

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM SUB-COMMITTEE

22nd September 2025

A meeting of Local Government Reform Sub-Committee was held on Monday 22nd September, 2025 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor C. Watkins (Chair)

Councillors: J. Clarke, S. Hey, M. Kondakor, K. Price, S. Markham, and K. Wilson

The Chair welcomed Mr James Banham from Deloitte and Consultant - Mr Andy Sawford to the meeting

LGR07**Apologies**

None

LGR08**Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule published on the website.

LGR09**Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Local Government Reform Sub-committee held on 11th August 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

LGR10**CEO Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report updating the sub-committee on the position of the current programme of the Local Government Reform for Warwickshire.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted; and
- b) the continued participation in the collaborative workstreams, including public consultation and data sharing initiatives be endorsed.

LGR11**Deloitte's Report**

The Director – James Banham from Deloitte's submitted a report to the sub-committee providing analysis around what the future opportunities for Local Government would be in a one or two unitary model for Warwickshire.

The following summarised matters were raised:

- Safeguarding will at the outset would be retained at the County level through a shared service approach to ensure there are no additional risks in the transition phase
- Warwickshire is not considered deprived even though Nuneaton and Bedworth have high deprivation areas. Using the current formula the North Unitary may receive more money than they do currently.

- Social care – data sharing has been limited until government guidance advised that authorities must be open to data sharing.
- Concern for cost of school transport for children as the service is needed more in the north of the county.
- Boundary review – lots of areas are opposing boundary changes, the proposals submitted will not be compliant with legislation. The short-term indications are that there will be a shadow council, during which community governance reviews will be taking place. Normally they would look at County Council boundaries in the first instance. The sub-committee were concerned about the use of county council boundaries; the population data would be outdated as certain areas such as Weddington have had large population increases due to the amount of development. The recent Borough Boundary review provides more up to date data on population density in different areas of the Borough.
- The shadow council will establish the instrument of governance; this is likely to be an Executive Model or Elected Mayor. If Warwickshire becomes a single unitary then Area Committees will be created.
- Various parts of Warwickshire look to other counties/cities for some services such as health e.g. parts of North Warwickshire look to Birmingham and parts of Stratford look towards Worcestershire.
- Warwickshire County Council have health within their remit, but the Borough have not received extra funding for health even though all the statistics demonstrate the residents of the Borough have poorer life expectancy and living standards than elsewhere in the county. Nuneaton and Bedworth are having a lot of regeneration such as Bedworth Physical Activity Hub to try and improve health outcomes but for decades it has remained the same without improvement, the services are likely to have much better outcomes when performed locally rather than County level.
- The Borough has partnerships with other authorities outside Warwickshire such as A5 Partnership that links in with Leicestershire.
- Residents in North Warwickshire and Rugby have ties to Nuneaton and we are more centrally located.
- Local initiatives such as Warwickshire Alcohol and Drug Court will have better localised, bespoke outcomes to keep young people out of care homes. Typically, there are more supervision orders rather than full time care.
- Residents who suffer with gambling addiction have to travel to Coventry to get help, some cancer treatments require you to go to Rugby, having more localised services means residents should not have to travel as far.
- Concern at keeping Education remit at County level, the quality of Education in the Borough needs improvement.
- Highways and Transport – consider sub-regional work – opportunities with West Midlands Travel or West Midlands Combined Authority.
- Fire and Rescue, Police –Concern we could fall into West Midlands.
- Waste – Potential to look at rurality e.g. Bramcote to be included within Nuneaton and Bedworth rather than Rugby.
- Funding – the North Unitary is likely to receive more money, in respect of council tax. The Borough has more Band A properties which gives a lower income, but we have bigger developments than other areas.

RESOLVED that the report and the matters raised be noted.

LGR12 **Any Other Items**

None

Chair