

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

29th January 2026

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 29th January 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor P. Hickling (Chair)

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

Apologies: Councillor B. Saru, D. Brown and R. Smith

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

BRP20 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 2nd October 2025 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP21 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](#)).

BRP22 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:

At the last meeting I raised the point about promoting the markets and the town centres, and also the staffing levels on the town centre team. With Grayson Place due to open pretty soon and refurbishment of Bedworth market, have we got a team in place that can market this new concept and also to formulate a marketing plan so that we can promote these new facilities. I wonder if you could update me on that please.

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration replied:

Thank you. At the present moment, we have a new member of the team who is the new market team leader, and we have a new member of Staff who is the new admin for legal enforcements for parking. At the present moment it is the under consultation to restructure that department in itself, so at the present moment, it's all under restructure.

Councillor Roze asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

There are a number of issues raised around enforcement of planning in Full Council. I was wondering if there's any update from the portfolio holder in

terms of resourcing. Are all staff in place? Are there any outstanding issues around planning enforcement and are you planning to update residents about that? Thank you.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement replied:

Thank you, yes, pretty much the same. There are some reviews certainly arriving with the forward budget, but it's pretty much the same. Still struggling to recruit people into certain specific roles. However, the Council still endeavours to try and get people in.

Councillor Clarke asked the Portfolio Holder for Business and Regeneration:

Thank you Chair. Just referring back to Councillor Bird's question really. Councillor King can I just ask, you've indicated you've got a restructure going on, can we have some time scales in relation to when that's expected to be completed and when we're likely to see some outcomes from the restructure? Thank you.

The Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration replied:

Thank you Chair. The consultation has just gone out to Senior Leaders and to staff in general, but it's a wider restructure of some of the Leadership Team and where certain areas sit. So it's just going to be relation to that. I think there was six weeks standard consultation period on there and then obviously the feedback from there depending on what that level of feedback it is, then depend upon when it's implemented or if it's implemented or what have you from that point. So that's really all I can tell you in terms of an update on that at the moment?

The Chair asked the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

I noticed or read somewhere about how there might be some delays to planning applications in the summer, because of some new system or something. I just wonder whether you could update us as to what that situation is and what's going to change etc etc.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement replied:

Yes I was briefed that there's an update to the IT system and as such, when that comes about they'll be taking the systems offline for a short period whilst they calibrate everything and sort it out. It's been, I think, reported out quite widely, even on the Council website as well, so hopefully residents are aware. It's just unfortunate it's happening, but obviously whilst the changes are going on they'll still endeavour to, you know, do as best they can in the background to make sure that nothing's held up or unnecessarily delayed.

The Chair followed up with:

I'm just aware there's like statutory guidelines in the application process in terms of being approved. Is this likely to affect that at all, in terms of applications coming to Planning Committee and decisions meeting the deadlines.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement replied:

I believe in the consultation its explained that they will have additional people working to make sure and try and maintain all time guidelines and hopefully nothing will be allowed to slip.

BRP23 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 a member of the public in relation to Nuneaton Arts CIO/Abbey Theatre be referred to this OSP for further consideration.

Public Speakers: Mr D. Sedgwick
Councillor M. Kondakor
County Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Negotiations are ongoing – a meeting will take place on February 5th 2026 between NBBC and Nuneaton Arts CIO.
- Nuneaton Arts CIO feel there was a lack of communication and progress from NBBC, and no ownership or accountability for lack of progress.
- It was felt it may be beneficial to have an additional Council Member take a second seat on the board of trustees, alongside Councillor S. Markham.
- Councillors want to support the theatre and encourage nighttime economy. They felt it is an asset and provide a service to the Town – don't want to lose the facility by a failure to get this resolved.
- The theatre brings in lots of footfall and supports lots of people and groups in the area.
- It was recognised that organisations need to have stability, and need a lease to get funding etc.
- There have been difficulties due to a change of Officers and Councillors.
- It was felt the Council needs a list of outstanding issues including leases, so they then know who to question.
- Councillors felt they needed more timescales and for progress to be reported back to the OSP.

RESOLVED that

- a) the discussion and motion be noted;
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health (or a substitute) take up the second available seat on the Board of Trustees for Nuneaton Arts CIO, alongside Councillor S. Markham; and
- c) An update be brought back to the next meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP from the Cabinet Member for Business and Regeneration in relation to timescales and legal agreement.

BRP24 Integrated Performance Report – Second 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.

Public Speaker: County Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Some measures and descriptions within the report don't currently have trend data – this will improve as its built up over time, and there will then be comparable data.
- Footfall in Town Centres – there has been a reduction. Actions are being taken to address this, and the complexities around parking (which will be highlighted in the next agenda item).
- Freedom of Information – cannot charge for standard requests unless it will take a certain amount of time - discourage vexatious requests.

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

BRP25 Town Centre and Economy Updates

A report of the Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration provided the Panel 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.

Public Speakers: Councillor M. Kondakor
County Councillor K. Kondakor

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Market closures due to weather – don't have control over certain things. Suggestions to look at the possibility of finding alternative venues.
- Links/signage to parks, not just town centres. Need relevant signage for visitors to promote parks and museum for example.
- Bridge for Living not going forward like planned. BID needs support to promote events and get footfall maximised – data sharing is still an issue.
- Carparking – pleased with updated car parking charging structures. Increase in revenue is positive. Sunday opening for Harefield Road needs consideration, and opening longer so it can be used for train station etc. Need to consider ways to reduce and control ASB.
- Carparking - ANPR is a positive step. A breakdown for each carpark would be useful, to compare and analyse trends.
- Town Centre – put some greenery and trees back, as lots removed and not replaced.
- Footfall monitoring is more difficult with less using Wi-Fi due to 5G.
- Consider those walking in, cycling in and using the bus to get to town.
- Economic Development Strategy included in report – Councillors felt a full update would be of use.
- Need baby change area within town centre, and benches in the centre – especially near street food vans.
- Market stall holders – has been a reduction, try to encourage more. Different charging structures, and incentives for new traders. More casual rates for all, request for consideration to be given to seasonal rates.
- Vacant shops and properties – demand had reduced in the Town Centre. Need investment and look at to look at leases and sizes of properties available.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

BRP26 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st February 2026, was provided to the Panel for information.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP27 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