



Enquiries to:
Democratic Services

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Date: 20th January 2026

Our Ref: MM

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton on
Thursday, 29th January 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Business,
Regeneration and Planning
Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Councillors P. Hickling (Chair), J. Clarke (Vice-Chair)
E. Amaechi, M. Bird, D. Brown, C. Phillips, R. Roze,
B. Saru, R. Smith and Mr J Healy.

The Council is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for our employees, customers and elected members. As such, please be advised that any form of abuse, aggression, or disrespectful behaviour towards our team will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

AGENDA

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. 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.

Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

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. **MINUTES** - To confirm the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 2nd October 2025, attached (**page 6**).

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP** - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and of the Party Whip in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 4E, Paragraph 16(b).

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 & 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.

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. QUESTIONS TO CABINET – In accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.E.8 c) 20 minutes shall be set aside for questions to a member of the Cabinet from the Panel in relation to matters in respect of which the Panel has powers or duties.
7. MOTION FROM COUNCIL-10TH DECEMBER 2025
A motion was put forward and agreed at full council held on 10th December 2025 that a question and answer from the public in relation to the Abbey Theatre be referred to this OSP for further consideration **(page 10)**.
8. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT – SECOND QUARTER 2025/26 – a summary report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer, attached **(Page 12)**. The full Integrated Performance Report is available on the website only via a link in the report.
9. TOWN CENTRE AND ECONOMY UPDATES – a report of the Assistant Director Economy & Regeneration **(Page 20)**.
10. FORWARD PLAN – attached for information **(Page 55)**.
11. WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26 – for noting, attached **(Page 66)**.
12. ANY OTHER ITEMS which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified).

THIS PAGE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

**BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

2nd October 2025

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

Present

Councillor P. Hickling (Chair)

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

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

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

BRP11 Minutes

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

BRP12 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that the declarations of interests are as set out in the Schedule which can be viewed on the Council website ([Councillor Declarations of Interests](#)).

BRP13 Questions to Cabinet

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

Councillor Bird asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

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

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

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

Councillor Bird followed up with:

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

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

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

Councillor Roze asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

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

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

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

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

Councillor Bull asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

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

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

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

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

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

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

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

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

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

BRP15 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Update

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

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

BRP16 Integrated Performance Report – First Quarter 2025-26

A summary report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Panel Members with appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRP18 **Forward Plan**

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

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP19 **Work Programme 2025-2026**

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

RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 work programme be noted.

Chair

Question 1 – David Sedgewick asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

Dear Councillors,

Nuneaton Arts is the charity that, amongst other things, manages the Abbey Theatre. In January 2023, following an unsuccessful bid for Levelling Up funding for a new arts hub in the town, the charity approached the council with a view to renew the lease on the theatre which had expired in 2013.

This would provide the charity with security of tenure, enable financial planning and give greater access to external grant funding.

In March 2023 Councillor Kristofer Wilson, the then leader of the council, agreed that this would be done and that he was “taking up the issue of the lease with the relevant officers”.

And so the saga begins, with Nuneaton Arts consistently chasing the council to move things forward and being given a multitude of excuses and reasons for delay. This prolonged time has, understandably, led to irritation, frustration and, at times, anger.

Following local elections in 2024 another meeting was held with the new council leader, Councillor Christopher Watkins alongside Councillors and cabinet members Nicky King and Tim Jenkins. Verbal assurances were again given that the new leadership was wholly in support of renewing the lease.

What is particularly frustrating in the delay is that we note since March 2023, when we first reached out to the council, that the council has either agreed or progressed leases for at least 7 other of their properties, namely:

- Bulkington Sports and Social Club - July 2023.
- Bedworth Civic Hall - September 2024.
- The Saints - March 2025.
- Indian restaurant in Abbey Street - September 2025.
- Newdigate Colliery and District Sports and Social Club - October 2025.
- Use of Leisure Box as Padel courts - October 2025.
- Nuneaton Town Football Club - November 2025.

Where are we with progress on the theatre lease today? We don't know.

The last update we had was with Maria Bailey in September but she has now left the council and there has been no response from the council to two subsequent requests for an update.

We are, in our opinion, no further forward.

If anything we have taken a step back as, following a request from the council, we made a payment of £3000 in June 2025 towards the cost of a lease valuation calculation and, six months on, this has still not been carried out. This is not acceptable business practice.

Over the last two and a half years the council's handling of the lease renewal can only be described, at best, as shambolic and inept.

What commitment and reassurance can the council give to a realistic date for the lease to be agreed and completed?

If this cannot be done, can we expect to be having discussions with different cabinet members following the local elections in 2026, or with whatever unitary authority comes in to being in 2028?

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

Whilst the Theatre continues to operate as usual, the Council has been sourcing support for this specialist area. Following the receipt of information, it is expected that we will enter into lease negotiations within the first half of January.

Councillor K. Wilson moved that the above question and answer be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.

Councillor S. Markham seconded the procedural motion

A vote was taken

The motion was carried

RESOLVED that the question and answer be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Business Regeneration and Planning Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting:	29 th January 2026
Subject:	Integrated Performance Report – Executive Summary Second Quarter 2025/26
Portfolio:	Business and Regeneration / Planning and Enforcement
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director (Democracy and Governance) / Risk Management and Performance Officer
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Your Council
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Strive for transparency and accountability in all that we do. Increase public scrutiny.
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Not a key decision

1. Important Note for Panel Members - Additional information

Should panel members require additional information relating to performance **not fully explained by the comments supplied**, the following process is essential for the effectiveness of the meeting (to ensure that all issues can be addressed at the meeting):

- Having reviewed the report, the panel member should either ask for additional information to be provided ahead of the meeting or, if necessary, request that the relevant officer(s) attend the meeting. In either instance, the panel member should contact the Chair at their earliest opportunity
- The Chair will then advise the Committee clerks to make the necessary arrangements

2. **Financial Data**

Each OSP should review the Forward Plan and where a decision has been made, members of the OSP should consider calling in an item if they have concerns which need discussing at a future OSP meeting. As per the January 2026 forward plan, the following financial reports are due to be considered by Cabinet in 2026:

- General Fund Budget Monitoring Q3 (March Cabinet)
- HRA Budget Monitoring Q3 (March Cabinet)
- Capital Monitoring Q3 (March Cabinet)

3. **Report Format 2025/26**

Summary of the report content for 2025/26:

REPORT ITEM
<u>Appendix A</u> – summary of : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance measures within the remit of the panel• Freedom of Information / Environmental Information Requests and trends• Complaints and trends• Strategic Risk Register risks within the remit of the panel• Member Enquiry Forms and trends
<u>Appendix B</u> - Performance measures summary
<u>Appendix C</u> – Details of the Strategic Risk Register risks within the remit of the panel

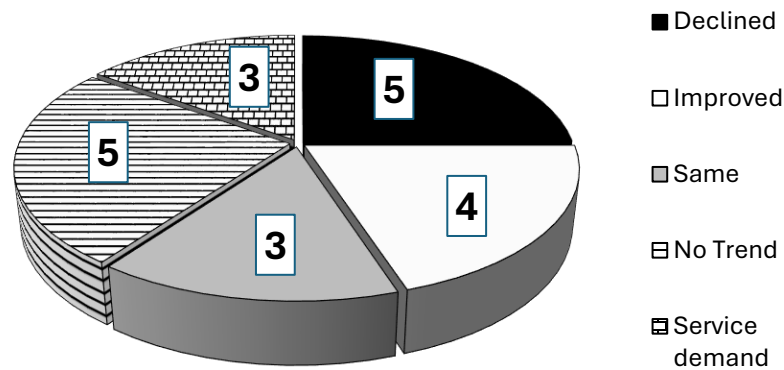
4. **Update - Fundamental Corporate Review of Performance Arrangements**

The Business Case Business for external support to embed Microsoft Power BI software has been approved. This will allow the automation of our performance collation processes as much as possible to limit the manual manipulation of data which has shown to be extremely time-consuming and compounding the potential for errors. External support commenced on 6th January 2026.

5. BRP OSP Summary Charts - Second Quarter 2025/26

Appendix A

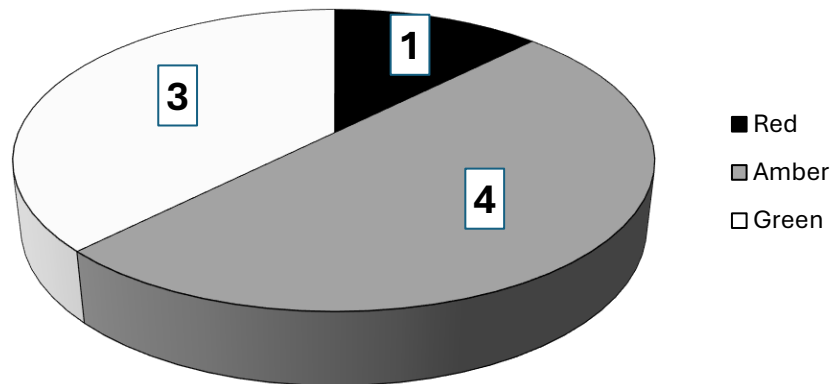
Performance Measures Summary



Freedom of Information (FOI) / Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Requests and Complaints Summaries – End of Second Quarter

	Number Received 2025/26 (2024/25)	Completed 2025/26 (2024/25)	Late 2025/26 (2024/25)	Outstanding 2025/26 (2024/25)
FOI / EIR Requests - 20-day target	446 (391)	442 (389)	84 (67)	4 (2)
Complaints -10-day target	727 (786)	727 (784)	77 (81)	0 (2)

Strategic Risk Register Summary



Member Enquiry Forms (MEFs) Summary Second Quarter

Number Received	
2024/25	2025/26
394	279

Subject trends identified in the current quarter:

FOI / EIR - None identified

Complaints - None identified

MEFs - Housing (129) and Leisure and Culture (58) = 67% of total

6. Appendix B - Performance Measures Summary Second Quarter 2025/26

Performance Summary Second Quarter 2025/26 - Business Regeneration and Planning OSP

There are **twenty** measures within the remit of the panel. **Twelve** have comparable trend data for the second quarter (four improved, five declined and three stayed the same). **Five** have no comparable trend data for the second quarter and **three** are service demand measures.

Four improved trend:

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26
PL 06	Number of planning decisions where an extension of time was agreed	No	40	29
PL 07	Number of planning decisions within the 8/13/16 weeks or the agreed extension of time	No	64	67
PL 08	Number of planning decisions over the 8/13/16 weeks or over the agreed extension of time	No	8	1
REG 01	Regeneration projects - Employment and Education in Nuneaton town centre (number of FTE)	73 (by 2028)	33	40.67

Five declined trend:

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26	Comments
LP 01	Occupied Council commercial property	95%	95.24% (140/147)	88.96% (137/154)	Most of the vacant units are awaiting works required prior to re-let and are not currently on the market. Abbey Street properties account for the increase from 147 to 154 in 2025/26.
TC 01A	Footfall v last year % change - Bedworth	0%	-0.31%	-8.21%	175,982 2024/25, 161,529 2025/26
TC 01B	Footfall v last year % change - Nuneaton	0%	-34.02%	-11.85%	527,267 2024/25, 464,760 2025/26

**Performance Summary Second Quarter 2025/26 - Business
Regeneration and Planning OSP**

Declined trend (continued):

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26	Comments
TC 02	Number of pitches sold Nuneaton Market (against target)	1,200	1,664	1,331	It was anticipated that the change in operation from supply and set up to self-supply and erect may have an initial impact on trader numbers, hence the reduction in the target number of pitches. However, the impact on stall numbers has not been to the degree anticipated and, although numbers have fallen on last year, the actual number of traders has not been significantly impacted. The reduction reflects consolidation of stall numbers rather than a fall in trader numbers. It should be noted that trader numbers are in fact slowly on the increase because of some of the saving delivered by introducing the self-erect operation being passed on to the traders by way of a rent reduction. Footfall is also significantly lower in comparison to last year.
TC 03	Bedworth market – Number of pitches sold (against target)	800	823	709	There has been a slight decrease in stalls due to the changes in the self-erect operation and also footfall is significantly lower in comparison to last year.

**Performance Summary Second Quarter 2025/26 - Business
Regeneration and Planning OSP**

Three stayed the same:

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26
REG 02	Regeneration projects - Enhancing sub-regional and regional connectivity (paths, cycle ways in kilometres)	3.042 Km (by 2028)	0.12 Km	0.12 Km
REG 03	Regeneration projects - Enhancing sub-regional and regional connectivity (fuel / EV chargers installed)	34	0	0
REG 04	Regeneration projects - Unlocking and enabling industrial commercial and residential development (square metres)	600 sq. m	460 sq. m	460 sq. m

Five no comparable trend data for the second quarter:

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26
PL 02	Number of planning applications on hand at the beginning of the quarter	No	No data	265
PL 09	Number of planning enforcement notices issued	No	No data	1
PL 10	Number of planning stop notices served (excluding temporary stop notices)	No	No data	0
PL 11	Number of planning breach of condition notices served	No	No data	0
TC 04	Total number of car park tickets sold	186,000	No data	249,747

**Performance Summary Second Quarter 2025/26 - Business
Regeneration and Planning OSP**

Three service demand measures:

REF.	Measure	Target 2025/26	Second Quarter 2024/25	Second Quarter 2025/26
PL 03	Planning applications received during the quarter	No	82	76
PL 04	Planning applications withdrawn (returned) during the quarter	No	10	10
PL 05	Number of planning decisions made during the quarter	No	72	68

7. Appendix C – Strategic Risk Register Second Quarter 2025/26

There are eight strategic risks within the remit of the panel. One is “net” red, four are “net amber” and three are “net green”.

“Net Red” Risk

R4 - Failure to maintain the economic vibrancy of the borough / town centres

“Net Amber” Risks

R9 - Failure to effectively manage Health, Safety & welfare arrangements to limit the potential for accidents and financial penalties

R11 - Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) gives rise to unplanned liabilities

R25 - Noncompliance with regulations relating to Freedom of Information, Environmental Information and General Data Protection resulting in penalties applied by the Information Commissioner’s Office

R33 - Grayson Place Ltd. gives rise to unplanned liabilities

8. Please click the following link to access the full report:

[Full Integrated Performance Report](#)

9. Recommendation

The panel is asked to scrutinise the performance information contained in this report and make any recommendations to the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder and/ or Cabinet.

The panel may decide to establish an OSP Review Working Party, proposed, voted and agreed at an OSP itself, to review a specific item/activity. This would be made up of members from the OSP and the OSP would be required to set a clear scope and remit for the review.

STEVE GORE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: BRP OSP

Date: January 2026

From: Jonathan White – Assistant Director Economy & Regeneration

Subject: Town Centre and Economy Updates

Portfolio: Councillor King

Building a Better Borough Aim: Aim 2 - WORK

Building a Better Borough Priority: Priority 1: Grow a strong & inclusive economy

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide BRP OSP with an update on the performance of our town centres in 2025 and the development of NBBC Economic Development Strategy. Including Town Centre KPI performance, initiatives and regeneration projects.

2. Back Ground

- 2.1 The challenges face UK high street over recent years is now well documented and shows with little sign of a change in the immediate future. The impact on the UK high street of squeezes on household incomes, a shift to online shopping, changing consumer tastes, rising overheads, over reliance on retail and more people now working from home have had a dramatic impact.
- 2.2 It was identified locally nearly a decade ago that Nuneaton in particular was at potential risk due to its over reliance on National retail. This acknowledgement formed the basis for the successful application in 2019 for funding to deliver the Abbey Street and Bridge to Living developments ably supported by WCC plans for the redevelopment of Vicarage Street as part of the Transforming Nuneaton programme.
- 2.3 Over the past 5 years both Nuneaton and Bedworth have lost a number of key attractors, as retailer and banks in particular move away from the high street in favour of online. These key attractors include:

- Debenhams
- River Island
- H&M
- Topman and Topshop
- Greenwoods
- Monsoon
- Shue
- Pandoria
- Phone Warehouse
- 3 Cooks
- TSB
- TJ Hughes
- Wilkos
- Claire's Accessories
- Store Twenty One
- Boots
- Thornton
- Barclays
- HSBC
- Store Twenty One

2.4 Nuneaton and Bedworth are not alone in facing these challenges, the same issues are faced by every town and City in the UK and Europe. These losses have had a dramatic impact on town centre footfall and car parking usage. However, unlike many town centres across the UK in similar positions, NBBC were quick to identify the risk and able to secure funding to support change and regeneration.

2.5 2025 brought a period of disruption to Nuneaton in particular with major redevelopment schemes taking place at both ends of the town centre, but 2026 will see the delivery of the first major scheme with the completion of Grayson Place delivering a leisure, F&B, car parking and event space in the heart of the town centre.

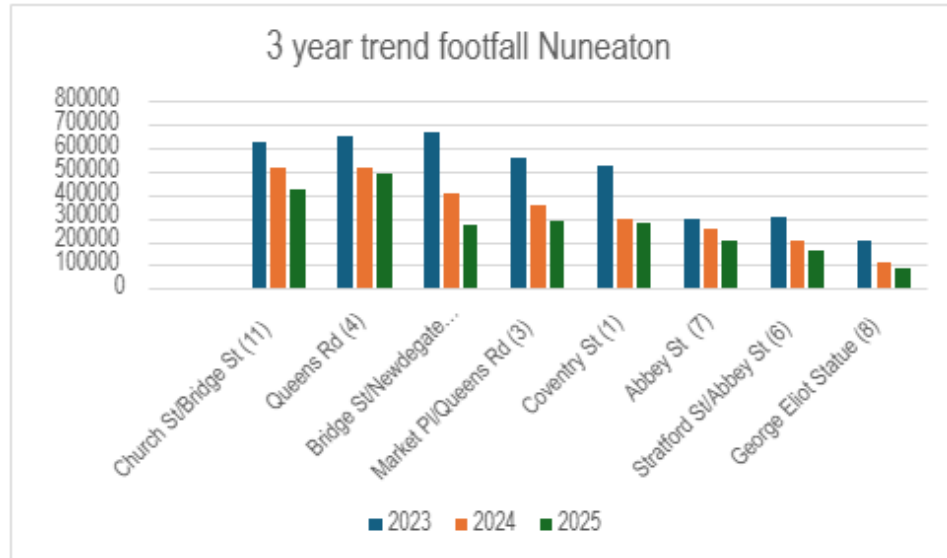
3. Town Centre KPI Performance 2025 Q3

3.1 Footfall

3.1.1. 2025 has proved another challenging year for our town centre as the footfall figures indicate. Overall footfall in Nuneaton fell by -17% on 2024 figures. The area with the largest drop in footfall being Bridge Street with a year-on-year drop of -46%, impacted by the loss of Wilkos and the closure of the retail stores as part of the Bridge Street development scheme.

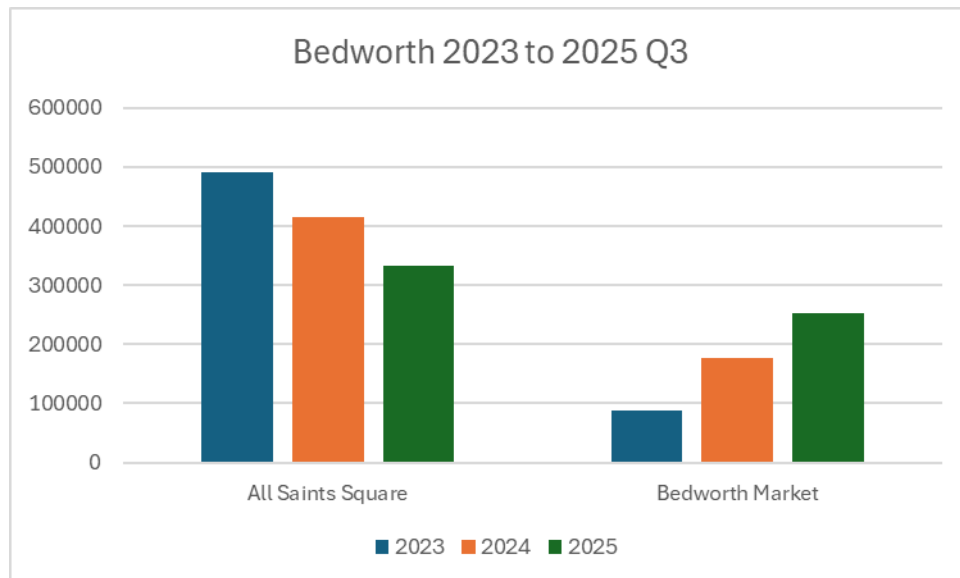
3.1.2. National the early 2025 data show like Nuneaton a continued year-on-year decrease in overall retail footfall compared to 2024, with town centre showing larger decrease than out of town retail centres.

3.1.3. Table 1 Nuneaton footfall April to December 2023, 2024 v April to December 2025



3.1.4. Bedworth footfall for the year indicated an overall drop of -1% with All Saints Square fall 20% potentially impacted by the closure of Boots as the key attractor.

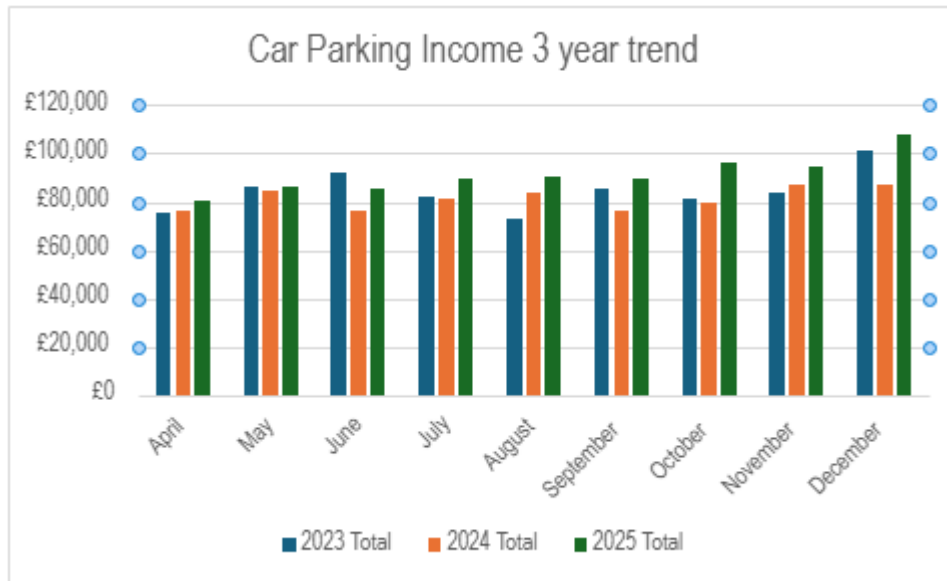
3.1.5 Table 2 Bedworth footfall April to December 2023, 2024 v April to December 2025



3.2 Car Parking Revenue

3.1.1 Despite a drop in footfall across both town centres parking revenue to Q3 increased by 12% year on year as shown in the chart below.

3.2.2. Car parking Revenue 3 Year Trend to Q3

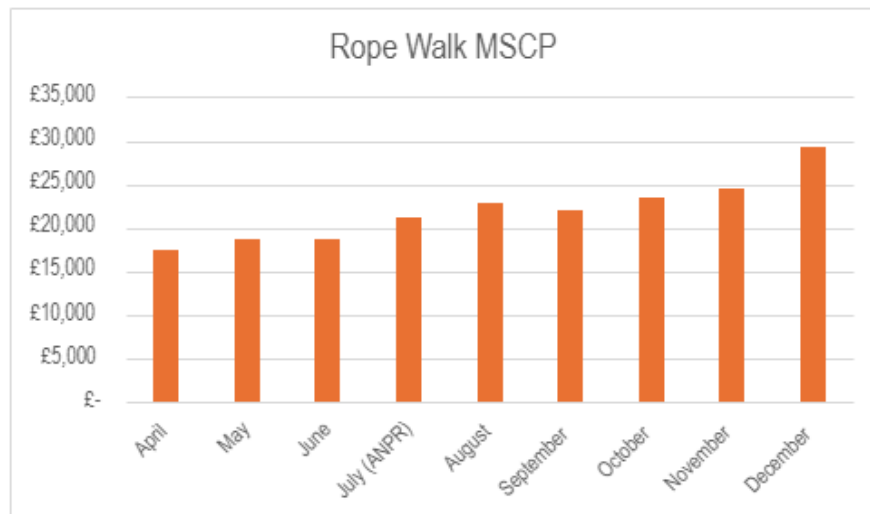


3.1.2 The increase in revenue highlighted in the chart above can be contributed to a number of factors:

- The introduction of new parking payment machines making car parking more compliant
- A change in parking fee strategy
- Introduction of ANPR into Rope Walk MSCP

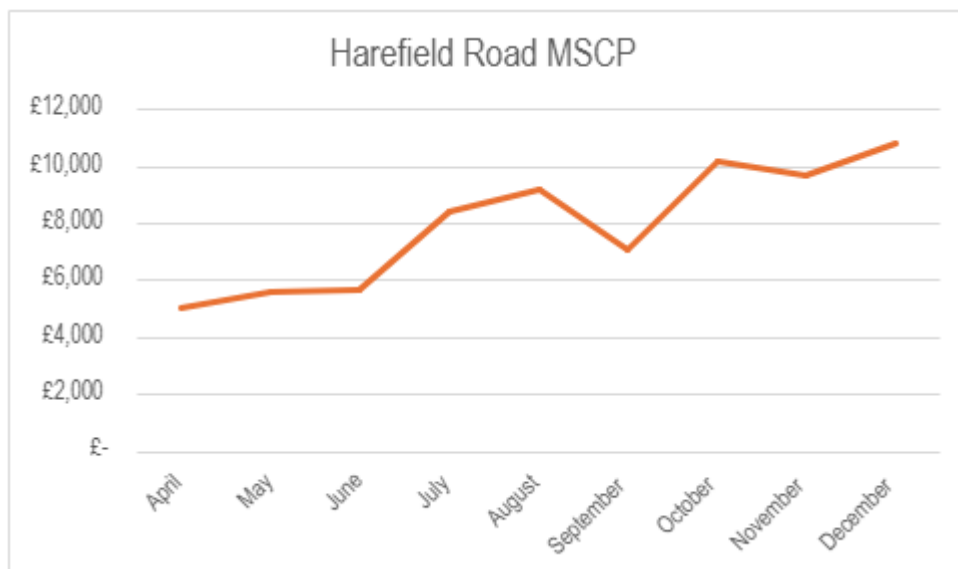
3.2.3. The introduction of a new up to date parking payment system, allowing for card payments and Apple and Google Pay, along with a requirement to enter vehicle registration numbers to prevent ticket swapping together with the use of ANPR into Rope Walk MSCP has contributed significant to the increase in revenue and compliance. The chart below shows how affective the ANPR system has been in controlling the issues experienced in managing the Pure Gym concession payments, ANPR introduced in June 2025.

3.2.4. Rope Walk Revenue



3.2.5. Additionally, a change in fee structure has also contributed to the increase in revenue. The average stay in our town centres is 2 hours by moving back to a pay per hour strategy from a flat fee for the first 3 hours as supported the revenue increase and given customer more flexibility on their length of stay. Another factor that has had a positive impact has been adopting a more flexible approach to charging, by basing fees in certain car parks on their usage levels, a prime example of this is Harefield Road car parking. Harefield Road had low levels of occupancy for a number of years, to improve these levels, take pressure away from other car parks with high levels of occupancy and to provide those working in the town centres with an option for reduced car parking charges, a charging structure of £1 for up to 4 hours and £2 for up to 24 hours. The chart below shows clearly the positive impact this strategy has had on revenue and usage, doubling the revenue since its introduction in April 2025.

3.2.5 Harefield Road MSCP Revenue increase 2025



3.3. Market Performance

3.3.1 In April 2025 NBBC moved to self-supply and erect model for its market operation. Prior to this for over 30 years NBBC had provide stalls, power cables, electricity and set up and

break down of stalls. As trader number across the UK fell this operating model became a significant financial burden on this authority and was not sustainable. The new model introduced in April 2025 required traders to supply and set and break down their own stalls reducing significantly the financial burden on NBBC, in return a reduction in pitch fees could be passed on to traders reducing their overheads.

- 3.3.2 The table below shows the financial impact of the introduction of the new operating model on the profit/loss of the markets. In 2024 the markets cost NBBC £160K to operate, since the introduction of the new model based on performance up to Q3 it is forecast that this cost will be reduced to just £25 and we are confident that by the end of the next financial year the cost of operating our markets will be cost neutral or will turn a surplus which can in turn be invested in the markets.

3.3.3. Markets Financial performance 2024 v 2025

	Actual	Forecast
	2024/25	2025/26
Staff Cost	£272,320	£89,344
Direct costs	£83,667	£77,499
Internal costs	£33,656	£18,983
Total costs	£389,643	£185,826
Income - Nuneaton	-£172,067	-£110,460
Income Bedworth	-£57,149	-£50,000
Total Income	-£229,217	-£160,460
Profit/Loss	£160,426	£25,367

- 3.3.4. It was anticipated that as a result of the change in the operating model there maybe a reduction in the number of traders, but figures indicate that this has not been the case but rather the saving in operating costs passed on to trader in a reduction in rent has actual increase our trader numbers. Records indicate that during 2025 we welcomed 13 new traders and 5 new seasonal traders over the Christmas period, while only losing 4 traders throughout the year. The trend is that new traders are however tending require single pitches rather than multiple pitches and that existing traders are condensing their pitches to reduce costs which reflects the reduction in stall numbers as shown in the chart below.

3.3.5 Pitch Hire Numbers 2024 v 2025

		Bedworth			Nuneaton	
		Stalls			Stalls	
		2024	2025		2024	2025
Q1	April	358	146		432	421
	May	347	244		554	488
	June	359	153		562	435
Q2	July	266	258		565	429
	August	274	249		583	505
	September	283	202		516	397
Q3	October	246	290		487	521
	November	288	231		542	514
	December	211	197		402	590
	Total	4656	3995		6667	6325

3.3.6 As explain previously the reduction in pitch hire numbers is in part due to traders consolidating existing pitches and new traders as a rule requesting smaller pitches. These numbers will also be influenced by the scrapping of Licensed trader status, previously Licensed traders were unfairly penalised by having to pay pitch fees regardless of whether they traded or not, unlike Casual traders who only paid for trading days. The reduction will also have been impacted by an increase in cancellations as a result of inclement weather and demonstrations. These included:

Two full market closures due to severe weather conditions:

- 16 April 2025 due to high winds.
- 04 October 2025 due to high winds - Storm Amy

Protest Activity:

- 09 August 2025, 12 traders did not attend.
- 23 August 2025, 8 traders did not attend.
-

Partial cancellation due to weather: 03 September 2025, 21 traders did not attend.

- 17 September 2025 , 22 traders did not in attendance
- 12 November 2025 , 17 traders did not in attendance.
- 22 November 2025 , 16 traders did not in attendance.
- 29 November 2025 , 18 traders did not in attendance.

Police Incident:

- On 06 December 2025, restricting access to the compound, preventing 17 traders from trading.

3.3.7 Bedworth market is currently undergoing a long awaited refurbishment to improve the exterior and interior of the market to create a multi-functional space for not only market trading but to hold events and community activities. This will in the short term create some disruption for existing traders but it is hoped that in the long term it will improve the fortunes of the market and attract new traders. Work is underway and due to be completed by the end of March 2026.

3.4 Vacancy Rates and NBBC Commercial Property

3.4.1 The national vacancy rates currently stands at 13.6%, Nuneaton is currently at 11.3% and Bedworth at 22%.

4. NBBC Commercial Property

3.4.2 NBBC owned Property portfolio current stands at 86% occupancy which is down on the previous year following a fall in demand for retail premises and delays in refurbishment. (Appendix 2. Commercial Property)

5. Nuneaton Business Improvement Update

5.1. Nuneaton BID went to ballot in March 2024 where the business community voted in favour of the delivery of a detailed business with 86% voting in favour by number and 89% by RV.

January 2025 saw the official launch of the Nuneaton BID. The BID focuses on delivering four key initiatives, these are:

- **Safe, Clean, and Welcoming.** Improving the day-to-day experience of the town centre visits. A notable highlight is the deployment of the Town Centre Safety Team in June 2025, aimed at increasing visible presence and reassurance for both the public and business community. This initiative is already delivering early benefits through closer collaboration with local police and community safety partners, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour, business crime and create a more welcoming environment.
- **Marketing and Events & Promotions.** A key commitment was to introduce new events and improve those already established. Looking ahead, the BID has committed to an exciting programme of summer events for 2026, designed with families in mind and focused on boosting high street engagement and vibrancy. These events will support local traders and reinforce the town centre as a destination of choice for leisure and retail. A new website has been launched to significantly improve communication.
- **Backing Business.** The BID has delivered a number of workshops, business engagement forums, and one-on-one support to help local traders navigate challenges and maximise opportunities.
- **Access and Signage.** The BID has worked collaboratively with local authorities and transport partners to improve accessibility and signage across Nuneaton town centre.

5.2. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is committed to continue to support the work conducted by the BID and discussions continue as to how NBBC and work collaboratively with the BID to enhance the events programme, support and grow the Town Centre Safety Team (NBBC) provide accommodation and welfare facilities at no charge to the team and support and develop other BID initiatives.

6. Challenges & Initiatives for 2026/27

6.1. On going challenges for our town centres in 2026. There will continue to be challenges for town centres throughout the UK in 2026 these include but are not restricted to:

- Retail Decline & Vacancies: Continued store closures and oversupply of retail space due to online shopping growth.
- High Operating Costs: Rising business rates, wages, and energy costs squeeze profitability.
- Footfall Changes: Lower daytime visits, with more emphasis on leisure and evening economy.
- Hybrid Working Impact: Fewer office workers reduce weekday activity.
- Shift to Mixed-Use: Need to integrate residential, leisure, and public services into town centres.
- Funding & Policy Complexity: Short-term, fragmented funding and planning hurdles slow regeneration.
- Regeneration Challenges: Complex land assembly, infrastructure upgrades, and stakeholder coordination.
- Socioeconomic Issues: Crime risks in vacant units and underlying deprivation affecting vitality.

6.2 Positives for Nuneaton and Bedworth:

6.2.1. Regeneration schemes:

- Grayson Place will be completed providing Leisure and F&B facilities as well as events space within the Heart of Nuneaton town centre.
- Bridge to Living will be completed providing an improved connection between the town centre and green spaces.
- Bedworth Activity Hub creating improve recreation space in Bedworth connecting via the green space directly into the town centre.

6.2.2. Funding initiatives:

- Pride of Place Impact Fund. £1.5 capital funding over 2 years to support our town centres
- Believe In Bedworth Fund. £20 over 10 years to focus on Bedworth initiatives.
- Camphill Fund. £20 over 10 years to focus on local initiatives.

6.2.3 Development of new strategies:

- Events Strategy – To create an improved leisure-based events strategy, working with Nuneaton BID to introduce new events and improve existing events. One of the key focus for Believe in Bedworth strategy is to invest in an improve event strategy which will be supported by the refurbishment of Bedworth in door market as a multifunction venue.
- Town Centres Strategy – To create a new town centres strategy incorporating the impact of the changes take place on the UK high streets and locally with the completion of key development sites.
- Economic Development Strategy – Full adopt 2025/26 Economic Development Strategy (copy attached for approval Appendix 1). In 2026 develop new strategy to focus on Inward Investment, funding, local supply chain opportunities, development sites, growth sectors including tech and manufacturing, skills and business support and development.
- Asset Management Strategy – Develop an Asset Management Strategy to include provision lease arrangement with community organisations, review of existing property to reflect retention or disposal based on investment opportunities and maintenance cost projections.

6.2.4. Opportunities:

- Joint initiatives with Nuneaton BID

- Better promote our markets to attract new traders
- Increased event activity working with key partners, utilising the space created within Grayson Place

7. Conclusion

7.1 The performance of Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres during 2025 reflects the ongoing structural challenges faced by high streets nationally, including declining footfall, and falling market stall numbers. Despite these pressures, NBBC has demonstrated proactive approach securing significant investment and initiating regeneration projects such as Grayson Place and Abbey Street, which will begin to transform the town centre offer in 2026. The introduction of initiatives like the Nuneaton Business Improvement District and Bedworth Town Fund, alongside improvements in car parking systems and enhanced event programming, will provide a strong foundation for recovery and growth. Continued collaboration with local stakeholders and adaptive strategies will be essential to deliver a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive economy for the borough.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1. Note the Report: The Panel is asked to acknowledge the contents of this update on town centre performance and regeneration initiatives.
- 8.2. Provide Feedback: Members are invited to make suggestions or recommendations to strengthen the approach to supporting town centres and the local economy.

9. Appendices

9.1 Please note the following Appendices:

- i. Economic Development Strategy

10. Report Writer Details:

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Nuneaton & Bedworth Local Economic Strategy

Place and Economy

2021-2026



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1. Introduction

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Economic Strategy aims to generate a new energy and focus on economic development to reinvigorate and transform the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Context

With a history of inter-generational deprivation in many households resulting from decades of decline in traditional industries, the most recent Local Economic Assessment (2021) provides an uncompromising picture of comparative decline in the Borough compared to other areas in Warwickshire. Moreover, we are in a period of enormous economic upheaval. The global pandemic has been enormously challenging to many businesses from which a large number are still recovering. Many small businesses are experiencing a particularly fragile confidence due to tough trading conditions including increased costs and inflation. Further, the full impact of Brexit is requiring an additional layer of adjustment.

The scale of the challenge should not diminish our aspirations and expectations for the future. To move forward we need to understand the long-term trends that need to be embraced. The future brings a digital world with the automation of many roles as well as the development of new jobs that never existed. It is also a more globally competitive world with the rapid development of China and countries in the east. Alongside this is an urgent requirement for a more environmentally sustainable “circular”¹ economy that can mitigate climate change.

There is unlikely ever to be a single idea, or single activity that brings a transformative change to the whole Borough. We need to build on what we have at the same time as being outward facing and drawing lessons from elsewhere and applying them to our own local context. We need to pull together and work closely with our partners.

We have achieved considerable recent success. Whilst footfall in our town centres is declining due to the significant downturn in town centre retail, there is a growing interest in the resurgence of our urban spaces as multi-functional, mixed residential and entertainment places. Stakeholders and partners have come together under the “Transforming Nuneaton”² banner to re-imagine and revise the landscape of Nuneaton town centre. To facilitate this, the Borough gained £24 million from the Towns Fund and £13 million from the Future High Streets Fund to support transformative change to the urban landscape and public amenities.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was selected at the time by Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of Pathfinder status. Which is a simplified approach to

¹ A circular economy is "a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible".

The three principles required for the transformation to a circular economy are: eliminating waste and pollution, circulating products and materials, and the regeneration of nature. A circular economy is defined in contradistinction to the traditional linear economy (Wikipedia)

² Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) are working to deliver the Transforming Nuneaton Programme (TNP) [Transforming Nuneaton – Warwickshire County Council](#)

funding delivery and includes funding from Future High Streets Fund, Towns Deal and Levelling up.

Bedworth was selected as part of the second wave as one of the 20 towns, eligible for £20 million endowment style funding via DLUHC Long Term Plan-for Towns. Transforming Bedworth Partnership is currently developing the relevant evidence base to support funding bids. Recently £14.95 million has been awarded from the Levelling Up Fund and £2.5 million from Sport England to develop the Bedworth Leisure Centre Activity Hub.

The priority to develop sustainable technologies brings with it new opportunities alongside significant challenges. Nuneaton and Bedworth is surrounded by an important group of technology and manufacturing companies already developing and building future electric transport technologies. We need to work with our partners to help them to do this well so creating jobs and building a skills base attractive to new investors.

Other significant opportunities include the location of the George Eliot hospital in Nuneaton and Bedworth as a focus for jobs, training and new opportunities in health and social care, an area which provides employment to 8000³ people in the borough. The pandemic has devastated the tourism industry in the Borough. However, new event spaces created by the transformation of the urban centre in Nuneaton, planned new town centre entertainments, and new investments celebrating our industrial heritage and famous historical figures, are likely to promote an increase in day visits as well as resident spend in the Borough.

Many residents are unemployed or working in low paid roles. Feedback from residents is that they long for action to revitalize their town so it can offer them a brighter future. Whilst we can identify real economic opportunities, the real test of our success is the extent to which we can provide a “step up” to some of our most vulnerable and excluded residents. This strategy presents the key themes and objectives that we will pursue to move towards a more prosperous future for all.

³ Business Register and Employment Survey 2022

2. Overview of the economy in Nuneaton and Bedworth

An introduction to the Borough

Nuneaton and Bedworth is a local government district in northern Warwickshire consisting of the towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth, the large village of Bulkington and the green belt land in between. With approximately 85,600 residents, Nuneaton is the largest town in the County. The author George Eliot was born here and lived in the town for much of her early life. In Nuneaton town centre, the Ropewalk Shopping Centre, and the older Abbeygate Shopping Centre are the main retail facilities although recently some key anchor stores have been lost due to the growth in online trade. The town has strong motorway transport links with good accessibility making it an important commuter town for nearby Coventry. The health industry is a major employer in the borough, providing employment to over 8000 people and has a presence on the high street.

Located to the southwest of Nuneaton is Bedworth. With a population of around 31000, it is composed mainly of large housing estates with a central park – the Miners Welfare Park. Now rather tired in appearance, the town centre contains national high street retail names as well as independent retailers, charity shops and banks. Bedworth is also home to the Bayton Road industrial estate. This offers a variety of industrial and commercial units of all sizes suitable for light industrial, trade and warehouse use.

Bulkington village is located to the east of the towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth. It is largely a commuter village for nearby urban centres such as Coventry, Nuneaton, Bedworth, Hinckley and Leicester.

A range of businesses involved in the automotive, aerospace and engineering supply chains are active in the area. The MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone, a park for automotive research and development is based to the north (just within the North Warwickshire district boundary). Most of the VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses (89%) in the Borough are small, employing less than 10 people⁴. Examples of larger firms include Brose, FedEx (Head Office), Dairy Crest, RS Components, and recently Rhenus. The Borough is well located for the logistics industry, being near major motorway transport links.

The socio-economic profile of the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth is less prosperous than the rest of Warwickshire. A key focus for the Borough Council and its partners is improving the social and economic prospects for the area particularly in the light of recent economic shocks and long-term technology and geo-political change.

Global issues impacting on the local economy

Post Covid -19 and effects from Ukraine war, inflation and increase in interest rates have led to the deepest recession in modern times which has been disproportionately felt by deprived communities with mortality rates in these localities being more than double the

⁴ Inter departmental Business Register (IDBR) (2024) NOMIS

rate of the least deprived areas^{5,6}. Whilst furlough has cushioned the impact of the economic shock, by May 2021, the Borough had the highest rate of unemployment in Warwickshire with the worst levels being experienced in deprived wards. By spring 2021, the economy had started to improve and by July 2021 job vacancy rates were nearly at pre-pandemic levels. However, the long-term outlook remains uncertain.

The effects of the pandemic have masked the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the EU ("Brexit"). The Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the UK and the EU has posed a significant challenge for many UK businesses with Make UK⁷, reporting early 2021 that nearly three quarters of its members had experienced delays exporting to or importing from the EU. Since the end of the Transition period (December 31st 2020), many businesses have adapted to the new trade arrangements, however, increased difficulties accessing workers, the potential for reduced R&D collaborations and reduced levels of foreign investment in the UK are all issues that are evolving.

Other longer-term issues include the growth in digitization across all sectors including, for example, automation, Industry 4.0 and the development of artificial intelligence. There will be new opportunities for jobs but there will also be widespread unemployment especially in low skilled roles.

The development of sustainable technologies is accelerating rapidly. Britain's manufacturing industry is well positioned to contribute but needs to be appropriately supported. In addition, geo-political change means that despite turbulent politics, China and the Pacific region is increasing in importance and providing a growing export and import market for the UK.

Local issues

The local economy is impacted by several significant challenges. The competitiveness of businesses is low in the Borough compared to other districts within the County. There is also a smaller number of businesses per capita. Skill levels of residents are lower than within other districts in the County. There are significant problems of traffic congestion, and currently limited 5G and no full fibre broadband.

In terms of the local population, the Borough has high levels of unemployment, especially in certain wards and this has been exacerbated post covid and inflation. The educational achievement of both young people and adults is low and the population experiences high levels of physical and mental ill health. Some areas of the Borough have disproportionately high levels of crime.

⁵ Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment (September 2020) – A paper to the WCC Health and Well Being Board

⁶ Coventry and Warwickshire Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment: Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment July 2020

⁷ Make UK is a national trade organisation that supports manufacturing industry

Findings from local community surveys and consultations highlight that Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres have a “tired” feel and footfall is falling. The retail offer in both towns is declining and there is a lack of suitable space for new businesses to replace the loss of retail activity particularly flexible grade A and B office accommodation and small manufacturing workspaces. This limits the potential for business diversification.

There are few leisure and entertainment options. Green spaces such as the local parks are not well connected with the town centres. There are poor facilities for cyclists and pedestrians, few quality cafes and restaurants and natural and heritage assets are underutilised. Vehicular access around the town centres is restricted by congestion and as a result parts of the centre of Nuneaton are covered by an Air Quality Management Area.

In terms of the sustainability of the economy, the level of CO2 emitted in the Borough is lower per capita than for other districts in the County, however, a significant level of work needs to be undertaken to ready the Borough to follow central government policy on this. A large number of electric vehicle charging points and associated infrastructure still needs to be installed. In addition, all buildings will eventually need to be converted so that their heating appliances do not depend on gas. Whilst the level of CO2 emissions for industrial activity is less than for transport and heating, work needs to continue to ensure that industry can respond to the net zero carbon challenge.

3. Our Vision



Promoting enterprise and prosperity to deliver a step change for Nuneaton and Bedworth allowing residents and businesses to regain pride in their Borough as a place to live, work and visit.



To support the delivery of this vision, the Council supports 4 Priorities to promote economic development. These are:

- Developing a more competitive economy
- Promoting Prosperity
- Promoting a strong sense of place
- Promoting a sustainable economy

The remainder of this document highlights the main issues relevant to these four themes and introduces the key objectives for achieving the Vision.

PRIORITY 1: Developing a more competitive economy

Introduction

There were 3520 businesses headquartered in Nuneaton and Bedworth in 2024 and 4255 business units (or premises)⁸. This includes those registered for VAT and PAYE but does not include unregistered small independent traders. There are likely to be around 7489 businesses located in the Borough in total (including independent traders). The economy is dominated by small businesses. Around 53% of all businesses are not registered for VAT or PAYE and of those which are, 89% employ less than 10 people. The distribution of businesses by sector mirrors County and national trends. The Borough has the highest percentage of production, motor trades, retail and health businesses compared to the rest of Warwickshire although there is a higher proportion of construction, retail and storage firms within the Borough⁹.

The impact of Covid 19 on overall business numbers is unclear - business unit numbers increased by 11% between 2015 and 2020 (an increase which is the same as the County and England)¹⁰. The vast majority were sole traders or micro businesses. However, data is not yet available to assess the full impact of Covid 19 on business survivals.

In Nuneaton and Bedworth, as with the County and England, the majority of businesses employ less than 10 people so are micro businesses. Health and social care (15%), Manufacturing (14%) and retail (13%) are those most likely to employ more than 10 with manufacturing being the overwhelmingly most prominent industry group employing 10 or more (23%), where businesses have an HQ in the Borough.

There were around 64800 employees in Nuneaton and Bedworth in 2024. The most significant industry groups for employment were wholesale and retail (16%), health (18%), manufacturing (11%) and education (10%)¹¹.

Certain sectors are particularly important for the future of the Borough. These have been identified based on displaying one or more of the following criteria:

- They currently employ or have the potential to employ large numbers of people.
- The sectors contribute a significant quantity of GVA to the Borough.
- There are local area strengths which could be further developed
- They are mentioned as priority sectors in the Warwickshire County Economic Strategy.
- They are key industry groups promoting “place making” and tourism.

⁸ Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR) 2024 NOMIS

⁹ IDBR 2024 NOMIS

¹⁰ IDBR 2023 NOMIS

¹¹ Census 2021

Groups include:

Manufacturing – This sector employs large numbers of people in the Borough (circa 5,000) although there has been a significant negative Covid 19 impact on employment. It contributes a significant quantity of GVA to the Borough (£322 million per annum). There is a strong existing cluster of automotive manufacturing and major supply chain linkages within this sector with potential for further growth particularly in the context of the nearby MIRA Technology Park. Manufacturing is a priority industry group identified in Warwickshire County Economic Strategy.

Wholesale and retail - Currently employs large numbers of people (circa 7000) but traditional store-based employment is declining due to alternative trading models mainly online shopping. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic with regard to both non-essential and essential retail. The Borough Council is managing this decline via mixed use town centre regeneration whilst supporting digitization and innovation for remaining shops particularly with regard to the development of new retail marketing models such as the concept of “experiential” retail and “pop up” shops. Retail is an important placemaking industry so needs to be supported.

Transport and storage –. It has a strong local cluster employing circa 4000. There are good job growth prospects especially with the increase in online trading with the potential for 400+ new jobs by 2030.

Tourism – In 2023, this sector employed circa 2500. Strong employment growth is expected (most of these, 600+, in restaurants and food service). The industry is important for place making and supporting the visitor economy.

Health and social care – the largest employment sector with circa 8,000 staff. There is likely to be strong employment growth in the care sector (400+ employees by 2030) due to increasing size of elderly population cohorts. There are also strong opportunities in medical care.

Key issues

- The economy of Nuneaton and Bedworth is dominated by small firms but has some significant large employers.
- The economy of Nuneaton and Bedworth is less competitive than the economies in the other local authorities in Warwickshire. At a local authority level, Nuneaton and Bedworth generates the least GVA of all the Warwickshire districts (£2,282 million in 2022). GVA generated per head of population in Nuneaton and Bedworth (£17,652) is also the lowest in the County (£33,600) and England (£33,976). In addition, the UK Competitiveness Index ranks Local Authorities in the UK in order of their competitiveness from 1 (most competitive) to 379 (least competitive). At 305 Nuneaton

and Bedworth has the lowest competitiveness ranking of all the local authorities in Warwickshire¹².

- The number of business births per head of population remains lower in Nuneaton and Bedworth (4 per 1,000 population in 2021) compared to the other districts in the County. Business counts per person in the Borough are also the lowest in Warwickshire (31 per 1,000 population)¹³.
- The economy is impacted by a significant shortage of skills. The highest volumes of skills shortages are in business services and health and social work. However, the highest density of skill shortages are within construction and manufacturing. Skilled trades are the hardest vacancies to fill with nearly half of vacancies being within these roles. There is also a shortage of people with soft skills particularly “self-management skills” referring to poor time management or task prioritisation, a lack of ability to manage own feelings or the feelings of others and a lack of leadership skills^{14,15}.

Whilst not cited as the most significant cause of skill shortages, the need for digital skills is highlighted as significant by the available literature particularly in the light of the increasing use of IT across all sectors, the development of artificial intelligence, Industry 4.0 and data analytics. In parallel, there is increasing danger of automation of roles – particularly lower skilled roles¹⁶.

The West Midlands Local Skills Report 2021¹⁷ emphasises the region has particular skills challenges compared to other regions in the UK. It has a higher proportion of young people compared to the national average, which should be an asset for future skills development, however, young people in the region are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) and they are more likely to have no qualifications. In addition, the automation of industry, particularly manufacturing is likely to reduce job availability, particularly in manufacturing. A high proportion of staff is not proficient

- A number of infrastructure challenges impact on the ability of the economy to grow.

¹² UK Competitiveness Index by Robert Huggins, Daniel Prokop and Piers Thompson (2021) & The Local Growth Index, 2024, Beahurst.

¹³ IDBR Business Birth Records 2024 NOMIS

¹⁴ Note: Skill shortage densities relate to the number of vacancies as a proportion of employees.

¹⁵ Employers Skill Survey by Mark Winterbottom, Genna Kik, Sam Selner, Rebecca Meays, Sam Stroud and Sam Whittaker (2022) (Department for Education)

¹⁶ “Disconnected” Exploring the Digital Skills Gap – commissioned by the Department for Education and produced by Worldskills, the Learning and Work Institute and Engenuity (2021)

¹⁷ The West Midlands Local Skills Report 2022 (West Midlands Combined Authority) & The Labour Market Profile 2021

- There is a significant level of congestion, particularly on and around the A444 ring road around Nuneaton¹⁸.
- The Borough has the highest 5G availability in Warwickshire – 98.7%.¹⁹.

Table 1: Key objectives: Priority 1: Developing a more competitive economy

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
Promoting new business starts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an awareness of enterprise opportunities amongst all groups, particularly young people, working in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub. • Link potential entrepreneurs to existing business start programmes including, for example, that delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and the flexible financial provision available through Coventry and Warwickshire Re-investment Trust. • Explore, in partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, the Growth Hub and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) opportunities to tailor business support to all sectors of our community.
Promoting business growth and competitiveness including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping existing businesses to adapt and grow in a challenging economic environment • Promoting innovation • Specialised support to key sectors 	Work directly with businesses to understand their needs and link them to existing support available via partners such as the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub, the FSB, and Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber. Work with key sectors to understand their needs and identify necessary support mechanisms.
Ensure a range of flexible industrial space is available balancing competing demands across industries.	The local authority to ensure suitable premises are maintained and expanded where possible to suit the needs of SME manufacturers and a range of other high value industries.
Tackle skill shortages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Warwickshire County Council to fully understand skills-based issues in Nuneaton and Bedworth. • Work with external partners to provide appropriate skills based training and targeted interventions. • Raise the profile of job and training opportunities in key sectors which are likely to create jobs over the next 10 years. • Work with employers to determine skills audit and potential skills matching initiatives

¹⁸ Nuneaton Town Centre Strategy: Transport Strategy (commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and produced by Atkins 2020)

¹⁹ Office of National Statistics – Location Indicators 2024

Warwickshire Business Resilience and Growth Programme

Aimed at businesses over 24 months old. It helps improve their resilience and growth potential via a tailored package of support with access to appropriate advice, and services to support growth plans.

Delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.

Business Ready - Warwickshire High Growth and Innovation Programme

This project will engage with businesses with ambitions for high growth and looking to innovate. It will target higher productivity that will contribute towards countywide growth targets and create new highly skilled jobs. This programme offers access to specialist mentors, bespoke support and specialist workshops.

Delivered by the University of Warwick Science Park.

Warwickshire Manufacturing Growth Programme

Directly supporting manufacturing businesses, across all sectors, to grow by identifying, understanding and removing their barriers to growth to support the creation of new jobs through improved productivity and competitiveness. A programme of funded one-to-one support from specialist manufacturing advisors that include digital diagnostic, strategic review, and specialist support including workshops.

Delivered by Oxford Innovation Advice.

Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service

Helping to create a green, growing and sustainable economy across Warwickshire through promoting energy efficiency. An energy audit for each business will produce bespoke decarbonisation plans to identify greenhouse gas savings, leading to greater energy efficiency, lower energy bills and reduced carbon emissions. Grants are also available to support businesses with the costs of low carbon adoption.

Delivered by Coventry City Council.

Project Warwickshire

Visitor Economy & Hospitality Business Support Programme A package of support for businesses in the tourism, leisure and hospitality sectors, offering specialist one-to-one business coaching, workshops, and networking - including with larger businesses.

Delivered by Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce

Warwickshire Skills Escalator Fund

This fund provides training support for businesses, which can access funding of up to £750 per person for up to 5 employees. The training supported by the escalator fund is led by the business and its needs. The Warwickshire Skills Hub team provides support in developing a training plan to reflect business needs and employees' aspirations.

Delivered by the Warwickshire Skills Hub

PRIORITY 2: Promoting Prosperity

Introduction

The Borough performs poorly against a range of comparative socio-economic measures that reflect the uneven levels of prosperity between wards and when compared to the County. Data from the New Earnings Survey showed that residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough had the lowest average weekly income (£593 per week) compared to all the districts in Warwickshire²⁰. There was significant variation between wards with the lowest average annual family income being associated with Kingswood, Camphill, Wembrook²¹. In addition, the Index of Multiple Deprivation highlights high levels of deprivation in a number of Borough wards notably in the West of Nuneaton and East Bedworth.

Key issues

- High levels of unemployment, particularly within deprived wards. In May 2024, unemployment in the Borough was the second highest in Warwickshire at 3.5% (although broadly equivalent to the level for Great Britain as a whole.) At ward level, by May 2021, unemployment in half of the Borough's wards was higher than both the Borough and England average. Most of the unemployed are relatively young. The largest group are aged 16 to 24. Unemployment among the 50+ age group is low²².
- Education levels of the Borough's adult population is low. The proportion in Nuneaton and Bedworth holding a qualification at or equivalent to NVQ Level 4 (33%) is well below the average for the West Midlands (42.5%) and Great Britain (47.3%) The proportion with no qualifications (12.2%) is higher than the West Midlands average (7.3 %) and that for Great Britain (6.5%)²³.
- The educational performance of young people is also lower than the average standard for Warwickshire. Nuneaton and Bedworth pupils achieve the lowest standards in the County the end of early years foundation stage for literacy and maths. Nuneaton and Bedworth secondary school children, on average, are less likely than children in other districts in Warwickshire to achieve a strong pass (9-5) in English and Maths at GCSE.²⁴.

²⁰ Local Statistics Data – Office of National Statistics 2024

²¹ Income Estimates for Small Areas, England and Wales (Financial year ending 2020)(Office of National Statistics)

²² Warwickshire County Council

²³ Annual Census of Population 2021 & Labour Market Profile 2023 NOMIS

²⁴ Local Statistics Data – Office of National Statistics 2024

- The Borough also performs poorly on a range of other measures. There are lower levels of physical and mental wellbeing compared to county and national rates with this being particularly prevalent in just under half the wards in the Borough²⁵. Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Economic Assessment (2021) highlights:
 - A high proportion of the population self-identifying as being in poor health.
 - High rates of teenage pregnancies.
 - Obesity amongst children and adults.
 - Low levels of physical activity amongst adults.
 - High suicide rate
- The Borough also has the highest crime rates in the County. This is distorted by certain areas experiencing higher than average levels of crime²⁶.

Table 2: Key objectives: Priority 2: Promoting Prosperity

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
Raising aspirations and educational achievement of young people and their families.	<p>Support the implementation of Warwickshire Education Strategy²⁷ in partnership with Warwickshire County Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting early years education (0 – 5) • Promoting educational inclusion particularly working with vulnerable families. • Improving the quality of learning environments within schools. • Promoting aspirations and employability of school students. • Facilitate place based interventions e.g. Nuneaton Education Strategy with Warwickshire County Council.
Develop effective networks to link vulnerable families to employment opportunities via supportive and empathic pathways and focussing in particular on the most deprived wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the aspirations of the community including varying demographics/groups. • Mapping and building the capacity of the third sector particularly grass roots community organisations. • Developing bespoke job search and support for young people (e.g. job search, CV development, interview practice). • Promoting the employability of vulnerable families and groups (e.g. considering confidence, aspirations, childcare, skills and information needs). • Work closely with employers, the third sector and local FE providers to develop pathways to employment for particular vulnerable groups.

²⁵ Nuneaton and Bedworth Local Economic Assessment 2021

²⁶ Warwickshire County Council 2024

²⁷ Warwickshire Education Strategy 2018 – 2023 (Warwickshire County Council)

PRIORITY 3: Promoting a strong sense of place

Introduction

The term “Sense of place” is generally used to describe the distinctiveness or unique character of particular localities and regions. However, the exact ingredients that input into a sense of place are unclear. In general, the need for an attractive physical fabric along with a vibrant and distinctive social scene that leads to a positive emotional connection by residents and visitors is key. Opportunities for economic prosperity are strongly linked to the existence of a sense of place and an important function of the Economic Strategy includes “place making” measures.

Key issues

A number of community research programmes have been undertaken within the past 3 years to assess residents views and feelings towards the Borough and particularly the towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth²⁸. Key findings were that a number of physical and social issues impact on the sense of place within the Borough. For example, residents complain that Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres have a “tired” feel. The retail offer in both towns is declining due to the growth of online trade and a number of major stores have been lost e.g. Debenhams from Nuneaton. There are limited leisure and entertainment options in the town centres which encourages residents to seek alternative spaces for evenings out such as Coventry or Birmingham. Good quality green spaces such as the local parks are not well connected with the town centres and have limited events facilities. There are inadequate facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and natural assets such as the River Anker are underutilised. There is minimal residential accommodation in the town centres. The combined impact of these issues has been a decline in footfall. The regeneration project, “Grayson Place” will go some way to addressing these issues.

Vehicular access through and around the Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres is restricted by congestion. As a result of high levels of congestion, there is an Air Quality Management Area²⁹.

A sense of place is not only influenced by the physical appearance of a location but also the feeling it imbues in residents due to its social mood or ambience. This is a very subjective perception and is difficult to measure. However, the level of anti-social behaviour can provide an indicator of this. Nuneaton and Bedworth has slightly higher levels of anti-social behaviour per capita than other districts in Warwickshire.

²⁸ Community consultation to inform the NBBC Corporate Plan (2018), consultations with businesses at the NBBC Business Expo 2019, community consultation to inform the NBBC Future High Streets proposal (2020) and the MYTOWN community consultation to inform the development of the Town Investment Fund for the Towns Fund.

²⁹ Nuneaton Town Centre Strategy: Transport Strategy 2020 commissioned by Warwickshire County Council and produced by Atkins

Table 3: Anti-social behavior in Warwickshire districts 12 months up to June 2024

DISTRICT	REPORTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR PER 1,000 POPULATION
Nuneaton and Bedworth	29
North Warwickshire	22
Warwick	21
Stratford-on-Avon	18
Rugby	17

Source: Warwickshire County Council

An ambitious multi-agency plan to transform the Town Centre by 2030 – *The Transforming Nuneaton Programme* (TNP) – has gained rapid momentum. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) are working together to deliver the TNP, by boosting economic growth via mixed use regeneration, including housing, leisure and commerce. Partners including Coventry and Warwickshire LEP, now Coventry City Council (CCC) and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), have invested £9.69 million for early interventions and enabling works.

The transformation has begun and there is growing business confidence., Co-Fresh has chosen Nuneaton as the location for their large-scale production centre, while Hello Fresh and Rhenus have moved into newly built premises. McCarthy and Stone have completed 50 residential units for the over 60's.

The newly constructed Hampton by Hilton Hotel on Abbey Street set to open September 2024 has created local jobs in hospitality. With Phase 2 of the Grayson Place development underway and set to deliver NWSL College, Really Local Group cinema, a food hall and surface level car park. E-Mobility hub as part at Grayson Place development will provide an uplift in the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points will encourage the use of electric vehicles and provide much needed infrastructure to cut the levels of harmful emissions. Nuneaton town centre will benefit vastly from on-street EV charging points which will be installed on key town centre roads close to shops, businesses, and public buildings. The adoption of greener technologies will help to improve air quality in our town. With the right charging infrastructure locally, we will help stimulate demand for EVs and support active local advancements in technology, on which future jobs and growth depend.

Restoration works of a former Conservative Club in Nuneaton town centre known as The Saints, received Towns Fund grant and will deliver a new training and enterprise and new community space. Providing training for people to become work ready, increase confidence and aspirations and provide support to new start-ups, supporting the delivery of £8.6m social value.

Riversely Park revival project includes the creation of new and upgraded outdoor events spaces, along with the improvement and creation of new pedestrian and cycling links, will increase visitor numbers to the park for leisure and events, promoting improved health and wellbeing, and supporting the delivery of £3.075m social value.

The George Eliot Visitor Centre includes the re-purposing of an outbuilding from the childhood home of George Eliot will restore a local heritage asset and provide a new visitor attraction with exhibition, meeting and learning space. This will deliver an improved heritage offer, support the creation of new businesses linked to George Eliot and provide new community space.

New Employment sites have opened in the Borough recently, Rhenus in Nuneaton, a major sustainable warehouse development and Exhall Gate, a newly built estate of production and logistic units in Exhall.

Table 4: Key objectives: Priority 3: Promoting a strong sense of place

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
Promote the diversification of the town centres of Nuneaton and Bedworth	Promote the re-use of vacant and under-utilised retail and commercial sites to enable the development of a diversified urban space enabling new independent retail, flexible commercial premises, residential, leisure and entertainment options.
Promote education	Enable town centre further and higher education options to boost both skills and town centre footfall
Increase access to health and wellbeing	Bring health onto our high street Local GP and health services available in town centre Also serve as education/skills for UHCW student placements
Enhance digital Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of full fibre and mobile 5G broadband connectivity Provide digital training infrastructure to community facilities
Enhance transport links	Implement the Nuneaton Town Centre Transport Strategy ³⁰

³⁰ Nuneaton Town Centre Strategy: Transport Strategy by Warwickshire County Council (July 2020)

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
Promote the leisure and tourism offer within Nuneaton and Bedworth centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop themed events within Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres • Develop and promote tourism assets (e.g. George Eliot theme) • Develop cross country partnerships e.g. literary tourism/George Eliot theme • Increase the number of quality restaurants and cafes • Promote night-time entertainment businesses • Enhance retail especially independent and “experiential” traders.
Improve the Town Centre Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the “greening” of the town centres and augment natural features e.g. the River Anker • Enhance the physical appearance of the towns (such as de-littering and enhancing the appearance of the streetscape) • Facilitate the delivery of the new Borough Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy³¹.

³¹ The existing Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (2016 – 2019) is due to be updated shortly

PRIORITY 4: Promoting a sustainable economy

Introduction

The UK government has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by the United Kingdom to net zero by 2050 and in May 2019, parliament declared a 'climate change emergency'. In December 2019, at a local level, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council also declared a climate change emergency and pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions as a Council by 2030. A detailed Climate Change Strategy is currently being finalised and will help the Council take further steps towards achieving its target to see a reduction in the Council's carbon footprint by 2035.

Most carbon dioxide is emitted by vehicles and the heating systems of domestic properties. Industry is the third most significant emitter of carbon dioxide but to a far smaller extent. Between 2010 and 2019, CO₂ emissions reduced considerably. Across England the reduction across all activities was around 28%, which was broadly matched by Nuneaton and Bedworth. Reductions were least for transport and most apparent for commercial and public sector activities. In 2022, annual CO₂ emissions per capita for the Borough (3.8 kt CO₂) were lower than the levels for the County (8.4 kt CO₂) and England (5.6 kt CO₂)³².

Key issues

Vehicle emissions - The UK government has said that it is banning the sale of new petrol and diesel powered cars by 2035. Whilst this will reduce CO₂ emissions from this source, there is a significant challenge in producing the required infrastructure to support this change. Many households do not have a forecourt/drive on which to charge an electric car so the provision of charging facilities is crucial and local authorities will have a significant role to play in facilitating the provision of appropriate infrastructure. However, the current charging infrastructure is currently not fit for purpose to meet the increased demands for electricity. Increasing the Borough's electric infrastructure capacity will be a significant issue to address over the next decade.

Warwickshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (2017 - 2026) has put forward a range of measures to promote the development of a network of electric charging points responding to the UK government policy.

Local opportunities to benefit from new investments in sustainable technologies

Warwickshire has received a large quantity of new investment to develop and manufacture low carbon vehicles. This builds on the County's historically strong transport manufacturing

³², LA & Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005 – 2022 - .GOV

cluster. Examples of companies that can be accessed by workers from the Borough include the new REE Automotive Engineering Centre, currently developing an e platform for use by electric vehicles and expected to create 200 jobs, Eskuta, which designs and builds electric bikes and scooters and the proposed Gigafactory in Coventry, which will manufacture batteries for electric cars and is likely to create several thousand new jobs. With a significant proportion of the workforce historically being employed within transport manufacturing industries, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council can work with the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP and Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber to understand the needs of investors and promote the area as an attractive location for similar initiatives.

Domestic CO2 emissions

Government support in the West Midlands has been made available via the Midlands Net Zero Hub. This has received a total of £138 million of Government funding as part of the Home Upgrade Scheme which will run until 31 March 2025, which targets households without main gas, an Energy Performance Certificate of E, F or G and a combined household income of under £36,000 (gross).

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) will upgrade a significant amount of the social housing stock currently below Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C up to that standard. It will support the installation of energy performance measures in social homes in England and facilitate the subsequent widespread adoption of decarbonised heating systems.

Around £1.2bn is available, the delivery window will run to 30 September 2028.

600,000 heat pumps to be installed in existing homes by 2028.

Eligible residents have access to a new phase of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding (ECO4) to help improve the warmth of their homes and save money on their energy bills. Low-income households who are in fuel poverty qualify for ECO.

The Great British Insulation scheme is also available for people with a council tax band of A-D with EPC ratings D-G this covers one off insulation measures such as loft or cavity wall.

There is also the government fund Boiler Replacement Scheme to cover part of the cost of replacing fossil fuel heating systems with a heat pump or biomass boiler.

Plumbers will need to be able to install new sustainable solutions, such as heat pumps, which are increasingly regarded as the new standard for heating systems within homes, whilst also being able to integrate new technologies into a house's smart ecosystem. Builders need to know how to fit insulation technologies, including retrofitting insulation technologies into existing homes and industrial buildings. Whilst this represents a significant opportunity for business diversification and growth, there is a serious shortage of skilled tradespeople able to undertake these tasks^{33,34}.

³³ Green Jobs Taskforce: Report to Government, Industry and the Skills Sector (July 2021)

³⁴ Skills for a Green Recovery: A call to action for the UK construction sector by Oscar Watkins and Dean Hochlaf from the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) February 2021.

Industrial CO2 emissions

Part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Warwickshire County Council Green Business programme, run by Coventry City Council & Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service is seeking to assist businesses to adopt technology that can tackle climate change by reducing CO2 emissions. A range of business grants are available that support SMEs to achieve energy efficiencies and/or utilise green technologies.

Air quality

There is currently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in the Borough located close to Nuneaton Town centre along Midland Road to Corporation Street and covering parts of the B4114 arterial route including Midland Road, Central Avenue, Corporation Street and the Manor Court Road. The air quality challenges are due to high levels of congestion and associated air pollution in the town centre³⁵.

Table 5: Key objectives: Priority 4: Promoting a sustainable economy

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
Assist local businesses to benefit from and adapt to central government policies regarding CO2 reduction.	<p>Facilitate the objectives of the Nuneaton and Bedworth draft Climate Change Strategy, once adopted. Key themes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working closely with economic development partners to ensure that Nuneaton and Bedworth is well placed to benefit from investment in manufacturing and technology companies developing sustainable technologies, particularly batteries and electric vehicles.Providing support to local tradesmen (plumbers/electricians and builders) to ensure they are suitably skilled and qualified to benefit from the increased demand from households and businesses to implement sustainable technologies in the Borough to meet government objectives regarding insulation and sustainable heating of homes. <p>Provide support for businesses to become more efficient by reducing their use of fossil fuels and utilizing energy efficient processes e.g. Warwickshire Business Energy Advice Service</p> <p>Helping to create a green, growing and sustainable economy across Warwickshire through promoting energy</p>

³⁵ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

OBJECTIVE	NATURE OF REQUIRED INTERVENTIONS
	<p>efficiency. An energy audit for each business will produce bespoke decarbonisation plans to identify greenhouse gas savings, leading to greater energy efficiency, lower energy bills and reduced carbon emissions. Grants are also available to support businesses with the costs of low carbon adoption.</p> <p>Delivered by Coventry City Council.</p>
Infrastructure development	<p>Work closely with partners to ensure that Nuneaton and Bedworth businesses and residents are able to prosper in the post 2035 environment, after the phasing out of cars powered by fossil fuels, by ensuring provision of appropriate EV charging infrastructure.</p>
Corporate efficiencies	<p>Implement the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Corporate sustainability policies so acting as an exemplar to local businesses and organisations in efficiency savings.</p>

Council owned commercial properties

Update Council owned commercial properties

Current Occupancy rate of 86%

Current vacant properties: 19

Nuneaton:

Unit 6 Harefield Rd – Works needed
GF 22 Queens Rd - Marketing January 2026
2nd Floor Queens Road – Works needed to roof quotes ongoing.
1 Slingsby Close – Marketing January 2026
6 Slingsby Close - Marketing January 2026
12 Slingsby Close - Works needed
13 Slingsby Close - Works needed
14 Slingsby Close – Works needed
Unit 4 Chilvers Coton Craft Centre- Marketing January 2026.
Unit 17 Chilvers Coton Craft Centre- Works needed

Bedworth:

2/3 Kingsway House – Works needed
5 Kingsway House - Works needed
9 Kingsway House – Office space on the market
4 All Saint – Vacant
2 All Saints – Vacant.
7 Church Way – Works needed
9 & 11 Church Way - Works needed

HRA:

4 New Town Buildings – Under offer & works needed
15 Pine Tree Road – Under offer
The Parade (Storage) - Works needed

Within Development sites:

16 Abbey Street – Requiring structural works

- 23e Abbey Street – Part of development of College
- 23f Abbey Street - Part of development of College
- Kiosk 6 Arcade Abbey Street – Contractor procured to refurbish
- India Red – Site survey to be conducted and costed, interest from local F&B provider to lease

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

FORWARD PLAN SHOWING THE KEY DECISIONS THAT WILL BE MADE IN THE 4 MONTHS BEGINNING 1ST FEBRUARY 2026 AND EXEMPT INFORMATION DECISIONS THAT ARE TO BE MADE DURING FEBRUARY, 2026.

The table below shows the likely date the listed key decisions will be made and by whom and also lists the subject of decisions to be made under Exempt Information rules. Please contact the officer mentioned in the seventh column if you wish to know:-

- ◆ the groups or organisations whom the decision maker will consult before making the decision;
- ◆ how such consultation will be undertaken;
- ◆ what documents the decision maker will consider in making that decision; or
- ◆ how, and by when, you can make any representations about the proposed decision.

Items highlighted in **yellow** are new or amended items for this publication.

Date entered:	Item - Description	Committee	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	Cabinet Portfolio	OSP
05/11/25	Revocation of Gyrotory Air Quality Management Area	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Alastair Blunkett ☎02476 376064	Kevin Hollis ☎02476376143	Planning and Enforcement	Business, Regen & Planning
27/11/25	Contract Value Uplift – Property Maintenance	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Lynn Joy ☎02476 376880	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Housing	Housing & Comm

27/11/25	Independent Living Units Cleaning Contract with NABCEL	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Sharon Clinton ☎02476 376121	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Housing	Housing & Comm
5/11/25	Camp Hill Funding	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Housing	Housing & Comm
31/10/25	Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
09/12/25	Supplementary Planning Documents – Permission to consult	Cabinet	No		January 2026	Louise Hryniw ☎02476 376310	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Planning and Enforcement	Business, Regen & Planning
31/05/23	Asset Management Plan	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Jonathan White/ ☎02476 376549	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning
13/10/25	Food Waste Service	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Alastair Blunkett ☎02476 376064	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Communities & Public Services	Env & Leisure

27/11/25	Regulatory Services System Replacement	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Daniel Lamsdale ☎02476 376184	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
08/01/26	Crisis and Resilience Fund Policy 2026 (formerly Discretionary Housing Payment Policy Update)	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corporate Resources
30/09/25	Grounds Maintenance Procurement	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Katie Memetovic-Bye ☎02476 376147	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Leisure & Health	Env & Leisure
27/11/25	Sherbourne Recycling Facility – Governance	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Communities & Public Services	Environment & Leisure
28/02/25	General Fund Budget 2026/27	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
28/02/25	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2026/27	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

28/02/25	Treasury Strategy 2026/27	Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
28/02/25	Capital Budget 2026/27	Cabinet/ Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
29/08/25	Local Council Tax Support Scheme	Cabinet/ Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
24/12/25	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Cabinet/ Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
29\08\25	Council Tax S13a Policy	Cabinet/ Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
29/08/25	Equality and Diversity Policy	Cabinet	No		February 2026	Matthew Wallbank ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

13/10/25	Cemeteries Future Provision	Cabinet	No		Feb/March 2026	Katie Memetovic-Bye ☎02476 376147	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Leisure & Health	Env & Leisure
29/08/25	NNDR Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
29/08/25	NNDR Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Policy	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
29/08/25	NNDR Supporting Small Businesses Policy	Cabinet/Council	No		February 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
27/11/25	Action Plan – Local Government Peer Review – Next Steps	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Tom Shardlow ☎02476 376004	Tom Shardlow ☎02476 376004	Resources and Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
24/12/25	Corporate Plan Delivery Plan April 2026 – March 2027	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Tom Shardlow ☎02476 376004	Tom Shardlow ☎02476 376004	Resources and Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

27/11/25	Tenant Satisfaction Measures 2025/26	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Housing	Housing & Comm
31/07/25	NBBC Water Policy Review and Access to Open Water	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Katie Memetovic-Bye ☎02476 376147	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Leisure & Health	Env & Leisure
31/03/25	General Fund Budget Monitoring Q3	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/03/25	HRA Budget Monitoring Q3	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/03/25	Capital Monitoring Q3	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/10/25	Biodiversity Duty Report	Cabinet	No		March 2026	Louise Hryniw ☎02476 376310	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Planning and Enforcement	Business, Regen & Planning

31/03/25	Pingles Decarbonisation Closure	Cabinet	No		April 2026	Katie Memetovi c-Bye ☎02476 376147	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Leisure & Health	Env & Leisure
24/12/25	Supplementary Planning Documents	Cabinet/ Council	No		April 2026	Louise Hryniw ☎02476 376310	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Planning and Enforcement	Business, Regen & Planning
31/10/25	Negotiated Stopping Places	Cabinet	No		June 2026	Louise Hryniw ☎02476 376310	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Planning and Enforcement	Business, Regen & Planning
30/09/25	Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Cabinet	No		June 2026	Katie Memetovi c-Bye ☎02476 376147	Kevin Hollis ☎02476 376143	Leisure & Health	Env & Leisure
31/07/25	General Fund Revenue Outturn 2025/26	Cabinet	No		July 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/07/25	HRA Revenue Outturn 2025/26	Cabinet	No		July 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

31/07/25	Capital Outturn 2025/26	Cabinet	No		July 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/07/25	Collection Fund 2025/26	Cabinet	No		July 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
31/07/25	Treasury Annual Report 2025/26	Council	No		July 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
30/09/25	General Fund Budget Monitoring Q1	Cabinet	No		September 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
30/09/25	Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Q1	Cabinet	No		September 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
30/09/25	Capital Monitoring Q1	Cabinet	No		September 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

27/11/25	Draft Budget 2027/28	Cabinet	No		November 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
24/12/25	General Fund Budget Monitoring Q2	Cabinet	No		November 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
24/12/25	Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Q2	Cabinet	No		November 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources
24/12/25	Capital Monitoring Q2	Cabinet	No		November 2026	Liam Brown ☎02476 376275	Victoria Summerfield ☎02476 376002	Resources & Central Services	Health & Corp Resources

Cabinet – Exempt Items

Date entered:	Item - Description	Committee	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	Cabinet Portfolio	OSP

13/10/25	Regeneration Projects Update	Cabinet	Yes	The report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information)	February 2026	Jonathan White ☎02476 376549	Dawn Dawson ☎02476 376408	Business & Regeneration	Business, Regen & Planning

Individual Cabinet Member Decisions

Date entered:	Item - Description	Portfolio Holder	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	OSP

Individual Cabinet Member Decisions – Exempt Items

	None							
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Officer Decisions									
Date entered:	Item - Description	Directorate	In Private Session	Reason for Item being Considered in Private Session	Date	Report Author	Person Responsible	Cabinet Portfolio	OSP
	None								
Officer Decisions – Exempt Items									

The Cabinet Members are:

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

Observer:

Leader of the Main Opposition Group	-	Councillor K. Wilson
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Dated: 8th February 2026

Signed: C. Watkins (Leader of the Council)

Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Work Programme 2025/26

Meeting dates: 12th June 2025, 2nd October 2025, 29th January 2026

Date Added	Lead Officer	Title	Description	Scrutiny/ Overview	Proposed Committee Date	Include in 2026/27 Work Programme	On Agenda 2025/26 or Briefing Note
	Steve Gore	Integrated Performance Report	Quarterly Benchmarking Report	Scrutiny	12 th June 2025 2 nd October 2025 29 th January 2026	yes yes	yes yes
February 2025	Maria Bailey	Hampton by Hilton Hotel Update	At the February 2025 OSP it was agreed a report on the Hilton Hotel (including occupancy rates) should come to the next meeting	Scrutiny	12 th June 2025 (date agreed at Feb 25 OSP)		yes
April 2016 Ongoing	Maria Bailey /Jonathan White	Town Centre Development and Project Update	An update on the current progress being made with the Town Centre Development and projects. Also, any other future proposed redevelopment in Nuneaton and Bedworth	Performance Monitoring	12 th June 2025	yes	yes
	Louise Hryniw/ Sarah Matile	Monitoring delivery of the Borough Plan	Monitoring delivery of the Borough Plan and consideration of the data around the land supply targets.	Overview	2 nd October 2025	yes	yes
June 2022	Abu Malek	PSPO review	Update on the effectiveness of the current PSPOs	Overview	2 nd October 2025	yes	yes
	Maria Bailey	Economic Development Strategy			29 th January 2026 postponed		
June 2022	Louise Hryniw / Claire Hill	S.106 Update	A yearly monitoring report including details of spend of Section 106 monies and biodiversity net gain within and external to the sites.	Overview	29 th January 2026 Postponed - agreement between K. Hollis and Chair		

October 2022	Jonathan White	Town Centres Update (inc Christmas and Markets)	To provide members with an update on the markets, footfall, parking and Christmas	Update	29 th January 2026		yes
	Jonathan White	Nuneaton BID (Business Improvement District)	Update for the Panel	Overview	29 th January 2026		yes
2015/16	Jonathan White	Council Owned Land and Leases	Update on vacant Council owned commercial properties in Nuneaton and Bedworth	Scrutiny	29 th January 2026		yes