

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

2nd July 2025

A Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 2nd July 2025.

Present

The Mayor (Councillor B. Saru)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. Sheppard)

Councillors E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, D. Brown, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, J. Sheppard, C. Smith, R. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins, K. Wilson and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Councillors A. Bull, S. Dhillon and M. Bird

CL12 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 14th May 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor with the following amendment

Minute no CL3 be amended to 'Councillor J. Collett proposed Councillor M. Bird'

CL13 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule which can be viewed on the website. In addition, the following declarations were made:

Councillor M. Kondakor declared a disclosable pecuniary interest by way of her husband Keith Kondakor becoming a member of Warwickshire County Council;

Councillor J. Clarke declared he is no longer treasury of the Nuneaton Conservatives Association but has now been named Honorary Vice-President of the Nuneaton Conservatives Association.

Councillor S. Croft declared an other interest by way of him being Vice-Chairman of the Nuneaton Conservative Association.

Councillor K. Price declared an other interest by way of her being a nominated representative on the following outside bodies:

- Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board,
- Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel,
- Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee
- Warwickshire Direct Partnership
- Warwickshire Waste Partnership

Councillor T. Jenkins declared that he is no longer a representative on the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor B. Hughes declared an other interest by way of her being a nominated representative on Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

CL14 **Announcements**

The Mayor announced that a one minute silence would be held in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the India plane crash on 12th June 2025.

Councillor W. Hancox announced that a total to date of £45,459.29p was raised in aid of his Mayoral Civic Appeal. This is thanks to the generosity of the people of this Borough in organising events (30th Signals, Queen Gurkas, Stockingford Pavilion and The Horseshoe Club to name a few organisers), mountain climbs in Morocco, and fundraising afternoon teas by the Mayoress Alderwoman Sheila Hancox.

Councillor R. Roze announced that he would be serving as an Independent Member of the Council and would no longer be part of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Labour Group.

CL15 **Public Participation**

No public questions or statements received.

CL16 **Questions by Members**

Question 1 – Councillor Bill Hancox asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

There is a great deal of concern in and around Bedworth regarding the future of our indoor market. If we are to have a vibrant Town Centre, Market traders need to plan their future around any works to the indoor market.

Could the Leader promise myself, my Bede Ward colleague Councillor Bull and other Bedworth Councillors that this Council will fully engage with traders, shoppers, users and visitors to the indoor market and provide to them a full update of the plans and timeline for the refurbishment of the indoor market as a matter of expediency?

Councillor N. King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, responded as follows:

Money has been reserved for Bedworth Indoor Market, additional problems have been found and therefore had to find extra funding. This has been identified to make the building safe. With the additional funds the project can now continue onwards and upwards for the indoor market.

Councillor Bill Hancox asked the following supplementary question:

Is the additional funding on top of £700k or within £700k?

Councillor N. King responded as follows:

Additional funding has been identified for the additional works needing to take place due to the neglect of the building over a long period of time. We will keep you and the constituents in Bedworth updated on the progress.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion:

'A future report be brought to full council on the status and progress of Bedworth Market and information on how it is being brought forward'

The motion was seconded by Councillor S. Markam

A vote was taken

It was **RESOLVED** that a future report be brought to full council on the status and progress of Bedworth Market and information on how it is being brought forward

Question 2 – Councillor Eric Amaechi asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Does the Leader of the Council agree with Warwickshire County Council's assertion that their proposals for the reorganisation of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services in the area will have no detrimental effect on the residents and Businesses in the Borough?

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

I most definitely do not agree with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service with their reorganisation of their service. I have mentioned how disappointed I am in the cuts to the service before and I did have a meeting with the Chief Fire Officer and Izzy Seccombe a few months ago which was pointless because it was obvious that they would be going ahead with the cuts. I also recently had a meeting with the Leader of WCC and their chief executive where I raised concerns about some of the warehouses we have in Nuneaton, and I asked if these had been taken into consideration when making the cuts considering some of the contents of these warehouses.

We agree that Bedworth needs a fire appliance which would mainly deal with Road Traffic Collisions on the M6 and of course some fires but Nuneaton is growing faster than any Town in Warwickshire and needs more than one appliance. We have just had the tallest building in Nuneaton built and the ladders are kept in Leamington which would take over an hour to get to Nuneaton.

Councillor S. Hey moved the following motion:

‘This Council expresses serious concern at the proposed cuts to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, which risk reducing frontline cover, increasing response times, and compromising public safety in Nuneaton, Bedworth, and the wider area.

We believe residents deserve a fully resourced and effective fire and rescue service, and that any changes should be subject to a thorough risk assessment and proper public consultation.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Oppose any cuts that reduce fire cover or emergency response capability in our borough.**
- 2. Write to Warwickshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Chief Fire Officer to set out this concern and opposition.**
- 3. Call for a full risk assessment and public consultation before any service reductions are made.’**

The motion was seconded by Councillor B. Hughes

A vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that this council

- a) opposes any cuts that reduce fire cover or emergency response capability in our Borough;
- b) write to Warwickshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Chief Fire Officer to set out this concern and opposition; and
- b) call for a full risk assessment and public consultation before any service reductions are made

Question 3 – Councillor Rob Roze asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

Can the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement confirm how Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's performance in determining planning applications has changed over the past year and what steps have been taken to make improvements?

Councillor T. Venson Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows:

Over the past year, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council has seen significant improvements in its performance regarding determining planning applications, moving to a position where the past two quarters (Oct-Dec '24 and Jan-Mar '25) have seen 100% of planning applications determined within their time frame or within an agreed extension of time, with the same expected in the current quarter (Apr-Jun '25). We have implemented a Validation Checklist for the first time in our history which helps to front-load the necessary planning documents for each planning application from the very start. We have had some staff leave over the past 12 months, but the Developmental Control Team have not allowed it to affect performance whilst we have recruited to vacant posts.

Question 4 - Councillor Jonathan Collett asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

St George's Hall is an iconic part of Nuneaton's heritage, with a name that resonates deeply across generations of local families including my own. The building, home to a sprung dance floor, a stage, and beautiful stained-glass windows, was awarded £2 million of public funding for its restoration and renewal.

I was therefore concerned to learn that Saints Nuneaton appear to be intending to rename the venue, which would risk erasing a vital part of the town's cultural

and historic identity. I raised this matter at the Business and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Panel, where I was pleased to receive cross-party support to ask Cabinet to seek the restoration of the name "St George's Hall." The Strategic Director for Place and Economy also confirmed at the time that she had not been aware of the proposed name change and undertook to investigate the matter further. Moreover, a Council spokesperson subsequently told the *Nuneaton News* that: "The Council have been in contact with the CEO and elevated the concerns that were raised during the OSP. The Council is now waiting to hear the outcome."

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm whether a response has now been received from the CEO of Saints Nuneaton and if so, what that response was?

Councillor N. King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, responded as follows:

The CEO has been contacted and gave the following response:

'The name of the building is still called Saints (which was changed when we took on the property as it was formerly called 'Saints No More' with prior names being Barracuda Bar and Four Doors Down. The name of the Charity is still Together for Change.

Within the Towns Deal grant agreement and the draft lease agreement, there is no mention of not being able to rename the hall, so legally we felt we were happy to go ahead and re-name it after someone who shared our vision and values to transform communities and to serve the poor and needy.

We do recognise that the building is often call the former Conservative Club, and the hall may be known locally as the old St George's Hall by many older residents, however, the name of the building has changed several times since it was built.

Regarding the lease agreements, we still have not had any of the three outstanding leases ready to sign. We are keen to progress this before the next elections and especially keen to make use of the Alara's empty unit and the Bar Pool shop unit too.

Councillor Chris Watkins, the Leader of the Council and the Mayor was at the opening event and re-naming ceremony, and we are happy for any other councillors who would like to visit the centre in the future'

Councillor J. Collett supplementary was as follows:

I am very disappointed in the response; it is a very distinct and celebrated part of the Town's history. I hoped that instead of extending the invite they would take into account the public's wishes.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion:

'This Council resolves that we believe the heritage of our Borough should be respected and call upon the CEO of Saints to retain the name St Goerge's Hall as part of the building'

Councillor J. Collett seconded the motion.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson and, C. Watkins,

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors M. Kondakor and M. Wright

The motion was lost.

Question 5 – Councillor Michele Kondakor asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

Would the Portfolio Holder for Planning provide an update on the progress of adoptions of the open spaces and any associated play areas on the 3 now completed developments on the Weddington Road? There has been considerable delay in the adoption of Church Fields open spaces. This was the first development in Weddington. We have seen changes that were done over a year ago, as part of this process but since then things seem to have stalled.

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows:

Thank you for your question relating to developments in the Weddington site. I can update as follows:

Taylor Whimpey – several meetings have taken place with NBBC Officers since 2022, with the latest correspondence in May 2025, providing feedback on required maintenance records and the cycle path ramps suggestions. Further dialogue has been ongoing for final agreement and delivery of landscape drawings and delivery. No adoption of facilities has taken place.

Davidsons - Final certificate of completion for POS sent to developer, NBBC and Davidsons legal representative's ongoing dialogue.

Barratts - Repeated site meetings with Barratts since 2022/23 and ongoing, no final certificates issues until snagging list addressed by Barratts representatives sent by NBBC officers in April 2025. Barratts will contact us when the snags are completed probably Autumn 2025 or Spring 2026 and this will take things a step closer to adoption.

Question 6 – Councillor Martin Walsh asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

Like you Mr Mayor, I do not originate from here, but have lived in Bedworth for nearly 40 years, during which time I have witnessed the decline of the town whilst the Labour Group have held control of this Borough Council for some 35 of those years.

When I became a Councillor in May 2021 and we took control of this Council, I was pleased to see that, with thanks to former Councillor Kyle Evans, for securing the funding, and his successor, Councillor Sue Markham, as portfolio holders, the long-awaited Bedworth Physical Activity Hub was going to become a reality. Had Labour been in control it would still have been on the drawing board. Likewise, whilst we were in control we secured £715K for the refurbishment of the indoor market, and our MP at the time, Craig Tracey, secured £20M for the town. We all know that our current MP, Rachel Taylor, denied it's existence but then it miraculously re-appeared.

So I ask the portfolio holder, on behalf of the residents of Bedworth, what has happened to the £715K for the market and the £20M for the Town, and when are we going to see the evidence of it being used to benefit the town of Bedworth for which it was intended?

Councillor N. King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration responded as follows:

The market refurbishment will be covered in a future report. The site works will commence on 8th September 2025 to 23rd October, Internal works 15th September to 20th November and the facade 20th September to 12th December.

At this juncture it is proposed to keep the market open on the nominated market day throughout the works to limit any disruption to the traders and public. For the delay in the £20M, the original proposal was delayed following the change of government last year and a new Board was formed.

Bedworth has been awarded £20M of government funding to spend on projects over the next 10 years.

The first meeting of the Board was held recently, and we have until the end of November to get a Regeneration Plan submitted to Government.

Councillor M. Walsh asked the following supplementary question:

I appreciate the comments. I have concerns regarding the safety issue mentioned earlier and that the markets won't be closed, to what extent will the safety issue be?

Councillor N. King responded as follows:

This will be included in a future report

Question 7 – Councillor Kris Wilson asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services:

It is currently taking up to 10 weeks for the finance team to process new Council Tax registrations. This places further stress on those moving home and strains on the cash flow for both the homeowner and the council.

Does the Portfolio Holder think that this delay is acceptable and what steps is he taking to improve the service for taxpayers?

Councillor S. Hey, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services, responded as follows:

The simple answer to your question is "no" and I'd asked for this to be looked into and how we could improve.

A bit of background first.

In December 2024 the service manager retired which led to an internal promotion in the team leaving a post vacant. Subsequently another member of the team retired in March 2025.

Both retirees were long serving members to the council and had a wealth of knowledge which was lost. This is something I have asked the officers to keep an eye on as quite a number of our senior staff are getting to the point of retiring and we are losing a wealth of experience that simply isn't available to, say, an 18-year-old.

To compound things, annual billing began February 2025 which is a critical time for the team to get all bills out for the new financial year which became the main focus for resource between Feb – March 2025.

The recruitment process to fill the internal promotion and other vacant post was successful but both new starters didn't start until April 2025 and May 2025. These new starters are still in the training period of their employment.

A temporary agency worker was appointed, and 2 members of the recovery team have been working on billing to try and alleviate the delays.

I'm pleased to say this is starting to make an effect with the outstanding work now standing at a 5/6-week delay which is obviously heading in the right direction.

As the newer staff members become more familiar and knowledgeable with the processes and different types of cases, we expect this figure to reduce further back to where we benchmark it to be and, of course, this can be monitored at the OSPs.

Councillor K. Wilson asked the following supplementary question as follows:

I am pleased to hear this progress and that people may see an improvement in the service and the use of enforcement. Will the Cabinet Member speak to Revenues and Benefits department to ensure the residents are kept informed?

Councillor S. Hey responded as follows:

Yes

Question 8 – Councillor M. Bird submitted the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services:

Can the member explain the significant increase in expenditure on agency staff as reported in the recent Strategic Performance Reports?

Specifically:

1. How many agency staff are currently employed by the authority, and in which departments or service areas are they primarily being utilised?
2. Is this increase in agency staffing linked to a rise in staff sickness levels within the authority.
3. Has the level of sickness increased since employees have been permitted to work from home?
4. Will the portfolio holder
 - a) Identify which service areas are finding it difficult to recruit suitable personnel?
 - b) What plans are in place to address the market competition to fill vacancies with reliable, permanent staff?

In Councillor M. Bird's absence, it was agreed that a written response be provided by Councillor S. Hey, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services. The response was as follows:

I'm sorry you were unable to attend the Council Meeting on 2nd July. I have provided my written response to your questions below.

However, before I delve into the details, I'd like to make a few broad points.

As a governing group, we have a policy of not getting involved in individual employment decisions (except, of course, for very top-level staff) as we have given the Strategic Directors budgets and expect them to manage them in the best way to achieve our service delivery objectives. In addition, interfering in employment decisions could, in the wrong hands, lead to corruption in our view.

I don't have an exact figure, but I understand that in 2010, we had approximately 700 FTE staff. This has fallen by over 100 following 14 years of your government's cuts. Furthermore, back in 2016/2017, the Conservative WCC completely withdrew the supporting people funding, so this also saw some job cuts.

Would you and your colleagues rather we did not employ agency staff, and that more of our own trusted, loyal employees are put under more pressure and stress?

There are lots of reasons for agency staff, and some of these could be long-term sickness, such as cancer, stress or any other sickness that takes time to get over.

Finally, before I move on to address the individual points you raise, I must say I object to the inference in question 4b that agency and part-time staff aren't reliable.

1. As of the end of June 2025, there were 35 active bookings for agency staff. Agency spend is generally covered by vacancy savings in most areas, unless there are other funding streams, like the s106 review officer in planning, where we are using anticipated underspends elsewhere to fund the role fully. These appointments are not authorised unless they are fully funded.
2. Let's put this in perspective. We currently have 581 FTE staff budgeted for so 35 represents just over 6%. It should be noted that although active, the nature of agency staffing may mean that some of these workers are on standby for short-term absence cover and may not be employed on an ongoing basis. Primarily, these bookings encompass waste management services and housing maintenance. On the latter, I'm pleased to say a number of these workers have recently been recruited permanently and will start direct employment shortly.
3. The reason given by managers when placing orders for agency workers varies. However, of the 35 active bookings referred to in point 1 above, 16 are noted as long-term or short-term absence cover. Of those, almost all (15/16) are within Waste Management.
4. Are sickness levels increasing? Well, in 2017/18, sickness accounted for 8.74% FTE time lost, which by 2023/24, the last time the Conservatives were in power, had gone up to 11.78% FTE time lost. This reduced slightly in 2024/25 to 11.29% but the trend in April and May is downwards further as we strive to hit the benchmark target of 8.75%
5. For the last two financial years, both Housing and Public Services have had the highest level of absence. Both services have a higher proportion of frontline employees who are unable to work from home.

6. a) The Council is generally successful in recruiting for most roles, attracting good volumes of applicants. However, in line with national trends, roles within Building Surveying and Legal have proved more challenging to recruit.

b) The Council has a range of policies that can assist in recruitment, and these are applied as appropriate. For example, market supplement payments have been added to some roles which has provided some recent success. These policies in addition to widening areas/publications in which vacancies are advertised and making the application process easier for candidates has increased applicant numbers.

I've endeavoured to give as comprehensive an answer on this as I can, but if I've missed anything, Councillor, please email me and I'll get back to you.

I hope you agree that the officers have got a good handle on this and that we should leave them to get on with their jobs.

Question 9 – Councillor M. Wright asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health:

As the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub moves closer to completion, could the responsible cabinet member a) confirm when the skate park will be rebuilt and opened and b) confirm details of the tree-planting programme, including the number of mature trees lost in the construction process, the number of replacements to be planted and the timetable for their planting?

Councillor B. Hughes, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health, responded as follows:

The handover of Phase 1 of the development which includes the new BPAH main building is scheduled for March 2026 completion
The handover of the Skate Park, learn to ride facilities and external oval area is scheduled for summer 2026
The remainder of the facilities including 3G pitch and car park is scheduled for late 2026.

The tree-planting programme is as per the approved planning application including number of tree's lost and replacement programme.

Councillor M. Wright asked a supplementary question as follows:

Were there any issues with soil contamination in the replanting process?

Councillor B. Hughes responded as follows:

No.

CL17 **Special Urgency Decisions**

None taken

CL18 **Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council submitted the Leaders report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 21st May 2025, and 18th June 2025 and details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCAB), which has a direct impact on NBBC.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CL19 **Timetable of Committee Meetings 2025/26 – Borough Plan Committee**

A report of the Assistant Director – Democracy & Governance and Assistant Director - Planning submitted a report to council following a resolution from Council to schedule additional meetings of the Borough Plan Committee for the remainder of 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, moved the recommendation for approval

Councillor S. Hey seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the timetable of committee meetings set out in Appendix A of the report be approved and incorporated into the full timetable of committee meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year

CL20 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

i) **Leisure Operator Procurement Update**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 18th June 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor B. Hughes, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Health, moved the recommendations for approval.

Councillor T. Venson seconded the recommendations.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that

- a) the funds be allocated within the 2025/26 capital programme up to £1.5million to support the Leisure Contract Variant 1 bid proposal;
- b) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and Strategic Director for Public Services in consultation with the Assistant Director for Recreation & Culture, the Portfolio Holders for Leisure & Health and, Resources & Central Services to instruct the Operator to deliver the agreed refurbishment areas at the Pingles Leisure Centre; and
- c) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources in consultation with the Assistant Director for Recreation & Culture, the Portfolio Holders for Leisure & Health and Resources & Central Services to agree, following advice from legal representation (upon completion of the lease) and subject to operator programming, to use the capital funds at the Pingles Leisure Centre in advance of the contract coming into effect in January 2026

ii) **Pingles Decarbonisation Update**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 18th June 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor B. Hughes, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Health, moved the recommendation for approval

Councillor S. Hey seconded the recommendation

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that budget provision be identified in year, to support the additional costs for the Pingles substation of £150k.

iii) **Local Government Reform**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 18th June 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, moved the recommendations as follows:

- I. that a two unitary council model as follows:
 - a. Based on existing boundaries of North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council,
 - b. Based on the existing boundaries of Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council.

be put forward as the preferred governance option for Warwickshire; and

- II. delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive Officer to represent and act on behalf of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in all matters up to submission relating to Local Government Reform and reorganisation, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Councillor S. Hey seconded the recommendations

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following amendment to add two recommendations as follows:

1. A cross-party politically balanced Cabinet Sub-Committee (the "Local Government Reform Cabinet Sub-Committee") of 7 councillors be established to formulate recommendations to Cabinet in the run-up to final submission of Nuneaton and Bedworth's proposal to government and once the final decision of MHCLG is received to work through and make recommendations on the work streams necessary to implement the decision.
2. Delegated authority is granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with each Group Leader to create the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Working Group and to appoint its membership.

Councillor S. Markham seconded the amendment

An adjournment was taken at 19.51pm to enable the councillors time to consider the amendment. The meeting recommenced at 19.56pm

A vote was taken on the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

The recommendations moved by Councillor C. Watkins from Cabinet and the inclusion of the two recommendations above became the substantive motion.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following amendment to add the following recommendation:

Council requests a further detailed report to outline the implications of what a 2-council solution would look like in practice for the disaggregated services and new organisational relationships that would result, including:

- i. Council tax harmonisation
- ii. Highways and transport
- iii. Education services
- iv. Looked after children
- v. SEND provision
- vi. Adult social care
- vii. Emergency services, with particular reference to Fire and Police
- viii. Future relationship with the WMCA
- iv. Housing Revenue Account

Councillor S. Markham seconded the amendment.

A vote was taken.

The amendment was carried.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion which included the recommendations moved by Councillor C. Watkins from Cabinet, and the three additional recommendations as carried above.

It was **RESOLVED** that

a) a two unitary council model as follows:

- I. Based on existing boundaries of North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council,
- II. Based on the existing boundaries of Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwick District Council.

be put forward as the preferred governance option for Warwickshire;

- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive Officer to represent and act on behalf of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in all matters up to submission relating to Local Government Reform and reorganisation, in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
- d) a cross-party politically balanced Cabinet Sub-Committee (the “Local Government Reform Cabinet Sub-Committee”) of 7 councillors be established to formulate recommendations to Cabinet in the run-up to final submission of Nuneaton and Bedworth’s proposal to government and once the final decision of MHCLG is received to work through and make recommendations on the work streams necessary to implement the decision;
- e) delegated authority is granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with each Group Leader to create the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Working Group and to appoint its membership; and
- f) Council requests a further detailed report to outline the implications of what a 2-council solution would look like in practice for the disaggregated services and new organisational relationships that would result, including:
 - i. Council tax harmonisation
 - ii. Highways and transport
 - iii. Education services
 - iv. Looked after children
 - v. SEND provision
 - vi. Adult social care
 - vii. Emergency services, with particular reference to Fire and Police
 - viii. Future relationship with the WMCA
 - iv. Housing Revenue Account

iv) **Recommendation from the Constitution Review Working Party – Member Code of Conduct Complaint Process**

At Audit and Standards Committee held on 24th June 2025, a recommendation was put forward for Council approval.

Councillor J. Bonner, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee moved the recommendation for approval.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the Constitution be amended accordingly

v) **Recommendation from the Constitution Review Working Party – Council Meeting Agenda Order**

At Audit and Standards Committee held on 24th June 2025 recommendations were put forward for Council approval as follows:

- that agenda item 'Questions By Members' be moved to the end of the agenda at Full Council and, if required due to time restrictions, Standing Orders be automatically suspended as necessary, in connection with the three-hour meeting rule, to maintain up to 45 minutes of 'Questions By Members'; and
- that the constitution be amended accordingly.

Councillor J. Bonner, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee, moved the recommendations for Council approval.

Councillor C. Phillips seconded the recommendations

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson and, C. Watkins

AGAINST: Councillors D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLVED that the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party – Council Meeting Agenda Order be not approved.

vi) **Treasury Management 2024/25 – Year End Review**

At Audit and Standards Committee, held on 24th June 2025 a recommendation was put forward for Council approval.

Councillor J. Bonner, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee, moved the recommendation for Council approval.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendation

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the Treasury Management 2024/25 Annual Report be approved.

Mayor