by approximately £0.11m but this is made up of a number of under and overspends. Projected overspends are detailed in the following paragraphs:

- CCTV Wireless Technology – a business case has been presented to the Corporate Programme Board and approved to remove all obsolete cameras as an additional part of the project. This is to be funded by an earmarked reserve that was set up specifically for CCTV upgrades.
- ICT Strategy Programme – additional devices have been ordered in year plus cyber resilience measures have been implemented to ensure systems are protected. The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have contributed £86k to the cyber works with the remaining overspend funded by an earmarked reserve.
- Changing Places – the project has not increased in cost since the original request in September 2023 to fund a shortfall of £8k. There are however three separate funding streams for this project, one of which was not included in the original budget. The Changing Places grant, an earmarked reserve plus UKSPF is funding the project.
- Camp Hill Regeneration Scheme – there are still ten compensation claims outstanding for this project, all of which are fully funded externally as received. The large overspend in year is due to significant progress being made with the claims and the budget for 2024/25 is unlikely to be utilised in full.
- Buttermere Recreation Ground – a change request to complete additional works for biodiversity was approved at Corporate Programme Board and is funded through S106.

4.10 The progress of all projects will be monitored during the year with the final outturn and carry forward of budgets reported in July 2024 to Cabinet and Council.

HRA

4.11 The capital budget for the HRA was approved as £24,418,500 in February 2023 but an updated budget position was reported to Cabinet in July 2023 of £25,847,500 to include carry forwards of underspends from 2022/23.

4.12 Management of the HRA capital programme is based on scheduled works and progression of new build and acquisition targets. The budget as a whole is utilised by need of the customer and the most efficient

use of resources to ensure value for money and will therefore fluctuate against the initial forecasted expenditure by line in any one year.

- 4.13 A thorough review of the Business Plan is to be undertaken in the summer which may alter the profile and priority of projects.
- 4.14 There are three main underspend areas expected but all budgets will be profiled into future years.
- New Build and Acquisition – projects have not progressed as quickly as anticipated but will be considered as part of the full Business Plan review.
 - External Wall Insulation – this project is underway and will be completed during 2024/25. Grant funding has been secured to support the project which must be utilised by March 2025.

Capital Reserves

- 4.15 Reserves are held by the Council for capital purposes either generated through sales of assets, setting aside sums from underspends and receipts of grants for capital purposes.
- 4.16 The Council's capital reserve position at the end of March 2023 is as follows.

	2022/23 £
Capital Receipts	618,524
Capital Earmarked Sums	2,612,970
Capital Grants	16,736,909
General Fund	19,968,403
Capital Receipts	2,808,032
Capital Earmarked Sums	3,773,387
Major Repairs Reserve	2,752,340
HRA	9,333,759
CAPITAL RESOURCES	29,302,162

- 4.17 Capital reserves are allocated against specific projects with no residual unallocated amount available. This poses risks to any movement in the projected capital expenditure as there is nothing available to cover any fluctuations in expenditure.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The capital programme has been reviewed with regeneration projects being scaled back to ensure affordability into the future. The biggest risk to the Council has been the economic landscape with high inflation and interest rates. Consideration of projects has been undertaken and the programme is now sustainable only if the grant funding is retained for the refreshed plan.
- 5.2 Contingencies are built into the regeneration projections but there is a risk that they may not be high enough once final tender submissions are reviewed.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – General Fund Forecasted Capital Outturn 2023/24
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – HRA Forecasted Capital Outturn 2023/24

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Capital Budget Setting – Council February 2023
- 7.2 Capital Outturn – July 2023
- 7.3 Capital Monitoring Q1 – September 2023

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING
AS AT DECEMBER 2023

Project	Current Forecast	Approved Budget	Forecast Variance	Comments
Grayson Place	14,538,685	41,303,648	(26,764,963)	
Bridge to Living	932,082	9,221,992	(8,289,910)	
Weddington Road Cycle Lane	0	1,703,000	(1,703,000)	
Museum and Parks Revival	0	1,688,285	(1,688,285)	
George Eliot Visitor Centre	0	27,500	(27,500)	
The Saints	608,790	545,700	63,090	Budget profiling
Corporation Street/Queens Road Junction	0	2,225,000	(2,225,000)	
Transforming Bedworth	6,928	18,612	(11,684)	
E-mobility Hub	0	81,000	(81,000)	
CCTV - Wireless Technology	138,957	52,957	86,000	Business Case approved for additional works
Business & Regeneration	16,225,442	56,867,694	(40,642,252)	
ICT Strategy Programme	360,480	140,000	220,480	NUC replacement and cyber resilience
Changing Places	183,000	133,000	50,000	Additional included in business case - fully funded
Camp Hill Regeneration Scheme	250,000	25,000	225,000	10 claims remaining - fully funded externally
Finance & Corporate	793,480	298,000	495,480	
HEART	5,125,000	5,125,000	0	
Empty Homes Works in Default	0	40,000	(40,000)	
Empty Property Loans	0	100,000	(100,000)	
Green Homes Phase 3	905,359	905,359	0	
Homeless Hostel Conversion	75,000	200,000	(125,000)	
Safer Streets - Stubbs Pool/The Dingle	0	41,917	(41,917)	Unable to complete the project in timeframes
Home Upgrade Grant 2	33,000	733,000	(700,000)	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects	609,111	413,361	195,750	Budget profiling
Housing & Communities	6,747,470	7,558,637	(811,167)	
Major Repairs	250,000	250,000	0	
Vehicle & Plant Replacement	308,000	308,000	0	
Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility	962,428	507,034	455,394	Not an increased cost over the life of project - budget profiling incorrect
Bedworth Physical Activity Hub	788,137	21,839,919	(21,051,782)	
Leisure Strategy	3,295	230,904	(227,609)	
Sandon Park Pavilion Improvements	0	26,859	(26,859)	
Play & Teenage Provision	0	4,710	(4,710)	
Fly Tipping Cameras	0	5,000	(5,000)	
Cemetery Extension	0	100,000	(100,000)	
Community Centre Grants	55,000	55,000	0	
Buttermere Recreation Ground Redevelopment	499,906	447,500	52,406	Change request completed for project
Ambleside Sports Club - Table Tennis Provision	75,000	75,000	0	
Stockingford Community Centre	25,000	25,000	0	
Pauls Land Pavilion	0	10,500	(10,500)	
Play Areas	75,000	0	75,000	Revenue budget, Capital spend

Public Services	3,041,766	23,885,426	(20,843,660)
Miscellaneous Schemes	0	92,000	(92,000)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	26,808,158	88,701,757	(61,893,599)

HRA CAPITAL MONITORING Q3

Appendix 2

	Approved Budget £	Forecast Outturn £	Forecast Variance £
DECENT HOMES	1,900,000	1,680,932	-219,068
ROOF COVERINGS/MODIFICATIONS	750,000	964,036	214,036
WINDOWS AND DOORS	700,000	833,347	133,347
SHELTERED ALARM CALL SYSTEM	18,000	0	-18,000
DOOR ENTRY SCHEME	160,000	158,467	-1,533
CCTV RENEWAL - GP FLATS	10,000	10,879	879
SHOP IMPROVEMENTS	0	0	0
NEW PROPERTIES - NEW BUILDS	4,539,000	1,376,730	-3,162,270
NEW STREET	0	0	0
BYFORD COURT	3,011,000	2,312,644	-698,356
CONVERSION OF HOMELESS HOSTEL	50,000	50,000	0
DECENT HOMES WORKS - HOMELESS HOSTELS	0	0	0
FIRE SAFETY WORKS	2,600,000	1,871,349	-728,651
KINGSWAY HOUSE	0	8,000	8,000
196/198 CHURCH ROAD	0	167,000	167,000
ILU REMODELLING	150,000	0	-150,000
NEW PROPERTIES ACQUISITION	512,500	513,000	500
VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS	1,750,000	1,750,000	0
LEVEL ACCESS SHOWERS	600,000	180,782	-419,218
AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS	1,175,000	832,884	-342,116
CENTRAL HEATING	1,000,000	927,200	-72,800
GARAGES	30,000	15,000	-15,000
SLABS TO TARMAC	124,000	212,760	88,760
LIFT RENEWAL WORKS	30,000	30,000	0
DISTRICT HEATING WORKS	310,000	310,000	0
PIR ELECTRICAL WORKS	400,000	67,800	-332,200
VOIDS	760,000	938,593	178,593
STOCK CONDITION SURVEY	200,000	437,932	237,932
25 CHEVERAL PLACE	0	0	0
EWI	4,196,000	300,000	-3,896,000
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS	190,000	170,200	-19,800
HOUSING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	10,000	0	-10,000
CAPITAL SALARIES/CONSULTANCY	472,000	472,000	0
CONTINGENCY	200,000	174,000	-26,000
CLEAVER GARDENS	0	0	0
WARM AIR UNITS	0	0	0
ELECTRIC STORAGE HEATING	0	0	0
	25,847,500	16,765,534	-9,081,966

Cabinet/Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report Summary Sheet

Date:

6th March 2024

Subject:

Civic Honours – Street Renaming (x 2)

Portfolio:

Finance & Corporate

From:

Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance

Summary:

On 6th November 2023, the Civic Honours Sub-Committee granted approval to Officers of the Council to investigate, in accordance with the street naming and numbering policy, two street renaming requests. The two requests included:

- I. the named road of Clinic Drive to be renamed ‘Fusilier Louis Carter Drive’; and
- II. the unnamed section of the public highway be named ‘Angels Way’.

This report therefore seeks approval to formally commence the process and implement the proposal set out in this report.

Recommendations:

2.1. The formal commencement and implementation of the renaming of Clinic Drive to Fusilier Louis Carter Drive be approved.

2.2. The formal commencement and implementation of the renaming of Clinic Drive (the unnamed section) to Angels Way be approved.

Options:

To approve and implement; or
Not approve and implement.

Reasons:

Officers have undertaken the review in accordance with the Council's Street Naming and Numbering Policy following the request from the Civic Honours Committee. As a result of the review, both requests comply with the criteria set out in the policy.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Civic Honours Committee
 Portfolio Holder – Finance & Corporate
 Leader of the Council
 Client Services Improvement Manager
 Car Parking Team
 Parks Team

Note if the report is approved, at least one month's notice must be given before making such order, either by posting at each end of the street or in some conspicuous position on the street. Each notice must provide information about the right of appeal (to the magistrates' court) against the proposed order. Furthermore, a public consultation period of 21 days will be required and liaison with Royal Mail will also be required.

Subject to call-in:

Yes

Ward relevance:

Current Ward: Abbey Ward.
 Proposed new Ward following Boundary Commission Review: Chilvers Coton

Forward plan:

No

Building a Better Borough Aim:

A.1, A.3

Building a Better Borough Priority:

A.1 P.4

A.3 P.3.

Relevant statutes or policy:

The Councils Street Naming and Numbering Policy
 Section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925

Equalities Implications:

None.

Human resources implications:

None.

Financial implications:

Each request will cost the Council £435 as per the 2023/2024 Fees and Charges of which there are two requests. To supply and install the street nameplates would be in the region of £700 in total.

Health Inequalities Implications:

None.

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None.

Risk management implications:

None.

Environmental implications:

None other than it be noted for the purposes of the creation of the street nameplates, the removal and installation of the street nameplates in situ as well as disposal of those in situ.

Legal implications:

It must be noted at least one month's notice must be given before making such order, either by posting at each end of the street or in some conspicuous position on the street. Each notice must provide information about the right of appeal (to the magistrates' court) against the proposed order.

Contact details:

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NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

From: Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance

Subject: Civic Honours – Street Renaming (x 2)

Portfolio: Finance & Corporate

Building a Better Borough Aim: A.1, A.3

Building a Better Borough Priority: A.1 P.4, A.3 P.3.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To seek approval to formally commence the process and implement the proposal set out in this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The formal commencement and implementation of the renaming of Clinic Drive to Fusilier Louis Carter Drive be approved.

2.2. The formal commencement and implementation of the renaming of Clinic Drive (the unnamed section) to Angels Way be approved.

3. Background

3.1. On 6th November 2023, the Civic Honours Sub-Committee granted approval to Officers of the Council to investigate, in accordance with the street naming and numbering policy, two street renaming requests. The two requests included:

- I. the named road of Clinic Drive to be renamed ‘Fusilier Louis Carter Drive’; and
- II. the unnamed section of the public highway be named ‘Angels Way’.

3.2. It is noted the Royal Way request is under review.

4. Body of Report

4.1. Officers have undertaken the review in accordance with the Council’s Street Naming and Numbering Policy, details of which are enclosed below.

4.1.1. Clinic Drive

- 4.1.1.1. Clinic Drive is located off Coton Road (A444), it is a one-way street situated alongside Riversley Park, providing access to numerous facilities and dwellings including Riversley Park car park, Riversley Park Childrens Centre and The Holy Spirit Catholic Multi Academy (the named section of the public highway).
- 4.1.1.2. Based on the suggested name for the street name and further to the review undertaken, the suggested street name complies with the criteria set out in the policy.

4.1.2. Clinic Drive (unnamed section)

- 4.1.2.1. Leading off Clinic Drive is an unnamed stretch of public highway providing access to Catholic Church and Our Lady & St. Joseph's School.
- 4.1.2.2. Based on the suggested name for the street name and further to the review undertaken, the suggested street name complies with the criteria set out in the policy.

5. Considerations

5.1. Timescales

- 5.1.1. As per item 4.5 of the Civic Honours Sub Committee report (6th November 2023), at least one month's notice must be given before making such order, either by posting at each end of the street or in some conspicuous position on the street. Each notice must provide information about the right of appeal (to the magistrates' court) against the proposed order. Furthermore, a public consultation period of 21 days will be required and liaison with Royal Mail will also be required. Subject to the approval of this report, process outlined in 5.1.1. can commence. Subject to the outcome of this process, the implementation may proceed or be subject to a further review subject to the outcome of the consultation process.
- 5.1.2. Typical lead time for the supply and installation of street nameplates is up to 10 weeks following consultation and upon issue of a purchase order to the supplier.
- 5.1.3. Based on current capacity, from commencement (assuming no call-in or any unforeseen circumstances or an appeal), the process can take up to 3 months to complete.

5.2. Financial Implications

- 5.2.1. For each street renaming request, there are associated financial implications. As per the Council's 2023/2024 Fee's and Charges, each street renaming request costs £435 and as this follows from the Civic Honours Sub-Committee, the Council will be required to pay for each request, totalling £870. Cabinet note the fees and charges would cover costs associated with publication and consultation process (except any appeal referenced in 5.1.1.).
- 5.2.2. In addition, there are costs associated with the supply, installation of new and removal of existing street name plates and the publication of notices which equate to an indicative cost of £700. Furthermore, there may be additional costs associated with updating signage both in the car park and park.
- 5.2.3. The finance has been earmarked based on the 2023/2024 budget for the cost of the implementation if agreed. Earmarking occurs during the year end process.
- 5.2.4. Please note, allowance hasn't been made should the Council receive an appeal to the magistrates' court against the proposed order. Should this occur, additional cost will be incurred by the Council as well as Officer time.
- 5.2.5. Any affected residents and/or businesses will have costs incurred due to the proposed change and those affected are included in 5.3 of the report.

5.3. Additional Considerations

- 5.3.1. For each request, there will be residents and/or business affected by the changes, details of which are enclosed below.

5.3.2. Clinic Drive (both named and the unnamed section)

- 5.3.2.1. As a minimum, the following properties being directly affected:

- I. Childrens Centre – Riversley Park Clinic, Coton Road, Nuneaton
- II. Riversley Park Clinic, Coton Road Nuneaton
- III. Speech & Language Therapy, Riversley Park Clinic, Coton Road Nuneaton
- IV. Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Academy, Coton Road, Nuneaton
- V. Sure Start Childrens Centre, Coton Road, Nuneaton
- VI. St Josephs RC Junior School, Coton Road, Nuneaton
- VII. Our Lady of the Angels RC Church
- VIII. Presbytery, Coton Road, Nuneaton
- IX. Riversley Park and Riversley Park Car Park (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council).

6. Background Papers

- 6.1. Street Naming and Numbering Policy - [Street Naming and Numbering Policy March 2022 | Nuneaton & Bedworth \(nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk\)](#)
- 6.2. Civic Honours Sub-Committee Meeting – [6th November 2023](#)