

AGENDA for THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

to be held on

Friday 4th October, 2024



Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton Warwickshire CV11 5AA

> www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk 024 7637 6376

Enquiries to: Member Services Member Services Direct Dial: 024 7637 6204

Direct Email: member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 26th September 2024 Our Ref: KB

To: All Members of the Borough Council

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Friday, 4th October, 2024, at 6.00 p.m.**

In accordance with Procedure Rule Part 4A, Paragraph 3.1(iv) of the Council's Constitution, the Head of Paid Service is calling an Extraordinary Meeting following a request from Councillors K. Wilson, S. Markham, D. Brown, L. Cvetkovic, R. Smith, M. Etienne and J. Clarke.

All members of the Council are summoned to attend to determine the business of the meeting.

Yours faithfully

TOM SHARDLOW

Chief Executive

<u>A G E N D A</u>

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 Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Please 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.

- 2. <u>APOLOGIES</u> to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
- 3. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in matters under consideration pursuant to Council procedure Rule 4A.2(iii).

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 8**). 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. <u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> to receive announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive.
- 5. <u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u> (maximum 20 minutes). to hear and answer questions by any resident of the Borough concerning the item on the agenda (maximum 20 minutes). A copy of the Procedure Rule 9 is attached (Page 15) and this is not subject to debate. A question or statement can be submitted using the link below which will send your submission to the Chief Executive and Member Services: <u>Ask a question at full council</u>.
- 6. <u>NOTICE OF MOTIONS</u> copy of the requisition is attached (Page 17)
 - a) TRANSFORMING NUNEATON

'This Council recognises that Nuneaton Town Centre secured record investment during the previous Conservative Government and administration, recognising the decline in our town centre after decades of Labour rule.

As significant amounts of funding are required to be spent by deadlines as part of the funding agreements, this Council:

- i) Calls upon the Labour Cabinet and Group to proceed with the town centre regeneration projects as a matter of urgency;
- Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to ensure that Grayson Place construction contracts are signed as soon as possible to safeguard the Council's financial position; and
- iii) Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to work constructively with the administration at Warwickshire County Council to ensure that the new Library & Business Centre and regeneration of Vicarage Street is progressed to revitalise that end of, and gateway into, Nuneaton Town Centre.'

b) BEDWORTH TOWN DEAL

'This Council expresses alarm at the apparent cancellation by incoming Labour Government at Westminster of the funding for a Bedworth Town Deal that would bring in up to £20 million investment into the town. This Council:

- Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to call on them to honour the funding for a Bedworth Town Deal that was set out in the 2024 Conservative Budget and confirmed in the Treasury Papers presented to Parliament; and
- ii) Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the new Member of Parliament for Bedworth and North Warwickshire to call on her to stand up for the residents she was recently elected to represent and make representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government supporting this Council's position.'

c) BULKINGTON LIGHTS

'Bulkington is the largest village in the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth (and one of the largest in the County of Warwickshire), with a long tradition of this Council supporting its unique identity.

Following the announcement by the Leader of the Council that he will be withdrawing support for the Bulkington Light Switch On event this Council:

- Expresses its dismay that the new Labour administration has withdrawn the funding to support the Christmas Light Switch On for Bulkington Village Centre; and
- Requests the Leader of the Council to restore the £1600 allocated (Budget Entry Account 3825/Cost Centre EH20/subdata E159) in the Budget set in February 2024 to enable the Christmas festivities in Bulkington to be supported by the Borough Council.'

d) HOUSING NUMBERS CONSULTATION

⁶Following the announcement by the incoming Labour Government that the housing target for Nuneaton and Bedworth will increase by 83.8% if the figures as set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation are confirmed, this Council:

- Confirms its view that any housing targets set for Nuneaton and Bedworth should be dictated by local need and not arbitrary figures imposed by Central Government;
- Requests that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning urgently to respond to the Government consultation to set out this Council's opposition to any housing targets being imposed on Nuneaton and Bedworth that are not based on local need and an objection to the proposed increase to our housing target of 83.8%; and

iii) Requests the Leader of the Council writes to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for our Borough to outline this Council's opposition to the Government consultation and their imposition of arbitrary housing targets and ask them to reply to the consultation supporting the position of this Council.'

e) WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

'The Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Nuneaton and Bedworth sit just above the cut off for pension credit and will now lose their allowance.

The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest residents.

The governments approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for pension credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need;
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty;
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for Nuneaton expressing our opposition to the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment and asking them to support local residents by voting against the changes in Parliament;
- iv) Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves; and
- v) Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Nuneaton and Bedworth are supported in claiming their entitlement.

NOTE: Points of Order and Personal Explanation can only be raised in accordance with Council Procedure Rules which are set out below:-

Point of order

A Member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The Member must indicate the rule of law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The Mayor shall consider the Point of Order and, if necessary, take advice on the matter from the Monitoring Officer and, shall then rule on the Point of Order raised. There shall be no discussion or challenge to the advice given or the Mayors decision in the meeting. If a Member persistently seeks to raise a Point of Order but is unable to identify the procedure rule or legal principle infringed then, after having been warned by the Mayor, any further abuse of this procedure rule shall not be tolerated, and the Mayor shall move that the Member not be heard further pursuant to Procedure Rule 4.19.13. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

Personal explanation

A Member may make a point of personal explanation at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the Member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

Council - 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: 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
E. Amaechi	- Employed NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) - Ricky Global Consultants Ltd - Purple Dove Events Ltd - Director – Techealth Ltd	 The Labour Party (sponsorship) Foundation Governor - Our Lady and St. Joseph Academy, Nuneaton. Member of: British Computer Society. Igbo Community Coventry. Mbaise Community, Coventry. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground EQuIP: Equality and Inclusion Partnership West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee Pride in Camp Hill (PinCH) 	
M. Bird		 Life Member of National Association of British Market Authorities. Member of the Stockingford Allotment association and Pavillion Club. 	
J. Bonner	Employed by Etone College (Matrix Academy Trust) - Teacher	The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of: - The Labour Party - National Education Union	
D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
A. I	Bull	Employed by FedEx	The Labour Party (sponsorship) -CWU Trade Union Member	
			Representative of the following Outside Bodies: • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)	
J. (Clarke	-Employed by Marcus Jones - Warwickshire	Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman	
		County Councillor	Officer of the Abbey Preceptory Masonic Buildings - Nuneaton	
J. (Collett	Employed by: - Consigliere Strategy Ltd - Director, Research and Insights for Fullbrook Strategies Ltd.	 Nuneaton Conservative Association (sponsorship) Member of: Nuneaton Rugby Club Nuneaton Town Football Club Nuneaton Cricket Club 	
Т. (Cooper	None		
S. (Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd		
L. (Cvetkovic	Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder); Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee)	
			Member on the following Outside Bodies: Building Control Partnership Steering Group	
S.I	Dhillon	Employed by UHCW NHS Trust	Member (Rep) at Unison – UHCW Trust	
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies:	
			 Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
			 George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board 	
M.	Etienne	Employed by Network Rail	 Member of The Conservative Party and Nuneaton Conservative Association RMT Member 	

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
J. Gutteridge	None		
B. Hancox		The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of: - The Labour Party - Unite the Union - British Gurkha Veterans Association (Adviser)	
		Representative on the following Outside Bodies:	
		 Nuneaton Festival of Arts Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee Nicolas Chamberlaine's School Foundation 	
J. Hartshorn	Employed by Asda Nuneaton	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
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:	
		 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 	
P. Hickling	 Employed by Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College (Teacher) Pearson Education (Snr Examiner) 	 The Labour Party (sponsorship) Member of The Labour Party (CLP and Secretary of Nuneaton West) Member of National Education Union Committee Member of Nuneaton Historical Association Representative on the following Outside Bodies: Friendship Project for Children 	
B. Hughes	Full Time Carer	Member of the Labour Party. Member of the National Trust. Member of the Caravan and Motorhome Club Member of CAMRA	

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: George Elliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors	
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: • 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	
A. Khangura	Self-Employed		
N. King	Employed by Love Hair and Beauty	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: • Nuneaton Town Deal Board	
M. Kondakor		 Member of the Green Party Member of Nuneaton Harriers AC Chair – Bedworth Symphony Orchestra 	
S. Markham	County Councillor – WCC (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)	 Governor at Ash Green School Member of the following Outside Bodies: Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities Trustee of Abbey Theatre Bedworth Board 	
W. Markham		Governor at Ash Green School for SEND	

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Member of Unite Union	
B. Pandher		 Member of Warwickshire County Council. Member of the Conservative Party 	
		 President & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple Coventry; Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group 	
C. Phillips	Member of Warwickshire County Council	 Chair of Governors – Stockingford Nursery School Member of Labour Party Part-time Carer 	
K. Price	Warwickshire County Council	The Labour Party Unite the Union BASW Social Work England Registration	
R. Roze	Director – InfiniTEN Ltd	 Representative on the following Outside Bodies: 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 	
B. Saru	 Director – Saru Embroidery Ltd Co-founder and Owner – Fish Tale Ale Beer 	 Labour Party (sponsorship) Chair of the British Gurkha Veterans Association Representative on the following Outside Bodies: Armed Forces Covenant 	
J. Sheppard		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee Warwickshire Direct	

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		 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	
T. Sheppard	Self Employed	Member of Unite the Union Member of Labour Party	
C. Smith	Software Engineer – Prophet PLC	 Member of Labour Party and Unite Safeguarding – Manor Park RFC 	
		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: • Astley Charity	
R. Smith		 Conservative Party Member Chair of Trustees - Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club. 	
T. Venson	Employed by Freightliner Heavy Haul	ASIEF Trade Union The Labour Party Representative on the following Outside Bodies: • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager	Trustee of the Nuneaton Scouts Association. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: • Hammersley Smith and Orton Charity	
C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	 Representative on the following outside bodies: Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee Local Government Association Nuneaton and Bedworth Hone Improvement Agency 	

Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		 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 	
K.D. Wilson	Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts & West Midlands and Warwickshire Bailiffs, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	 Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association Nuneaton Conservative association (sponsorship) Board Member of the Conservative Councillors' Association. Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: LGA People & Places Board (Member) Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) Director of Grayson Place (NBBC) Ltd 	
M. Wright			

4A.9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.9.1 General

At each Ordinary Meeting or Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 20 minutes (which can be extended at the discretion of the Mayor) shall be set aside for questions or statements from the public gallery by any resident of the Borough in relation to matters in respect of which the Council has powers or duties, or which affect the Borough. In the case of an Extra Ordinary Meeting the question or statement must relate to the business of that meeting.

4.9.2 Notice of Questions and Statements

No such question shall be asked, or statement made, unless it shall have been delivered in writing to the Head of Paid Service no later than 12 noon on the day before the meeting of the Council.

4.9.3 **Scope of Questions and Statements**

The Head of Paid Service may reject a question or statement if it:

- a) is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which doesn't affect the Borough;
- b) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- c) is substantially the same as a question or statement which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months;
- d) requires or involves the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or
- e) It is not a question nor a statement, as provided for in these Procedure Rules.
- 4.9.4 The Mayor will invite the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair to give a reply. Such reply shall not exceed five minutes. In the case of a question, on the discretion of the Mayor, a supplementary question may be asked if arising directly from the reply, provided that the original allocation of five minutes is not exceeded. The Mayor may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in paragraph 4.9.3 above

4.9.5 **Time Limit and Number of Questions**

No question or statement shall exceed three minutes. In the event of there being more than one question or statement, the Head of Paid Service will ensure that questions and statements are dealt with in the order received. At the expiry of the 20 minute period, or such period as may be agreed by the Mayor, or after the reply to the final question or statement, whichever shall first occur, the Council will proceed to the next business.

4.9.6 Record of Questions and Statements

The question or statement and the reply given shall be minuted.

4.9.7 **Reference of Question to the Cabinet or a Committee**

Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.

4.9.8 Any question or statement which cannot be dealt with during Public Participation because of lack of time will be dealt with in writing, and recorded in accordance with paragraph 4.9.6.

Requisition of a Full Council

To: Tom Shardlow, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

In accordance with the Council Constitution at the Council Procedure Rules, rule 4.3.1, we request that you convene an Extraordinary Full Council to consider the below five motions:

Signed:

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STOFER WILSON.

ARK ETIE

LARKHAN

JEFF LLARKE

RICHARD SMITH

TRANSFORMING NUNEATON

This Council recognises that Nuneaton Town Centre secured record investment during the previous Conservative Government and administration, recognising the decline in our town centre after decades of Labour rule.

As significant amounts of funding are required to be spent by deadlines as part of the funding agreements, this Council:

- 1. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet and Group to proceed with the town centre regeneration projects as a matter of urgency
- 2. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to ensure that Grayson Place construction contracts are signed as soon as possible to safeguard the Council's financial position
- 3. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to work constructively with the administration at Warwickshire County Council to ensure that the new Library & Business Centre and regeneration of Vicarage Street is progressed to revitalise that end of, and gateway into, Nuneaton Town Centre.

BEDWORTH TOWN DEAL

This Council expresses alarm at the apparent cancellation by the incoming Labour Government at Westminster of the funding for a Bedworth Town Deal that would bring in up to £20 million investment into the town.

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BULKINGTON LIGHTS

Bulkington is the largest village in the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth (and one of the largest in the County of Warwickshire), with a long tradition of this Council supporting its unique identity.

Following the announcement by the Leader of the Council that he will be withdrawing support for the Bulkington Light Switch On event this Council:

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HOUSING NUMBERS CONSULTATION

Following the announcement by the incoming Labour Government that the housing target for Nuneaton and Bedworth will increase by 83.8% if the figures as set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation are confirmed, this Council:

- 1. Confirms its view that any housing targets set for Nuneaton and Bedworth should be dictated by local need and not arbitrary figures imposed by central government
- 2. Requests that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning urgently to respond to the Government consultation to set out this Council's opposition to any housing targets being imposed on Nuneaton and Bedworth that are not based on local need and an objection to the proposed increase to our housing target of 83.8%
- 3. Requests the Leader of the Council writes to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for our Borough to outline this Council's opposition to the Government

consultation and their imposition of arbitrary housing targets and ask them to reply to the consultation supporting the position of this Council

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

The Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Nuneaton and Bedworth sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.

The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.

The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.
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- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for Nuneaton expressing our opposition to the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment and asking them to support local residents by voting against the changes in Parliament
- 4. Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
- 5. Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Nuneaton and Bedworth are supported in claiming their entitlement.