

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

2nd October 2025

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 2nd October 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor P. Hickling (Chair)

Councillors: E. Amaechi, M. Bird, D. Brown, C. Phillips, R. Roze, A. Bull (substitute for B. Saru) and W. Markham (substitute for J. Clarke).

Apologies: Councillor B. Saru and J. Clarke (Vice-Chair).

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

BRP11 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 12th June 2025 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP12 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 Declarations of Interests](#)).

BRP13 Questions to Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration (Councillor N. King) and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement (Councillor T. Venson) were in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Bird asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

What is being done to preserve the services we provide such as markets and town centres whilst the refurbishment and regeneration goes on. We were told there would be a business plan and some promotion, and initiatives to attract people with the lower rent levels. I haven't seen any promotion or a business plan on how we are promoting the services of the town, I've seen things relating to the Library but not the markets and what we are offering. So I would appreciate an update, and also information on empty shops and if they are being promoted and advertised.

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

Thank you Councillor Bird. The empty shops are in hand. There aren't many in the towns. We are working alongside BID with the advertising. We have limited money and staff in regeneration, but we are getting out there and this week we have 5 new traders, so we are gaining and things are going well. There is lots of word of mouth, and the information is getting around. With promotion and the rent levels and competitive prices we are getting new traders in.

Councillor Bird followed up with:

Thank you for that. To follow up, with our lack of money and staff, the markets have the potential to be an income source for the Council. Promotion of the markets and events to bring more people into the towns would be beneficial. If we employed a dedicated person to manage the town centres there would be potential to increase income. We used to have a dedicated person and it used to work well and generate money.

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

Things do take time, after the elections, but we are now progressing and having new events in the pipeline. Job descriptions and adverts have gone out for new recruits to manage this but we've had no applicants.

Councillor Roze asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

With regeneration, good news regarding the money that goes to town centres, but I was wondering what arrangements were being put in place for the 1.5 million going to town centres. Are there any geographical boundaries being established. Is anyone looking at the cost implications in relation to the neighbourhood fund, and outlays around maintenance and how things integrate.

Finally, are you aware of any outstanding legal challenges or issues regarding Bedworth Town Board Membership?

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

Thank you for the questions. With regards to funding this is early days, we are meeting with, and liaising with MP's. There are no legal issues at this time that we are aware of.

Councillor Bull asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

I was wondering if there were any updates on Bedworth markets at all please?

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

Consultation is ongoing in relation to Bedworth markets. Work is due to start in October on the outside of the markets, and discussions are ongoing in relation to inside.

BRP14 Monitoring delivery of the Borough Plan and Consideration off the Data around the Land Supply Targets

The Planning Policy Manager provided a report to Members which outlined the Council's approach to monitoring the delivery of the Borough Plan through the yearly Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) report, and to consider the effectiveness and monitoring arrangements currently in place.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Housing supply targets – including houses covering development costs.
- Ensuring targets are realistic and achievable.
- Developers have issues with rising costs and lower demand, there are concerns about overdevelopment in certain areas.

- The Borough Plan has gone through the review process as required, and is sound.
- Transitional arrangements in the NPPF – currently okay and looking at the long term to address any shortfall.

RESOLVED that the performance information contained in the report be scrutinised and noted.

BRP15 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Update

A report of the Communities and Community Safety Manager provided Members with an overview of the current Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in place and future developments.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Capacity around enforcement and the need for partner support.
- Warning letters sent as part of the PSPO process.
- PSPO in relation to open water in the Borough – work is ongoing and various sites are being looked into, but challenges include site selection (and the legalities around this if some sites are chosen over others) and what effectiveness and value a PSPO would have (such as enforcement). It would also need to be established who could use the water bodies (if at all) – such as groups and organisations. Policing this PSPO would be challenging.
- Bedworth improving too, breakdowns between Nuneaton and Bedworth would be useful for Members.
- Public awareness and the need for signage,
- Policing powers can ‘trump’ PSPO’s. Police use their powers over PSPO’s where appropriate. PSPO’s can be used as a deterrent.
- When PSPO’s lapse, they can be reinstated. Work with partners is important, including the gathering of evidence to look at changing demands and requirements (such as nighttime economy and problems moving to different locations). PSPO’s can be reviewed and adapted if required.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

BRP16 Integrated Performance Report – First Quarter 2025-26

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.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Data for all OSP’s are being brought into line. A more data driven approach.
- Members felt it was useful to have figures to compare, which helps Councillors interpret the data, giving more accurate information.

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

BRP17 Update on Items Referred to Cabinet at the June OSP Meeting

Panel Members were given the opportunity to review the update and responses from Cabinet in relation to recommendations made at the

Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel (OSP)
held on 12th June 2025.

RESOLVED that the responses from the Cabinet meeting held on 16th July
2025 be noted.

BRP18 **Forward Plan**

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

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP19 **Work Programme 2025-2026**

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

RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 work programme be noted.

Chair