



Enquiries to:

Kelly Baxter

Direct Dial: 024 7637 6619

Direct Email:

kelly.baxter@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 7th April 2025

Our Ref: KB

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addendum Council – 9th April 2025

I refer to the Council agenda and attach the following item that was marked to follow:

Agenda item no:

9) Cabinet report to Council (Page 2)

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Cabinet Report to Council - April 2025

1. Introduction

This report deals with the Cabinet meetings held on 19th February 2025, 5th March 2025 and 2nd April 2025

2. 19th February 2025 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Updates to the Local Development Scheme (Key Decision)

- Planning and Enforcement – Councillor R. Roze

Cabinet recommended to Council that the Local Development Scheme be amended to reflect the future work required and the changes required due to the National Planning Policy Framework which was published on 12th December 2024

b) General Fund Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budget 2025/26 (Key Decision)

- Resources and Customer Services – Councillor S. Hey

Cabinet recommended to Council the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budget 2025/26 for approval. The Council must provide a balanced budget to comply with regulations and the Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's constitution. Having regard for this the Cabinet were pleased to present a balanced budget and that a robust level of reserves are in place to support the Council's Services during 2025/26.

3. 5th March 2025 Cabinet Meeting

a) Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan (Key Decision)

- Environment and Public Services – Councillor J. Sheppard

Cabinet considered and approved the Climate Change and Sustainability Action Plan for public consultation.

The purpose of the action plan is to give direction to the council on actions it can take to ensure the Council is operating as sustainably as possible, and on the actions the council can take to achieve carbon neutrality within the Borough as a whole. The action plan seeks to address the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2020), which sets out the risks posed by climate change to the country and presents questions which will need to be answered in order to address the Council's declared climate emergency of 4th December 2019.

b) General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 (Key Decision)
- Resources and Customer Services – Councillor S. Hey

The General Fund Budget monitoring was approved at Cabinet for Q3. There are still many challenges but 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.

Recruitment is still being closely monitored and kept under review with a £500k savings provision being in the 2024/25 budget. Currently this saving is being achieved but will remain under close scrutiny.

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.

The HRA budget monitoring Q3 report was considered and approved by Cabinet. There are identified 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.

The HRA Business Plan has been completed 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 has altered.

The Capital Forecast Q3 report was considered and approved by Cabinet and covers many projects for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. Currently the capital programme is fully funded with the biggest risks to the Council being inflation, price increases for building supplies and any delays which could occur resulting in funding being withdrawn.

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.

4. 2nd April 2025 – Cabinet Meeting

a) Leisure Procurement Contract (Key Decision)

Leisure, Communities and Health – Councillor T. Jenkins

Cabinet approved the report giving an update on the progress of the Leisure Operator Procurement, and giving authority to award the contract upon completion of the procurement process for the operation of Council Leisure facilities within the Borough.

The procurement timetable indicates a proposed award in May 2025 to enable sufficient time for contract signing mobilisation and hand over (subject to outcome of the procurement process) for a contract commencement early 2026. The Council are undertaking the evaluation, and the successful operator will be selected based on the published evaluation and award criteria.

In line with the delivery timetable of the new Physical Activity Hub the successful operator will be required to proceed with the fit out of the facility immediately following the award and appointment of the contract.

b) Council Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan April 2025 (Key Decision)

- Leader of the Council – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet endorsed the proposed Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan for April 2025 – March 2029 for adoption at full council on 9th April 2025.

A public consultation was held and the Themes and Strategic Aims of the Plan as developed by Cabinet Members and supported by the Senior Leadership Team considered the feedback from the consultation prior to submitting the final proposed version for adoption.

c) Local Government Devolution– (Key Decision)

- Leader of the Council – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet noted the contents of the report which detailed the activity undertaken by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in relation to Local Government Reform since January 2025 .

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, asked that proposals are formed for formal submission by November 2025, and that an initial update around proposals was to be provided in March 2025.

On this basis, Warwickshire Councils have worked in parallel to draw initial proposals for the County. The five districts and boroughs have provided an interim plan which details two potential options for Warwickshire, a single County unitary, and a second North / South two County unitary model. The latter would see a Northern unitary that covers the geography of North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough and Rugby borough, and a Southern unitary, that spans Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts.

A large amount of work remains between now and the November formal submission to fully detail what the best option is for the Borough and the County.

d) Other items considered

a) Procurement of a Legal Services Framework Agreement 2025 – 2029 (Key Decision)

- Resources & Customer Services – Councillor S. Hey

b) Environment and Leisure OSP – 30th January 2025

Revocation of Leicester Road Gyratory Air Quality Management Area (Key Decision)

- Environment & Public Services – Councillor J. Sheppard
- c) Sherbourne Recycling (Key Decision) EXEMPT ITEM
 - Environment & Public Services – Councillor J. Sheppard
- d) Creative Explorers Project Review
 - Leisure, Communities and Health – Councillor T. Jenkins

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

There are no specific reports to highlight to Council. The WMCA minutes are available on the WMCA website.

5. Conclusion

This report is presented on behalf of Cabinet, and, as always, my colleagues and I are only too happy to take any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor C. Watkins
Leader of the Council on behalf of Cabinet