

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

19th June 2025

A meeting of the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 19th June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Sheppard (Chair)

Councillors: M. Bird (substitute for J. Collett), A. Bull, J. Gutteridge S. Markham, C. Phillips, B. Saru, C. Smith and M. Walsh (Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Councillor J. Collett

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

EL1 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Leisure OSP meeting held on 30th January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

EL2 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule available to view on the website.

EL3 **Questions to Cabinet**

The portfolio holder for Leisure and Health (Councillor B. Hughes) was in attendance to answer questions from the Panel.

Councillor J. Gutteridge asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Health:

On the monthly back dashboard we received from Director Kevin Hollis and NBBC. The question is NBBC to liaise with planners and tree officer to agree scope of tree removal required as part of the excess spoil design review.

So my question is how many trees are we going to remove?

And how big is this soil spoil that we've got to take over?

Cabinet Member for Leisure & Health responded as follows:

I will need to come back to you and provide a written response.

Councillor J. Gutteridge asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Health:

The Master Lane Cemetery is our only burial space within the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth because, I believe Oaston Road is full, except for cremations.

Could the portfolio holder tell us how we are proceeding with the layout and the extensions of Marston Lane Cemetery?

The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Health responded as follows:

Thank you, Councillor Gutteridge, Oasten Road isn't the only cemetery in the borough. We do have Bucks Hill and Attleborough and at the moment we are looking into both of those because obviously there is still some remedial works to be done.

Potentially there is also additional burial spaces, within Marston Lane we are looking into that in the future, but at the moment there's still work to be done within the remaining cemeteries. Thank you.

EL4 Integrated Performance Report – Third and Fourth Quarter 2024/25

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer. The Panel were presented with a report which seeks to provide appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel. The report has been adapted to reduce the volume of data (as previously reported under the former scrutiny panel arrangements), whilst still providing the Panel with sufficient information to monitor results to address issues arising.

The following was raised:

- The panel queried why the working days sickness is increasing from the third quarter to the fourth quarter according to the data. The Risk Management and Performance Officer responded that generally sickness has improved towards the end of the year but the profile target is what the council set it as, it's dividing the end of year total by 12 and it increases accordingly.
- The panel queried in respect of FOI/Complaints previously there were some outstanding and if there was an indication as to how long they took to complete. The Risk Management and Performance Officer responded that the outstanding cases were completed within the required timeframe but when the report is produced it is just informing the panel how many FOI/Complaints were outstanding at the time of reporting and not that they were late in response time.
- The panel queried around the scope of the Member Enquiry Form and what you can and cannot use them for. The Risk Management and Performance Officer advised that clarification would be sought and feedback to the panel.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted;

EL5 Museum Update

A report of the Museum and Arts Manager was submitted to the panel on the activities of the Museum in the last 12 months.

The following points were discussed:

- The use of signage, promotion of events in respect of notifying members of upcoming events and an online booking system were raised. The Museum and Arts Manager responded that signage has been looked into and was going to be funded by the Towns Fund, an online booking system is being evaluated

again shortly, previously the museum has worked with Ticket Source who have offered to set up tickets for customers.

- The panel asked if the café (situated in the same building as the museum) was still operational. The Museum and Arts Manager confirmed that it was and that now the museum have regular operational hours this has also been beneficial for the café open hours.
- The panel suggested an idea for the programme re: 800th anniversary of the markets as the Borough have a Royal Charter dating back to 1226. The Museum and Arts Manager confirmed that this would be investigated.
- The panel raised a query regarding how online payments were progressing. The Museum and Arts Manager advised this would be operational by August/September, but they have got to resolve telephone payments as well.

SPEAKER: Councillor M. Kondakor

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

EL6 **Kerbside Recycling and Refuse Collection**

A presentation by the Neighbourhood Services Manager was given to the panel containing an update on the kerbside recycling and refuse collection.

The panel raised the following points:

- The panel queried what the barriers are to prevent residents from recycling. The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that it can be due to lack of education surrounding recycling, knowing what you can and cannot recycle. An Education and Engagement Officer is currently being recruited to help mitigate this and we do repeat messaging via social media platforms.
- If due to local government reform the council becomes a unitary or two unitaries would this affect the Coventry City Council contract. The Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement responded that the contract would still continue on until it came to a natural end.
- The panel asked in relation to depot vehicle space as to whether depending on the Bridge to Living project, the car park there could be utilised in some way. The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that in respect to HGV's this would be different as the licence is quite specific in where you can park the vehicles but other vehicles such as those linked with housing could potentially be parked in an alternative car park.
- The panel asked how do you measure strong performance in combined recycling. The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that to some extent it is having experience in the industry and benchmarking against other authorities in respect scale and size, comparisons of demographic deprivation levels and socio economic factors.
- The panel asked that with the increase in green bin charges and leading to a decrease in green bin take up when the food waste collection comes in this could lead to another decrease in green bin take up, in addition is there any update on contamination waste as this had not been mentioned in the report. The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that they are currently undergoing modelling work on the food waste/green bin collections in addition to looking at other councils operating both a subscription green bin and food waste collection and how this could work in Nuneaton and Bedworth. In relation to contamination rates, there is contamination and is still being examined.

- The panel asked if now the time was to start promoting what can be recycled especially as there seems to be confusion as to what can and cannot go in the brown lidded bin. The Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement responded that they first want to get the Engagement/Education Officer in place first and this would be their first job in enabling residents to better understand what materials can go into the recycling bin.
- The Panel commented that it appears the residents will have 4 collections (inc. food waste), is it possible to examine the possibility of a 2-shift collection. The Assistant Director advised this is an option that is being examined but a few of the vehicles are quite old and therefore would need to consider capability of these vehicles.
- For the food waste collection due to commence end of March 2026, the panel asked what receptacle the food waste would be collected in. The Neighbourhood Services Manager responded that this still needs to be given consideration but the initial thinking is a 5l kitchen caddy which can be tipped into a larger container which will be presented at the size of the road. In terms of take up of the service 40% take up would be considered a high percentage take up. Any liner can be used, it does not have to be compostable.
- The panel raised that an increase in online shopping has seen an increased amount of cardboard and big box packaging. Some residents have feedback that often, extra recycling by the side of the bin is not taken. The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised that if the big box can be placed back in the bin after initially being emptied then they would take it. The operatives can not try to manually place items in the vehicle due to health and safety.
- The Chair requested that as per the report a working group be created to look at food waste procurement including policies around containers and their delivery. In addition to consider options for communication to residents to make them aware of the new service.

RESOLVED that

- a) a working group be created to examine the food waste procurement including policies around containers and their delivery, in addition to look at communications to promote and inform residents of the new service;
- b) the members of the working group are Councillors J. Sheppard, S. Markham, M. Walsh, C. Smith and C. Phillips; and
- c) the report be noted.

EL7 Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan 2025 – 2029

The Panel reviewed the Corporate and Delivery Plan within the remit of the OSP.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan 2025 -2029 be noted.

EL8 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.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

EL9 **Work Programme**

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2025-2026. In addition the panel considered a work programme suggestion item submitted by Councillor M. Walsh regarding agency spend.

RESOLVED that

- a) a report by officers be brought back to a future meeting regarding the collection of waste in parks and green spaces, date to be confirmed by the Chair;
- b) the work programme suggestion form submitted to the panel by Councillor M. Walsh be deferred to the Health and Corporate Resources OSP for consideration and inclusion on their work programme due to the subject matter being more in line with their remit; and
- c) the work programme be updated and approved.

EL10 **Any Other Items**

None

Chair