

## **NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**25<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

A meeting of the Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

#### **Present**

Councillor C. Phillips (Chair)

Councillors: E. Amaechi, M. Bird, D. Brown (substitute for M. Etienne) T. Cooper, B. Pandher, B. Saru and C. Smith

Apologies: M. Etienne (Vice-Chair), S. Dhillon

#### **PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

##### HC15 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the minutes of the Housing and Communities OSP held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair; and
- b) the minutes of the Extraordinary Housing and Communities OSP held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair with the following addition:

‘Councillor S. Dhillon arrived after the start of the debate on the Pool Bank Car Park Consultation’

##### HC16 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule available on the website. [Councillor Schedule of Declarations of Interests for Meetings | Councillor Declarations of Interests for Meetings | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

##### HC17 **Questions to Cabinet**

The portfolio holder for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) was in attendance to answer questions from the Panel.

**No questions were asked.**

##### HC18 **Warwickshire Police and Crime Plan**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) – Mr Philip Seccombe was in attendance and presented the Plan to the panel for any questions.

**Public Speaker: County Councillor Keith Kondakor**

The following points were raised and are summarised:

- Concerns were raised regarding the increase in hate crime. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) advised that the Warwickshire Police and Crime

Panel are looking for a solution. EQUIP – deal with race equality issues and the PCC has a meeting with them to hear suggestions on how these issues can be resolved.

- Bicycle theft is high on the priority
- Speeding – the PCC supports lower speed limits in front of schools. The Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership makes decisions on the speed limits using data based on statistics. The partnership has purchased three new speed vans and prosecuting hundreds of vehicles. They have also established a speed watch scheme which can be used if they request it. Average speed cameras have been used which is slowing people down and making improvements on our roads.
- The panel asked how the Warwickshire police are funded, the PCC advised roughly 50% comes from the Home Office and covers 50% cost of policing, the other is received from council tax. There are income streams such as vetting operations, and speed awareness courses. Some funding is based on deprivation and levels of crime.
- The panel asked how does the PCC hold the Chief Police Constable to account. The PCC advised that he holds regular meetings with the Chief Police Constable to discuss issues that are being raised by residents in Warwickshire.
- The panel asked how close the PCC works with Warwickshire County Council especially in relation to road safety. The PCC responded that they work closely with the road safety department. There is an accreditation scheme that gives credit for a percentage of time learning about road safety aimed for 16/17year olds. They also discuss bikes and e-scooters and the issues they can cause on the roads, there have been a few recent operations which have been successful.
- The panel asked how they measure the success of the programmes that the PCC run and how they prioritise the grants. The PCC responded that priorities of grants is difficult, they have to apply and we do checks to ensure they are genuine, but we generally give money to a project with an aim. In terms of their success, we ask for quarterly reports and how many are using the services we are funding.
- The panel noted that the Warwickshire Police and Crime Plan (WPCP) is heavy on aims and presentation and asked if examples could be given on how this drives improvement. The PCC advised that the WPCP is a strategic document, quarterly reports are received and they have working groups looking at various issues in Warwickshire. An example of improvement would be that in the last four years there has been a 40% reduction in burglary in Warwickshire. There are always challenges and the PCC always wishes to see an improvement moving forward but there are limited resources available therefore priorities must be determined.
- The panel asked how do you see the PCC progressing, is it big enough to remain in place, if two unitarities are created. The PCC advised that there is uncertainty as to what will happen with Warwickshire and potentially the two unitarities could benefit Warwickshire Police but we will have to wait for an outcome from government.
- The panel raised concerns around the safety of communities given the recent protests. The PCC acknowledged that there had been some protests which people have the right to do. We need to understand communities in Warwickshire including minority groups and engage with different people. We need to be the voice of reason in a society that seems to be polarising. In

regard to safety the PCC have the Safer Street initiative and mobile CCTVs which are used to provide evidence and act as a good deterrent.

- The panel raised a question in regard to road safety/speeding in how you get enforcement in areas that high in accidents or increased danger. In addition the panel raised that for Speedwatch it is difficult to get volunteers due to fear of attack. The PCC responded that they encourage 3 to 4 people in a group for Speedwatch. They have 80 schemes now in place and they are effective with repeat offenders. For Speedwatch they fund signage, yellow jackets, everything apart from the laser guns. For Police to put in cameras it is expensive and there is only limited funding.
- The panel asked does funding go to prisoner early release schemes. The PCC advised they do not give money to prisoner schemes but we do help in respect of supportive probation.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted and thanks expressed to the Police Crime Commissioner for his attendance.

#### HC19 **NABSCOP – Strategic Assessment**

A report from the Communities and Communities Safety Manager was presented to the Panel.

##### **The following points were raised:**

- It was raised that domestic violence is high in Nuneaton and Bedworth, and the panel asked if underlying data is available for scrutiny. The officer responded that some data is marked as sensitive due to the way it is collected, some data have specific addresses attached.
- The panel asked if there was any intention to examine social media in relation to hate crime. The officer responded that it is difficult to get ahead of the curve as a lot of the Facebook/Instagram users who are promoting hate have anonymous profiles.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the revised priorities in the assessment be noted; and
- b) the NABSCOP Partnership Plan objectives and targets to address the priorities outlined in the assessment for Nuneaton and Bedworth be noted

#### HC20 **Pride in Camp Hill**

The Strategic Director – Economy and Place presented the report to the panel

The panel discussed the following points:

- The panel commented that the development in Camp Hill is lovely and asked if the development is finished. The Strategic Director responded that it is finished and there is a focus now on sustainable and pleasant place to live and if the community want to take on open spaces.
- The panel asked what our financial commitment to this project is. The Strategic Director responded the only financial commitment we have is to the salaried officer who is monitoring and dealing with issues as they arise from the community.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the successful completion of Phase 5 of the Saxon View development be noted;
- b) the Panel acknowledged the Board's regained financial independence and ongoing stewardship arrangements; and
- c) the Panel supported the strategic focus on community engagement and sustainability initiatives for 2025–2028.

HC21 **Integrated Performance Report Q1 2025/26**

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

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted with any questions feedback to the Risk Management and Performance Officer if received;

HC22 **Housing Performance Q1**

A report of the Assistant Director – Strategic Housing was presented to the panel In relation to performance measures for quarter 1

The panel raised the following points:

- The panel raised a question on responsive repairs in relation to the miscategorising the repairs. The Landlord Services Manager advised that an assessment is taking place looking at whether we have categorised repairs appropriately and in line with policy. E.g fire – 24hr response time in line with policy. This would then be adhering to the new legislation that we have to respond to emergency categories within 24hours.
- The panel requested that comparative data be brought back to panel with new categories and old.
- The panel also requested an index of abbreviations used in the report to aid members.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

HC23 **Houses of Multiple Occupancy Working Group**

**RESOLVED** that the membership of the working group be amended to include Councillor M. Kondakor and remove Councillor B. Saru

HC24 **Forward Plan**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Forward Plan be noted.

HC25 **Work Programme**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Work Programme be approved with the inclusion of the motion approved at the Extraordinary Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 for consideration at the next Housing and Communities OSP. (copy of motion below)

**Motion approved at Extraordinary Council – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

*‘that the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Home Office, Serco, Warwickshire Police and Warwickshire County Council (Communities Team) to invite them to an extraordinary meeting of the Housing and Communities OSP to be called by the Chief Executive to scrutinise the placement, housing, monitoring and support of asylum seekers within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough. The NBBC Communities Team is also to attend the extraordinary meeting.’*

HC26 **Any Other Items**

None

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Chair