

Enquiries to: Kelly Baxter
Direct Dial: 024 7637 6204
Direct Email:

member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 3rd September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Wednesday, 11th September 2024** at **6.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: Members of Cabinet

Councillor Chris Watkins (Leader)	-	Housing
Councillor Jill Sheppard (Deputy Leader)	-	Environment and Public Services
Councillor Steve Hey	-	Resources and Customer Service
Councillor Tim Jenkins	-	Leisure, Communities and Health
Councillor Nicola King	-	Business and Regeneration
Councillor Robert Roze	-	Planning and Enforcement

Observer

Councillor Kris Wilson	-	Leader of the Main Opposition Group
------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

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 17th July 2024 (**Page 9**).

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. UPDATES TO THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME – report of the Strategic Director – Economy and Place attached (**Page 18**)
7. CEMETERY UPDATE – BUCKS HILL/ATTLEBOROUGH – report of the Parks and Green Space Manager attached (**Page 37**)
8. REGENERATION UPDATE - CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND ABBEY STREET PHASE 2– report of the Strategic Director – Economy & Place attached (**Page 42**)
9. GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING Q1 – report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources attached (**Page 52**)
10. HRA BUDGET MONITORING Q1 – report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources (**Page 61**)
11. CAPITAL FORECAST Q1 2024/25 – report of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources (**Page 70**)
12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS
None
13. ANY OTHER ITEMS - which in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Building A Better Borough

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

AIM 1: LIVE

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

Priority 1: Promote residents' health and wellbeing

Priority 2: Enable appropriate housing development

Priority 3: Sponsor a sustainable green approach

Priority 4: Prioritise community safety and empowerment

AIM 2: WORK

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

Priority 1: Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Priority 2: Champion education and skills

Priority 3: Embrace new and emerging technology

Priority 4: Support local businesses

AIM 3: VISIT

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

Priority 1: Create vibrant and diverse town centres

Priority 2: Stimulate regeneration

Priority 3: Celebrate and promote our heritage

Priority 4: Improve the physical environment

Cabinet - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2024/2025

	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. Hey	Director – - Heywire Ltd - Brilliant Bookings Ltd	Member of the Labour Party, National Trust, CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), Royal Photographic Society. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Employers Board (NBBC representative) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board • Grayson Place (NBBC) Limited • West Midlands Employers • Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People’s Forum 	
	T. Jenkins	Managing Partner – Gribblybugs LLP	The Labour Party (sponsorship) - Committee Member of Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team - Member of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Member of Equity – Trade Union Members of National Trust and English Heritage Representative on the following Outside Bodies:	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum, • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board, • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, • Biodiversity Champion • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • Exhall Education Foundation • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. King	Employed by Love Hair and Beauty	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Town Deal Board 	
	R. Roze	Director – InfiniTEN Ltd	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside of London) Joint Committee Services. • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bedworth Town Deal Board 	
	J. Sheppard		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Nuneaton Neighbour Watch Committee 	
Director of Wembrook Community Centre.			Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre	
Member of Labour Party				

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	<p>Representative on the following outside bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee • Local Government Association • Nuneaton and Bedworth Hone Improvement Agency • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership • West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCA) • West Midland Combined Housing and Land delivery Board 	

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17th July 2024

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 17th July, 2024 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader and Housing)
Councillor J. Sheppard (Deputy Leader and Environment & Public Services)
Councillor S. Hey (Resources & Customer Services)
Councillor T. Jenkins (Leisure, Communities and Health)
Councillor R. Roze (Planning & Enforcement)
Councillor N. King (Business and Regeneration)

CB15**Apologies**

None

CB16**Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

CB17**Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 19th June 2024, be approved, and signed by the Chair.

CB18**Natural Capital Investment Strategy**

The Strategy Director – Place and Economy submitted a report requesting Cabinet to adopt the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy as the basis for utilising natural capital funding across the sub-region, noting that the strategy aligns closely with the Biodiversity Action Plan.

RESOLVED that

- a) the subject to the other partners listed in Appendix 1 of the main report doing likewise, the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Natural Capital Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted;
- b) the proposals to develop the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Natural Capital Investment Implementation Plan (As set out in 1.4 and Appendix 2 of the report) be agreed and a further report be brought back to Cabinet for approval on completion of that work; and
- c) the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Natural Capital Investment Board and Natural Capital Investment Management Group be established to enable the delivery of the Strategy

Speakers:

Mr P. Smith

Options

If the Cabinet chose not to adopt this Strategy. This would either

- a) leave the Council without a strategy approach to investing in natural capital, meaning that investments are made in an ad hoc way, thereby leaving the District vulnerable to missed opportunities, slow delivery and reduced benefits, or
- b) require a local strategy to be developed which could still deliver a positive approach, but would fail to deliver to the multiple benefits set out in the main report.

Reasons

To ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of biodiversity section 106 funds.

CB19 Newdigate Recreation Ground

The Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture submitted a report to Cabinet with a recommendation to surrender the current lease in relation to Newdigate Pavilion and Sports Pitches.

RESOLVED that

- a) Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Public Services in consultation with the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture and Portfolio Holder – Planning and Enforcement to surrender the existing lease with Newdigate Sports and Social Club; and
- b) Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Public Services in consultation with the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture and Portfolio Holder – Planning and Enforcement and Portfolio Holder – Leisure, Communities and Health to negotiate and enter into a new agreement with Newdigate Sports and Social Club in relation to public open space.

Speakers:

None

Options

- 1) to accept the recommendations
- 2) not to proceed with the recommendations

Reasons

The site is not council owned and is managed under a lease from 1970, due to the age of the lease there is a requirement for the Council to review the terms of the current agreement to better meet the requirements for the facility.

CB20 Tenant Satisfaction Measures

The Assistant Director – Social Housing & Community Safety provided Cabinet with an update of revised results of the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM's) survey 2023/24. These measures were reported to the Regulator of Social Housing on 27th June 2024.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) the Assistant Director – Social Housing and Community Safety be required to work with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Director for Housing and Community Safety, to utilise the results of the TSM's to improve services and service delivery; and
- c) the Assistant Director – Social Housing & Community Safety be required to consult with the appropriate Scrutiny Panel upon any such service and/or service delivery improvements identified.

Speakers

Mr P. Smith

Options

To note the content outlined in the report

Reasons

The Government's Charter for Social Housing Residents (Social Housing White Paper – 2020) set out a commitment for the Regulator of Social Housing to bring in a set of annual TSMs for all social housing landlords. The aim of the measures is to provide tenants and the Regulator with clear and comparable information about a landlords' performance. This data will help tenants hold their landlords to account and will also be used by the Regulator in their role of assessing how well social housing landlords in England are doing at providing good quality homes and services. The subsequent Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 formally incorporated these requirements.

CB21 General Fund Revenue Outturn 2023/24

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted the final revenue outturn position on the General Fund for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that

- a) the forecast outturn position and key variances be noted; and
- b) the earmarked reserve balances be approved.

Speakers

None

Options

To accept the report; or
Request further information on the outturn position

Reasons

The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year.

CB22 Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2023/24

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted the outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that

- a) the outturn position and key variances be noted; and
- b) the earmarked reserves balances be approved.

Speakers

None

Options

To accept the report; or
Request further information on the outturn position

Reasons

The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year.

CB23 Capital Outturn 2023/24

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources provided Cabinet with the final capital outturn position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Capital Outturn position for 2023/24 be noted;
- b) the updated Capital Budget for 2024/25 be recommended for Council for approval; and
- c) the capital reserve position as at the end of 2023/24 be noted.

SPEAKERS

None

Options

To accept the report; or
Request further information on the outturn position

Reasons

To ensure the Council has an accurate capital budget.

CB24 Collection Fund Outturn 2023/24

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources provided a report detailing the outturn position on the Collection Fund for 2023/24, the details of which have been shared with Warwickshire Preceptors.

RESOLVED that the Collection Fund Outturn 2023/24 report be approved with an amendment at 4.11 of the report that the Band D figure to read 39,769.5.

SPEAKERS

None

Options

- 1) To note and accept the position on the Collection Fund as to be reported in the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts
- 2) To request further information.

Reasons

For inclusion in Statement of Accounts for 2023/24

CB25 Recommendations From Overview and Scrutiny Panels

SPEAKER: Councillor J. Collett

a) **Business Regeneration and Planning OSP**

At its meeting on Thursday 20th June, 2024, the Integrated Performance Report Q4 2023/24 was considered and a recommendation to Cabinet from the panel was put forward as follows:

BRP 4 Integrated Performance Report – Fourth Quarter 2023/24

RESOLVED that

- a) *the contents of the report be considered and noted; and*
- b) ***IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that all available and relevant financial information and figures be included in future financial reports***

The Cabinet thanked the Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP for their recommendation and **RESOLVED** that

- i) the financial outturn position figures were unable to be provided to the Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP in June as the figures had not been available until this Cabinet in July; and
- ii) the financial outturn position reports for the budget, if not presently included, be placed on the Forward Plan.

b) **Health and Corporate Resources OSP**

At its meeting on Thursday 27th June, 2024 the St Benedicts House – 196/198 Church Road, Nuneaton report was considered and a recommendation from the panel put forward as follows:

HCR 6 St Benedict's House – 196/198 Church Road, Nuneaton

RESOLVED that

- a) *the contents of the report be considered and noted; and*
- b) ***IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that Cabinet review this report.***

The Cabinet thanked the Health and Corporate Resources OSP for their recommendation and **RESOLVED** that the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Customer Services further review in depth the details in the report and feedback to the Health and Corporate Resources OSP.

CB26 **Any Other Items**

None

Chair

PUBLICATION DATE: 24TH JULY 2024

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 1ST AUGUST 2024

Cabinet - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2024/2025

	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. Hey	Director – - Heywire Ltd - Brilliant Bookings Ltd	Member of the Labour Party, National Trust, CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), Royal Photographic Society. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Employers Board (NBBC representative) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board • Grayson Place (NBBC) Limited • West Midlands Employers • Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum 	
	T. Jenkins	Managing Partner – Gribblybugs LLP	The Labour Party (sponsorship) - Committee Member of Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team - Member of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Member of Equity – Trade Union Members of National Trust and English Heritage Representative on the following Outside Bodies:	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum, • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board, • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel, • Biodiversity Champion • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • Exhall Education Foundation • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. King	Employed by Love Hair and Beauty	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Town Deal Board 	
	R. Roze	Director – InfiniTEN Ltd	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside of London) Joint Committee Services. • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bedworth Town Deal Board 	
	J. Sheppard		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Nuneaton Neighbour Watch Committee 	
Director of Wembrook Community Centre.			Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre	
Member of Labour Party				

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	<p>Representative on the following outside bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee • Local Government Association • Nuneaton and Bedworth Hone Improvement Agency • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd • Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership • West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCA) • West Midland Combined Housing and Land delivery Board 	

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: Updates to the wording and timetable to the Local Development Scheme

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement (Councillor. R. Roze)

From: Director – Place and Economy (Maria Bailey)

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Cabinet and Full Council that wording and timetable amendments are carried out to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and that the new LDS be adopted by Full Council.

Recommendations:

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:
a) the amendments to the LDS be noted; and
b) the amended LDS be adopted.

Options:

- To endorse the recommendations and adopt the amended LDS.
- To recommend an alternative timetable.
- Not to endorse the recommendations.

Reasons:

To enable the Council to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) in line with the timetable established within the amended LDS.

<p>Consultation undertaken with Members and Officers:</p> <p>Consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Planning and Enforcement.</p>
<p>Subject to call-in: Yes.</p>
<p>Ward relevance: All.</p>
<p>Forward plan: Yes</p>

<p>Building a Better Borough Aim: All.</p>
<p>Building a Better Borough Priority: All.</p>
<p>Relevant statutes or policy:</p> <p>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the associated Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).</p>
<p>Equalities implications: None.</p>
<p>Human resources implications:</p> <p>The proposed LDS timetable accounts for existing known staffing and resource levels.</p>
<p>Financial implications:</p> <p>None for the amendments to the LDS.</p>
<p>Health Inequalities Implications: N/A.</p>
<p>Section 17 - Crime and Disorder Implications: N/A.</p>

Risk management implications:

None to the amendments to the LDS.

Environmental implications:

None within the LDS.

Legal implications:

The LDS, is statutory requirement under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the associated Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Contact details:

Maria Bailey
Director of Place and Economy
024 7637 6144
maria.bailey@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Jacqui Padbury
Principal Planning Policy Officer
024 7637 6162
jacqueline.padbury@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO.6

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet – 11th September 2024

From: Director – Place and Economy

Subject: Updates to wording and timeframes within the Local Development Scheme

Portfolio: Planning and Enforcement (Cllr R. Roze)

Building A Better Borough Aim: All

Building a Better Borough Priority: All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend to Cabinet and Full Council that wording and timetable amendments are carried out to the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and that the new LDS be adopted by Council at the 18th of September 2024 meeting. The proposed LDS is set out in appendix A of this agenda.

2. Recommendations

2.1 IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT:

- a) the amendments to the LDS be noted; and
- b) the amended LDS be adopted.

3. Background

3.1 The current 2023 LDS adopted in December last year stated that the Borough Plan Review would be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in January 2024 and that the prediction for adoption would be December 2024.

3.2 The current LDS provided a timetable for Examination and adoption of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD because at that time, the DPD was still under Examination with the Secretary of State.

- 3.3 The two Development Plan Documents have subsequently moved on since December 2023 and therefore the LDS needs to be updated to match the new current and proposed time frames.
4. Current situation
- 4.1 *The Borough Plan Review*
- 4.2 The Borough Plan Review was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 12th of February 2024 which was 12 days later than previously quoted. Two Planning Inspectors have now been appointed to Examine the Review. Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQ's) have been published by the Inspectors and the final responses are due to be sent to the Inspectors by the 2nd of September. Three blocks of Hearings have been set up to allow Respondents from the Publication (Regulation 19 stage) to speak in public in relation to the MIQ's so that the Inspectors can review and question the Respondents and Officers on the matters that they have raised. This is to enable the Inspectors to consider whether the Review is legally compliant and sound. The Hearings have been scheduled for the weeks commencing the 9th of July, 24th of September and the final week is proposed to sit from the 8th of October 2024. Block 1 has already been undertaken and Officers are currently preparing for blocks 2 and 3. The Council also carried out a call for sites for employment land between August and September 2024 to ensure the evidence base is up to date during the Review progress.
- 4.3 The Inspectors have noted the present timeframes in the LDS from December 2023 and have suggested that this requires amending. Whilst the period for the Examination is still relatively unknown, the timetable has been amended to provide a more realistic current time frame bearing in mind the Hearing dates and likely requirements for consultation on Main Modifications. The following timetable has therefore been provided within the new LDS:

Borough Plan Review DPD

Stage	Timescale	Opportunity for Public Involvement
Commencement/ scoping	June 2019 – May 2021	No
Issues and Options Consultation	May 2021	Yes
Consultation on Preferred Options	June 2022	Yes
Publication (Regulation 19) consultation	September 2023	Yes
Submission to Secretary of State	February 2024	No
Examination in Public	February 2024 to	Yes

Stage	Timescale	Opportunity for Public Involvement
(dependent on Planning Inspectorate's work programme) and likely consultation on Main Modifications.	February 2025	
Receipt of Inspector's Report (dependent on Planning Inspectorate's work programme)	February 2025	No
Adoption (prediction only – dependent on Planning Inspectorate's work programme)	April to June 2025	No

Table 1: Borough Plan Review Timetable

4.4 *Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document*

4.5 The December 2023 LDS provided a timetable for the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD because at that time the DPD was still under Examination with the Secretary of State. The Document has now been considered sound and legally compliant by the Inspector, subject to Main Modifications. The DPD was therefore formally adopted by the Council on the 18th of January 2024 subject to the Main Modifications. The requirement under the DPD's monitoring targets is that a new Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation Assessment will need to be carried out within five years of adoption. This is anticipated to commence in 2028 and the DPD may consequently need to be reviewed.

4.6 As the DPD is now adopted this has been removed from section 3 of the LDS which refers to emerging Documents and instead has been added into Section 2 which refers to existing Documents.

4.7 *Further minor changes to the LDS*

4.8 The whole LDS has been reviewed and further minor amendments have been carried out to the Document, such as updating outdated web links. The Validation Checklist Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been added to section 2.2 for the list of adopted SPD's. This Document was adopted by the Planning Team on the 11th of July 2024. The Document will be used by the Planning Team to make sure that new planning applications, before they are made valid, have all the necessary and appropriate supporting information. This is so that all applications have the required information to enable the Planning Team to assess and evaluate applications thoroughly and efficiently.

4.9 The section under SPD's has also been amended (paragraph 3.10) to acknowledge that some of the adopted SPD's are likely to require some amendments and subsequent consultation following the adoption of the Borough Plan Review. This is so that the SPD's are brought into line with the Policy requirements within the Borough Plan Review Document.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The amendments to the LDS should be noted to bring the Document in line with the current progress of the Council's Planning Documents and that it be recommended to Council that the September 2024 LDS be adopted to supersede the LDS from December 2023.

6.1 Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed LDS (September 2024).

7 Background Papers

The existing current adopted LDS from December 2023 can be found at:

[Local Development Scheme | Borough Plan | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Local Development Scheme September 2024

Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	Existing Planning Policy Documents	4
	Local planning policies	4
	Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD	4
	Warwickshire planning policies	5
3.	The emerging Planning Policy Framework	5
	Development Plan Documents.....	5
	Borough Plan Review	5
	Policies Map.....	6
	Community Infrastructure Levy	7
	Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)	7
4.	EVIDENCE, RESOURCING AND RISK	8
	Evidence Base	8
	Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	8
	Monitoring	9
	Political Framework.....	9
	Resources.....	9
	Risk Assessment	10
5.	Contact Details	12

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The LDS has two main functions:

1. To identify the current planning policy documents that are being applied in Nuneaton and Bedworth.
2. To provide a three-year project plan that outlines what the replacement planning policy documents will be and their stages of preparation.

1.2 The document is divided into the following sections:

- ***Existing Planning Policy***

Section 2 of the document provides an overview of the existing planning policy documents and guidance that cover the Borough.

- ***Documents to be Prepared***

Section 3 outlines the type and function of the documents that the Council will produce in forthcoming years.

- ***Supporting Statement***

Section 4 makes reference to the evidence base which will be used to inform emerging policy along with the Sustainability Appraisal work that will be required. A programme for monitoring and reviewing documents, the political framework for approval, the resources available and an assessment of the risks associated with the delivery of the LDS are also identified.

1.3 The Council's Authority Monitoring Report is produced annually and is required to assess Development Plan Document progress against the targets and milestones in the LDS. Where the milestones have not been met, up-to-date information will be provided on the Council's webpages.

2. EXISTING PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS

Local planning policies

- 2.1 The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan was adopted on 11th June 2019. On adoption, the Borough Plan superseded the saved policies of the 2006 Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Plan. The Council has committed to a review of the Plan following its adoption in order to consider the implications of the updated National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance.
- 2.2 There are adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Guidance (SPG) documents providing additional information or guidance on certain matters. These include:
- Affordable Housing SPD (2020)
 - Air Quality SPD (2020)
 - Concept Plan SPDs (for each of the strategic housing and employment allocations) (2020)
 - Health Impact Assessment SPD (2021)
 - Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD (2021)
 - Planning for a Healthier Area – Hot Food Takeaways SPD (2020)
 - Shopfronts and Advertisements Design Guide SPG (1994)
 - Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020)
 - Transport Demand Management Matters – Parking Standards SPD (2022)
 - Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan SPDs (2022)
 - HSG2 Arbury Design Code SPD (2022)
 - First Homes Interim Policy Statement (2022)
 - Validation checklist (SPD) (2024)
- 2.3 Please note that limited weight can be afforded to the 1994 Shopfronts and Advertisements Guide SPG due to its age, however it has never been formally revoked.

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD

- 2.4 The purpose of this policy document is to allocate sites to meet the Borough's identified need. The Document has gone through the Examination process and was considered sound and legally compliant by the Inspector subject to Main Modifications. The DPD was subsequently formally adopted by the Council on the 18th January 2024 subject to those Main Modifications. The requirement under the DPD's monitoring targets is that a new Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Accommodation Assessment will need to be carried out within five years of adoption. This is anticipated to commence in 2028 and the DPD may subsequently need to be reviewed.

Warwickshire planning policies

- 2.5 Warwickshire County Council adopted a Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document on 9th July 2013. This strategy guides the future strategy and development of all new waste facilities in the County up to 2028. Further information on the Waste Core Plan can be viewed at:
[Waste development framework – Warwickshire County Council](#)
- 2.6 The adopted Warwickshire County Council Minerals Local Plan (2018-2032) provides the planning policies to guide future minerals development within the County. Further information on the Minerals Plan can be viewed at:
[Minerals Local Plan – Warwickshire County Council](#)

3. THE EMERGING PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 This section identifies how the Council will deliver its future planning policy framework which comprises Development Plan Documents. The timetable forecasts provided below are the best estimates available at the time of publication. Where the milestones have not been met, up-to-date information will be provided on the Council's webpages. Periodic updates will also be provided to the Council's Borough Plan Committee, which meets on a quarterly basis.

Development Plan Documents

Borough Plan Review

- 3.2 The Council has committed to undertaking a review of the adopted Borough Plan following updates to the National Planning Policy Framework. All aspects of the updated NPPF will need to be re-examined, but in particular the updated 'standard method' for assessing housing need and associated Housing Delivery Test have changed how Local Plans calculate housing requirements and will be central to the Borough Plan Review.
- 3.3 The Borough Plan Review 'Issues and Options' consultation document explored key policy issues in detail as well as potential options for addressing the issues. Such issues included meeting housing and employment needs, infrastructure delivery, town centre regeneration, Green Belt, climate change adaptation/mitigation, biodiversity, sustainable transportation and design. The Council also undertook a 'call for sites' which informed the Preferred Options. The Borough Plan Review needs to be underpinned by robust and up-to-date evidence to ensure 'soundness' and legal compliance for the examination stage and the evidence base was subsequently reviewed and updated. The Preferred Options stage was consulted upon between 13th June 2022 and 22nd July 2022. The Publication stage was consulted upon between the 4th September 2023 to the 16th October 2023.

3.4 The Borough Plan Review was submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on Monday 12th of February 2024 in accordance with Regulation 22(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Examination in Public has commenced with three blocks of Hearings in July, September and October 2024. Therefore, the timetable below has been amended to take into consideration the Examination process and the likely adoption date. A call for sites for employment land was carried out between August and September 2024 to ensure the evidence base is up to date during the Examination process. In addition, the Council will continue to monitor any proposed legislative or policy changes.

Stage	Timescale	Opportunity for Public Involvement
Commencement/ scoping	June 2019 – May 2021	No
Issues and Options Consultation	May 2021	Yes
Consultation on Preferred Options	June 2022	Yes
Publication (Regulation 19) consultation	September 2023	Yes
Submission to Secretary of State	February 2024	No
Examination in Public (dependent on Planning Inspectorate’s work programme) and likely consultation on Main Modifications.	February 2024 to February 2025	Yes
Receipt of Inspector’s Report (dependent on Planning Inspectorate’s work programme)	February 2025	No
Adoption (prediction only – dependent on Planning Inspectorate’s work programme)	April to June 2025	No

Table 1: Borough Plan Review Timetable

Policies Map

3.5 The purpose of the Policies Map is to illustrate the main proposals, designations and area-based policies covering the Borough. The Policies Map will be developed alongside the Borough Plan Review and other DPDs. The map will be reviewed as each additional new policy document is produced.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 3.6 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which can be levied by local authorities on new development in their area.
- 3.7 In 2020, consultants Dixon Searle Partnership were appointed to develop a draft charging schedule of rates, based on updated viability analysis. The proposed charging rates were included in a Draft Charging Schedule and this was consulted on in October 2020.
- 3.8 Further detailed analysis was undertaken following the consultation process to compare how the proposed CIL rates would compare with the existing 'section 106' (s106) arrangements by assessing different planning applications of various types and sizes. It was concluded that for strategic scale developments, existing s106 processes would generate significantly more infrastructure funding than CIL, although CIL may generate more funding for smaller scale developments. Given the administrative burdens and costs associated with CIL implementation, it was considered that CIL may not be beneficial in the round compared to existing s106 arrangements. On the 26th May 2021, the Council's Cabinet resolved¹ that the CIL Charging Schedule should not be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Council will continue to monitor emerging legislation and policy changes (e.g. the potential National Infrastructure Levy proposed as part of the 'Planning for the Future') and review whether a revised Levy approach is appropriate for the Council to pursue.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 3.9 The Council is also preparing a number of SPDs that provide more detailed advice and guidance in relation to the implementation and interpretation of planning policies set out in the Borough Plan/DPDs. SPDs are not subject to examination but are subject to public consultation. Currently, the following SPDs are due to be progressed:
- Town Centres SPD (to be progressed alongside the Borough Plan Review).
 - Heritage SPD.
- 3.10 Subsequent to the adoption of the Borough Plan Review; the current adopted SPD's will be reviewed and where necessary amended and consulted upon to bring the SPD's in line with the new adopted Borough Plan. If it becomes apparent that additional SPDs are required (i.e. to provide necessary clarity to adopted policies), further information will be provided on the Council's Planning Policy webpages.

¹ <https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2293/cabinet>

4. EVIDENCE, RESOURCING AND RISK

Evidence Base

- 4.1 Development Plan Documents must be based on up-to-date, robust evidence for them to be considered sound. In preparing the policy documents there is a need to undertake technical research and other background work. This work will be undertaken by the Council as well as external consultants on behalf of the Council where information of a specialist nature is required or where the time needed to undertake the work is not available in-house. All background/technical documents will be made available alongside the policy document to which they relate. Details of the existing evidence base can be found on the Council's Planning Policy webpages.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 4.2 Notwithstanding the emerging national policy planning reforms, existing legislation requires that all DPDs will be subject to a SA (which incorporates SEA). The purpose of SA/SEA is to assess the likely environmental, economic and social implications of the policies/ proposals in the documents. External groups and organisations are consulted on the SA and invited to contribute to the appraisal. The key stages of SA preparation are provided in table 3 below.

Stage	Key tasks
<u>Stage A</u> – Development of the SA framework and production of Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives • Collect baseline information • Identify sustainability issues and problems • Develop the SA framework • Consult on the scope of the sustainability appraisal
<u>Stage B</u> – Appraisal of plan options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test the Plan objectives against the SA framework • Develop the plan options including reasonable alternatives • Assess the likely effects of each of the options • Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan
<u>Stage C</u> – Preparation of the final SA report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce the final SA report based on the final plan ('Publication' version), documenting the appraisal process
<u>Stage D</u> – Consultation on the SA report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on the options/policies and SA report at the 'Publication' (regulation 19) stage
<u>Stage E</u> – Post adoption monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and publish post adoption statement • Monitor significant effects of implementing the Plan • Respond to adverse effects

Table 3: SA process

4.3 SPDs are exempt from the requirements for SA. Unless significant environmental effects are likely to result from implementation of the SPD, SEA is not required.

Monitoring

4.4 The process of monitoring and review is an important part of the current planning system. Central to this is an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which will be published by December each year. The AMR will:

- Identify how well the Council is performing when assessed against the targets/ milestones set out in the LDS.
- Examine the success of planning policies through the use of key indicators and targets.
- Advise on the need to review the LDS and amend/ revise policies contained in policy documents.

Political Framework

4.5 Before submission to the Secretary of State for consideration, or formal adoption by the Council (in the case of SPDs), each document in the planning policy framework will require political approval. The level of approval will be determined by the status of the document and the stage it has reached in the preparation process. Listed in table 4 below are the levels of approval different types of documents will require at different stages of their preparation.

Document	Stage of Preparation	Level of Approval
Local Development Scheme	Publication	Cabinet Full Council
Development Plan Documents	Issues and Options consultation Publication consultation Submission to Secretary of State Adoption	Cabinet Cabinet Cabinet & Full Council Cabinet & Full Council
Supplementary Planning Documents	Consultation on Draft SPD Adoption	Cabinet Full Council
Authority Monitoring Report	Publication	-

Table 4: Political Approval Framework

Resources

4.6 The work associated with the production of the planning policy framework, its monitoring and review will primarily be undertaken by the Planning Policy

team with contributions from other services within the Council as and when required. Input from the Council's other services will be particularly valuable at the evidence gathering stage of policy development to help ensure that the Council's other Plans/ Strategies are integrated into the planning policy framework. In preparing documents, specialist services provided by consultants will also be utilised where necessary.

- 4.7 The cost of producing the planning policy framework is currently being met through the existing service budget. Both staffing and budgetary resources will need to be monitored to ensure that there is adequate provision to enable the delivery of the LDS.

Risk Assessment

- 4.8 This LDS has been drafted on the basis of what is considered deliverable, based on information available at the time of drafting. Nevertheless, there are a number of risks which could jeopardise the Council's ability to deliver the documents that make up the planning policy framework within the timeframe identified (such as the proposed Government planning reforms). The Council has however attempted to minimise the risks by putting in place mitigation measures. The risks, their rating (in terms of likelihood and impact) and the mitigation measures that have been put in place to moderate and manage the risks are summarised in the table 5. The risk rating scores included are net risk scores and account for risk control and mitigation measures.

Risk	Likelihood (L)	Impact (I)	Rating (L x I)	Mitigation Measures
Internal Resources	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification of budget requirements. • Keep budget under review.
Staff Turnover (Loss of staff and difficulty to recruit replacements, reflecting national shortage)	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise posts as soon as possible to minimise length of vacancy. • Appoint consultants.
Additional Unforeseen Work/ Pressure on Staff Time	3	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work associated with delivery of DPDs and SPDs prioritised within work programme.
Lack of In House Expertise for Specialist Areas of Work (E.g. Sustainable Appraisal, background work)	2	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ consultants to undertake work. • Train staff where appropriate.
Capacity of External Organisations (Planning Inspectorate (PINs) and Statutory Consultees)	2	3	6	Capacity is outside the Council's control but will minimise impact by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending organisations a copy of LDS so aware of timetable. • Maintain Service Level Agreement with PINs. • Consult statutory consultees as early as possible.
New/ Replacement Government Policies and Guidance (E.g. Planning for the Future White Paper, revised NPPF/NPPG)	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep up to date on emerging policies and guidance to enable early response to changes
Political Decision Making	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early involvement of Members in preparation of documents to maximise support.
Significant Opposition to Policy or Proposal	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement in the consultation process (however it is unlikely that consensus will be reached between all stakeholders).
Timing of Committee Meetings (Dates of meetings only set on annual basis)	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where necessary special meetings can be called.
Soundness of DPDs	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents to be based on robust evidence. • Community engagement undertaken in line with the Statement of Community Involvement. • Sustainability Appraisal undertaken. • Carry out soundness self assessment. • Work closely with PINs.
Legal Challenge	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure 2004 Act and associated regulations followed. • Implement audit trail of processes and procedures.

Table 5: Risks associated with delivery of LDS

Key to Scoring

Likelihood

1. Low
2. Significant
3. High
4. Very High

Impact

1. Low
2. Moderate
3. Serious
4. Major

Rating

- 1 - 4 Low (green)
- 5 - 9 Medium (orange)
- 10+ High (red)

5. CONTACT DETAILS

5.1 For more information on this Local Development Scheme please contact: -

Planning Policy Team
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Town Hall
Coton Road
Nuneaton
CV11 5AA

Tel: 024 7637 6328

Email: planning.policy@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk.

5.2 This document, and all other documents that make up the Planning Policy Framework, can be made available to view upon request at the Town Hall reception. Please check the Council's webpages² for the latest opening times and whether appointments are required. All documents will also be available on the Council's website: www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

²

https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/info/20052/get_involved_with_us/271/contacting_and_visiting_us

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: Cemetery Update - Bucks Hill / Attleborough

Portfolio: Leisure, Communities and Health (Councillor T. Jenkins)

From: Parks and Green Space Manager

Summary:

To provide Cabinet with an update in relation to the Borough Cemeteries that have experienced flooding.

Recommendation:

1. That the update on Borough Cemeteries of Bucks Hill and Attleborough be noted.

Options:

- a) That the recommendations be noted

Reasons:

Following a request from the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 13th June 2024, to provide cabinet with a report about the condition of the certain cemeteries, the ongoing water / flooding issues and actions being taken.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Portfolio Holder – Leisure Communities and Health
Leader of the Council
Strategic Director – Public Services

Subject to call-in: Yes

Ward relevance: Attleborough and Camp Hill

Forward plan: Yes

Building A Better Borough

Aim 3 - Visit

Priority 4: Improve the physical environment

Relevant statutes or policy:

None identified

Equalities Implications:

In some locations the flooding has reduced access to graves.

Human resources implications:

No direct human resource implication

Financial implications:

Works that are the responsibility of NBBC are being funded via the allocated cemeteries budget. Officers are working with WCC, who are managing and financing works in relation to their land.

Health Inequalities Implications:

It is understood that the location that the flooding has occurred, may have an impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals with relatives within the cemeteries.

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There are no Section 17 implications

Risk management implications:

The current situation has been added onto the Councils risk register for monitoring.

Environmental implications:

No environmental implications identified at this time, however Officers will continue to monitor any groundwater risk due to the site being that of Cemeteries and burials.

Legal implications:

There are no current legal implications identified

Contact details:

David Truslove – Parks and Green Space Manager

E-mail: David.Truslove@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO:7

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: 11th September 2024

From: Parks and Green Space Manager

Subject: Cemetery Update - Bucks Hill / Attleborough

Portfolio: Leisure, Communities and Health (Councillor T. Jenkins)

Building A Better Borough

Aim 3: Visit

Priority 4: Improve the physical environment

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update in relation to the Cemeteries of Bucks Hill and Attleborough that have experienced flooding.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the update on Borough Cemeteries of Bucks Hill and Attleborough be noted.

3. Background

3.1 Reports of this instant of flooding were first reported to the Council in December 2023. Whilst this affected several areas of land in NBBC ownership the most distressing areas were our cemeteries'.

3.2 The main cemeteries affected are; Attleborough Cemetery, Nuneaton and Bucks Hill Cemetery, Nuneaton. The last winter and going into spring 2024 has seen significant rainfall as detailed in the table below.

***Met Office Rainfall Weather Data (England) % of 1991- 2020 Average.**

Nov '23	120%
Dec '23	158%
Jan '24	102%
Feb '24	196%
Mar '24	162%
Apr '24	152%
May '24	147%
Jun '24	52%

3.3 This has caused significant waterlogging/flooding, affecting burials & family members visiting the graves of loved ones at all our cemeteries, except Coventry Road in Bedworth.

4. Current Status

4.1 Council officers have been working with colleagues at Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to identify the underlying issues and address them as soon as ground conditions permit.

4.2 **Bucks Hill Cemetery**

4.2.1 The Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor has already cut the vegetation around the bottom of the cemetery now it is dry enough for machinery to stand on it. Separately they have also cut the vegetation along Skey Drive to permit drainage engineers to access the area for surveys & jetting works.

4.2.2 Council colleagues in Waste Management have swept through the cemetery to remove the arisings from the floodwater now it has gone.

4.2.3 One of the Council's groundwork's contractors commenced brook clearance (within Nuneaton Common & the Drybreads) at the end of August 2024).

These works included;

- Subject to a check for water voles and nesting birds/other wildlife clearing one side alongside the brook, for access purposes, and clear around the outlet near Buck's Hill so we can view it properly.
- Remove trees growing in the water course and all other blockage material. Non-natural material/rubbish will be removed and disposed of.
- Natural material/debris will be left on site, but out of sight (as much as possible) and far enough away from the water course to prevent re-entry.

N.B – They did not perform any dredging operations, just blockage removal.

- Additionally clearing all debris/blockages in the watercourse/ditch that runs parallel to Bucks Hill Cemetery.

4.2.4 One of the Council's other contractors are also returning to jet through the gullies, chambers etc. within the cemetery, as they are 'private' Council utilities not WCC.

4.2.5 WCC appointed contractors have now surveyed the drainage system along Skey Drive & are considering further works to improve drainage capacity, alongside those being undertaken by the Council.

4.3 Attleborough Cemetery

4.3.1 The flooding at this site was compounded by the volume of water entering the Cemetery from the adjacent railway line during significant weather events over the winter period. Whilst the drainage system is working, flooding occurred whereby ground water was observed to be rising within the cemetery due to the sheer volume of water entering the site.

4.3.2 This was raised as a case with Network Rail and remains open at this time. Following an intervention by the local MP a site meeting was held on 1st March 2024 with Network Rail representatives. They agreed to consult with the flood authority (WCC) before coming back to Council Officers. Currently, we have not received any further communication despite repeated requests for further updates.

4.3.3 Separately from these enquires, further investigations by Council officers identified a previously unrecorded chamber within the cemetery, which when accessed was understandably flooded given the standing water within the cemetery itself. This has been emptied and surveyed. However, the line currently terminates behind the old cemetery lodge and we are awaiting permission to access the rear of these properties (now in private ownership) to determine if it can be repaired.

4.3.4 Support from the new Nuneaton MP and Leader of NBBC has also been provided in writing again to Network Rail for a further site visit to be arranged ASAP.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Works that are the responsibility of the Council are currently being funded via the allocated cemeteries budget.

5.2 Officers are working with WCC who are managing and financing works on WCC land.

ENDS

David Truslove
Parks and Green Space Manager

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: Regeneration Update – Capital Programme and Abbey Street Phase 2

Portfolio: Business & Regeneration

From:

Strategic Director – Place and Economy

Strategic Director – Corporate Resources

Summary:

1.1. To update Cabinet on the progress of the Regeneration Capital Programme.

1.2. To update Cabinet on an identified project budget pressure within the Regeneration Capital Programme (Abbey Street Phase 2).

1.3. To seek Cabinet approval on a proposed revised Regeneration Capital Programme and associated movement of funds via the Pathfinder Pilot.

Recommendations:

1. the project budget pressures identified within Abbey Street Phase 2 be noted.

2. the proposed adjustments to the Capital Regeneration Programme be approved, noting that a budget update will be reported to Full Council in November as part of Quarter 2 Capital Monitoring.

3. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to move £3.53m from the Bridge to Living Project to Abbey Street Phase 2 (subject to satisfactory Pathfinder consultation).
4. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to adjust the Regeneration Capital Programme, (utilising the Pathfinder Pilot where appropriate), up to the total level of capital borrowing detailed, to allow for any new funding sources secured, or variance within the programme.
5. Delegated authority to be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to enter associated contracts to support the delivery of the Regeneration Capital Programme.
6. The report to 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:

Undertake an alternative option as detailed within the report.

Recommend an alternative action.

Reasons:

A cost pressure has been identified within Grayson Place, resulting in the requirement for the movement of funds to support the delivery of Phase 2.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Cabinet

Strategic Management Team

Project Partners

Pathfinder Board

Member of Parliament for Nuneaton

Subject to call-in:

No

The report is 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.

Ward relevance:

All

Forward plan:

Yes

Building a Better Borough Aim:

Building a Better Borough Aim: 3 (Visit)

Building a Better Borough Priority:

Building a Better Borough Priority: All

Relevant statutes or policy:

Local Government Act 2003

Localism Act 2011

Equalities Implications:

None are identified. The report seeks to maintain the outcomes of the programme.

Human resources implications:

None.

Financial implications:

As detailed in the report.

Health Inequalities Implications:

N/A

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

The regeneration of the Borough is likely to have a positive impact on social factors such as crime and disorder.

Risk management implications:

As detailed in the report.

Environmental implications:

N/A

Legal implications:

As detailed in the report.

Contact details:

Maria Bailey

Strategic Director Place and Economy

Maria.bailey@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Victoria Summerfield

Strategic Director Corporate Resources

Victoria.Summerfield@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO.8

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

From: Strategic Director - Place and Economy

Subject: Regeneration Update – Capital Programme and Abbey Street Phase 2

Portfolio: Business & Regeneration

Building a Better Borough Aim: 3 (Visit)

Building a Better Borough Priority: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update Cabinet on the progress of the Regeneration Capital Programme.
- 1.2. To update Cabinet on an identified budget pressure within the Regeneration Capital Programme (Abbey Street Phase 2).
- 1.3. To seek Cabinet approval on a proposed revised Regeneration Capital Programme and associated movement of funds via the Pathfinder Pilot.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The project budget pressures identified within Abbey Street Phase 2 be noted;
- 2.2. The proposed adjustments to the Capital Regeneration Programme be approved, noting that a budget update will be reported to Full Council in November as part of Quarter 2 Capital Monitoring;
- 2.3. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to move £3.53m from the Bridge to Living Project to Abbey Street Phase 2 (subject to satisfactory Pathfinder consultation);
- 2.4. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to adjust the Regeneration Capital Programme, (utilising the

Pathfinder Pilot where appropriate), up to the total level of capital borrowing detailed, to allow for any new funding sources secured, or variance within the programme;

- 2.5. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Place and Economy and the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to enter associated contracts to support the delivery of the Regeneration Capital Programme; and
- 2.6. 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. Background

Capital Regeneration Programme

- 3.1. The Council has been successful in securing Government funding from Future High Streets Funding, Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund.
- 3.2. In February 2024, Cabinet approved a revised Capital Regeneration Programme, following a change in national and international forces that negatively impacted the economic context. This was particularly evident in the substantial increase in inflation and interest rates.
- 3.3. The approved Capital Regeneration Programme represented significant changes to the outcomes of the programme, consolidating the number of projects to be delivered into a smaller financial envelope to maintain affordability.
- 3.4. September 2024 is forecast to see the opening of the Hampton by Hilton hotel, the key element of Phase 1 Grayson Place, and a crucial element to the Town Centre regeneration.
- 3.5. Table 1 details the current position of the projects within the revised Capital Regeneration Programme.

Table 1

Project	Current Status
Grayson Place and Abbey Street	Phase 1 – near complete. Opening September 2024. Phase 2 – pre-contract. Pre-construction work (ground) commenced. Phase 3 – feasibility.

	Redesign / feasibility.
Bridge to Living	Seeking partner.
Parks Revival	Design stage.
Wheat Street Junction	NBBC withdrew funding from the scheme. WCC taking forward.
George Eliot Visitor Centre	Estimated completion January 2025.
The Saints	Completion March 2025.
Corporation Street/Queens Road Junction	WCC led.
E-mobility Hub	Complete construction and activate by December 2024.
Bedworth Physical Activity Hub	Pre-construction (ground) work commenced on site.

4. Abbey Street Phase 2

- 4.1. The Council has been driving its Capital Regeneration Programme forward and is at the point of entering contract for Phase 2 of Abbey Street.
- 4.2. Phase 2 Abbey Street, is a key catalyst to Town Centre Regeneration, complimenting the Hampton by Hilton Hotel; providing a town centre Cinema, Food Hall, Digital Skills and Innovation Centre, as well as public realm and surface parking.
- 4.3. Following the approval of the Capital Regeneration Programme in February 24, Grayson Place Phase 1 and Phase 2 has a total budget available of £50.82m.
- 4.4. Phase 1 was forecasted to have had a total cost of £28m, leaving £22.82m available for Phase 2.
- 4.5. Negotiations have been undertaken to enter Phase 2 contracts, and a total project value has been secured within the £22.82m envelope for the remaining works.
- 4.6. As part of due diligence, a programme review has been undertaken by the Council's Finance and Regeneration teams covering the lifecycle of the programme from inception and land acquisition to forecasted delivery.
- 4.7. The result of this review has identified that the true cost of construction including fees is higher than the £50.82m approved in February 2024, and as a result a £3.53m gap has been identified

between the available budget and the total cost of delivery. The value exceeds the current level of officer delegation.

- 4.8. The value of the funding gap would represent the delivery of a key project element, such as the Food Hall.
- 4.9. In early 2024 the Council was successful in agreeing a Pathfinder Investment Plan with MHCLG (then DLUHC) as part of the Pathfinder Pilot. The Pathfinder Pilot permits the authority to move funding of up to £5m Government funding within its Capital Regeneration Programme (subject to limitations), through consultation with the Pathfinder Board and relevant local Members of Parliament.
- 4.10. The Council proposes to exercise these powers to move £3.53m from the Bridge to Living project to Abbey Street Phase 2, to permit the Phase 2 contract to be entered.
- 4.11. This value will represent an absolute limit of Phase 2 costs, with no further contingency available to support any redesign or adjustments.
- 4.12. Preparatory works for Phase 2 are underway and as a result the Council has a limited opportunity to secure the whole of Phase 2 delivery within the current contract financial envelope.
- 4.13. At time of print, informal conversations have been had with key stakeholders as per the Pathfinder Pilot, and a formal decision of the Pathfinder board has been called.
- 4.14. As a priority piece of work a revised and alternative scheme and regeneration strategy will be established for Bridge to Living. This scheme remains a priority piece of work for the Council to secure an outcome.
- 4.15. Phase 3 of Grayson Place, which may potentially offer residential to the area remains at the feasibility stage.
- 4.16. Strict programme controls will be maintained to ensure that no further unforeseen costs can be incurred, maintaining the Council's financial position.

5. Finance and Capital Programme

- 5.1. The original budget approved in February 2024 is detailed below.

Table 2

	Approved Budget £'000	FUNDING		
		Grant £'000	Borrowing £'000	Total Funding £'000
Grayson Place / Abbey Street	50,819	22,520	28,300	50,819
Bridge to Living	8,117	8,117	0	8,117
Total	<u>58,936</u>	30,636	28,300	<u>58,936</u>

5.2. The following table details the proposed revision to the Capital Regeneration Programme.

Table 3

	Proposed Budget £'000	FUNDING		
		Grant £'000	Borrowing £'000	Total Funding £'000
Grayson Place / Abbey Street	54,346	26,047	28,300	54,346
Bridge to Living	4,589	4,589	0	4,589
Total	<u>58,936</u>	30,636	28,300	<u>58,936</u>

5.3. The proposed revision of funding is to transfer grant income secured of £3.527m from Bridge to Living to Grayson Place / Abbey Street. It should be noted that no additional borrowing will be undertaken.

5.4. To-date, £3.88m has been committed on Bridge to Living leaving £0.711m to fund any revision to the plan. As noted in the report, options are being appraised for this project.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1. The strategy detailed in the report is recommended as to preserve the outcomes of Abbey Street Phase 2 and to avoid unbearable borrowing by the Council.

6.2. However, Table 4 details the alternative options considered:

Table 4

Alternative Option	Benefit	Risk / Dis-Benefit
Reduced output of with a reduced contract cost.	This would preserve the current capital programmes financial envelopes with no movement of funds. No further delegation would be required.	An element of Phase 2 Abbey Street would not be delivered, reducing the regeneration opportunity for Nuneaton. This would likely result in the loss of the Food Hall, which may also impact the viability of other elements of Grayson Place
Increase the level of Council borrowing to top up Grayson Place funding.	This would preserve the current capital programme.	Capital borrowing remains expensive and will place additional financial revenue burden on the Council.
Seek alternative funding sources.	This would preserve the current capital programmes with no cost the Council.	No alternative funding sources have been identified at this point. The scheme already benefits from multiple funding sources, and it is unlikely to secure more.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Regeneration Update – Capital Programme and Hotel Local Authority Trading Company – Feb 2024 Cabinet.

VICTORIA SUMMERFIELD
MARIA BAILEY

Cabinet

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: General Fund Budget Monitoring Q1

Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)

From: Assistant Director - Finance

Summary:

To present the forecast revenue outturn position for the General Fund as at 30th June 2024.

Recommendations:

That the forecast outturn position for the General Fund for 2024/25 be noted, with consideration given to key variances.

Options:

To accept the report or request further information on the forecasted position.

Reasons:

The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Councillor Hey, Management Team and relevant officers

Subject to call-in:

Yes

Ward relevance:

None directly.

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:

Detailed in the report.

Health Inequalities Implications:

None

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

Risk management implications:

The Council analyses risks as part of the budget setting process and ensures an appropriate level of reserves are in place.

Environmental implications:

None

Legal implications:

To achieve a balanced budget each year.

Contact details:

Liam Brown, Assistant Director - Finance

Liam.Brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO.9

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet - 11th September 2024

From: Assistant Director - Finance

Subject: General Fund Budget Monitoring Q1

Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)

Building a Better Borough Aim: Work

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

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the forecast revenue outturn position for the General Fund as at 30th June 2024 unless otherwise stated in the report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the forecast outturn position for the General Fund for 2024/25 be noted, with consideration given to key variances.

3. Background

3.1 The General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25 were approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2024. This report is a detailed update of performance against the General Fund revenue budget as at June 2024.

3.2 This report considers the spend pressures that may be coming to the forefront, whether income projections are on target and whether savings that were built into the budget are on track.

4. Body of Report

4.1 Apart from Council housing, day-to-day revenue income and expenditure for Council services is accounted for through the General Fund. The net expenditure is financed through the Council's Core Spending Power which includes Council Tax, Retained Business Rates and other general Government Grants.

4.2 The revenue budget for 2024/25 was set as a net expenditure of £19,131,423 with core income and reserve contributions expected of £19,133,536 resulting in a surplus of £2,113. Currently there are

forecasted pressures and savings which are resulting in a miniscule variance to the approved surplus.

4.3 A summary of the Council's budget and forecasted expenditure is contained in the following table with more detail included in Appendix 1.

	Forecast £	Approved Budget £	Variance £
Business & Regeneration	(476,132)	(345,337)	(130,795)
Resources and Customer Services	11,721,012	12,053,041	(332,029)
Leisure, Communities and Health	4,171,122	4,153,055	18,067
Environment and Public Services	5,694,719	5,281,730	412,989
Housing	(538,138)	(538,138)	0
Planning and Enforcement	291,949	221,951	69,998
Portfolio Total	20,864,532	20,826,304	38,228
Other Operating Costs/Income	(1,733,200)	(1,694,881)	(38,319)
Core Funding	(19,133,536)	(19,133,536)	0
Total Surplus / Deficit	(2,204)	(2,113)	(91)

4.4 The key variances are included below with commentary:

	£'000
Reduced Sherbourne MRF Income	350
Savings provision from vacancies (net of agency costs)	66
Increased Subsidy loss	64
Additional Recycling costs	50
Additional Borough plan costs	40
Additional Legal Costs	30
Increase Investment Income	(292)
Reduced External Borrowing Costs	(246)
Reduced NNDR costs	(62)
	0

Spend Pressures

4.5 The new Sherbourne facility is facing additional costs since fully operating which is seeing lower than budgeted recycling rebate per tonne causing a pressure (£350k). The partners of the facility are working closely with the staff at Sherbourne to better understand the

impact and mitigate future pressures. The recycling service is also seeing increased costs for collections as per the current contract arrangements (£50k).

- 4.6 Small changes to Benefit subsidy can have a significant impact on the Council due to the size of the budget. Losses are mainly due to the cost of housing homeless individuals that cannot be recovered and has been an ongoing problem for the Council for a number of years. There is an expectation to increase the need for temporary accommodation from September due to the government changes in early release for previous offenders in prisons which will have an impact on the subsidy losses (£64k).
- 4.7 Additional external legal support was required for environmental protection causing a pressure on the general fund position (£30k).
- 4.8 The Borough plan review has seen higher than anticipated fees for inspectors and programme officers causing an in-year pressure (£40k).
- 4.9 The savings from vacancies are currently not achieving the budgeted provision which is causing an additional pressure on the GF (£66k). Work is being undertaken to investigate the vacancy savings being forecasted with controls still in place for recruitment.

Savings

- 4.9 The market conditions and improved treasury management practices has seen increased investment income within the first quarter of the financial year in comparison to prudential budgetary assumptions (£292k).
- 4.10 Budgets for borrowing money early in the financial year for capital projects has been proactively managed and allowed a delay in external borrowing. This has resulted in reduced external interest charges in comparison to expectations (£246k).
- 4.11 After a review of NNDR costs within Business and Regeneration, car parks, markets and street trading are expected to be less than anticipated resulting in an underspend (£62k).

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Through improved treasury management early sighted pressures have been able to be offset through managing cash levels and experiencing higher returns on investments. The Council needs to identify long-term savings in order to be less reliant on these activities to find a balanced position in-year.
- 5.2 Recruitment is still being closely monitored and kept under review with a £500k savings provision being in the 2024/25 budget. Currently this is

under close scrutiny and will continue to be monitored across the financial year.

- 5.3 The transformation programme is starting to gather pace and will be key to increasing efficiency and effectiveness across the Council which will in turn generate savings and income and is essential to ensure the Council remains financially viable.

- 6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 General Fund Forecast 2024/25

- 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 General Fund Budget Setting Report – Cabinet and Council February 2024

SUMMARY GENERAL FUND FORECAST OUTTURN

as at end of June 2024

	2024/25 Current Budget £	2024/25 Current Forecast £	2024/25 Forecast Variance £	Key Reason for Forecast Variance to Budget
Business & Regeneration	(345,337)	(476,132)	(130,795)	Underspend due to reduced NNDR costs for car parks and markets; vacancy savings within Economic development and increased lease income anticipated from NABCEL.
Resources and Customer Services	12,053,041	11,721,012	(332,029)	Increased costs for insurance premiums expected and increased losses on subsidy from temporary accommodation are offset by vacancies with central services.
Leisure, Communities and Health	4,153,055	4,171,122	18,067	Overspend due to additional costs for resourcing the Museum.
Environment and Public Services	5,281,730	5,694,719	412,989	Overspend as a result of reduced income from Sherbourne Recycling facility and additional contractor payments for recycling arrangements
Housing	(538,138)	(538,138)	0	
Planning and Enforcement	221,951	291,949	69,998	Additional legal fees for environmental protection and higher than anticipated costs for inspectors in relation to the borough plan are causing an overspend.
Portfolio Total	20,826,304	20,864,532	38,228	
Central Provisions	641,755	1,141,755	500,000	The saving in relation to controlled recruitment is taken out centrally as vacancy savings are highlighted within the portfolio forecasts.
Depreciation & Impairment	(3,096,530)	(3,096,530)	0	
Contributions To/From Reserves	(1,435,806)	(1,435,806)	0	
Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,200,000	1,200,000	0	
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120	0	
Investment Income	(582,508)	(874,492)	(291,984)	Additional investment income as a result of treasury management and interest rates continuing to stay higher than anticipated.
Minimum Revenue Provision	580,290	580,290	0	

External Interest	976,798	730,463	(246,335)	Reduced external interest costs due to treasury management delaying the need of borrowing.
Total Council Net Expenditure	19,131,423	19,131,332	(91)	
Council Tax	(10,566,339)	(10,566,339)	0	
New Homes Bonus	(1,180,874)	(1,180,874)	0	
General Government Grants	(552,494)	(552,494)	0	
Business Rates Retention	(5,529,042)	(5,529,042)	0	
NDR Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(1,351,683)	(1,351,683)	0	
Council Tax Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	46,896	46,896	0	
Total Funding	(19,133,536)	(19,133,536)	0	
(Surplus) / Deficit	(2,113)	(2,204)	(91)	



Cabinet

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Q1

**Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)
Housing (Councillor C Watkins)**

From: Assistant Director - Finance

Summary:

To present the forecast revenue outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as at 30th June 2024.

Recommendations:

That the forecast outturn position for the HRA for 2024/25 be noted, with consideration given to key variances.

Options:

To accept the report or request further information on the forecasted position.

Reasons:

The Council is required to achieve a balanced budget each year.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Councillor Hey and Cllr Watkins, Management Team and relevant officers

Subject to call-in: Yes
Ward relevance: None directly.
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: Detailed in the report.
Health Inequalities Implications:

None

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

Risk management implications:

The Council analyses risks as part of the budget setting process and ensures an appropriate level of reserves are in place.

Environmental implications:

None

Legal implications:

To achieve a balanced budget each year.

Contact details:

Liam Brown, Assistant Director - Finance

Liam.Brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet - 11th September 2024

From: Assistant Director - Finance

Subject: Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Q1

**Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)
Housing (Councillor C Watkins)**

Building a Better Borough Aim: Work

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

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the forecast revenue outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as at 30th June 2024 unless otherwise stated in the report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the forecast outturn position for the HRA for 2024/25 be noted, with consideration given to key variances.

3. Background

3.1 The General Fund and HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25 were approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2024. This report is a detailed update of performance against the HRA revenue budget as at June 2024.

3.2 This report considers any spend pressures and any potential risks to rental income levels.

4. Body of Report

4.1 The Council is required to account separately for income and expenditure in providing council housing.

4.2 The revenue budget for 2024/25 was set as a net expenditure of £0. The Council is currently predicting net expenditure of £13,006 which is an overspend position.

- 4.3 A summary of the HRA's budget and forecasted expenditure is contained in the following table with more detail included in Appendix 1.

	Forecast £	Approved Budget £	Variance £
Income	(31,475,035)	(31,371,835)	(103,200)
Supervision & Management	11,562,174	11,249,010	313,164
Repairs & Maintenance	6,183,307	6,118,725	64,582
Capital Financing Costs	10,863,469	10,728,395	135,074
Appropriations	2,879,091	3,275,705	(396,614)
Other Operating Costs/Income	0	0	0
Total	13,006	0	13,006

- 4.4 The key variances are included below with commentary:

	£'000
Increased Utility Bills	232
Additional Costs for Repairs and Maintenance	211
Increased Interest Payments	136
Additional Costs for Subscriptions	48
Additional Costs for Insurance	32
Additional Appropriations from Reserves	(397)
Reduced NNDR costs	(146)
Increase Investment Income	(103)
	13

Spend Pressures

- 4.5 Utility bills are forecasted to be higher than expected on the warden assisted schemes (£232k). This pressure is being reviewed closely to ensure all bills are received based on actual usage rather than estimates.
- 4.6 Currently there is a backlog of repairs and maintenance outstanding on the HRA and dealing with this issue is causing more work to be conducted. This is causing additional costs (£211k) but there has been a review on earmarked reserves to help fund this balance whilst mechanisms are put in place to improve this in future financial years.

- 4.7 Whilst the HRA Business Plan is being worked on for 2025/26 Budget Setting, the treasury team have had to re-finance existing debt which is causing additional interest costs for the HRA (£136k).
- 4.8 Subscription fees for the Housing Ombudsman and other relevant bodies are considerably higher than previous years which has caused an in-year overspend (£48k).
- 4.9 When procuring a new contract for insurance premiums, unforeseen circumstances meant a new supplier had to be procured on late notice which caused a higher premium than expected resulting in a pressure to the HRA for 2024/25 (£32k)

Savings

- 4.10 A review on earmarked reserves has resulted in increased appropriations from reserves to offset overspends across the HRA (£396k). This will be monitored throughout the financial year to see if the expected spend against these reserves are lower than expected as the reliance on drawdowns can not continue for future financial years.
- 4.11 As reported in the Q1 forecast for the General Fund, through improved cash management and treasury practices investment income is higher than anticipated (£103k).
- 4.12 The HRA is currently operating with various vacancies within repairs and therefore is seeing a vacancy saving (£146k).

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Spend pressures as a result of the cost of inflation and dealing with repairs issues are affecting the day-to-day operation of the HRA.
- 5.2 A review of the HRA Business Plan is underway and will lay out the future plan for income generation and cost mitigation. With the changes to housing legislation and expectations on housing providers, the profile of expenditure is likely to alter. When finalised, the Business Plan will be presented to Cabinet.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - HRA Forecast 2024/25

7. Background Papers (if none, state none)

- 7.1 Housing Revenue Account Budget 2024/25 – Cabinet February 2024.

HRA FORECAST OUTTURN

as at end of June 2024

Service	2024/25 Current Budget £	2024/25 Current Forecast £	2024/25 Forecast Variance £	Comments
HRA General Expenses	4,976,325	5,054,885	78,560	Increase in subscriptions, audit costs and insurance slightly offset by consultancy underspends.
HRA Repairs Management	1,224,980	1,224,980	0	
Resident Involvement	44,790	48,311	3,521	Increased magazine publishing costs.
Debt Management Costs	135,940	135,940	0	
Increase in bad debt provision	485,360	485,360	0	
HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core	0	0	0	
HRA share of non-distributed costs	0	0	0	
Housing System	242,000	242,000	0	
Development Strategy	240,290	240,290	0	
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - GENERAL	7,349,685	7,431,766	82,081	
HRA Special Expenses	86,625	86,625	0	
Warden Assisted Schemes	2,517,500	2,748,583	231,083	Pressures from increased utility bills based on rate increase in 2024/25.
Homeless Hostels	65,415	65,415	0	
Spitalfields House - Bedworth	104,630	104,630	0	
ST Benedicts House	54,280	54,280	0	
Other Housing Schemes	694,390	694,390	0	
Grounds Maintenance	376,485	376,485	0	
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - SPECIAL	3,899,325	4,130,408	231,083	

Reactive Repairs	2,472,615	2,362,557	(110,058)	Vacancy savings are slightly offset by increased costs for training and tools.
Call Out	85,950	97,950	12,000	Increased call out due to essential work at off-peak times.
R.+ M. - Dwellings	272,000	272,000	0	
R. + M. - Estate Management	24,000	24,000	0	
Asbestos	145,000	145,000	0	
R. + M. - Homeless Hostels	7,460	7,460	0	
R. + M. - Shops & Other Co.	5,000	5,000	0	
Planned Works - Outside Contractors	2,059,940	2,241,080	181,140	Increased contract fees for external contractors on gas servicing / maintenance and electrical works.
Water & Energy Service Outside Contracts	308,710	326,210	17,500	Additional costs for legionella control works.
R + M - Voids	738,050	702,050	(36,000)	Vacancy savings.
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	6,118,725	6,183,307	64,582	
Depreciation	8,724,000	8,724,000	0	
Interest Payable	2,004,395	2,139,469	135,074	Additional interest costs
CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS	10,728,395	10,863,469	135,074	
Dwelling Rents H.R.A	(28,531,771)	(28,531,771)	0	
Interest Receivable	(36,800)	(140,000)	(103,200)	Additional interest from improved treasury management practices,
Non-Dwelling Rents	(590,038)	(590,038)	0	
Other Income - Independent Living Schemes	(1,502,973)	(1,502,973)	0	
Other Income - General Purpose Schemes	(688,253)	(688,253)	0	
Other Income - Rechargeable Repairs	(22,000)	(22,000)	0	
INCOME	(31,371,835)	(31,475,035)	(103,200)	
Appropriations to / (from) MRR	368,870	368,870	0	
Employee Benefits	419,665	419,665	0	
Capital Expenditure funded by HRA (CERA)	2,492,620	2,492,620	0	

Appropriations to/ (from) Revenue Reserves	(5,450)	(402,064)	(396,614)	Additional earmark reserves planning to be utilised to fund the repairs backlog on the HRA and will be closely monitored throughout the financial year.
APPROPRIATIONS	3,275,705	2,879,091	(396,614)	
Total HRA	0	13,006	13,006	



Cabinet

Report Summary Sheet

Date: 11th September 2024

Subject: Capital Forecast Q1 2024/25

Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)

From: Assistant Director – Finance

Summary:

To update on the Council's Q1 forecasted outturn position on capital expenditure for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA)..

Recommendations:

To consider the Q1 forecasted capital outturn position for 2024/25 for the General Fund and HRA.

Options:

To accept the report or request further information on the outturn position.

Reasons:

To ensure the Council has an accurate capital budget.

Consultation undertaken with Members/Officers/Stakeholders

Councillor Hey, Management Team and relevant officers

Subject to call-in:

Yes

Ward relevance:

None directly.

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

Equalities Implications:

None

Human resources implications:

None

Financial implications:

Detailed in the report.

Health Inequalities Implications:

None

Section 17 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

Risk management implications:

None.

Environmental implications:

None

Legal implications:

None

Contact details:

Liam Brown, Assistant Director - Finance

Liam.Brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO.11

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet – 11th September 2024

From: Assistant Director - Finance

Subject: Capital Monitoring Q1

Portfolio: Resources & Customer Services (Councillor S Hey)

Building a Better Borough Aim: Work

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

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update on the Council's Q1 forecasted outturn position on capital expenditure for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

2. Recommendations

2.1 To consider the Q1 forecasted capital outturn position for 2024/25 for the General Fund and HRA.

3. Background

3.1 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has a large capital programme to provide community value and improve facilities. The Q1 outturn position for 2024/25 updates on how the programme is progressing.

4. Body of Report

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 2024/25 of £76,092,727 was approved in February 2024.

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.

	Approved Budget £	Forecast Actual £	Variance £
Business & Regeneration	20,871,829	20,871,829	0
Resources and Customer Services	125,000	125,000	0
Leisure, Communities and Health	24,532,726	24,532,726	0
Environment and Public Services	0	0	0
Housing	8,383,184	8,383,184	0
Planning and Enforcement	0	0	0
Capital General	100,000	100,000	0
General Fund	54,012,739	54,012,739	0
HRA	22,079,988	22,079,988	0
Total	76,092,727	76,092,727	0

General Fund

4.6 Projects are projected to be on target for the General Fund in 2024/25.

HRA

4.7 The capital budget for the HRA was approved as £22,079,988 in February 2024.

4.8 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.

4.9 There is a review of the HRA Business Plan currently underway, and this will determine the spend pattern and expected profile of works in line with the changes and updates to legislative requirements.

4.10 Although the HRA is expected to be on target in 2024/25 there has been some risks identified which has caused additional costs requiring a review to cut back on some programmes, these issues and mitigating actions are listed below:

- Structural repairs for properties are causing a pressure and need actioning to prevent further damage and increased costs of repair in the future
- Additional fire safety works were required after fire risk assessments identified issues and electrical installation condition reports have identified more hazards than anticipated resulting in more costs to carry out works
- The costs to convert the Gables have increased after the initial investigation from stripping out identified more works needed.
- The use of consultants required for managing contracts at a higher rate has exceeded expectations due to the turnover of internal staff.
- Due to the above additional costs, programme reviews have been undertaken and a reduction in delivery for programmes such as windows and door replacements, electric storage heating, level access showers, aids and adaptations and planned warm air units are to be delayed. These will be built into the HRA Business Plan for future years to ensure any delayed work is still completed in the future.

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 2024 is as follows.

	2023/24 £
Capital Receipts	622,010
Capital Grants	13,386,582
Earmarked Capital	2,417,687
General Fund Total	16,426,279
Capital Grants	351,065
Capital Receipts	825,714
1-4-1 Receipts	2,896,711
Earmarked Capital	3,773,387
Major Repairs Reserve	2,020,823
HRA Total	9,867,700
NBBC Total	<u>26,293,979</u>

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 is fully funded in its present form. The biggest risks to the Council are inflation, price increases for building supplies plus any delays which could occur result in funding being withdrawn.

5.2 Adjustments to the programme in light of the difficulties around cost and delivery will be reported to Cabinet but projects are continually under review for viability. Interest rates on projects where prudential borrowing is required will be carefully assessed for affordability prior to progressing.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Q1 Forecasted General Fund Capital Outturn 2024/25

6.2 Appendix 2 – Q1 Forecasted Housing Revenue Account Capital Outturn 2024/25

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING

AS AT JUNE 2024

Project	Approved Budget	Current Forecast	Forecast Variance	Comments
Grayson Place	16,395,904	16,395,904	0	
Bridge to Living	1,654,819	1,654,819	0	
Parks Revival	1,605,807	1,605,807	0	
George Eliot Visitor Centre	222,500	222,500	0	
Corporation Street/Queens Road Junction	390,000	390,000	0	
E-mobility Hub	302,800	302,800	0	
Car Parking Machine Upgrades	300,000	300,000	0	
Business & Regeneration	20,871,830	20,871,830	0	
ICT Strategy Programme	100,000	100,000	0	
Camp Hill - Early final phase	25,000	25,000	0	
Resources and Customer Services	125,000	125,000	0	
Major Repairs	250,000	250,000	0	
Vehicle & Plant Replacement	683,000	683,000	0	
Environment Bill Food Waste Grant	981,000	981,000	0	
Leisure Strategy	227,609	227,609	0	
Fly Tipping Cameras	5,000	5,000	0	
Bedworth Physical Activity Hub	20,216,451	20,216,451	0	
Pauls Land Pavilion	10,500	10,500	0	
Sandon Park/Jack Whetstone Pavilion	26,859	26,859	0	
Cemetery Extension	100,000	100,000	0	
Play Area Improvements	75,000	75,000	0	

Pingles LC Decarbonisation Scheme	1,957,307	1,957,307	0
Leisure, Communities and Health	24,532,726	24,532,726	0
HEART	5,125,000	5,125,000	0
Empty Homes - Works in Default	40,000	40,000	0
Empty Property Loans	100,000	100,000	0
Homeless Hostel Conversion	125,000	125,000	0
Home Upgrade Grant 2	1,702,000	1,702,000	0
Attleborough - Community Park	100,000	100,000	0
Marlborough - Community Park	150,000	150,000	0
Sorrell Road - Community Park	225,000	225,000	0
Bedworth Market	716,184	716,184	0
Boundary Paddock Toilet Block Improvements	100,000	100,000	0
Housing	8,383,184	8,383,184	0
Capital General	100,000	100,000	0
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	54,012,740	54,012,740	0

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL MONITORING

AS AT JUNE 2024

Project	Approved Budget	Current Forecast	Forecast Variance	Comments
Decent Homes	1,200,000	1,200,000	0	
Roof Coverings/Modifications	900,000	900,000	0	
Windows & Doors	800,000	700,000	(100,000)	Programme budget reviewed and reduced.
Sheltered Alarm Call System	40,000	40,000	0	
Shop Improvements	15,000	65,000	50,000	A number of repairs have been identified for various properties that are required to be able to lease.
New Properties (Construction)	6,032,768	6,032,768	0	
Byford Court - Rebuild	458,720	458,720	0	
Conversion of The Gables	176,000	216,000	40,000	Extra works identified
Fire Safety Works	2,400,000	2,600,000	200,000	Extra works identified
Independent Living Unit - Remodelling	150,000	150,000	0	
Decent Homes Works - Homeless Hostel	167,000	167,000	0	
Clever Gardens	360,000	360,000	0	
Warm Air Units	200,000	0	(200,000)	Delayed until 25/26
Electric Storage Heating	300,000	240,000	(60,000)	Programme budget reviewed and reduced.
New Street	1,365,000	1,365,000	0	
25 Cheveral Place - Conversion of Wardens	120,000	120,000	0	
Concrete/Structural Repairs	190,000	380,000	190,000	Additional structural repairs have been identified.
Level Access Showers	700,000	550,000	(150,000)	Programme budget reviewed and reduced.
Aids & Adaptations	1,000,000	900,000	(100,000)	Programme budget reviewed and reduced.
Central Heating	720,000	720,000	0	
Garages	15,000	15,000	0	

Slabs to Tarmac	304,500	304,500	0	
Lift Renewal Works	50,000	50,000	0	
District Heating Upgrade Works	150,000	150,000	0	
PIR Electrical Works (Sheltered Housing & Communal)	396,000	476,000	80,000	Extra work identified whilst carrying out EICR's.
Voids	800,000	800,000	0	
Structural/Concrete Repairs	2,400,000	2,400,000	0	
Contingency	200,000	200,000	0	
Capital Salaries	470,000	520,000	50,000	Requirement to use consultants at present due to the volume of contracts that require monitoring as a result of high turnover of our internal surveyors.
Total HRA	22,079,988	22,079,988	0	