

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

25th April 2024

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 25th April 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Clarke (Chair)

Councillors: C. Cape, M. Green, J. Hartshorn, G. Moreton and M. Wright.

Apologies: Councillors M. Walsh and J. Coventry-Moreton.
Cabinet Members Councillors K. Wilson and R. Smith.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

BRP 37 Minutes

Thanks were given to Councillor M. Walsh for standing in as Chair at the February meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8th February 2024 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP 38 Declarations of Interest

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

BRP 39 Questions to Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration (Councillor K. Wilson) and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation (Councillor R. Smith) were unable to attend this meeting and had submitted their apologies. It was agreed that any questions would be emailed to the relevant Cabinet Member after the meeting, with a request for a written response that can be sent to Panel Members.

Councillor M. Wright asked the following question for the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

Please can we have an update on the Bridge to Living? The current situation, timetable and so on.

BRP 40 Update on Vacant Council Owned Commercial Properties in Nuneaton and Bedworth

The Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration and Estates, presented a report which gave Panel Members with an opportunity to scrutinise the information provided about the current position relating to Council owned commercial properties in Nuneaton and Bedworth Town Centres.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Empty properties with the Town Centre, industrial units and concerns about the Woolworths building and Wilko's.
- Bridge to Living – properties being purchased as part of the regeneration.
- Impact of Covid and 'new reality'. Need to look forwards now and build on positives.
- More comparisons with similar towns and local towns would be beneficial.
- Data on empty properties not owned by the Council (including rents) was also thought to be beneficial for comparison.
- The need to continue encouraging footfall within the town centres. It was recognised that retail parks outside towns can take people away from visiting town centres.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 41 Integrated Performance Report – Third Quarter 2023-24

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Panel Members with appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel. The report has been adapted to reduce the volume of data (as previously reported under the former scrutiny panel arrangements), whilst still providing the Panel with sufficient information to monitor results to address issues arising.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Car parking price points – encouraging people to visit more and stay longer.
- Footfall and market stall figures are remaining consistent. Figures to allow comparison are always useful.
- The way information is presented and possible changes to allow for Members to see trends, compare and scrutinise.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 42 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st May 2024, was provided to the Panel for information.

Public Speaker: Councillor K. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP 43 Work Programme 2023-2024

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

RESOLVED that the 2023-2024 work programme be noted.

Chair

Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2023/2024

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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
	C. Cape	Director of Capability Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces Covenant Meeting 	
	J. Clarke	Employed by Marcus Jones MP	County Councillor W.C.C. Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman Officer of the Abbey Preceptory No.541 - Nuneaton	
	J. Coventry-Moreton	School Receptionist – St Nicholas Chamberlain School, Bedworth	Share in rental dwelling at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresilian Road, Bedworth.	
	M. Green	Employed by Horiba Mira – Engineering Technician	Chair of Education Standards Committee – St Thomas More School. School Appeals Panel Member Our Lady of the Angels Church. President – St Vincent De Paul Society Nuneaton. Director – Holy Spirit Catholic Multi Academy Company. Member of the George Eliot Fellowship Member of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children. • Nuneaton Education Strategy Group 	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda	Member of Nuneaton	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Nuneaton	Conservatives	
	G. Moreton	Member of School Appeals Panels at Warwickshire County Council	Share in rental dwellings at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresillian Road, Exhall. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee 	
	N. Phillips (Vice-Chair)	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Central Credit Union • Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club • Haunchwood Sports and Social Club 	
	M. Walsh (Chair)	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		
	M. Wright			