

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

6th July 2023

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 6th July 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton. This meeting was recorded for publication on the Council's website.

Present

Councillors J. Clarke (Chair)

Councillors: C. Cape, J. Coventry-Moreton, M. Green, J. Hartshorn, G. Moreton, N. Phillips (Vice-Chair) M. Wright and B. Hammersley (substituting for Councillor M. Walsh).

Apologies: Councillor M. Walsh, Councillor R. Smith (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation) and Councillor K. Wilson (Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration).

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

BRP 1 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 27th April 2023 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP 2 Declarations of Interest

As Councillor B. Hammersley was a substitute Councillors for this meeting, their declarations were not detailed in the Schedule attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes, with the addition of the Declarations of Interest for Councillor B. Hammersley.

BRP 3 Questions to Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration (Councillor K. Wilson) and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation (Councillor R. Smith) had tendered their apologies and were not present at the meeting. It was agreed that any questions would be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member following the meeting, and they would be asked to respond with a written response where appropriate.

Councillor M. Wright asked the following question for the attention of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation:

Could he clarify what the status of the proposed cycle route between Bulkington and Bedworth is at the moment?

BRP 4 Integrated Performance Report

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer. The Panel were presented with a report which seeks to provide appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel. The report has been adapted to reduce the volume of data (as previously reported under the former scrutiny panel arrangements), whilst still

providing the Panel with sufficient information to monitor results to address issues arising.

Public Speakers: Mr Peter Smith

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Risk Registers and mitigations - the possibility of having additional columns to provide more information (although this may not be practical to achieve).
- Freedom of Information requests – more information was requested on why some are outstanding, and the benefits of having more information to analyse.
- Freedom of Information requests – analysis of types rather than departments (additional information will be sent via email to all Members).
- Town Centre Markets – including any correlation between indoor and outdoor markets. Seasonal factors influence footfall levels.
- Consumer confidence is down due to the cost of living crisis – a National issue.
- Planning Application timescales (processing applications) – showing a median and mode average as well as mean average to provide a clearer picture.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 5 Town Centres Update

A report of the Assistant Director – Economy to provide the Panel with an update on the Q1 2023/24 Town Centre KPI's.

Public Speaker: Mr Peter Smith

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Footfall was up in June, the weather and Knife Angels were possible factors in this.
- Changes in working practices such as working from home has an impact on shopping habits – including a reduction in lunchtime expenditure in the Town Centres.
- Shopping habits have also changed due to other influences including consumer confidence (cost of living crisis) and online shopping. Although footfall may have increased, expenditure is down. This is a nationwide issue.
- Market Stall numbers are reducing as less people go into this business, figures are down, which is a national issue.
- The possibility of Sunday Markets in Bedworth
- Car parking
 - People are tending to visit less often, but stay for longer when in town.
 - Carpark revenues compared to private carparks.
 - Changes to tariffs may be a factor in dwell times.
 - The possibility of comparing figures with other local Towns.
 - The introduction of 'Ringo' and its benefits.
 - Abbey Streets impact on carparking in Nuneaton.
 - Surface carparks are more popular than the multi-storey – work is needed to make people feel safe.

- Introducing initiatives such as ANPR in certain car parks, having a mix of ANPR and traditional 'pay and display'.
- Retail units, and the possibility of splitting some to create smaller, more viable units.
- Having a strategy to address cultural issues and looking strategically at ways to attract businesses and increase footfall.
- Getting the right balance of residential, retail and commercial properties in the Towns, ensuring they are commercially viable.
- Bringing in leisure, family and recreational facilities where possible to the Town Centres.
- Addressing issues such as ASB to increase confidence and encourage more footfall.
- 'Transforming Nuneaton' – looking at making changes and development within the Town.
- The impact the Civic Hall closure has had on footfall – the footfall is similar to last year.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 6 CWLEP Update

The Panel were presented with a report for information.

Public Speaker: Mr Peter Smith

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

BRP 7 Forward Plan

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

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP 8 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 approved.

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 Member of the following Outside Bodies: Nuneaton Festival of Arts	
	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, Member of the George Eliot Fellowship Member of Other Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children. • Nuneaton Education Strategy Group 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of 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			