

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

26th June 2025

A meeting of the Health and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 26th June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor S. Dhillon (Chair)

Councillors: J. Hartshorn (Vice-Chair), J. Bonner, M. Kondakor, B. Pandher, C. Smith, T. Cooper (substituting for S. Markham), D. Brown (substituting for W. Markham) and Mrs D. Ross.

Apologies: Councillors S. Markham, W. Markham and T. Jenkins.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

HCR 1 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 13th February 2025 be approved and duly signed by the Chair.

HCR 2 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the declarations of interests are as set out in the Schedule which can be viewed on the Council website ([Councillor Schedule of Declarations of Interests for Meetings](#)).

HCR 3 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services (Councillor S. Hey) and the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) were in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Kondakor asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Thank you, I have a couple of questions really. One is following on from a question back in February, when are we going to get SharePoint rolled out to Councillors and things. I get some information by an e-mail and then I can click on it, but I wouldn't know how to access it without going through that, because it was said that Dash was being sort of phased out and that we were going to move on to this, but I still haven't had any information and that's, you know, a few a few months back. So I'd quite like to have an update on that and the same with the organisation chart. The only organisation charts available is the public one, which is from August 2024. So that's pretty out of date. I understand there was some problem with having the full one through the Members bit, because somehow those who are clever with it could access it somehow and it had all people's names and numbers and what have you. But could it be put on for us to click on through the Members section or can we have it sent by e-mail? It's really useful to know who and where people fit into the organisation. I've put in

members enquiries and then you get a reply from an Officer and then yes, they give their title. But I don't know where that fits in in the whole.

The other thing is, can you do something about the comms? Currently the Council is consulting on the climate change and sustainability plan, but if you go to the website and you put 'consultation' in the search box it comes up with nothing. If you click on 'live consultations', it says there are no current live consultations. Now we know that you don't get huge response from people anyway, but the fact that if someone is looking out for consultations and can't go to it, you're not going to get a response. I only know because I thought when do I need to put my responses in by? So I went searching for it and that's when I established it was quite difficult to find unless you knew it was actually happening.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

Thank you very much. To get all the SharePoint stuff working for Members as well as Offices we've got to have proper Wi-Fi system in here. The current Wi-Fi system is an open public Wi-Fi system which I won't use because as a Counsellor, I think that's not sensible, and we're introducing Gov Wi-Fi, which is actually quite good because you'll be able to log on in other Council buildings up and down the Country. And until that's in, there's a whole raft of things that I can't do. I'm told that's happening on the 3rd of July. So you know, I've taken a year of asking. So we've getting there.

In terms of the organisation chart, I'll just get something sorted. I have actually forgotten about it, I do apologise, I'll get something sorted out.

I actually think in terms of the comms team, they are getting a lot better. They're getting more support from us, more support from the colleagues and so on. I have made some comments about the website generally to them and they are picking these up and I will raise this separately. So we're getting there, not quite as fast as I'd like and I will look at these points outside the meeting.

Councillor Hartshorn asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Thank you Chair. So this is related to the proposed work programme item coming up about agency staff. I know that we are in a difficult position when it comes to recruiting permanent staff, as are a lot of local authorities and businesses.

What's the view of the cabinet in terms of, if a particularly exceptional member of agency staff is found working for us, what's the view on offering them a permanent contract based upon their current performance and any favourable terms that they may be willing to leave the agency to come to work for us full time?

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services replied:

Thank you Councillor. We made the decision early on that would leave operational matters to the Officers. I don't think that was quite the way it was before, but we will not get involved in detailed operational matters

of employing people or not, and so on. But in terms of a policy, I would and the Cabinet would, all of us would prefer to see people in permanent employment with the Council and not as agency staff, but you well know that we've got a really difficult situation to deal with. We've got devolution happening which isn't helping. In some areas we're not paying people enough and so on, and also I didn't mention it, but our IT in some areas isn't as good as it should be and I'm working on that so that people can, you know, work easier and so on. I'd prefer people to be permanently employed, but I can't answer that particular detail because I'll have to leave that to the Office to decide whether to employ somebody or not when they've been an agency worker.

Councillor Brown asked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Just further to a point that Councillor Kondakor here made about the transition to Microsoft SharePoint. In the unfortunate event that we are not able to transition by the 3rd of July, could you come back to us with a more detailed explanation of what the problem is please? Microsoft SharePoint is not exactly a new programme. I've been using it work for at least five years. So I think we need a more detailed explanation if we're not able to get there on the 3rd of July, please.

HCR 4

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture, Public Health Service Manager – Strategic Partnerships, and Senior Programme Manager - George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust gave a presentation which updated the Panel on the statutory duties, priorities, progress and the next steps.

Public Speaker: County Councillor K. Kondakor

Following the presentation, the Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Planning for health – how to improve green spaces and new developments. The provision of G.P's and Doctors Surgeries for new developments. Need more enforcement within planning, and ensure money agreed is received and spent in the right places. It was felt more powers within Planning and reasons to reject applications on health grounds would be helpful.
- Air Quality – pollution and air related illnesses. Has work been done around this issue? Years can be taken off lives if living on Main Roads. What impact does urban living have verses rural, and what impact does additional traffic have on health related illnesses such as asthma? Air quality used to be recorded, but may have ben stopped if levels improved. It was agreed that information on health impact assessments relating to air quality and health data could be reported back to the Panel.
- Cardiac clinics/roadshows are a good way to engage. It was agreed information on publicity, incentives and regular places visited would be reported back to the Panel.

- Transport – outreach is useful for those who can't travel, but need joint up policies with WCC to help with access across departments.
- Safeguarding and work with women and young girls is ongoing, including accommodation and DV.
- Smoking levels in pregnancy are reducing, - following pregnancy the 'smoke free generation grants' are in place to help women remain non-smoking.
- Ethnicity and deprivation data – to target certain populations in most need of help.
- Energy implementations in Council owned properties – aiming to improve efficiency and be better for the environment.
- Transportation between hospitals – a request that a volunteer service be considered and implemented to transport patients between hospitals to increase attendance at appointments, as patients can refuse treatment or not attend due to access and transport issues – which ultimately can cost the NHS money in time and appointments lost, or more expensive treatments down the line.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted and the representatives from the NHS, WCC and NBBC be thanked for their presentation and for attending.

HCR 5

Fees and Charges Policy

A report of the Assistant Director – Finance provided the panel with an overview of the Fees and Charges Policy to be adopted from August 2025.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- This is a new policy and the first time it has been reviewed.
- Look to include objectives to say how the best service will be delivered for the optimum charge.
- Some areas of the document are more internally facing, the Corporate Plan covers a lot of issues relating to being customer facing.
- Consulting with residents – the report is not to set the fees and charges but about the methodology of charging.
- Reviews will be made annually, so if there is a surplus in a particular area one year, the charges can be reduced or service improved to ensure the public is not overcharged.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Fees and Charges Policy be reviewed and the contents noted; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the Fees and Charges Policy be approved and adopted from August 2025.

HCR 6

Integrated Performance Report –Third and Fourth Quarters 2024-25

A summary report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Panel Members with appropriate performance measures,

budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel.

Public Speaker: County Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- The increased number of Member Enquiry Forms being submitted, training on using the forms can be provided if required.
- Making the Integrated Performance Reports specific to each OSP, with data and information within the remit of each OSP to avoid duplicating information.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be considered and noted.

HCR 7

Corporate Plan And Delivery Plan

The Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan showing the strategic aims and themes that the Council are working towards which were agreed at Full Council in April 2025 was presented to the panel for information.

The main themes and strategic aims will be provided in every OSP agenda. The plan is in place for four years and Panel Members can monitor this to ensure the council is delivering on its strategic aims and themes relevant to this OSP.

Public Speaker: County Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Making the information with the Delivery Plan more relevant to each OSP.

RESOLVED that that Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan 2025 – 2029 be noted.

HCR 8

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st July 2025, was provided to the Panel for information.

Clarity in relation to the Pool Bank Car Park consultation was requested.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

HCR 9

Work Programme 2025-2026

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2025-2026.

The Panel were also presented with a Work Programme Suggestion Form from Councillor M. Walsh for consideration to be included in the Work Programme:

A review of the use of agency staff over all departments as opposed to the employment of full/part time employees.

The Panel also discussed air quality and its impact on health, as highlighted earlier in the meeting.

- RESOLVED** that the 2025-2026 work programme be approved with
- a) the addition of the Work Programme Suggestion from Councillor Walsh in relation to agency staff;
 - b) the addition of an agenda item relating to the impact of air quality and pollution on health;
 - c) the removal of a specific date for Gambling as an item, and for this item to be put on the agenda in the future only if required; and
 - d) a request that Healthwatch include information relating to Mental Health in their presentation due later in the municipal year.

Chair