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Date: 4th July 2025

**INDIVIDUAL CABINET
MEMBER DECISION**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Cabinet Member for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) is to consider the following reports and make a decision on **Monday 14th July 2025 at 4.00pm** in Committee Room D, Town Hall, Nuneaton.

Yours faithfully,

TOM SHARDLOW
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1

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 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.

2. 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.

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 so that interests that are declared regularly by members can be viewed in a schedule on the Council website ([Councillor Declarations of Interests](#)) Any interest noted in the schedule on the website will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Democratic 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 & 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. ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT FROM WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - a report of the Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, attached **(Page 4)**.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Date of Meeting: 14th July 2025

Subject: Asylum Seekers support from Warwickshire County Council (WCC)

Portfolio: Housing

Responsible Officer: Sharon Clinton – Assistant Director for Strategic Housing

Corporate Plan – Theme: Housing, Health and Communities

Corporate Plan – Aim: HHC2 Supporting Vulnerable Residents

Ward Relevance: All

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan:

Subject to Call-in: Yes

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report sets out proposals for the funding allocation that has been awarded to the Council in respect of the provision of support for asylum seekers living in the Borough.
- 1.2. The grant allocation is £323,800 for asylum seekers living in dispersed accommodation in the Borough.

- 1.3. The grant is paid directly, and in full, to the Borough Council, and it is proposed to split the grant with Warwickshire County Council (WCC).
- 1.4. The Council and WCC's migration team, work in partnership to support asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation, there is a risk that without receiving any of the funding WCC may have to withdraw from any activities over and above their basic statutory duties in our area.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To seek approval to split the grant with Warwickshire County Council (WCC), in recognition of their support for the health and well-being of this cohort.

The transfer of this funding to WCC will be conditional on: -

- Providing transparent and regular reporting to the Assistant Director for Strategic Housing setting out how the funds have been utilised in terms of education, children and adult social care, community initiatives and signposting to services.
 - Returning any unutilised funds to the Council, as of 31st March 2026.
- 2.2 To seek approval for the remaining funds to be held by the Council to support any financial pressures arising from increased homelessness.
 - 2.3 To seek approval for delegated authority to be given to the Assistant Director for Strategic Housing to utilise the remaining funding, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety to support this cohort in accordance with the Home Office's funding instructions.

3. Background

- 3.1. Both the Borough Council and WCC have provided support to the asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation in the Borough.

- 3.2. Dispersed accommodation are small properties, dispersed in communities procured by the Home Office's appointed contractors, locally this is Serco.
- 3.3. NBBC receive a one-off grant which is calculated as a single annual payment for occupied bedspaces. NBBC had 194 residents as at the 30th March 2025. Each bedspace is allocated a grant award of £1,200.00, so we received a total grant of £232,800.00.
- 3.4. No funds are directly paid to the cohort. The grant is to be spent following funding instructions from the Home Office. The funding is specifically referred to as the Asylum Dispersal Grant, is intended to recognise and contribute to the ongoing efforts of local authorities in providing accommodation and other essential services to asylum seekers.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. Whilst funding is paid directly by the Home Office to the Borough Council, WCC have also had a significant role in supporting residents.
- 4.2. In addition to the day-to day operational impact of such accommodation being in the Borough and the housing needs of those residents, the main role of the Borough Council is our multi-agency response to ensure the health and wellbeing of this cohort. Partnership working with public health, the Police and Serco has been paramount to support these vulnerable residents.
- 4.3. WCC give day to day support for residents. If approved the grant will be spent on supporting the Asylum seekers across the following key areas but is not limited to:
 - Education services
 - Children's and adults' social care
 - number of people engaged with youth work
 - number of children supported by family information service
 - Community Initiatives
 - Number of Drop ins held in NBBC
 - Number of community groups funded in NBBC
 - Number of community organisations worked with in NBBC

- Number of food bank vouchers issued
- Signposting and Orientation services

5. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. Strategic Director, Housing and Community Safety
- 5.2. Assistant Director, Social Housing and Community Safety
- 5.3. Landlord Solutions Team Leader
- 5.4. Communities and Community Safety Manager
- 5.5. Warwickshire County Council Migration Team

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. £116,400 which is 50% of the grant held by NBBC

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. No specific equality implications have been identified following the completion of an equality impact assessment. (See appendix A)

9. Health implications

- 9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

10. Climate and environmental implications

- 10.1. No direct climate and/or environmental implications have been identified.

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk management implications

12.1. The following risk management implications have been identified:

- i. There is a risk that without receiving any of the funding WCC may have to withdraw from any activities over and above their basic statutory duties.
- ii. This is likely to have a detrimental impact on NBBC who would need to find alternative resources to offer this support
- iii. There is also a risk that there will be potentially negative impact on the wellbeing of this vulnerable cohort

12.2. If the recommendations are approved, the decisions will bring the following benefits from a risk management perspective:

- i. Provide regular reporting setting out how the funds have been utilised
- ii. Demonstrate valued outcomes
- iii. Return unutilised funds

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	There are risks associated with this as WCC could withdraw the non-statutory support that they are currently providing for the wellbeing of this vulnerable cohort.

		NBBC would be expected to intervene, which would be an operational and reputational risk in terms of the successful partnership working of WCC and NBBC. NBBC must report back to the Home Office periodically to show what the funding has been used for, so by not spending this, we are at risk of having to return funds given to support this cohort.
B	To Participate	Gives the opportunity for WCC to benefit from a proportion of the grant, in recognition of their support for the health and wellbeing of this cohort and to provide a support service to these vulnerable residents. NBBC can report back to the Home Office to show how the funds have been spent to support this cohort.

15. Conclusion

15.1 The asylum seeker community living in dispersed accommodation in the Borough are vulnerable and require support from both the Borough Council and WCC who need to work collaboratively for the health and wellbeing of this cohort

15.2 It is proposed that should the request be approved, it will be conditional on the requirement for an update to the Assistant Director for Strategic Housing to demonstrate how the funding has been spent, with a caveat to return unutilised funds.

16. Appendices

16.1. Please note the following appendices:

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

17. Background papers

17.1. No background papers

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director for Strategic Housing

Officer Name: Sharon Clinton

Officer Email Address: Sharon.clinton@nuneatonandbeworth.gov.uk

Appendix A



Equality Impact Assessment - Screening

Name of Policy/Procedure/Service	Asylum Seeker Support from Warwickshire County Council
Service Unit	Housing and Communities
Date of Implementation	TBC

Does this policy/procedure/service have any differential impact on the following groups/people? (please tick):

<i>Group</i>	This may have a positive impact	This may have a negative impact	No adverse impact
Age			X
Disability			X
Gender			X
Gender Reassignment			X
Marriage and Civil Partnership			X
Pregnancy and Maternity			X
Race – which includes ethnic or national origins, colour, caste or nationality			X
Religion or Belief – this also includes no religion/belief			X
Sexual Orientation (Including LGBT)			X
impact on Serving and/or Ex Serving Armed Forces Personnel and their families			X


Please tick if you believe that this document:

- Should proceed to a Full Impact Assessment
Red
- Needs some minor changes, but does not need a Full Impact Assessment
Amber
- Needs no further action
Green

Recommendations (If any):

No adverse impact has been identified within this report.

The funding to WCC will support asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation & their activities over and above their basic statutory duties in the area.

Signed	
Officer completing assessment	Craig Dicken
Date	4 th July 2025