

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

12th February 2026

A meeting of the Health and Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 12th February 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor S. Dhillon (Chair)

Councillors: J. Hartshorn (Vice-Chair), J. Bonner, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Smith, B. Hancox (substitute for T. Jenkins), D. Brown (substitute for W. Markham) and Mrs D. Ross.

Apologies: Councillors T. Jenkins and W. Markham.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

HCR 22 **Minutes**

Councillor Kondakor requested an update on emergency planning, including training, which was discussed at the previous meeting. The Democratic Services Officer agreed to chase this up. The minutes were confirmed as accurate.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23rd October 2025 be approved and duly signed by the Chair.

HCR 23 **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 Schedule of Declarations of Interests for Meetings](#)).

HCR 24 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Services (Councillor S. Hey), the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Councillor C. Watkins) and the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health (Councillor B. Hughes) were in attendance at the meeting. There were no questions asked during the meeting.

HCR 25 **Air Quality**

A report of the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture with a presentation of representatives from NBBC and WCC provided Members with an update on matters in relation to Air Quality within Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Following the presentation, the Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Air quality versus deprivation and life expectation - the possible correlation between deprivation and shorter life expectancy. Work is ongoing, it is hard to measure the impact as a direct causation. Urban areas do tend to be more built up.
- There is a need to create a healthier lifestyle overall - including creating green and open spaces, but cannot categorically say

there is a direct link to air quality as so many factors are involved.

- Data relating to life expectancy between more affluent areas such as Stratford is to be compared with Nuneaton/Bedworth and shared with the Panel
- Historically there have been issues with coal and factories, and now new technology in vehicles is helping but extra vehicles and congestion is still a concern.
- There is a poor provision of vehicle charging points, which doesn't encourage people to get electric vehicles.
- Local bus services have improved, more frequent buses especially after 6pm would be a positive step.
- Poor air quality in houses due to issues such as damp and mould has a negative impact on health.
- Physical activity/inactivity – NBBC is quite proactive, facilities need promotion, especially in areas of deprivation.
- There are Health and Wellbeing partnerships and NBBC is part of this, targeted work within Nuneaton and Bedworth can be shared by WCC.
- Transport – cycling routes – consultation with local Councillors would be appreciated and useful, with engagement from local people once the funding becomes available.
- Facilities such as swimming pools need to be available to people at a time that is suitable for them to use them – for example available in mornings before work and in evenings.
- WCC do not object to new developments that put more traffic on the road with no opportunity for people to cycle due to the roads they would need to travel on, and open spaces being too far away. Some developments can discourage people from taking local activity.
- Maintenance plan for cycle lanes is needed, including gritting and mud removal.
- Lighting – public footpaths. Not necessarily part of planning on new estates. If people don't feel safe using paths and infrastructure and do not use it, it is a failed infrastructure – and WCC should not adopt a cycleway, or path unless safe (which includes streetlighting). WCC can be contacted with any queries.
- Cycling safety – potholes – people do not feel safe cycling. Should not have any new road schemes agreed without cycle capacity.
- Bikeability scheme is useful but need greater capacity, a lot of children do cycle on paths as they do not feel safe on the roads.
- Average speed cameras make drivers regulate their speed more carefully.
- Planning – need public health to get involved. New developments need to take into account ability for residents to walk and cycle – rather than building on main roads with no consideration to paths/cycle.
- The LCWIP is available to view online, including all maps.
- Trials of e-bikes/e-cargo bikes. Looking into Town Centres and active travel zones.

- Air Quality monitors are usually in place for a number of years, but can be moved as required at appropriate times, for example new estates or areas that are felt to have an air quality issues.
- There are many factors which decide where measuring tubes are in place – if Members have concerns about a particular area they can feed that into the NBBC team. Data is collected over a whole year, but if required tubes can be moved at a suitable time. Data is benchmarked annually against national levels.
- Charging structure of new electric charges - NBBC gets some funding relating to this.
- EV buses are cleaner emissions, but often empty, need to get people to use more public transport.

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

HCR 26

Healthwatch Warwickshire

A presentation of the Healthwatch Warwickshire Engagement and Intelligence Lead – Warwickshire North provided the Panel with information including a background, the objectives, feedback received, the impact and the priorities of Healthwatch.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Funding for Healthwatch is available to mid 2027, and then there is the possibility Healthwatch may be abolished. It is 'business as usual' at the moment.
- GP's are moving to some online services, the Department of Health have stated patients can have a choice of how to book appointments.
- PSA Testing – use of acronyms needs consideration.
- GP – lack of appointments lead to more people going to A&E.
- Healthwatch not consulted on the closure of the lipoedema clinic/hospice, and it is not necessarily something they would be informed about. Healthwatch will feedback that this will be a loss to the community.
- The ICB (Integrated Care Board) will not be independent, funding needs to be given to maintain an independent body. Department of Health and Local MP's can be contacted to give support to Healthwatch.
- Working with Diabetes UK to try to improve health of residents and reduce the numbers of people developing diabetes. Courses are available to become Champions and put on workshops etc – but more awareness and promotion is needed.

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

HCR 27

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.

Following the presentation, the Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Upgrade to system – this is a standard software package which should be compatible with other authorities.
- KPI's – suppliers, using local suppliers. Would be useful to know total spend and how NBBC is 'spreading the wealth'.
- Ultimately, all Councillors and Members will have access to their own portal to view information.
- Member Enquiry Forms – there are designated forms for particular areas. More Members may be using the designated forms more, which are there for a purpose. Councillors may need more training on which forms to use for specific queries.

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

HCR 28

People Strategy 2026 - 2029

The People Services Manager provided the panel with an overview of the People Strategy for 2026-2029.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- The whistleblower policy is part of the Constitution.
- This strategy should compliment and help NBBC through the Local Government Reorganisation process.
- Succession planning is important so NBBC don't lose information and knowledge when people leave. This is covered in the skills audit and strategic workforce planning. The ADR process (point 8.5 of the report) will also be reviewed.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be considered and noted; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the People Strategy 2026-2029 be approved and adopted.

HCR 29

NBBC Equality Policy

A report of the Equality and Safeguarding Officer provided the panel with the draft Equality Policy for consideration with a view to recommending to Cabinet for adoption and approval.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be considered and noted; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the revised Equality Policy be approved and adopted.

HCR 30

An Overview of the Safeguarding Activities in the Borough

The Equality and Safeguarding Officer provided Members with an overview of the current safeguarding activities which are taking place in the Borough.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Referrals are shown for 2024/25, would be nice to see comparisons between the years (for example, 2023/24). Factors such as being better at identifying and reporting abuse and incidents can impact figures. In the future more data and comparisons can be given.
- Referrals can be local, or from County and from other agencies.
- All have a responsibility for Safeguarding when engaging with the community – which needs to be dealt with in a timely manner.

- NBBC do not receive funding from WCC to discharge safeguarding functions.
- There have been a lot of recent planning applications for the change of use of residential houses to children's homes – a family type setting can be beneficial rather than larger homes/ establishments.
- Keeping families together is a priority where possible.
- Training of NBBC employees who may come into contact with vulnerable persons will take place, practically it is not possible to train every member of staff, but there is a good referral system if anyone has any concerns.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be considered and noted

Councillor J. Hartshorn moved in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4A.21 to suspend standing orders to allow the business of the meeting to be concluded. This was seconded by Councillor S. Markham.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed.

HCR 31

Motion from Council – 17th September 2025

A motion was put forward and agreed at full council held on 17th September 2025 that a question and answer in relation to the Member Enquiry Form system (MEF) be referred to this OSP for further consideration.

A report of the Corporate Services and Data Compliance Manager provided an update on the performance of the revised Members Enquiry Form (MEF) process, introduced in May/June 2025 to strengthen transparency, improve response quality, and increase accountability across all service areas.

RESOLVED that

- a) the improvement in MEF performance since the introduction of the revised process be noted; and
- b) a further performance update be provided to the Panel at the end of quarter 4, including a trend analysis comparing all quarters since the revised process launched.

HCR 32

Transformation Strategy

The Assistant Director – Digital and Business Change provided details relating to the production and publication of a Transformation Strategy.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- What is being transformed? – any service, culture, process that is better for residents, that will be more effective and efficient.
- When we have the draft strategy, Councillors felt it important to retain terminology staff currently recognise.

RESOLVED that

- a) the approach and contents within the report be followed and endorsed; and
- b) the strategy be authored and communicated.

HCR 33 **Forward Plan**

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

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

HCR 34 **Work Programme 2025-2026**

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

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair