Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

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Date: 4th November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Wednesday, 12th November 2025** at **6.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: Members of Cabinet

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader and Housing)
Councillor S. Hey (Deputy Leader and Resources & Central Services)
Councillor B. Hughes (Leisure & Health)
Councillor N. King (Business & Regeneration)
Councillor K. Price (Communities & Public Services)
Councillor T. Venson (Planning & Enforcement)

Observer
Councillor Kris Wilson - Leader of the Main Opposition Group

AGENDA

PART I

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds, please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. APOLOGIES - To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

Declaring interests at meetings
If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non- pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

Arrangements have been made so that interests that are declared regularly by members can be viewed in a schedule on the Council website (Councillor Declarations of Interests) Any interest noted in the schedule on the website will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Democratic Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.
There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.
2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Audit and Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council's Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

4. MINUTES - To confirm the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 8th October 2025 **(Page 7).**

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – Members of the Public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items, if notice has been received.

   Members of the public will be given three minutes to speak on a particular item and this is strictly timed. The Chair will inform all public speakers that: their comments must be limited to addressing issues raised in the agenda item under consideration: and that any departure from the item will not be tolerated.

   The Chair may interrupt the speaker if they start discussing other matters which are not related to the item, or the speaker uses threatening or inappropriate language towards Councillors or officers and if after a warning issued by the Chair, the speaker persists, they will be asked to stop speaking by the Chair. The Chair will advise the speaker that, having ignored the warning, the speaker's opportunity to speak to the current or other items on the agenda may not be allowed. In this eventuality, the Chair has discretion to exclude the speaker from speaking further on the item under consideration or other items of the agenda.

6. NUNEATON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB – report of the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture attached **(Page 11)**

7. PINGLES DECARBONISATION PROJECT - UPDATE a report of the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture attached **(Page 46)**

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM – a report of the Chief Executive attached **(Page 51) (Appendices are available on the website but not included in the main agenda pack)**

9. BEDWORTH REGENERATION AND INVESTMENT PLAN report of the Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration attached **(Page 64)**

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

a) Health and Corporate Resources OSP – 23rd October 2025

Capital Strategy 2025/26

At its meeting on 23rd October 2025 a report providing an overview of the Capital Strategy 2025/26 was considered by the panel a copy of the recommendation to Cabinet is below for consideration **(copy of the report can be found via the link 12 November 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)**

i) IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that the Capital Strategy 2025/26 be approved.

b) Environment and Leisure OSP – 16th October 2025

Sea Cadets – Access to Open Water

At its meeting on 16th October 2025 a report was submitted to the Panel to consider the implications of giving access to the Sea Cadets to the open water specifically the Bermuda Lake **(copy of the report can be found via the link 12 November 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)**. A copy of the recommendation to Cabinet is below:

i) it be recommended to Cabinet to note that the Environment and Leisure OSP have reviewed the report on the sea cadets and have requested further information to be brought to the panel in February 2026.

c) Environment and Leisure OSP – 16th October 2025

Domestic Food Waste Service

At its meeting on 16th October 2025 a report was submitted to the Panel to consider the recommendations put forward from the Food Waste Procurement Working Group **(copy of report can be found via the link 12 November 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council)**. A recommendation from the Panel was put forward to Cabinet as below:

i) It be recommended to Cabinet to note the recommendations made in the report submitted to Environment and Leisure OSP

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS **-** which in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Corporate Plan
Building Communities 2025 – 2029

United in Achievement.

Theme 1: Place and Prosperity

Strategic Aims:

1. Regenerate Nuneaton Town Centre; completing the Transforming Nuneaton Programme.
2. Establish an increased number of residential properties within the Town Centres
3. Help local businesses thrive, support new business incubation and reduce the number of vacant units.
4. Continue to promote and enable events across the Borough.
5. Continue to develop and help our markets to thrive.
6. Work with the business community to strengthen business in the whole Borough
7. Deliver a regeneration plan for Bedworth Town Centre.
8. Promote, and support our Town Centre economies.

Theme 2: Housing, Health and Communities

Strategic Aims:

1. Deliver the construction and opening of the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH).
2. Focus on awareness and promotion of support services for mental health and wellbeing.
3. Facilitate warm, safe, sustainable and affordable housing.
4. Work with public health colleagues and partners to address community inequalities.
5. Promote active travel across the Borough.
6. Extend the housing home building programme to provide more Council homes.
7. Work with partners to prioritise community safety and empowerment.

Theme 3: Green Spaces and Environment

Strategic Aims:

1. Review the grounds maintenance contract for the Borough.
2. Celebrate the heritage within our green spaces, including museums, George Eliot and local industry.
3. Decarbonise our housing stock and promote the decarbonisation of homes in the private sector.
4. Support our residents to recycle more of their household waste.
5. Promote and develop play area facilities in line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy.
6. Reduce the carbon footprint of the Pingles Leisure Centre by 2026.
7. Establish a Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan by 2026.
8. Work with partners to improve air quality across the Borough.
9. Explore opportunities to promote, protect and enhance biodiversity in the borough.

Theme 4: Your Council

Strategic Aims:

1. Conduct a Local Government Association Peer Review by 2026.
2. Increase the level of resident engagement and consultation.
3. Deliver a refreshed Council change plan to modernise services.
4. Focus on civic pride, celebrating rich heritage and diverse communities.
5. Deliver continued forward financial planning to safeguard the finances of the Council.
6. Set ambitious and challenging budgets, to ensure taxpayers money is respected, and high-quality services are delivered.
7. Deliver a modern organisation with agile and effective structure that meet the needs of residents.
8. Strive for transparency and accountability in all that we do. Increase public scrutiny.

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET **8th October 2025**

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 8th October, 2025 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor C. Watkins (Leader and Housing)
Councillor S. Hey (Deputy Leader and Resources & Central Services)
Councillor B. Hughes (Leisure & Health)
Councillor N. King (Business & Regeneration)
Councillor K. Price (Communities & Public Services)
Councillor T. Venson (Planning & Enforcement)

CB43 **Apologies**
None

CB44 **Declarations of Interest**
RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule published on the website.

CB45 **Minutes**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10th September 2025, be approved, and signed by the Chair

CB46 **Bedworth Physical Activity Hub**
The Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture submitted a report to Cabinet updating them on Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH) and the Leisure Management Procurement.

RESOLVED that

a) the progress on the BPAH be noted and further reports and updates be brought back to cabinet as appropriate; and

b) the progress on entering the contract with the new leisure operator be noted.

Speakers:
County Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options
1. To approve the recommendations noting the progress made.
2. To not approve the recommendations and make recommendations for future actions.

Reasons
To keep Cabinet informed on the progress of the BPAH.

CB47 **Culture Update**

The Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture submitted a report to Cabinet updating on the actions being delivered following the adoptions of the Culture Strategy and to gain approval to develop a large scale public art event.

RESOLVED that

a) the Cultural update be noted and further reports and updates be brought back to Cabinet as appropriate; and

b) the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a large scale cultural event be noted and that subject to approval of the EOI delegated authority be given to the 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 submit a formal bid and if successful accept the funding award from Arts Council England

Speakers:
County Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options:
1. Do nothing - Failure to develop a Public Art Strategy and Cultural Compact will prevent the delivery of the adopted Cultural Strategy Actions being delivered and could stagnate Culture within Nuneaton and Bedworth.
2. Not approve entering the funding agreement - This would prevent national coverage of Nuneaton and Borough within the Cultural landscape and reduce the accessibility of large-scale cultural events to residents of the Borough.

Reasons:
To update on the actions taken on delivery of the Culture Strategy.

CB48 **Consultation on the Budget 2026/27**

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources submitted a report to produce and run a public consultation as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2026/27.

RESOLVED that

a) delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services to produce and run a public consultation ahead of the Council's budget setting for 2026/27; and

b) the outcome of the consultation will be issued back no later than 18th February 2026 to ensure proposals for the 2026/2027 budget have considered the feedback provided in the consultation.

Speakers:
County Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options:
1. To do nothing - The Council could choose to only comply with the letter of the legislative requirement and not consult on a wider public basis. However, it is widely recognised that public consultation is best practice.
2. Delay - Delaying consultation could risk misalignment with budget-setting timelines and reduce the opportunity for meaningful feedback. Furthermore, as the development of the Budget forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework under the Council Constitution, consultation shall be no less than eight (8) weeks. It is also noted that the budget will need to be finalised and included as a key report for 18th February 2026 Cabinet and Council meeting.

Reasons:
In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the Council recognises the importance of engaging with stakeholders in the budget-setting process.

CB49 **Update on Regeneration Projects**

The Strategic Director – Economy and Place submitted a report to Cabinet on the progress of the regeneration projects taking place within the Borough and to seek approval to enter into a lease agreement for the Leisure Unit contained in the Grayson Place Development on Abbey Street.

RESOLVED that

a) the contents of the report and Dashboard be noted;

b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration, to secure and enter into a lease agreement for the leisure unit on Abbey Street; and

c) the use of Phase 3 land as open space and external leisure provision be approved and that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration

Speakers:
County Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options:
1. Do nothing - Could result in empty units and loss of revenue to the Council. Furthermore the regenerative impacts of the scheme may be lessoned.
2. Amend - A risk, as significant amendments to what is proposed will likely lengthen the development scheme and may increase cost. A delay would result in a delay of revenue to the Council. Furthermore, the regenerative impacts of the scheme may be stalled.
3. Approve - Will allow for the most effective use of public resource both in terms of the new built development and the aesthetics of the whole area

Reasons:
To update on the delivery of the multiple regeneration projects in the Borough.

CB50 **Policy Update – Civic Enforcement Discretion and PCN Cancellation Policy – Car Parking**
The Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval on the updated Civil Enforcement Discretion and PCN Cancellation Policy.

RESOLVED that the Civil Enforcement Discretion and PCN Cancellation Policy as at Appendix A of the report be approved

Speakers:
Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options:
1. Do nothing - Enforcement authority must maintain policies that reflect current legislation and provide fair and transparent process for appeal and allow for case-by-case discretion.

Reasons:
To update the policy to ensure if reflects current legislation and provide fair and transparent process for appeal and allow for case by case discretion.

CB51 **Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Panels**
None

CB52 **Any Other Items**
None

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Chair

PUBLICATION DATE: 13TH OCTOBER 2025

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 21ST OCTOBER 2025

AGENDA ITEM NO.6

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	12th November 2025
Subject:	Nuneaton Town Football Club
Portfolio:	Leisure and Health
Responsible Officer:	Strategic Director – Public Services
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Place and Prosperity
Corporate Plan – Aim:	6: Work with the business community to strengthen business in the whole Borough
Ward Relevance:	Stockingford
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report provides Cabinet with an update on a request from Nuneaton Town Football Club (NTFC) to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) to seek support in identifying land for NTFC to develop a Nuneaton home ground on.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet note the information contained within the report and Appendix A provided by Nuneaton Town Football Club as part of an initial feasibility study and request for support of a new home ground.

2.2 Cabinet considers the request from Nuneaton Town Football Club to the Council in supporting a new home football ground being developed and considers the site at Vale View or an alternative location.

2.3 That Cabinet approve an “In Principle” decision to support Nuneaton Town Football Club with a 49-year lease for the Vale View site or alternative location.

2.4 That reports are brought back to Cabinet if approved, on a regular basis to seek next stage approvals / sign off as the project develops. This will include seeking delegated authority to negotiate Heads of Terms / Lease agreement and that funding is in place for the site to be developed by Nuneaton Town Football Club.

3. Background

3.1 Nuneaton Town Football Club (NTFC) reformed circa two/three years ago and formed a Community Interest Company (CIC) and new committee representatives to distance themselves from previous owners and the issues around the former football club.

3.2 NTFC now provide and support not just the first team men, but 35 plus boys and girls junior teams with community and development pathways.

3.3 The Nuneaton Eastboro Way site (shared with the Nuneaton Rugby Football Club) despite liaison with the landowner has not materialised a way forward, hence the search now and planning for a new home ground for the future.

3.4 NTFC currently have an agreement with Bedworth United Football Club to play out of their facility and all-weather pitch ground for the 25/26 season, with a further extension agreed at this time for 26/27 season.

3.5 The CIC / Committee representatives have looked at several options for a home ground in Nuneaton, and the Vale View site could support their future needs but understand there are challenges in developing this site as with any location.

3.6 NTFC representatives have undertaken site visits to other football clubs at similar levels to understand business planning / project management and what they need to consider in developing a facility to meet the clubs needs and it being sustainable. Appendix A provides the initial external professional support already provided in developing and considering a site in Nuneaton.

3.7 NTFC are also in liaison with the Football Foundation and Birmingham County Football Association and further meetings planned to seek support for funding, which would be an application direct via the Football Club funding route.

3.8 NTFC need to secure a long-term lease to meet external funders requirements in seeking funds and appreciate that they will need to develop any such site via a phased approach over several years. The

attached reports details the following, installing the floodlit 3G pitch and a modular changing facility for community use and first team training in phase 1.
The addition of modular spectator standing and seating along with a basic clubhouse would follow in phase 2, allowing first team football to be played on site.

4. Body of report

4.1 Attached as Appendix A the Frank Whittle Partnership (FWP) report provides a high-level feasibility study of the Vale View site, undertaken by consultants in this field for the NTFC.

4.2 The site of Vale View if approved, would provide site challenges (like any site) that need to be further investigated and would follow the formal planning process. The Vale View site does already have two senior grassed size pitches and an opportunity to work with The Ford community centre.

4.3 NTFC have looked at other sites and talking to Cabinet Members the Vale View location provides the best option to suit the needs of developing a facility suitable for Step 4 Football League requirements and provides opportunities in delivering against the NBBC Corporate Plan.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 NBBC have made it clear from early discussions that there is no financial support (revenue or capital) for development of such a facility and would need to be self-financed by NTFC.

5.2 If supported NBBC would also need to look at the commercial value of any such lease for use of land and it would be at open market value.

5.3 The development of such a facility, whilst not financial would also need to support the Corporate Values and NTFC align their delivery plan to support key actions & outcomes. For example, and not exhaustive, these would need to include outcomes around supporting the local economy, health and wellbeing, physical activity and mental health, delivery of programmes and linking with local schools / Warwickshire County Council education teams.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Legal Officers will be required to support any such formal agreements required if supported by Cabinet, working with the Estates & Property team.

6.2 There may be a need to look at external legal support around this kind of project delivery, to ensure NBBC undertakes due diligence and long-term indemnity for any land leased.

7. Equalities implications

7.1 No direct equal opportunities implications at this time.

8. Health implications

8.1 The adopted Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy supports the Council's Corporate Plan in improving health and wellbeing by providing opportunities and facilities for residents to access and take part in physical activity at all levels across the Borough.

8.2 The provision of leisure facilities gives opportunities for residents to take part in physical activities and be involved in wider opportunities around volunteering supporting mental health and well-being.

9. Climate and environmental implications

9.1 The delivery of any such new development will need to meet required planning conditions, sustainability measures which will also take into consideration biodiversity loss of green space / trees etc to be mitigated within the overall planning approval.

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 The increase or provision of new facilities or different leisure pursuits will give opportunities for more residents to take part in physical activities.

11. Risk management implications

11.1 Council will need to ensure that the project / NTFC is managed and fully financed prior to any works on site, or lease provided, and the development is delivered by a professional team / consultants to support due diligence and development on NBBC land.

11.2 The Council / Officers have made it clear that no capital funds / financial support is being made available for the development and it has no intention of managing or operating the facility. NTFC will need to ensure that the site is fully funded and sustainable long term. The club has already prepared a detailed and prudent business plan for operating the site, which will be refined as the project develops.

11.3 NBBC will undertake all due diligence prior to any lease being completed and no works to begin by NTFC on site prior to this.

11.4 NTFC as the tenant if approved would need to seek and pay for their own legal advice in respect of a proposed lease and wider project deliverables.

12. Human resources implications

12.1 NBBC officers from Planning, Land & Property, Legal, Regeneration, Economic Development and Leisure will be required to liaise and work with the NTFC project team to ensure that the project is developed and achieves the desired outcomes to support NBBC's Corporate Plan.

13. Options considered and reason for their rejection

13.1 In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified.

- Cabinet do not support the development of a Football Ground at the Vale View site or other locations, due to risks associated with the long-term financial sustainability of such a development on NBBC land. In rejecting this NBBC need to ensure that due diligence / professional advice is taken in developing the project and the NTFC Business and Financial Plan is robust and sustainable.

- Cabinet consider that a further football ground is not needed in Nuneaton and further mediation needs to be exhausted with existing locations for shared use options. NTFC have confirmed that discussions have been held with the Eastboro Way landowner and these have not been able to move forward and are not sustainable for the Club. There is no other site that meets the required needs by NTFC that would allow them to be sustainable.

- Sites at Tomkinson Road, Vernon's Lane, Pingles Avenue Road pitches and Paul's Land have also been considered. However, NTFC has stated that Vale View is its preferred site.

14. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Frank Whittle Partnership – Feasibility Report – Vale View

15. Background papers

None

16. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Strategic Director – Public Services

Officer Name: Kevin Hollis

Officer Email Address: kevin.hollis@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

NUNEATON TOWN FC -

PROPOSED COMMUNITY FOOTBALL GROUND - VALE VIEW RECREATION GROUND, NUNEATON

MARCH 2025

Document Verification

Report Reference: 7780 Issue: 01 Date: 07/08/2025

Revision	Date	Description	Prepared	Checked
00	04/03/25	Initial Draft - Issue for Comment	MK / RT	NW
01	07/03/25	Issue 01	MK / RT	NW

Proposed Community Football Ground
Vale View Recreation Ground, Nuneaton

Prepared by -

fwp architecture

FWP Ltd
6&7 Ribblesdale Place
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 3NA

On behalf of Nuneaton Town FC

Contents

Introduction

This document has been prepared by FWP as an overview of the desktop appraisal and initial design considerations undertaken to date for the potential proposed redevelopment of Vale View Recreation Ground in Nuneaton, to provide a community sports facility.

The purpose of the development is:

- To provide a home ground for Nuneaton Town FC.
- To assist Nuneaton Borough Junior and Ladies Football Club in achieving their ambitions for developing football opportunities for young people and women in Nuneaton.
- To provide improved sports and community facilities for Stockingford, Camp Hill and the wider Nuneaton community.
- To create a facility in which Nuneaton Town FC and Nuneaton Borough JFC can deliver a community programme to help improve health and wellbeing, educational attainment and employment possibilities for its local communities.

The existing site is an area of amenity grassland, with adjacent residential, community woodland, and former-industrial land uses. It is named as 'Vale View Recreation Ground' consisting of two grass football pitches of various quality, and is located to the north behind Whittleford Park, off Haunchwood Road and Vale View, in Nuneaton.

An initial high-level desktop review of the site has been included within this document, noting a series of major potential constrains and opportunities presented by the existing site, in relation to a proposed community sports facility development. These should be used as a starting point for assessing the development potential of the site in further detail as the project progresses.

The redevelopment strategy potential for the site also considers an initial strategic masterplan layout, to accommodate a primary full-size 3G football pitch with surrounding spectator stands and accommodation for the Football Club mainly in a two storey 'Main Stand' building. This schematic design has been based on the ground grading requirements up to Step 4 of the FA National League System.

Introduction

The Club's future success on the pitch and progression up the FA league pyramid would place increased demands on the ground facilities to meet sports stadia grading requirements. This has been considered initially and will be further incorporated as part of the architectural design development work to 'future proof' the site as the scheme progresses

Introduction - Project Brief I

Initial Requirements (subject to further development and confirmation)

- The design of a Football Ground facility with initial indicative 1,300 Capacity and the potential to increase to 1,950 to suit the requirements for ground grading up to Step 4.
- Minimum requirement of 300 covered spectator viewing, and of those a minimum of 150 to be covered seating, located in a main stand with supporting facilities.
- Lettable space within and around the main stand as part of potential income stream generation and a strategy for the Club’s long-term financial sustainability.
- A 3G Pitch. Full-size to league requirements. Minimum 64 x 100m with minimum 3m runoff to all sides.
- Ancillary grass / 3G pitch outside main ground for further training and community uses.
- Accommodation to facilitate typical Club operations and match-day usage: Main Stand building as a clubhouse with hospitality facilities (Bar/Kitchen/Welfare), changing rooms for players and match officials, a treatment room, club shop space, laundry room, etc
- The sports complex to also be used on non-Matchdays as part of a ‘7-days a week’ development, with multi use spaces which will include classroom(s), gym, leisure, and office space.
- Designs to be developed to allow for potential expansion of spectator capacity and built facilities, as required. For example, potential for additional floor at second floor level or increased lettable space footprint.
- Spectator standing terraces to three sides of pitch to achieve overall capacity requirements. Ground level terraces.
- Both seated and standing terrace accommodation able to be extended in future to increase capacity in line with demand / promotion.

Introduction - Project Brief II

- Main Stand building as Clubhouse to include:

At Ground Floor

- Home and away changing rooms
- Club administration and services
- Club shop
- Community changing rooms, store, and administration space
- Spectator concourses with food/beverage kiosks, WCs & associated service spaces
- Supporters' bar / restaurant
- Lettable / retail space

At First Floor

- Reconfigurable conference / events space, suitable for subdivision on match days to provide hospitality boxes.
- Associated kitchen / hospitality / WC / storage spaces
- Club Meeting / Board room
- Players' Lounge
- Community / academy training classrooms
- Gymnasium space
- Matchday control room

- Designs to be developed to allow for potential expansion of spectator capacity and built facilities, as required. For example, potential for additional floor at second floor level or increased lettable space footprint.

- Overall indicative capacity = 1,300 Step 4 Category Football Ground

- Expandable up to minimum 1,950 capacity

Existing Site

Existing Site - Photographs I

Existing Site - Photographs II

Existing Site - Constraints Overview

KEY SITE CONSTRAINTS

1. Access into the site – Potential Highways challenges: constructing new access points and vehicle roadways (note position of trees). Routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Accommodate site car parking.
2. Planning risks. Land designations, etc
3. Existing neighbouring residential land uses
4. Railway line adjacent
5. PROWS through site
6. Ground Investigations – coal mining area designations and risk- notifications to relevant bodies.
7. Made/infilled ground and previous industrial uses have potential for contamination and remediation requirements.
8. Woodland, tree groups and mature trees have potential for TPO designations and required retention.
9. Ecological impacts of building on/adjacent to ‘green’ areas. Protected species, bats, required surveys etc. BNG Requirements.
10. Nearby play area / Community centre. associated construction / operation risks.
11. Security – existing site character and quality. Secured by Design and safety requirements.

Existing Site - Opportunities Overview

KEY SITE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Open space - suitable size for Football Ground configuration development. However limited configuration options. Space to accommodate parking and additional pitch.
2. Potential new vehicle access points and main entrance to Football Ground for secure and welcoming entrance.
3. Clear open area already used for sport- similar planning uses / designations. Local Authority recommendation to utilise site and presumed continued support through planning process..
4. Connections to existing PROW network and sustainable travel methods.
5. Mature tree buffers with potential to screen neighbouring residential land uses.
6. Potential ecological/ sustainable site improvements. Managed grass with low BNG value. Woodland- potentially higher value.
7. Potential complimentary uses with nearby Play area, MUGA and Community centre.
8. Improvements to the quality of the site- more continuous use and management. Increased development and investment to raise profile of the site and area as a whole.
9. Improved public / social amenity.

Existing Site - Schematic Masterplan Layouts I

Sketch Layout A

Access route options into Site & potential parking area

Main Football Ground facility located in centre of site to assess scale.

Open space suitable for development with minimal tree removal and retaining existing PROWs to perimeter.

However, does not allow for secondary Pitch.

Existing Site - Schematic Masterplan Layouts II

Sketch Layout B

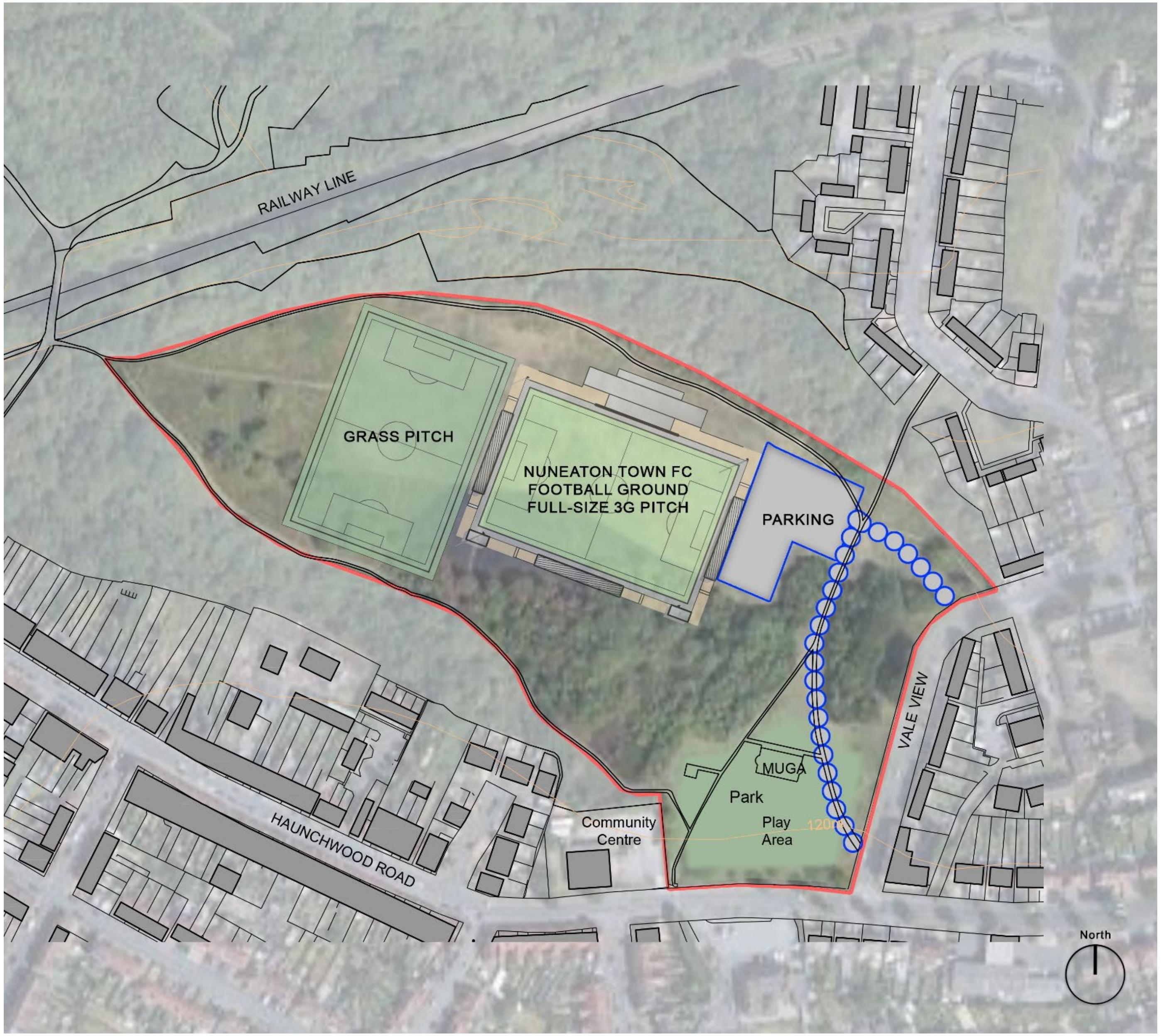
Main Football Ground facility located to west of site.

Primarily in open space suitable for development with minimal tree removal and retaining existing PROWs to perimeter.

However, far from access and parking.
Overall, less efficient.

Secondary Pitch included and fits on site comfortably in this location.

Existing Site - Schematic Masterplan Layouts III



Sketch Layout C

Main Football Ground facility located more centrally in site.

Primarily in open space suitable for development. However, configuration may result in some tree removal to south-east of Ground.

Retains existing PROWs to perimeter.

Adjacent to access and parking.

Secondary Pitch included and fits on site- potential for some resultant tree removal.

Existing Site - Schematic Masterplan Layouts IV

Sketch Layout D

Main Football Ground facility located more centrally in site.

Primarily in open space suitable for development. However, configuration may result in some tree removal to south-east of Ground.

Retains existing PROWs to perimeter.

Adjacent to access and parking.

Secondary Pitch included and fits on site- potential for some resultant tree removal.

Existing Site - Schematic Masterplan Layouts V

Sketch Layout E

Main Football Ground facility located more centrally in site.

Exploration of North-South alignments.

Achievable largely in open space, but resultant in more tree loss.

Would impact existing PROWs to perimeter.

Further space for access and parking in open area.

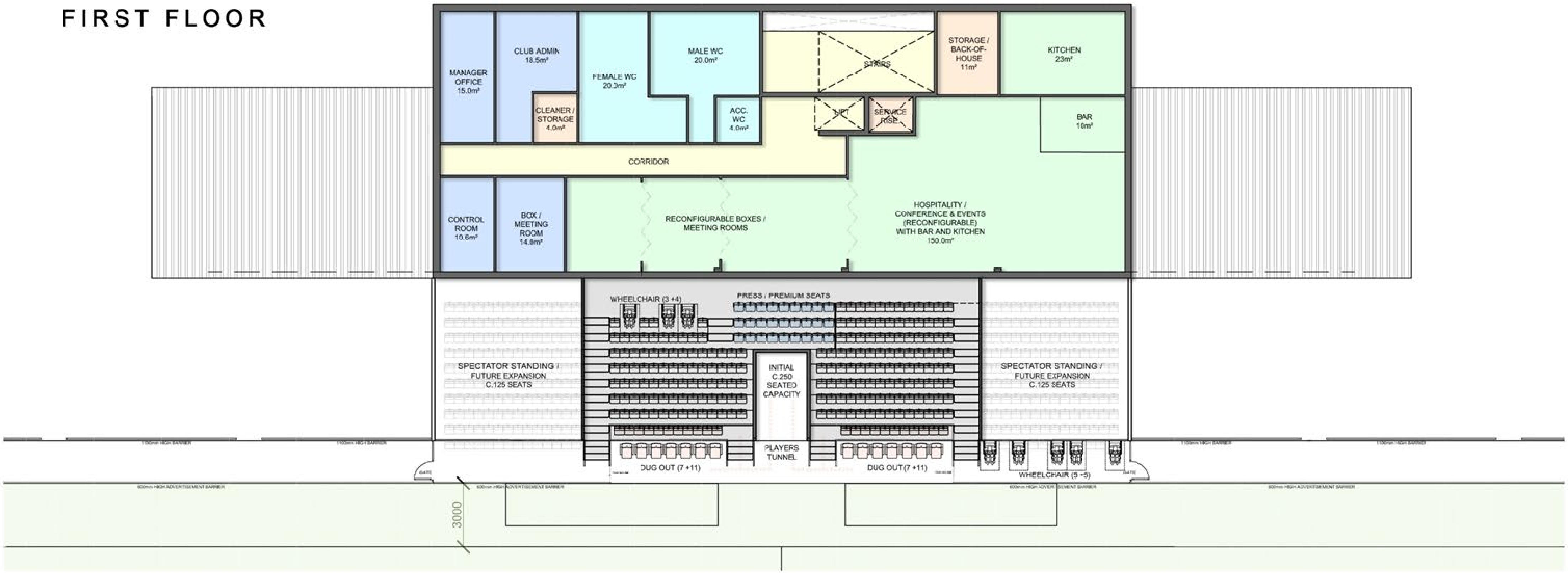
Secondary Pitch included.

Proposed Development - Illustrative Floorplan Layouts

GROUND FLOOR

Proposed Development - Illustrative Floorplan Layouts

FIRST FLOOR



Precedent Images - Materials

Broadhurst Park, FC United of Manchester

Boundary Park, Oldham Athletic AFC


Highbury Stadium, Fleetwood Town FC

Mill Farm, AFC Fylde

The proposed development would provide significant sports and community facilities but would also result in the loss of open space. As part of a designated park, Vale View Park is protected under planning policies that seek to maintain and enhance open space. Any development that significantly impacts this park must either preserve or enhance the open space within the application site.

While securing planning permission for this type of development is not impossible, it would require the provision of additional open space elsewhere to fully compensate for the loss. This replacement space must be as readily accessible as the area being lost. Given these constraints, the proposal is likely to face significant public objection, as well as resistance from elected members. **To assess the likelihood of success, it would be critical to engage in pre-application discussions with the local planning authority (LPA) to gain a clear understanding of what is likely to be accepted in terms of balancing the loss of existing open space with the provision of new open space. This will help ensure that any proposed mitigation aligns with local policy and community expectations.**

It would also be useful to obtain early advice and input from the council's planning department, sport/leisure team and the elected member from the ward.

Planning Policy Considerations

1. Loss of Open Space vs. Provision of Sports Facilities

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Policy HS6 – Sport and Exercise supports investment in new and improved sports facilities to promote physical well-being. The borough's Playing Pitch Strategy identifies a need for additional 3G artificial pitches and the enhancement of community football facilities. However, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 99 states that existing open spaces, sports, and recreational facilities should not be built on unless:

- An assessment demonstrates they are surplus to requirements
- The loss is replaced by equivalent or better provision elsewhere
- The new development offers alternative sports benefits that outweigh the loss

To comply with planning policy, the proposal should:

- Demonstrate a clear community need and alignment with local sports facility strategies
- Ensure that, where possible, the stadium and pitches retain public accessibility

2. Designated Park and Landscape Considerations

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Policy NE2 – Open Space seeks to protect and enhance community parks. Any development must maintain recreational function and contribute to green infrastructure. NPPF Paragraph 130 states that developments should respect local character, including landscapes and open spaces.

Key design considerations include:

- Minimising the loss of open space by siting new buildings close to existing development
- Maintaining a green buffer between the proposed development and existing tree cover
- Ensuring high-quality landscaping to integrate the built elements with their surroundings
- Enhancing community access to green infrastructure rather than restricting it

3. Highways and Transport

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Policy HS5 – Transport and Accessibility requires new developments to mitigate traffic impacts, enhance pedestrian and cyclist access, and provide adequate parking. NPPF Paragraph 110 states that developments should:

- Ensure safe and suitable access for all users
- Promote sustainable transport options
- Mitigate impacts on the transport network

The introduction of a community stadium will increase traffic, particularly on match days. Considerations must include:

- The impact on local roads, especially access points and peak-hour congestion
- Parking provision for teams, spectators, and staff
- Sustainable transport measures such as improved pedestrian access, cycle routes, and public transport connections

Early consultation with Warwickshire County Council Highways is advised to establish access requirements.

4. Flood Risk and Drainage

While the existing playing fields are in **Flood Zone 1** (low risk), parts of the wider park are at higher flood risk. Although these areas are not expected to directly impact the proposal, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be incorporated to manage surface water runoff. This may include:

- Permeable surfacing where possible, particularly for car parking areas
- A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to determine any necessary mitigation measures.

Given the scale of the development, consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is recommended before submitting a planning application.

5. Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Connectivity

Public rights of way (PROW) **330/N90/1** run across the site and must be protected under local policies promoting accessibility. If diversions or closures are proposed, they must be justified, with alternative routes or enhancements to connectivity provided. Maintaining strong pedestrian links to and through the site will be essential to support community access.

6. Ecology, Tree Protection, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Policy NE3 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity requires developments to protect and enhance ecological assets. Under the **Environment Act 2021**, all new developments must achieve at least **10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)**. Given the amount of tree and coverage vegetation surrounding the site the base level from which this 10% uplift will be taken is likely to be moderately high.

Key ecological considerations include:

- A full ecological assessment to identify any protected species and necessary mitigation
- Retention of mature trees and hedgerows where possible
- Tree surveys to assess the impact on root protection areas and canopy cover
- A landscaping and biodiversity enhancement plan to deliver measurable net gains

7. Tree Protection

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Policies NE3 and NE4 require the protection of trees and green infrastructure. NPPF Paragraph 131 states that existing trees should be retained wherever possible, with new planting to compensate for any loss. Given the maturity and strong appearance of many of these trees, it is likely that many will be viewed as high value. This will require further investigation. Details of tree protection are available on request from the council.

Key tree protection measures include:

- Conducting a **Tree Survey** and **Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)** before submission
- Minimising the impact on root protection areas and ensuring tree retention wherever possible
- Developing a landscaping scheme that includes new tree planting to enhance biodiversity
- Early engagement with the local planning authority's tree officer to ensure compliance with tree protection policies

8. Contaminated Land

The application site was historically used for landfill therefore a Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) will be required to understand the severity of any contaminations issues and remediation and monitoring may also be required.

Next Steps

Given the constraints outlined, the development will require careful planning and extensive engagement with the local planning authority, particularly regarding planning and landscape considerations. A well-considered, low-impact design and meaningful community engagement will be critical to ensuring that the proposals provide benefits for the wider community, not just those who use the football facilities.

Dan Hughes MRTPI | **Planning Director**
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Eastgate, 2 Castle Street, Manchester M3 4LZ
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GETTING DEVELOPMENT MOVING

Potential Development Proposals

We understand the proposals for the site at this stage consist of the proposed development of:

- a community stadium a 3G all-weather pitch
- a grass pitch plus
- club house with community rooms, club offices and classroom

The site is located around 2.25km west of Nuneaton Town Centre to the north of Haunchwood Road, with the Nuneaton – Birmingham Railway Line located to the northeast of the site. The LPA for the site is Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council whilst the LHA is Warwickshire County Council.

The aim of the proposes is to provide a home ground for Nuneaton Town FC and assist Nuneaton Borough Junior and Ladies Football Club in achieving their ambitions for developing football opportunities for young people and women in Nuneaton.

The scheme would po provide improved sports and community facilities for Stockingford and the wider Nuneaton community, creating a facility in which Nuneaton Town FC and Nuneaton Borough JFC can deliver its Community Programme to help improve health and wellbeing, educational attainment and employment possibilities for its local communities.

The use of the site is currently limited, with some playing fields forming the bulk of the site along with some existing public play space to the southeastern corner of the site. There are several pedestrian accesses to the wider site but vehicle access in particular is constrained, this is discussed in more detail in the next section.

Access – Vehicles

The site is somewhat constrained in terms of existing access for vehicles and also for potential access options. The primary frontage for the site is with Vale View to the southeast of the site and we note from the feasibility schemes that potential connections to Vale View have been considered.

Haunchwood Road is part of a 20mph area and the junction with Vale View has traffic calming in the form of a raised junction table. Visibility does appear to be good at the junction so there does appear to be some scope for this to be used. Vale View is however a residential cul-de-sac and thus not an ideal access route for a new development site. Haunchwood Road is a relatively busy area with shops/community centre and bus stops all in close proximity to the Vale View junction.

The frontage on the feasibility schemes shows there to be limited space for a direct connection to Haunchwood Road and this would be in close proximity to Vale View. Access will need to be considered further at the feasibility stage, based on firmed up plans for the site and anticipated numbers of users and associated car parking space provision.

Servicing considerations for the site will need to be considered to ensure that service/delivery and refuse vehicles can suitably access and turn within the site.

There does appear to be options for access at the Vale View end of the site, subject to the scale of development.

Initial Highways Access Assessment - DTP

Car Parking

From a review of the proposals, the area allocated for car parking at this stage does appear to be relatively limited with perhaps in the region of 50 spaces. It would be prudent to undertake an exercise at this stage to forecast potential use of the site and to consider the local car parking standards, in the context of national guidance, to ensure that appropriate provision of parking is included. This scale of parking would not add significantly to traffic capacity demands, but if the parking is not sufficient this could lead to highway safety concerns regarding off-site parking. It is likely that parking restrictions will need to be considered as part of any planning application and so should be considered in proposals from the outset.

Access – Non-car modes

It is understood that a significant portion of the operation of the site would be for community use and the site is located in an urban area with relatively positive walk and cycle catchments, along with public transport availability. Connections to the site and across the site will need to be considered. The site has potential for multiple pedestrian/cycle accesses, with options to the southwest, northeast, east and southeast.

Bus stops are present on Haunchwood Road and connections to these and to crossing facilities will need to be considered to confirm these would remain suitable for the site once the scale of development and forecasts for users confirmed.

DTP – Highways and Transportation Development Planning Works

The DTP team have significant experience in the stadia and leisure sector, having worked extensively with AFC Fylde over recent years with their wider development of the Mill Farm Sports Village site. Our team were also involved in the scheme for FC United of Manchester and we are currently supporting Durham County Cricket Club with their redevelopment plans at the Riverside Stadium.

We would suggest that at an early stage there are highways considerations undertaken in the form of feasibility work to forecast the potential user numbers for the site and to review the proposed parking and access arrangements for the site. Pre-application discussions with the LPA and LHA are encouraged and for this we would recommend a short pre-application note is prepared to set out the highways context of the scheme.

A planning application for the site is likely to require a Transport Assessment including traffic surveys of Haunchwood Road and Vale View, a Travel Plan and likely a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for the site access and any associated works that are proposed within the public highway. We would be happy to provide fee estimates for this work on request.

Gavin Snowball
BSc (Hons) MSc MCIHT MTPS MSoRSA HE RSA Cert Comp
Director

DYNAMIC TRANSPORT PLANNING

Transport Assessments/Statements | Road Safety Audits | Travel Plans | Micro-simulation Modelling

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Assessment of Potential Risks

General

The following highlights potential issues with reference to the information examined within the previous sections of the report. These are considered on the basis of having a material impact (significance) on the cost of development of the site, primarily through presenting constraints associated with future development.

This initial high-level assessment of the anticipated ground conditions at the site has subsequent considerations of the significance of potential constraints to the proposed development.

The site was occupied by undeveloped agricultural fields on the earliest maps available (1887). The site was undeveloped until approximately 1902 when a clay pit was mapped on the western portion of the site. Between 1913 and 1925, the clay pit increased in size covering the entirety of the site. Circa 1975, the elevation changes associated indicates that the pit has been infilled and Circa 1984 the site is mapped as a 'Disused Tip' for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. The tip accepted inert household waste under a license held by the council from 23rd November 1981 to 1st October 1988. The site remained relatively unchanged to present day.

A 'Refuse Heap' was identified on site between 1958 and 1984 and this is considered to be associated with the landfill operated by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Furthermore, the north-eastern part of the site is located within a Coal Authority defined Development High Risk Area and an area of Probable Mine Workings. There are 4 mine entries (shafts) located on site with numerous other close to the site.

Potentially significant features off site include landfill sites, infilled ponds, former clay pits, mine entries adjacent to the site, railway lines, tanks and kilns. All these features represent a potential source of contamination that could impact on the site.

Potentially Significant Risks

The potential issues with contamination, ground gas and historic mining are considered to have a material impact (significance) on the cost of development of the site, primarily through presenting constraints associated with future development.

The above potential contaminants of concern are detailed further below. The assessment uses a 'criticality' range from Low to High as guide to the precedence of issues. Low to High indicates a scale whereby issues are considered less to more critical to the development assessment at this high-level stage. Low designation does not identify issues that can be ignored or necessarily indicate issues that don't require further consideration.

Contamination

A risk from contamination at site has been identified and is designated as High risk. The site has been identified at risk from the infilling of the clay pit that occupied the site. The landfilling operation was carried out by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council between 1958 and 1984 and included the deposition of inert and household waste. It is possible that other types of waste may be found to be present along with household waste.

There is also an off-site landfill located some 73 m west (waste type unknown) and another some 218 m south-east (waste type industrial). Other potential off-site sources of contamination include infilled ponds, former clay pits, mine entries adjacent to the site, railway lines, tanks and kilns. Risk from off-site sources are considered to be Moderate.

Initial Environmental Assessment - BEK

Ground Gas

The risks from ground gas at site has been identified and the risks are designated as High. Potential sources of ground gas include the on-site landfill site and the potentially worked coal measures strata.

Coal Mining

A risk from coal mining at site has been identified and is designated as High risk in the north-east of the site. There is also a High risk associated with the mine shafts located on site and several of the shafts located in close proximity to the site.

Foundations

A risk to foundations at site has been identified and is designated as Moderate risk. It is anticipated that the ground conditions that are likely to be encountered on site will include a significant amount of made ground (>3m in depth), these will be unlikely to support any foundations due to its strength variability. It is most likely that piling will be recommended for the proposed development.

Conclusions

There are several key risks/hazards that need to be considered if the site is to be developed. At this stage, the risks are based on a qualitative assessment and further work will be required to quantify these risks and determine what remediation works will be required to ensure risks/hazards are mitigated against.

Prior to any intrusive site investigation works, we would recommend that a detailed Coal Mining Risk Assessment is prepared. This will be required to support the design of the site investigation works that will be required.

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GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

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Budget Cost Estimate

Client: Nuneaton Town FC
Project: Stadium Development
Document: Feasibility Estimate of Costs
Date: 31 March 2025

	Qty	Unit	Rate	Total	Element Total
STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT					
A - SITE CLEARANCE					**£ 10,000**
Site Clearance	1	Item	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	
B - STADIUM					**£ 4,436,200**
General Clubhouse Facilities	1010	m²	£ 2,750	£ 2,777,500	
External Toilet / Concession Block	60	m²	£ 1,750	£ 105,000	
Groundsman's Store	20	m2	£ 1,250	£ 25,000	
Covered Seating	250	Nr	£ 950	£ 237,500	
Covered Standing	650	Nr	£ 300	£ 195,000	
Uncovered Standing	400	Nr	£ 100	£ 40,000	
Paths and Pavings within Stadium	1200	m²	£ 85	£ 102,000	
3G Pitch including Floodlights	1	Item	£ 850,000	£ 850,000	
Perimeter Walls / Fencing	340	m	£ 180	£ 61,200	
Gates	1	Item	£ 15,000	£ 15,000	
Turnstiles	1	Item	£ 28,000	£ 28,000	
Ground Gas Mitigation (Provisional)	1	Item	£ 100,000	£ 100,000	
C - EXTERNAL WORKS					**£ 859,500**
Grass Training / Community Pitch	1	Item	£ 110,000	£ 110,000	
Paths and Paved Areas External to Stadium	1200	m²	£ 85	£ 102,000	
Car Parking	90	Spaces	£ 2,250	£ 202,500	
General Landscaping	1	Item	£ 50,000	£ 50,000	
Drainage / Site Services Infrastructure	1	Item	£ 60,000	£ 60,000	
Site Access Road	200	m	£ 1,500	£ 300,000	
Formation of new Site Entrance	2	Nr	£ 17,500	£ 35,000	
D - SITE SERVICE CONNECTIONS					**£ 150,000**
Gas, Water, Electric, Drainage (Provisional)	1	Item	£ 150,000	£ 150,000	
SUB TOTAL					**£ 5,455,700**
ADD FOR: Main Contractor's Preliminaries	Say	10%			£ 545,570
ADD FOR: Design Risk Contingency	Say	10%			£ 545,570
FEASIBILITY ESTIMATE OF COSTS - MARCH 2025					**£ 6,546,840**

Client: Nuneaton Town FC
Project: Stadium Development
Document: 7780 / Feasibility Estimate
Date: 31 March 2025

Exclusions and Qualifications

> Costs excludes VAT
> Costs exclude Professional / Statutory fees
> Costs exclude Client's loose furniture, fittings and equipment
> Costs are based at 1st Quarter 2025
> Costs exclude land acquisition costs, legal fees and the like
> Costs assume that contaminated materials can be retained on site and re-used
> No allowance has been made in relation to redundant mine workings - further investigations required
> Provisional allowance made for ground gas mitigation but further investigations required

NUNEATON TOWN FC -

PROPOSED COMMUNITY FOOTBALL GROUND -

VALE VIEW RECREATION GROUND, NUNEATON

fwp

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AGENDA ITEM NO.7

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	12th November 2025
Subject:	Pingles Decarbonisation Update
Portfolio:	Leisure and Health
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Green Spaces and Environment
Corporate Plan – Aim:	6: Reduce the carbon footprint of the Pingles Leisure Centre by 2026.
Ward Relevance:	Attleborough
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	Yes

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1. Purpose of report

1.1 To update Cabinet on progress of the Decarbonisation of the Pingles Leisure Centre and Pingles Stadium, following successful funding from Sport England and Salix to install PV Panels, pool covers and heat source technology.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet note the progress update on the Pingles Decarbonisation project.

3. Background

3.1 As reported to Cabinet in November 2023, Pingles was facing large spend pressures particularly, the end-of-life plans for the fossil fuel heating system, supporting of Combined Heat & Power [CHP] and the energy building control of the Building Energy Management System, which had reached the end-of-life-term.

3.2 Following a successful funding application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 3c scheme in early 2024, the Council successfully received £3.8million to fund heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures at the facilities.

3.3 Additional to this the Council successfully secured just over £400k from Sport England through the Swimming Pool support fund, to implement energy saving measures through PV Panels and Pool Covers at Pingles Leisure Centre and Pingles Stadium.

3.4 Due to the timing of both these funding opportunities coming to fruition, both projects were combined to deliver the wider Decarbonisation project at Pingles Leisure Centre and Stadium.

3.5 A project team was mobilised to ensure effective expertise and capacity was allocated to the project. AtkinsRealis was appointed as Project Managers following a procurement tendering exercise.

3.6 In July 2024 the first element of the project was completed with the installation of the Pool Covers at Pingles Leisure Centre.

4. Body of report

4.1 Project delivery update:

4.1.1 The PV panel installation started in late 2024, PV panels have successfully been installed onto the Pingles Stadium, the installation at the Leisure Centre is currently at 85% complete, the final panels on the North of the building started installation on 20th October 2025 with a proposed completion date of mid December 2025.

4.1.2 The Air Source Heat Pump at the Pingles Track has been commissioned with final pipe work due to be installed throughout November.

4.1.3 The main Air Source Heat Pump compound continues to develop with installation of equipment ongoing.

4.1.4 Contractors are working closely with the Leisure Operator to complete internal upgrades alongside the Leisure Centre redevelopment project, whilst keeping the facility operational.

4.1.5 As part of the connection to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO), the supplier National Grid undertook a Power Quality Monitoring assessment late summer following NBBC's application. The assessment was undertaken against the existing Pingles / Track site and identified existing power fluctuations outside the networks 5% tolerance. Therefore, there is the requirement by National Grid for Active Harmonic Filtration equipment to be included, to address the fluctuations of power for NBBC to connect to the substation and meet necessary funding timelines to deliver the overall project.

4.1.6 The project team are in contact with the local primary school (Wembrook Primary School), to look at an engagement project working with the pupils in relation to the delivery of the project. These works are currently being arranged with the Head Teacher, who has welcomed this opportunity to provide some context to the schools sustainability curriculum for the pupils.

4.1.7 The Council Officers meet regularly with the Salix representatives to update on project progress in relation to received funding. Our Relationship Manager is happy with our progress and update meetings in delivering the project by the agreed timescales – March 2026.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 As previously reported to Cabinet there has been some unknown challenges in delivering this project, which at the time of NBBC's application for Government funding was not known, particularly around the electrical supply / new substation requirement and power fluctuations.

5.2 As detailed in section 4.1.5 this required an urgent decision to be taken by the CEO under the constitution, in liaison with Cabinet Members / Shadow & Deputy Leader / Green Party Member / Chairs of OSPs and Mayor to update on the additional £120k required from in year reserve balances to fund the Active Harmonic equipment.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Legal Officers have supported in formalising contracts with contractors and consultants in relation to the project. This also includes where required Way Leaves for National Grid.

7. Equalities implications

7.1 No direct equal opportunities implications

8. Health implications

8.1 The adopted Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy supports the Council's Corporate Plan in improving health and wellbeing by providing opportunities and facilities for residents to access and take part in physical activity at all levels across the Borough.

8.2 The provision of leisure facilities gives opportunities for residents to take part in physical activities.

9. Climate and environmental implications

9.1 The decarbonisation project at the Pingles Leisure Centre & Pingles Stadium will support climate sustainability measures and a further 20-year lifespan for the plant at the Pingles / Stadium facilities as well as the installation of PV Panels to generate electricity. These will all reduce the carbon footprint of the Pingles Leisure Centre and Pingles Stadium, providing a fossil fuels free delivery from the site.

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1 The increase or provision of new facilities or different leisure pursuits will give opportunities for more residents to take part in physical activities.

11. Risk management implications

11.1 The project is being managed by professional external consultants, providing specialist Technical Advisory to NBBC Officers.

11.2 The project is detailed within the corporate risk register for identifying and manging risk. Officers and the external project team have a weekly meeting to update on project progress and assess and manage any risks that arise.

11.3 By decarbonising the assets and fully modernise the crucial energy consuming plant will provide a more sustainable and energy efficient future for the sites for the next 20 plus years to come.

12. Human resources implications

12.1 External project management support has been procured to ensure the correct expertise and capacity is allocated to the project delivery.

13. Options considered and reason for their rejection

13.1 In formulating this report and recommendations, no other options identified as the connection to the National Grid substation is via this sole supplier only. Other areas of the report for noting only.

14. Appendices

No appendices

15. Background papers

- Pingles Leisure Centre & Pingles Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme Submission Cabinet 8th November 2023 – Agenda item 6 - Minute Number CB61.
- Pingles Decarbonisation update Cabinet 18th June 2025 – Agenda item 10 – Minute Number CB14.

- Delegated Officers Decision – signed on 13th October 2025 reference DO/51/2025 (TS).

16. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture

Officer Name: Katie Memetovic-Bye

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Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

AGENDA ITEM NO.8

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	12 November 2025
Subject:	Local Government Reorganisation
Portfolio:	All
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive
Corporate Plan – Theme:	All
Corporate Plan – Aim:	All
Ward Relevance:	All Wards
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call in:	No

1. <u>Purpose of the Report</u>

1.1 This report presents the final business case for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Warwickshire, prepared on behalf of the District and Borough Councils, ahead of the statutory submission deadline in late November 2025. It represents the final submission to Cabinet and outlines the recommendations agreed at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29 October 2025.

1.2 The report seeks an Executive decision from Cabinet to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (Head of Paid Service) to submit the business case to Government in accordance with the statutory deadline.

2. <u>Recommendations</u>

2.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:

(a) The two Unitary Model for Warwickshire forms the basis of a final submission to Government on or before 28 November 2025 as unanimously supported at Extraordinary Council 29 October 2025, comprising:

i. North Warwickshire Unitary Authority: incorporating North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, and Rugby Borough; and
ii. South Warwickshire Unitary Authority: incorporating Warwick District and Stratford on Avon District.

(b) delegating authority be given to the Chief Executive Officer (Head of Paid Service), in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:

i. submit the joint business case to Government with other Warwickshire District and Borough Councils that support the proposed two unitary model as per 2.1 (a) i and ii above;
ii. include within the submission to Government, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's opposition to Warwickshire County Council being designated as the continuing authority if a single unitary model is pursued; and
iii. continue representing and acting on behalf of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in all matters relating to Local Government Reform and Reorganisation.

(c) Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer (Head of Paid Service), in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders of the opposition parties, to make and approve any necessary administrative or presentational amendments to the final business case prior to its submission to Government.

(d) The report be marked not for call in on the basis Council unanimously supported at the Extraordinary Council meeting 29 October 2025 to support a two Unitary Model for

Warwickshire and noting timescales to coordinate with the other Warwickshire District and Borough Councils to submit before the deadline.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 These recommendations ensure that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council fulfil its obligation to submit a response to Government by the statutory deadline in November 2025, in line with the resolution passed by Council.

3.2 Delegating authority to the Chief Executive Officer allows for timely and responsive amendments to the business case, ensuring its accuracy and alignment with evolving developments and the positions of partner authorities. The inclusion of opposition Group Leaders in the consultation process ensures continued cross-party engagement and transparency.

4. Timetable for Decisions

4.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has issued guidance outlining the expected timeline for Local Government Reorganisation in areas such as Warwickshire, where proposals are to be submitted by the end of November 2025.

4.2 According to this guidance, new unitary authorities would operate in a 'shadow' capacity from May 2027, one year prior to their formal establishment in April 2028. During this period, the shadow authorities will be responsible for recruitment, governance arrangements, and implementation planning. Councillors elected in May 2027 will transition to become the first members of the new unitary authorities upon vesting day.

4.3 The indicative timeline for Warwickshire's reorganisation is as follows:

Date	Milestone
October November 2025	Full Council review of final draft
28 November 2025	Statutory deadline for submission to Government
Early 2026	Anticipated feedback from Government
May 2026	Borough Council elections – go ahead as planned.
Spring 2026	Government consults on Warwickshire proposals

Late spring / Summer 2026	Mediation and Government decision to implement
Subject to Parliament 2026	Legislation drafted
Subject to Parliament 2026/2027	Legislation laid; parliamentary approval
May 2027	Elections to Shadow Unitary councils
May 2027	Shadow Authority operates alongside predecessor councils
April 2028	Formal 'go live' of new authorities

5. Background

5.1 The Extraordinary Council Meeting on 29 October 2025 was convened to consider and determine the Council's final position on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Warwickshire, in light of the Government's English Devolution White Paper – Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth (December 2024).

5.2 This White Paper sets out a national vision to streamline local governance by replacing two tier systems with single tier unitary authorities, aiming to improve service delivery, accountability, and financial sustainability.

5.3 At its meeting on 2 July 2025, the Council had previously resolved that its preferred model for Warwickshire was a two unitary structure, comprising:

- North Warwickshire Unitary Authority: covering North Warwickshire Borough, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, and Rugby Borough.
- South Warwickshire Unitary Authority: covering Stratford on Avon District and Warwick District.

5.4 At present, the designation of a strategic authority for Warwickshire remains unresolved. While there is an apparent broad preference among local partners for alignment with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), no formal offer or invitation has been forthcoming. This uncertainty presents a challenge in planning for future governance and regional collaboration.

5.5 The Council remains open to constructive dialogue with WMCA and Government to ensure that any future strategic arrangements reflect local priorities and deliver tangible benefits for communities across the borough and Warwickshire.

5.6 The 29 October meeting was called under urgency provisions to allow the Council to review and formally endorse the final business case, prepared with support from Deloitte, ahead of the statutory submission deadline of 28 November 2025. The business case outlines the rationale for the two unitary model, including:

- Improved alignment of communities and local economies.
- Enhanced democratic representation and accountability.
- Greater financial resilience and service integration.
- Stronger local identity and responsiveness to residents' needs.

5.7 The Council also reaffirmed its opposition to Warwickshire County Council being designated as the continuing authority in the event that a single unitary model is imposed by Government. This position reflects concerns about democratic legitimacy, centralisation of power, and the potential dilution of local priorities.

5.8 The Council's resolution included a recommendation to Cabinet to:

- Approve the submission of the final business case to Government.
- Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer (Head of Paid Service), In consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make the submission and any necessary amendments.
- Ensure that the Council's position is clearly articulated in all communications with Government and partner authorities.

5.9 The Council's decision was made in the context of ongoing discussions across Warwickshire. At the time of the meeting, several other District and Borough Councils were also considering or had expressed support for the two unitary model, while Warwickshire County Council had submitted a proposal for a single county wide unitary authority.

5.10 The status of decision making across Warwickshire at the time of drafting (31 October 2025) is summarised below (*but may be subject to change depending on decisions made by the Council and their Cabinet)*:

Council	**Decisions Making Stage**	**Position**
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Council recommended to Cabinet	Two Unitary

Stratford on Avon	Meeting scheduled November	Two Unitary
Rugby	Meeting scheduled November	Undecided
North Warwickshire	Meeting scheduled November	Two Unitary
Warwick	Meeting scheduled November	Two Unitary
Warwickshire	Council recommended to Cabinet	Single Unitary

6. <u>Body of Report</u>

6.2. Further to the resolution of Council on 29 October 2025, Cabinet is asked to consider the following key documents, which form the evidential basis for the final business case and are appended to this report:

6.3. **Background Paper 2 – Extraordinary Council Report (29 October 2025)**

6.4. The Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29 October 2025 played a pivotal role in shaping the Council's position on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

6.5. This meeting provided a comprehensive update on the national policy context, including the Government's English Devolution White Paper and the formal invitation from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to submit proposals for unitary governance.

6.6. The report presented to Full Council summarised the development of the business case, including the collaborative work undertaken with other District and Borough Councils (excluding Rugby Borough Council), and the engagement of external consultants such as Deloitte, PeopleToo, and Opinion Research Services.

6.7. The Council reaffirmed its support for a two unitary model for Warwickshire, comprising a North Unitary (including Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire, and Rugby) and a South Unitary (including Warwick and Stratford on Avon).

6.8. The report also outlined the assessment criteria set by Government, the rationale for the preferred model, and the implications for service delivery, governance, and financial sustainability.

6.9. The Council resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the final business case be submitted to Government, and delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any necessary administrative amendments in consultation with the Leader of the Council and opposition Group Leaders.

6.10. This background paper is a key reference for Cabinet in making its final decision and is listed as a background report to this report for completeness.

6.11. **Appendix 1 – Deloitte Consultancy Report**

6.12. 6.2 Commissioned jointly by Warwickshire’s District and Borough Councils, the Deloitte report provides a comprehensive and independent analysis of potential governance models for Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire.

6.13. The report evaluates a range of structural options, including a single county wide unitary authority and a two unitary model. It concludes that the **two unitary model** offers the most balanced, locally responsive, and sustainable solution for Warwickshire’s future governance. Key findings include:

- Enhanced alignment with local economic geographies and community identities.
- Improved democratic accountability through more locally focused representation.
- Greater potential for service integration and innovation at a local level.
- Stronger financial resilience through more manageable organisational scale.

6.14. The Deloitte report is near final, and is undergoing final presentational and administrative amendments, following respective commissioning authority feedback. The attached version is current at time of drafting.

6.15. Appendix 2 – PeopleToo Social Care Impact Assessment

6.16. This report assesses the implications of LGR on the delivery of Adult and Children’s Social Care services. Drawing on national benchmarking data and local service performance, the report evaluates how different governance models would affect service quality, cost efficiency, and outcomes.

6.17. The analysis supports the two unitary model, highlighting that smaller, locally focused unitary authorities are better positioned to:

- Deliver person centred, integrated care services.
- Respond to local needs and demographic pressures.
- Achieve cost savings through targeted commissioning and streamlined management structures.

6.18. The PeopleToo report is being reviewed to reflect the most recent position and will receive a minor administrative change prior to the final submission. A Target Operating Model (TOM) is attached in addition the business case.

6.19. Appendix 3 – Consultation Feedback Summary

6.20. A comprehensive public consultation was undertaken across Warwickshire between 7 August and 14 September 2025, engaging residents, businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, and public sector partners.

6.21. The consultation received over 2,300 responses, with the following headline findings:

- 73% of respondents supported the creation of two unitary councils (North and South Warwickshire).
- 22% expressed a preference for a single county wide unitary authority.
- Respondents cited local identity, accessibility of services, and democratic accountability as key reasons for supporting the two unitary model.

6.22. The consultation findings have been instrumental in shaping the final business case and demonstrate a clear mandate from the public for a two unitary approach.

6.23. **Appendix 4 – Correspondence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)**

6.24. A letter from DLUHC confirms the Government's invitation for Warwickshire authorities to submit proposals for Local Government Reorganisation by 28 November 2025. The letter outlines the criteria for assessment, including:

- Improved service delivery and outcomes.
- Strong local leadership.
- Enhanced accountability and democracy.
- Financial sustainability and value for money.

6.25. The final business case has been developed in alignment with these criteria and reflects the collective ambition of the participating District and Borough Councils to deliver a modern, efficient, and locally responsive system of governance.

6.26. **Appendix 5 Local Government Reorganisation – DCN Analysis: "Bigger Isn't Better**

6.27. The District Councils' Network (DCN), supported by independent academic research from De Montfort University, has published a comprehensive critique of the Government's assumption that larger unitary councils are inherently more efficient, effective, or financially sustainable. The report, *“Bigger Isn’t Better: The Evidenced Case for Keeping ‘Local’ Government”*, challenges the rationale behind creating large scale unitary authorities, particularly those with populations exceeding 500,000.

6.28. The DCN analysis draws on over 300 pieces of independent academic research spanning five decades. Its key findings include:

- No consistent evidence that larger councils deliver better outcomes in terms of efficiency, performance, or cost reduction.
- Council size has negligible impact on service quality; leadership, autonomy, and funding arrangements are more influential.
- Larger councils are associated with lower levels of democratic engagement, including reduced voter turnout, weaker community identity, and diminished satisfaction with local services.
- Community identity and local accountability are significantly undermined in larger, more remote authorities.

6.29. The report also critiques the Government’s use of a 500,000-population benchmark for new unitary councils, noting that:

- This figure lacks a robust evidence base and was originally derived from a 2020 PwC report commissioned by the County Councils Network (CCN), not from independent analysis.
- England already has some of the largest local authorities in Europe, and further enlargement risks weakening local democracy and responsiveness.
- The subsidiarity principle, to which the UK is committed, supports devolving responsibilities to the most local level possible, contradicting the logic of large scale unitarisation.

6.30. The DCN concludes that “one size does not fit all” and that structural reform should be based on local context, community identity, and functional economic geographies—not arbitrary population thresholds. It argues that smaller, locally focused unitary councils are better placed to deliver responsive services, foster civic engagement, and support place-based regeneration.

6.31. This analysis reinforces the case for a two unitary model in Warwickshire, which aligns with local identities, supports democratic accountability, and enables tailored service delivery across distinct communities in the North and South of the county.

7. <u>Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders</u>

7.2. Extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout the development of the business case for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This includes formal public consultation, direct engagement with key stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, statutory consultees, and public sector partners, as well as internal staff engagement across participating councils.

7.3. A cross party LGR Subcommittee was established to guide the Chief Executive and ensure political balance and transparency. The Subcommittee has been instrumental in shaping the Council's position and ensuring that the final submission reflects a broad consensus across political groups and stakeholder interests.

7.4. Details of the public consultation are summarised in appendix 3. And meeting minutes of the LGR Subcommittee are available at Cabinet Local Government Reform Sub-Committee | Cabinet and committees | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council).

8. Financial Implications

8.2. Note that these are extensively detailed in the report.

8.3. At Council on 29th October some concern was expressed around validity of the finances produced across all cases. This is a sector wide concern, and it is a legal obligation for any new authority to ensure that it produces a balanced budget as it moves forward. Furthermore, opportunity exists for Government to address funding concerns through the fair funding review 2.0.

8.4. **S151 Statement**

8.5. Deloitte, partnering with PeopleToo and finance officers in the Council, were commissioned to carry out an independent review of the options for Local Government Reorganisation in conjunction with four district and borough councils across Warwickshire.

8.6. Varying sources of information have been utilised all of which are a reasonable assessment of a future amalgamation of local authorities and services. Both options present savings with the differences between the options being immaterial against the size of the budgets that will be in place.

8.7. Currently, the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates reset are underway and an assessment of the potential impact to authorities has been undertaken. Until the settlement however, it is still unclear how the funding settlement will affect the future position of local government.

9. Legal Implications

9.2. As detailed within the report. The decision of Cabinet is simply to provide a recommendation to government, and the associated legal decision-making responsibilities sit with Government at this stage. However, the Council does have a statutory responsibility to provide a submission by the end of November.

9.3. Sections 1 to 7 of Chapter 1, Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, provided the legal foundation for structural changes in local government in England.

9.4. The UK Government's current Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme is underpinned by the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill (2025) and guided by the English Devolution White Paper published in December 2024. As of 30 October 2025, the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill has not yet received Royal Assent.

10. Equalities implications

10.2. Local Government Reorganisation has the potential to impact all residents, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. Any new unitary authorities will be legally required to uphold equality duties and ensure reasonable adjustments are made to meet the needs of diverse communities. The business case emphasises the importance of inclusive service design and delivery, and future councils will be expected to conduct Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) as part of their implementation planning.

11. Health implications

11.1. The reorganisation of local government presents opportunities to improve health outcomes through more integrated and locally responsive services. The two unitary model supports place-based approaches to public health, adult social care, and children’s services, enabling early intervention and prevention strategies tailored to community needs. Closer alignment with NHS partners and local health systems will be essential to delivering improved healthy life expectancy and reducing health inequalities across Warwickshire.

12. Climate and environmental implications

12.1. The future structure of local government will influence the delivery of climate and environmental initiatives. The two unitary model allows for more locally focused strategies that reflect the distinct environmental challenges of North and South Warwickshire. New councils will have the opportunity to embed sustainability into their corporate plans, invest in green infrastructure, and support community led environmental action. The business case encourages future authorities to prioritise climate resilience and carbon reduction as part of their strategic objectives.

13. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1. Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities have a duty to consider the impact of their decisions on crime and disorder. The proposed two unitary model supports stronger community safety partnerships and more locally tailored interventions. By aligning governance with existing policing boundaries and enhancing local engagement, the model enables more effective responses to anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, and youth offending. Future councils will be expected to maintain robust links with police and community safety stakeholders.

14. Risk management implications

14.1. Local Government Reorganisation presents strategic, operational, and financial risks that must be carefully managed. The business case outlines key risks including service disruption, financial uncertainty, and stakeholder disengagement. Mitigation strategies include the establishment of Shadow Authorities, joint implementation committees, and robust programme governance. Future councils will need to adopt comprehensive risk management frameworks to ensure continuity of services and successful transition.

15. Human resources implications

15.1. Reorganisation will have significant implications for staff across all affected councils. The transition to new unitary authorities will require workforce planning, role redesign, and organisational development. Staff will be supported through clear communication, consultation, and training programmes. HR policies will be harmonised, and efforts will be made to preserve institutional knowledge and minimise disruption. The business case includes provisions for managing redundancies, TUPE transfers, and cultural integration.

16. Options considered and reason for their rejection

16.1. The business case considered two primary options: a single county wide unitary authority and a two unitary model dividing Warwickshire into North and South. The single unitary model is proposed to be rejected due to concerns over scale, democratic deficit, and reduced responsiveness to local needs. The two unitary model was preferred for its alignment with community identities, financial sustainability, and ability to deliver improved outcomes through locally focused governance.

17. Conclusion

17.1. The final business case presents a compelling argument for the creation of two new unitary authorities in Warwickshire. It reflects extensive consultation, robust analysis, and cross-party consensus. The proposed model supports improved service delivery, stronger local democracy, and financial resilience. Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the submission of the business case to Government and delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any necessary amendments in consultation with the Leader of the Council and opposition Group Leaders.

18. Appendices

- Appendix 1 – A Case for Two New Councils in Warwickshire (Deloitte)
- Appendix 2 – Warwickshire LGR Support ASC and Children Services Analysis to Inform the Two Unitary Decision and Target Operating Model and Implementation Plan for ASC, Children Services and SEND (PeopleToo)
- Appendix 3 – Consultation Summary Report (Opinion Research Services)
- Appendix 4 – Correspondence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- Appendix 5 – DCN Analysis: 'Bigger Isn't Better'

19. Background papers

- Extraordinary Council Report – 29 October 2025 - 29 October 2025: Council | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Full Council – 2nd July 2025 – Agenda Item 11c - 2 July 2025: Council | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Cabinet – 18th June 2025 – agenda item 12 - 18 June 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Local Government Reform Sub-Committee meetings - Cabinet Local Government Reform Sub-Committee | Cabinet and committees | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- English Devolution White Paper – Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth (December 2024) - English Devolution White Paper: Power and partnership: Foundations for growth - GOV.UK
- Interim Plan Submission – March 2025 - interim-plans-warwickshire-march-2025 & district-borough-warwickshire-interim-lgr-plan

20. Report Writer Details:

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Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	12th November 2025
Subject:	Bedworth Regeneration and Investment Plan
Portfolio:	Business and Regeneration
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration
Corporate Plan –	Theme 1 - Place and Prosperity
Corporate Aim 3:	Regeneration of our Town Centres
Ward Relevance:	Slough, Bede, Heath, Popular, Exhall
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	Yes

1. Purpose of report

1.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the progress of the Bedworth Pride in Place Fund (Believe in Bedworth) and provide details of fund requirements and Nuneaton and Bedworth Councils role as the responsible body.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet note the requirements of the fund.

2.2 That Cabinet note the strategic direction and priorities of the Bedworth Board.

2.3 That Cabinet note that spend by the Board must be signed off by the Council's Section 151 Officer, as per the fund's Technical Guidance, attached as Appendix 1.

3. Background

3.1. In March 2025 Government launched the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Plan for Neighbourhoods. It will help revitalise local areas and fight deprivation by focusing on 3 key goals:

- Thriving Places: Places should be able to design public services that are accessible, responsive, and tailored to local need. Investing in our young people's futures and in preventative measures that will ease pressure on services over the longer-term.
- Stronger and Communities: To tackle the root causes, rebuild relationships, and restore a collective sense of belonging in their local community. Bringing people together so they can feel proud of their area and safe in their neighbourhood.
- Taking back Control: Accessing the skills required for emerging job markets as we transition to net zero or supporting the thousands of would-be entrepreneurs through their first steps into self-employment. To empower people to enter the workplace, workers to progress, and businesses to grow, helping to kickstart local economic growth.

3.2 This plan will support the delivery of these goals with government funding of £1.5 billion cross 75 key areas and giving these areas the tools needed to help build a better future for local people.

3.3 MHCLG will provide funding of up to £20 million over a 10-year period for individual areas, of which Bedworth is one. The Plan for Neighbourhoods will require a Regeneration Plan for Bedworth, which constitutes a 10-year vision and 4-year investment plan.

3.4 MHCLG will devolve decision making by establishing Town Boards. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) will act as the accountable body for the funding and for supporting project delivery. The Town Boards are responsible for engaging with the local community and developing the long-term plan.

3.5 The Plan for Neighbourhoods prospectus identifies that this is a fundamentally different way of approaching the challenges facing our Town centres, putting power back into the hands of local people so that they can decide on local priorities and what's best for the long-term future of the places they live. Aiming to raise living standards, reduce social exclusion, creating opportunities for young people, improve health and wellbeing, build stronger and more cohesive communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

4. Accountable Body Requirements

4.1. The Council is the Accountable Body for the purposes of this funding. As the Accountable Body, the Council is required to:

- Define the area the Project Board will represent on a map, within the definitions of the technical guidance.
- Convene the Project Board which will align with the governance standards and policies of the Lead Council including around whistle blowing, conflicts of interest, and complaints.
- Publish the Project Board's governance structure and ways of working, in alignment with the requirements of the technical guidance.
- Accountable body for the funding and executing plans.
- Assist with running business and wider community engagement events.
- Provide advice and support to the Board.
- Assist/empower the Board to realise their role and drive forward a community led vision for change.

5. The Role of the Board

5.1 The Plan for Neighbourhoods -Towns Board ("the Board") will be the vehicle that supports the vision and strategy for revitalising Bedworth. The area the Board will represent is Bedworth and is shown on the map at Appendix C.

5.2 The Board is community led and will identify opportunities to align or rationalise public investment around key local priorities. The Board will:

- Develop a long-term plan (10 years) strategic document which will be backed by insights gained from engagement with local people as form of community empowerment.
- Develop an investment plan (4 years) which will detail the interventions and powers to be used for each investment theme, how the interventions will be used locally, the cost

and how the interventions will address the outcomes in the long-term plan.

- Be responsible for driving the priorities for investment.
- Identify additional funding sources and ways to attract funding.
- Develop and deliver a plan for community engagement to ensure regeneration is focused on the actual rather than perceived needs of the community.
- Monitor the progress of projects related to the above, including:
  - Receive updates on projects
  - Review financial, risk and reputational position
  - Develop a clear programme of interventions
  - Coordinate resources and influence stakeholders

5.3 The Board is not a legal entity, and its role is advisory, responsible for developing the long-term plan. Its purpose is to work with NBBC, to which it is accountable as the Lead Council and accountable body for funding and executing plans.

6. <u>Update on progress</u>

6.1 The Board have named the project 'Believe in Bedworth' and have developed the following mission statement:

'*In 2035 Bedworth will be a place where through day and night the town centre is the beating heart of the community, catering for all ages; a place of meeting, socialising, shopping, entertainment, sport, recreation, art, fun, and living life to the fullest. A safe place, where people belong, a Town to be proud of'.*

6.2 The objectives of the Board plan reflect the challenges Bedworth faces, as identified in the strategic case for change and local context being prepared.

- We will create and maintain a safe place where individuals feel protected, respected, and supported.
- We will create and promote opportunities that empower young people to develop their skills, pursue education and employment, and actively participate in social and economic development.
- We will create and promote opportunities for social involvement that foster community engagement, collaboration and personal development.

- Public services will be designed, delivered, and maintained in collaborative ways that are equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the community.
- Local businesses will be supported to develop and grow, and Bedworth will be a place where organisations want to do business.

6.3 The Board has conducted extensive community consultation and engagement via Warwickshire & Solihull Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA), which will support the development of the outlined projects.

6.4 The Board are required to submit a 4-year plan and 10-year visioning proposal to MHCLG by the 28th November 2025. Work is ongoing, supported by the Council's Regeneration Team, to prepare a draft plan and visioning document for the 5th November. This will then be presented to the Board for approval on the during November.

6.5 Prior to final submission as outlined in the MHCLG guidelines, as the Accountable Body, the Council's Section 151 Officer will need to be assured that the assumptions within the Invest Plan meet the technical guidance, and that spend apportionment, and the proposed projects will support the strategic direction.

7. <u>Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders</u>

Consultation:

WCAVA – Community consultation
Portfolio Holder - Business & Regeneration
Strategic Director – Housing & Community Safety
Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration

8. <u>Financial Implications</u>

8.1 The project is fully funded by MHCLG by up to £20m over 10 years. The funding provided is a combination of capacity funding, and Capital and Revenue funding, identified within the table

Funding Breakdown – Appendix B

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The legal implications for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council relate to our duties as the responsible body. These implications include:

- Duty to ensure funds are spent correctly
- Recovery of misspent funding
- To ensure compliance with the governance structure

9.2 The full list of legal implications is contained within the Technical Guidance at Appendix A

10. Equalities implications

10.1 It is proposed to mitigate any equalities implications by implementing the following mitigations:

i. Each project to be assessed for equality implications as part of outline business plan submission
ii. Compliance with local government structure

11. Health implications

11.1 No specific health implications have been identified.

12. Climate and environmental implications

12.1 No direct climate and/or environmental implications have been identified.

13. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1 No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified. It is however likely that as an outlined objective of the funding, individual projects may have Section 17 implications which will be highlighted in the project business plan.

14. Risk management implications

14.1 The following risk management implications have been identified:

i. Financial Management
ii. Governance and accountability
iii. Project delivery

iv. Reputational matters

14.2 It is proposed to mitigate the above by implementing the following mitigations:

i. Robust Financial management arrangements, agreed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.
ii. Clear governance framework that aligns with the Council's established requirements.
iii. Transparency and reporting process that align with the Council's established requirements.
iv. Oversite and reporting to MHCLG on a regular basis.

15. Human resources implications

15.1 No direct human resource implications have been identified.

16. Conclusion

Regular reports will be brought to Cabinet to update on the projects proposals and progression.

17. Appendices

Appendix A – Technical Guidance
Appendix B – Funding Split
Appendix C - Map: Area of Benefit

18. Background papers

18.1 None

19. Report Writer Details:

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Technical Guidance- Plan for Neighbourhoods: governance and boundary guidance

Published 12 March 2025

Introduction

This governance and boundary guidance provides information specific to the Neighbourhood Boards and place boundaries of those communities and local authorities within the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. It focuses on:

- accountable bodies and Neighbourhood Board roles and responsibilities
- governance structure requirements for Neighbourhood Boards
- the process by which places should confirm their Neighbourhood Board arrangements and boundary to MHCLG
- geographical boundaries for places in receipt of funding
- the associated MHCLG review process

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Plan for Neighbourhoods prospectus.

The place selection methodology for first tranche and methodology for second tranche are available for reference.

A Welsh language version of this document will be published in due course.

Partnership structures

Funding will be managed through a partnership between the:

- Neighbourhood Board, responsible for co-producing the Regeneration Plan for their place, which constitutes a 10-year vision and 4-year investment plan, and delivering in the interests of local people to improve the physical and social infrastructure of their community
- local authority, who will support the Neighbourhood Board to develop and deliver the plan
- the local community, to engage on the place’s priorities and hold the Neighbourhood Board and local authority to account

This partnership is integral to the successful delivery of the plan, channelling funds to address the right local issues at the right time. Ensuring the community is heard is vital for decision-making and giving the confidence that funding is spent effectively, efficiently, and compliantly.

Accountable bodies

The relevant local authority (NBBC) will act as the accountable body for the funds with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money principles.

NBBC will also be responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

Subsidy control and state aid

MHCLG will provide funding for a general purpose. The onward award of funding and the substantive design of potential public subsidies will be the responsibility of each local authority.

Subsidy Control Act 2022

All accountable bodies must comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 when administering public money under the programme. Accountable bodies should familiarise themselves with the Subsidy Control Act, and the statutory guidance which is updated periodically.

For each funding award, including where the authority itself is the beneficiary of funding, accountable bodies will need to determine whether a subsidy is present by applying the four-limbed test as explained in chapter 2 of the statutory guidance.

If a subsidy is present, accountable bodies will then need to identify a legal route to provide it compliantly. The options include:

- awarding the funding under Minimal Financial Assistance
- completing a standalone assessment against the 7 subsidy principles
- awarding the funding under one of the government's streamlined routes
- awarding the funding under a suitable subsidy scheme

State aid

Any subsidy provided in Northern Ireland will have to comply with either the European Union's state aid rules or with the UK government's subsidy control regime.

Article 10 of the Windsor Framework notes that state aid rules will apply to the UK in limited circumstances.

Non-compliance with subsidy control or state aid law
Accountable bodies may need to recover funding from project deliverers where subsidy control or state aid law has not been complied with.

Where an application presents an unacceptable risk of non-compliant delivery, then an accountable body may choose to either reject it or require adjustments to be made such that funding the project will not contravene subsidy control.

Accountable bodies should ensure that any project deliverers manage subsidy control or state aid in line with their agreed approach and take steps to monitor this. They should ensure that project agreements are designed to enable the recovery of subsidy or state aid if it has been misused.

It is also recommended that project deliverers ensure that project partners are aware of their obligations and that they can recover funding from them if it is not compliantly managed or is misused.

Public procurement regulations

Accountable bodies will be responsible for ensuring that all funding is managed in accordance with relevant public contract regulations.

Authorities should comply with the regulations relevant to their area:

- in England and Wales - Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- in Scotland - Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015
- in Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy

On 24 February 2025, new rules shaping how public bodies buy goods and services came into effect. The Procurement Act 2023 will create a simpler and more transparent regime for public sector procurement that will deliver better value for money and reduce costs for business and the public sector. Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the act and consider any impacts upon the delivery of their programme of activity and their award of contracts.

How we will assure funds

Programme assurance will follow precedent from existing legacy growth funds managed by the Department and will involve 3 lines of defence.

First line of defence

The first line of defence will be provided by the local authority and is the responsibility of their Chief Finance Officer as they act at an operational management level within the local authority in receipt of the funding. They must follow the appropriate legislation for the area they are based:

- England and Wales: Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985, and Section 127 of the GLA (Greater London Authority) Act 1999
- Scotland: Section 95 Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- Northern Ireland: Section 54 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972

The Chief Financial Officer will be required to submit an annual Statement of Grant Usage and an Assurance Letter to MHCLG. This will provide written confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of its financial affairs regarding the funding programme, particularly in respect to financial administration and transparency of governance.

Second line of defence

The second line of defence is the responsibility of the department and will be undertaken by MHCLG. We will undertake a range of checks, on a risk and sample basis. Local authorities will be required to engage with us and support the process.

Third line of defence

The third line of defence will be carried out by the department’s independent auditors which will review the activity completed by MHCLG for the second line of defence and liaise with internal audit teams operating within devolved administrations as appropriate.

Management of funds

Each local authority should:

- work closely with their place's Neighbourhood Board to develop and embed appropriate processes and controls for funding
- develop mechanisms that will empower the Neighbourhood Board in realising their role and driving forward a community-led vision for change
- facilitate the development of a place's plan and its delivery while recognising the role of the Neighbourhood Board as decision-making forum

This may include providing advice and support on legal duties (for example, impact assessments), supporting meaningful community engagement or helping board members navigate those requirements with which they may be less familiar, in the spirit of true partnership working.

Together the Neighbourhood Board and local authority should ensure that:

- the appropriate capacity and capability is in place throughout the programme period to ensure that funds are distributed effectively in the local area
- residents, businesses, and grassroots organisations are actively involved in programme design and decision-making to ensure delivery reflects the priorities of local people and helps build capacity within the community
- monitoring and evaluation is undertaken according to the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy to be published

Boards may choose to use programme funding to hire additional programme management and/or community relationship expertise to undertake the requirements of the Plan for Neighbourhoods plan, such as relevant administration or gathering necessary community insight. If doing so, we encourage consideration of appropriate local voluntary and charity organisations to provide opportunities to maximise existing networks and to check with the team in MHCLG whether other boards have or are considering commissioning similar insights.

Neighbourhood Boards

A Neighbourhood Board must be established in each place to receive funding, bringing together those with a deep connection to the local area such as local businesses, grassroots campaigners, workplace representatives, faith and community leaders and any other relevant organisations. It should be noted that all members of the board have an equal right to vote on board issues. The board will work in partnership with their respective local authority to develop a plan for their local area and distribute funding to the projects to deliver on this vision.

Previous arrangements

Places that set up a ‘Town Board’ to deliver the previous administration’s Long-Term Plan for Towns programme may wish to fully retain that board and the agreed governance structure to deliver the new Plan for Neighbourhoods programme – **this is acceptable**.

Similarly, several towns repurposed a ‘Town Deal Board’ or a similar such structure, for example, an appropriate subset of a Community Planning Partnership in Scotland, to act as the Town Board – again, it is acceptable to simply rollover that existing structure to become the Neighbourhood Board.

However, recognising the strategic objectives of this programme and the broader scope of activity that can be delivered through the new interventions list, we encourage places to consider whether refreshing their board membership -including a new independent chair – may be appropriate to reflect the skills, knowledge and sector-experience required.

Reviewing proposals

MHCLG will review the board membership and governance arrangements established by each place to provide assurance that the community and key stakeholders are appropriately represented in line with our guidance.

Chairperson

Each Neighbourhood Board will be led by an independent chair, **appointed by the local authority acting as accountable body**, following consultation with the local MP.

The chair should act as a champion for the place and provide leadership for the board, ensuring it is community-led and embedded within the local area. The role is voluntary, analogous to that of a school governor or charity trustee and should not be compensated.

The chair should be someone who holds a prominent role in the community and has a passion for the place, such as:

- the head of a local charity
- a local campaigner
- a philanthropist
- head of a further education college
- a director for the NHS Trust
- a director of a football club

The chair of the Neighbourhood Board cannot be an elected representative, such as a:

- MP
- MSP
- MS
- MLA
- local councillor

Having set up ‘Town Boards’ to deliver the previous administration’s ‘Long-Term Plan for Towns,’ many places will have an incumbent chair. Subject to consulting the respective local MP, the local authority may seek to retain that individual as the chair for the Neighbourhood Board.

Should the local authority - following consultation with the local MP - seek to appoint a new chair to lead the board, they should confirm the associated details as part of their wider governance return. To ensure transparency and accountability, places are encouraged to undertake a competitive application process to recruit to the role. Consideration should be given to the length of tenure for the chair, noting the importance of consistency and the long-term nature of the programme.

While there is no requirement to formally appoint a deputy chair, it may be advisable to consider as part of your succession planning and to deputise where required. It is for the chair, in partnership with the local authority, to consider appointing a deputy.

Board membership

Chairs should work with the local authority to consider the wider membership of the Neighbourhood Board, ensuring an inclusive and representative selection of people from across the local community.

Places may have set up ‘Town Boards’ to deliver the previous administration’s Long-Term Plan for Towns programme, with an existing board membership. Should the chair agree, the membership can be rolled over fully to act as the Neighbourhood Board. However, to ensure the board can deliver on the strategic objectives of the programme and the widened scope of interventions, you may want to consider broadening the membership to bring in additional relevant expertise. For example, to inform any public health interventions, boards may benefit from the experience of a member with experience in delivering integrated care.

Neighbourhood Boards must include the following members:

Parliamentary representatives
The relevant local MPs, for example, MPs whose constituencies sit within the boundary of the place must sit on the board.

Where a place boundary is spread across constituencies, and the geographical share is 25% or above, a second MP may be invited to sit on the board. Where the percentage share is 10% to 25%, those MPs should be consulted on any plans that impact an area within that MPs constituency, otherwise the MP with the largest percentage of constituency within the place boundary should be the sole MP representative.

In line with this government’s commitment to reset relationships with the devolved governments and respect their legislatures, in Scotland and Wales the appropriate constituency MSP or MS should also sit on the board. Councils in Northern Ireland are encouraged to invite the MLAs to the board and should ensure that representation is balanced.

Local councillors
In areas where there are 2 tiers of local authorities, there should be one councillor from each tier. In unitary authorities, there should be 2 councillors from the authority. As board members, ward councillors can play a key role in convening and leading local partnership working with the community to shape local priorities.

Where relevant for the place, the chair may wish to invite parish, town, or community councillors, noting that numbers of elected representatives should be limited to promote community leadership.

Senior representative from the police

Neighbourhood Boards must have a senior representative from the police.

In England and Wales, it is expected that this will be the police and crime commissioner (PCC), or a delegated representative agreed between the chair and PCC. Subject to agreement between the chair and the PCC, a local senior representative from the police can act as an alternative. In Scotland, the chair may wish to invite a senior police officer or in Northern Ireland the district commander or area co-ordinator.

Where combined authority mayors exercise PCC functions, it is expected that the mayor or their deputy mayor for policing and crime should be the representative. However, a local senior representative from the police can act as an alternative subject to agreement with the chair.

Should Neighbourhood Boards feel that they require further contribution from the police, noting particularly the different skills and input that could be provided by an operational representative, they may invite any member they deem appropriate to sit on the board.

Other representatives
Beyond these groups, there are no prescriptive requirements for representation, as membership will depend on the local context.

The board should comprise representatives from a cross-section of the local community to promote community leadership, and boards should ensure there is greater representation from non-elected members than elected, in line with the 'community-first' principle of the programme. Council officers may provide secretariat support and can sit as an observer to the board discussions if agreed with the chair.

The chair, supported by the local authority, must ensure the right people are around the table to fully reflect the priorities of the place. Chairs will want to consider the following groups:

Community partners, such as:

- community groups
- faith groups
- local charities
- neighbourhood forums, neighbourhood watch or local tenancy groups
- youth groups

- local councils for voluntary service (CVS) in England, Third Sector Interface (TSI) in Scotland, or Third Sector Trustee Network in Northern Ireland
- workplace representatives, for example trade unions

Local businesses and social enterprises, such as:

- the chair or board members for the local Chambers of Commerce or Business Improvement District (BID) where these exist
- key local employers or investors in the place
- registered social housing providers

Cultural, arts, heritage and sporting organisations, such as:

- local sports club directors or fan representatives
- local heritage groups
- director of a local museum

Public agencies and anchor institutions, such as:

- local schools, higher education and further education institutions
- mayors of combined authorities or their representatives
- relevant government agencies for that area, for example, Integrated Care Boards or Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland
- relevant health care providers, for example GPs from local practices or senior NHS staff
- relevant senior local authority officers, for example, a Director for Economic Development to ensure coordination with wider plans
- a representative from other relevant local agencies

Councils should ensure that their Neighbourhood Board membership complies with their equality duties, in particular Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the 9 equality categories. In addition, public authorities should have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, and racial group. Councils, alongside their chosen chair, should ensure that these equalities duties are met when designing their Neighbourhood Board.

Governance structure requirements

Boards should consider the size of their membership and whether smaller working groups would be useful to deliver the programme's strategic objectives through facilitating engagement with the chosen themes, setting up appropriate groups where required.

Recognising that places will have existing community interest groups and decision-making bodies (for example, neighbourhood watches or 'friends of' groups), boards should consider how they can work with, alongside and, where appropriate, integrate into local community infrastructure.

Membership changes

We strongly encourage consistency and continuity of membership between the 'Town Board' and the Neighbourhood Board, to build on work already undertaken.

While boards can design their own process to update the membership, in collaboration with the local authority, we suggest that the most appropriate time to refresh board membership may be at the end of the first 4-year investment period cycle. Any updates must be communicated to MHCLG, and the appropriate conflict of interests checks completed.

Operation of Neighbourhood Boards

The local authority or an alternative organisation, such as a community group if agreed by the chair and local authority, should act as secretariat to the board. Recognising the partnership between the board and local authority, council officers may provide secretariat support and can sit as an observer to discussions, if agreed with the chair. However, we also strongly encourage the board to consider whether an alternative organisation, e.g. a local community group, could act or support in this role to build capacity and capability.

The secretariat for the board should be responsible for operation of the board, ensuring there is an established terms of reference and that it follows the associated governance and transparency requirements.

Neighbourhood Board governance

Transparency

In line with the principles of public life and to ensure the local community can hold the board to account, its operations must be transparent.

The board should publish membership and governance arrangements (including minutes of meetings and decision logs) on the lead council's website.

We expect Neighbourhood Boards to meet quarterly and to publish:

- a documented decision-making process, outlining the voting rights of the board
- profiles of board members
- all board papers in advance of the meeting within 5 working days
- draft minutes of meetings following the meeting within 10 working days
- final minutes, once approved by the board within 10 working days
- any conflicts of interest reported, within the published minutes

Boards should follow lead council governance and finance arrangements when considering private reports, with the default position being that all papers are open to the public.

Code of conduct
All members should sign up to a code of conduct based on the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles),

There should be clear processes for managing conflicts of interests (commercial, actual, and potential) in decision making, which apply to all involved with the work of the board.

As vested members of the community, it is reasonable that many will have interests that may indirectly benefit from the board's work. This does not preclude individuals from joining the Neighbourhood Board, but interests must be declared, and members should recuse themselves from relevant decisions.

Declaration of interests
The lead council should provide guidance on:

- the financial and non-financial interests, individuals must declare
- the process that the Neighbourhood Board members must follow for declaring interests
- the process for requesting an exemption

Members must then complete a declaration of interests, which the lead council will then hold. This can be in a format the lead council already uses.

Members are responsible for declaring their interests before the Neighbourhood Board considers any decisions. The lead council must record:

- actions taken in response to any declared interest
- any gifts or hospitality given to the Neighbourhood Board or individual members

Geographical boundaries

Funding allocated to each place should be spent for the benefit of the community within an agreed geographic area. This concentration of expenditure and activity will deliver on local people's priorities across the 3 strategic objectives of the programme:

- building thriving places
- strengthening communities
- empowering people to take back control

The default geographic boundary for each place is determined as follows:

- for England and Wales: the built-up areas as defined by the Office for National Statistics (2022 boundaries GB BGG)
- for Scotland: based on Localities 2020 geography
- for Northern Ireland: Settlements 2015 data

Changes to boundaries

Neighbourhood Boards may make representations to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to alter their default boundary.

We know that many places secured agreement with the previous administration to make amendments to those default boundaries. Where an alteration was agreed by the department previously, should the Neighbourhood Board wish to retain that revised boundary, this place boundary will continue to be accepted. Places are required to confirm this when returning their form.

Should the board wish to lodge a request to either amend their default boundary or make further changes to a revised boundary agreed by the previous administration, any alteration must:

- remain within the spirit of the programme
- retain the place that was originally selected
- remain contiguous
- not introduce additional, separate population centres into the agreed area (for example, different communities or neighbourhoods)
- have the agreement of the board and a clear rationale

As an example, a key asset for the community may sit just outside the boundaries provided, or an essential green space may have been excluded, due to the emphasis on 'built up' areas.

Boards should not submit requests to remove areas from the boundary unless they can evidence a clear error in its inclusion.

Location of interventions

For participatory interventions such as creative workshops and community initiatives, it is not essential that all attendees and beneficiaries are from communities within the agreed boundary, provided the primary benefit of the intervention is felt within the intended area.

Similarly, interventions related to developing thriving places through active travel enhancements in the local area may extend beyond the agreed geographic boundary for the programme, for example funding for a cycle route from a location within the agreed place boundary to a location outside the boundary.

Spatial targeting

Boards can choose to fund interventions across their agreed area or to target funding towards areas depending on the priorities identified in their engagement. However, we expect to see examples of activity being targeted into the most deprived neighbourhoods within this geography.

To support this, we will include information on the most deprived Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA) within each built-up area in our forthcoming data packs.

Confirm your board membership and place boundary

Neighbourhoods Boards should confirm their finalised membership and place boundary by 23:59pm on 22 April 2025.

MHCLG will ensure that all places have robust governance arrangements in place to deliver the programme. As such, we will ask all 75 boards to confirm their proposed chair, membership, and boundary.

Previously agreed board memberships and amendments to place boundaries will continue to be accepted. We will undertake a light-touch review of submissions which indicate no changes on the form, expediting the process to provide confirmation as swiftly as possible.

Submissions

We will ask for:

- confirmation of whether MHCLG has signed off a previously agreed board and boundary
- board chair and member details
- a nominated contact for the place's Neighbourhood Board
- confirmation of the proposed geographical boundary for your place
- supplementary documentation (for example, terms of reference and code of conduct)
- outline of capacity funding spends to date and plans for additional spending

We recognise that places had set up a 'Town Board' to deliver the previous administration's Long-Term Plan for Towns programme and submitted the associated membership details and boundaries for approval.

We are using an updated system to collate this information which will require towns to provide the full suite of information. This will make the approval process and management of the data much simpler and save time when making updates in the future.

How to access and submit the form

1. Sign in to Delta to confirm your Neighbourhood Board and place boundary. The username will be your email address.

If you are a new user, select **Create Delta account** under 'Not a user?' and follow the steps to register. You must use an email address from a recognised local authority or organisation.

2. Click on your name in the top-right to access your account details.

3. In 'My roles', make sure 'Provide data' is selected then **Save and continue**.

4. In 'My collections', select the collection group titled 'Plan for Neighbourhoods programme' then **Save and continue**.

Once your account has been set up correctly, follow these steps to access the form:

1. In the top navigation bar, select **Collections**.

2. Select the relevant collection name from the list - this should be 'Neighbourhood Board membership and place boundary confirmation form'.

3. Complete the form by selecting **Add** under the 'Return' section.

Get help
Contact the service desk if you need help using Delta. To do this:

- Complete the service desk form
- Email us at mhclg.digital-services@communities.gov.uk, and include 'Delta' and a description of the query in the subject line
- Call us on 0203 829 0747 (available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Reviewing proposals

We will review membership and boundary proposals and confirm to places whether these are acceptable.

For places whose board membership remains the same, as well as whose boundaries either remain the same as the default – or had a revision agreed by the previous administration – those arrangements can be retained, and we will expedite the process to assess your return.

Where further information or changes to the proposed boundary are required, we will contact the local authority to discuss or seek further information.

The additional £200,000 of capacity funding payments due to be paid in the 2025 to 2026 budget year will only take place once membership and boundary arrangements are agreed.

Back to top

Appendix B

Funding Split

Grant type	2025 to 2026	2026 to 2027	2027 to 2028	2028 to 2029	2029 to 2030	2030 to 2031	2031 to 2032	2032 to 2033	2033 to 2034	2034 to 2035	2035 to 2036	Total
Revenue funding (capacity)	450,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600,000
Revenue funding (grants)	-	232,000	256,000	432,000	432,000	432,000	432,000	437,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	3,999,000
Capital funding (grants)	-	360,000	1,736,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	14,936,000
	Total	742,000	1,992,000	2,037,000	2,037,000	2,037,000	2,037,000	2,042,000	2,055,000	2,055,000	2,055,000	19,535,000

Area of Benefit