

**Nuneaton
&
Bedworth
United to Achieve**



**AGENDA
for
MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL**

to be held on

Wednesday, 25th February, 2026

Enquiries to: Member Services
Member Services Direct Dial: 024 7637 6204

Direct Email: member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

For Public Questions/statements submitted to:
tom.shardlow@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Copy to: member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

For Member Questions:

tom.shardlow@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

steve.hey@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Copy to: member.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 17th February 2026

Our Ref: KB

To: All Members of the Borough Council

A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held on **Wednesday, 25th February, 2026** commencing at **6pm** in the Council Chamber

All members of the Council are summoned to attend to determine the business as set out below.

Please note that meetings will be recorded for future broadcast.

A G E N D A

1. **EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

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

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

Please 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 meetings:
 - a) Ordinary Meeting held on 10th December, 2025 (**Page 9**)
 - b) Extraordinary Meeting held on 21st January 2026 (**Page 27**)
 - c) Extraordinary Meeting held on 28th January 2026 (**Page 32**)
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in matters under consideration pursuant to Council procedure Rule 4A.2(iii).

a) Declaring interests at meetings

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

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

There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.

2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

b) General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011

As the agenda for consideration by Full Council includes budget related matters and setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a general dispensation applies to all elected members associated to the budget and Council tax related items on the agenda, as per the Council Schedule of Declarations of Interests 2025/2026 contained in the link above.

c) Notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 - non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty to declare an interest on any councillor/elected member who is two or more months in arrears with their Council Tax payments if they attend any meeting involved in setting the Council tax rate for the local authority. They must abstain from any vote involved in the setting of the Council tax rate until they are no longer in arrears

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS - to receive announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - (maximum 20 minutes).
to hear and answer questions by any resident of the Borough concerning the work of the Council where notice has been given (maximum 20 minutes). A copy of the Procedure Rule 9 is attached (**Page 36**) and this is not subject to debate. A question or statement can be submitted using the link below which will send your submission to the Chief Executive and Member Services: [Ask a question at meetings of Full Council | Public participation at meetings | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)
7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS - (Council Procedure Rule 10). A copy of Procedure Rule 10 is attached. (**Page 38**) and this is not subject to debate.
8. SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS - (Access to Information Procedure Rule 4B.16) - None
9. CABINET – report by Leader of the Council (**Page 40**)

Members may ask questions on the report and receive answers from the Leader or other Cabinet members, and this is not subject to debate.

10. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR – to give consideration to the selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2026/27.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET OR OTHER COMMITTEE

Cabinet – 21st January 2026

a) Recommendation from Local Government Reform Sub-committee – Community Governance

At its meeting held on 21st January 2026 a report (**copy attached Page 44**) by the Chief Executive was considered and the following recommendation put forward for Council approval:

It be recommended to Council that it is most logical to defer a full council decision to initiate a Community Governance Review, until the Government has decided on the future structure or local government within Warwickshire

Audit and Standards Committee – 3rd February 2026

b) TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2025/2026

At its meeting held on 3rd February 2026 a report (**copy attached Page 65**) by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner was considered, and the following recommendation put forward for Council approval:

It be recommended to council that:

- i) the Treasury Management Report for 2025/26 - Quarter 3 report be noted; and**
- ii) the update to the Treasury Management Practices in Appendix A of the report (TMP 5) be approved**

Audit and Standards Committee – 3rd February 2026

c) TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES 2026/27

At its meeting held on 3rd February 2026 a report (**copy attached Page 82**) by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner was considered, and the following recommendations put forward for Council approval:

It be recommended to council that the updated TMPs be approved.

Audit and Standards Committee – 3rd February 2026

d) TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (TMSS) 2026/27

At its meeting held on 3rd February 2026 a report (**copy attached Page 124**) by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner was considered, and the following recommendation was put forward for Council approval:

It be recommended to council the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including all Prudential Indicators, the MRP Policy and Annual Investment Strategy be approved.

Audit and Standards Committee – 3rd February 2026

e) CONSTITUTION UPDATES – REPORT FROM CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP

At its meeting held on 3rd February 2026 a report (**copy attached Page 166**) by the Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance was considered, and the following recommendations were put forward for Council approval

It be recommended to Council that:

- i. the number of signatories required for Motions on Notice be amended to one (1) Councillor and a Seconder;**
- ii. the Civic Honours Sub-Committee membership list be amended by removing ‘The Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Services’ and replace with ‘One other Cabinet Member’ as per Table 2 under 4.3.1 of the report;**
- iii. the Terms of Reference for the Shareholder Committee be included as per 4.4.2 of the report;**
- iv. It be ensured all public meetings have a Vice Chair appointed with effect from the 2026/2027 Municipal Year, as proposed in 4.5.1 of the report; and**
- v. the wording under 4E.15 of the Constitution be amended as per Table 3 under 4.6.1. of the report.**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

f) GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday, 25th February on the General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27. **Report attached (Page 176)**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

g) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2026/27

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday, 25th February on the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2026/27. **Report attached (Page 241).**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

h) CAPITAL BUDGET 2026/27

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday, 25th February on the Capital Budget 2026/27. **Report attached (Page 251)**

i) COUNCIL TAX 2026/27 – following consideration of the above items the Council is required to determine the Council Tax for 2026/27. **Resolution to follow**

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty to declare an interest on any councillor who is two or more months in arrears with their Council Tax payments if they attend any meeting involved in setting the Council tax rate for the local authority. They

must abstain from any vote involved in the setting of the Council tax rate until they are no longer in arrears.

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

j) LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday 25th February on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. **Report attached (Page 260) (Appendix A – online only, see separate document)**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

k) CRISIS AND RESILIENCE FUND POLICY 2026

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday 25th February on the Crisis and Resilience Fund Policy 2026. **Report attached (Page 264)**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

l) COUNCIL TAX S13A POLICY

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday 25th February on the Council Tax S13A Policy. **Report attached (Page 283)**

Cabinet – 25th February 2026

m) NBBC BUSINESS RATE DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY

The Council will be asked to consider recommendations agreed at Cabinet to be held prior to full council on Wednesday 25th February on the NBBC Business Rate Discretionary Relief Policy. **Report attached (Page 296)**

NOTE: Points of Order and Personal Explanation can only be raised in accordance with Council Procedure Rules which are set out below:-

Point of order

A Member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The Member must indicate the rule of law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The Mayor shall consider the Point of Order and, if necessary, take advice on the matter from the Monitoring Officer and, shall then rule on the Point of Order raised. There shall be no discussion or challenge to the advice given or the Mayors decision in the meeting. If a Member persistently seeks to raise a Point of Order but is unable to identify the procedure rule or legal principle infringed then, after having being warned by the Mayor, any further abuse of this procedure rule shall not be tolerated and the Mayor shall move that the Member not be heard further pursuant to Procedure Rule 4.19.13. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

Personal explanation

A Member may make a point of personal explanation at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the Member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

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.

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

10th December 2025

A Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 10th December 2025.

Present

The Mayor (Councillor B. Saru)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. Sheppard)

Councillors E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, K. Price, R. Roze, J. Sheppard, C. Smith, R. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins, K. Wilson and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Councillors D. Brown, L. Cvetkovic and C. Phillips

CL39 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 16th September 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor;
- b) the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 17th September 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor; and
- c) the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29th October 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor

CL40 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule which can be viewed on the website.

CL41 **Announcements**

The Mayor wished to express his gratitude for everyone involved in the Christmas Light Switch On's including officers, councillors, stall holders and residents.

Councillor K. Wilson and Councillor C. Watkins both announced that in the spirit of Christmas and as per tradition for the December Council meeting, Councillors were to participate in wearing a Christmas Jumper and donations were made to the Mayor's Appeal.

CL42 **Public Participation**

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.

Question 2 – Nicola Fentiman asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement

At the previous council meeting, I asked why the community facilities and associated buildings at Hawkesbury Village — which are physically complete — remain unopened and unavailable for public use. This is not just the village community building and orchid & allotments. This also includes other public footpaths. For example the paths above the mine shifts close to Heritage Drive, have been recapped and pathways base work completed over 18 months ago. This land is still fenced off and due to this the paths ways are overgrown just like the allotments.

At the last meeting, the only explanation given was a lack of legal capacity. This is not a sufficient justification for inaction on a major Section 106 obligation affecting an entire community.

As this position has significant consequences for the residents of Hawkesbury, can the Council please provide:

1. A clear timetable for when the legal work required to bring these facilities into public use will be completed;
2. Confirmation of whether the developer has met, or breached, its Section 106 obligations for the community building, allotments and associated infrastructure on the Hawkesbury site
3. Details of what action the Council has taken since the last meeting to progress this matter.

The community needs assurance that this issue is not being indefinitely delayed and that the Council is actively addressing its responsibilities.

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows:

There are two S106 agreements in relation to the site. The first is dated 10th May 2021 and relates to application 036870 (land owned by Vistry). This governs the construction of community infrastructure, open space, allotments, and community

building, and sets out the Management & Maintenance Company (MMC) and rent/service charge mechanisms. It requires the formation of a management company to manage public open space, community assets, and infrastructure. The second is dated 19th August 2022 and relates to application 037807. This pertains to phase 2 (land owned by Tilia), with similar MMC and maintenance provisions.

There have been a number of meetings between Planning Officers and Legal to try and move the situation forwards. In October, Counsel advice was sought. A further meeting with Counsel has taken place on 20th November 2025 and following this a formal letter was sent to Vistry who are the housebuilder on 21st November which set out the breaches of the S106 agreement and a request they set out their position in relation to the breaches identified. A response to this letter was requested within 21 days. Upon receipt of the response, the Council will then consider it's position and determine the appropriate course of action.

Question 3 – John Blackburn asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement;

How much has been spent by NBBC on salary costs for planning enforcement legal officers since May 2021 when a section 106 deed for the Hawkesbury old golf course was signed by the council and what is the estimated salary cost of employing a permanent legal officer for planning enforcement (rather than a succession of locum temporary posts) to improve the service to electors since the conditions this deed were breached over two years ago?

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows;

I refer to the response already given in respect of S106 and Land Ownership.

The Council does not have a Planning Enforcement Legal Officer post and therefore the Council cannot provide salary information. Instead, the Council has a Planning Solicitor role within the Legal Team and a Planning Enforcement Team within Planning.

In terms of Planning Enforcement, since April 2025 the team has been very under staffed and has not had any permanent members of staff. The team has been resourced using contractor staff and we currently have one Planning Enforcement Officer covering the whole borough. The Planning Enforcement Team has experienced a high turnover of staff with 5 staff members having left

their positions with the Planning Enforcement Team over the last 4 years (November 2021 – April 2025).

The Legal Team has, to date, been unsuccessful in recruiting to the vacant Planning Solicitor post. We have tried multiple options but are aware that there is an issue across the local government sector with legal team recruitment. At the time of Full Council, Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council work collaboratively and are currently out to advert for a shared Planning and Regulatory Legal Team Leader position. Since the permanent Planning Solicitor left the Council during 2023/2024, the Legal team have had interim staff rather than permanent Planning Solicitor.

The Council has recently re-advertised the Planning Solicitor role and are continuing to look into other external options that represent best value for the taxpayer. Whilst having agency staff is not an ideal long-term solution, it has provided us with some capacity, using salary savings, and the staff are working hard to deliver the required service.

Question 4 – County Councillor Keith Kondakor made the following statement:

I need to make a statement about the surface water attenuation pond number 6 on the Callander Farm phase 2 development by Taylor Wimpey. The site is commercially called Meadow Green and is adjacent to the existing St Nicolas Park estate and Bellway Phase 3 (Royal Park), off The Long Shoot.

Concerns were raised in the summer that the ponds on the south west corner of the development were not draining properly, after a summer storm in July, due to the inlets and outlets being obscured with green silt control mesh. I raised this with the WCC flood team and NBBC planning. Nothing gets done as it seems the two councils assume it is a matter for the other one. In October I did get a response from the developer stating the mesh is cleaned twice a year.

Then the evening before Storm Claudia was due to arrive I was informed that the water in the pond in the corner was already at it's rim and slowly spilling towards the back gardens on St Nicolas Park estate. In the dark, it was clear that the level of the silt screen mesh was higher than the side of the attenuation pond. I pushed the mesh down slightly so that the pond would flow more into the outflow. During the day of Storm Claudia, I monitored pond 6 to ensure that it did not overflow from the side again.

After the event I have now looked again at the planning documents and it is clear that the west side of pond 6 should have been raised to prevent it overflowing from the side toward the gardens of existing housing. The ditch on the old field

boundary between Meadow Green and Bellway Phase 3 is full of water and barely draining. I have, of course, notified the county council and they will talk to the borough council, but I have little hope of either council getting it sorted this winter. That is why I am making a statement rather than asking a question.

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows;

Thank you, County Councillor Keith Kondakor for your comments these have been noted.

CL43 Questions by Members

Question 1 – Councillor Michele Kondakor asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

Last week, I saw that North Warwickshire Borough Council was putting signs up at sites around their Borough, declaring that it was a Fly-tip enforcement area and that enforcement cameras are in operation. The more things that our neighbours do to deter fly-tipping in their area, the more likely that people will come across the border, into Nuneaton and Bedworth to fly-tip if we don't also do something similar. Will the portfolio holder ensure that this happens?

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, responded as follows:

We have recently installed permanent fly tipping warning notices along the laybys of the A444 as well as other known hotspots within the Borough. They are intended to directly target those who maybe considering fly tipping their waste.

Without wanting to compromise the ongoing work and efforts to tackle fly tipping, I can confirm that we regularly target areas with CCTV systems to try and gather evidence against those who think it's acceptable to blight our Borough through their selfish and illegal actions. However, I can confirm that we have several prosecutions currently going through the Courts regarding recent high-profile incidents. I would therefore like to remind those who think that they can use our Borough as a dustbin that it is illegal to fly tip and if we catch you, we will take formal action against you.

In offering reassurance on the concerns raised on offenders coming from outside the Borough, the 6 Local Authorities have recently agreed to work together to tackle fly tipping across the County. It is hoped that by sharing best practices

and information, a more collaborative approach will lead to a reduce in fly tipping across the entire County.

Question 2 – Councillor Kris Wilson asked the following question to the Chair of Housing and Communities OSP:

At the Extraordinary Council in September 2025, Council resolved to call a special OSP and invite stakeholders to give evidence about what happened and possible lessons learned regarding the events in the summer and the asylum and immigration system.

Could the Chair of the OSP update Council on progress towards fulfilling the resolution of Full Council?

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Chair of Housing and Communities OSP responded as follows:

Thank you, Cllr Wilson, for your question,

The panel at the last Housing and Communities OSP agreed to have this item as part of the already scheduled meeting on 22nd January 2026 due to the agenda being light on items. Invites to the meeting have been sent out to SERCO, Warwickshire Police, WCC Communities Team and NBBC Communities team. A representative from the Home Office is also being located with the help of the local MP.

Whilst we await responses, the Council continues to be proactively engaged with all stakeholders, both in terms of lessons learned, and in relation to sharing good practice with other local authorities and other stakeholders.

We are working closely with the MHCLG Communities Unit to establish a network of learning for all regions impacted. In addition, we actively participate in the Warwickshire Migration Partnership via regular meetings and sub groups to co-ordinate migration services, share best practice and strengthen partnerships. We are also a member of the West Midlands Strategic Migration partnership to deliver a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to all matters related to migration.

Question 3 – Councillor Rob Roze asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement:

Derelict buildings, overgrown sites, and promised community centres sit empty across Nuneaton and Bedworth, developers dodging legal duties including those for local facilities, and frequently secured investment is not even spent, while enforcement backlogs and legal team struggles persist.

What is the clear strategy, beyond locums and surveys, to clear these backlogs, force developers and owners to deliver, spend obligations, and restore trust in council's ability to look after our borough?

What concrete steps will be taken to fix the capacity failures for good?

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement responded as follows:

It is important to note that that not all sites the Council can do anything about, even with engagement that the Council may pursue, unless other powers are considered and may not purely be a Council matter, and specifically Legal and Planning teams. There are other parts such as the Empty Property activity in Private Sector Housing, and the recent Cabinet report considered 3rd December 2025 Ref Probate Concession Services Contract.

In terms of Planning Enforcement, since April 2025 the team has been very under staffed and has not had any permanent members of staff. The team has been resourced using contractor staff and we currently have one Planning Enforcement Officer covering the whole borough. A restructure of the Planning Enforcement team has recently been agreed which would see the creation of a Principal Planning Enforcement post together with a Planning Enforcement Technician post. This will ensure that the Planning Enforcement Team is well resourced in order to cope with the increase in the number of alleged breaches, as well as the complexity of planning enforcement cases in the Borough. A full time S106 Agreement Monitoring Officer post has also been approved. The role will maintain the register of Section 106 Agreements and proactively monitor the agreements to ensure that the provisions within them are recorded and enacted efficiently. The role will also operate in a more proactive manner in respect of the monitoring of legal agreements and sites.

The Legal Team has, to date, been unsuccessful in recruiting to the vacant Planning Solicitor post. We have tried multiple options but are aware that there is an issue across the local government sector with legal team recruitment. We have recently re-advertised the Planning Solicitor role and are continuing to look into other external options. Whilst having agency staff is not an ideal long term solution, it has provided us with some capacity and the staff are working hard to deliver the required service.

Question 4 - Councillor Mike Wright asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

With energy costs set to rise in the New Year, could the responsible cabinet member please clarify what measures are being taken to improve energy efficiency and reduce wastage throughout the borough?

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

In terms of the homes of our residents, the Council is actively tackling fuel poverty on a number of fronts. For those residents within the Council's housing stock, we are an active participant in the Local Authority Delivery scheme, improving the thermal efficiency of our own dwellings, along with the installation of energy efficient boilers, double glazing and roof insulation.

For home owners, we have successfully bid for £1.4m of funding from the Midlands Net Zero Hub to deliver grants for energy efficiency measures to their homes.

The ongoing decarbonisation delivery at the Pingles Leisure site will see only electric being used from early April 2026, with the installation of PV panels supporting the overall electric costs. The new modern heating and ventilation system, along with internal refurbishment will help drive the efficiency of the building going forward. Likewise, the delivery of the new Bedworth Physical Activity Hub has incorporated energy efficient equipment as part of the building design, including PV panels that will help support efficiencies measures in its ongoing operational delivery.

CL44 Special Urgency Decisions

It was noted that the following decision was taken under urgency rules:

- DO/51/2025 (TS) Delegated Authority by Officer re: Procurement of Active Harmonic Filtration equipment for the Pingles Decarbonisation project.

CL45 Cabinet

The Leader of the Council submitted the Leaders report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meeting held on 10th September 8th October and 12th November 2025 and refers members to the minutes from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board (WMCAB), where items can be read in detail that may have a direct impact on NBBC.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CL46 **Notice of Motion**

A motion was received from the Leader of the Opposition Councillor K. Wilson in line with procedure rule 4A.11 for Council consideration.

Councillor K. Wilson moved the motion as follows:

“This Council opposes the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government will legislate to introduce mandatory ID cards and the fundamental change in the relationship between citizen and the state it will result in for the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth. This council does not believe that the introduction of an ID card system will resolve the challenges our country faces, will add additional burdens to law abiding citizens and fail to address the issues caused by those who fail to abide by the laws of this land.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to our 3 local Members of Parliament to express this Council’s opposition to the policy of mandatory ID cards and ask them to vote against these proposals in Parliament on behalf of the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth.”

Councillor S. Markham seconded the motion

Councillor R. Roze moved the following amendment:

“Furthermore, Council is deeply concerned that local authorities could be expected to bear the cost or administrative burden of implementing identity verification processes, particularly at a time when Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is already modernising legacy IT systems to better serve residents.

Council therefore calls on the Government to guarantee that any future legislation on identity verification is truly focused on solving issues, not creating new ones and fully respects citizens’ rights, provides clarity on funding and responsibility for organisations involved, including councils and prevents the expansion of centralised data systems without proper democratic scrutiny, safety and privacy.”

Councillor K. Wilson seconded the amendment.

A recorded vote was taken on the amendment as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright

AGAINST: Councillors E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, K. Price, B. Saru, C. Smith, T. Venson, and C. Watkins

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors J. Sheppard and T. Sheppard

The amendment was carried.

A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, S. Croft, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright

AGAINST: Councillors E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, K. Price, B. Saru, C. Smith, T. Venson, and C. Watkins

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors J. Sheppard and T. Sheppard

The substantive motion was carried

It was **RESOLVED** that

this Council opposes the announcement by the Prime Minister that the government will legislate to introduce mandatory ID cards and the fundamental change in the relationship between citizen and the state it will result in for the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth. This council does not believe that the introduction of an ID card system will resolve the challenges our country faces, will add additional burdens to law abiding citizens and fail to address the issues caused by those who fail to abide by the laws of this land.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to our 3 local Members of Parliament to express this Council's opposition to the policy of mandatory ID cards and ask them to vote against these proposals in Parliament on behalf of the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Furthermore, Council is deeply concerned that local authorities could be expected to bear the cost or administrative burden of implementing identity verification processes, particularly at a time when Nuneaton and Bedworth

Borough Council is already modernising legacy IT systems to better serve residents.

Council therefore calls on the Government to guarantee that any future legislation on identity verification is truly focused on solving issues, not creating new ones and fully respects citizens' rights, provides clarity on funding and responsibility for organisations involved, including councils and prevents the expansion of centralised data systems without proper democratic scrutiny, safety and privacy.

CL47 Preparations for the Local Elections – 7th May 2026

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted to Council to provide an update on the preparations that are currently ongoing for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough election due to be held on 7th May 2026. In addition to seek agreement to delegate to the Returning Officer the ability to review and amend the schedule of fees when required.

Councillor S. Hey moved the recommendations with the inclusion of the revised section 3.2 of the report as follows:

3.2. May 2024 was an anomaly year due to the Nuneaton & Bedworth (Electoral Changes) Order 2024. From May 2026, the Council is expected to return to its usual pattern of electing half of the council every two years. This means councillors will serve four-year terms, staggered so that half are up for election every two years. For the May 2026 elections, one councillor's seat will be contested in each of the 19 wards (Arbury, Attleborough, Bede, Bulkington, Camp Hill, Chilvers Coton, Eastboro, Exhall, Galley Common, Heath, Milby, Poplar, Slough, St Mary's, St Nicolas, Stockingford East, Stockingford West, Weddington, Whitestone). The position for May 2028 remains uncertain due to potential Local Government Reorganisation. Subject to a Government decision, May 2026 may be the last Borough Elections in the current format.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendations with the inclusion of the revised section 3.2 of the report.

A vote was taken.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) the proposed changes to the scale of fees, as per Appendix A of the report be approved;

- b) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the fees to reflect inflation and/or National Joint Council Local Government Pay Award;
- c) the preparations that are taking place for the election on 7 May 2026 as outlined in the report be endorsed;
- d) further to paragraph 3.3 of the report, an amendment to the Constitution at Part A2.2 Election and Terms of Members that clarifies the future cycle of elections are to be in halves further to The Nuneaton & Bedworth (Electoral Changes) Order 2024, subject to Local Government Re-organisation be approved; and
- e) the revised section 3.2 of the report be approved as follows:

3.2. May 2024 was an anomaly year due to the Nuneaton & Bedworth (Electoral Changes) Order 2024. From May 2026, the Council is expected to return to its usual pattern of electing half of the council every two years. This means councillors will serve four-year terms, staggered so that half are up for election every two years. For the May 2026 elections, one councillor's seat will be contested in each of the 19 wards (Arbury, Attleborough, Bede, Bulkington, Camp Hill, Chilvers Coton, Eastboro, Exhall, Galley Common, Heath, Milby, Poplar, Slough, St Mary's, St Nicolas, Stockingford East, Stockingford West, Weddington, Whitestone). The position for May 2028 remains uncertain due to potential Local Government Reorganisation. Subject to a Government decision, May 2026 may be the last Borough Elections in the current format

CL48 Corporate Peer Challenge - 2025

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted to present the findings of the recent Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge.

Councillor C. Watkins moved the recommendations

Councillor S. Hey seconded the recommendations

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following amendment:

“The Corporate Peer challenge report and subsequent action plan be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panels to establish any further work that needs to be carried out”

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the amendment

A vote was taken on the amendment

The amendment was carried.

A vote was taken on the substantive recommendations

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) report and its findings be noted
- b) the report will be published by 15 January 2026 in line with Local Government Association (LGA) requirements.
- c) a full action plan responding to the recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year, no later than March 2026. This plan will set out clear actions, milestones, and timelines to ensure progress is monitored and delivered; and
- d) the Corporate Peer challenge report and subsequent action plan be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panels to establish any further work that needs to be carried out

CL49 Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees

i) Treasury Management Update 2025 - 2026

At the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 25th November 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor J. Bonner, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee, moved the recommendations for approval

Councillor B. Hughes seconded the recommendations

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Treasury Management Update 2025/26 – Mid Year Review be noted; and
- b) the update to the Treasury Management Practice (TMP) 5 be approved.

ii) **Review of Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy**

At the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 25th November 2025, a recommendation was put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor J. Bonner, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee moved the recommendation for approval

Councillor K. Price seconded the recommendation

A vote was taken.

RESOLVED that the Performance Management Framework and Risk Management Policy and Strategy documents be adopted and the constitution be updated accordingly.

iii) **Adoption of Borough Plan and Local Development Scheme**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd December 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor T. Venson, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, moved the recommendations for approval

Councillor S. Hey seconded the recommendations

Councillor K. Wilson moved the following amendment:

“That Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council opposes the revised housing methodology in the new National Planning Policy Framework as it imposes an unfair housing target on our Borough and requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to advise him of our position.”

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the amendment

A vote was taken on the amendment

The amendment was carried

A vote was taken on the substantive recommendations

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) the adoption of the Borough Plan Review as per the Inspectors Report (8th October 2025), incorporating the Main Modifications (Appendix B of the report) be approved. A version of this Plan and the accompanying Policies Maps are contained online;
- b) the updates made to the Local Development Scheme (Appendix C of the report) be approved and that the Local Development Scheme be adopted; and
- c) Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council opposes the revised housing methodology in the new National Planning Policy Framework as it imposes an unfair housing target on our Borough, and requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to advise him of our position

iv) **Draft Budget 2026/27**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd December 2025 a recommendation was put forward for Council approval on the above item.

Councillor S. Hey, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services, moved the recommendation.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken

RESOLVED that the Council Tax base for 2026/27 increase from 40,809.30 to 41,369.00 as per 5.2 of the report and the surplus on the Council Tax Fund detailed in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the report be approved.

v) **Capital Monitoring Quarter 2**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd December 2025, recommendations were put forward for Council approval.

Councillor S. Hey, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services, moved the recommendation.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken

RESOLVED that

- a) an update to the budget for UKSPF projects as detailed in section 5 of the report be noted; and
- b) two new S106 funded projects, as detailed in section 5 of the report be approved.

vi) Statement of Licensing Policy

At the Licensing Committee held on 11th November 2025, a recommendation was put forward for Council approval.

Councillor T. Sheppard, Chair of Licensing Committee, moved the recommendation.

Councillor C. Watkins seconded the recommendation.

A vote was taken

RESOLVED that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be adopted.

Mayor

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21st January, 2026

An Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 21st January 2026.

Present

Mayor Councillor B. Saru
Deputy Mayor Councillor T. Sheppard

Councillors, E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Brown, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, S. Dhillon, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, J. Sheppard, R. Smith, C. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins, K. Wilson and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Councillors S. Croft

CL50 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule available to view on the website.

CL51 **Announcements**

None

CL52 **Public Participation**

Question 1 – County Councillor Keith Kondakor made the following statement:

I think it is unreasonable for the council to require my question or statement to be submitted in advance when so much can change before we get to public questions. 'A week is a long time in politics' has never been more true. Assuming that nothing has changed, will the leader accept that many in the borough, like me, would like the May 2026 elections to go ahead and understand why I think it is time for a new leader for this council, given his response to the letter from the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, asking for his view on holding the election this year.

Councillor C. Watkins, Leader of the Council, gave no response

CL53 Notice of Motion

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor K. Wilson moved the following motion as follows that was submitted in accordance with the Constitution Part 4A 3 4.3.1 (iv):

Disagreements over policy are part of the normal political process and elected officials should abide by the result of a democratic vote, regardless of their personal view on the subject. However, when the fundamental rights of citizens are denied, it is the duty of elected members to challenge any attempt to do so.

The right to vote has been fought for over centuries and is the cornerstone of our democracy. Any delay in elections must be justified and proportionate, as in the time of war or pandemic.

This Council believes that the government has not met the high threshold for delaying the local elections in May and the lack of a timetable for local government reform in Warwickshire means that no special circumstances exist for a delay.

The letter of the Leader of the Council dated 5 January 2026 to request a delay for the elections in Nuneaton and Bedworth fundamentally undermines the rights of the residents of our Borough in a way that surpasses normal disagreements over policy.

Therefore, this Council resolves that it has no confidence in the Leader of the Council and calls for his immediate removal from office.

Councillor S. Markham seconded the motion

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright (19)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, and C. Watkins (18)

ABSTENTION: None

RESOLVED that this Council has no confidence in Councillor Chris Watkins, Leader of the Council, and that he be immediately removed as Leader of the Council.

CL54 **Nominations for Leader**

Upon the removal of Councillor Chris Watkins from his position as Leader of the Council, the Mayor called to receive nominations from Council to hold the position of Leader of the Council.

Three nominations were received as follows:

Councillor S. Markham put forward **Councillor K. Wilson** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor J. Clarke

Councillor J. Bonner put forward **Councillor S. Hey** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor B. Hughes.

Councillor M. Wright put forward **Councillor M. Kondakor** to hold the position of Leader of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor R. Roze.

As per the Constitution rule 4.15.6. The voting was conducted in rounds until there is a majority of votes for one person. A recorded vote was taken on all rounds as follows:

Round 1

Recorded Vote for Councillor K. Wilson was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (16)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C.

Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and M. Wright (21)

ABSTENTION: None

Recorded Vote for Councillor S. Hey was received as follows:

FOR: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson and, C. Watkins (18)

AGAINST: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, K. Wilson and M. Wright (19)

ABSTENTION: None

Recorded Vote for Councillor M. Kondakor was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Kondakor, R. Roze, and M. Wright (3)

AGAINST: Councillors E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Brown, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, S. Dhillon, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, A. Khangura, N. King, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, R. Smith, T. Venson, M. Walsh, C. Watkins and K. Wilson (34)

ABSTENTION: None

Councillor M. Kondakor with the fewest votes was removed from the nomination process.

Round 2

The remaining nominees Councillor K. Wilson and S. Hey then received a further voting round as follows:

Recorded vote for Councillor K. Wilson was received as follows:

FOR: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (16)

AGAINST: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and M. Wright (21)

ABSTENTION: None

A recorded vote for Councillor S. Hey was received as follows:

FOR: Councillor E. Amaechi, J. Bonner, A. Bull, S. Dhillon, W. Hancox, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, C. Phillips, K. Price, B. Saru, J. Sheppard, T. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins and, M. Wright (20)

AGAINST: Councillors M. Bird, D. Brown, J. Clarke, J. Collett, T. Cooper, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Gutteridge, J. Hartshorn, A. Khangura, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, R. Roze, R. Smith, M. Walsh, and K. Wilson (17)

ABSTENTION: None

Councillor S. Hey received the highest majority of votes.

RESOLVED that Councillor S. Hey be appointed as Leader of the Council for his remaining term.

Mayor

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28th January, 2026

An Extraordinary Council meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 28th January 2026.

Present

Mayor Councillor B. Saru

Councillors, E. Amaechi, M. Bird, J. Bonner, D. Brown, A. Bull, J. Clarke, J. Collett, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, M. Etienne, J. Hartshorn, S. Hey, P. Hickling, B. Hughes, T. Jenkins, N. King, M. Kondakor, S. Markham, W. Markham, B. Pandher, C. Phillips, K. Price, R. Roze, J. Sheppard, C. Smith, T. Venson, C. Watkins, and M. Wright.

Apologies were received for Deputy Mayor Councillor T. Sheppard and councillors W. Hancox, R. Smith, K. Wilson, M. Walsh, T. Cooper, J. Gutteridge, S. Dhillon and A. Khangura.

CL55 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule available to view on the website. In addition the following interests were declared:

- Councillor S. Markham declared an interest by way of her nominating Kenneth Whitehead to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough;
- Councillor B. Saru declared an interest by way of him nominating Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough;
- Councillor L. Cvetkovic declared an interest by way of him nominating Eric Tunnicliffe to receive the Honorary title of Freeman of the Borough.

CL56 **Announcements**

None

CL57 **Public Participation**

None

CL58 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Kenneth Whitehead

Kenneth Whitehead was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth as Chairman of the Bedworth Armistice Parade Committee and serving the community for over 40 years. Furthermore, he was instrumental in the planning and creation of the Peace Podium in Bedworth building a movement rooted in remembrance, pride and community unity

Councillor S. Markham moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor D. Brown.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr Kenneth Whitehead be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr Kenneth Whitehead on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL59 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Eric Tunncliffe

Eric Tunncliffe was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth as Chairman of the Bedworth Lions and raising essential funds to support local charities and community organisations for 50 years. In addition, he was awarded the Melvyn Jones Fellowship award for his outstanding contribution to humanitarian services in 2024.

Councillor L. Cvetkovic moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor S. Markham.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr Eric Tunnicliffe be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr Eric Tunnicliffe on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL60 Nomination of Honorary Freeman – Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO

Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition of his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth by way of him being a Major in the Queen's Gurkha Regiment and honoured as a Queen's Gurkha Orderly Officer and, awarded the Member of the Royal Victorian Order. Since his retirement, he continues to contribute as a Chief Advisor to the British Gurkha Veterans Association in addition to supporting young people and the elderly in the wider community.

Councillor B. Saru moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor S. Hey.

RESOLVED that

- a) Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Major (Retd) Padam Bahadur Gurung MVO on the said Freeman's roll and to the

certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough

- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

CL61 **Nomination of Honorary Freeman – John Burton**

John Burton was nominated by the Civic Honours Sub-committee held on 26th November 2025 to receive the Honorary title of Freeman in recognition for his services to Nuneaton and Bedworth by way of him being a preserver of local history for 50 years in respect of his large collection of historical photographs, author of several local historical books, President of the Bedworth Society, Chairman of the George Eliot Fellowship, Treasurer of the George Eliot Visitor Centre and Chairman to the Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre.

Councillor B. Hughes moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor C. Watkins.

RESOLVED that

- a) Mr John Burton be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 in recognition of his distinguished service to Nuneaton and Bedworth and that his name be enrolled on the Freeman's roll.
- b) the common seal of the Council be affixed to the enrolment of Mr John Burton on the said Freeman's roll and to the certificate to be presented to him on his admission as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- c) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to agree an expenditure figure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Central Services for the purposes associated with the appointment.

Mayor

4A.9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.9.1 General

At each Ordinary Meeting or Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 20 minutes (which can be extended at the discretion of the Mayor) shall be set aside for questions or statements from the public gallery by any resident of the Borough in relation to matters in respect of which the Council has powers or duties, or which affect the Borough. In the case of an Extra Ordinary Meeting the question or statement must relate to the business of that meeting.

4.9.2 Notice of Questions and Statements

No such question shall be asked, or statement made, unless it shall have been delivered in writing to the Head of Paid Service no later than 12 noon, two working days, before the meeting of the Council.

4.9.3 Scope of Questions and Statements

The Head of Paid Service may reject a question or statement if it:

- a) is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which doesn't affect the Borough;
- b) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- c) is substantially the same as a question or statement which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months;
- d) requires or involves the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or
- e) It is not a question nor a statement, as provided for in these Procedure Rules.

4.9.4 The Mayor will invite the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair to give a reply. Such reply shall not exceed five minutes. In the case of a question, on the discretion of the Mayor, a supplementary question may be asked if arising directly from the reply, provided that the original allocation of five minutes is not exceeded. The Mayor may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in paragraph 4.9.3 above

4.9.5 Time Limit and Number of Questions

No question or statement shall exceed three minutes. In the event of there being more than one question or statement, the Head of Paid Service will ensure that questions and statements are dealt with in the order received. At the expiry of the 20 minute period, or such period as may be agreed by the Mayor, or after the reply to the final question or statement, whichever shall first occur, the Council will proceed to the next business.

4.9.6 Record of Questions and Statements

The question or statement and the reply given shall be minuted.

4.9.7 Reference of Question to the Cabinet or a Committee

Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.

4.9.8 Any question or statement which cannot be dealt with during Public Participation because of lack of time will be dealt with in writing, and recorded in accordance with paragraph 4.9.6.

4A.10 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

4.10.1 A Member of the Council may ask the Leader of the Council or the Chair of a Committee any question without notice upon an item of the report of the Cabinet or a Committee (respectively) when that item is being received or under consideration by the Council.

4.10.2 Questions on Notice at Full Council

At each meeting a Member of the Council may ask no more than one question (but see 4.10.3(b) below) on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties, or which affects the Borough. A Member may choose to ask their permitted question of either:

- a Member of the Cabinet; or
- the Chair of any Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee

4.10.3 No such question under paragraph 4.10.2 shall be asked unless:

- (a) the question has been delivered in writing to the Head of Paid Service and Leader 12 noon two working days before the day of the meeting of the Council; or
- (b) where the question relates to urgent matters, they have the consent of the Mayor or the Leader of the Council or the Portfolio Holder to whom the question is to be put or in the case of a Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee, the Chair, and the content of the question is given to the Head of Paid Service at least three hours before the time that the meeting is due to start.

4.10.4 The Member who put the question may ask one supplementary question of the Member to whom the first question was asked if it arises directly out of the original question or the reply, and shall be put and answered without discussion.

4.10.5 Response

An answer may take the form of:

- (a) a direct oral answer;
- (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- (c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

4.10.6 Request to Speak on the Matter

- (a) Arising from the question, and the response or supplementary response given, any other member of the Council may request to move a motion in connection with the response under consideration and, if seconded, speak on the item. The Rules of Debate as set out in Council Procedure Rule 13 shall apply (as modified below) and the responder to the original question shall have the right of reply at the end of the debate.
- (b) Any debate on a question shall be limited to no more than 15 minutes (excluding the right of reply) and each member shall be limited to speaking for no more than three minutes each.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) above, the maximum time for Members' questions shall not normally exceed 45 minutes, and the Mayor shall have discretion to limit the debate on questions as he or she shall see fit.

4.10.7 Reference of Question to the Cabinet or a Committee

Any Member may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.

4.10.8 Any question which cannot be dealt with because of lack of time will be dealt with in writing in accordance with paragraph 4.10.5 (c).

4.10.9 Questions on Notice at Committees, Panels or Sub-Committees

A Member of a Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee may, upon giving notice, ask the Chair of it one question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties, or which affect the Borough and which falls within the Terms of Reference of that Committee, Panel or Sub-Committee

Cabinet Report to Council – February 2026

1. Introduction

This report deals with the Cabinet meeting held on 3rd December 2025 and 21st January 2026

2. 3rd December 2025 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Adoption of Borough Plan and Local Development Scheme (Key Decision)

- Planning and Enforcement – Councillor T. Venson

Cabinet and subsequently Council agreed to adopt the Borough Plan Review as per the Inspectors Report (8th October 2025), incorporating the Main Modifications and adopted the Local Development Scheme with the amendments. This will allow a planning framework for the Borough and put the council in a strong position with a newly adopted plan, enabling 5 years protection on terms of the housing need figure.

b) Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) (Key Decision)

- Planning and Enforcement – Councillor T. Venson

Cabinet approved the IFS for publication on the website as per the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 as the council is a contribution receiving authority.

c) General Fund, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 2025/26 (Key Decision)

- Resources and Central Services – Councillor S. Hey

- Housing – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet approved the General Fund Budget monitoring report early pressures have been mitigated through vacancy savings and additional income but the unexpected major cost for capital is resulting in a potential large overspend in year. This can be covered by general reserve as a prudent approach has been taken to ensure risk reserves are in place, but reserves can only be utilised once. The Council must give careful consideration of financial risks this is the key to remain financially sustainable, and a transformation strategy is in development to identify longer term savings.

Cabinet approved the budget monitoring report for the HRA taking note of the spend pressures arising from repair issues and their impact on day-to-day operation of the HRA, as reliance on vacancy savings and treasury decisions to offset overspends is not sustainable long-term. A review of the HRA Business Plan will lay out future plans for income generation and cost mitigation. Due to the pressure being faced during 2025/26, the profile of expenditure is likely to alter. When finalised, the Business Plan will be presented to Cabinet.

Cabinet approved the Capital Budget Monitoring report. The capital programme is fully funded in its present form. The biggest risks to the Council are inflation,

price increases for building supplies plus any delays which could occur result in funding being withdrawn. Adjustments to the programme considering the difficulties around cost and delivery will be reported to Cabinet but projects are continually under review for viability. Interest rates on projects where prudential borrowing is required will be carefully assessed for affordability prior to progressing.

d) Pride in Place Impact Fund (Key Decision)

- Business and Regeneration – Councillor N. King

Cabinet approved the recommendations for the Pride in Place Impact Fund enabling the Council to deliver projects that strengthen community pride, attract investment, and support long-term economic growth, while maintaining compliance with statutory, governance, and risk management requirements.

e) Empty Properties Probate Support Contract (Key Decision)

- Housing – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet approved the procurement of an Empty Properties Probate Support Contract. In Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough there are around 1600 empty properties (defined as 6 months or longer). Probate cases make up the largest number of empty properties, by category, with around 450 going through probate or classed as 'F Exempt'. As per the Corporate Plan, the aim is to reduce the number of empty properties. This approved initiative to procure a concession services contract provided a value for money option for Cabinet to help achieve the benefits outlined in the cabinet report.

Other items considered

- Recommendation from Civic Honours Sub-Committee re: holding an Extraordinary Council
- Draft Budget 2026/27

3. 21st January 2026 – Cabinet Meeting

a) Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) Permission to Consult (Key Decision)

- Planning and Enforcement – Councillor T. Venson

Cabinet approved the Affordable Housing SPD, Health Impact Assessment SPD, Heritage SPD, Hot Food Takeaway SPD, Sustainable Design and Construction SPD and Transport Demand Matters SPD for a four-week public consultation and, a future report be issued back to Cabinet following consultation to endorse the Supplementary Planning Documents and recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Documents

b) Air Quality Management – Revocation of Midland Road Air Quality Management Area (AQMA 2) (Key Decision)

- Leisure and Health – Councillor B. Hughes

Cabinet approved the revocation of the AQMA 2 and in accordance with the Local Air Quality Regime, NBBC will move on to developing an Air Quality Strategy (AQS) for the whole borough. An AQS will ensure that air quality remains a high-profile issue. The aim of an AQS is to enable greater cooperation between public authorities, at a local level and broaden the range of organisations that play a key

role in delivering air quality actions and improvements and ultimately reduce the long-term health impacts associated with air pollution.

c) Contract Value Uplift – Property Maintenance (Key Decision)

- Housing – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet approved the uplift to the value of existing procured contracts, to absorb the increased spend related to corporate property repair and maintenance. This will remove the delay caused by compliant contract tendering processes; allow time to undertake a full procurement exercise that incorporates the requirements of both dwellings and commercial properties and, ensure that all repair and maintenance requirements to corporate properties can be undertaken in a timely manner.

d) Contract Value Uplift – Independent Living Units (ILU) Cleaning Contract with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited (NABCEL) (Key Decision)

- Housing – Councillor C. Watkins

Cabinet gave approval to uplift the value of the existing procured ILU Cleaning Contract awarded to NABCEL. The Council after receiving a revised pricing proposal reviewed the service with NABCEL, resulting in a reduced cost from the original submission. However, this revised cost remained above the current contract value and outside its current budget. By accepted the revising pricing proposal effective from 1st March 2026 it will remove delays caused by initiating a new tendering process; allow sufficient time to undertake a full procurement exercise and, ensure all cleaning requirements for ILU units are met in a timely manner.

e) Pride in Place Camp Hill Funding (Key Decision)

- Business and Regeneration – Councillor N. King

Cabinet noted the update on the progress of the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) for Camp Hill, the details of fund requirements and the Council's role as the responsible and accountable body. Cabinet will receive further updates on the progression of the Board formation and development of the investment plan.

f) Council Tax Support Scheme (Key Decision)

- Resources and Central Services – Councillor S. Hey

Cabinet approved for a review of the current Council Tax Support Scheme with a view to changing to a Banded Discount Scheme on 1st April 2027. The current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been in place for over 10 years without a review. To ensure the Council supports the most financially vulnerable residents it is advisable to thoroughly review and provide options for changes.

Other Items Considered

- Recommendation from Local Government Reform Sub-committee re: Community Governance

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

There are no specific reports to highlight to Council. The WMCA minutes are available on the WMCA website.

5. Conclusion

This report is presented on behalf of Cabinet, and, as always, my colleagues and I are only too happy to take any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor S. Hey
Leader of the Council on behalf of Cabinet

COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM NO. 11a

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	LGR Sub-Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 November 2025
Subject:	Community Governance
Portfolio:	All
Responsible Officer:	Chief Executive
Corporate Plan – Theme:	All
Corporate Plan – Aim:	All
Ward Relevance:	All Wards
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Not currently but to be added subject to resolution by the Sub-Committee
Subject to Call in:	Not applicable at this stage

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report outlines the process and key considerations associated with establishing community governance structures within the Borough, specifically through the mechanism of Community Governance Reviews (CGRs). These reviews provide NBBC with the means to assess and determine the need for the establishment of parish and town councils within the Borough. An overview of this process has been provided via the production of a Community Governance Review Brief (see Appendix 1) and supplementary slides (see Appendix 2).
- 1.2. In the context of Local Government Reorganisation, considerations relating to community governance have assumed increased importance, thereby reinforcing the need for continued political oversight through this Sub-Committee. The Government has recognised community governance, through the establishment of parish and town councils, as a foundational mechanism for delivering successful reorganisation and devolution, ensuring local democracy is strengthened and can mitigate against local democratic deficit caused by unitarisation.
- 1.3. Due to the uncertainty surrounding any future government decision on the structure of Warwickshire (be it a single Warwickshire Unitary or Two North/South Unitaries), this report recommends that any decision to initiate a CGR should be deferred until the government has made its decision, currently expected in the Summer of 2026. The purpose of this report is to therefore provide Members with an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Community Governance Review process and to facilitate constructive, cross-party discussion on matters relating to community governance.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended to Cabinet to:

- a) Note the report and raise any matters arising from the presentation.
- b) Recommend to Council that it is most logical to defer a Full Council decision to initiate a Community Governance Review, until the Government has made a decision on the future structure of local government within Warwickshire.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The recommendations are proposed to ensure that Members are fully informed of the Community Governance Review process and its potential implications prior to any formal decision being taken.
- 3.2. Deferring the initiation of a CGR until the Government has confirmed the future structure of local government within Warwickshire will allow the Council to make an evidence-based and appropriately timed decision, avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring alignment with any wider reorganisation outcomes.

2. Background

- 4.1. The English Devolution White Paper highlighted the value of nurturing strong community governance as a foundation for successful reorganisation and devolution. Following this national direction, many authorities undergoing the reorganisation process have initiated Community Governance Reviews and, in some cases, are now in the process of finalising these reviews in preparation for structural change (for example, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council in Surrey).
- 4.2. The matter of community governance holds particular significance for NBBC as there is currently no parish or town council representation within the Borough. Consideration may also need to be given to the potential establishment of Charter Trustees, to ensure the preservation of the Borough's civic, historic, and ceremonial traditions throughout any reorganisation process, until such time as a parish or town council is formally constituted.
- 4.3. As set out in the decisions taken by County Council on Tuesday 14 October 2025 Warwickshire County Council 'recognises the importance of Town and Parish Councils, and supports the establishment of such councils where they do not currently exists (e.g., Nuneaton, Rugby, Bedworth, Bulkington), and endorses the role of Town and Parish Councils as a necessary means of preserving local identity along with devolution of roles and powers to such councils where there is an appetite to do so.' This decision was reaffirmed following questions raised at an extraordinary County Cabinet meeting on 6 November 2025, in support of the County's Local Government Reorganisation proposals to be submitted to Government.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. Community Governance Reviews can take an extended period of time to complete, and the associated costs will vary depending on the complexity and scale of the review. At this stage, it is not possible to quantify the exact expenditure, but Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council would need to allocate an approved budget to cover consultation, administrative processes, and any specialist advice required. The Council would bear the full cost of conducting the review. In addition, if new town or parish councils are established, they may levy a precept on local council tax payers to fund their operations

and services, which could result in an increase in household bills within the affected areas.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. CGRs are governed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and associated statutory guidance. NBBC must ensure compliance with all legal requirements, including consultation obligations, consideration of community identity and effective governance, and the production of a reorganisation order if changes are approved. Legal advice may be required to draft and implement these orders correctly. Failure to follow statutory procedures could expose the Council to legal challenge or judicial review.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. The creation of town and parish councils has the potential to improve democratic representation and give communities a stronger voice in local decision-making.

8. Health implications

- 8.1. Effective local governance can positively influence health and wellbeing. Conversely, poorly managed changes could create uncertainty or reduce access to, or standards of services.

9. Climate and environmental implications

- 9.1. This is largely dependent on the activities of any resulting organisation, and their commitment to the local environment.

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 10.1. None specific arising, however Town and Parish Councils would have a role to play in community safety, at a very local level.

11. Risk management implications

- 11.1. The main risks relate to reputational damage, legal challenge, and community dissatisfaction if the review process is perceived as unfair or poorly managed. There is also a risk of increased costs if the review becomes protracted or contested. Mitigation measures include clear communication, robust consultation, adherence to statutory guidance, and early identification of resource requirements. Establishing new councils may also introduce governance risks if they lack capacity or expertise, requiring ongoing support and oversight

12. Human resources implications

- 12.1. None arising directly from this report; however, the creation of town and parish councils would require human resources. These bodies may become direct employers to deliver very local services, which could include clerks, maintenance staff, and community engagement officers.

13. Options considered and reason for their rejection

- 13.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	This option would prevent consideration of community governance arrangements and may fail to protect local identity during the reorganisation process. It could also reduce democratic representation and limit future options for establishing parish or town councils.
B	The Sub-Committee may choose to recommend an alternative course of action to Cabinet, including a proposal to initiate a Community Governance Review prior to the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire.	Initiating a CGR before the Government's decision could result in duplication of effort or misalignment with future governance arrangements, making it less efficient and potentially premature.
C	The Sub-Committee may recommend that no CGR be undertaken. In this scenario, it should be noted that the authority to implement a CGR rests with Full Council. Additionally, there are	This risks forgoing the opportunity to proactively consider community governance arrangements and engage with local communities. While Full Council retains the authority to implement a CGR,

	<p>alternative mechanisms for initiating a CGR, such as through community petitions or requests from existing parish councils, the latter of which is not applicable in the current context for NBBC.</p>	<p>delaying action could limit the Council's ability to respond strategically to future petitions or requests and may hinder the preservation of local identity.</p>
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14. Appendices

Appendix A – Community Governance Review Brief

2025

Community Governance Review Brief

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Introduction

With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, it has become increasingly important to consider the options for establishing parish and town councils within the Borough. The English Devolution White Paper highlighted the value of nurturing strong community and neighbourhood governance as a foundation for successful reorganisation and devolution, and in effect 'rewiring the relationship between town and parish councils and principal local authorities'. As Cllr Keith Stevens, Chair of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), stated: parish councils "can be a strong voice for our most local neighbourhoods and help address fears of remote government resulting from any larger unitaries being set up. By strengthening their role, the government can ensure that devolution delivers tangible benefits for communities nationwide."

Whether Warwickshire moves towards a single county-wide unitary or a North/South split, the question of local governance in Nuneaton and Bedworth remains vital. Without parish/town-level representation, residents risk losing a direct voice in local matters as local decision-making risks becoming obscured as Councillor numbers decline. To ensure reorganisation is best able to represent and deliver for all communities across Nuneaton and Bedworth it is pertinent now to consider the process for establishing community democracy and governance. The primary mechanism for achieving this is through a Community Governance Review (CGR).

This brief serves to explain what Community Governance Reviews are, the processes and assessment criteria involved, a detailed list of actions/documentation required to support a review, and expected timelines for completing a review. The main source of information used to draw this report together came from the ['Guidance on Community Governance Reviews'](#) published by the UK Government in 2010, in collaboration with the Local Government Boundary Commission. Additional sources include information drawn from other councils such as North Somerset Council and BCP Council who have gone through the CGR process recently, as well as the National Association of Local Councils representing parish and town councils across the country.

Distinguishing Between Community Governance and Neighbourhood Governance

To frame this report, it is first important to distinguish between Community Governance and Neighbourhood Governance, in order to prevent confusion and clarify the parameters surrounding CGRs.

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, introduced to Parliament on 10 July 2025, places a new requirement on all local authorities in England to establish effective 'neighbourhood governance'. Unlike town and parish councils - which are independent of local authorities and represent a form of community governance - neighbourhood governance refers to the statutory structures that local authorities must create to secure local representation. The aim behind neighbourhood governance is to ensure that decision-making is informed by people who understand local needs, regardless of whether a town or parish council exists in the area.

While the detailed regulations underpinning the obligations surrounding neighbourhood governance will only follow once the Bill is enacted, recent initiatives provide a useful indication of the direction of travel. For example, the Pride in Place Programme which will fund regeneration projects in Bedworth and Camp Hill, will be led through neighbourhood governance-style boards designed to bring decision making on important regeneration spending closer to residents.

As the Government's guidance makes clear: although town and parish councils continue to play an independent role, all local authorities must also have mechanisms for working directly with people in their neighbourhoods, rather than relying solely on existing community governance structures, currently represented by town and parish councils. In the case of Nuneaton and Bedworth, given there are no current community governance arrangements within the Borough, forms of community governance (i.e. town and parish Councils) and forms of neighbourhood governance (e.g. The Believe in Bedworth Neighbourhood Board) are likely to co-develop as the Council transitions through reorganisation, offering a unique opportunity for the Borough to champion local democracy and locally led decision-making in a way that makes sense for local people and local places, through this period of change.

What is a Community Governance Review?

As set out in the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, power has been devolved to local principal authorities to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government and local communities in England. CGRs represent the legal process whereby principal councils can, under this legislation, create parish or town councils, review and change electoral arrangements and, in extreme cases, abolish parishes. CGRs provide an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, which reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government.

In the wake of the Government's English Devolution White Paper, a precedent for change in relation to community governance has been set, with many authorities already initiating renewed CGRs in preparation for future reorganisation and devolution.

What are parish/town councils and what can they do?

Before moving on to understand the process behind CGRs it is worth clarifying what parish/town councils are, and the powers, both statutory and discretionary, they may dispense.

A parish/town council represents the lowest tier of local government within England, and as statutory bodies, they serve electorates, are independently elected, and raise their own precept. Depending on size, parish and town councils run numerous services, some of which are statutory, such as: allotments, bus shelters and burial grounds, however most services are discretionary which can enhance or complement existing provision and include items such as: community transport schemes, community centres, play areas and open space, community safety, street lighting, street cleansing, local festivals and celebrations.

Parish councils – often dubbed the 'local voice' – also play an important influencing role. Within this capacity they can serve for making representation on local issues, championing the cause of local residents and businesses with regards to items such as local planning matters, local police and health services, as well as delivering neighbourhood plans and funding community projects. They also have the ability to leverage external funding not otherwise available which can be used to support schemes and projects at a local level.

Whilst they can operate in isolation as a separate council, most parish and town councils will work in partnership with the principal local authorities and other parish and town councils to leverage opportunities to deliver joint services.

Charter Trustee Areas

Another element worth briefly touching on, are Charter Trustee areas. Established following the local government reorganisations in the early 1970s and 1990s, charter trustees were established to preserve the historical identity of former boroughs or cities undergoing reorganisation. When undertaking Local Government Reorganisation within Warwickshire a consideration to the formation of charter trustee areas should be given, namely, to maintain the historic continuity of Nuneaton and Bedworth's charter rights, including the use of historic items like charters, insignia, and plate, until a permanent civil parish or town council can be established in the area.

Who can undertake a Community Governance Review?

The principal Council within an area (in a two-tier area such as Nuneaton and Bedworth this would be NBBC) has the responsibility for undertaking community governance reviews within its electoral area and deciding whether to implement the recommendations made in those reviews. Reviews can be triggered in response to petitions from the community, requests from parish councils, or a council's own decision to review governance due to factors like population changes or wider local government reorganisation.

Relevant Legislation

In undertaking a CGR, the principal Council will apply the guiding principles as appropriate from the following legislation and guidance:

- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- The Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on CGRs (DCLG)
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.

It is a statutory duty to review the electoral arrangements of all parishes within an area every 10-15 years.

What Community Governance Reviews Can and Can't Do

A CGR invites the public and other interested parties to comment upon and submit suggestions about the most suitable way of representing local communities. A review may take place for the whole or individual parts of the Borough and when undertaken, can make a number of changes to parish/town councils when there is clear interest and evidence base to do so. These include:

- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- changing electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of an election, number of parish councillors and changes to parish wards;
- convert a parish council to a parish meeting;
- change the name or the style of a new parish/town council or parish meeting; and
- group parishes together under a common parish.

A Community Governance Review cannot however:

- change the number of district or county councillors;
- change a district or county council ward boundaries;
- change the amount of money that a parish council raises its precept;
- change individual parish councillors; and
- create a unitary authority.

Assessment Criteria of Community Governance Reviews

Any submission to create parish areas are assessed against a set of criteria so that proposals must:

- reflect the identities and interests of the community; and
- be effective and convenient

And in doing so, the principal local authority conducting the CGR is required to take account of:

- the impact of existing community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population, and boundaries of any local community or proposed parish or town Council.

When considering the boundaries for parish or town councils, it is desirable these are readily identifiable. This can be by reference to physical features or may follow adopted electoral ward boundaries in a borough. Any changes should also take into account population shifts or additional development that may have affected community identity.

In considering whether an area is suited to separate parish governance, CGRs must also take note of the availability of adequate infrastructure for a proposed area, such as meeting spaces, community halls, schools, neighbourhood shops, and other local facilities. Principal councils must also consider the wider picture of community

governance in carrying out their reviews. In some areas there may be well established forms of community governance such as local residents' associations, or community forums which local people have set up and which help make a distinct contribution to the community. Potentially, as representatives of their community, these bodies may be considered as foundations for or stages towards the creation of democratically elected parishes.

Furthermore, under the 2007 Act, principal councils are required to consult electors in the area under review, as well as other interested parties. These may include local authorities such as the county council, along with local businesses, public bodies, and voluntary organisations that the principal council considers to have an interest in the review.

Ultimately, recommendations made by a CGR – with consideration to all the criteria set out above - should aim to strengthen community engagement, enhance local democracy, and lead to more effective and convenient delivery of services.

Actions to Support a Community Governance Review

For a principal authority to carry out a CGR, it must prepare a series of key documents, each aligned with a distinct stage of the review process. These include:

- a terms of reference;
- documents to support public consultation;
- a draft recommendations report;
- a final report; and
- a Community Governance Reorganisation Order.

This section will cover each document in turn covering its purpose, what should be included and the process behind its publication and/or amendment.

Terms of Reference

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gives principal councils the power to determine the terms of reference under which a CGR is undertaken. The terms of reference define the scope and focus of the review, specify the area under consideration, and set out the timetable and procedures to be followed.

The terms should take account of any views already expressed by local people about their preferred form of governance, while also drawing on the experience of principal councils to ensure the approach is suited to the needs of local communities. Where a valid community governance petition has been received, the terms of reference must be drawn up or modified accordingly, allowing petitioners to influence their content. In areas where both a district and county council exist, the district council must notify the county council of its intention to carry out a review and seek its views at an early stage.

Once the terms of reference have been agreed, they must be published and made accessible to the public. If any modifications are made during the review, the amended terms of reference must also be published to ensure transparency. A CGR commences when the principal authority publishes its terms of reference and concludes when the principal council publishes the recommendations made in the review.

Public Consultation

As part of a CGR, the principal council must undertake a public consultation with electors in the areas under review, as defined in the terms of reference.

Consultation is usually carried out in two stages: the initial consultation (stage one)

and the consultation on draft recommendations (stage two). There is no statutory minimum length for each stage, and the duration varies between local authorities, but the period typically runs over several months. For example, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council held an eight-week consultation, while BCP Council ran theirs for more than twelve weeks.

The stage one consultation seeks views and proposals on matters such as existing parish boundaries (where relevant), the number of councillors, and whether new parishes should be created or existing parishes abolished or merged. A recent report published by North Somerset Council in July 2025, detailing the '[First stage public consultation comments](#)' provides a useful example of the matters a stage one consultation will request public consultation on. The document also provides a useful snapshot as to the types of responses electors will submit. Once the first stage consultation is concluded, draft recommendations, typically supported by a cabinet meeting, will be reported to and considered by a full council meeting.

The stage two consultation then invites views on the draft recommendations that emerge from stage one. The responses from the stage two consultation are again considered by a full council meeting and inform the final decision, which are given effect through the recommendations drafted following the second stage consultation process.

Draft Recommendations Report

As set out above, a draft recommendations report should be produced following the stage one consultation of a CGR. This document sets out the range of recommendations for change and no change within the area under review. The document should also provide appendices detailing any proposed changes, including map illustrations of proposed boundary changes, and any impacts on council tax banding following proposed changes to precept levies. For a useful example for a draft recommendations document see North Somerset Council's [Draft Recommendations July 2025](#).

A publication of the draft recommendations following approval by the relevant decision-making body should coincide with the commencement of the stage two consultation, where feedback will be sought on specific proposals to inform the final recommendations of the CGR in the area under review.

Final Report

Following the review of the stage two consultation, final recommendations are drafted and sent for approval via a full council meeting. This final report should: invite the council to consider the final recommendations and the outcome of the second and final stage of consultation and approve the recommendations accordingly so that a Community Governance Order can be made. Included within

the report, there should be detailed the set of issues and choices made in accordance with the CGR process, detailing recommendations, reasons for recommendations and final proposals.

Following approval by full council, delegated authority should be given to the Monitoring Officer to prepare and make an order under Section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to give effect to the proposals, including such ancillary and consequential provisions as are considered necessary and to publish the decisions of the council and reasons for them and to bring them to the attention of persons interested in the review as soon as is reasonably practicable.

For an example of a Final CGR report, see West Northamptonshire Council's '[Community Governance Review: Update and Final Proposals](#)' document September 2024.

Community Governance Reorganisation Order

A CGR is completed when the principal authority adopts a Community Governance Reorganisation order. The order serves as legal document detailing the outcome of the CGR and subsequent approval by full council for the reorganisation of Community Governance. This document sits in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and specifies when the reorganisation will take effect for financial and administrative purposes, and when the electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force. A model community governance reorganisation order can be found on the [gov.uk website](#).

To implement the order, the principal authority should make the reorganisation order publicly available and in addition should make available a map showing the effects of the order in detail and a document which sets out the decisions it has taken and to publicise these reasons. Other means of publicity it may wish to consider are through publication on the council's website, in local newspapers, on notice boards in public places, and in local libraries, town halls or other local offices. In addition, after a principal council has made a reorganisation order, as soon as practicable, it must inform the following organisations that the order has been made:

- a) the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- b) the LGBCE
- c) the Office of National Statistics
- d) the Ordnance Survey
- e) the Land Registry
- f) the Registrar General

- g) the Valuation Office Agency
- h) any other principal council (e.g. a county council) whose area the order relates to.

Timeline for a Community Governance Review

A CGR must, by statute, be concluded within a twelve-month period from the day on which the review commences, which will coincide with the publication of the terms of reference. In line with the commencement of the review, a Notice of Community Governance Review should be published to notify electors of the review (see [BCP Council Notice](#) as example).

The below table provides an illustrative timetable for a CGR based on previous CGRs completed by other local authorities. Please note there is no statutory minimum length for a consultation period, but as set out above, they generally last between two to three months.

<u>Action</u>	<u>Example Date(s)</u>	<u>Further Details</u>
Report to Full Council	15 October 2026	Council approves the principle of the Community Governance Review and its Terms of Reference.
Publish Terms of Reference	16 October 2026	Publish Terms of Reference and notify stakeholders of the commencement of the Review.
Preliminary Stage	From 21 October 2026 to 15 November 2026	Offer of local briefings and meetings with stakeholders.
Stage One Consultation	From 25 November 2026 to 19 January 2027	Publish draft consultation document and invite initial submissions/representation.
Draft Recommendations	From 20 January 2027 to 25 March 2027	Consider any submissions/representations made and prepare report of draft recommendations for Full Council.
Stage Two Consultation	From 31 March 2027 to 22 June 2027	Publish draft recommendations as agreed by Full Council and invite further consultation.

Final Report	From 23 June 2027 to 14 October 2027	Consider any further submissions/representations and prepare final report of final recommendations for Full Council.
Publish final recommendations as agreed by Full Council	October/November 2027	Publish final recommendations as agreed by Full Council and make necessary Orders.

Reference Document Hyperlinks

Guidance on Community Governance Reviews – March 2010 - UK Government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-governance-reviews-guidance>

First Stage Public Consultation Comments - July 2025 - North Somerset Council

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/1st%20Stage%20Consultation%20-%20Supporting%20comments%20%281%29.pdf>

Draft Recommendations - July 2025 – North Somerset Council

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-09/community%20governance%20review%202025%20-%20draft%20recommendations.pdf>

Update and Final Proposal for Community Governance Review – September 2024 - West Northamptonshire Council

<https://westnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19612/Item%2012%20Community%20Governance%20Review%20-%20Final%20Proposals%201.pdf>

Public Notice of Community Governance Review – October 2024 - Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

<https://www.bcpouncil.gov.uk/Assets/About-the-council/Community-Governance-Review/Notice-of-Community-Governance-Review-CGR.pdf>

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11b

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 rd February 2026
Subject:	Treasury Management Update 2025/26
Portfolio:	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director - Finance
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Your Council
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Deliver continued forward financial planning to safeguard the finances of the Council. Strive for transparency and accountability, in all that we do.
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Subject:	Treasury Management 2025/26 – Quarter 3 Review
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Subject to Call-in:	Not Applicable

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The Council is required through the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) to report to full Council a mid-year review.

1.2. This report sets out the Council's treasury position as at 30th December 2025 and therefore any decisions made after this date are not reflected in this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1. To recommend to Council that the Treasury Management Report for 2025/26 – Quarter 3 Report be noted.

2.2. To recommend to Council the approval of the update to Treasury Management Practices in Appendix A.

3. Background

Capital Strategy

3.1. In December 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following: -

- a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

3.2. CIPFA is currently consulting local authorities in respect of potential changes to the Codes. Currently, the focus seems to be on the Non-Treasury investment aspects of local authority activity.

3.3. An update on any material developments/changes will be provided to the Committee when they are known.

3.4. The updated Capital Strategy for the Council was approved by Council in December 2025.

Treasury management

3.5. The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low-risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

3.6. In addition, the treasury management service provides details on the funding of the Authority's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Authority, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Authority can meet its capital spending operations.

3.7. The management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on

occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Authority risk or cost objectives.

3.8. Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

Introduction

3.9. This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021).

3.10. The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council’s treasury management activities.
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report (this report) and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year. Quarterly reports are also required for the periods ending April to June and October to December and are submitted to Audit and Standards Committee.
- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Authority, the delegated body is Audit and Standards Committee:

3.11. This quarterly report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year;
- A review of the Authority’s investment portfolio for 2025/26;
- A review of the Authority’s borrowing strategy for 2025/26;
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2025/26;

4. Economic update for the Quarter 3 of the 2025/26 financial year

4.1. The third quarter of the financial year saw:

- A -0.1% m/m change in real GDP in October, meaning the economy hasn't grown since the start of April.
- A fall in the average wage growth (excluding bonuses) as the headline 3myy rate to 4.6% in October
- CPI inflation fell sharply from 3.6% to 3.2% in November with core CPI inflation easing to 3.2%
- 10-year gilt yields changing between 4.4% and 4.7%, ending at 4.50% at the end of December

4.2. Whilst the economy started slower in April due to US tariffs, it did recover in May and June. With minimal changes in July to September and a decrease in October, this means that growth has slowed to around 1.4% for 2025 as a whole

4.3. A 0.1% m/m fall in retail sales in November after a 0.9% drop in October suggests that weak employment and slowing wage growth is impacting the sector even after a 1.5% year on year increase in September.

4.4. The Public Finance position has changed since the November Budget. The Chancellor increased spending by £11.3bn in 2029/30 paid for by a £26.1bn increase in taxes in the same year.

4.5. Following the Autumn Budget, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) calculated the net tightening in fiscal policy as £11.7bn (0.3% of GDP) in 2029/30, smaller than the consensus forecast of £25bn. It did downgrade productivity growth by 0.3%, from 1.3% to 1.0%, but a lot of that influence was offset by upgrades to its near-term wage and inflation forecasts.

4.6. The Public Net Borrowing in November was £11.7bn, less than the previous years of £13.6bn. This was mainly due to an increase in tax receipts and disposal of assets ahead of the budget. This means that borrowing for 2025/26 should be lower than 2024/25.

4.7. Annual employment growth has declined to -0.6% from -0.5%. The number of job vacancies stayed consistent, but other reports infer the number of employees has decreased with the unemployment rate increasing from 5.0% to 5.1%.

4.8. CPI inflation fell sharply in November from 3.6% in October to 3.2%. There was a widespread easing in price pressures with inflation slowing in 10 of the 12 main categories used to calculate the CPI rate.

- 4.9. Core inflation also reduced from 3.4% to 3.2% and services inflation reduced from 4.5% to 4.4%. Capital Economics therefore forecasts that inflation is on track to settle at the Bank of England's 2.0% target or slightly below at the end of 2026.
- 4.10. Gilts have been slightly volatile as a spike in the rates occurred in July over fiscal concerns over the UK's future budgets. Whilst this was a short lived spike, it did highlight uncertainty in the UK's fiscal position. Long term gilts rose to a 27 year high of 5.6% in August due to a sell-off, but rates are starting to ease back since then.
- 4.11. Gilt rates affect the amount of interest the Council receives on its investments, and a reduction in the gilt rate will reduce the amount of interest the Council receives. This reduction can be caused directly when the Council invests in Treasury Bills or Money Market Funds (which use Treasury Bills as part of their investment portfolio), or indirectly by changing the rate of PWLB borrowing. If PWLB borrowing becomes cheaper other Council will borrow from the PWLB rather than us.
- 4.12. The reduction in gilt rates will reduce the amount of interest on any new PWLB loans the Council takes out, but only if the loans are taken out after the gilt rate drops. Loans with the market are indirectly affected by gilt rates, and reductions in the gilt rate should reduce other sources of borrowing as well.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meetings

- 4.13. There have been two MPC meetings since the mid-year report on 6th November and 18th December.
- 4.14. The bank has cut the rate twice previously in this financial year, as the rate had reduced from 4.50% to 4.00% by 30th September 2025.
- 4.15. At the 6th November meeting, Governor Bailey was the deciding vote to keep the bank rate at 4.00% but hinting at a rate cut if data supported the move.
- 4.16. As the November CPI inflation had fallen to 3.2% and the Q2 GDP figures had been revised down, the MPC voted 5-4 to cut the rate to 3.75% in the 18th December meeting. Governor Bailey has made it clear however that any further reductions would require strong supporting data and the market expects the next cut to be in April.

Interest Rates

- 4.17. The Council has appointed MUF Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on

the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1 November 2012.

4.18. MUFG’s latest forecast was created on 11th August and sets out a view that short, medium and long-dated interest rates will fall back over the next year or two. This is a forecast, and will depend on gilt rates, and what the economy actually does and when the Bank of England’s Base Rate reduces compared to MUFG’s forecast.

4.19. MUFG’s PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps, calculated as gilts plus 80bps). The HRA currently gets another 60 bps reduction on the Certainty Rate, but this can only be used for borrowing towards new builds (or externalising the debt for previous builds)

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 22.12.25													
	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28	Mar-29
BANK RATE	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
3 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
6 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
12 month ave earnings	3.90	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.60
5 yr PWLB	4.60	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
10 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.70
25 yr PWLB	5.80	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20
50 yr PWLB	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.00	5.10	5.00	5.00

5. The Council’s Investment Portfolio as at 31st December 2025

5.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2025/26, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 19th February 2025. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Authority’s investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

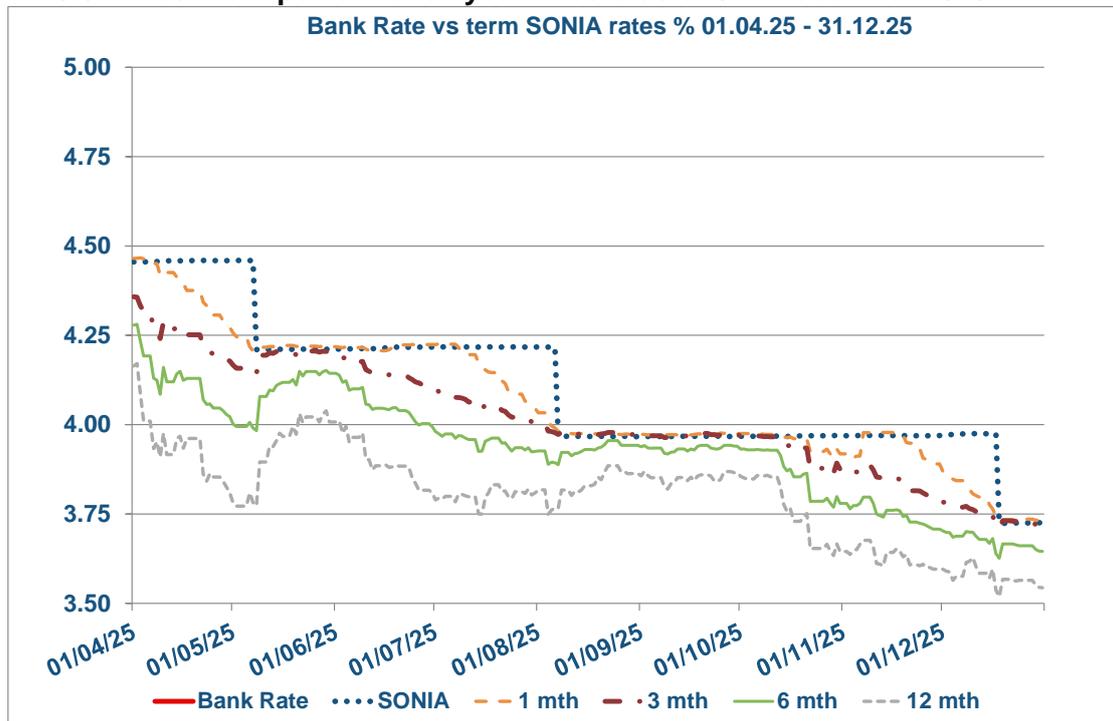
5.2. The Council aims to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council’s risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit quality financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information

5.3. A list of all investments held as at 31st December 2025 is shown below:

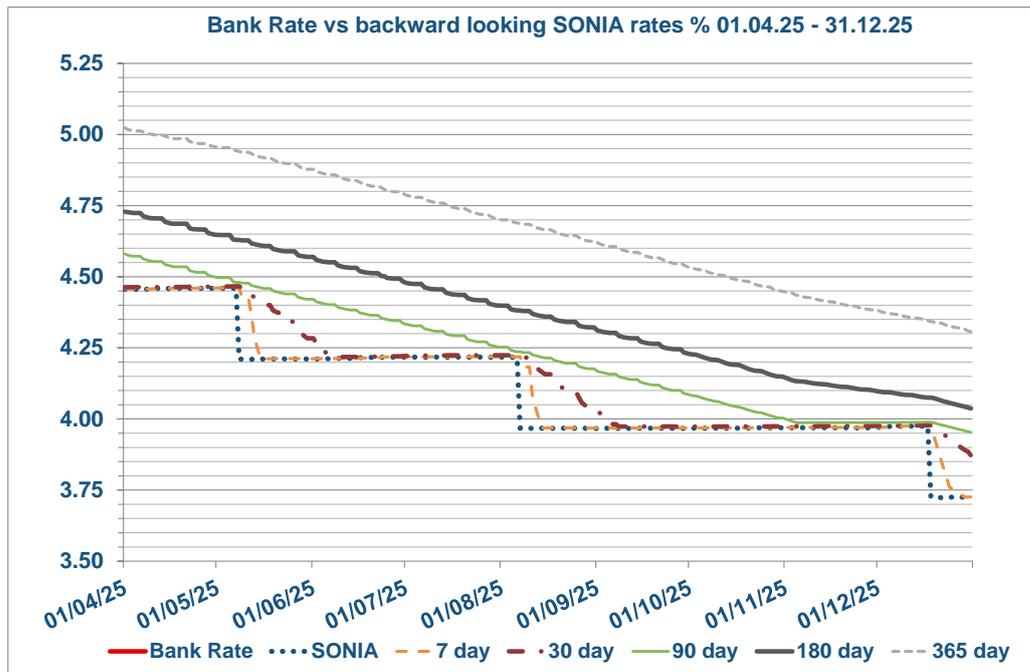
Counterparty	Amount Invested	Deposit Period	Maturity Date	Interest Rate
Fixed Term Deposit:				
Total Fixed Term Deposits	£0.0m			N/A
Notice Accounts:				
Total Notice Accounts	£0.0m			N/A
Property Funds				
CCLA Local Authority Property Fund	£2.0m	N/A	N/A	3.90%
Total Property Funds	£2.0m			3.90%
Money Market Funds:				
Federated Prime Rate	£9.0m	N/A	N/A	3.87%
Total Money Market Funds	£9.0m			3.87%
Instant Access/Call Accounts				
Lloyds Bank (Current Account)	£4.38	Overnight	N/A	3.65%
Total Instant Access	£4.38m			3.65%
Total Investments	£15.38m			3.81%

5.4. The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function, and no in year changes are required.

5.5. Investment performance year to date as of 31st December 2025



	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	4.46	4.47	4.36	4.28	4.17
High Date	07/05/2025	03/04/2025	01/04/2025	02/04/2025	02/04/2025
Low	3.72	3.73	3.71	3.63	3.52
Low Date	22/12/2025	29/12/2025	18/12/2025	18/12/2025	18/12/2025
Average	4.10	4.07	4.01	3.93	3.80
Spread	0.74	0.73	0.65	0.66	0.65



	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	4.46	4.46	4.47	4.58	4.73	5.02
High Date	07/05/2025	28/04/2025	06/05/2025	01/04/2025	01/04/2025	01/04/2025
Low	3.72	3.73	3.87	3.95	4.04	4.31
Low Date	22/12/2025	29/12/2025	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	31/12/2025	31/12/2025
Average	4.12	4.14	4.17	4.25	4.39	4.69
Spread	0.74	0.74	0.59	0.63	0.69	0.72

Investment performance year to date as of 31st December 2025

7 Day SONIA Benchmark Return	NBBC Performance	Investment Interest Earned
4.14%	4.18%	£621,632.11

5.6. As shown, the Combined Council and HRA investment portfolio is outperforming the 7 Day Benchmark by 4 Basis Points. The 7 Day Benchmark was chosen as the average length of investments for the Council is around 7 days. The Council's budgeted investment return for 2025/26 is £741k, and we currently forecasting a return of around

£739k for both the HRA and General Fund combined for the end of the year. This figure is then split between the General Fund and HRA based on reserves and balances at year end. General fund is currently therefore expecting a return of around £644k, with the HRA expecting a return of around £95k.

5.7. Whilst the current interest rate is lower than the year to date performance, NBBC is still performing better than the current 7 Day SONIA rate.

6. The Council's Debt Position as at 31st December 2025

6.1. The Council's borrowing activity for the third quarter of the financial year can be summarised as follows:

- A Short-term Local Authority Loan of £5.0m was taken out
- £2.5m of debt matured in Q3 for a total of £5.0m of debt repaid in 25/26.
- £62.205m of debt is outstanding as at 31st December 2025 at an average rate of 4.49%. There is £7.0m of debt due to be repaid in 25/26 in Q4.

6.2. Due to the high interest rates, officers are minimalising the amount of new external debt that the Council is undertaking, and are waiting for the rates to drop unless there is a cashflow reason for requiring externalising the Council's debt.

6.3. The Council's Debt Position as at 31st December 2025 is shown below:

Borrowing	2025/26 Opening Balance £m	Balance as of 31st Dec 2025 £m	2025/26 Closing Forecast £m
General Fund			
PWLB (Public Works Loan Board)	6.75	6.75	14.75
Market LOBO	2.00	2.00	2.00
LA Loan	0.00	5.00	5.00
HRA			
PWLB	53.96	48.96	58.96
Total	62.71	62.71	80.71

7. Debt Rescheduling

7.1. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate and following the various increases in the margins added to gilt yields which have impacted PWLB new borrowing rates. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

7.2. The Council is currently breaching their Debt Maturity limits when the full Debt of both the General Fund and the HRA is considered. This is mainly due to HRA debts that were transferred from Central Government to the Council in 2011/12 which are expecting to mature in the next 5 years.

7.3. Part of the reason for the breach has been the use of internal borrowing over the last few years. Whilst making financial sense due to the high interest rates, this has indirectly led to the breach as the council is not borrowing more long-term debt, and therefore the percentage of debt that is maturing shortly is higher. As the Capital Financing Requirement is higher than the amount of external borrowing, the Council has more capacity for external debt and therefore this is not as much a problem as if we were over-borrowed.

7.4. The Council is expecting to use external borrowing later this year, however short-term borrowing may be still be used with an expectation to refinance the loan long-term once the loan is completed to minimise the effect of high interest rates.

Total Debt Maturity Profile				
Debt Maturity within	£m	% of Total Debt	% of Running Total Debt	% for Lower and Upper Limit of Debt
Under 6 months	14.5	23.1%	23.1%	0%-35%
Up to 2 Years	17.8	28.3%	51.4%	0%-40%
Up to 5 Years	22.5	35.8%	87.2%	0%-50%
Up to 10 Years	1.0	1.6%	88.8%	0%-60%
Up to 20 Years	3.0	4.8%	93.6%	0%-70%
Up to 30 Years	0.0	0.0%	93.6%	0%-80%
Up to 40 Years	2.0	3.2%	96.8%	0%-90%
Over 40 Years	2.0	3.2%	100.0%	0%-100%
Total Debt	62.7	100.0%	100.0%	

8. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

8.1. None directly related to this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. Contained within the report.

10. Legal Implications

10.1. None directly related to this report.

11. Equalities implications

11.1. Not applicable to this report.

12. Health implications

12.1. Not applicable to this report.

13. Climate and environmental implications

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

14. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

14.1. Not applicable to this report.

15. Risk management implications

15.1. Treasury Management provides potential risk due to the volatile nature of interest rates and risks over the security of investments and borrowing. The Quarterly Treasury Management Report is part of the Council's procedures to mitigate that risk.

16. Human resources implications

16.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

17. Conclusion

- 17.1. This report demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing transparency on its investments and borrowing. The Audit & Standards Committee is invited to note the Treasury Management 2025/26 – Mid Year Review.
- 17.2. The Treasury Management Practices are the Council's rules on what the Council's staff are allowed to do with regards the Council's Treasury Function. Due to staffing changes, the Audit & Standards Committee is invited to recommend the update to TMP 5 to Full Council for approval.

18. Appendices

- 18.1. Please note the following appendix:
Appendix A – Updated TMP 5

19. Background papers

- 19.1. Please note there are no background papers attached to this report.

20. Report Writer Details:

21. Officer Job Title: Treasury and Technical Business Partner

22. Officer Name: Andrew Pillow

23. Officer Email Address: andrew.pillow@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Appendix A

TMP 5 Organisation, Clarity and Segregation of Responsibilities, and Dealing Arrangements

5.1 Allocation of responsibilities

(i) Full council

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities
- approval of annual treasury management strategy
- approval of capital strategy
- approval of amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices

(ii) Cabinet

- budget consideration and approval
- approval of the division of responsibilities
- receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations
- approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment.

(iii) Audit and Standards Committee

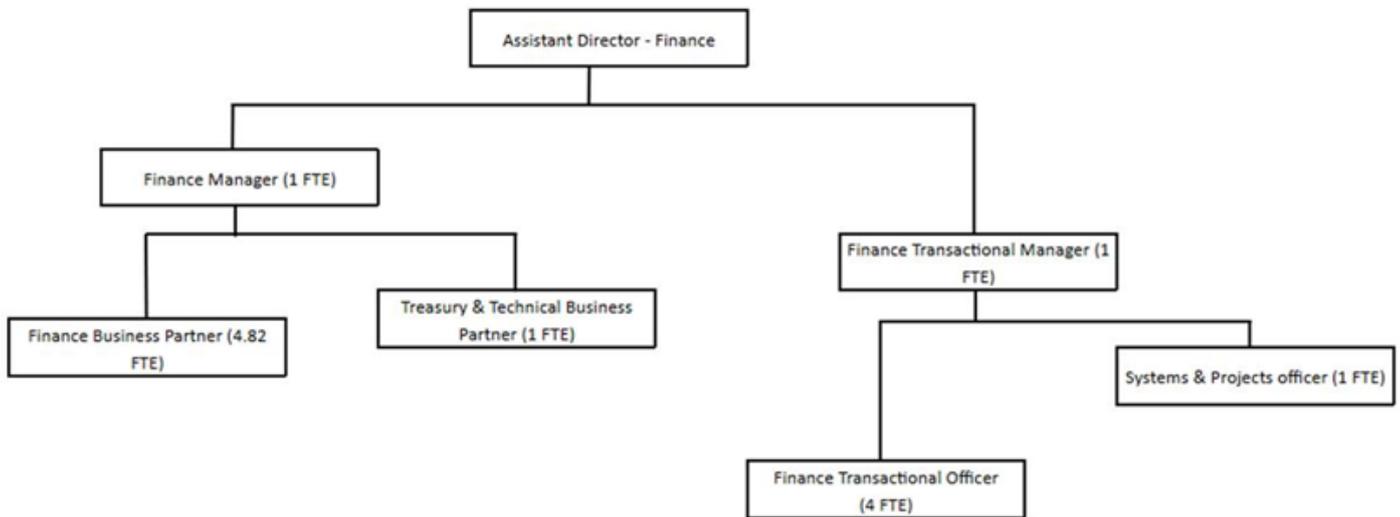
- reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.
- receiving and reviewing regular treasury management reports and acting on recommendations

5.2 Principles and Practices Concerning Segregation of Duties

5.2.1 The following duties must be undertaken by separate officers: -

Dealing	Negotiation and approval of deal. Receipt and checking of brokers confirmation note against loans diary. Reconciliation of cash control account. Bank reconciliation
Accounting Entry	Production of transfer note. Processing of accounting entry
Authorisation/Payment of Deal	Entry onto system. Approval and payment.

5.3 Treasury Management Organisation Chart



5.4 Statement of the treasury management duties/responsibilities of each treasury post

5.4.1. The responsible officer

The responsible officer is the person charged with professional responsibility for the treasury management function and in this Council is the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources. This person will carry out the following duties: -

- a) recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance
- b) submitting regular treasury management policy reports
- c) submitting budgets and budget variations
- d) receiving and reviewing management information reports
- e) reviewing the performance of the treasury management function
- f) ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function
- g) ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit
- h) recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- i) The responsible officer has delegated powers through this policy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources, and to make the most appropriate form of investments in approved instruments.
- j) The responsible officer may delegate his power to borrow and invest to members of his staff. The Financial Planning Team must conduct all dealing transactions, or staff authorised by the responsible officer to act as temporary

cover for leave/sickness. All transactions must be authorised by at least two of the officers in the Treasury Management Organisation Chart.

- k) The responsible officer will ensure that treasury management policy is adhered to, and if not will bring the matter to the attention of elected members as soon as possible.
- l) Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the responsible officer to be satisfied, by reference to the Council's legal department and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach any statute, external regulation or the Council's Financial Regulations
- m) It is also the responsibility of the responsible officer to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of The UK Money Markets Code (formerly known as the Non-Investment Products Code) for principals and broking firms in the wholesale markets.

5.4.2. The Financial Planning Team

The responsibilities of the Assistant Director of Finance is to act as the deputy responsible officer for the council when the responsible officer is unavailable. If the Responsible officer is available to undertake their duties, the Assistant Director of Finance will have the same level of responsibility (with regards to Treasury Management) as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner (see below). The Finance Manager also has the same level of responsibility as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner with regards to Treasury Management.

The responsibilities of the Treasury and Technical Business Partner will be: -

- a) execution of transactions
- b) adherence to agreed policies and practices on a day-to-day basis
- c) maintaining relationships with counterparties and external service providers
- d) supervising treasury management staff
- e) monitoring performance on a day-to-day basis
- f) submitting management information reports to the responsible officer
- g) identifying and recommending opportunities for improved practices
- h) opportunities for improved practices

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner requires at least 1 year of professional experience in Financial Markets (including knowledge of transactions or services envisaged). If they do not have this experience, they will need advice from Treasury Advisors before undertaking any new

investments or supervision from a member of the Treasury Management Organisational Chart who has the relevant experience.

The Financial planning team additionally includes the following persons: -

Finance Transactional Manager

The Finance Transactional Manager have the same limits on investments as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner, and will require authorisation from a more senior role to undertake new debt arrangements. They will also require at least 1 year of professional experience in Financial Markets, or supervision from another member of the Treasury Management Organisational Chart which has the relevant experience.

Finance Transactional Officer(s)

The Finance Transactional Officer(s) can process investments with the deals being authorised by the Finance Transactional Manager, Treasury & Technical Business Partner or more senior member of staff within the Treasury Management Organisation Chart above.

5.4.3. The Head of the Paid Service – the Chief Executive

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring that the system is specified and implemented
- b) Ensuring that the responsible officer reports regularly to the Cabinet on treasury policy, activity and performance.

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The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring compliance by the responsible officer with the treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices and that they comply with the law.
- b) Being satisfied that any proposal to vary treasury policy or practice complies with law or any code of practice.
- c) Giving advice to the responsible officer when advice is sought.

5.4.5. Internal Audit

The responsibilities of Internal Audit will be: -

- a) Reviewing compliance with approved policy and treasury management practices.
- b) Reviewing division of duties and operational practice.
- c) Assessing value for money from treasury activities.
- d) Undertaking probity audit of treasury function.

5.5 Absence Cover Arrangements

In the case of the Treasury and Technical Business Partner, the Finance Transactional Manager, and the Finance Manager all being unavailable, the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and

Assistant Director for Finance can deal for the Council. If secondary approval is needed, other Strategic Directors or the Chief Executive can provide this approval.

5.6 Dealing Limits

There is no specific dealing limit by post, but limits on dealing is within the TMSS.

5.7 List of Approved Brokers

A list of approved brokers is maintained within the Financial Planning Team and a record of all transactions recorded against them. See TMP 11.1.2.

5.8 Policy on Brokers' Services

It is this Council's policy to rotate business between brokers.

5.9 Policy on Taping of Conversations

It is not this Council's policy to tape brokers conversations.

5.10 Direct Dealing Practices

The Council will consider dealing direct with counterparties if it is appropriate and the Council believes that better terms will be available. At present, most deals are arranged through brokers. There are certain types of accounts and facilities, however, where direct dealing is required, as follows;

- Business Reserve Accounts:
- Call Accounts:
- Money Market Funds.

5.11 Settlement Transmission Procedures

A formal letter signed by an agreed cheque signatory setting out each transaction must be sent to the local authority's bankers where preliminary instructions have been given by telephone. For payments a transfer will be made through the Online Banking system to be completed by 5pm on the day of transfer.

5.12 Documentation Requirements

For each deal undertaken a record should be prepared giving details of dealer, amount, period, counterparty, interest rate, dealing date, payment date(s), broker.

5.13 Arrangements Concerning the Management of Third-Party Funds.

The Council holds a number of trust funds. The cash in respect of these funds is held in the Council's bank account but transactions are separately coded. Interest is given on credit balances at the average rate for internal balances for the year.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11c

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 rd February 2026
Subject:	Treasury Management Practices 2026/27
Portfolio:	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director - Finance
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Your Council
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Deliver continued forward financial planning to safeguard the finances of the Council. Strive for transparency and accountability, in all that we do.
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Subject:	Review of Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) 2026/27
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Subject to Call-in:	Not Applicable

1. Purpose of Report

1.1.To provide Audit and Standards Committee with the reviewed Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) for approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1.That at the updated TMPs are noted and recommended to Council for approval.

3. Review Process

3.1. The Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) are subject to review every year unless significant changes are identified in the interim period. Approval of reviews / significant changes are required by this committee.

4. Treasury Management Practices

4.1. The updated TMPs are attached as Appendix A.

4.2. Other than the updates to TMP5 (which occurred during 2025/26), there are no major updates to the Treasury Management Practices

4.3. The Key Changes:

- Updates to Position titles to reflect current titles
- Change in name of the main Treasury Advisor from Link to MUFG
- The End date of the contract with MUFG is updated to reflect the extension clauses in the contract.

5. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

5.1. None directly related to this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. Contained within the report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1. None directly related to this report.

8. Equalities implications

8.1. Not applicable to this report.

9. Health implications

9.1. Not applicable to this report.

10. Climate and environmental implications

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

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

11.1. Not applicable to this report.

12. Risk management implications

12.1. Treasury Management provides potential risk due to the volatile nature of interest rates and risks over the security of investments and borrowing. The Treasury Management Practices is part of the Council's policies to mitigate that risk.

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

14. Conclusion

14.1. This report demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing transparency on its investments and borrowing. The Audit & Standards Committee is invited to accept the Treasury Management Practices 2026/27

15. Appendices

15.1. Please note the following appendix:
Appendix A – Treasury Management Practices 2026/27

16. Background papers

16.1. Please note there are no background papers attached to this report.

17. Report Writer Details:

18. Officer Job Title: Treasury and Technical Business Partner

19. Officer Name: Andrew Pillow

20. Officer Email Address: andrew.pillow@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

2026/27

Treasury Management Practices

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TMP 1 Risk Management

The DLUHC issued Investment Guidance in 2018, and this forms the structure of the Council's policy below. These guidelines do not apply to either trust funds or pension funds which operate under a different regulatory regime.

The key intention of the Guidance is to maintain the current requirement for local authorities to invest prudently, and that priority is given to security and liquidity before yield. In order to facilitate this objective, the Guidance requires this Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. This Council adopted the Code and will apply its principles to all investment activity. In accordance with the Code, the Director of Corporate Resources has produced its treasury management practices (TMPs). This part, TMP 1, covering investment counterparty policy requires approval each year.

Annual Investment Strategy - The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are for the Council to set an Annual Investment Strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for choosing and placing investments, particularly non-specified investments.
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed.
- Specified investments that the Council will use. These are high security and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year.
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

The investment policy proposed for the Council is:

Strategy guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

Specified investments – These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. They also include investments which were originally classed as being non-specified investments, but which would have been classified as specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months once the remaining period to maturity falls to under 12 months.

These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with: -

- The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account deposit facility, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).
- Supranational Bonds of less than one year's duration.
- A Local Authority, Housing Association, Parish Council or Community Council.
- Pooled investment vehicles (such as Money Market Funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency e.g., Standard and Poor's, Moody's and/or Fitch rating agencies.
- A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society This category covers bodies with a minimum Short-Term rating of AA- (or the equivalent) as rated by Standard and Poor's, Moody's and / or Fitch rating agencies.

In accordance with the Code, the Council has set out additional criteria to limit the time and the amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies. These criteria are a maximum of £10m per organisation and with organisations that meet the Treasury Management Staff's

Non-specified investments – are any other type of investment (i.e., not defined as specified above). The identification and rationale supporting the selection of these other investments and the maximum limits to be applied are set out below. Non-specified investments would include any sterling investments with: -

	Non-Specified Investment Category	Limit (£ or %)
a.	Supranational Bonds greater than 1 year to maturity (a) Multilateral Development Bank bonds - These are bonds defined as an international financial institution having as one of its objectives economic development, either generally or in any region of the world (e.g., European Reconstruction and Development Bank etc). (b) A financial institution that is guaranteed by the United Kingdom Government (e.g., National Rail) The security of interest and principal on maturity is on a par with the Government and so very secure. These bonds usually provide returns above equivalent gilt-edged securities. However, the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.	AAA long term ratings £10m
b.	Gilt edged securities with a maturity of greater than one year. These are Government bonds and so provide the highest security of interest and the repayment of	£10m

	principal on maturity. Similar to category (a) above, the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.	
c.	The Council's own banker if it fails to meet the basic credit criteria. In this instance balances will be minimised as far as is possible.	£2m
d.	Building Societies not meeting the basic security requirements under the specified investments. The operation of some building societies does not require a credit rating, although in every other respect the security of the society would match similarly sized societies with ratings. The Council may use such building societies which have a minimum asset size of £100m, but will restrict these types of investments to under 1 year.	£2m
e.	Any Bank or Building Society that has a minimum long-term credit rating of AA-, for deposits with a maturity of greater than one year (including forward deals in excess of one year from inception to repayment).	£10m
f.	Any Non-Rated Subsidiary of a credit rated institution included in the specified investment category. These institutions will be included as an investment category subject to a guarantee from a parent company, the investment must be under 1 year, and the subsidiary must be UK based.	£2m
g.	Share Capital in a body corporate – The use of these instruments will be deemed to be capital expenditure, and as such will be an application (spending) of capital resources. Revenue resources will not be invested in corporate bodies. See note 1 below.	£2m
h.	Other fund: The use of these instruments can be deemed to be capital expenditure, and as such will be an application (spending) of capital resources. This Council will seek guidance on the status of any fund it may consider using and will update Cabinet before any use of a new style of fund.	

NOTE 1. This Council will seek further advice on the appropriateness and associated risks with investments in these categories.

The monitoring of investment counterparties - The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Council receives credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from Link as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest.

Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately by the Director of Corporate Resources, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

TMP 2 Performance Measurement

2.1 Evaluation and Review of Treasury Management Decisions

The Council has a number of approaches to evaluating treasury management decisions: -

- a. Monthly reviews carried out by the Treasury team
- b. reviews with our treasury management consultants
- c. annual review after the end of the year as reported to full council
- d. Quarterly monitoring reports to Audit and Standards Committee and Full Council
- e. comparative reviews
- f. strategic, scrutiny and efficiency value for money reviews

2.1.1 Periodic reviews during the financial year

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner holds a treasury management review meeting with the Financial Planning Team every month to review actual activity against the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and cash flow forecasts.

This will include :

- a) Total debt (both on-and off balance sheet) including average rate and maturity profile
- b) Total investments including average rate and maturity profile and changes to the above from the previous review and against the TMSS.

2.1.2 Reviews with our treasury management consultants

The treasury management team holds reviews with our consultants every 6 months to review the performance of the investment and debt portfolios.

2.1.3 Review reports on treasury management

An Annual Treasury Report is submitted to the Council each year after the close of the financial year which reviews the performance of the Investment and Debt portfolios. This report contains the following: -

- a. total external debt (gross external borrowing plus other long term liabilities such as finance leases) and average interest rates at the beginning and close of the financial year compared to the Capital Financing Requirement
- b. borrowing strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- c. whether or not a decision was made to defer borrowing or to borrow in advance
- d. comment on the level of internal borrowing and how it has changed during the year
- e. assumptions made about interest rates

- f. investment strategy for the year compared to actual strategy
- g. explanations for variance between original borrowing and investment strategies and actual
- h. debt rescheduling done in the year
- i. actual borrowing and investment rates available through the year
- j. the performance and return of all investments by type of investment, evaluated against the stated investment objectives
- k. the Report shall identify investments where any specific risks have materialised during the year and report on any financial consequences of that risk; together with details of any remedial action taken. This includes reporting any short term borrowing costs incurred to remediate any liquidity problem.
- l. the Report shall include details of any review of long-term investments, held by the authority, which was undertaken in the year in accordance with the Annual Investment Strategy.
- m. compliance with Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- n. other needed information

In addition, quarterly reports will be submitted to the Council each year to provide updates on the above.

2.1.4 Comparative reviews

When data becomes available, comparative reviews are undertaken to see how the performance of the authority on debt and investments compares to other authorities with similar size portfolios (but allowing for the fact that Prudential and Treasury Indicators are locally set). Data used will be sourced from: -

- CIPFA Treasury Management statistics published each year for the last complete financial year
- CIPFA Benchmarking Club

2.2 Benchmarks and Calculation Methodology:

2.2.1 Debt management

- Average rate on all external debt
- Average rate on external debt borrowed in previous financial year
- Average rate on internal borrowing (based on rate of investment)
- Average period to maturity of external debt
- Average period to maturity of new loans in previous year
- Debt portfolio compared to the debt liability benchmark

2.2.2 Investment.

The performance of investment earnings will be measured against the following benchmarks:

- Average daily SONIA rate
- Backward-looking compounded SONIA (based on the average rate to maturity. 7-days for short term, 3/6/9 months etc if longer).

2.3 Policy Concerning Methods for Testing Value for money in Treasury Management

2.3.1 Frequency and processes for tendering

Tenders are normally awarded on a 3 year basis with the option to extend for 1 year twice, if approved by the Cabinet. The process for advertising and awarding contracts will be in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

2.3.2 Banking services

The Council's banking arrangements are to be subject to competitive tender every 5 years unless it is considered that there will be changes in the volume of transactions in the foreseeable future which renders a shorter period appropriate.

If tendering is not considered appropriate a specialist banking company must be appointed to ensure that the terms offered represent value for money.

2.3.3 Money-broking services

The Council will use money broking services in order to make deposits or to borrow, and will establish charges for all services prior to using them.

An approved list of brokers will be established which takes account of both prices and quality of services.

2.3.4 Consultants'/advisers' services

This Council's policy is to appoint full-time professional treasury management consultants and separate leasing advisory consultants.

2.3.5 Policy on External Managers (Other than relating to Superannuation Funds)

The Council's policy is not to appoint external investment fund managers.

TMP 3 Decision Making and Analysis

3.1 Funding, Borrowing, Lending, and New Instruments/Techniques:

3.1.1 Records to be kept

The Treasury section has a computerised system in which all investment and loan transactions are recorded. Full details of the system are covered in the user manual. The following records will be retained:

- Daily cash balance forecasts
- Money market rates for the Council's MMFs
- Dealing slips for all money market transactions
- Brokers' confirmations for investment and temporary borrowing transactions
- Confirmations from borrowing /lending institutions where deals are done directly
- PWLB loan confirmations
- PWLB debt portfolio schedules.
- Certificates for market loans, local bonds and other loans
- Contract notes received from fund manager(s)
- Fund manager(s) valuation statements

3.1.2 Processes to be pursued

- Cash flow analysis.
- Debt and investment maturity analysis
- Ledger reconciliation
- Review of opportunities for debt restructuring
- Review of borrowing requirement to finance capital expenditure (and other forms of financing where those offer value for money)
- Performance information (e.g. monitoring of actuals against budget for debt charges, interest earned, debt management; also monitoring of average pool rate, investment returns, etc).

3.1.3 Issues to be addressed.

3.1.3.1. In respect of every treasury management decision made the Council will:

- a) Above all be clear about the nature and extent of the risks to which the Council may become exposed
- b) Be certain about the legality of the decision reached and the nature of the transaction, and that all authorities to proceed have been obtained
- c) Be content that the documentation is adequate both to deliver the Council's objectives and protect the Council's interests, and to deliver good housekeeping

- d) Ensure that third parties are judged satisfactory in the context of the Council's creditworthiness policies, and that limits have not been exceeded
- e) Be content that the terms of any transactions have been fully checked against the market and have been found to be competitive.

3.1.3.2 In respect of borrowing and other funding decisions, the Council will:

- a) consider the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the organisation's future plans and budgets to ensure that its capital plans and investment plans are affordable, proportionate to the Council's overall financial capacity, and are within prudent and sustainable levels. This evaluation will be carried out in detail for three budget years ahead.
- b) Less detailed evaluation will also be carried out over a longer period of 5 years to ensure that plans continue to be affordable, proportionate, prudent and sustainable in the longer term.
- c) not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.
- d) not borrow earlier than required to meet cash flow needs unless there is a clear business case for doing so.
- e) not borrow unless it is to finance the current capital programme or to fund future debt maturities, or to ensure an adequate level of short-term investments to provide liquidity for the Council.
- f) increase its CFR and borrowing solely for purposes directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority and where any financial returns are either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose.
- g) undertake an annual review of any investments in commercial (debt for yield) schemes with a view to identify whether such assets should be sold to provide resources to finance capital expenditure plans or refinance maturing debt.
- h) evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to fund.
- i) consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding, including funding from revenue, leasing and private partnerships.
- j) consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and repayment profiles to use and, if relevant, the opportunities for foreign currency funding.
- k) ensure that treasury management decisions are made in accordance with good professional practice.

3.1.3.3 In respect of investment decisions, the Council will:

- a) Consider the optimum period, in the light of cash flow availability and prevailing market conditions;
- b) Consider the alternative investment products and techniques available, especially the implications of using any which may expose the Council to changes in the value of its capital;

- c) ensure that any long-term treasury investment is supported by a business case.

TMP 4 Approved Instruments, Methods and Techniques

4.1 Approved Instruments, Method and Techniques

The Council will undertake its treasury management activities by employing only those instruments, methods and techniques detailed in the schedule to this document, and within the limits and parameters defined and parameters defined in TMP1.

Where the Council intends to use derivative instruments for the management of risks, these will be limited to those set out in its annual treasury strategy.

The Council will seek proper advice and will consider that advice when entering into arrangements to use such products to ensure that it fully understands those products.

The Council has reviewed its classification with financial institutions under MIFID II and has set out in the schedule to this document those organisations with which it is registered as a professional client and those with which it has an application outstanding to register as a professional client.

TMP 5 Organisation, Clarity and Segregation of Responsibilities, and Dealing Arrangements

5.1 Allocation of responsibilities

(i) Full council

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities
- approval of annual treasury management strategy
- approval of capital strategy
- approval of amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices

(ii) Cabinet

- budget consideration and approval
- approval of the division of responsibilities
- receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations
- approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of appointment.

(iii) Audit and Standards Committee

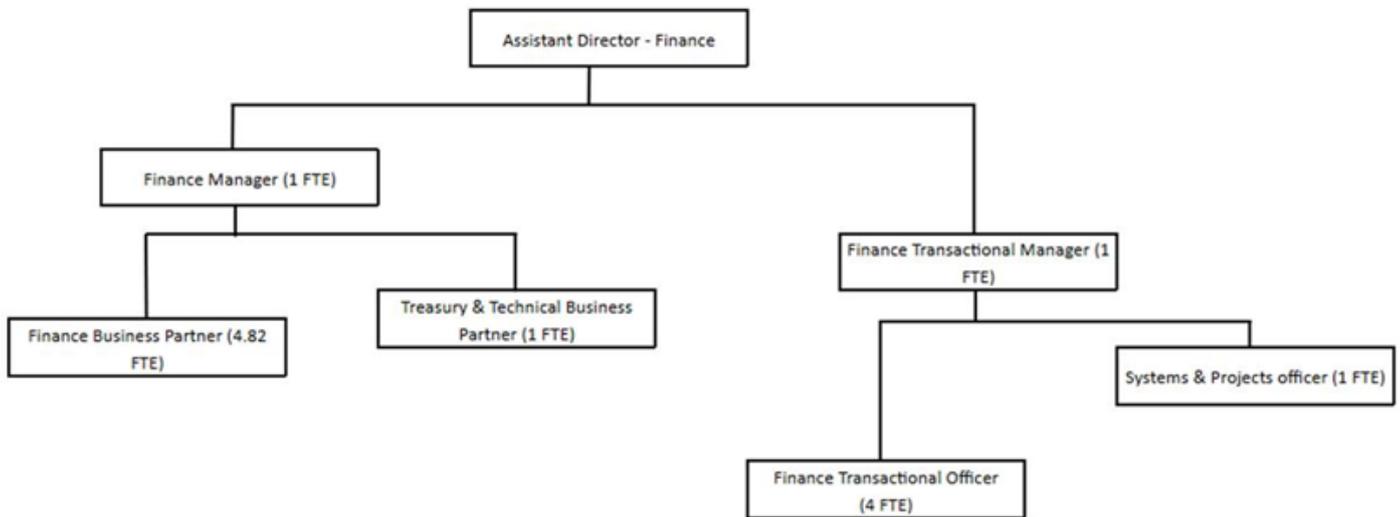
- reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.
- receiving and reviewing regular treasury management reports and acting on recommendations

5.2 Principles and Practices Concerning Segregation of Duties

5.2.1 The following duties must be undertaken by separate officers: -

Dealing	Negotiation and approval of deal. Receipt and checking of brokers confirmation note against loans diary. Reconciliation of cash control account. Bank reconciliation
Accounting Entry	Production of transfer note. Processing of accounting entry
Authorisation/Payment of Deal	Entry onto system. Approval and payment.

5.3 Treasury Management Organisation Chart



5.4 Statement of the treasury management duties/responsibilities of each treasury post

5.4.1. The responsible officer

The responsible officer is the person charged with professional responsibility for the treasury management function and in this Council is the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources. This person will carry out the following duties: -

- a) recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance
- b) submitting regular treasury management policy reports
- c) submitting budgets and budget variations
- d) receiving and reviewing management information reports
- e) reviewing the performance of the treasury management function
- f) ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function
- g) ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit
- h) recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- i) The responsible officer has delegated powers through this policy to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources, and to make the most appropriate form of investments in approved instruments.
- j) The responsible officer may delegate his power to borrow and invest to members of his staff. The Financial Planning Team must conduct all dealing transactions, or staff authorised by the responsible officer to act as temporary

cover for leave/sickness. All transactions must be authorised by at least two of the officers in the Treasury Management Organisation Chart.

- k) The responsible officer will ensure that treasury management policy is adhered to, and if not will bring the matter to the attention of elected members as soon as possible.
- l) Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the responsible officer to be satisfied, by reference to the Council's legal department and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach any statute, external regulation or the Council's Financial Regulations
- m) It is also the responsibility of the responsible officer to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of The UK Money Markets Code (formerly known as the Non-Investment Products Code) for principals and broking firms in the wholesale markets.

5.4.2. The Financial Planning Team

The responsibilities of the Assistant Director of Finance is to act as the deputy responsible officer for the council when the responsible officer is unavailable. If the Responsible officer is available to undertake their duties, the Assistant Director of Finance will have the same level of responsibility (with regards to Treasury Management) as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner (see below). The Finance Manager also has the same level of responsibility as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner with regards to Treasury Management.

The responsibilities of the Treasury and Technical Business Partner will be: -

- a) execution of transactions
- b) adherence to agreed policies and practices on a day-to-day basis
- c) maintaining relationships with counterparties and external service providers
- d) supervising treasury management staff
- e) monitoring performance on a day-to-day basis
- f) submitting management information reports to the responsible officer
- g) identifying and recommending opportunities for improved practices
- h) opportunities for improved practices

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner requires at least 1 year of professional experience in Financial Markets (including knowledge of transactions or services envisaged). If they do not have this experience, they will need advice from Treasury Advisors before undertaking any new

investments or supervision from a member of the Treasury Management Organisational Chart who has the relevant experience.

The Financial planning team additionally includes the following persons: -

Finance Transactional Manager

The Finance Transactional Manager have the same limits on investments as the Treasury and Technical Business Partner and will require authorisation from a more senior role to undertake new debt arrangements. They will also require at least 1 year of professional experience in Financial Markets, or supervision from another member of the Treasury Management Organisational Chart which has the relevant experience.

Finance Transactional Officer(s)

The Finance Transactional Officer(s) can process investments with the deals being authorised by the Finance Transactional Manager, Treasury & Technical Business Partner or more senior member of staff within the Treasury Management Organisation Chart above.

5.4.3. The Head of the Paid Service – the Chief Executive

The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring that the system is specified and implemented
- b) Ensuring that the responsible officer reports regularly to the Cabinet on treasury policy, activity and performance.

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The responsibilities of this post will be: -

- a) Ensuring compliance by the responsible officer with the treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices and that they comply with the law.
- b) Being satisfied that any proposal to vary treasury policy or practice complies with law or any code of practice.
- c) Giving advice to the responsible officer when advice is sought.

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The responsibilities of Internal Audit will be: -

- a) Reviewing compliance with approved policy and treasury management practices.
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Assistant Director for Finance can deal for the Council. If secondary approval is needed, other Strategic Directors or the Chief Executive can provide this approval.

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5.7 List of Approved Brokers

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5.8 Policy on Brokers' Services

It is this Council's policy to rotate business between brokers.

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It is not this Council's policy to tape brokers conversations.

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For each deal undertaken a record should be prepared giving details of dealer, amount, period, counterparty, interest rate, dealing date, payment date(s), broker.

5.13 Arrangements Concerning the Management of Third-Party Funds.

The Council holds a number of trust funds. The cash in respect of these funds is held in the Council's bank account but transactions are separately coded. Interest is given on credit balances at the average rate for internal balances for the year.

TMP 6 Reporting Requirements and Management Information Arrangements

6.1 Annual programme of reporting

- a) Annual reporting requirements before the start of the year: -
- review of the organisation's approved clauses, treasury management policy statement and practices
 - treasury management strategy report on proposed treasury management activities for the year comprising of the Treasury management strategy statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.
 - capital strategy to cover the following: -
 - i. give a long-term view of the capital programme and treasury management implications thereof beyond the three year time horizon for detailed planning.
 - ii. an overview of treasury and non-treasury investments to highlight the risks and returns involved in each and the balance, (proportionality), between both types of investments.
 - iii. The authorities risk appetite and specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments
 - iv. Schedule of non-treasury investments
- b) Mid-year review
- c) Quarterly monitoring
- d) Annual review report after the end of the year

6.2 Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement sets out the specific expected treasury activities for the forthcoming financial year. This strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet and then to the full Council for approval before the commencement of each financial year.
2. The formulation of the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement involves determining the appropriate borrowing and investment decisions in the light of the anticipated movement in both fixed and shorter -term variable interest rates. For instance, this Council may decide to postpone borrowing if fixed interest rates are expected to fall or borrow early if fixed interest rates are expected to rise.

3. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is concerned with the following elements:
 - a) Prudential and Treasury Indicators
 - b) current Treasury portfolio position
 - c) borrowing requirement
 - d) prospects for interest rates
 - e) borrowing strategy
 - f) policy on borrowing in advance of need
 - g) debt rescheduling
 - h) investment strategy
 - i) creditworthiness policy
 - j) policy on the use of external service providers
 - k) any extraordinary treasury issue
 - l) the MRP strategy

4. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement will establish the expected move in interest rates against alternatives (using all available information such as published interest rate forecasts where applicable), and highlight sensitivities to different scenarios.

6.3 The Annual Investment Strategy Statement

At the same time as the Council receives the Treasury Management Strategy Statement it will also receive a report on the Annual Investment Strategy which will set out the following: -

- a) The Council's risk appetite in respect of security, liquidity and optimum performance
- b) The definition of high credit quality to determine what are specified investments as distinct from non-specified investments
- c) Which specified and non-specified instruments the Council will use
- d) Whether they will be used by the in house team, external managers or both (if applicable)
- e) The Council's policy on the use of credit ratings and other credit risk analysis techniques to determine creditworthy counterparties for its approved lending list
- f) Which credit rating agencies the Council will use
- g) How the Council will deal with changes in ratings, rating watches and rating outlooks
- h) Limits of value and time for individual counterparties and groups
- i) Country limits
- j) Maximum value and maximum periods for which funds may be prudently invested
- k) Levels of cash balances and investments over the same time period (as a minimum) as the authority's capital investment plans and how the use of internal borrowing and borrowing in advance will influence those levels
- l) Interest rate outlook
- m) Budget for investment earnings
- n) A review of the holding of longer-term investments
- o) Use of a cash fund manager (if applicable)

p) Policy on the use of external service providers

6.4 The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement

This statement will set out how the Council will make revenue provision for repayment of its borrowing using the four options for so doing and will be submitted at the same time as the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

6.5 Policy on Prudential and Treasury Indicators

1. The Council approves before the beginning of each financial year a number of treasury limits which are set through Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
2. The responsible officer is responsible for incorporating these limits into the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and for ensuring compliance with the limits. Should it prove necessary to amend these limits, the responsible officer shall submit the changes for approval to the full Council

6.6 Quarterly and Mid-year reviews

The Council will review its treasury management activities and strategy on a quarterly and six monthly basis. The mid-year review will go to Full Council. This review will consider the following: -

- a) activities undertaken
- b) variations (if any) from agreed policies/practices
- c) interim performance report
- d) regular monitoring
- e) monitoring of treasury management and prudential indicators

The quarterly review will monitor the treasury management and prudential indicators as part of the authority's general revenue and capital monitoring.

6.7 Annual Review Report on Treasury Management Activity

An annual report will be presented to the Cabinet and then to the full Council at the earliest practicable meeting after the end of the financial year, but in any case by the end of September. This report will include the following: -

- a) transactions executed and their revenue (current) effects

- b) report on risk implications of decisions taken and transactions executed
- c) compliance report on agreed policies and practices, and on statutory/regulatory requirements
- d) performance report
- e) report on compliance with CIPFA Code recommendations, approved policies and practices, the member approved treasury management strategy and on statutory/regulatory requirements
- f) monitoring of treasury management indicators

6.8 Management Information Reports

Management information reports will be prepared every month by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner and will be presented to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources.

These reports will contain the following information: -

- a) a summary of transactions executed and their revenue (current effects);
- b) measurements of performance including effect on loan charges/investment income;
- c) degree of compliance with original strategy and explanation of variances.
- d) any non-compliance with Prudential limits or other treasury management limits.

6.9 Publication of Treasury Management Reports

Reports made to Audit and Standards Committee and Council will be published as part of the meetings agenda.

TMP 7 Budgeting, Accounting and Audit Arrangements

7.1 Statutory/Regulatory Requirements

The accounts are drawn up in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain that is recognised by statute as representing proper accounting practices.

The Council has also adopted in full the principles set out in CIPFA's 'Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice' (the 'CIPFA Code'), together with those of its specific recommendations that are relevant to this Council's treasury management activities.

7.2 Sample Budgets / Accounts / Prudential and Treasury Indicators

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner will prepare a five-year financial plan for treasury management with Prudential and Treasury Indicators which will incorporate the budget for the forthcoming year and provisional estimates for the following two years. This will bring together all the costs involved in running the function, together with associated income. The Treasury and Technical Business Partner will exercise effective controls over this budget and monitoring of performance against Prudential and Treasury Indicators and will report upon and recommend any changes required in accordance with TMP6.

7.3 List of Information Requirements of External Auditors.

- Reconciliation of loans outstanding in the financial ledger to treasury management records
- Maturity analysis of loans outstanding
- Certificates for new long term loans taken out in the year
- Reconciliation of loan interest, discounts received and premiums paid to financial ledger by loan type
- Calculation of loans fund interest and debt management expenses
- Details of interest rates applied to internal investments
- Calculation of interest on working balances
- Interest accrual calculation
- Principal and interest charges reports from the Financial Systems
- Analysis of any deferred charges
- Calculation of loans fund creditors and debtors
- Annual Treasury Report
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- Review of observance of limits set by Prudential and Treasury Indicators
- Calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision
- External fund manager(s) valuations including investment income schedules and movement in capital values.

7.4 Monthly Budget Monitoring Report

Monthly Budget Monitoring reports are produced for the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources whilst a quarterly budget monitoring report goes to Cabinet. The report is intended to highlight any variances between budgets and spend in order that the Council can assess its financial position. Details of treasury management activities are included within this report.

TMP 8 Cash and Cash Flow Management

8.1 Arrangements for Preparing/Submitting Cash Flow Statements

Cash flow projections are prepared annually, monthly and daily. The annual and monthly cash flow projections are prepared from the previous years' cash flow records, adjusted for known changes in levels of income and expenditure and also changes in payments and receipts dates. These details are supplemented on an ongoing basis by information received of new or revised amounts to be paid or received as and when they are known.

A debt liability benchmark will be created and monitored on a quarterly basis to inform a long-term view of liquidity requirements.

8.2 Bank Statements Procedures

The Council receives daily bank statements and a daily download of data from its bank. All amounts on the statement are checked to source data from Payroll, Creditors etc.

A formal bank reconciliation is undertaken on a daily basis by the Finance Transactional Team on the Council's finance system.

8.3 Payment Scheduling and Agreed Terms of Trade with Creditors

Our policy is to pay creditors within 30 days of the invoice date, and this effectively schedules the payments. Certificated payments to sub-contractors must be paid within 14 days.

8.4 Arrangements for Monitoring Debtors / Creditors Levels

The Assistant Director for Finance is responsible for monitoring the levels of debtors and creditors. Details are passed to the treasury team on a monthly basis to assist in updating the cash flow models.

8.5 Procedures for Banking of Funds

All money received by an officer on behalf of the Council will without unreasonable delay be passed to the cashiers to deposit in the Council's banking accounts. The cashiers will notify the Finance

Transactional Team by the following morning of cash and cheques banked the previous day so that the figures can be taken into account in the daily cash flow.

8.6 Practices Concerning Prepayments to Obtain Benefits

The Council has no formal arrangement in place. Where such opportunities arise, the prepayment would be sought and authorised by the responsible officer.

TMP 9 Money Laundering

9.1 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

Money laundering has the objective of concealing the origin of money generated through criminal activity. Legislation has given a higher profile to the need to report suspicions of money laundering. The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 established the main offences relating to money laundering. In summary, these are:

- concealing, disguising, converting, transferring or removing criminal property from England and Wales, from Scotland or from Northern Ireland
- being concerned in an arrangement which a person knows or suspects facilitates the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property
- acquiring, using or possessing criminal property.

These apply to all persons in the UK in a personal and professional capacity. Any person involved in any known or suspected money-laundering activity in the UK risks a criminal conviction. Other offences under the POCA include:

- failure to disclose money-laundering offences
- tipping off a suspect, either directly or indirectly
- doing something that might prejudice an investigation – for example, falsifying a document.

9.2 The Terrorism Act 2000

This act made it an offence of money laundering to become concerned in an arrangement relating to the retention or control of property likely to be used for the purposes of terrorism or resulting from acts of terrorism. All individuals and businesses in the UK have an obligation to report knowledge, reasonable grounds for belief or suspicion about the proceeds from, or finance likely to be used for, terrorism or its laundering, where it relates to information that comes to them in the course of their business or employment

9.3 The Money Laundering Regulations 2012, 2015 and 2017

Organisations pursuing relevant business (especially those in the financial services industry regulated by the FCA) are required to do the following: -

- identify and assess the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing
- have policies, controls and procedures to mitigate and manage effectively the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing identified through the risk assessments
- appoint a nominated officer
- implement internal reporting procedures
- train relevant staff in the subject

- obtain, verify and maintain evidence and records of the identity of new clients and transactions undertaken
- report their suspicions.

9.4 Local authorities

Public service organisations and their staff are subject to the full provisions of the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent Terrorism Acts and may commit most of the principal offences under the POCA but are not legally obliged to apply the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 2012, 2015 and 2017. However, as responsible public bodies, they should employ policies and procedures which reflect the essence of the UK's anti-terrorist financing, and anti-money laundering, regimes. Accordingly this Council will do the following: -

- a) evaluate the prospect of laundered monies being handled by them
- b) determine the appropriate safeguards to be put in place
- c) require every person engaged in treasury management to make themselves aware of their personal and legal responsibilities for money laundering awareness
- d) make all its staff aware of their responsibilities under POCA
- e) appoint a member of staff to whom they can report any suspicions. This person is Corporate Fraud Officer
- f) in order to ensure compliance is appropriately managed, this Council will require senior management to give appropriate oversight, analysis and assessment of the risks of clients and work/product types, systems for monitoring compliance with procedures and methods of communicating procedures and other information to personnel.
- g) The officer responsible for the creation and monitoring the implementation of a corporate anti money laundering policy and procedures is Head of Audit and Governance and it shall be a requirement that all services and departments implement this corporate policy and procedures.

9.5 Procedures for Establishing Identity / Authenticity of Lenders

It is not a requirement under POCA for local authorities to require identification from every person or organisation it deals with. However, in respect of treasury management transactions, there is a need for due diligence, and this will be effected by following the procedures below.

The Council does not accept loans from individuals.

All loans are obtained from the PWLB, other local authorities or from authorised institutions under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. This register can be accessed through the FCA website on www.fca.gov.uk.

When repaying loans, the procedures in 9.6 will be followed to check the bank details of the recipient.

9.6 Methodologies for Identifying Deposit Takers

In the course of its Treasury activities, the Council will only lend money to or invest with those counterparties that are on its approved lending list. These will be local authorities, the PWLB, Bank of England and authorised deposit takers under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The FCA register can be accessed through their website on www.fca.gov.uk).

All transactions will be carried out by either BACS or CHAPS for making deposits or repaying loans.

TMP 10 Training and Qualifications

This organisation recognises the importance of ensuring that all staff involved in the treasury management function are fully equipped to undertake the duties and responsibilities allocated to them. It will therefore seek to appoint individuals who are both capable and experienced and will provide training for staff to enable them to acquire and maintain an appropriate level of expertise, knowledge and skills. The responsible officer will recommend and implement the necessary arrangements, including the specification of the expertise, knowledge and skills required by each role or member of staff.

The responsible officer will ensure that council members tasked with treasury management responsibilities, including those responsible for scrutiny, have access to training relevant to their needs and those responsibilities.

Those charged with governance recognise their individual responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary skills to complete their role effectively. The present arrangements, including a knowledge and skills schedule, are detailed in the schedule to this document.

All treasury management staff should receive appropriate training relevant to the requirements of their duties at the appropriate time. The Council operates a Annual Development Review system which identifies the training requirements of individual members of staff engaged on treasury related activities.

Additionally, training may also be provided on the job, and it will be the responsibility of the Finance Manager to ensure that all staff under his / her authority receive the level of training appropriate to their duties. This will also apply to those staff who from time to time cover for absences from the Financial Planning team.

10.1 Details of Approved Training Courses

Treasury management staff and members will go on courses provided by our treasury management consultants, CIPFA, money brokers etc.

10.2 Records of Training Received by Treasury Staff

The Treasury and Technical Business Partner will maintain records on all staff and the training they receive.

10.3 Record of Secondment of Senior Management

Records will be kept of senior management who are seconded into the treasury management section in order to gain first-hand experience of treasury management operations.

10.4 Statement of Professional Practice (SOPP)

1. Where the Chief Financial Officer is a member of CIPFA, there is a professional need for the CFO to be seen to be committed to professional responsibilities through both personal compliance and by ensuring that relevant staff are appropriately trained. When the CFO is not a member of CIPFA, they must meet the equivalent requirement for their professional body, whilst ensuring the relevant staff are appropriately trained.
2. Other staff involved in treasury management activities who are members of CIPFA must also comply with the SOPP. Staff who are members of other Accountancy bodies must comply with the equivalent requirements for their professional body.

10.5 Member training records

Records will be kept of all training in treasury management provided to members.

10.6 Members charged with governance

Members charged with diligence also have a personal responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and training for their role.

TMP 11 Use of External Service Providers

11.1 Details of Contracts with Service Providers, Including Bankers, Brokers, Consultants, Advisers

This Council will employ the services of other organisations to assist it in the field of treasury management. In particular, it will use external consultants to provide specialist advice in this ever more complex area. However, it will ensure that it fully understands what services are being provided and that they meet the needs of this organisation, especially in terms of being objective and free from conflicts of interest.

It will also ensure that the skills of the in house Financial Planning team are maintained to a high enough level whereby they can provide appropriate challenge to external advice and can avoid undue reliance on such advice.

Treasury management staff and their senior management will therefore be required to allocate appropriate levels of time to using the following sources of information so that they are able to develop suitable levels of understanding to carry out their duties, especially in challenge and avoiding undue reliance.

- The quality financial press
- Market data
- Information on government support for banks and
- The credit ratings of that government support

11.1.1 Banking Services

- a) Name of supplier of service is the Lloyds Bank.
- b) Regulatory status – banking institution authorised to undertake banking activities by the FCA
- c) The branch address is:
17/23 Coventry Street, Warwickshire CV11 5TD
Tel :- 0345 602 1997
- d) Contract commenced 01/11/2022 and runs for 7 years until 31/10/2029.
- e) Cost of service is variable depending on schedule of tariffs and volumes
- f) Payments due Monthly
- g) Early Termination details:
Following a review of the pricing table, if Lloyds changes the terms and conditions and an agreement cannot be

reached, then the Council can cancel immediately. Otherwise if the Council cancels the contract in advance, the full remaining value of the contract is due.

11.1.2 Money-Broking Services

The Council will use money brokers for temporary borrowing and investment and long term borrowing. It will seek to give an even spread of business amongst the approved brokers. The performance of brokers is reviewed by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner every year to see if any should be taken off the approved list and replaced by another choice and will make appropriate recommendations to change the approved brokers list to the Assistant Director - Finance. A minimum of two brokers will be available at any one time to ensure value for money.

Broker 1
King and Shaxson Limited
First Floor, 155 Fenchurch Street LONDON EC3M 6AL
0207 426 5950
Authorised and Regulated by FCA (FCA No: 823315)

Broker 2
Tradition (UK) Ltd
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London, EC3A 7QX
Authorised and Regulated by FCA (FCA No: 139200)

Broker 3
BGC Sterling Treasury
5 Churchill Place, London, E14 5HU
0207 894 7742
Authorised and Regulated by FCA as part of BGC Brokers L.P
(FCA No 454814)

Broker 4
Imperial Treasury Services
5 Port Hill, Hertford, SG14 1PJ
01992 945550
Imperial Treasury Services Ltd is an Appointed Representative of Frank Investments Limited a firm which is authorised and regulated by the FCA (FCA No. 627697)

11.1.3 Consultants'/Advisers' Services

Treasury Consultancy Services

The Council will seek to take expert advice on interest rate forecasts, annual treasury management strategy, timing for borrowing and lending, debt rescheduling, use of various borrowing and investment instruments, how to select credit worthy counterparties to put on its approved lending list etc. The performance of consultants will be reviewed by the Treasury and Technical Business Partner every year to check whether performance has met expectations.

- a) Name of supplier of service is MUFG Corporate Markets. Their address is 19th Floor, 51 Lime Street, London, EC3M 7DQ
- b) Regulatory status: investment adviser authorised by the FCA (FCA no. 150403)
- c) Contract commenced 01/10/2022 and ran for 3 years ending on 30/09/2025. The Contract has been optionally extended for 1 year with an option to extend 1 more year.

Other Consultancy services may be employed on short term contracts as and when required.

11.1.4 Credit Rating Agency

The Council receives a credit rating service through its treasury management consultants, the costs of which is included in the consultant's annual fee.

11.2 Procedures and Frequency for Tendering Services

See TMP2

TMP 12 Corporate Governance

12.1.1 List of Documents to be Made Available for Public Inspection

- a. The Council is committed to the principle of openness and transparency in its treasury management function and in all its functions.
- b. It has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and implemented key recommendations on developing Treasury Management Practices, formulating a Treasury Management Policy Statement and implementing the other principles of the Code.
- c. The following documents are available for public inspection: -
 - Treasury Management Policy Statement
 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement
 - Annual Investment Strategy
 - Minimum Revenue provision policy statement
 - Annual Treasury Review Report
 - Treasury Management monitoring reports (e.g. half yearly, quarterly)
 - Annual accounts and financial instruments disclosure notes
 - Annual budget
 - Annual Capital budget
 - Capital Strategy
 - Minutes of Council / Cabinet / committee meetings
 - Schedule of all external funds managed by the Council on behalf of others and the basis of attributing interest earned and costs of these investments.

Appendix 1. Environmental, Social and Governance risk management

Policy on ESG issues

ESG is an area that CIPFA is still working on after the 2022 revised codes. In particular, work will be needed to coordinate the priority which needs to be given to issues of security, liquidity and yield (SLY) while also accommodating ESG principles as a fourth priority and principle to apply.

The assessment and implementation of ESG considerations are better developed in equity and bond markets than for short-term cash deposits, primarily due to the wider scope of potential investment opportunities. Furthermore, there is a diversity of market approaches to ESG classification, analysis and integration. This means that a consistent and developed approach to ESG for public service organisations, focussed on more typical Treasury-type investments, is currently difficult to achieve. CIPFA, therefore, recommends authorities to consider their credit and counterparty policies in light of ESG information and develop their own ESG investment policies and treasury management practices consistent with their organisation's own relevant policies, such as environmental and climate change policies.

CIPFA does not expect that the organisation's ESG policy will currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at individual investment level.

When drafting an ESG "policy", Councils will need to understand that anything too "broad" in its approach could have a material impact on potential counterparties, which could then limit diversification and / or security considerations in investment processes. Furthermore, Councils will also need to be clear that when choosing between two counterparties that pass all relevant "security" tests, that the additional implementation of an ESG policy may mean that a lower investment rate is achieved by choosing the counterparty that passes the council's ESG requirements.

Please note that these are examples of ESG factors that are considered by Credit Rating Agencies, such as Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's when assigning credit ratings to counterparties. The credit ratings provided by these agencies are also used as the basis for selecting suitable counterparties by Councils.

- *Environmental: Emissions and air quality, energy and waste management, waste and hazardous material, exposure to environmental impact.*

- *Social: Human rights, community relations, customer welfare, labour relations, employee wellbeing, exposure to social impacts.*
- *Governance: Management structure, governance structure, group structure, financial transparency.*

This Council is supportive of the Principles for Responsible Investment (www.unpri.org) and will seek to bring ESG (environmental, social and governance) factors into the decision-making process for investments. Within this, the Council is also appreciative of the Statement on ESG in Credit Risk and Ratings which commits signatories to incorporating ESG into credit ratings and analysis in a systemic and transparent way. The Council uses ratings from Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's to support its assessment of suitable counterparties. Each of these rating agencies is a signatory to the ESG in credit risk and ratings statement, which is as follows:

"We, the undersigned, recognise that environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors can affect borrowers' cash flows and the likelihood that they will default on their debt obligations. ESG factors are therefore important elements in assessing the creditworthiness of borrowers. For corporates, concerns such as stranded assets linked to climate change, labour relations challenges or lack of transparency around accounting practices can cause unexpected losses, expenditure, inefficiencies, litigation, regulatory pressure and reputational impacts.

At a sovereign level, risks related to, inter alia, natural resource management, public health standards and corruption can all affect tax revenues, trade balance and foreign investment. The same is true for local governments and special purpose vehicles issuing project bonds. Such events can result in bond price volatility and increase the risk of defaults.

In order to more fully address major market and idiosyncratic risk in debt capital markets, underwriters, credit rating agencies and investors should consider the potential financial materiality of ESG factors in a strategic and systematic way. Transparency on which ESG factors are considered, how these are integrated, and the extent to which they are deemed material in credit assessments will enable better alignment of key stakeholders.

In doing this the stakeholders should recognise that credit ratings reflect exclusively an assessment of an issuer's creditworthiness. Credit rating agencies must be allowed to maintain full independence in determining which criteria may be material to their ratings. While issuer ESG analysis may be considered an important part of a credit rating, the two assessments should not be confused or seen as interchangeable.

With this in mind, we share a common vision to enhance systematic and transparent consideration of ESG factors in the assessment of creditworthiness."

For short term investments with counterparties, this Council utilises the ratings provided by Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's to assess creditworthiness, which do include analysis of ESG factors when assigning ratings. The Council will continue to evaluate additional ESG-related metrics and assessment processes that it could incorporate into its investment process and will update accordingly.

This Council will not invest in companies whose core activities pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council's mission and values e.g.:

- a. Human rights abuse (e.g., slave or child labour, political oppression)
- b. Activities that damage the environment by extraction of fossil fuels, destruction of habitat, or creation of pollutants
- c. Socially harmful activities (e.g., tobacco, gambling)
- d. Manufacture of weapons

If information is received that alerts the Council that a current investment is with a company whose cores activities pose risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the Council's mission and values (even if the core activities have changed during the investment), the Council will aim to disinvest at the earliest possible opportunity from that company, and will not extend any current investments.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11d

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 rd February 2026
Subject:	Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2026/27
Portfolio:	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director - Finance
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Your Council
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Deliver continued forward financial planning to safeguard the finances of the Council. Strive for transparency and accountability, in all that we do.
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Subject:	Review of Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) 2026/27
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Subject to Call-in:	Not Applicable

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Local Government Act 2003 and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services (the Code) require Council's to "have regard to" the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming 3 years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

1.2. Regulations also require an Annual Investment Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy to be approved.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Committee recommend to Council the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement including all Prudential Indicators, the MRP Policy and Annual Investment Strategy.

3. The Prudential System for Capital Finance

3.1. The Council is required to manage its treasury and capital expenditure activities under a National Code. The main aims of the system are to ensure that:

3.1.1. Capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable and sustainable;

3.1.2. Treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with best professional practice; and

3.1.3. Financial planning and asset management are integrated into the Council's overall corporate planning arrangements.

Treasury Management Strategy

3.2. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low-risk counterparties commensurate with the Council's risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

3.3. The CIPFA Code requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield.

3.4. Treasury operations are measured within a set of prudential indicators (Appendix A). The main purpose of these indicators is to provide the limits and benchmarks to control the level of capital expenditure, borrowing and investment. The Council is expected to operate comfortably within these limits.

3.5. The Prudential System allows councils the freedom to borrow on a prudential basis. Any new borrowing must be accommodated within any maximum debt limits or caps set by Central Government and the Council must demonstrate that it can afford to service and repay the debt within its financial plans.

3.6. The Strategy aims to provide transparency for treasury decisions including the use of counterparties, together with assessing how risk is managed on a day- to-day basis.

3.7. The Council has more capital investment in 2026/27 General Fund capital programme which will be funded by internal borrowing and paid off over the asset's useful life on an annuity.

3.8. A review of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) was undertaken by the Council's Treasury and Technical Business Partner. A reconciliation exercise was successfully undertaken which has subsequently been used to calculate Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) over the medium term.

3.9. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is set out in Appendix A

Prudential Indicators

3.10. As above, the prudential indicators consider the affordability and impact of capital expenditure plans and set out the Council's overall capital framework.

3.11. The CIPFA codes require a prescribed set of prudential indicators to be produced annually and monitored throughout the year. The indicators required under the regulations are set out along with explanations in Appendix A.

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (MRP)

3.12. The MRP statement provides details on the amount charged to revenue for the repayment of internal debt over the capital programme. The MRP Policy is included in Appendix A.

Annual Investment Strategy

3.13. CIPFA has extended the meaning of investments to include both financial and non-financial investments. Appendix A deals solely with treasury (financial) investments, (as managed by the Financial Planning team). Non-financial investments, essentially the purchase of income yielding assets and service investments, will be covered in the Capital Strategy which was approved by Council in December 2025..

4. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

4.1. None directly related to this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Contained within the report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1. None directly related to this report.

7. Equalities implications

7.1. Not applicable to this report.

8. Health implications

8.1. Not applicable to this report.

9. Climate and environmental implications

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

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

10.1. Not applicable to this report.

11. Risk management implications

11.1. Treasury Management provides potential risk due to the volatile nature of interest rates and risks over the security of investments and borrowing. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement is part of the Council's policies to mitigate that risk.

12. Human resources implications

12.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

13. Conclusion

13.1. This report demonstrates the Council's commitment to providing transparency on its investments and borrowing. The Audit & Standards Committee is invited to accept the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 and recommend it to Council for approval.

14. Appendices

14.1. Please note the following appendix:
Appendix A – Treasury Management Strategy Statement
2026/27

15. Background papers

15.1. Please note there are no background papers attached to this report.

16. Report Writer Details:

17. Officer Job Title: Treasury and Technical Business Partner

18. Officer Name: Andrew Pillow

19. Officer Email Address: andrew.pillow@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Appendix A

Treasury Management Strategy Statement

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
2026/27

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Key Considerations

2021 revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code – changes which will impact on future TMSS/AIS reports and the risk management framework

CIPFA published the revised Codes on 20th December 2021 and stated that revisions need to be included in the reporting framework from the 2023/24 financial year. This Council, therefore, has to have regard to these Codes of Practice when it prepares the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, and also related reports during the financial year, which are taken to Full Council for approval.

The revised Treasury Management Code required all investments and investment income to be attributed to one of the following three purposes: -

Treasury management

Arising from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity, this type of investment represents balances which are only held until the cash is required for use. Treasury investments may also arise from other treasury risk management activity which seeks to prudently manage the risks, costs or income relating to existing or forecast debt or treasury investments.

Service delivery

Investments held primarily and directly for the delivery of public services including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure. Returns on this category of investment which are funded by borrowing are permitted only in cases where the income is "either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose".

Commercial return

Investments held primarily for financial return with no treasury management or direct service provision purpose. Risks on such investments should be proportionate to a council's financial capacity – i.e., that 'plausible losses' could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services. A Local Authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

The revised Treasury Management Code requires an authority to implement the following: -

1. **Adopt a liability benchmark treasury indicator** to support the financing risk management of the capital financing requirement; this is to be shown in chart form for a minimum of 10 years, with material differences between the liability benchmark and actual loans to be explained;
2. **Long-term treasury investments**, (including pooled funds), are to be classed as commercial investments unless justified by a cash flow business case;
3. **Pooled funds** are to be included in the indicator for principal sums maturing in years beyond the initial budget year;
4. Amendment to the **knowledge and skills register** for officers and members involved in the treasury management function - to be

proportionate to the size and complexity of the treasury management conducted by each authority;

5. **Reporting to members is to be done quarterly.** Specifically, the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) is required to establish procedures to monitor and report performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators at least quarterly. The CFO is expected to establish a measurement and reporting process that highlights significant actual or forecast deviations from the approved indicators. However, monitoring of prudential indicators, including forecast debt and investments, is not required to be taken to Full Council and should be reported as part of the authority's integrated revenue, capital and balance sheet monitoring;
6. **Environmental, social and governance (ESG)** issues to be addressed within an authority's treasury management policies and practices (TMP1).

The main requirements of the Prudential Code relating to service and commercial investments are: -

1. The risks associated with service and commercial investments should be proportionate to their financial capacity – i.e. that plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services;
2. An authority must not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of commercial return;
3. It is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the CFR, and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority, and where any commercial returns are either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose;
4. An annual review should be conducted to evaluate whether commercial investments should be sold to release funds to finance new capital expenditure or refinance maturing debt;
5. A prudential indicator is required for the net income from commercial and service investments as a proportion of the net revenue stream;
6. Create new Investment Management Practices to manage risks associated with non-treasury investments, (similar to the current Treasury Management Practices).

An authority's Capital Strategy or Annual Investment Strategy should include: -

1. The authority's approach to investments for service or commercial purposes (together referred to as non-treasury investments), including defining the authority's objectives, risk appetite and risk management in respect of these investments, and processes ensuring effective due diligence;

2. An assessment of affordability, prudence and proportionality in respect of the authority's overall financial capacity (i.e., whether plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services);
3. Details of financial and other risks of undertaking investments for service or commercial purposes and how these are managed;
4. Limits on total investments for service purposes and for commercial purposes respectively (consistent with any limits required by other statutory guidance on investments);
5. Requirements for independent and expert advice and scrutiny arrangements (while business cases may provide some of this material, the information contained in them will need to be periodically re-evaluated to inform the authority's overall strategy);
6. State compliance with paragraph 51 of the Prudential Code in relation to investments for commercial purposes, in particular the requirement that an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return.

As this Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) deals solely with treasury management investments, the categories of service delivery and commercial investments should be addressed as part of the Capital Strategy report.

However, as investments in commercial property have implications for cash balances managed by the Financial Planning team, it will be for each authority to determine whether to add a high level summary of the impact that commercial investments have, or may have, if it is planned to liquidate such investments within the three year time horizon of this report, (or a longer time horizon if that is felt appropriate).

1.1 Background

Nuneaton and Bedworth borough Council is required to operate a balanced revenue budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low-risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that it can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet risk or cost objectives.

The contribution the treasury management function makes to the Council is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity or the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either on day-to-day revenue or for larger capital projects. The treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund Balance.

CIPFA defines treasury management as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, (arising usually from capital expenditure), and are separate from the day-to-day treasury management activities.

1.2 Reporting Requirements

1.2.1 Capital Strategy

The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy report which will provide the following: -

- a high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed
- the implications for future financial sustainability

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that all the Council's elected members fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

1.2.2 Treasury Management Reporting

The Council is currently required to receive and approve, as a minimum, three main treasury reports each year, which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals.

- a. **Prudential and treasury indicators and treasury strategy** (this report)
 - The first, and most important report is forward looking and covers: -
 - the capital plans, (including prudential indicators)
 - a minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy, (how residual capital expenditure is charged to revenue over time)
 - the Treasury Management Strategy, (how the investments and borrowings are to be organised), including treasury indicators; and
 - an Annual Investment Strategy, (the parameters on how investments are to be managed)

- b. **A mid-year treasury management report** – This is primarily a progress report and will update members on the capital position, amending prudential indicators as necessary, and whether any policies require revision. In addition, this Council will receive quarterly update reports.

- c. **An annual treasury report** – This is a backward-looking review document and provides details of a selection of actual prudential and treasury indicators and actual treasury operations compared to the estimates within the strategy.

Scrutiny

The above reports are required to be adequately scrutinised before being recommended to the Full Council. This role is undertaken by the Audit and Standards Committee.

Quarterly reports – In addition to the three major reports detailed above, quarterly reporting (end of June/end of December) has also been required. However, these additional reports do not have to be reported to Full Council but do require to be adequately scrutinised. This role is undertaken by Audit and Standards Committee. (The reports, specifically, should comprise updated Treasury/Prudential Indicators.)

1.3 Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27

The strategy for 2026/27 covers two main areas:

Capital issues

- the capital expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators
- the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy

Treasury management issues

- the current treasury position
- treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council
- prospects for interest rates

- the borrowing strategy
- policy on borrowing in advance of need
- debt rescheduling
- the investment strategy
- creditworthiness policy; and
- the policy on use of external service providers

These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, DLUHC (now MHCLG) Investment Guidance, DLUHC (now MHCLG) MRP Guidance, the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

1.4 Training

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny.

Furthermore, pages 47 and 48 of the Code state that they expect “all organisations to have a formal and comprehensive knowledge and skills or training policy for the effective acquisition and retention of treasury management knowledge and skills for those responsible for management, delivery, governance and decision making.

The scale and nature of this will depend on the size and complexity of the organisation’s treasury management needs. Organisations should consider how to assess whether treasury management staff and board/ council members have the required knowledge and skills to undertake their roles and whether they have been able to maintain those skills and keep them up to date.

As a minimum, authorities should carry out the following to monitor and review knowledge and skills:

- Record attendance at training and ensure action is taken where poor attendance is identified.
- Prepare tailored learning plans for treasury management officers and board/council members.
- Require treasury management officers and board/council members to undertake self-assessment against the required competencies (as set out in the schedule that may be adopted by the organisation).
- Have regular communication with officers and board/council members, encouraging them to highlight training needs on an ongoing basis.”

In further support of the revised training requirements, CIPFA’s Better Governance Forum and Treasury Management Network have produced a ‘self-assessment by members responsible for the scrutiny of treasury management’, which is available from the CIPFA website to download.

Treasury management Training was provided by the Council’s Treasury Advisors in January 2025, and further training will be arranged as required.

The training needs of treasury management officers are periodically reviewed, and staff are provided training as required.

A formal record of the training received by officers central to the Treasury function will be maintained by Treasury and Technical Business Partner. Similarly, a formal record of the treasury management/capital finance training received by members will also be maintained by Treasury and Technical Business Partner.

1.5 Treasury Management Consultants

The Council uses MUFG Corporate Markets as its external treasury management advisors.

The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon the services of our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information, including, but not solely, our treasury advisers.

It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review.

2. THE CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2026/27 – 2028/29

The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans are prudent, affordable and sustainable.

2.1 Capital Expenditure and Financing

This prudential indicator is a summary of the Council's capital expenditure plans, both those agreed previously, and those forming part of this budget cycle. The Capital expenditure and HRA business plan are still being finalised, and the figures below are based on the current information. An update will be sent to Council if required.

Members are asked to approve the capital expenditure forecasts: -

Capital expenditure £m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Non-HRA	36.15	48.77	16.85	8.80	7.25
HRA	16.58	18.14	18.80	10.84	10.84
Total	52.73	66.90	35.65	19.64	18.09

Other long-term liabilities - the above financing need excludes other long-term liabilities, such as leasing arrangements that already include borrowing instruments.

The table below combines the above capital expenditure plans and shows how these plans are being financed by capital or revenue resources. Any shortfall of resources results in a funding borrowing need.

Financing of capital expenditure £m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Capital receipts	0.40	0.30	0.00	0.10	0.00
Capital grants	29.68	27.48	10.89	7.71	6.36
Capital reserves	1.33	2.67	0.64	0.64	0.40
Revenue	11.81	11.97	14.64	11.19	11.33
Net financing need for the year	9.51	24.48	9.48	0.00	0.00

2.2 The Council's Borrowing Need (the Capital Financing Requirement)

The second prudential indicator is the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness and so its underlying borrowing need. Any capital expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource, will increase the CFR.

The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g., PFI schemes, finance leases). Whilst these increase the CFR, and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement,

these types of schemes include a borrowing facility by the PFI, PPP lease provider and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes. The Council currently has property leases included in the CFR.

The Council's CFR Projections include the split of the HRA and General Fund CFR requirements and the changes between the years. They also include details of the categorisation of Capital Works that require borrowing to fund the projects, and the amount of new External Borrowing expected per year. Note that new external borrowing includes refinancing of short-term external borrowing currently in place, and the externalisation of internally borrowed projects.

The Council is asked to approve the CFR projections below:

Table 2.2.1 Capital Financing Requirement

£m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Capital Financing Requirement					
Non-HRA	30.54	50.23	53.40	51.98	50.53
Housing	88.14	92.45	97.92	97.92	97.92
Total CFR	118.68	142.68	151.33	149.91	148.46
Movement in CFR	9.70	24.00	8.65	(1.42)	(1.46)

Movement in CFR represented by					
Net financing need for the year (above)	9.51	24.48	9.48	0.00	0.00
Adjustment for IFRS16 (Leases)	0.65				
Less MRP/VRP and other financing movements	(0.48)	(0.48)	(0.83)	(1.42)	(1.46)
Movement in CFR	9.70	24.00	8.65	(1.42)	(1.46)

Table 2.2.2 Borrowing by Capital Project type

Borrowing £m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Service spend	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Housing	10.00	13.61	9.8	0.00	0.00
Regeneration	8.90	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Preventative action	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Projects for yield	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	18.90	25.61	9.48	0.00	0.00

Table 2.2.3 External Borrowing

External borrowing £m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Treasury	0.00	30.00	25.00	10.00	10.00

Management					
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2.3 Liability Benchmark

The Council is required to estimate and measure the Liability Benchmark (LB) for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum.

There are four components to the LB: -

1. **Existing loan debt outstanding:** the Council's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
2. **Loans CFR:** this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
3. **Net loans requirement:** this will show the Council's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
4. **Liability benchmark** (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.

2.4 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement:

For expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 which forms part of supported capital expenditure, the MRP policy will be:

- 4% reducing balance (regulatory method) - MRP will follow the historical practice outlined in former regulations as 4% of the opening GF CFR balance less adjustment A; or

From 1 April 2008 for all unsupported borrowing the MRP policy will be:

- Asset life method (annuity)

Regulation 27(3) allows a local authority to charge MRP in the financial year following the one in which capital expenditure finance by debt was incurred.

Capital expenditure financed by borrowing in 2025/26 will not be subject to an MRP charge until 2026/27, or in the financial year following the one which the asset first becomes available for use.

The Council will apply the asset life method for any expenditure capitalised under a Capitalisation Direction.

The Council has determined that MRP is not required for borrowing or credit arrangements used to finance capital expenditure on housing assets and accounted for within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as it has determined, through its duty to charge depreciation and hold a Major Repairs Reserve, that prudent provision has been made. This determination was made using external Treasury Advisors advice based on current CIPFA guidance.

Capital loans

The Council has not issued capital loans that are categorised as commercial/non-commercial and has therefore chosen to not apply MRP. If this changes, a MRP policy will be submitted to Cabinet and Council for review.

Capital receipts

For capital expenditure on loans to third parties where the principal element of the loan has been repaid in annual instalments, the capital receipts arising from the principal loan repayments will be used to reduce the CFR instead of MRP.

Where no principal repayment is made in a given year, MRP will be charged as follows:

The annual capital amount is charged to MRP excluding any interest accrued.

Share Capital

Where the Council incurs expenditure that is capitalised on or after April 2008, which is financed by borrowing for the acquisition of share capital, Regulation 25(1)(d) Acquisition of share capital sets out the maximum period for an authority to provide MRP of 20 years.

MRP on Borrowing for Shares is calculated over 20 years unless there are valid reasons to reduce this length. If Shares are brought to ensure Council maintains partial control over an asset, then the maximum length of the MRP is linked to the remaining asset lifespan or 20 years (whichever is shorter).

MRP Overpayments

Under the MRP guidance, charges made in excess of the statutory MRP can be made and are known as voluntary revenue provision (VRP).

Any overpayments must be allocated to an asset, rather than the CFR as a whole. Any VRP payments will be used to recalculate the CFR of the asset being paid against, and will change the future MRP of that asset.

3. BORROWING

The capital expenditure plans set out in Section 2 provide details of the funding of the Capital activity of the Council. The treasury management function ensures that the Council's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes, so that sufficient cash is available to meet this service activity and the Council's Capital Strategy. This will involve both the organisation of the cash flow and, where capital plans require, the organisation of appropriate borrowing facilities. The strategy covers the relevant treasury / prudential indicators, the current and projected debt positions, and the Annual Investment Strategy.

3.1 Current Portfolio Position

The overall treasury management portfolio as at 31 March 2025 and for the position as at 31 December 2025 are shown below for both borrowing and investments.

TREASURY PORTFOLIO				
	Actual	Actual	Current	Current
	31.3.25	31.3.25	31.12.25	31.12.25
Treasury Investments	£'000	%	£'000	%
Banks	7,166	35.54%	4,376	28.46%
Building Societies - unrated	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Building Societies - rated	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Local Authorities	5,000	24.79%	0	0.00%
DMADF (H.M.Treasury)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Money Market Funds (MMFs)	6,000	29.75%	9,000	58.53%
Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total managed in house	18,166	90.08%	13,376	86.99%
Bond Funds	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Property Funds	2,000	9.92%	2,000	13.01%
Total managed externally	2,000	9.92%	2,000	13.01%
Total Treasury investments	20,166	100.00%	15,376	100.00%
Treasury external borrowing				
Local Authorities	0	0.00%	5,000	7.97%
PWLB	60,705	96.81%	55,705	88.84%
LOBOs	2,000	3.19%	2,000	3.19%
Total external borrowing	62,705	100.00%	62,705	100.00%
Net Treasury investments/ (borrowing)	-42,539		-47,329	

The Council's forward projections for borrowing are summarised below. The table shows the actual external debt, against the underlying capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR), highlighting any over or under borrowing.

Table 3.1 Combined External Debt

£m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
External Debt					
Debt at 1 April	72.71	62.71	80.71	90.71	87.96
Expected new external borrowing	0.00	30.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
Expected repayment of external borrowing	(10.00)	(12.00)	(15.00)	(12.75)	4.00
Other long-term liabilities (OLTL)	0	0	0	0	0
Expected change in OLTL	0	0	0	0	0
Actual gross debt at 31 March	62.71	80.71	90.71	87.96	93.96
The Capital Financing Requirement	118.68	140.97	142.68	144.43	142.97
Under / (over) borrowing	36.28	60.26	51.97	56.47	49.01

Within the range of prudential indicators there are several key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short-term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2026/27 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

The Strategic Director of Corporate Resources reports that the Council complied with this prudential indicator in the current year and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view takes account of current commitments, existing plans and the proposals in this budget report.

3.2 Treasury Indicators: Limits to Borrowing Activity

The Operational Boundary. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources.

Operational Boundary £m	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Debt	141.0	143.0	145.0	143.0
Other long-term liabilities	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total	143.0	145.0	147.0	145.0

The Authorised Limit for external debt. This is a key prudential indicator and represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This represents a legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by

the Full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short-term, but is not sustainable in the longer-term.

- This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all local authority plans, or those of a specific authority, although this power has not yet been exercised.
- The Council is asked to approve the following Authorised Limit:

Authorised Limit £m	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Debt	151.0	153.0	155.0	153.0
Other long-term liabilities	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Total	155.0	157.0	159.0	157.0

3.3 Prospects for Interest Rates

The Council has appointed MUFG Corporate Markets as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. Link provided the following forecasts on 22 December 2025. These are forecasts for Bank Rate, average earnings and PWLB certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80 bps.

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 22.12.25													
	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28	Mar-29
BANK RATE	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
3 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
6 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
12 month ave earnings	3.90	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.60
5 yr PWLB	4.60	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
10 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.70
25 yr PWLB	5.80	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20
50 yr PWLB	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.00	5.10	5.00	5.00

Additional notes with information from MUFG Corporate Markets on this forecast table: -

- MUFG's last interest rate forecast update was undertaken on 11 August. Since then, a combination of low growth (0.2% q/q GDP for Q2 and 0.1% q/q GDP for Q3), and falling inflation (currently CPI is 3.2%), has provided an opportunity for the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to further reduce Bank Rate from 4% to 3.75% on 18 December in a vote of 5-4 (with the remaining 4 voting to keep the rate at 4%).
- Given the close vote for a rate cut in December MPC members want to assess incoming evidence on labour market activity and wage growth before deciding to cut the bank rate any further, however markets believe that further rate cuts are expected in 2026.
- Therefore, the MUFG Corporate Markets forecast has been revised to price in a rate cut in Q2 2026 to 3.5%, likely to take place in the wake of a significant fall in the CPI inflation reading from 3% in March to 2% in April (as forecast by Capital Economics), followed by a short period of no bank rate changes through the summer, and then a further rate cut to 3.25% in Q4.
- MUFG updated central forecast is made with several caveats. They are confident that their forecast for Bank Rate and the 5-year PWLB Certainty Rate is robust, but they have marginally brought forward the timing of the next rate cut(s). There are some concerns over 10-, 25- and 50-years Certainty Rate, and the level of gilt issuance and the timing of their placement, will be integral to achieving a stable trading environment. A reminder that these are forecasts, and changes to these forecasts will be affected by external factors, including changes to forecasted inflation rates, and national and international political decisions.
- MUFG's revised PWLB rate forecasts are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1 November 2012. Please note, the lower Housing Revenue Account (HRA) PWLB rate started on 15 June 2023 for those authorities with an HRA (standard rate minus 60 bps) and is set to prevail until at least the end of March 2026. Hopefully, there a further extension to this discounted rate will be announced, but this has not been confirmed.
- Money market yield forecasts are based on expected average earnings by local authorities for 3 to 12 months.

Gilt yields and PWLB rates

The overall longer-run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to fall back over the timeline of our forecasts, but the risks to our forecasts are to the upsides. Our target borrowing rates are set **two years forward** (as we expect rates to fall back) and the current PWLB (certainty) borrowing rates are set out below: -

PWLB debt	Current borrowing rate as at 22.12.25 p.m.	Target borrowing rate now (end of Q4 2027)	Target borrowing rate previous (end of Q4 2027)
5 years	4.81%	4.10%	4.20%
10 years	5.39%	4.70%	4.70%
25 years	6.01%	5.30%	5.30%
50 years	5.78%	5.10%	5.10%

Borrowing advice: Our long-term (beyond 10 years) forecast for the neutral level of Bank Rate remains at 3.5%. As all PWLB certainty rates are still above this level, borrowing strategies will need to be reviewed in that context. Overall, better value can be obtained at the shorter end of the curve (<5 years PWLB maturity/ <10 years PWLB EIP) and short-dated fixed LA to LA monies should also be considered. Temporary borrowing rates will, generally, fall in line with Bank Rate cuts.

Our suggested budgeted earnings rates for investments up to about three months' duration in each financial year are set out below.

Average earnings in each year	Now	Previously
2025/26 (residual)	3.80%	3.90%
2026/27	3.40%	3.60%
2027/28	3.30%	3.30%
2028/29	3.30%	3.50%
2029/30	3.50%	3.50%
Years 6 to 10	3.50%	3.50%
Years 10+	3.50%	3.50%

MUFG will continue to monitor economic and market developments as they unfold. Typically, MUFG formally review their forecasts following the quarterly release of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Report but will consider our position on an ad hoc basis as required.

The above interest rate forecast for Bank Rate is in steps of 25 bps, whereas PWLB forecasts have been rounded to the nearest 10 bps and are central forecasts within bands of + / - 25 bps. Naturally, we continue to monitor events and will update our forecasts as and when appropriate.

3.4 Borrowing Strategy

The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as medium and longer dated borrowing rates are expected to fall from their current levels, albeit only once prevailing inflation concerns are addressed by restrictive near-term monetary policy. That is, Bank Rate remains relatively elevated in 2026 even if some rate cuts arise.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2026/27 treasury operations. The Strategic Director of Corporate Resources will monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances:

- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in borrowing rates, then borrowing will be postponed.*
- *if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in borrowing rates than that currently forecast, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in the next few years.*

Any decisions will be reported to the Audit and Standards Committee at the next available opportunity.

The Council plans to manage externalising its internal debt whilst monitoring the interest rates to ensure sufficient cashflows are available. Decisions over whether short-term debt should be taken whilst the Council waits for the interest rate to drop or to fix the interest rate will be taken on a case by case basis.

3.5 Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

Risks associated with any borrowing in advance activity will be subject to prior appraisal and subsequent reporting through the mid-year or annual reporting mechanism.

3.6 Rescheduling

Rescheduling of current borrowing in our debt portfolio may be considered whilst premature redemption rates remain elevated but only if there is surplus cash available to facilitate any repayment, or rebalancing of the portfolio to provide more certainty is considered appropriate.

If rescheduling is to be undertaken, it will be reported to Audit and Standards Committee and Council at the earliest meeting following its action.

3.7 New Financial Institutions as a Source of Borrowing and / or Types of Borrowing

Currently the PWLB Certainty Rate is set at gilts + 80 basis points. However, consideration may still need to be given to sourcing funding from the following sources for the following reasons:

- Local authorities (primarily shorter dated maturities out to 3 years or so – generally still cheaper than the Certainty Rate).
- Financial institutions (primarily insurance companies and pension funds but also some banks, out of forward dates where the objective is to avoid a “cost of carry” or to achieve refinancing certainty over the next few years).

Our advisors will keep us informed as to the relative merits of each of these alternative funding sources.

3.8 Approved Sources of Long and Short-term Borrowing

On Balance Sheet	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	✓	✓
UK Municipal Bond Agency	✓	✓
Local Authorities	✓	✓
Banks	✓	✓
Pension Funds	✓	✓
Insurance Companies	✓	✓
UK National Wealth Fund	✓	✓
Market (long-term)	✓	✗
Market (temporary)	✓	✗
Market (LOBOs)	✓	✗
Stock Issues	✓	✓
Local Temporary	✓	✗
Local Bonds	✓	
Local Authority Bills	✓	✗
Overdraft		✓
Negotiable Bonds	✓	✗
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	✓	✓
Commercial Paper	✗	
Medium Term Notes	✗	
Finance Leases	✓	✓

4 ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Investment Policy – Management of Risk

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) and CIPFA have extended the meaning of ‘investments’ to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with treasury (financial) investments, (as managed by the treasury management team). Non-financial investments, essentially the purchase of income yielding assets and service investments, are covered in the Capital Strategy, (a separate report).

The Council’s investment policy has regard to the following: -

- MHCLG’s Guidance on Local Government Investments (“the Guidance”)
- CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2021 (“the Code”)
- CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021

The Council’s investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second and then yield (return). The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with regard to the Council’s risk appetite.

In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to maintain a degree of liquidity to cover cash flow needs but to also consider “laddering” investments for periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, whilst investment rates remain elevated, as well as wider range fund options.

The above guidance from MHCLG and CIPFA places a high priority on the management of risk. This Authority has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means: -

1. Minimum acceptable **credit criteria** are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties. This also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short-term and long-term ratings.
2. **Other information:** ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as “**credit default swaps**” and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.
3. **Other information sources** used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the financial sector in

order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

4. This Council has defined the list of **types of investment instruments** that the treasury management team are authorised to use. There are two lists in Appendix 5.4 under the categories of 'specified' and 'non-specified' investments.

Specified investments are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year or have less than a year left to run to maturity, if originally they were classified as being non-specified investments solely due to the maturity period exceeding one year.

Non-specified investments are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by members and officers before being authorised for use.

5. **Non-specified and loan investment limits.** The Council has determined that it will set a limit to the maximum exposure of the total treasury management investment portfolio to non-specified treasury management investments of 50%.
6. **Lending limits**, (amounts and maturity), for each counterparty will be set through applying the matrix table in paragraph 4.2.
7. **Transaction limits** are set for each type of investment in 4.2.
8. This Council will set a limit for its investments which are invested for **longer than 365 days**, (see paragraph 4.4).
9. Investments will only be placed with counterparties from countries with a specified minimum **sovereign rating**, (see paragraph 4.3).
10. This Council has engaged **external consultants**, (see paragraph 1.5), to provide expert advice on how to optimise an appropriate balance of security, liquidity and yield, given the risk appetite of this Council in the context of the expected level of cash balances and need for liquidity throughout the year.
11. All investments will be denominated in **sterling**.
12. As a result of the change in accounting standards for 2023/24 under IFRS 9, this Council will consider the implications of investment instruments which could result in an adverse movement in the value of the amount invested and resultant charges at the end of the year to the General Fund. (In November 2018, the MHCLG, concluded a consultation for a temporary override to allow English local authorities time to adjust their portfolio of pooled investments by announcing a statutory override to delay implementation of IFRS 9 for five years

ending 31 March 2023. Subsequently, a further extension to the override to **31 March 2029** was agreed by Government but only for those pooled investments made before 1 April 2024.

However, this Council will also pursue **value for money** in treasury management and will monitor the yield from investment income against appropriate benchmarks for investment performance, (see paragraph 4.5). Regular monitoring of investment performance will be carried out during the year.

Changes in risk management policy from last year.

The above criteria are unchanged from last year.

4.2 Creditworthiness Policy

This Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by the Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays: -

1. "watches" and "outlooks" from credit rating agencies;
2. CDS spreads that may give early warning of changes in credit ratings;
3. sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, and any assigned Watches and Outlooks, in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads. The end-product of this is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments. The Council will, therefore, use counterparties within the following durational bands:

- Yellow 5 years *
- Dark pink 5 years for Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.25
- Light pink 5 years for Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.5
- Purple 2 years
- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 100 days
- No colour not to be used

The Link creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue preponderance to just one agency's ratings.

Typically, the minimum credit ratings criteria the Council uses will be a short-term rating (Fitch or equivalent) of F1 and a long-term rating of A-. There may be occasions when the counterparty ratings from one rating agency are marginally lower than these ratings but may still be used. In these instances, consideration will be given to the whole range of ratings available, or other topical market information, to support their use.

All credit ratings will be monitored weekly. The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link creditworthiness service.

- if a downgrade results in the counterparty / investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, its further use as a new investment will be withdrawn immediately.
- in addition to the use of credit ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in Credit Default Swap spreads against the iTraxx European Senior Financials benchmark and other market data on a daily basis via its Passport website, provided exclusively to it by Link. Extreme market movements may result in the downgrade of an institution or removal from the Council's lending list.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, this Council will also use market data and market information, as well as information on any external support for banks to help its decision-making process.

Y	Pi1	Pi2	P	B	O	R	G	N/C
1	1.25	1.5	2	3	4	5	6	7
Up to 5yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 2yrs	Up to 1yr	Up to 1yr	Up to 6mths	Up to 100days	No Colour

	Colour (and long-term rating where applicable)	Money and/or % limit	Transaction limit	Time limit
Banks *	Yellow	£10m	£10m	5yrs
Banks	Purple	£10m	£10m	2 yrs
Banks	Orange	£10m	£10m	1 yr
Banks – part nationalised	Blue	£10m	£10m	1 yr
Banks	Red	£2m	£2m	6 mths
Banks	Green	£2m	£2m	100 days
Banks	No Colour	Not to be used	N/A	
Limit 3 category – Council's banker (where "No Colour")	No Colour	£2m	£2m	1 day
Other institutions limit	-	As per above	As per above	As per above
DMADF	UK sovereign rating	unlimited	unlimited	6 months
Local authorities	n/a	£10m	£10m	1yrs
Housing associations	Colour bands	£10m	£10m	As per colour band
	Fund rating**	Money		Time

		and/or % Limit		Limit
Money Market Funds CNAV	AAA	£10m	£10m	Liquid
Money Market Funds LVNAV	AAA	£10m	£10m	Liquid
Money Market Funds VNAV	AAA	£10m	£10m	Liquid
Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.25	Dark Pink / AAA	£8m	£8m	liquid
Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds with a credit score of 1.50	Light Pink / AAA	£8m	£8m	liquid

Creditworthiness.

Significant levels of downgrades to Short and Long-Term credit ratings have not materialised since the crisis in March 2020. In the main, where they did change, any alterations were limited to Outlooks. Nonetheless, when setting minimum sovereign debt ratings, this Council will not set a minimum rating for the UK.

CDS prices

Although bank CDS prices, (these are market indicators of credit risk), spiked upwards during the autumn of 2022, they have returned to more average levels since then. However, sentiment can easily shift, so it will remain important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances. Link monitor CDS prices as part of their creditworthiness service to local authorities and the Council has access to this information via its Link-provided Passport portal.

Limits

Due care will be taken to consider the exposure of the Council's total investment portfolio to non-specified investments, countries, groups and sectors.

- a. **Non-specified treasury management investment limit.** The Council has determined that it will limit the maximum total exposure of treasury management investments to non-specified treasury management investments as being 50% of the total treasury management investment portfolio.
- b. **Country limit.** The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from the UK and from countries with a **minimum sovereign credit rating of AA-** from Fitch or equivalent. The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix 5.6. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should ratings change in accordance with this policy.

Other limits. In addition: -

- no more than 10% will be placed with any non-UK country at any time;
- limits in place above will apply to a group of companies/institutions;
- sector limits will be monitored regularly for appropriateness.

4.3 Investment Strategy

In-house funds. Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cashflow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e., rates for investments up to 12

months). Greater returns are usually obtainable by investing for longer periods. The current shape of the yield curve suggests that rates can be expected to fall throughout 2026, but only if the CPI measure of inflation maintains a downwards trend towards the Bank of England's 2% target. Rates may be cut quicker than expected if the economy stagnates.

Accordingly, while most cash balances are required in order to manage the ups and downs of cashflow, where cash sums can be identified that could be invested for longer periods, the value to be obtained from longer-term investments will be carefully assessed.

Investment returns expectations.

The current forecast shown in paragraph 3.3, includes a forecast for Bank Rate to fall to a low of 3.25% in 2026.

The suggested budgeted investment earnings rates for returns on investments placed for periods up to about three months during each financial year are as follows: -

Average earnings in each year	Now	Previously
2025/26 (residual)	3.80%	3.90%
2026/27	3.40%	3.60%
2027/28	3.30%	3.30%
2028/29	3.30%	3.50%
2029/30	3.50%	3.50%
Years 6 to 10	3.50%	3.50%
Years 10+	3.50%	3.50%

Caution must be exercised in respect of all interest rate forecasts.

For its cash flow generated balances, the Council will seek to utilise its business reserve instant access and notice accounts, Money Market Funds and short-dated deposits, (overnight to 100 days), in order to benefit from the compounding of interest.

Investment treasury indicator and limit - total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. These limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for early sale of an investment and are based on the availability of funds after each year-end.

The Council is asked to approve the following treasury indicator and limit: -

Upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days			
£m	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Principal sums invested for longer than 365 days	£10m	£5m	£2m
Current investments as at 31.12.25 in excess of 1 year maturing in each year	£0m	£0m	£0m

4.4 Investment Performance / Risk Benchmarking

This Council will use an investment benchmark to assess the investment performance of its investment portfolio against the 7 day SONIA rates.

4.5 End of Year Investment Report

At the end of the financial year, the Council will report on its investment activity as part of its Annual Treasury Report.

5 APPENDICES

1. Prudential and treasury indicators
2. Interest rate forecasts
3. Treasury management practice 1 – credit and counterparty risk management
4. Approved countries for investments
5. The treasury management role of the section 151 officer

5.1 THE CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS 2026/27 – 2028/29

The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

5.1.1 Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure £m	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Estimate	2026/27 Estimate	2027/28 Estimate	2028/29 Estimate
Business and Regeneration	16.75	17.89	2.06	0.00	0.00
Resources and Customer Services	0.35	0.36	0.10	0.10	0.10
Housing	8.28	7.15	7.90	7.85	6.65
Leisure, Community and Health	10.77	23.32	6.75	0.80	0.50
Miscellaneous Projects	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00
Non-HRA	36.15	48.77	16.85	8.80	7.25
HRA	16.58	18.14	18.80	10.84	10.84
Total	52.73	66.90	35.65	19.64	18.09

5.1.2 Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large, fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits.

The Council is asked to approve the following treasury indicators and limits: -

Maturity structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2026/27		
	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	50%
Up to 2 years	0%	60%
Up to 5 years	0%	70%
Up to 10 years	0%	80%
Up to 20 years	0%	85%
Up to 30 years	0%	90%
Up to 40 years	0%	95%
Up to 50 years	0%	100%
Maturity structure of variable interest rate borrowing 2026/27		
	Lower	Upper
Under 12 months	0%	50%
Up to 2 years	0%	60%
Up to 5 years	0%	70%
Up to 10 years	0%	80%
Up to 20 years	0%	85%
Up to 30 years	0%	90%
Up to 40 years	0%	95%
Up to 50 years	0%	100%

5.1.3. Control of Interest Rate Exposure

Please see paragraphs 3.3, 3.4 and 4.4.

5.2 INTEREST RATE FORECASTS 2026-2029

MUFG Corporate Markets Interest Rate View 22.12.25													
	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28	Dec-28	Mar-29
BANK RATE	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
3 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
6 month ave earnings	3.80	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.40
12 month ave earnings	3.90	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.60
5 yr PWLB	4.60	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
10 yr PWLB	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.80	4.80	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.70
25 yr PWLB	5.80	5.70	5.60	5.50	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20
50 yr PWLB	5.60	5.50	5.40	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.00	5.10	5.00	5.00

PWLB forecasts are based on PWLB certainty rates.

5.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (TMP1) – CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY RISK MANAGEMENT

The DLUHC issued Investment Guidance in 2018, and this forms the structure of the Council's policy below. These guidelines do not apply to either trust funds or pension funds which operate under a different regulatory regime.

The key intention of the Guidance is to maintain the current requirement for local authorities to invest prudently, and that priority is given to security and liquidity before yield. In order to facilitate this objective, the Guidance requires this Council to have regard to the CIPFA publication Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes. This Council adopted the Code and will apply its principles to all investment activity. In accordance with the Code, the Director of Corporate Resources has produced its treasury management practices (TMPs). This part, TMP 1, covering investment counterparty policy requires approval each year.

Annual Investment Strategy - The key requirements of both the Code and the investment guidance are for the Council to set an Annual Investment Strategy, as part of its annual treasury strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for choosing and placing investments, particularly non-specified investments.
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed.
- Specified investments that the Council will use. These are high security and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year.
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

The investment policy proposed for the Council is:

Strategy guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

Specified investments – These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. They also include investments which were originally classed as being non-specified investments, but which would have been classified as specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months once the remaining period to maturity falls to under 12 months.

These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with: -

- The UK Government (such as the Debt Management Account deposit facility, UK Treasury Bills or a Gilt with less than one year to maturity).
- Supranational Bonds of less than one year's duration.
- A Local Authority, Housing Association, Parish Council or Community Council.

- Pooled investment vehicles (such as Money Market Funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating by a credit rating agency e.g., Standard and Poor's, Moody's and/or Fitch rating agencies.
- A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society This category covers bodies with a minimum Short-Term rating of AA- (or the equivalent) as rated by Standard and Poor's, Moody's and / or Fitch rating agencies.

In accordance with the Code, the Council has set out additional criteria to limit the time and the amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies. These criteria are a maximum of £10m per organisation and with organisations that meet the Treasury Management Staff's

Non-specified investments – are any other type of investment (i.e., not defined as specified above). The identification and rationale supporting the selection of these other investments and the maximum limits to be applied are set out below. Non-specified investments would include any sterling investments with: -

	Non-Specified Investment Category	Limit (£ or %)
a.	<p>Supranational Bonds greater than 1 year to maturity</p> <p>(a) Multilateral Development Bank bonds - These are bonds defined as an international financial institution having as one of its objectives economic development, either generally or in any region of the world (e.g., European Reconstruction and Development Bank etc).</p> <p>(b) A financial institution that is guaranteed by the United Kingdom Government (e.g., National Rail)</p> <p>The security of interest and principal on maturity is on a par with the Government and so very secure. These bonds usually provide returns above equivalent gilt-edged securities. However, the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.</p>	AAA long term ratings £10m
b.	<p>Gilt edged securities with a maturity of greater than one year. These are Government bonds and so provide the highest security of interest and the repayment of principal on maturity. Similar to category (a) above, the value of the bond may rise or fall before maturity and losses may accrue if the bond is sold before maturity.</p>	£10m
c.	<p>The Council's own banker if it fails to meet the basic credit criteria. In this instance balances will be minimised as far as is possible.</p>	£2m
d.	<p>Building Societies not meeting the basic security requirements under the specified investments. The operation of some building societies does not require a credit rating, although in every other respect the security of the society would match similarly sized societies with ratings. The Council may use such building societies which have a minimum asset size of £100m, but will restrict these types of investments to under 1 year.</p>	£2m
e.	<p>Any Bank or Building Society that has a minimum long-term credit rating of AA-, for deposits with a maturity of greater than one year (including forward deals in excess of one year from inception to repayment).</p>	£10m
f.	<p>Any Non-Rated Subsidiary of a credit rated institution included in</p>	£2m

	the specified investment category. These institutions will be included as an investment category subject to a guarantee from a parent company, the investment must be under 1 year, and the subsidiary must be UK based.	
g.	Share Capital in a body corporate – The use of these instruments will be deemed to be capital expenditure, and as such will be an application (spending) of capital resources. Revenue resources will not be invested in corporate bodies. See note 1 below.	£2m
h.	Other fund: The use of these instruments can be deemed to be capital expenditure, and as such will be an application (spending) of capital resources. This Council will seek guidance on the status of any fund it may consider using and will update Cabinet before any use of a new style of fund.	

NOTE 1. This Council will seek further advice on the appropriateness and associated risks with investments in these categories.

The monitoring of investment counterparties - The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Council receives credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from Link as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately by the Director of Corporate Resources, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

5.4 APPROVED COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENTS

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher, (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link creditworthiness service.

Based on lowest available rating (as at 25.11.24)

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- Qatar

AA-

- Belgium
- France
- **U.K.**

5.5 THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT ROLE OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER

The S151 (responsible) officer

- recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports;
- submitting budgets and budget variations;
- receiving and reviewing management information reports;
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;
- recommending the appointment of external service providers.
- preparation of a Capital Strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long-term timeframe
- ensuring that the Capital Strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money
- ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority
- ensure that the Council has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing
- ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the Council does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the Authority to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources
- ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long-term liabilities
- provision to members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees
- ensuring that members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by the Authority
- ensuring that the Council has adequate expertise, either in house or externally provided, to carry out the above
- creation of Treasury Management Practices which specifically deal with how non treasury investments will be carried out and managed, to include the following :-
 - *Risk management (TMP1 and schedules), including investment and risk management criteria for any material non-treasury investment portfolios;*
 - *Performance measurement and management (TMP2 and schedules), including methodology and criteria for assessing the performance and success of non-treasury investments;*
 - *Decision making, governance and organisation (TMP5 and schedules), including a statement of the governance*

requirements for decision making in relation to non-treasury investments; and arrangements to ensure that appropriate professional due diligence is carried out to support decision making;

- *Reporting and management information (TMP6 and schedules), including where and how often monitoring reports are taken;*
- *Training and qualifications (TMP10 and schedules), including how the relevant knowledge and skills in relation to non-treasury investments will be arranged.*

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11e

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 rd February 2026
Subject:	Constitution Updates – Report from Constitution Review Working Party
Portfolio:	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer:	Monitoring Officer
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Your Council
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Strive for transparency and accountability, in all that we do. Increase public scrutiny.
Ward Relevance:	Not Applicable
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable (not a Cabinet Decision)
Subject to Call-in:	Not Applicable (not a Cabinet Decision)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To consider and approve the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Party and recommend changes to the Constitution.

2. Recommendations

2.1. it be recommended to Full Council that the Constitution be amended:

- 2.1.1. To change the number of signatories required for Motions on Notice be amended to one (1) Councillor and a Seconder.
- 2.1.2. To amend the Civic Honours Sub-Committee membership list by removing 'The Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Services' and replace with 'One other Cabinet Member' as per Table 2 under 4.3.1 of the report.

- 2.1.3. To include the Terms of Reference for the Shareholder Committee as per 4.4.2 of the report.
- 2.1.4. To ensure all public meetings have a Vice Chair appointed with effect from the 2026/2027 Municipal Year, as proposed in 4.5.1 of the report.
- 2.1.5. To amend the wording under 4E.15 of the Constitution as per Table 3 under 4.6.1. of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. On the 2nd December 2025 the Constitution Review Working Party (CRWP) met and considered a range of items and those agreed by CRWP to be considered at Audit and Standards are contained in this report.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. The items which CRWP endorsed and are subject to this report include those outlined below and subject to debate and discussion, the Committee may agree with the recommendations set out in 2.1 of the report or, seek to make amendments and/or reject one of more recommendations under 2.1.

4.2. **The number of signatories required to move a motion**

- 4.2.1. Upon request of CRWP, a benchmarking exercise was undertaken to benchmark the Council's Constitution against neighbouring local authorities, the outcome of which is below.

Table 1

Local Authority Name	No. of signatories required – Motions on Notice	Extract from the Council's Constitution
Nuneaton and Bedworth BC	3	Except for motions, which can be moved without notice under Rule 12, written notice of every motion, signed by at least three Councillors, must be delivered to the Head of Paid Service not later than noon at least eight working days before the date of the meeting. These will be entered in a book open to public inspection.
Rugby Borough Council	At least 1	Motions on notice 11.1 Notice Every motion (except for motions which can be moved without notice under Standing Order 12), must be: (a) in writing; (b) signed by

		at least one councillor; (c) delivered to the Chief Executive not later than midday on the twelfth day before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting) or, if the twelfth day before the meeting is not a working day, on the last working day before that; and (d) entered in a book open to public inspection or published on the council's website.
Warwick District Council	1	<p>Notices of Motion</p> <p>(1) Any Member of the Council may give notice of a motion to a meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or a committee.</p> <p>(2) Notice of every motion must be by e-mail or in writing, signed by the member, or by 10 members in the case of motions submitted under Procedure Rule 16, and delivered by 10.00am on the seventh clear working day before the next meeting of the Council, the Cabinet or committee they wish it to be considered at, to the office of the Chief Executive.</p> <p>(3) Every motion must be relevant to some matter in relation to which the Council have powers or duties or which affects the District"</p>
Warwickshire County Council	At least 1 plus a seconder (2)	<p>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</p> <p>5.1 Motions on Notice At meetings of the Council, except for motions which can be moved without notice under Standing Order 32, written notice of each full motion, signed by at least one elected member and seconded by another elected member, must be delivered to the Head of Paid Service not later than 10 clear working days before the date of the meeting</p>
Coventry City Council	1 plus a seconder (2)	<p>Motions on Notice</p> <p>9.1. Every notice of motion to be inserted in the summons for the next meeting of the City Council will be in writing and signed by the Councillor intending to move it and by the</p>

		Councillor intending to second it. The notice must be delivered to the Monitoring Officer at a designated location* or sent electronically to Governance Services, not later than 9.00 a.m. at least 5 clear working days before the date scheduled for the meeting of the City Council.
Harborough District Council	1 plus a seconder (2)	<p>Motions On notice</p> <p>4.1.55 Except for motions which can be moved without notice under paragraph 4.1.60 notice of every motion must be given in writing. The notice must be signed by the Councillors moving and seconding the motion and sent to Democratic Services not later than 4.30pm on the seventh working day before the Council 53 this includes email 146 meeting at which it is to be considered. The notice of motion must either set out the wording of the motion in full or explicitly endorse the wording of the motion as stated in another named Councillor’s written notice.“</p>
Blaby District Council	1 plus a seconder (2)	<p>MOTIONS ON NOTICE</p> <p>12.1 Notice Motions to be considered under this rule must be delivered to the Proper Officer, in writing, no later than 7 clear working days before the date of the relevant meeting and supported by at least one other member of Council, who will act as the seconder for the motion.</p>

4.2.2. CRWP concluded that it be recommended to the Audit and Standards Committee that the Constitution be amended to one (1) Councillor and a Secunder to be in line with other local authorities as per Table 1 and to ensure groups of smaller sizes, had an ability to submit Motions on Notice for consideration, subject to the number of signatories.

4.3. **Civic honours sub-committee membership;**

4.3.1. Table 2 shows the current wording and proposed new wording:

Table 2

Current Wording	Proposed new Wording
<p>A7.10Civic Awards Sub-committee</p> <p>a) The Civic Awards Sub-committee comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader of the Council • The Deputy Leader of the Council • The Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Services • The Mayor • The Leader of the Main Opposition Party and be chaired by the Leader of the Council. 	<p>A7.10Civic Awards Sub-committee</p> <p>a) The Civic Awards Sub-committee comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leader of the Council • The Deputy Leader of the Council • One other Cabinet Member • The Mayor • The Leader of the Main Opposition Party and be chaired by the Leader of the Council.

4.3.2. Given the Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Services no longer exists following Annual Council in May 2024 and May 2025, the Committee since has been restricted to 4 members. It is therefore proposed to amend the wording to allow 'one other Cabinet Member' to allow the Committee to maximise its membership under the terms of the committee. By wording it this way, it future proofs the membership regardless of the Cabinet/Executive structure.

4.4. Terms of Reference for the Shareholder committee

4.4.1. The Constitution currently includes under Article 8: Regulatory, other Committees & sub-Committees the following committee:

Council Shareholder Committee.

The Committee shall be politically balanced and will comprise of six Members and have a quorum of three. The Council will appoint the Chair.

4.4.2. Since the Committee has expanded to cover the remit of all Council wholly owned and/or partially owned entities, it has become clear that there are no clear terms of reference for the Council Shareholder Committee. It is therefore proposed by CRWP that the Terms of Reference set out below are recommended for consideration and approval.

PURPOSE OF THE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Shareholder Committee is to approve and oversee the council's strategic objectives for the council's company and to support the development of the company in line with the council's regulations and ambitions and the constitutional instruments of the company.

ROLE OF THE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

1.1 The Shareholder Committee will have a role in ensuring proper governance of the Council's Subsidiaries, such role to include:

- 1.1.1. receiving reports from the Managing Director (or equivalent), on the progress and conduct of business in accordance with the approved business plan;*
- 1.1.1 monitoring information from each company, in particular on financial and other risks (such as a risk register) and escalating such risks within the Council as appropriate;*
- 1.1.2 receiving reports from the Managing Director (or equivalent), on company performance to enable the committee to monitor performance, business affairs, finances, and accounts in accordance with adopted business plans and budgets;*
- 1.1.3 consider future service developments and opportunities for the company;*
- 1.1.4 reporting to the Cabinet on the performance of the companies;*
- 1.1.5 reviewing these Terms of Reference annually and make any necessary recommendations to the Monitoring Officer for update via Audit and Standards Committee.*

The Committee will need to be cautious where a company is jointly owned by the Council and any other local authority, specifically in relation to commercially sensitive information and decision making. Where the Council is one of several owners, the Council will either have an equal share or a proportionate share in the company.

The Shareholder Committee will not have operational control over Companies. All decisions regarding the day-to-day operation of each Company, its business developments and commercial opportunities, staff terms and conditions and the development and implementation of its internal procedures, rest with the Managing Director (or equivalent), the senior management team employed by the Company and Board of each Company.

4.5. That all public meetings have a Vice Chair appointed with effect from the 2026/2027 Municipal Year

- 4.5.1.** On 2nd December 2025 when CRWP discussed the item covered by 4.4 above, it was also agreed and recommended that with effect from the 2026/2027 Municipal Year, all public meetings will have a nominated Vice Chair. The Monitoring Officer has proposed the Vice Chair arrangement for the

Committee to consider, in readiness for 2026/2027. For the avoidance of doubt, this will include:

- Cabinet: Vice Chair: Deputy Leader
- Borough Plan Committee: A member of the Cabinet
- Shareholder Committee: A member of the Main Opposition Party
- Civic Honours Sub-Committee: Deputy Leader
- Officer Remuneration Panel: A member of the Cabinet
- Local Government Reform Sub-Committee: Deputy Leader

4.6. Call-in timescales

4.6.1. Table 3 shows the current wording and proposed new wording:

Table 3

Current Wording	Proposed new Wording
<p>4E.15 CALL-IN</p> <p><i>(c)ii. The OSP shall meet within ten working days of the end of the five day period mentioned in (c) above. The decision maker (or Chair of the decision making body) shall be entitled to address the OSP at its meeting. The called in decision may be implemented on expiry of this ten day period.</i></p>	<p><i>c) For decisions that do not appear to accord with Article 12:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The published decision will bear the date of publication and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in;</i> <i>ii. During that period, the proper officer shall call in a decision for scrutiny by an OSP if he/she receives a valid request in writing signed by any one Member of the relevant OSP together with any other two Members of the Council. Once satisfied that the request is valid, having regard to the principles in Article 12 (Decision Making), either Chief Executive shall forthwith notify the decision-taker of the call-in. The OSP shall meet within ten working days of the end of the five day period mentioned in (c) above. Where this is not viable, the ten working day period shall be extended and no decision shall be implemented until the</i>

	<p><i>OSP has met and considered the matter. The decision maker (or Chair of the decision making body) shall be entitled to address the OSP at its meeting. The called in decision may be implemented on expiry of this ten day period unless the OSP has not met, or it has been referred to Full Council;</i></p>
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- 4.6.2. It is not clear and creates risk that if a meeting is not scheduled, the decision could be implemented, especially during holiday periods like August and potentially over the Christmas and New Year shut down depending on the committee timetable.
- 4.6.3. The proposed wording provides absolute clarity in the event an OSP cannot meet in the 10-working day timescale and/or the matter is referred to Full Council following OSP.
- 4.6.4. Following two call-in procedures during August 2025, concern was raised regarding this clarification hence it being raised as an item at CRWP, which has led to the item being contained in this report.

5. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. Consultation with the public has not been undertaken.
- 5.2. Consultation has taken place with Constitution Review Working Party on 2nd December 2025.
- 5.3. Consultation with officers includes the Democratic and Election Services Manager (also the Deputy Monitoring Officer), the Head of Paid Service (otherwise known as a Chief Executive), the Section 151 Officer (otherwise known as the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources) and the Democratic Services Team.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. No direct financial implications have been identified.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. No direct legal implications have been identified.

8. Equalities implications

8.1. A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

9. Health implications

9.1. No specific health implications have been identified.

10. Climate and environmental implications

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

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk management implications

12.1. No direct risk management implications have been identified.

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	Not possible as Constitution Review Working Party have considered and recommended the recommendations set out at 2.1 of the report be considered by the Audit and Standards Committee.

15. Conclusion

15.1. The report includes the proposed amendments to the Constitution following a meeting of the Constitution Review Working Party held 2nd December 2025. Subject to debate and discussion, the Committee may agree with the recommendations set out in 2.1

of the report or, seek to make amendments and/or reject one of more recommendations under 2.1.

16. Appendices

16.1. Please note there are no appendices to this report.

17. Background papers

17.1. Please note there are no background papers attached to this report.

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director – Democracy and Governance

Officer Name: Matthew Wallbank

AGENDA ITEM NO.11f

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	25 th February 2026
Subject:	General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27
Portfolio:	Resources and Central Services
Responsible Officer:	Strategic Director for Corporate Resources
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Grow a Strong and Inclusive Economy
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Work
Ward Relevance:	All
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	No – this is not subject to call-in as a delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. Furthermore, the report requires approval from Full Council to which Full Council may review, debate and vote on the adoption of the scheme.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To present the General Fund revenue budget for 2026/27 for approval.
- 1.2. To provide an update on the General Fund Medium-Term Financial Plan (Appendix B) taking account of the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27 to 2028/29.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It be Recommended to Council that:
 - 2.1.1. The Council Tax requirement for 2026/27 of £11,566,358, an increase of 2.99% on a Band D, is approved in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- 2.1.2. It be noted that the NNDR1 has been completed and submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and included within the Budget for 2026/27 with a precept for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) of £21,678,232 in 2026/27.
- 2.1.3. The Fees and Charges for 2026/27 (Appendix C) are approved and implemented.
- 2.1.4. The net General Fund revenue expenditure budget of £23,838,704 is approved (Appendix A).
- 2.1.5. The Section 25 Statement of the S151 Officer in part 9 of the report detailing the reserve position, robustness of estimates and affordability is given due consideration when approving the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27.
- 2.1.6. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources, Strategic Director – Housing & Community Safety and Strategic Director – Public Services to incur expenditure in accordance with the approved budget including undertaking procurement exercises in accordance with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.
- 2.1.7. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to use the Financial Planning Earmarked Reserve when necessary to support the financial position of the Council.
- 2.1.8. It be noted the update to the medium-term financial plan (section 6) and use of reserves (section 7).
- 2.1.9. The Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on behalf of the Council to outline the Council’s concerns regarding the adequacy of Government funding to meet the full operational costs of delivering the mandated food waste collection service.
- 2.1.10. The Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on behalf of the Council to outline the Council’s concerns regarding the lateness of the Local Government Finance Settlement and the settlement amount awarded.
- 2.2. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Local Government Finance Settlement

- 3.1. Details of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement were announced on 9th February 2026, and the budget has been updated following the changes.
- 3.2. This year was unprecedented as initially it was later than in previous years but significant changes to the funding mechanisms provided in the Provisional Settlement were announced.
- 3.3. The impact of changes are in relation to a recalculation of grant funding available for allocation after review of Business Rates growth contained within pools. The Council is part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rates Pool and was affected by these changes.
- 3.4. Although the Council was set to lose with the changes to the above noted recalculation, the Government announced a one-off Adjustment Support Grant to compensate losses in 2026/27.
- 3.5. The impact of changes from provisional to final settlement are detailed below with additional funding being received for Homelessness:

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Fair Funding Allocation:			
Final	10.65	10.72	10.75
Provisional	11.10	10.95	10.75
Decrease	-0.46	-0.23	0.00
Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse:			
Final	1.00	1.09	1.10
Provisional	0.89	1.03	1.07
Increase	0.11	0.06	0.03
Adjustment Support Grant	0.46	0.00	0.00
Total Change in Funding	0.11	-0.17	0.03

- 3.6. The settlement covers 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 which is the first to cover multiple financial years since 2017/18 and the medium-term financial plan has been updated.
- 3.7. Core Spending Power as listed in the final settlement is detailed below with 2025/26 as a comparator.

	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Fair Funding Allocation	0.00	10.65	10.72	10.75

Legacy Funding Arrangements	10.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Tax Requirement	11.08	11.58	12.11	12.67
Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse	0.60	1.00	1.09	1.10
Grants Rolled into RSG	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recovery Grant	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51
Adjustment Support Grant	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00
Core Spending Power	22.65	24.21	24.44	25.03

- 3.8. Although core funding has increased by 6.9% (£1.56m) from 2025/26 to 2026/27, Council Tax increases, funding now included in CSP for Homelessness and the one-off Adjustment Support Grant make up £1.36m of the increase.
- 3.9. Funding such as New Homes Bonus, compensation for increased employer National Insurance contributions and part of the homelessness prevention grant which were identified individually previously have been rolled up into the Revenue Support Grant.
- 3.10. The Council will continue to receive the £514k Recovery Grant and will receive an additional support grant in 2026/27 of £456k to fund the reduction in Revenue Support Grant between the draft and final financial settlements.
- 3.11. Homelessness funding has been consolidated into a single grant of £1,002k which is a slight increase in comparison to 2025/26 allocation of £976k when considering the Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping Prevention and Domestic Abuse Recovery grants.
- 3.12. In addition, the increase of 2.99% on a Band D property and the increase in tax base to 41,369.0 has resulted in an increase of £487,732 in Council Tax between years for NBBC and is £335,503 more income than the draft budget. The Band D of £279.59 is an increase of £8.12.
- 3.13. An area of specific pressure going forwards is Food Waste which is set to cost the Council an additional £1.1m from 2027/28. Although the fair funding review was due to consider this new burden, it is unclear what funding was allocated within the settlement due to grants being rolled up into Revenue Support Grant.

National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)

- 3.14. The return for NNDR forecasting the income position for 2026/27 has been submitted to MHCLG and a summary of the position included within the budget is included in the following table.

	2025/26	2026/27	Movement
	£	£	£
Income	19,887,710	21,678,232	1,790,522
Levy	(2,330,908)	0	2,330,908
Surplus / (Deficit)	1,506,079	(262,484)	(1,768,563)
Reserve Contribution	0	826,155	826,155
Tariff	(11,346,032)	(16,938,674)	(5,592,642)
	7,685,849	5,303,229	(2,413,620)

- 3.15. For 2026/27 there has been a Business Rates Revaluation which amends the Rateable Value (RV) for business premises alongside the change from two multipliers to five multipliers and a Business Rates Reset which has given the Council a new Baseline Funding Level (BFL) and Business Rate Baseline (BRB).
- 3.16. Both amendments to business rates have resulted in a negative impact on funding available to the Council and subsequently the decision to not continue with the Warwickshire Collection Fund Pool past 31st March 2026 has been taken.
- 3.17. Formerly, a levy was payable on any growth of Business Rates above the Baseline of 50%. Growth has been significant for the Council in recent years therefore being part of the Pool has been beneficial. The levy payment has been altered as part of the settlement, but the Council is unlikely to pay significant contributions going forwards due to the loss of growth retained.
- 3.18. The deficit in 2026/27 can be covered by the increased S31 grant for Reliefs which are higher than budgeted in 2025/26 and this will be carried forward to offset the 2026/27 deficit.
- 3.19. When considering the impact of Business Rates retention in 2026/27, the Council has increased income of £4.1m (excluding the usual bonus of S31 grants in year) but has an increased tariff of £5.6m to pay to the Government.
- 3.20. The risks around reductions to business rates retention after the reset has been presented to Council in previous years financial reports as an on-going risk. Due to the changes in the BFL and BRB the Council is having to use the earmarked reserve specifically set a-side for Business Rates in the interim whilst longer term savings are identified to fund the reduction in retained rates.

4. Budget Consultation

- 4.1. Appendix F summarises the consultation responses and gives a graphical representation for clarity.

- 4.2. The consultation received 103 responses, of which 96 were from residents living within the borough. Response levels varied by question, as not all fields within the consultation were mandatory. Although only a small percentage of the Borough's population responded to the consultation, the submissions provide valuable insight into the views, experiences and concerns of participants.
- 4.3. Below are summary points raised regarding specific service delivery areas.
- 4.4. Parks and Open Spaces was the most frequently mentioned area, referenced by 36.7% of consultation respondents. Within the budget, an additional £30k has been included to enable further tree and planting works around the Borough.
- 4.5. Economic Development and Business Support was the second most frequently mentioned area, referenced in 34.7% of consultation responses. Within this theme, the primary area of concern (31%) related to town centre regeneration.
- 4.6. Regeneration has been fully funded and has been in progress in both Nuneaton and Bedworth for four years. The major projects are concluding during 2026 and £400k has been set-aside in reserves as part of the budget round to support continuation of regeneration. A more detailed report will be presented to Cabinet in 2026/27.
- 4.7. Community Safety and CCTV was the third most frequently mentioned area, appearing in 32.7% of consultation responses. Within this theme, the most prominent issue related to a desire for increased policing and stronger action to address antisocial behaviour, accounting for 62% of comments within the theme, with a particular focus on town centre areas.
- 4.8. Policing is not an area of responsibility of the Council, but points have been reviewed and any opportunities to improve our support regarding the safety concerns noted will be considered. CCTV however has in recent years been increased with 24 hour coverage of town centres funded by the Council.
- 4.9. Housing Services accounted for 14.3% of the feedback, representing the smallest of the areas identified through the analysis. Within this theme, respondents most frequently called for increased investment in the social housing stock.
- 4.10. Additional concerns included the pace and scale of housebuilding, the quality of customer experience associated with social housing services, and the management of void properties. One respondent referenced the Downsizing Incentive Scheme as a potential means of freeing up larger social housing properties and supporting

tenants living in homes that no longer meet their needs and encouraged the Council to consider revisiting the scheme as part of its wider housing approach.

- 4.11. New build is a key priority for the Council with 26 properties being delivered in 2024/25, new build is in progress in 2025/26 and £1.4m has been included in the budget in 2026/27 to increase housing stock further. A scheduled plan over 30-years is in place to ensure housing stock is maintained to a decent homes standard with £12.7m included in the budget for 2026/27.
- 4.12. A project group has been set up to review the Downsizing Incentive Scheme, and any outcomes will be reported to Cabinet.
- 4.13. Engagement with residents is a focus for the Council and further work will be undertaken to review priority concerns.

5. Budget Position

- 5.1. The draft budget was presented to Cabinet in December 2025 and a deficit position of £3.543m was reported.
- 5.2. Within the draft budget, Food Waste costs were included alongside inflationary pressures plus other growth items for services such as an election, Borough Plan support and additional Health & Safety resource.
- 5.3. Work has been undertaken to bridge the budget gap with savings and income generation accompanied by the Local Government Finance Settlement resulting in a balanced budget position for 2026/27.
- 5.4. Additional pressures were highlighted during the finalisation of the budget, and a breakdown of the final position is summarised in the following table:

	2026/27
	£'000
General Fund Draft Budget Deficit	3,543
<u>Changes in Funding:</u>	
Update to Business Rates Retention	£734
Increased Revenue Support Grant	(£2,347)
Inclusion of Recovery Grant	(£514)
Council Tax Surplus	(£101)
Homelessness Consolidated Grant Increase	(£53)
<u>Additional Changes since the Draft Budget:</u>	
Reduction in Investment Income	£200

Increase in Pay award from 3% to 3.5%	£84
Emergency Planning Service change from External to Internal	£23
Leisure Facilities Management Hub Contract	(£420)
Reviewed Business Rates Charges applicable to NBBC	(£175)
Changes due to the Pension Fund revaluation	(£165)
Final Deficit to Fund	809
<u>Councillor Funding Decisions</u>	
Transformational savings target	(£500)
Council Tax Increase at 2.99%	(£336)
Removed Loss of Income on Planning Fees	(£60)
Funding Software Implementation by Earmarked Reserves	(£49)
Remove Growth for Planning Legal Support	(£42)
Increase in Fees and Charges	(£18)
<u>Growth Items:</u>	
Support for Development Control Enforcement	£55
Support for Climate and Sustainability	£50
Include resource for Selective Licencing	£38
Consultancy for Legal	£20
Increase Events within the Borough	£20
Total Deficit / (Surplus)	(11)

5.5. The additional income received within the final settlement is proposed to be included in full during 2026/27 which has supported the General Fund. Savings will be required into the future to ensure financial sustainability of the Council. Refer to section 6 and the detail around the MTFP.

5.6. All additional growth included as part of the final budget are one-off due to the ongoing funding pressures and are referenced in the MTFP.

Additional Changes since the Draft Budget

5.7. Due to the high interest rates and economic climate, the Council has internally borrowed to fund recent year's Capital programmes. This has led to cash reserves reducing to keep external interest costs as low as possible but has had a knock-on effect on the investment income. This has subsequently been reduced to factor in the lower cash reserves.

- 5.8. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was expected to continue reducing towards the end of 2025 working its way towards the 2% target set by the Bank of England. This did not occur with CPI increasing by 0.2% in December 2025. Due to this the Pay award Provision was increased from 3% to 3.5% causing an additional funding requirement on the General Fund.
- 5.9. Currently NBBC contributes to a partnership provided by Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire for emergency planning. However, the arrangement does not meet our needs fully and in order to strengthen this the service will be brought back in house causing a staffing requirement and additional funding.
- 5.10. The new leisure contract has been completed with the contract signed. This has resulted in large amounts of revenue savings for the General Fund going from paying the contractor management fees for running the leisure centres to receiving an income.
- 5.11. Following the revaluation of Rateable Values for properties there has been a review on the Councils liability to pay business rates which has led to a saving identified from the draft budget.
- 5.12. Every 3 years the pension fund has a revaluation which changes the percentages contributed by the employer. The most recent revaluation has reduced the contribution percentage and therefore alleviated funding for the General Fund.

Member Funding Decisions

- 5.13. In previous years there has been a budget provision to account for vacancy savings. This was not included within the draft budget but following further analysis the saving has been re-instated.
- 5.14. Increasing the council tax by the maximum 2.99% will increase funding to deliver services.
- 5.15. The draft budget included a reduction on planning fee income which has subsequently been re-instated by the controlling group after further analysis on previous years income received.
- 5.16. Within the draft budget was the inclusion of software implementation as a one-off cost. This has been removed and the cost of the implementation will be funded from earmarked reserves.
- 5.17. After further consultation with officers, the planning legal support growth item included within the draft report has been removed and generic legal support has subsequently been added as referred to in point 5.22.

- 5.18. Attached at Appendix C is the proposed increases to discretionary fees and charges with more detailed explanation on the increase under point 8 of the report. These increases result in additional income.

Growth Items

- 5.19. To improve the enforcement and monitoring of planning applications it is proposed to increase resources and include funding for development control enforcement. This will attempt to mitigate legacy issues where work is undertaken without planning authority.
- 5.20. To improve the council's approach to climate change and sustainability it is proposed to make additional resource available. This will be dedicated to managing the action plan in place and provide guidance or advice to members and officers in relation to tackling the climate change and sustainability issues the Council faces.
- 5.21. Funding to explore the viability of a selective licensing scheme and article 4 direction.
- 5.22. As referred to in point 5.17 it is proposed to increase the consultancy budget in legal services. Currently the service area has difficulty recruiting which has limitations on capacity and this increase offers scope to utilise external resources where necessary.
- 5.23. Additional money has been allocated to increase events across the borough.

6. Medium-Term Financial Plan

- 6.1. A revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was reported to Cabinet in November 2022 and was noted in the report that the Plan that accompanies the Strategy will be updated and presented during the budget process. Now a multi-year settlement has been finalised on the 9th February 2026 the MTFS will be updated and presented to Cabinet during 2026/27.
- 6.2. The MTFP includes all of the updates considered within this report and the funding changes from the multi-year settlement. A level of reserves is still set to be drawn down in 2026/27 with contributions being made for future capital and strategy works.
- 6.3. A summary of the anticipated position in future years is included below with detail contained in Appendix B.

GENERAL FUND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

	Budget	Proposed Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	2025.26	2026.27	2027.28	2028.29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Portfolio Expenditure	23,027	25,236	26,239	27,472
Central Provisions	(2,243)	(1,397)	(919)	(307)
Additional Pressures/Opportunities	(250)	0	(2,055)	(3,386)
Net Expenditure	20,534	23,839	23,264	23,778
Total Funding	(20,784)	(23,848)	(23,265)	(23,778)
Surplus	(250)	(10)	(1)	(0)

- 6.4. The in-year anticipated surplus is to be contributed to the General Fund balances to ensure there is provision for future pressures that may arise.
- 6.5. On the 12th February 2026 a report in relation to the Transformation Strategy was taken to the Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel which outlined the approach to producing and publicising a strategy. This will outline how potential savings will arise and the approach the Council will take to achieve them.
- 6.6. The Transformation Strategy and updated MTFS will be key to tackle the savings targets of £1m in 2027/28 and £0.75m in 2028/29 which are included within the MTFP in order to balance future years.
- 6.7. During the course of the MTFP there is still an expectation that reserves will be drawn down. These drawdowns are primarily for projects and capital works already committed to. The Council's earmarked reserves position is set to reduce during the coming years, and the end of year balances are outlined in the table below.

2025.26	2026.27	2027.28	2028.29
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Capital	4,672	3,547	3,007	2,897
Financial Resilience	4,517	4,206	3,856	3,856
General	5,219	5,219	5,219	5,219
Risk	4,578	4,578	4,578	4,578
Total Earmarked Reserves	18,986	17,550	16,660	16,550
General Fund Balance	2,640	2,650	2,651	2,651
Total General Fund Reserves	21,626	20,200	19,311	19,201

6.8. The Local Government Finance Settlement will provide a greater level of certainty regarding funding and any resulting expenditure pressures. A summary of assumptions included within the Plan is listed below:

- 3.5% salary increase in 2026/27, reducing to 3.0% salary from 2027/28 and 2.5% from 2028/29
- Inflation but only where contractual obligations exist
- Council Tax limits before referendum will remain at 2.99% on a Band D and this is built in going forwards
- A 1% tax base increase per annum on Council Tax
- NNDR is built in as per the Local Government Finance Settlement
- Assumed a reduction in Extended Producer Responsibility Grant year on year with no guarantee of the funding after 2026/27
- Increased costs for food waste post 2026/27 building in a full year of the service

7. Reserves

- 7.1. Earmarked reserves are held for specific purposes and transfers to and from reserves are anticipated to be made in year for both revenue and capital purposes.
- 7.2. As at 31st March 2025, the Council held £18.986m in specific earmarked reserves and there is an expected drawdown from reserves during 2025/26. This is due to commitments already approved, funding that is set-aside for specific purposes less the anticipated surplus during 2025/26.
- 7.3. Appendix E highlights a review undertaken to re-purpose earmarked reserves which are no longer needed and alleviate funding to mitigate risks the Council faces.
- 7.4. The review has resulted in more funding being made available for expenditure in relation to risks around Asset Maintenance as the Council continues to produce an Asset Management Strategy to understand funding requirements in future years.

- 7.5. Following the changes to business rates the NDR Retention reserve has been moved in full to the Financial Planning reserve. This reserve will now be used as a provision to finance any losses or funding requirements to support expenditure in relation to Local Government Re-organisation, Business Rates Revaluation and Reset and gaps in achieving the savings targets referred to in point 6.6.
- 7.6. Project specific funding has been made available for ICT & Transformation and over £400k for future regeneration projects with Grayson Place phase one and two nearing completion.
- 7.7. Local Government Reorganisation has been added to the list of financial risks, and a Shadow Cabinet Election has been included in the MTFP in 2027/28. Greater costs to merge authorities will be seen in future years which needs to be considered as this will impact Financial Planning.
8. Fees and Charges
- 8.1. Discretionary fees and charges are recommended to be uplifted by December CPIs rate of 3.4% (excluding the green bin charge). The Fees & Charges Policy was approved by Cabinet in July 2025.
- 8.2. No uplifts for fees and charges within the following services are proposed due to reviews on-going:
- Planning and Land Charges
 - Licencing
 - Legal
- 8.3. During 2026/27 individual cabinet reports will be presented in relation to the above service area fees and charges with recommendations for uplifts. Once these have been approved the new fees and charges will supersede the ones outlined in Appendix C.
9. Statement of the S151 Officer
- 9.1. In their role as the Council's S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer), the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources is required, under S25 of the Local Government Act 2003, to provide an opinion of the robustness of the estimates included in the budget for the forthcoming year and the adequacy of the Council's reserves.
- 9.2. The three-year Financial Settlement has given more certainty around funding and has enabled the MTFP to be balanced. There is however a requirement to make savings in future years to ensure the Council remains financially sound.

- 9.3. With large savings targets being included within the MTFP, it is key that the Transformation Strategy is developed and embedded very early in 2026/27 to ensure a sustainable financial position.
 - 9.4. The budget presented is balanced over the three-year period and although challenging, it is deliverable.
 - 9.5. There is an underspend forecasted for 2025/26 due to the benefit of business rates growth. The surplus expected in year will increase the General Fund working balance as noted in the MTFP and anything additional will be utilised to support the potential drawdown budgeted for the business rates retention losses in 2026/27.
 - 9.6. The budget setting process has been thorough, involving the Senior Leadership Team who have put forward risks and opportunities included within the budget, Cabinet members have scrutinised the detail and a full public consultation was undertaken, details of which are included in section 4 of the report.
 - 9.7. As noted in section 7 of the report, the Council holds reserves for risks and analysis conducted suggests that these are robust and will enable support of Council services over the next three-years.
 - 9.8. On review of the General Fund balance, it is deemed sufficient by the Chief Finance Officer to have 10% of net expenditure as a minimum balance. The General Fund balance is currently £2.4m and is expected to increase to £2.6m and therefore exceeds this target.
 - 9.9. Considering the above, together with the proposals within the report, it is the view of the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources that the estimates for 2026/27 are robust and the proposed level of reserves are adequate.
10. Financial Implications
- 10.1. Contained throughout the report.
 - 10.2. Once a budget is in place, the Cabinet holds the responsibility to implement it in accordance with its responsibility for functions. In doing so, the Cabinet may not act contrary to the budget without provision being provided for that within the Council’s Constitution or without the consent of Council.
11. Legal Implications
- 11.1. Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

- 11.2. The Authority must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 11.3. Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council must set its budget before 11 March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set.
12. Equalities implications
 - 12.1. A review has been undertaken, and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.
13. Health implications
 - 13.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.
14. Climate and environmental implications
 - 14.1. Funding has been included in the budget to for development of a Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan which will support the Council's approach to the climate change emergency.
15. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications
 - 15.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.
16. Risk management implications
 - 16.1. As part of determining whether the Council has financial stability, risk analysis regarding the financial position needs to be considered.
 - 16.2. The Council faces financial risks from a number of sources, some of which are unforeseen and to ensure the authority is able to operate, specifically statutory obligations, it is essential to understand the risks and ensure mitigation is in place.

16.3. Full risk analysis has been undertaken and is included in Appendix D.

17. Human resources implications

17.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

18. Options considered and reason for their rejection

18.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	This is rejected as per point 11 of the report. Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

19. Conclusion

19.1. Following the funding changes in the Local Government Finance Settlement, increases in Core Spending Power from 2026/27 to 2027/28 and 2028/29 heavily relies on Council Tax being increased by the maximum 2.99%. Savings targets will be identified to ensure the Council is sustainable with the risk of costs increasing faster than the additional funding being made available.

19.2. That a balanced budget is proposed and that a robust level of reserves is in place to support the Council's services during 2026/27.

20. Appendices

20.1. Please note the following appendices:

- i. Appendix A – General Fund Detailed Budget Breakdown 2026/27
- ii. Appendix B – Medium-Term Financial Plan
- iii. Appendix C – Fees and charges 2026/27
- iv. Appendix D – Risk Analysis
- v. Appendix E – Earmarked Reserves Changes
- vi. Appendix F – Consultation Questions and Responses

21. Background papers

- 21.1. Transformation Strategy (Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 12th February 2026) - [12 February 2026: Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)
- 21.2. General Fund Draft Budget 2026/27 (Cabinet – 3rd December 2025) - [3 December 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)
- 21.3. Consultation on the Budget 2026/27 (Cabinet – 8th October 2025) - [8 October 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

22. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

General Fund Detailed Budget 2026/27

Appendix A

	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Draft Budget	2026/27 Final Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	
Markets & Street Trading	53,301	44,154	38,855	(14,447)
Town Centre Management	631,332	726,790	718,695	87,363
West Midlands Combined Authority	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
Car Parks	72,439	101,907	(26,885)	(99,324)
Public Passenger Transport	57,499	58,748	56,425	(1,074)
Public Conveniences	146,128	168,213	166,508	20,379
Marketing, Promotions and Publicity	92,850	90,670	110,450	17,600
Commercial Property	(867,434)	(795,296)	(966,864)	(99,430)
Industrial Estates	(193,669)	(199,091)	(193,275)	395
Economic Development	465,950	517,517	515,087	49,137
Estates	801,100	741,971	723,158	(77,942)
Business & Regeneration Total	1,289,496	1,485,583	1,172,154	(117,342)
Rent Allowances	82,510	82,510	82,510	0
Rent Rebates	740,602	740,602	740,602	0
Electoral Registration	111,685	133,335	133,335	21,650
Election Expenses	78,500	196,300	196,300	117,800
Equal Opportunities	51,960	59,600	59,250	7,290
Emergency Planning	31,400	31,400	54,800	23,400
Democratic Representation and Management	364,185	391,672	403,300	39,115
Revenues	1,402,795	1,608,763	1,596,403	193,608
Corporate Management	5,216,341	5,685,885	5,563,953	347,612
Mayoralty	16,290	17,930	17,930	1,640
Resources and Corporate Services Total	8,096,268	8,947,997	8,848,383	752,115
Cemeteries	96,092	126,527	204,224	108,132
Allotments	(1,125)	(1,072)	(1,072)	53
Parks	2,869,784	2,962,647	2,969,126	99,342
Community Recreation	1,308,740	1,386,612	938,714	(370,026)
Sports Development	22,420	22,420	22,420	0
Museum	274,837	302,574	295,181	20,344
Arts Development	115,150	85,241	85,241	(29,909)
Community Development	1,950	1,970	1,970	20
Voluntary Bodies	142,383	142,983	142,983	600
Community Safety	93,580	48,870	48,870	(44,710)
Community Centres	70,018	70,031	70,031	13

Leisure, Communities and Health Total	4,993,829	5,148,803	4,777,689	(216,141)
Housing Advice Centre	(981,682)	(892,392)	(958,525)	23,157
Private Sector Grants	94,880	124,944	123,704	28,824
Housing Strategy	1,062,242	758,172	748,803	(313,439)
Private Sector Housing Standards	(11,822)	228,248	351,542	363,364
Mobile Home Sites	(100,150)	(100,088)	(103,930)	(3,780)
Housing Total	63,468	118,885	161,595	98,127
Environmental Protection	180,731	492,171	489,241	308,510
Food & Occupational Safety	271,375	280,765	278,945	7,570
Land Drainage Works	0	0	0	0
Street Nameplates	9,660	9,660	9,660	0
Building Control	95,911	97,841	97,841	1,930
Development Control	(446,620)	(266,750)	(365,920)	80,700
Planning Policy & Applications	1,540,000	1,353,605	1,347,775	(192,225)
Land Charges	(61,119)	(56,219)	76,961	138,080
Licences	(90,556)	(24,056)	(25,386)	65,170
Health & Safety	93,812	251,838	208,583	114,771
Planning and Enforcement Total	1,593,194	2,138,855	2,117,700	524,506
Refuse & Cleansing	3,953,294	4,288,089	4,265,892	312,598
Recycling	1,618,114	2,210,349	2,207,519	589,405
Neighbourhood Management	1,304,861	1,451,661	1,445,835	140,974
Footpath Lighting	6,300	6,300	6,300	0
Environmental Projects	63,204	137,754	187,754	124,550
Environmental Sustainability	45,000	45,000	45,000	0
Environment and Public Services Total	6,990,773	8,139,153	8,158,300	1,167,527
Portfolio Total	23,027,028	25,979,275	25,235,821	2,208,793
Central Provisions	433,416	1,082,489	636,591	203,175
Depreciation & Impairment	(3,096,530)	(3,086,890)	(3,169,390)	(72,860)
Contributions To/From Reserves	(1,435,806)	(1,435,806)	(1,435,806)	0
Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,125,000	1,125,000	1,125,000	0
PWLB Premiums	21,120	21,120	21,120	0
Investment Income	(741,320)	(741,320)	(458,820)	282,500
Minimum Revenue Provision	530,418	828,862	828,862	298,444
External Interest	920,348	1,055,326	1,055,326	134,978
Total Council Net Expenditure	20,783,674	24,828,056	23,838,704	3,055,030
Council Tax	(11,078,501)	(11,230,442)	(11,565,945)	(487,444)
New Homes Bonus	(1,027,339)	0	0	1,027,339
General Government Grants	(844,000)	(3,844,000)	(6,879,184)	(6,035,184)
Business Rates Retention	(6,210,770)	(6,210,770)	(5,303,229)	907,541

NDR Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(1,506,079)	0	0	1,506,079
Council Tax Collection Fund (Surplus)/ Deficit	(117,378)	0	(101,102)	16,276
Total Funding	(20,784,067)	(21,285,212)	(23,849,460)	(3,065,393)
(Surplus) / Deficit	(393)	3,542,844	(10,756)	(10,363)

GENERAL FUND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

	Budget	Proposed Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	2025.26	2026.27	2027.28	2028.29
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Portfolio				
Business & Regeneration	1,289	1,172	1,243	1,331
Environment & Public Services	6,991	8,158	8,837	9,315
Housing	63	162	257	340
Leisure, Communities & Health	4,994	4,778	4,887	4,982
Planning & Enforcement	1,593	2,118	2,191	2,254
Resources & Central Services	8,096	8,848	8,824	9,250
Portfolio Expenditure	23,027	25,236	26,239	27,472
Accounting Adjustments				
Depreciation	(3,097)	(3,169)	(3,169)	(3,169)
Minimum Revenue Provision	530	829	1,424	1,454
Interest Payable	941	1,076	942	670
Interest Receivable	(741)	(459)	(409)	(339)
Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,125	1,125	540	540
Contributions to/from reserves	(1,436)	(1,436)	(890)	(110)
Central Provisions	433	637	642	648
Net Expenditure	20,784	23,839	25,319	27,165
Provisions				
Forecasted Outturn	(250)	0	0	0
Regeneration Income	0	0	(1,040)	(1,421)
Removal of 2026/27 One-off Spend	0	0	(165)	(165)
Transformation Savings	0	0	(1,100)	(1,800)
LGR Shadow Cabinet	0	0	250	0
Additional Pressures/Opportunities	(250)	0	(2,055)	(3,386)
Funding				
NNDR	(7,717)	(5,303)	(5,026)	(5,127)
Council Tax	(11,196)	(11,666)	(12,031)	(12,515)
New Homes Bonus	(1,027)	0	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	(330)	(5,818)	(5,694)	(5,622)
Recovery Grant	(514)	(514)	(514)	(514)
Adjustment Support Grant	0	(546)	0	0
Total Funding	(20,784)	(23,848)	(23,265)	(23,778)
Surplus	(250)	(10)	(1)	(0)

General Fund <u>Cemeteries</u>	<u>Fees & Charges 2026/27</u> 2025/26 Fee	2026/27 Proposed Fee	% Change
Exclusive Rights of Burial Under 18 Years	£523.00	£541.00	3.40%
Exclusive Burial Rights – 50 Years	£1,203.00	£1,244.00	3.40%
Reservation of a Burial Plot (Marston Lane only)	£1,203.00	£1,244.00	3.40%
Deed of Grant Transfer Fee	£83.00	£86.00	3.40%
Grave for Person Under 18 Years	£781.00	£808.00	3.40%
Grave Depth for One Person	£781.00	£808.00	3.40%
Grave Depth for Up to Two Persons	£1,030.00	£1,065.00	3.40%
Grave Depth for Three Persons	£1,263.00	£1,306.00	3.40%
Grave Depth Burial with Ashes casket inside the coffin	£322.00	£333.00	3.40%
Grave Depth Burial with Ashes Casket	£322.00	£333.00	3.40%
Short Notice Internment – Saturday (in addition to Burial: Internments fee)	£308.00	£318.00	3.40%
Short Notice Internment – Sunday & Bank Holidays (in addition to Burial: Internments fee)	£616.00	£637.00	3.40%
Fees Grave Care	£66.00	£68.00	3.40%
Exhumation Applications	£34.00	£35.00	3.40%
Genealogy Requests	£16.50	£17.50	3.40%
Administration Charge	£33.50	£34.50	3.40%
Exclusive Cremated Remains Rights	£598.00	£618.00	3.40%
Reservation of a Burial Plot (Marston Lane only)	£598.00	£618.00	3.40%
Exclusive Cremated Remains Rights – Outside Borough	£1,281.00	£1,325.00	3.40%
Deed of Grant Transfer	£83.00	£86.00	3.40%

Internment of Cremated Remains	£322.00	£333.00	3.40%
Fees: Usher Service – Scattering of Ashes	£62.00	£64.00	3.40%
Scattering of Ashes from External Sources	£137.00	£142.00	3.40%
Rights to Erect a Memorial	£287.00	£297.00	3.40%
Additional Inscriptions	£108.00	£112.00	3.40%
Small Memorial Vase	£82.00	£85.00	3.40%
Benches	£948.00	£980.00	3.40%
Memorial Tree and Boulder	Variable	Variable	
Replacement Plaques to Tree or Benches	Variable	Variable	
Book of Remembrance and Tablets	£34.00	£35.00	3.40%
Memorial Blocks and Tablets	£546.00	£565.00	3.40%
Vase Block Renewal	£377.00	£390.00	3.40%
Replacement Vase Block Plaques	£115.00	£119.00	3.40%

Football & Cricket

Pitch Only (per game)	£21.50 - £37.00	£22.50 - £38.00	3.40%
Pitch & Showers (per game)	£29.00 - £67.00	£30.00 - £69.00	3.40%
Mini Soccer (per game)	£13.00 - £16.00	£13.50 - £17.00	3.40%
Seasonal Senior Charge with Changing	£661.00	£683.00	3.40%
Seasonal Senior Charge without Changing	£395.00	£408.00	3.40%
Cricket Pitch & Pavilion - Local Groups (Per Hour)	£39.00 - £67.00	£40.00 - £69.00	3.40%
Cricket Pitch & Pavilion - Out of Borough (Per Hour)	£53.00 - £93.00	£55.00 - £96.00	3.40%
Pavilion - Local Groups (Per Hour)	£13.00	£13.50	3.40%
Pavilion - Out of Borough (Per Hour)	£16.00	£17.00	3.40%
Pavilion Play Groups - Local Groups (Per Hour)	£21.00	£22.00	3.40%

Pavilion Play Groups - Out of Borough (Per Hour)	£24.00	£25.00	3.40%
Bowls games (Per Game)	£16.50	£17.50	3.40%
Pingles Stadium	£73.00 - £123.00	£75.00 - £127.00	3.40%

Parks

Funfair (per day) trading day	£379.00	£392.00	3.40%
Funfair - bond returnable	£630.00	£651.00	3.40%
Funfair (per day) non-trading day	£77.00	£80.00	3.40%
Miscellaneous Events - Commercial groups	£349.00	£361.00	3.40%
Miscellaneous Events - National Registered Charity	£159.00	£164.00	3.40%
Miscellaneous Events - Local Charity			
Day Hire of Destination Park - Commercial	£630.00	£651.00	3.40%
Day Hire of Destination Park - National Registered Charity	£313.00	£324.00	3.40%
Day Hire of Destination Park - Local Charity			
Commercial Personal Training - 6 month permit peak (Apr-Sep)	£144.00	£149.00	3.40%
Commercial Personal Training - 6 month permit off-peak (Oct-Mar)	£231.00	£239.00	3.40%
Commercial Personal Training - 12 month permit (Flat Rate)	£205.00	£212.00	3.40%
Leaflet/Sampling - 1st Person Leafleting	£190.00	£196.00	3.40%
Leaflet/Sampling - Per Person Thereafter	£77.00	£80.00	3.40%
Bouncy Castle/Inflatables - Large	£128.00	£132.00	3.40%
Bouncy Castle/Inflatables - Small	£67.00	£69.00	3.40%
Park Landing - Helicopter	£97.00	£100.00	3.40%
Park Landing - Hot Air Balloon	£97.00	£100.00	3.40%
Family Events (i.e. barbeques)	£67.00	£69.00	3.40%

Cancellation - 6 weeks before event	£0.25	£0.25	
Cancellation - 5 weeks before event	£0.50	£0.50	
Cancellation - less than 5 weeks before event	£0.75	£0.75	
Cancellation - less than 2 weeks before event	£1.00	£1.00	
DBS application charge (not charged for volunteers) - Enhanced	£49.50	£51.50	3.40%
DBS application charge (not charged for volunteers) - Standard	£21.50	£22.50	3.40%
DBS administration charge (chargeable to volunteers)	£13.00	£13.00	3.40%

Museum

Museum Lecture Theatre/Gallery (hour) until 4.00pm	£23.50	£24.50	3.40%
Museum Lecture Theatre/Gallery (hour) 4.00pm until close	£46.00	£48.00	3.40%
School Visits no museum support			
School Visits led/supported by museum staff	£3.50	£3.50	3.40%
School Visits led by external contractors	£67.00	£69.00	3.40%
Commission on Gallery sales	£0.25	£0.25	
Commission on Shop sales	£0.30	£0.30	
Fines - artists who don't collect work on time	£2.50	£2.50	3.40%

Reproduction Fees

Image on file and emailed	£5.00	£5.00	
Image on file, disc produced	£15.00	£16.00	3.40%
Object/painting to be photographed and emailed	£26.00	£27.00	3.40%
Object/painting to be photographed, disc produced	£36.00	£37.00	3.40%
Professional photograph, high resolution, suitable for larger print - image on file, disc produced	£36.00	£37.00	3.40%

Photographic prints (of larger prints) - 6x4	£10.00	£10.00	
Photographic prints (of larger prints) - 7x5	£12.50	£12.50	
Photographic prints (of larger prints) - 10x8	£15.00	£16.00	3.40%
Scanned photocopies - A4 black & white	£3.00	£3.00	
Scanned photocopies - A4 colour	£6.00	£6.00	
Scanned photocopies - A3 black & white	£5.50	£5.50	
Scanned photocopies - A3 colour	£11.00	£11.00	
Postage - UK First Class	£4.50	£4.50	
Postage - UK Special delivery	£8.00	£8.00	
Postage - European Union (Air sure)	£8.00	£8.00	
Postage - Elsewhere (Air sure)	£16.00	£17.00	3.40%

Licenses

<u>Regional casino</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	£6,400.00	£6,400.00	
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	
Annual Fee	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	
Variation	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	
Transfer of license	£5,200.00	£5,200.00	
Re-instatement fee	£5,200.00	£5,200.00	
Provisional Statement	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>New large casino</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	

Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	
Annual Fee	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	
Variation	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	
Transfer of license	£1,720.00	£1,720.00	
Re-instatement fee	£1,720.00	£1,720.00	
Provisional Statement	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>New small casino</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	£2,400.00	£2,400.00	
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£6,400.00	£6,400.00	
Annual Fee	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	
Variation	£3,200.00	£3,200.00	
Transfer of license	£1,440.00	£1,440.00	
Re-instatement fee	£1,440.00	£1,440.00	
Provisional Statement	£6,400.00	£6,400.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>Existing casinos</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	N/A	N/A	
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	
Annual Fee	£2,400.00	£2,400.00	
Variation	£1,600.00	£1,600.00	
Transfer of license	£1,080.00	£1,080.00	
Re-instatement fee	£1,080.00	£1,080.00	

Provisional Statement	N/A	N/A
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00
<u>Bingo premises</u>		
New application where provisional statement granted	£960.00	£960.00
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£2,800.00	£2,800.00
Annual Fee	£800.00	£800.00
Variation	£1,400.00	£1,400.00
Transfer of license	£960.00	£960.00
Re-instatement fee	£960.00	£960.00
Provisional Statement	£2,800.00	£2,800.00
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00
<u>Adult gaming centre</u>		
New application where provisional statement granted	£960.00	£960.00
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£1,600.00	£1,600.00
Annual Fee	£800.00	£800.00
Variation	£800.00	£800.00
Transfer of license	£960.00	£960.00
Re-instatement fee	£960.00	£960.00
Provisional Statement	£1,600.00	£1,600.00
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00
<u>Betting premises tracks</u>		
New application where provisional statement granted	£760.00	£760.00

Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	
Annual Fee	£800.00	£800.00	
Variation	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	
Transfer of license	£760.00	£760.00	
Re-instatement fee	£760.00	£760.00	
Provisional Statement	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>Betting premises (other)</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	£960.00	£960.00	
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£2,400.00	£2,400.00	
Annual Fee	£480.00	£480.00	
Variation	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	
Transfer of license	£960.00	£960.00	
Re-instatement fee	£960.00	£960.00	
Provisional Statement	£2,400.00	£2,400.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>Family entertainment centres</u>			
New application where provisional statement granted	£760.00	£760.00	
Non conversion other premises (i.e. NEW)	£1,600.00	£1,600.00	
Annual Fee	£600.00	£600.00	
Variation	£800.00	£800.00	
Transfer of license	£760.00	£760.00	
Re-instatement fee	£760.00	£760.00	

Provisional Statement	£1,600.00	£1,600.00	
Change of circumstance	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of license	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>Licensed premises gaming machine permit</u>			
Grant	£150.00	£150.00	
Existing operator grant	£100.00	£100.00	
Variation	£100.00	£100.00	
Transfer	£25.00	£25.00	
Annual fee	£50.00	£50.00	
Change of name	£25.00	£25.00	
Copy of permit	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>License premises automatic notification process</u>			
On notification	£50.00	£50.00	
Club gaming permits			
Grant	£200.00	£200.00	
Grant (club premises certificate holder)	£100.00	£100.00	
Existing operator grant	£100.00	£100.00	
Variation	£100.00	£100.00	
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00	
Renewal (club premises certificate holder)	£100.00	£100.00	
Annual fee	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of permit	£15.00	£15.00	
<u>Club machine permits</u>			
Grant	£200.00	£200.00	
Grant (club premises certificate holder)	£100.00	£100.00	

Existing operator grant	£100.00	£100.00	
Variation	£100.00	£100.00	
Renewal	£200.00	£200.00	
Renewal (club premises certificate holder)	£100.00	£100.00	
Annual fee	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of permit	£15.00	£15.00	
<u>Family entertainment centre gaming machine permits</u>			
Grant	£300.00	£300.00	
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00	
Existing operator grant	£100.00	£100.00	
Change of name	£25.00	£25.00	
Renewal (club premises certificate holder)	£100.00	£100.00	
Annual fee	£50.00	£50.00	
Copy of permit	£15.00	£15.00	
<u>Prize gaming permits</u>			
Grant	£300.00	£300.00	
Renewal	£300.00	£300.00	
Existing operator grant	£100.00	£100.00	
Change of name	£25.00	£25.00	
Copy of permit	£15.00	£15.00	
<u>Small lottery registration</u>			
Grant	£40.00	£40.00	
Annual fee	£20.00	£20.00	
Sex establishments	£2,210.00	£2,210.00	

Licensing Act 2003

Application Fee/Annual Charge statutory charges

Premises and club premises certificates - fees			
Band A - rateable value £0-£4,300	£100.00 / £70.00	£100.00 / £70.00	
Band B - rateable value £4,301-£33,000	£190.00 / £180.00	£190.00 / £180.00	
Band C - rateable value £33,001-£87,000	£315.00 / £295.00	£315.00 / £295.00	
Band D - rateable value £87,001-£125,000	£450.00 / £320.00	£450.00 / £320.00	
Band E - rateable value £125,000 and above	£635.00 / £350.00	£635.00 / £350.00	
Premises licenses only - additional fees			
Band D (X2)	£900.00 / £640.00	900.00/640.00	
Band E (X3)	£1905.00 / £1050.00	1905.00/1050.00	
<u>Variation Fees</u>			
Band A	£100.00	£100.00	
Band B	£190.00	£190.00	
Band C	£315.00	£315.00	
Band D	£450.00	£450.00	
Band E	£635.00	£635.00	
<u>Additional Fees re large-scale events, number attending</u>			
5000-9999	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	
10000-14999	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	
15000-19999	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	
20000-29999	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	
30000-39999	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	
40000-49999	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	
50000-59999	£32,000.00	£32,000.00	

60000-69999	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	
70000-79999	£48,000.00	£48,000.00	
80000-89999	£56,000.00	£56,000.00	
90000 and over	£64,000.00	£64,000.00	
<u>Fees for permitted temporary activities, personal licenses and miscellaneous items</u>			
Section 25 Theft, loss, etc. of premises licence or summary	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 29 Application for a provisional statement where premises being built, etc.	£315.00	£315.00	
Section 33 Notification of change of name or address	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 37 Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor	£23.00	£23.00	
Section 42 Application for transfer of premises licence	£23.00	£23.00	
Section 47 Interim authority notice following death etc. of licence holder	£23.00	£23.00	
Section 79 Theft, loss etc. of certificate or summary	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 82 Notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 83(1) or (2) Change of relevant registered address of club	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 100 Temporary event notice	£21.00	£21.00	
Section 110 Theft, loss etc. of temporary event notice	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 117 Application for a grant or renewal of personal licence	£37.00	£37.00	
Section 126 Theft, loss, etc. of personal licence	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 127 Notification of change of name or address	£10.50	£10.50	
Section 178 Right of Freeholder etc. to be notified of licensing matters	£21.00	£21.00	

Vehicles

<u>Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles</u>			
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Drivers - New Applications		
Application for Driver's Licence (3 years)	£358.00	£358.00
DBS + Admin Fee	£54.00	£54.00
Safe Guarding	£30.00	£30.00
English & Numeracy Test	£15.00	£15.00
Knowledge Test	£64.00	£64.00
<u>Drivers - Renewals</u>		
Application for Driver's Licence (3 years)	£317.00	£317.00
DBS + Admin Fee	£50.00	£50.00
DVLA Licence Check	£8.00	£8.00
Knowledge Test (re-take)	£64.00	£64.00
Knowledge Test Cancelled on the day	£15.00	£15.00
Replacement Badge/Licence	£25.00	£25.00
DVLA licence check (where required)	£8.00	£8.00
Child sexual exploitation training	£15.00	£15.00
Vehicle Licence Application	£188.00	£188.00
Vehicle Test	£92.00	£92.00
Vehicle interim test / full re- test	£92.00	£92.00
Test Cancellation Fee	£40.00	£40.00
Re-Test within 10 working days	£40.00	£40.00
Replacement Plate	£25.00	£25.00

Replacement Licence	£25.00	£25.00	
Transfer of Licence	£25.00	£25.00	
Time-tabled Bus - operator fee per departure	£0.45	£0.45	
Coaches	£1.55	£1.55	
<u>Private Hire Operator's Licence Application</u>			
- first year	£223.00	£223.00	
- 3-year renewal	£184.00	£184.00	
- 5-year renewal	£305.00	£305.00	
<u>Scrap Metal Licences</u>			
Sites	£750.00	£750.00	
Collectors	£300.00	£300.00	

Refuse and Cleansing

<u>Green Waste Collection</u>			
Annual Collection Charge	£45.00	£45.00	
<u>Bulky Refuse</u>			
1 item	£33.00	£34.00	3.40%
- Each additional item up to maximum of 10 in total	£3.50	£3.50	
Above 10 items	Quotation	Quotation	
Bin Repair	£21.00	£22.00	3.40%

Bin Replacement	£39.00	£40.00	3.40%
Full MOT Testing - Class 4	£54.85	£54.85	
Chargeable Re-test - Class 4	£27.43	£27.43	
Full MOT Testing - Class 7	£58.60	£58.60	
Chargeable Re-test - Class 7	£29.30	£29.30	
<u>Trade Sacks</u>			
By Invoice	£3.00	£3.00	
Across Counter	£3.50	£3.50	
<u>Sweeping</u>			
Per Sweep	£81.00	£84.00	3.40%
<u>Skips</u>			
Collection	£108.00	£112.00	3.40%
Disposal Cost per tonne	£118.00	£122.00	3.40%
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<u>Wheeled Bin – 140, 240 & 360</u>			
Between 1 & 5 bins	£157.00	£162.00	3.40%
Between 6 & 10 bins	£162.00	£168.00	3.40%
11+ bins	£173.00	£179.00	3.40%
660 & 1100 Euro Bins (each)	£154.00	£159.00	3.40%
Skip (plus disposal costs)	£163.00	£169.00	3.40%

Finance and Corporate

<u>Land Charges</u>			
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LLC 1	£21.00	£21.00	
NLIS LLC 1 (Electronically)	£15.00	£15.00	
Personal Search	£14.65	£14.65	
Part 1 Enquiries	£113.00	£113.00	
Part 2 Enquiries	£21.00	£21.00	
Part 3 Enquiries	£31.00	£31.00	
Office copy of agreements	£38.00	£38.00	
Individual additional questions (charge per question)	Quotation on Request	Quotation on Request	
Extra Parcel	£25.00	£25.00	
<u>Legal Services - Electoral Registration</u>			
Sale of register and the notices of alteration: Data Format (under 1,000)	£20.00	£20.00	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration – Data Format (over 1,000)	1.50 per 1,000	1.50 per 1,000	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration: Printed Format (under 1,000)	£10.00	£10.00	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration – Printed Format (over 1,000)	£5 per 1,000	£5 per 1,000	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration - list of overseas electors - Data Format (under 100)	£20.00	£20.00	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration – list of overseas electors – Data Format (above 100)	1.50 per 100	1.50 per 100	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration - list of overseas electors - Printed Format	£10.00	£10.00	
Sale of register and the notices of alteration – list of overseas electors – Printed Format	£1.50 per 100	£1.50 per 100	
<u>Rating Authority Costs</u>			
Magistrates Clerk Costs / Issue of Summons	£0.50	£0.50	
Rating Authority Costs - Council Tax	£107.00	£107.00	

Rating Authority Costs - NNDR	£161.00	£161.00	
<u>Magistrate Court:</u>			
Committed Warrant	£305.00	£305.00	
Per Committal Order for prison sentence	£145.00	£145.00	
Committal summons	£54.00	£54.00	
<u>Markets - Nuneaton</u>			
<u>Wednesday and Saturday</u>			
Self-Erect Per 3.5m x 3.5m pitch			
1 Pitch	£20.00	£20.00	
2 Pitches	£40.00	£40.00	
3 Pitches	£60.00	£60.00	
Vehicular Trading	£40.00	£40.00	
Reduced market per vehicle (Adverse weather)	£10.00	£10.00	
Power supply - per day (limited availability)	£5.00	£5.00	
Street Advertising per day	£100.00	£100.00	
<u>Bedworth Market – permanent</u>			
Lock-up Unit (3 metres)	£65.00	£65.00	
Lock-up Unit (4 metres)	£88.00	£88.00	
Lock-up Unit (5 metres)	£110.00	£110.00	
Cabin	£60.00	£60.00	
<u>Open Stall</u>			

Indoor Market	£10.00	£10.00	
<u>Outdoor Market</u>			
Self-erect per 3.5m x 3.5m stall	£10.00	£10.00	

Planning

<u>Sale of Freehold Property / Land</u>			
£0 - £20,000	£550.00	£550.00	
£20,001 - £50,000	£920.00	£920.00	
£50,001 - £100,000	£1,225.00	£1,225.00	
£100,001 - £200,000	£1,840.00	£1,840.00	
£200,001 and over	TBA	TBA	
<u>Sale of Leasehold Property / Land</u>			
£0 - £20,000	£550.00	£550.00	
£20,001 - £50,000	£920.00	£920.00	
£50,001 - £100,000	£1,225.00	£1,225.00	
£100,001 - £200,000	£1,840.00	£1,840.00	
£200,001 and over	TBA	TBA	
Right To Buy Administrative Fee	£110.00	£110.00	
Right To Buy Deed of Postponement of Change	£165.00	£165.00	
Right To Buy First Refusal Certificate	£110.00	£110.00	

<u>Leases</u>			
Starter Unit type / Craft Centre	£415.00	£415.00	
New Business Lease - Slingsby Close	£535.00	£535.00	
Shop Leases	£595.00	£595.00	
License to Assign – Residential	£380.00	£380.00	
License to Assign – Commercial	£540.00	£540.00	
Leasehold Enquiries	£80.00	£80.00	
Deed of Postponement	£162.00	£162.00	
2nd Mortgage Questionnaire	£162.00	£162.00	
Application for retrospective consents for property alterations	£216.00	£216.00	
<u>Photo-copying</u>			
Per copy - A4	£0.30 + £30 per hour (admin)	£0.30 + £30 per hour (admin)	
- A3	£0.45 + £30 per hour (admin)	£0.45 + £30 per hour (admin)	
Licences / Grazing Licence	£270.00	£270.00	
Easements	£378.00	£378.00	
Release of Covenants	£486.00	£486.00	
Deed of Variation (based on complexity)	Quotation	Quotation	
Lease Extension (based on complexity)	Quotation	Quotation	
Title investigations for 3rd parties	£324.00	£324.00	
Section 38 Agreements where landowners	£112.00	£112.00	
Section 40 Agreements where landowners	£112.00	£112.00	
Developer Licence	£540.00	£540.00	

Assignments	£540.00	£540.00	
Consents	£324.00	£324.00	
<u>Section 106 / 111 Agreements (including abortive costs undertaking)</u>			
1 – 10 Units (based on complexity)	Quotation	Quotation	
11 – 15 Units	£1,730.00	£1,730.00	
16 – 30 Units	£2,270.00	£2,270.00	
30 – 150 Units	£3,350.00	£3,350.00	
150 – 350 Units	£5,510.00	£5,510.00	
350 – 500 Units	£8,100.00	£8,100.00	
Road Closure Order	£3,240.00	£3,240.00	
Footpath Diversion Orders/Closure Order	£3,025.00	£3,025.00	
CPO on behalf of developers	£3,340.00	£3,340.00	
Purchase of properties in advance of CPO (Camp Hill)	£540.00	£540.00	
Other Purchases - to be agreed (where appropriate)	£540.00	£540.00	
Assignments & Transfer – for sold Properties at Middlemarch (Camphill)	£112.00	£112.00	
Enfranchisement to freehold development	£648.00	£648.00	
Camp Hill Certificate of Compliance	£150.00	£150.00	
<u>Room Booking and Hire Charges – Town Hall</u>			
<u>Local/Commercial</u>			
Monday to Friday (Inclusive)	£16.00 / £31.00	£17.00 / £32.00	3.40%
Council Chamber/Committee. Rooms A & B	£22.00 / £45.00	£23.00 / £47.00	3.40%
Committee Room C	£22.00 / £45.00	£23.00 / £47.00	3.40%

Plus additional staffing charge on room bookings	£20.00	£21.00	3.40%
Evac chair & Health & Safety training required by external organisations as per terms of use	£65.00	£67.00	3.40%
Flask (per ten cups)	£12.00	£12.00	
Plate of biscuits	£2.00	£2.00	
<u>Saturday & Sunday (Inclusive)</u>			
All rooms 4 Hour Hire	£330.00	£341.00	3.40%
All rooms 8 Hour Hire	£630.00	£651.00	3.40%
<u>Dog Warden</u>			
Dog Fines – PSPO (reduced to £80 if paid within 10 days)	£100.00	£100.00	
Dog Fines – CPN	£100.00	£100.00	
Stray Dogs - first day	£80.00	£80.00	
Fee Payable Directly to Kennel	30 per day	30 per day	
<u>Business Regulation Licences</u>			
Acupuncture	£125.00	£125.00	
Ear Piercing	£125.00	£125.00	
Electrolysis	£125.00	£125.00	
Tattooing	£250.00	£250.00	
Skin Piercing	£125.00	£125.00	
Dangerous Wild Animals (plus vet fees)	£360.00	£360.00	
Dog Breeding Establishments (plus vet fees)	£380.00	£380.00	
Pet Shops	£500.00	£500.00	
Pet Shop Licensing (at home)	£465.00	£465.00	
Riding Establishments (plus vet fees)	£275.00	£275.00	

Animal Boarding – Dog & Day Care	£465.00	£465.00	
Animal Boarding Larger (over 25 animals)	£500.00	£500.00	
Training of animals for exhibition	£230.00	£230.00	
Zoo Licence (plus inspection fees)	£778.00	£778.00	
Game Dealers	£7.00	£7.00	
Assisted Burial	Varies	Varies	
Environmental Information Request - Basic	£82.00	£82.00	
Environmental Info Request - per 1/2hr above basic	£42.00	£42.00	
Food Health certificate	£48.00	£48.00	
<u>Local Authority Pollution Control (LAPC) and</u>			
<u>Local Authority Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) Charges</u>			
<u>Application Fees</u>			
Standard process	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00	
Reduced fee activities (except VRs)	£155.00	£155.00	
PVR I and II combined	£257.00	£257.00	
Vehicle refinishers (VRs)	£362.00	£362.00	
Reduced fee activities: Additional fee for operating without a permit	£71.00	£71.00	
Mobile screening and crushing plant	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	
- for the third to seventh applications	£985.00	£985.00	
- for the eighth and subsequent applications	£498.00	£498.00	
<i>All Fees are set by LAPPC</i>			
<u>Annual Subsistence Charge</u>			

Standard process LOW	£834.00	£834.00
Standard process MEDIUM	£1,254.00	£1,254.00
Standard process HIGH	£1,887.00	£1,887.00
<u>LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH</u>		
Reduced fee activities	£79.00 / £158.00 / £237.00	£79.00 / £158.00 / £237.00
PVR I and II combined Medium component	£113.00 / £226.00 / £341.00	£113.00 / £226.00 / £341.00
Vehicle refinishers	£228.00 / £365.00 / £548.00	£228.00 / £365.00 / £548.00
Mobile screening and crushing plant , for first and second permits	£626.00 / £1034.00 / £1551.00	£626.00 / £1034.00 / £1551.00
- for the third to seventh permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00
- for the eighth and subsequent permits	£198.00 / £316.00 / £473.00	£198.00 / £316.00 / £473.00
Late Payment fee (New)	£52.00	£52.00
<i>All Fees are set by LAPPC</i>		
<u>Transfer & Surrender</u>		
Standard process transfer	£169.00	£169.00
Standard process partial transfer	£497.00	£497.00
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity	£78.00	£78.00
Reduced fee activities: partial transfer	£47.00	£47.00
<u>Temporary Transfer for mobiles</u>		
First transfer	£53.00	£53.00

Repeat following enforcement or warning	£53.00	£53.00	
<u>Substantial Change</u>			
Standard process	£1,050.00	£1,050.00	
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	
Reduced fee activities	£102.00	£102.00	
<u>Mobile Plant Charges</u>			
<u>Application Fees</u>			
1 permit	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	
2 permits	£1,650.00	£1,650.00	
3 permits	£985.00	£985.00	
4 permits	£985.00	£985.00	
5 permits	£985.00	£985.00	
6 permits	£985.00	£985.00	
7 permits	£985.00	£985.00	
8 or more permits	£498.00	£498.00	
<u>Subsistence Fees</u>			
<u>LOW/MEDIUM/HIGH</u>			
1 permit	£646.00 / £1034.00 / £1506.00	£646.00 / £1034.00 / £1506.00	
2 permits	£646.00 / £1034.00 / £1506.00	£646.00 / £1034.00 / £1506.00	
3 permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	

4 permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	
5 permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	
6 permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	
7 permits	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	£385.00 / £617.00 / £924.00	
8 or more permits	£198.00 / £316.00 / £473.00	£198.00 / £316.00 / £473.00	
<i>All Fees are set by LAPPC</i>			
<u>LA-IPPC Charges</u>			
Application	£3,363.00	£3,363.00	
Additional fee for operating without a permit	£1,188.00	£1,188.00	
Annual Subsistence LOW	£1,447.00	£1,447.00	
Annual Subsistence MEDIUM	£1,611.00	£1,611.00	
Annual Subsistence HIGH	£2,334.00	£2,334.00	
Late Payment Fee (New)	£52.00	£52.00	
Variation	£1,368.00	£1,368.00	
Substantial Variation	£3,363.00	£3,363.00	
Transfer	£235.00	£235.00	
Partial transfer	£698.00	£698.00	
Surrender	£698.00	£698.00	
<i>All Fees are set by LAPPC</i>			
<u>Planning Documents</u>			

Borough Local Plan - Residents	22.28 + £2.75 postage	22.28 + £2.75 postage	
Borough Local Plan - Non-Residents	36.42 + £2.75 postage	36.42 + £2.75 postage	
Residential Design Guide	£4.61	£4.61	
Postal Numbering Plans	£94.37	£94.37	
Ann.Sub.- Weekly List of Planning Applications (post)	£125.01	£125.01	
Ann.Sub.- Weekly List of Planning Applications (email)	£81.30	£81.30	
Copies of Decision Notices (Electronic)	£12.00	£12.00	
Copies of Decision Notices (Postal)	£15.96	£15.96	
Breach of Conditions Notice	£18.85	£18.85	
Copy of Tree Preservation order	£33.64	£33.64	
A3 Copies of Other Planning Application Documents	£1.39	£1.39	
A4 Copies of Other Planning Application Documents	£0.86	£0.86	
Plans - Up to A1	£2.89	£2.89	
Sewer Map Extracts	£28.39	£28.39	
<u>Copies of Ordnance Survey Maps for:-</u>			
Planning & Building Reg's (7 copies)	£39.31	£39.31	
Planning Application (5 copies)	£35.33	£35.33	
Building Regulations (3 copies)	£33.64	£33.64	
Section 38 Booklet	£29.03	£29.03	
Section 106 Agreements (1 copy)	£36.42	£36.42	
Plan Printing on paper:- A0	£3.11	£3.11	
Plan Printing on paper:- A1	£2.89	£2.89	
Plan Printing on paper:- A2	£2.36	£2.36	

Photocopying	A4	£0.86	£0.86
Photocopying	A3	£1.39	£1.39
<u>Street Naming & Numbering</u>			
Numbering up to 10 addresses		£148.00	£148.00
Numbering over 10 addresses, per address		£15.00	£15.00
Street Naming, per street		£148.00	£148.00
House naming or renaming, per house		£72.00	£72.00
Street renaming, per street		£435.00	£435.00
S106 Monitoring Fees		£1,475.00	£1,475.00

Car Parks

<u>Long Stay (except Harefield Road MSCP and Bedworth Railway Station)</u>			
Sunday – All Day		£1.00	£1.00
Up to 1 Hour		£1.00	£1.00
Up to 2 Hours		£2.00	£2.00
Up to 3 Hours		£3.00	£3.00
3 - 4 Hours		£4.00	£4.00
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)		£6.00	£6.00
Evening/Overnight		Free	Free
Monthly Season Tickets		£75.50	£75.50
6 Monthly Season Tickets		£305.50	£305.50
Yearly Season Tickets		£532.00	£532.00

Yearly Season Tickets(50+ further 10% discount)	£443.30	£443.30	
<u>Short Stay (except Town Hall and Riverside)</u>			
Sunday – All Day	£1.00	£1.00	
Up to 1 Hours	£1.00	£1.00	
Up to 2 Hours	£2.00	£2.00	
Up to 3 Hours	£3.00	£3.00	
3 - 4 Hours	£4.00	£4.00	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)	£7.00	£7.00	
Evening/Overnight	Free	Free	
Monthly Season Tickets	£95.50	£95.50	
6 Monthly Season Tickets	£422.50	£422.50	
Yearly Season Tickets	£789.00	£789.00	
<u>Town Hall</u>			
Sunday – All Day	£1.00	£1.00	
Up to 1 Hours	£1.50	£1.50	
Up to 2 Hours	£2.50	£2.50	
Up to 3 Hours	£3.50	£3.50	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)	£8.00	£8.00	
<u>Riverside Maximum Stay 2 Hours; No Return Within 4 Hours</u>			
Sunday – Maximum 2 Hours	£1.00	£1.00	
Up to 1 Hours	£1.50	£1.50	
Up to 2 Hours	£2.50	£2.50	

<u>Harefield Road and Bedworth Train Station</u>			
Up to 4 Hours	£1.00	£1.00	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)	£2.00	£2.00	
Monthly Season Tickets	£39.00	£39.00	
6 Monthly Season Tickets	£197.00	£197.00	
Yearly Season Tickets	£338.00	£338.00	
<u>Abbey Street Car Park</u>			
Sunday – All Day		£1.00	
Up to 1 Hour		£1.00	
Up to 2 Hours		£2.00	
Up to 3 Hours		£3.00	
3 - 4 Hours		£4.00	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)		£7.00	
<u>Leisure Centre Parking</u>			
Sundays – All Day	Free	Free	
Up to 3 Hours	Free	Free	
Up to 4 Hours	£2.00	£2.00	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)	£3.00	£3.00	
<u>Miners Welfare Park</u>			
Saturday, Sunday, Bank Holidays – All Day	Free	Free	
Up to 3 hours	Free	Free	

4 hours	£4.50	£4.50	
Over 4 Hours (but less than 24 hours)	£6.50	£6.50	
<u>Blue Badge Season Ticket</u>			
6 Months	£110.00	£110.00	
12 Months	£200.00	£200.00	

Housing

<u>Mobile Home (Caravan) Sites</u>			
Caldwell Site - rent of site only - per pitch per week	TBC	TBC	Subject to February 2025 CPI Rate
Exhall Site - Rent of site only - per pitch per week	TBC	TBC	Subject to February 2025 CPI Rate
Laundry Facilities (per wash and per dry)	£3.50	£3.50	
Commission on Sale of Caravans	10% of sale value	10% of sale value	
Rent of garages for Tenants	£10.00	£10.00	
Rent of garages for Non-Tenants including VAT	£20.00	£20.00	
<u>Private Sector Housing</u>			
HMO Licence – Up to 5 lets	£841.00	£841.00	3.40%
HMO Licence – Up to 6 – 10 lets	£882.00	£882.00	3.40%
HMO Licence – Up to 11+ lets	£923.00	£923.00	3.40%
<u>Strategic Housing</u>			
Homeless Hostel Rent per night	£65.00	£69.12	4.8% + £1 In line with HRA uplift

Homeless Hostel Service Charge	£3.65	£3.83	4.8% In line with HRA uplift
<u>Private Mobile Homes and Caravan Parks</u>			
Initial Licence Fee	£8.50	£8.50	3.40%
Annual Fee	£34.00	£34.00	3.40%
Transfer or Standard Amendment Fee	£262.00	£262.00	3.40%
Site Expansion Amendment Fee	£262.00	£262.00	3.40%
Immigration Letter	£82.00	£82.00	3.40%
Immigration Notice	£119.00	£119.00	3.40%
Enforcement Notice	£277.00	£277.00	3.40%
Private Landlords – Civil Penalty Charges	£5,535.00	£5,535.00	3.40%
Smoke Alarm Fee	£1,107.00	£1,107.00	3.40%

RISK ANALYSIS

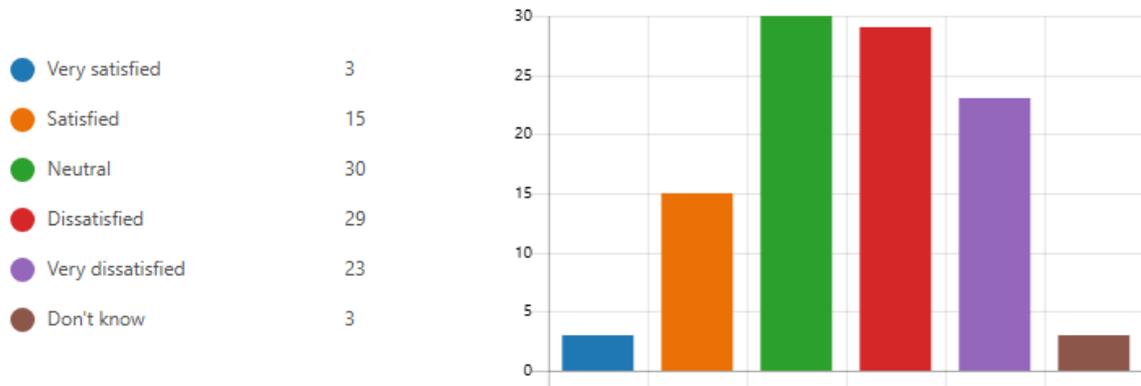
Risk	Issue	Mitigation
Loss of Business Rate income	Business Rate appeals are a risk to the income base and the revaluation in 2026 will increase this possibility in 2026/27	An appeal of £3m is contained to cover the reduction in rateable value and £1.1m has been included in the forecast for future losses
Fair Funding Review	The Council's Core Spending Power reduces providing less income for services	A three year settlement has now been issued by Government which gives more certainty. Transformation savings are built into the MTFP with a strategy and plan to be implemented in 2026/27
Losses in other income	Reduction to core income through fees and charges due to less uptake from the public	Fees and charges policy adopted in 2025/26 and growth has only been included on specific services at December CPI, detail included in section 7 of the report
Recycling	Risk that the recycling facility does not generate the savings expected	Increased costs of recycling have been included in the budget and bi-monthly meetings regarding performance are undertaken by the S151 Officer with the site Finance Manager. In addition, the Shareholder Committee and Scrutiny Panel has updates from Sherbourne twice per year.
Local Council Tax Support Scheme	A revision to the scheme could result in higher costs/income losses to the Preceptors	An update to the scheme is being consulted on in 2026/27 and the impact of changes will be reported and included in any future budget. Provision is included within the MTFP
Savings targets	Targets have been set and included within the detail of the budget to ensure a balanced position	A transformation strategy is underway to ensure achievement of any savings plans and will be reported to Cabinet in 2026/27. The Scrutiny Panel have been updated on progress during February 2026
Uninsured losses	The Council holds a number of insurance policies but also self-insures	There is a risk reserve in place of £577k to cover any potential issue
Inflation and interest rates	Inflation and interest fluctuations can have a big impact on the cost base	Inflation has been built into the base at December CPI for contractual obligations in 2026/27, a pay award of 3.5% has been factored in and interest payments have been reviewed and increased in line with capital borrowing requirements

Regeneration Ongoing	Generation of income from the new sites not being as high as forecast	A new contract has been agreed for the leisure centres resulting in a positive outcome for the Council and is factored into the budget. In addition, ongoing discussions are underway with potential leaseholders at Grayson Place and will be secured during 2026
Grayson Place	Finalisation of Grayson Place due to available funding	Options are being fully reviewed regarding funding and earmarked reserves have been allocated to contribute to Grayson Place phase 3. No work will progress until full funding is sourced and detail will be reported during 2026/27 to Cabinet
Local Government Reorganisation	Support to develop the merge of authorities is currently under resourced plus the cost to merge is still unknown	A Financial Planning reserve is in place to support the transition and will be utilised as required to support
Grounds Maintenance	Contracts for the outsourced service are due to expire in 2027 which may create a risk to future cost	Work is being conducted on the specification and a working group meets to work through options. A soft market test will be conducted in 2026/27 to determine potential financial risk
Food Waste Collection	A new work stream is to be introduced in 2026/27 collecting food waste separately which will create a cost pressure	Government have rolled up funding into the Fair Funding Review but the increase in cost has not been covered in full by the Settlement. Only 9 months of delivery is included in 2026/27 budget with the addition

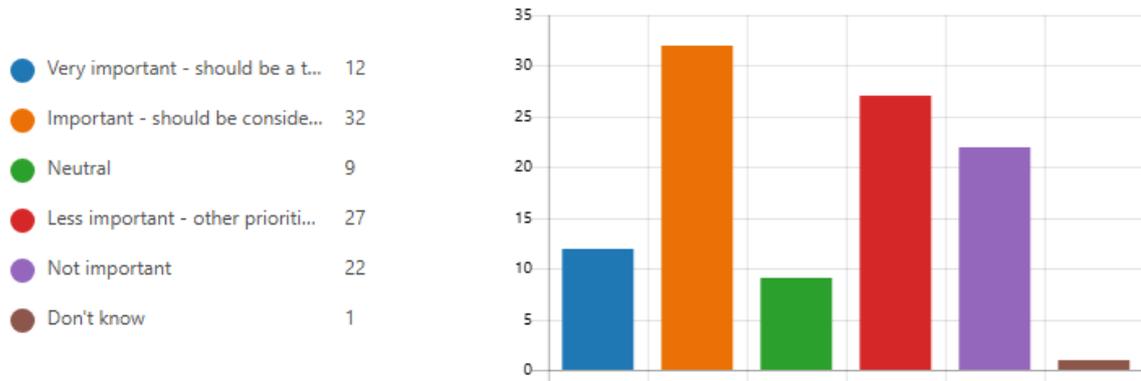
General Fund	Opening Balance 2025/26 £'000	Net Movement 2025/26 £'000	New opening Balance 2025/26 £'000
Asset Maintenance	0	(839)	(839)
Borough Plan	(210)	(2)	(211)
Carry Forward Requests	(583)	28	(555)
Collection Fund	(387)	387	0
Community Development	(109)	0	(109)
Covid Resilience	(276)	276	0
Financial Planning	(763)	(5,979)	(6,742)
Food Waste	(216)	0	(216)
Future High Street/ Towns Fund	(76)	76	0
GF Rev Budget	(105)	105	0
HEART	(468)	90	(378)
Homelessness	(1,534)	53	(1,481)
Innovations/ Invest to Save	(65)	65	0
Insurance	(620)	43	(577)
IT	0	0	0
LAMS	(89)	0	(89)
Levelling Up Fund	(166)	0	(166)
Local Welfare Scheme	(17)	0	(17)
Museum Donations	(29)	(2)	(30)
NDR Retention	(5,215)	5,215	0
New Burdens R&B	(573)	12	(561)
Other	(1,196)	435	(761)
Park Strategy	(300)	0	(300)
Planning	(428)	0	(428)
Planning for Future	(481)	(100)	(581)
Provisions	(325)	325	0
Repossession Grants	(92)	0	(92)
Skills & Development	(182)	0	(182)
Transformation	(796)	796	0
Transforming Nuneaton & Bedworth	(347)	347	0
REVENUE EARMARKED RESERVES	(15,647)	1,333	(14,314)
ICT & Transformation	0	(1,239)	(1,239)
Regeneration	0	(423)	(423)
Computer Reserves	(349)	0	(349)
Target Hardening	(100)	100	0
COMF - WCC	(162)	162	(0)
CCTV Replacement Fund	(135)	0	(135)
Cemeteries Maintenance Fund	(130)	0	(130)
Skate Parks	(134)	0	(134)
General Fund - Capital	(858)	28	(830)
Vehicle Replacement	(1,077)	0	(1,077)

Other Capital Reserves	(396)	39	(357)
CAPITAL EARMARKED RESERVES	(3,339)	(1,333)	(4,672)
TOTAL GENERAL FUND RESERVES	(18,986)	(0)	(18,986)

1. How satisfied are you with the value for money provided by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council?

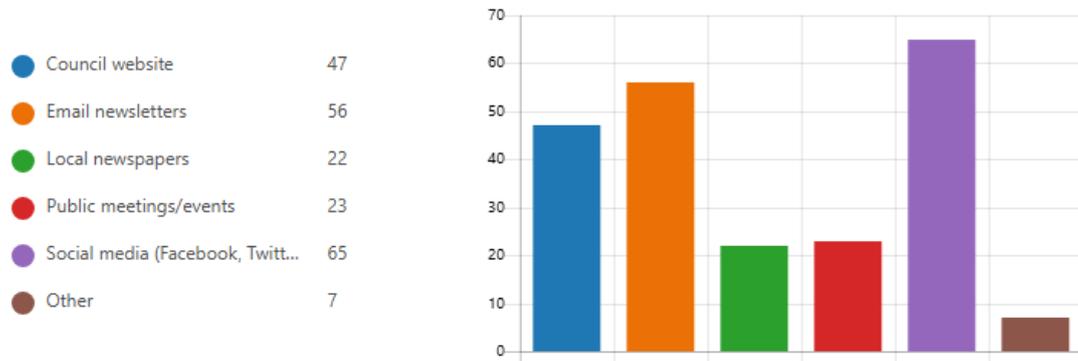


2. How important is it for the Council to invest in tackling climate change and improving environmental sustainability?



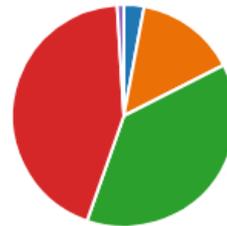
3. How do you prefer to receive information about Council services and consultations? (Select all that apply.)

The list is in alphabetical order.



4. Do you feel the Council communicates effectively about how it spends your money?

Yes, very effectively	3
Reasonably well	15
Not very well	39
Poorly	45
Don't know	1



5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Council's budget priorities for 2026-27?

55
Responses

Latest Responses
"Would like to know what they are "

7. Are you

● a resident of Nuneaton and B...	96
● a business owner, charity or v...	1
● an elected member of Nuneat...	0
● Other	6

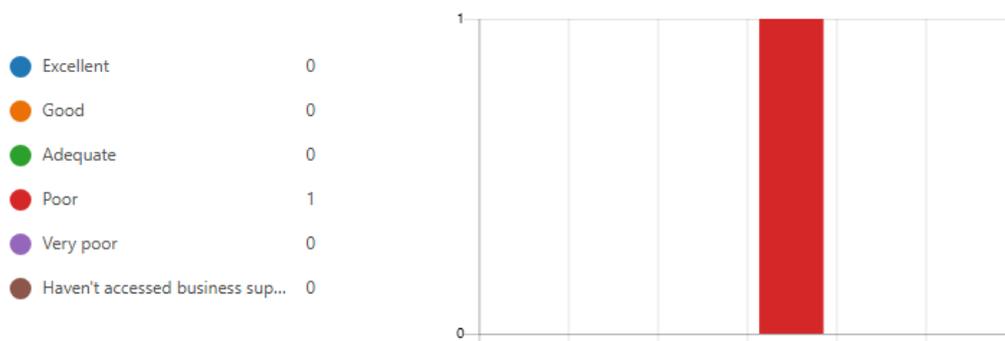


8. What sector do you operate in?

● Charity/voluntary sector	1
● Hospitality (cafes, restaurants, ...	0
● Leisure (for example, recreatio...	0
● Manufacturing/industrial	0
● Professional services	0
● Retail	0
● Other	0



9. How would you rate the council's support for local businesses?



10. What additional support would help your business thrive in the borough?

1
Responses

Latest Responses

11. Do you understand the business rates changes coming into effect from April 2026?

Yes, fully understand	0
Partially understand	1
No, need more information	0
Not applicable	0



12. Do you currently receive discretionary business rates relief from the Council?

Yes	1
No, but I would like to apply	0
No, not applicable to my orga...	0
I don't know	0



13. How important are Council community grants to your organisation's work?

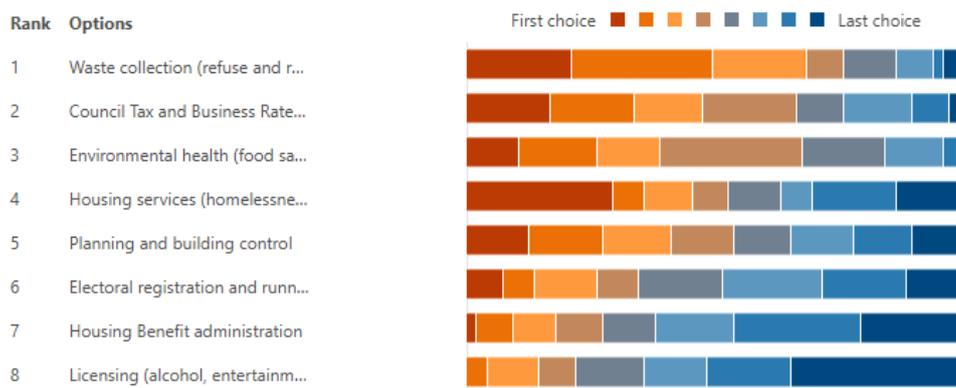
Essential - we couldn't operat...	1
Very important - they enable s...	0
Somewhat important - they s...	0
Not important - we don't rely ...	0
We don't currently receive Co...	0



14. How important are the following STATUTORY services to you? These are services we must provide by law. Drag and drop each service in order of importance: 1 for most important, 8 for least important.

- To change the order, click on any item in the list to start and move it to its desired position from 1 to 8
- If you're using a touchscreen, tap and hold the item, then drag it with your finger to its new position
- Once you move your first item, the numbered list from 1 to 8 will appear to guide placement
- Continue until you have your items in your preferred order

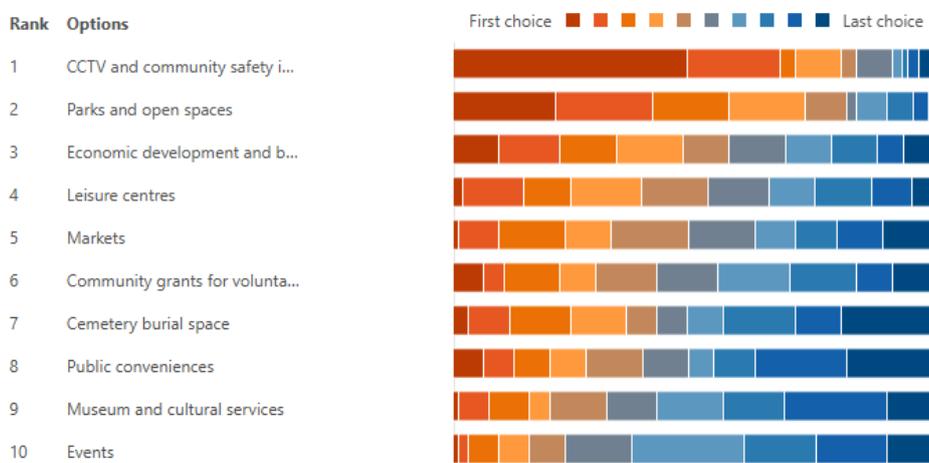
The list is in alphabetical order.



15. How important are the following NON-STATUTORY services to you? These are discretionary services we choose to provide. Drag and drop each service in order of importance: 1 for most important, 10 for least important.

- To change the order, click on any item in the list to start and move it to its desired position from 1 to 10
- If you're using a touchscreen, tap and hold the item, then drag it with your finger to its new position
- Once you move your first item, the numbered list from 1 to 10 will appear to guide placement
- Continue until you have your items in your preferred order

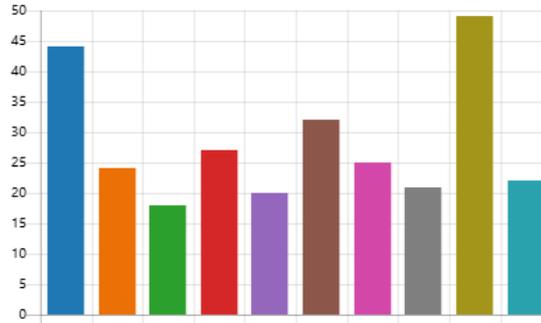
The list is in alphabetical order.



16. If the Council had to reduce spending on non-statutory services, which THREE would you most want to protect?

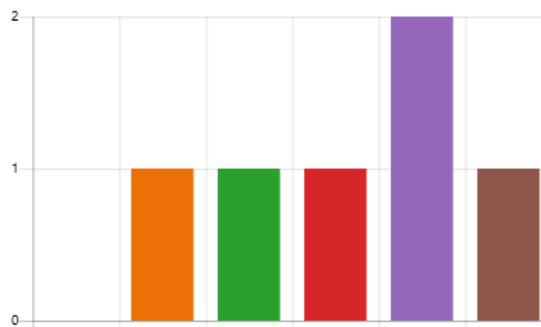
The list is in alphabetical order.

● CCTV and community safety i...	44
● Cemetery burial space	24
● Community grants for volunta...	18
● Economic development and b...	27
● Events	20
● Leisure centres	32
● Markets	25
● Museum and cultural services	21
● Parks and open spaces	49
● Public conveniences	22



17. How would you rate the council's support for local businesses?

● Excellent	0
● Good	1
● Adequate	1
● Poor	1
● Very poor	2
● Don't know	1



18. What additional support would help businesses thrive in the borough?

4
Responses

Latest Responses

19. Do you understand the business rates changes coming into effect from April 2026?

● Yes	1
● Partially understand	3
● No	2



20. Are you aware of the discretionary business rates relief from the Council?

● Yes - I own a business in the b...	2
● Yes - I don't own a business in...	2
● No - I own a business in the b...	1
● No - I don't own a business in ...	1



21. How important are Council community grants to organisations in the borough?

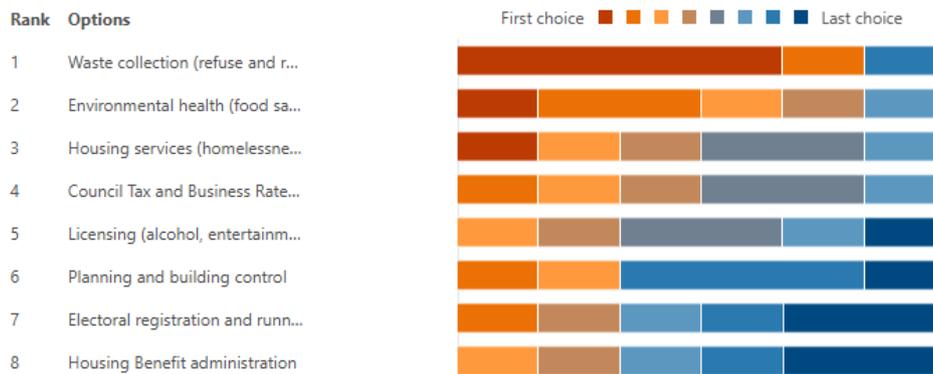
● Essential	1
● Very important	4
● Somewhat important	1
● Not important	0



22. How important are the following STATUTORY services to you? These are services we must provide by law. Drag and drop each service in order of importance: 1 for most important, 8 for least important.

- To change the order, click on any item in the list to start and move it to its desired position from 1 to 8
- If you're using a touchscreen, tap and hold the item, then drag it with your finger to its new position
- Once you move your first item, the numbered list from 1 to 8 will appear to guide placement
- Continue until you have your items in your preferred order

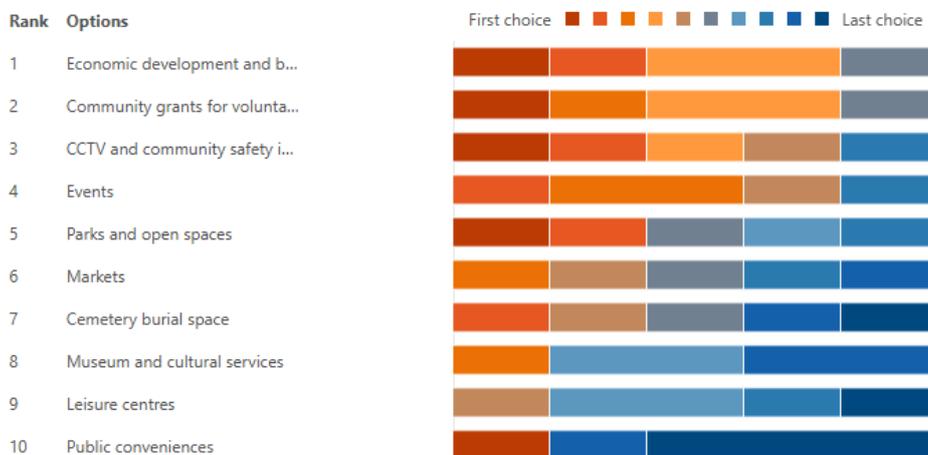
The list is in alphabetical order.



23. How important are the following NON-STATUTORY services to you? These are discretionary services we choose to provide. Drag and drop each service in order of importance: 1 for most important, 10 for least important.

- To change the order, click on any item in the list to start and move it to its desired position from 1 to 10
- If you're using a touchscreen, tap and hold the item, then drag it with your finger to its new position
- Once you move your first item, the numbered list from 1 to 10 will appear to guide placement
- Continue until you have your items in your preferred order

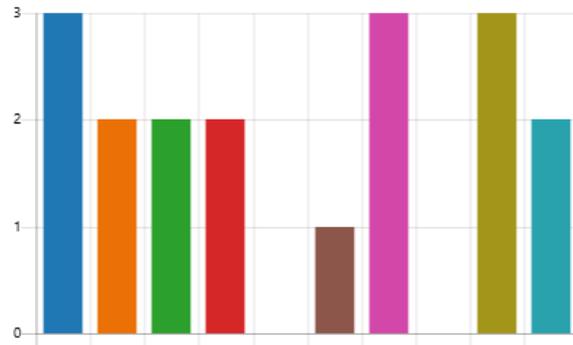
The list is in alphabetical order.



24. If the Council had to reduce spending on non-statutory services, which THREE would you most want to protect?

The list is in alphabetical order

- CCTV and community safety i... 3
- Cemetery burial space 2
- Community grants for volunta... 2
- Economic development and b... 2
- Events 0
- Leisure centres 1
- Markets 3
- Museum and cultural services 0
- Parks and open spaces 3
- Public conveniences 2



AGENDA ITEM NO.11g

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2026

Subject: Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget
2026/27

Portfolio: Housing
Resources and Central Services

Responsible Officer: Strategic Director for Housing & Community Safety
Strategic Director for Corporate Resources

Corporate Plan – Theme: Work

Corporate Plan – Aim: Grow a strong and inclusive economy.

Ward Relevance: All

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan: Yes

Subject to Call-in: No - Due to the timescales for setting a budget as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

1. Purpose of report

1.1. To present the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget for 2026/27 for approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1. It be recommended to Council that:

2.1.1. The budgeted surplus of £181 for 2026/27 is approved;

2.1.2. A rent increase on dwellings of 4.8% from 6th April 2026 is approved;

- 2.1.3. The Fees and Charges for the HRA (Appendix B) are approved and implemented from 6th April 2026;
- 2.1.4. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Housing & Community Safety to carry out procurement exercises in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to deliver the capital programme; and
- 2.2 The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Budget Position 2026/27

- 3.1. The budget surplus position of £181 is detailed within Appendix A.

Budget Assumptions

- 3.2. There have been a number of assumptions included within the budget as summarised below with further detail included within the proceeding commentary.
 - A pay award provision of 3.5% for 2026/27
 - An increase to volume of repairs and contracted costs due to inflation
 - Rental income has been increased by 4.8% (September 2025 CPI +1%)
 - Treasury budgets have been updated in line with interest rate forecasts and borrowing expectations
- 3.3. In line with the General Fund, the pay award provision has been included at 3.5% following an increase in CPI from November 2025 to December 2025.
- 3.4. Due to increases in the volume of repairs, it is prudent to increase the budget for repairs and maintenance. This has been discussed with the relevant service managers and agreed as a sensible increase.
- 3.5. Material and contractor budgets have been increased in-line with inflation to ensure price increases do not cause overspends in the year.
- 3.6. A contribution from earmarked reserves of £200k has been included to fund the implementation of the new housing system following a tendering exercise.

- 3.7. Changes to the HRA recharges based on the General Fund changes have been factored in.

Rental Income

- 3.8. Average rental income charges per weekly currently sit at £98.58 with an increase of 4.8% the average weekly charge will be £103.31, an increase of £4.73.
- 3.9. There are varying charges administered for housing rents due to the location of the dwelling, the size and type and whether the dwelling is classified as an affordable housing unit (generally new build properties).
- 3.10. The Council has been able to increase rents by CPI + 1% for 2026/27 a maximum increase of 4.8% has been proposed to ensure the risk posed to the HRA of rising costs due to inflation and increased regulatory requirements is reduced and longer-term financial sustainability is achieved.
- 3.11. All service charges fees have also been increased in-line with the rent increases at 4.8%.
- 3.12. Income from homeless hostels for 2026/27 has increased due to the proposed increase in the nightly charge of 4.8% + £1.

4. Reserves

- 4.1. The HRA has many risks around inflation but also legislative changes for decent homes standards, consumer reform and the changes on rent increases plus the level of Right to Buy.
- 4.2. Underspends have been seen in recent years which has helped contribute to reserve balances but where planned works have not been completed, this poses further risk to the cost base into the future.
- 4.3. The reserve position on the HRA is healthy but there are significant risks and so close management of the expenditure base is essential. As at March 2025 the HRA had a general reserve balance of £2,931k which is likely to be utilised due to overspends in year. Earmarked reserve balance of £5,496k which includes risks for the Housing and Planning Act.

5. Business Plan Update

- 5.1. Following the introduction of the Self-Financing system for the HRA in 2012, the Council is required to produce a 30-year business plan. The Plan must set out the approach to priorities and the

maintenance of financial viability over the life of the plan. The most up to date business plan was presented to Council February 2025.

- 5.2. The current assumption within the business plan is to not borrow to deliver general purpose capital works and re-borrow to re-pay loans when they mature. This will continue to be reviewed heavily in 2026/27 to produce a more robust treasury strategy to build into the future business plan.
- 5.3. With stock condition surveys having been completed, officers will better understand the investment needs of the HRA asset portfolio. An asset management strategy is being worked on for completing during 2026/27 and be adopted once it has gone through the correct approval process.
- 5.4. Following the Government's announcement on 28th January 2026 in relation to rent convergence, this will change how social rents are calculated for the HRA from April 2027. A full review of the impact on the HRA income will be completed in 2026/27.
- 5.5. The review of all HRA income will allow better management of resources and will coincide with a full-service review to improve services in assisting the needs of the tenants and leaseholders whilst ensuring financial sustainability of the HRA.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Contained throughout the report.
- 6.2. The Authority must set the HRA budget and confirm what (if any) rent increase is to be applied, so that the Council can notify tenants before the start of a new rent period.
- 6.3. Once a budget is in place, the Cabinet holds the responsibility to implement it in accordance with its responsibility for functions. In doing so, the Cabinet may not act contrary to the budget without provision being provided for that within the Council's Constitution or without the consent of Council.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. Following the Housing Revenue Account self-financing regime established by the Localism Act 2012. Local Authorities are required to operate the HRA on a sustainable basis with the income being ring-fenced for the commitments of the HRA business plan to be met.
- 7.2. The Council, as a registered social landlord, has been required since 1st April 2020 to set rents in accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard. The approval of the above

recommendations will ensure that a balanced HRA is achieved, which means the Council is compliant with section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The HRA is a ring-fenced account and cannot be subsidised by the General Fund. Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 allows the Council as a registered provider the discretion to set its own rents, but the charges must be reasonable and are subject to legislative rent caps imposed by the government. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 also covers the recovery of service charges, and the rent standard applies to both rents and service charges. Changes to rent and service charges are excluded under section 105 (2) of the Housing Act 1985 from the statutory duty to consult with tenants on matters of "housing management" under section 105 of the Housing Act 1985.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

9. Health implications

- 9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

10. Climate and environmental implications

- 10.1. Solar panels have been installed on some of the new build construction to support greener housing. The HRA dwellings continuously upgrade central heating, electric storage heating and windows and doors to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk management implications

- 12.1. Please refer to appendix D of the General Fund Budget Report.

13. Human resources implications

- 13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	This would result in no budget for the HRA and would not evidence how the fund would be operating on a sustainable basis.

15. Conclusion

15.1. HRA is currently in a sustainable position with a balanced Business Plan which does not currently reduce the HRA balances. With ongoing reviews occurring in 2026/27 and the changes in relation to how rent will be uplifted from 1st April 2027 the work outlined in point six will help towards achieving a robust and sustainable Housing Revenue Account.

16. Appendices

16.1. Please note the following appendices:

- i. Appendix A – Housing Revenue Account Budget 2026/27
- ii. Appendix B – Housing Revenue Account Fees and Charges 2026/27

17. Background papers

17.1. General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 – Appendix D (Cabinet 25th February 2026)

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director – Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

HRA BUDGET 2026/27

Service	2025/26 Final Budget	2026/27 Final Budget
	£	£
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - GENERAL		
HRA General Expenses	£4,686,080	£4,929,343
HRA Repairs Management	£2,107,320	£2,188,520
Resident Involvement	£48,660	£48,660
Debt Management Costs	£220,274	£224,537
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	£485,360	£415,360
HRA share of Corporate and Democratic Core	£0	£0
HRA share of Non-Distributed Costs	£0	£0
Housing System	£242,000	£224,210
Development Strategy	£217,490	£171,440
	£8,007,184	£8,202,070
SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT - SPECIAL		
HRA Special Expenses	£109,388	£90,886
Independent Living (Previously Warden Schemes)	£2,556,047	£2,593,417
Homeless Hostels	£64,698	£65,611
Bedworth Hostel	£71,165	£76,185
St Benedicts	£58,661	£62,617
Other Housing Schemes (Flats)	£654,544	£683,994
Grounds Maintenance	£398,945	£369,781
	£3,913,448	£3,942,491
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE		
Reactive Repairs	£2,662,430	£2,712,000
Call Out	£87,120	£90,990
R. + M. - Dwellings	£344,000	£419,000
R. + M. - Estate Management	£24,000	£24,000
Asbestos	£275,000	£290,000
R. + M. - Homeless Hostels	£7,460	£7,460
R. + M. - Shops & Other Co.	£30,000	£30,000
Planned Works - Outside Contractors	£2,356,440	£2,491,490
Outside Contractors - Not Depot Monitored	£464,500	£489,500
R + M - Voids	£754,960	£756,830
	£7,005,910	£7,311,270
CAPITAL FINANCING COSTS		

Cost of Capital Charge	£0	£0
Depreciation	£9,836,379	£11,477,000
Interest Payable	£1,962,117	£2,132,319
	£11,798,496	£13,609,319
INCOME		
Council House & Hostels-Income HRA	(£29,146,000)	(£30,393,001)
Interest Receivable	(£118,680)	(£80,680)
Non-Dwelling Rents	(£590,038)	(£610,099)
Other Income - Independent Living Schemes	(£1,502,973)	(£1,554,074)
Other Income - Services and Facilities	(£690,014)	(£726,515)
Other Income - Rechargeable Repairs	(£22,000)	(£22,748)
	(£32,069,705)	(£33,387,118)
APPROPRIATIONS		
Appropriations to / (from) MRR	£368,870	£0
Capital Expenditure funded by HRA (CERA)	£821,081	£200,000
Appropriations to/ (from) Revenue Reserves	(£200,000)	(£200,000)
	£989,951	£0
Support Services (Pay Award Provision)	£354,716	£321,787
Total HRA	(£0)	(£181)

<u>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	2025/26 Fee	2026/27 Proposed Fee	% Change
Independent Living charges -based on a 52-week recharge			
Independent Living Service charge	£15.11	£15.83	4.80%
Independent Living Support Service charge	£5.74	£6.02	4.80%
Well Being Service Charge (new tenants only)	£3.62	£3.79	4.80%
Lifeline Service charge	£2.98	£3.12	4.80%
General Purpose			
General Weekly Service Charges (all)	Varies	Varies	4.80%
Supported Housing Service Charges (all)	Varies	Varies	4.80%
Homeless Hostel Rent (General Fund & HRA) (per room per night)			
Rent	£65	£69.12	4.8% + £1
Service Charge	£3.65	£3.83	4.80%
Garage Rents (per week on a 52-week basis)			
Tenants	£10	£10	
Non – Tenants includes VAT	£20	£20	
Visitor Accommodation in Sheltered Schemes (per room per night)	£15.41	£16.14	4.80%
Additional Charges			
Retrospective Permission for Ex-council Tenants Alterations	£118.41	£124.10	4.80%

Information Regarding Ex-Council Properties i.e. construction types, improvements	£118.41	£124.10	4.80%
Removal of Covenants to Ex-council Properties/Land (carried out by legal)	£439.04	£460.12	4.80%
Key Cutting/Replacement Service Including Key Fobs	£19.51	£20.45	4.80%
Key Cutting/Replacement Service Including Key Fobs for Scooter Housing Buildings	£57.00	£59.73	4.80%
Court Action to Obtain Access into Council Properties	£414.81	£434.72	4.80%
Rechargeable Works			
Various amounts depending on what work has been carried out			
Works charged to lease hold properties	£89.76	£94.07	4.80%
Copy of lease for lease holders	£42.67	£44.72	4.80%

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11h

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	25 th February 2026
Subject:	Capital Budget 2026/27
Portfolio:	Housing Resources and Central Services
Responsible Officer:	Strategic Director – Corporate Resources Strategic Director - Housing & Community Safety
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Work
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Grow a Strong & Inclusive Economy
Ward Relevance:	All
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	No - Due to the timescales for setting a budget as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To present the capital budget and forecast for 2026/27 to 2028/29 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It be Recommended to Council that:

- 2.1.1. The capital budget and forecast for 2026/27 to 2028/29 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be approved; and

- 2.1.2. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Housing & Community Safety, Strategic Director – Public Services, and Strategic Director – Corporate Resources to carry out

procurement exercises in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to deliver the capital programme.

- 2.2 The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Capital Programme Budget 2025/26

- 3.1. The Council's capital programme covers many projects for both the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.
- 3.2. General Fund projects are developed in line with strategies reported to Cabinet/Council and are funded through Section 106 developer contributions, grant funding (from the Government and other external providers), internal and external borrowing plus capital receipts generated through asset sales.
- 3.3. HRA projects are mainly for refurbishment of council houses, disabled adaptations to council housing plus new build. They are funded from HRA reserves, capital receipts from Right to Buy completions plus grant income.

General Fund

- 3.4. A three-year capital programme is included in Appendix A. The proposed General Fund capital budget for 2026/27 is £17,151,829 and is fully funded.
- 3.5. In recent years the General Fund has seen significant capital budgets through regeneration projects such as Grayson Place phase 1, phase 2 and the construction of the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub.
- 3.6. The Bedworth Physical Activity Hub will be in it's final year of the £30.6m project with the opening of the new leisure centre on track for Spring 2026.
- 3.7. With plans to review the next steps of regeneration within the town centres a report will be presented to cabinet during 2026/27 to propose new projects which will utilise the £400k of funding referred to in point 7.5 of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 report.
- 3.8. The Parks Revival project to redevelop and improve the George Eliot Memorial Garden, the underpass and river walkway and complete a new foot/cycle path across the river will continue to be delivered in 2026/27 with an expected completion date towards the end of 2026.

- 3.9. The Pride in Place Impact Fund allocated £1.5million of funding over 2 years to the Council in which proposals are being finalised on how to spend the funding. A separate report will be presented during 2026/27 with specific projects to improve community spaces, public spaces and high street / town centre revitalisation.
- 3.10. Changes to earmarked reserves as stated under point 7.5 of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 report create more funding for ICT & Transformation changes. There is an increase in the capital budget from 2027/28 for the ICT Strategy Programme, but these budgets are subject to change dependent on the Transformation Strategy which will be finalised during 2026/27. The approach to producing and publicising the strategy was outlined at the Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the 12th February 2026.
- 3.11. Works to provide funding for energy performance upgrades and low carbon heating to eligible residents will continue to be delivered through the Warm Homes Local Grant. The aim is to tackle fuel poverty and make carbon savings to deliver progress towards the Net Zero 2050 target.
- 3.12. A large proportion of the capital budget will focus on the strategy for parks which has been developed to provide a more planned approach to replacement and refreshment. The review of how these works across the borough will be funded will continue to be undertaken during 2026/27. The projects in 2026/27 will utilise section 106 funding and the earmarked provision made available after the General Fund Outturn 2024/25 report was approved at Cabinet on 16th July 2025.
- 3.13. Grant funding from DEFRA received to support implementation of measures within the Environment Bill which is in relation to the collection of food waste has been slipped into 2026/27. With the service beginning to be delivered in 2026/27, this funding will support the purchase of bin collection lorries during the financial year.
- 3.14. Due to delays in the acquisition and delivery of new refuse trucks the vehicle replacement programme has been slipped from 2025/26. A review is underway to update the vehicle replacement programme which will provide an update to the 2027/28 and 2028/29 budgets.
- 3.15. The progress of all projects will be monitored during the year with further updates reported to Cabinet.

Housing Revenue Account

- 3.16. Management of the HRA capital programme is based on scheduled works and progression of new build and acquisition targets. The budget as a whole is utilised by need of the customer and the most efficient use of resources to ensure value for money and will therefore fluctuate against the initial forecasted expenditure by line in any one year.
- 3.17. A review of the Business Plan was undertaken and was reported in February 2025. The capital programme included for 2026/27 has some changes to the summary position included in the Business Plan due to re-aligning resources and focusing on priority areas.
- 3.18. A one-year capital programme is included in Appendix B.

4. Capital Reserves

- 4.1. Reserves are held by the Council for capital purposes either generated through sales of assets, setting aside sums from underspends and receipts of grants for capital purposes.
- 4.2. The Council's capital reserve position at the end of March 2025 is as follows.

	2024/25 £
Capital Receipts	622,010
Capital Earmarked Sums	3,338,937
Capital Grants	15,112,166
General Fund	19,073,113
Capital Receipts	5,202,956
Capital Earmarked Sums	3,773,387
Major Repairs Reserve	1,830,421
HRA	10,806,764
Capital Resources	29,879,877

- 4.3. Capital reserves are allocated against specific projects with no residual unallocated amount available. This poses risks to any movement in the projected capital expenditure as there is nothing available to cover any fluctuations in expenditure.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Contained throughout the report.
- 5.2. Once a budget is in place, the Cabinet holds the responsibility to implement it in accordance with its responsibility for functions. In doing so, the Cabinet may not act contrary to the budget without provision being provided for that within the Council's Constitution or without the consent of Council.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- 6.2. The Authority must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 6.3. Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council must set its budget before 11 March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. A review has been undertaken, and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

8. Health implications

- 8.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

9. Climate and environmental implications

- 9.1. As noted in the report, the Council issues grants to householders to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions, supporting the Net Zero 2050 target.
- 9.2. Solar panels have been installed on some of the new build construction to support greener housing. The HRA dwellings continuously upgrade central heating, electric storage heating and windows and doors to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 10.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

11. Risk management implications

11.1. A schedule of financial risks are included within the General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 Budget Report under Appendix D.

12. Human resources implications

12.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

13. Options considered and reason for their rejection

13.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	If a Capital Programme was not approved, then the Council would not be able to complete the projects started and maintain a decent home standard for HRA dwellings. Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

14. Conclusion

14.1. The capital programme is fully funded in its present form and there is expected to be slippage on projects in 2025/26. The review of the regeneration plan has mitigated the risks previously being seen but there are still potential concerns as the Council is unable to borrow more than is budgeted and grant funding is fully committed.

14.2. To remain financially sustainable is dependent upon interest rates and inflation being stable and ideally reducing. Any hikes in costs as seen in previous years could create risks around affordability. This is being kept under close review.

15. Appendices

15.1. Please note the following appendices:

- i. Appendix A – General Fund Capital Budget
- ii. Appendix B – HRA Capital Budget

16. Background papers

- 16.1. General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 (Cabinet – 25th February 2026)
- 16.2. General Fund Revenue Outturn 2024/25 (Cabinet – 16th July 2025) - [16 July 2025: Cabinet | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)
- 16.3. Transformation Strategy (Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 12th February 2026) - [12 February 2026: Health and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel | Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

17. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director – Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGET

Project	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28	Forecast 2028/29
General Fund Capital	17,151,829	8,349,027	6,999,027
Business & Regeneration	2,055,307	0	0
Parks Revival	1,305,307	0	0
Pride in Place	750,000	0	0
Resources and Corporate Services	100,000	200,000	200,000
ICT Strategy Programme	100,000	200,000	200,000
Housing	7,899,027	7,849,027	6,499,027
Empty Homes - Works in Default	40,000	40,000	40,000
Disabled Facilities Grants - HEART	6,359,027	6,359,027	6,359,027
Empty Property Loans	100,000	100,000	100,000
Warm Homes Local Grant	1,400,000	1,350,000	0
Planning and Enforcement	0	0	0
Leisure, Communities and Health	7,047,495	250,000	250,000
BEDWORTH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY HUB (BPAH)	4,000,000	0	0
Sandon/Weddington Cycleway	138,494	0	0
Coronation Walk Footpath/Cycleway	142,413	0	0
Clovelly Way Footpath	31,675	0	0
Chaucer Drive - Play Area	165,000	0	0
Tiverton Drive - Play Area	258,000	0	0
Greenmoor Road - Play Area	44,000	0	0
Pauls Land Pavilion	10,500	0	0
Major Repairs	250,000	250,000	250,000
Environment Bill Food Waste Grant	1,244,951	0	0
Vehicle & Plant Replacement	762,462	0	0
Capital: General	50,000	50,000	50,000
Miscellaneous Projects	50,000	50,000	50,000

HRA CAPITAL BUDGET

Project	Proposed Budget 2026/27 (£)
HRA Total Capital	14,124,891
Major Repairs	12,686,500
Decent Homes	1,800,000
Roof Coverings/Modifications	1,800,000
Windows and Doors	1,300,000
Door Entry Scheme	150,000
Fire Safety Works	2,300,000
Electric Storage Heating	80,000
Drainage renewals	44,500
Balconies and Balustrades	250,000
Concrete Structural Repairs	400,000
Level Access Showers	530,000
Aids & Adaptations	950,000
Central heating	950,000
Slabs to Tarmac	156,000
Lift Renewal Works	150,000
District Heating Works	350,000
EICR Electrical	200,000
Voids	950,000
Underground Bursts	70,000
Contingency	56,000
Housing IT System	200,000
New Build & Acquisition	1,438,391
New Properties - New Build	1,438,391
Acquisition of Properties	0

AGENDA ITEM NO.11j

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	25 th February 2026
Subject:	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27
Portfolio:	Resources and Central Services
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director - Finance
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Work
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Grow a strong and inclusive economy
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	No – this is not subject to call-in due to the amendments being legislative, and a delay would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests as per 3.3 of the report. Furthermore, the report requires approval from Full Council to which Full Council may review, debate and vote on the adoption of the scheme.

1. **Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The update the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme in-line with the regulations required by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the Local Council Tax Support scheme for financial year 2026/27 be endorsed; and

- 2.2. The report and Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2026/2027 be recommended to Full Council for approval; and
- 2.3. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Local Council Tax Support Scheme (LCTS) is applicable to both pension credit age and working age members of the public. The scheme specifies the classes of person who are to be entitled to a reduction under the scheme and is effective from 1st April 2026 for a period of one financial year.
- 3.2. As in previous years, the government has amended the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012 to ensure that pension age Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) schemes are updated in line with changes in the wider benefits system.
- 3.3. Billing authorities must ensure that the requirements of the updated regulations are reflected in their LCTS schemes for 2026-27 by 11 March 2026.
- 3.4. The current scheme will be reviewed during 2026 following approval granted by Cabinet 21st January 2026 to review the current scheme. For the avoidance of any doubt, there are no changes to the way the 2026/2027 scheme presented is calculated from April 2026.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. The Regulations which were laid before parliament on 15th January 2026 coming into force on 13th February 2026 and for inclusion in the 2026/27 policy outline the need for billing authorities to reflect the changes in their LCTS Scheme by 11th March 2026.
[The Council Tax Reduction Schemes \(Prescribed Requirements\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#)
- 4.2. ACS Benefits Guidance & Legislation have updated our LCTS Scheme to ensure the Council is compliant and reflects the Regulations set out.

5. Consultation with the public, member, officer and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. None
- 6. Financial Implications
 - 6.1 None
- 7. Legal Implications
 - 7.1 None
- 8. Equalities implications
 - 8.1 A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.
- 9. Health implications
 - 9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.
- 10. Climate and environmental implications
 - 10.1. No direct climate and/or environmental implications have been identified
- 11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder implications
 - 11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.
- 12. Risk Management implications
 - 12.1. No direct risk management implications have been identified.
- 13. Human resources implications
 - 13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified
- 14. Options considered and reason for their rejection
 - 14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref Option Title Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected

Option ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	Remain on 2025/26 scheme which would be disadvantageous to residents as they would not receive the correct amount of Support in line with Legislation detailed in 4.1

15. Conclusion

15.1 The Regulations were updated and laid out on 15th January 2026 for Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) schemes to be updated for 2026/27 by 11 March 2026.

16. Appendices

16.1 Appendix A - Nuneaton & Bedworth S13A 2026/27

17. Background papers

17.1 None

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11k

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 18th February 2026

Subject: Housing Payment – Crisis Resilience Fund

Portfolio: Resources and Central Services

Responsible Officer: Assistant Director - Finance

Corporate Plan – Theme: Work

Corporate Plan – Aim: Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Ward Relevance: All

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan: Yes

Subject to Call-in: No this is not subject to call-in due to the amendments being legislative.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's approach to supporting our customers who need additional financial support with their housing costs.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the policy outlining the Council's approach for Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be endorsed;
- 2.2. The report and the policy for the Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be recommended to Full Council for approval;
- 2.3. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director - Corporate Resources, Assistant Director – Finance and Head of Revenues and Benefits to implement decisions made under the approved policy; and
- 2.4. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in

paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. From April 2026, Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) in England will cease to be delivered under the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations (2001) and the Discretionary Housing Payments (Grants) Order (2001) and this legislation will be revoked in England. Discretionary Housing Payments in England will be incorporated into the Crisis Resilience Fund, delivered through a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 3.2. In the case of discretionary relief, the basic provisions are laid down by Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The decision whether to grant relief is at the discretion of each Council.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. For those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs, Housing Payments will be available within the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF), which replicates former DHP provision and will be incorporated in a phased approach.
- 4.2. From April 2026 eligibility, policy objectives, funding amounts and Local Authority recipients for the Housing Payment remain the same as those for DHPs in the financial year ending (FYE) March 2026.
- 4.3. DHPs will come to an end in England on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, DHPs will be replaced by the Housing Payment strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). The Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will adopt a phased transition over the 3-year funding period.

5. Consultation with the public, member, officer and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 No specific implications funding amounts and Local Authority recipients for the Housing Payment remain the same as those for DHPs in the financial year ending (FYE) March 2026.

7. Legal Implications

AGENDA ITEM NO.

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	18 th February 2026
Subject:	Housing Payment – Crisis Resilience Fund
Portfolio:	Resources and Central Services
Responsible Officer:	Assistant Director - Finance
Corporate Plan – Theme:	Work
Corporate Plan – Aim:	Grow a strong and inclusive economy
Ward Relevance:	All
Public or Private:	Public
Forward Plan:	Yes
Subject to Call-in:	No this is not subject to call-in due to the amendments being legislative.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's approach to supporting our customers who need additional financial support with their housing costs.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the policy outlining the Council's approach for Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be endorsed;
- 2.2. The report and the policy for the Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be recommended to Full Council for approval;
- 2.3. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director - Corporate Resources, Assistant Director – Finance and Head of Revenues and Benefits to implement decisions made under the approved policy; and
- 2.4. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in

paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. From April 2026, Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) in England will cease to be delivered under the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations (2001) and the Discretionary Housing Payments (Grants) Order (2001) and this legislation will be revoked in England. Discretionary Housing Payments in England will be incorporated into the Crisis Resilience Fund, delivered through a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 3.2. In the case of discretionary relief, the basic provisions are laid down by Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The decision whether to grant relief is at the discretion of each Council.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. For those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs, Housing Payments will be available within the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF), which replicates former DHP provision and will be incorporated in a phased approach.
- 4.2. From April 2026 eligibility, policy objectives, funding amounts and Local Authority recipients for the Housing Payment remain the same as those for DHPs in the financial year ending (FYE) March 2026.
- 4.3. DHPs will come to an end in England on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, DHPs will be replaced by the Housing Payment strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). The Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will adopt a phased transition over the 3-year funding period.

5. Consultation with the public, member, officer and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 No specific implications funding amounts and Local Authority recipients for the Housing Payment remain the same as those for DHPs in the financial year ending (FYE) March 2026.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 None

8. Equalities implications

8.1 A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

9. Health implications

9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

10. Climate and environmental implications

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

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder implications

11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk Management implications

12.1. No direct risk management implications have been identified.

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref Option Title Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected

Option ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	Non-compliance with the changes from April 2026. The legislation underpinning the Discretionary Housing Payments is revoked

		from April 2026.
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15. Conclusion

15.1 Local authorities are required to deliver the Housing Payment Strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund from 1st April 2026, the Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will transition in a phased approach over a 3-year finding period.

16. Appendices

16.1 Housing Payment – Crisis Resilience Fund 2026

17. Background papers

17.1 None

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

15. Conclusion

15.1 Local authorities are required to deliver the Housing Payment Strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund from 1st April 2026, the Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will transition in a phased approach over a 3-year finding period.

16. Appendices

16.1 Housing Payment – Crisis Resilience Fund 2026

17. Background papers

17.1 None

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund

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1. LEGISLATION

Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003

2. BACKGROUND

From April 2026, Discretionary Housing Payments in England will cease to be delivered under the Discretionary Financial Assistance Regulations (2001) and the Discretionary Housing Payments (Grants) Order (2001) and this legislation will be revoked in England. Discretionary Housing Payments in England will be incorporated into the Crisis Resilience Fund, delivered through a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

For those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs, Housing Payments will be available within the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF), which replicates former DHP provision and will be incorporated in a phased approach.

From April 2026 eligibility, policy objectives, funding amounts and Local Authority recipients for the Housing Payment remain the same as those for DHPs in the financial year ending (FYE) March 2026.

DHPs will come to an end in England on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, DHPs will be replaced by the Housing Payment strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). The Housing Payment will closely replicate existing DHP guidelines and will adopt a phased transition over the 3-year funding period.

The Housing Payment provides financial support towards housing costs and is paid by an Authority when they are satisfied that an applicant requires further financial assistance with housing costs. These payments can be made to claimants who are entitled to either:

- HB, or
- UC with housing costs towards rental liability. This includes Shared Ownership properties which carry a rental liability.

Every claimant who is entitled to the minimum amount of Housing Benefit or the Housing Element of Universal Credit and who has a shortfall is entitled to make a claim for a Housing Payment. The purpose of the scheme is to provide additional funds to benefit recipients who are suffering from financial hardship and are unable to meet their housing costs.

Housing costs are not defined in the regulations and this gives Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council a broad discretion to interpret the term as they wish. In general, housing costs means rental liability, however, housing costs can be interpreted more widely to include:

- Rent in advance
- Deposits
- Lump sum costs associated with a housing need such as removal costs
- Assistance in securing alternative more appropriate accommodation

Rent deposits and rent in advance

Housing Payments may be awarded for a rent deposit or rent in advance for a property that the claimant is yet to move into if they are already entitled to Housing Benefit or the Housing Element of Universal Credit at their present home. However, we may take other circumstances into consideration when making a decision.

When awarding Housing Payments for a rent deposit or rent in advance, the authority should be satisfied that;

- The property is affordable for the tenant; and
- The tenant has a valid reason to move; and
- the deposit or rent in advance is reasonable

The authority should consider that it may not always be possible for the claimant to seek the most affordable accommodation, i.e., someone fleeing the home due to domestic violence needs to seek a place of safety such as a refuge service.

Once a Housing Payment has been made to the claimant for a deposit or rent in advance, the authority does not require the claimant to repay this back to the authority at the end of the tenancy. Any future additional applications are unlikely to be paid as the rent in advance or deposit should be used to secure any future tenancy.

The main features of the scheme are:

- The scheme is purely discretionary; a claimant does not have a statutory right to a payment.
- The amount that can be paid out by an Authority in any financial year is cash-limited by the Secretary of State.
- The administration of the scheme is for the Benefits Department to determine.
- Housing Payments are not a payment of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. However, the minimum amount of Housing Benefit or Housing Element of Universal Credit must be in payment in the benefit week that a DHP is awarded for.

Shortfalls that Housing Payments can cover:

- Reductions due to the removal of the spare room subsidy.
- Reductions as a result of Local Housing Allowance restrictions.
- Rent Officer Restrictions such as local reference rent or shared accommodation rate. Income tapers.
- Rent shortfalls to prevent a household becoming homeless whilst the Housing Department explores alternative options.
- Foster carers including those between placements.
- Disabled people subject to under-occupancy living in accommodation that has been substantially adapted for their needs.
- Non dependant deductions
- Any other policy changes that limit the amount of Housing Benefit or the Housing Element of Universal Credit that is payable.

Two Homes/Temporary Absence

The regulations permit a person to have help through a Housing Payment award for rent due on a property they have moved into when treated as temporarily absent from their home e.g. the claimant has moved due to domestic violence. If the customer is liable for the rent on both properties and in both cases there is a shortfall, a Housing Payment could be awarded in respect of both properties subject to the weekly limit on each property.

Housing Payments **cannot be used for help with:**

- Ineligible service charges.
- Increases in rent due to outstanding rent arrears.
- Shortfalls in the Second Adult Rebate (pensioner claims only).
- Shortfalls in Council Tax Support. (Separate Hardship fund available)
- Certain sanctions and reductions in benefit.
- Shortfalls caused by overpayment recovery.

Further guidance can be found in The Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guiden for Local Authorities in England (1st April 2026 to 31st March 2029)

3. BENEFITS DEPARTMENT TEAM POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to specify how Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Benefit Department will operate the scheme and to indicate some factors that will be considered when deciding if a Housing Payment can be made. Each case will be treated strictly on its merits and all customers will be treated equally and fairly when the scheme is administered in line with Public Sector Equality Duty. The Benefits Department is committed to working with the local voluntary sector, social landlords and other interested parties within the district to maximise entitlement to all available state benefits and this will be reflected in the administration of the Housing Payment strand of the Crisis Resilience Fund .

4. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The Benefits Department will consider awarding a Housing Payment to claimants who meet the qualifying criteria. Before making an award the authority must be satisfied that the customer is entitled to:

- Housing Benefit; or
- Universal Credit; and
- has a rental liability; and
- requires further financial assistance with housing costs.

This policy is not intended to define the specific situations of when we will or will not make a discretionary payment, to do so would make the policy too rigid and may prevent payments being made where there are exceptional or unusual circumstances. Payments are expected to be made to meet current needs rather than past debts but each case will be decided based on individual circumstances.

The Benefits Department will see through the operation of this policy to:

- Alleviate poverty.
- Encourage and sustain the Authorities residents in employment.
- Help those who are trying to help themselves.
- Keep families together.
- Prevent child poverty.
- Support the vulnerable in the local community.
- Help customers through a personal crisis / difficult event.
- Support households that are returning to work after a period of unemployment and provide assistance in the managing of their finances during the transition.
- Support those who are in affordable housing but at risk of becoming homeless due to being unable to meet their full rent liability due to severe financial difficulties from the effects of the current economic climate.
- To support foster carers who have a spare room for a potential foster child
- To consider disabled people living in accommodation that has been substantially adapted for their needs.

5. CLAIMING A HOUSING PAYMENT

A claim for a Housing Payment must be made on an approved form accepted by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, in exceptional circumstances a request may be accepted without the need for an application form.

On request or in appropriate circumstances, the Benefits Department will issue the claimant with an application form, informing them that the form needs to be returned within one month of its issue. The claimant will be required to return the form to the Benefits Department within one month of its issue and will be encouraged to include any relevant supporting evidence.

The Benefits Department may request any reasonable evidence in support of an application. The claimant will be asked to provide the evidence within one month of such a request, although this will be extended in appropriate circumstances. Sufficient evidence will need to be obtained to enable the decision maker to compare income against outgoings to identify where there is a shortfall.

If the claimant is unable to or does not provide the required evidence, the Benefits Department will still consider the application and will in any event take into account any other available evidence including that held on the Housing Benefit file. The department reserves the right to verify any information or evidence provided by the claimant in appropriate circumstances.

6. PERIOD OF AWARD

The Benefits Department considers that the Housing Payment should be seen as short-term support to assist financial hardship, however a long term award may be paid where appropriate. It is not and should not be considered as a way around any current or future entitlement reductions set out within legislation. In all cases, the Benefits Department will decide the length of time for Housing Payment will be awarded on the basis of the evidence supplied and the facts known.

The start date of an award will normally be:

- i. The Monday after the written claim form for a Housing Payment is received or initial request made to the Benefits Department; or
- ii. The date on which entitlement to Housing Benefit or Universal Credit commenced (providing the application is received within one calendar month of the claim for Housing Benefit or Universal Credit being decided), whichever is the most appropriate.

The Benefits Department cannot award a Housing Payment for any period outside an existing Housing Benefit or Universal Credit period granted under the Housing Benefit or Universal Credit statutory schemes.

- The Benefits Department will usually award a Housing Payment for 13 weeks.
- The Benefits Department will consider any reasonable request for backdating an award of a Housing Payment but such consideration will usually be limited to the current financial year.

The Benefits Department will look at each claim on its own merits when deciding whether or not to backdate a Housing Payment . Unlike Housing Benefit or Universal Credit, there are no rules on backdating, but the Benefits Department will act consistently.

7. AWARDING A HOUSING PAYMENT

All applications will be considered by the Appeals and Quality Officer in the first instance. Decisions are restricted to a small team so that the fund can be closely monitored and to ensure that there is consistency in the decision making process.

Essentially the Council will compare the household income and expenditure to see whether the customer is in need of further financial assistance to meet their housing costs. Each decision reached is “discretionary” and is not governed by strict regulations, although the Council will ensure that all decisions made are impartial and reasonable.

Please note that the regulations regarding the treatment of income in Housing Benefit and Universal Credit claims do not apply in the Housing Payment decision making process. Therefore, we may decide to count income for a Housing Payment calculation that might have been disregarded in the Housing Benefit or Universal Credit assessment e.g. Child Benefit, Maintenance Payments and Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments received by any member of the household. (As any additional expenditure associated with their disability will have been taken into account in their outgoings).

Similarly, we can use our discretion when determining if the expenses are reasonable. Any decisions made about a person’s expenditure will be done on an individual basis and may require some additional clarification by the Council.

In deciding whether to award a Housing Payment, the Benefits Department will consider:

- The shortfall between Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and the rental liability.
- The steps being taken by the claimant to reduce their rental liability.
- The steps being taken by the claimant to increase their income or manage their outgoings.
- The medical circumstance of the claimant; their partner and any dependants and any other occupants of the same household. Disability related benefits are intended to be used to help pay for the extra costs of disability; and as such money might already be committed to other liability such as Motability schemes, provision of care etc.
- The income and expenditure of the claimant, their partner and any dependants or other occupants of the claimant's home.
- Any savings or capital that might be held by the claimant or their family.
- The level of indebtedness of the claimant and their family's circumstances.
- The amount available in the Housing Payment budget at the time of the application.
- The possible impact on the Council of not making such an award, e.g. pressure on priority homeless accommodation.
- Any other special circumstances brought to the attention of the Benefits Department.

Capital

Where the customer holds capital, the officer must use their discretion to decide whether the level of capital warrants refusing the customer's Housing Payment application. The authority does not normally award a Housing Payment if the customer has more than £1,000.00 in savings. However, consideration should be given to the fact that the capital may be reserved for a reasonable future expense, such as a bond or rent in advance in respect of cheaper accommodation.

Turning down affordable accommodation

There is an expectation that applicants will need to find ways of making up any shortfall themselves if they do not wish to move to a more affordable property. Where a customer has refused the allocation of more suitable affordable accommodation, a Housing Payment will not be paid.

Expenditure

When considering expenditure the Benefits Department will take into account 'expenditure of luxury items'. These items should be considered on an individual case basis, the customer may not be able to dispose of a luxury item quickly, or they may have good reason for requiring the item. However, where an item is clearly unnecessary, we should not include the item as part of the customer's expenditure.

When awarding a Housing Payment to assist the customer with securing a new tenancy, the authority will consider the following:

- The authority will include information about the legal obligations for landlords to protect any deposit paid in a Government approved tenancy deposit protection scheme. Compliance with this requirement will help reduce the need for future help with deposits.

- Establishing if the customer is due to have a deposit in respect of their exiting tenancy returned to them.
- Making payment to the landlord rather than the customer where applicable.

The Benefits Department will decide how much to award based on all of the customer's circumstances. An award of a Housing Payment does not guarantee that a further award will be made at a later date, even if the claimant's circumstances have not changed.

Careful consideration will be required to determine how best to target the funding within priority groups, whilst ensuring that each case is considered on its own individual merits.

- Families with children at a critical point in their education.
- Young people leaving local authority care.
- Foster carers, including those between placements: foster children are not included in the Housing Benefit assessment but neither is the income from foster allowances; as the Government values the work done by foster carers. Whilst some carers may be able to make up the shortfall using some of their allowance, or by other means, some thought should be given to supporting foster carers who are deemed to be under-occupying their accommodation because they have rooms occupied by foster children, or being kept available for future placements. The Council should bear in mind that foster carers should not be financially penalised because of their foster caring role.
- People going through the approval process to become foster carers who may need to show that they have a spare room to be approved. If a DHP was awarded on this basis, it would be up to the claimant to inform the Benefits Department of a change of circumstances if, for example, they were not subsequently approved.
- Families with kinship care arrangements. Children who go into the care of family and friends are often extremely vulnerable and will usually benefit from the stability of remaining in a familiar area and continuing to attend their local school.
- Families with a child temporarily in care but who is expected to return home. What constitutes temporary will be at the authority's discretion.
- Families with a social services intervention, for example highly dependent adults, children at risk or involvement in a family intervention project.
- People who have had to flee domestic violence or have moved because of the threat of violence in another area.
- Where someone in the household is expecting a baby (including those currently in shared accommodation or subject to an under-occupation reduction).
- Ex-homeless people being supported to settle in the community.
- People with health or medical problems who need access to local medical services or support that might not be available elsewhere.
- People with disabilities who need, or have had, significant adaptations made to their property, or where they are living in a property particularly suited to their needs.
- Where the claimant or someone in the household has a disability which requires them to have a larger property than would usually be the case for the size of their household due to, for example, a medical condition or where a child has a particular disability that might mean they are unable to share a bedroom.
- People with disabilities who receive informal care and support in their current neighbourhood from family and friends which would not be available in a new area. In this respect the authority may also consider families who have a child with a disability who rely heavily on local support networks.
- Households with disabled children who require an overnight carer.

- The elderly who have lived in the area for a long period of time and would find it difficult to establish support networks in a new area.
- People who need to live near their jobs because they work unsocial hours or split shifts; or where moving home may mean living in an area where public transport would be inadequate to enable them to sustain their current job.

8. CHANGES IN CIRCUMSTANCES

The Benefits Department will need to revise an award of a Housing Payment where the claimant's circumstances have materially changed.

9. METHOD OF PAYMENT

The Benefits Department will decide the most appropriate person to pay based upon the circumstances of each case. This could include paying:

- The claimant.
- Their partner.
- An appointee.
- Their landlord (or an agent of the landlord).
- Any third party to whom it might be most appropriate to make payment.

The Benefits Department will pay an award of Housing Payment by the most appropriate means available in each case.

- By electronic transfer (e.g. BACS).
- By crediting the claimant's rent account if renting from the Council.

Payment frequency will normally be made in line with how the customer's Housing Benefit is paid. Payments of Universal Credit are made monthly, and for ease of administration their Housing Payment awards will be paid weekly.

10. NOTIFICATION

The Benefits Department will inform the claimant of the outcome of their application within 14 days of receipt of all of the information being received. Where the application is unsuccessful, the Benefits Department will set out the reasons why this decision was made and explain the right of review. Where the application is successful, the Benefits Department will advise:

- The weekly amount of Housing Payment awarded.
- The period of the award.
- How, when to whom the award will be paid.
- The requirement to report a change in circumstances.

Where customers have been identified as struggling to manage their financial affairs, appropriate referrals will be made and claimants signposted to organisations offering independent advice e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau and a National Debt Helpline.

Where customers are experiencing a shortfall in their housing costs due to restrictions implemented as part of the welfare reform and associated with their accommodation, their

details will be passed the authority's Housing Advice Department. They will be able to provide further advice and possibly be able to help the customer find a more suitable place to live or assist the customer in keeping their current home.

11. REFUSED HOUSING PAYMENT

Where a request for payments has been refused, it is not expected that repeat requests will be considered unless the customer can demonstrate that their situation has worsened significantly or a substantial period of time has elapsed.

12. THE RIGHT TO SEEK A REVIEW

Housing Payments are not payments of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and therefore are not subject to the statutory appeals mechanism.

- The Benefits Department will operate the following process for dealing with a decision about a refusal to award a Housing Payment, a decision to award a reduced amount of Housing Payment, a decision not to backdate a Housing Payment or a decision that there has been an overpayment of a Housing Payment. claimant (or their appointee) who disagrees with a Housing Payment decision may dispute the decision. A request must be made in writing to the Benefits Team within one calendar month of the written decision about the Housing Payment being issued to the claimant.
- An officer, who has not been involved with the original application will then review the case and all the evidence held and will make a decision as soon as feasible.
- Where the officer makes the decision not to revise the original decision, they will notify the claimant of their decision in writing, setting out the reasons for their decision.
- This decision is final and binding and may only be challenged via the judicial review process or by complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman if there is an allegation of maladministration.
- In exceptional circumstances the above time period may be extended.

13. OVERPAID HOUSING PAYMENT

Housing Payments may be recovered if it was paid as a result of an error made when the claim was determined.

The Benefits Department cannot recover Housing Payments from ongoing Housing Benefit or Universal Credit entitlement. Therefore, the only method of recovery if a Housing Payment is overpaid is to request repayment of the debt from the customer by invoice.

14. PUBLICITY

The Benefits Department will continue to publicise the scheme and will work with all interested parties to achieve this. Housing Payments will continue to be promoted through the Council's website and benefit letters. Staff are trained and knowledgeable and will advise those who are considered to be in financial difficulty of the availability of these payments.

15. FRAUD

The Benefits Department is committed to the fight against fraud in all its forms. A claimant who tried to fraudulently claim a Housing Payment by falsely declaring their circumstances, providing a false statement or evidence in support of their application, may have committed an offence under the Theft Act 1968. Where the Benefits Department suspects that such a fraud may have occurred, the matter will be investigated as appropriate, and this may lead to criminal proceedings being instigated.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11k

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2026

Subject: S13A (1) (C) Policy

Portfolio: Resources and Central Services

Responsible Officer: Assistant Director - Finance

Corporate Plan – Theme: Work

Corporate Plan – Aim: Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Ward Relevance: All

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan: Yes

Subject to Call-in: No this is not subject to call-in due to the amendments being legislative

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's approach to supporting Council Taxpayers in line with S13a (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Council Section 13A (1) (C) Policy for financial year 2026/27 be endorsed

2.2. The report and the Council Section 13A (1) (C) Policy for financial year 2026/27 be recommended to Full Council for approval; and

2.3. Delegate authority be given to the Strategic Director - Corporate Resources, Assistant Director – Finance and Head of Revenues and Benefits in respect of decisions on individual applications for

reducing Council Tax payable pursuant to the proposed policy under section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in Policy; and

- 2.4. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. S13 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides local authorities with the discretion to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable.
- 3.2. These awards are financed through the general fund and are only made in exceptional circumstances, taking into consideration many factors.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. The policy has been reviewed and there are no changes from 2025/26.
- 4.2. As in previous years Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council will support our residents who need additional assistance where statutory discounts, exemptions and reductions have already been applied or where they don't apply.

5. Consultation with the public, member, officer and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Equalities implications

8.1 A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

9. Health implications

9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

10. Climate and environmental implications

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

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder implications

11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk Management implications

12.1. No direct risk management implications have been identified.

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref Option Title Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected

Option ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	Local authorities are required to have a S13A (1) (c) policy in place under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to ensure that there is a system in place to enable a Council Taxpayer to make a request for an amount of Council Tax to be reduced.

15 Conclusion

15.1 Local authorities are required to have a S13A (1) (c) policy in place under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to ensure that there is a system in place to enable a Council Taxpayer to make a request for an amount of Council Tax to be reduced.

16. Appendices

16.1 Appendix A - Nuneaton & Bedworth S13A (1) (c) Discretionary Reductions
2026-27 Final

17. Background papers

17.1 None

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk



**Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
Council Tax - Discretionary Reduction in
Liability
S13A (1)(c) Local Government Finance Act
1992**

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1 Introduction and Legislation

1.1 Section 13A (1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, provides the Council with additional discretionary powers to enable it to reduce the council tax liability where statutory discounts, exemptions and reductions do not apply.

1.2 These discretionary awards can be given to:

- Individual Council Taxpayers;
- Groups of Council Taxpayers defined by a common set of circumstances;
- Council Taxpayers within a defined area: or
- To all Council Taxpayers within the Council's area.

1.3 This policy is basically divided into the following areas namely:

- (a) **The Flood Recovery Framework** – this part of the policy covers situations outlined by Central Government where any parts of the Council's area were to be designated as a designated flood area;
- (b) **Granting of reductions in Council Tax liability where there is exceptional hardship** - this part of the policy applies to circumstances where the applicant experiences exceptional hardship;
- (c) **Crisis** – this part of the policy deals with all cases where a reduction in liability is claimed where there the taxpayer experiences a crisis (other than mentioned in (a) to (c)); and
- (d) **Other circumstances** – this part applies where the application is made other than for (a) to (d) above.

1.4 The relevant legislation (S13 (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012), states the following:

Reductions by billing authority

(1) The amount of council tax which a person is liable to pay in respect of any chargeable dwelling and any day (as determined in accordance with sections 10 to 13);

- (a) in the case of a dwelling situated in the area of a billing authority in England, is to be reduced to the extent, if any, required by the authority's council tax reduction scheme;
- (b) (not applicable)
- (c) **in any case, may be reduced to such extent (or, if the amount has been reduced under paragraph (a) or (b), such further extent) as the billing authority for the area in which the dwelling is situated thinks fit.**

1.5 The provisions stated in (c) above, allows the Council to reduce the Council Tax liability for any taxpayer in addition to any application for Council Tax Reduction under the Council's scheme. This is a general power that has always been available to the Council.

1.6 When deciding on whether to grant a reduction in liability, the Council will consider each

application on its merits. Principles of reasonableness will apply in all cases with the authority deciding each case on relevant merits.

- 1.7 Any decision made will be without reference to any budgetary considerations notwithstanding the fact that any awards must be balanced against the needs of local taxpayers who will ultimately pay for any reduction in Council Tax income. However, where Central Government provides funding directly to the Council to compensate for specific events such as the cost of living crisis and in the case of severe flooding, the Council will look to use **all** funding provided.
- 1.8 The period of any reduced liability will be considered in conjunction with the circumstances of the Council Taxpayer except where specified by Central Government.

2. The Flood Recovery Framework

- 2.1 In a severe weather event with significant wide area impacts, local authorities may need central support to help their communities and businesses return to normal. Building on these principles, a core package of business and community recovery support has been developed by Central Government to serve as a framework for flood recovery funding when needed.
- 2.2 It will be for Government Ministers to determine when this support will be made available. Weather incidents with localised impacts will not usually trigger a recovery support package.
- 2.3 In relation to Council Tax, Central Government have developed a Council Tax discount package that is available under S13A (1) (c).

Who is eligible for a council tax discount?

- 2.4 Where the Council Tax Discount Scheme is activated following severe weather, MHCLG will refund eligible local authorities for granting discounts in the following circumstances:
 - (a) 100% discount for a minimum of 3 months, or while anyone is unable to return home if longer, for **primary residences** whereas a result of the relevant weather event:
 - Flood water entered into the habitable areas; or,
 - Flood water did not enter into the habitable areas, but the local authority regards that the residence was otherwise considered **unliveable** for any period of time.

AND

 - (b) 100% council tax discount on temporary accommodation for anyone unable to return to their home, in parallel with the discount on their primary residence where applicable.
- 2.5 Second homes and empty homes will **not** be eligible.
- 2.6 Instances where households might be considered **unliveable** could include:

- where access to the property is severely restricted (e.g. upper floor flats with no access);
- key services such as sewerage, draining, and electricity are severely affected;
- the adverse weather has resulted in other significant damage to the property such that it would be, or would have been, advisable for residents to vacate the premises for any period of time, regardless of whether they do vacate or not;
- flooded gardens or garages will **not** usually render a household eligible but there may be exceptions where it could be demonstrated that such instances mean effectively that the property is unliveable.

2.7 It will be for the Council to determine eligibility under the scheme.

Properties affected by multiple instances of flooding

- 2.8 Residences impacted in multiple flood events will not be precluded from repeat support where this is made available by Government in respect of separate weather events.
- 2.9 Where the scheme is activated for two separate instances of flooding within 3 months of each other, the two discount periods will run concurrently. For example, if the second flood event occurred after 2 months, flooded properties already receiving support could be eligible for another 3 months' discount, making the total period of reimbursement 5 months.

Funding

2.10 In such cases, Central Government will make payment to the Council via a Section 31 grant.

The Council's Policy in respect of the Flood Recovery Framework

2.11 The Council shall operate the scheme strictly in accordance with Central Government guidelines.

3 Exceptional Financial Hardship

- 3.1 In accordance with **Section 13A (1) (a)** of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council has a Council Tax Reduction Scheme which provides support, through a discount, to those deemed to be within financial need. The Scheme has been designed to take into account the financial and specific circumstances of individuals through the use of applicable amounts, premiums and income disregards.
- 3.2 Applications will be accepted under this part of the policy for people who have qualified for support under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme **but** who are still experiencing severe financial hardship. Other taxpayers may also apply; however, the Council would normally expect the taxpayer to apply for Council Tax Reduction in any case.
- 3.3 As part of the process of applying for additional support, all applicants must be willing to undertake **all** of the following:
- (a) Make a separate application for assistance;
 - (b) Provide full details of their income and expenditure;
 - (c) The taxpayer is able to satisfy the Council that they are not able to meet their full Council Tax liability or part of their liability;

- (d) Accept assistance from either the Council or third parties such as the CAB or similar organisations to enable them to manage their finances more effectively including the termination of non-essential expenditure;
- (e) Identify potential changes in payment methods and arrangements to assist the applicant;
- (f) Assist the Council to minimise liability by ensuring that all discounts, exemptions and reductions are properly granted;
- (g) The taxpayer is able to demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet their full Council Tax liability including applications for employment or additional employment, alternative lines of credit;
- (h) The taxpayer has no access to assets that could be realised and used to pay the Council Tax
- (i) and benefits, Council Tax Support, discounts and exemptions
- (j) Maximise their income through the application for other welfare benefits, cancellation of non-essential contracts and outgoings and identifying the most economical tariffs for the supply of utilities and services generally.

- 3.4 The Council will be responsible for assessing applications against this policy and an officer will consider the following factors when applying this policy:
- a. Current household composition and specific circumstances including disability or caring responsibilities;
 - b. Current financial circumstances;
 - c. Determine what action(s) the applicant has taken to alleviate the situation;
 - d. Consider alternative means of support that may be available to the applicant by:
 - i. re-profiling council tax debts or other debts;
 - ii. applying for a Discretionary Housing Payment for Housing Benefit (where applicable);
 - iii. maximising other benefits;
 - iv. determining whether in the opinion of the decision maker the spending priorities of the applicant should be re-arranged.

4 Crisis

- 4.1 The Council will consider requests for assistance from Council Taxpayers who, through no fault of their own, have experienced a crisis or event that has made their property uninhabitable, where they remain liable to pay council tax and for which they have no recourse for compensation nor have recourse to any statutory exemptions or discounts.
- 4.2 All such requests must be made in writing detailing the **exact** circumstances of why reduction in the liability is required and specifying when the situation is expected to be resolved.
- 4.3 The Council will consider applications on a case-by-case basis in consultation with other organisations as appropriate. Any reduction will be applied where they remain liable to pay council tax and for which they have no recourse for compensation nor to any statutory exemptions or discounts or where the crisis or event is not covered by any insurance policy.

5 Other Circumstances

- 5.1 The Council will consider requests from Council Taxpayers for a reduction in their liability based on other circumstances, not specifically mentioned within this document. However, the Council must be of the opinion that the circumstances relating to the application warrant further reduction in their liability for Council Tax having regard to the effect on other Council Taxpayers.
- 5.2 No reduction in liability will be granted where any statutory exemption or discount could be granted.
- 5.3 No reduction in liability will be granted where it would conflict with any resolution, core priority or objective of the Council.

6 Changes in circumstances

- 6.1 The Council may revise any discretionary reduction in liability where the applicant's circumstances or situation has changed.
- 6.2 The taxpayer agrees that he/she must inform the Council immediately either by phone or in writing about any changes in their circumstances which might affect the claim for under this policy. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of the reduction granted for the year and the requirement to repay any outstanding amount to the Council.

7 Duties of the applicant and the applicant's household

- 7.1 A person claiming any reduction in liability must:
- Provide the Council with such information as it may require to make a decision;
 - Tell the Council of any changes in circumstances that may be relevant to their ongoing claim; and
 - Provide the Council with such other information as it may require in connection with their claim.

8 The award and duration of a reduction in liability

- 8.1 Both the amount and the duration of the award are determined at the discretion of the Council and will be done so on the basis of the evidence supplied and the circumstances of the claim.
- 8.2 The start date of such a payment and the duration of any payment will be determined by the Council. In any event, the maximum length of the award will not exceed the end of the financial year in which the award is given.
- 8.3 In the case of Government funded reductions, the Council shall bear in mind Central Government guidance when considering the period to grant a reduction.
- 8.4 In all other cases the duration and level of any Council Tax discretionary reduction will be determined individually. In determining the period of award, examples are given below of

the types of factors that may be appropriate for consideration:

- If the need is likely to be short-term; or
- If the customer is able to take steps to reduce their financial hardship.

8.5 The awards are only intended to be short term awards due to the limited fund available. It is not intended that the reduction will be a long-term solution.

9 Payment

9.1 In line with legislation, any award shall be granted as a reduction in the liability of the Council Taxpayer thereby reducing the amount of Council Tax payable.

10 Reductions in Council Tax liability granted in error or incorrectly

10.1 Where a reduction in liability has been granted incorrectly or in error either due to a failure to provide the correct or accurate information to the Council or some other circumstances, the Council Taxpayers account will be adjusted and billed in the normal way.

11 Notification of a reduction in liability

11.1 The Council will notify the outcome of each application in writing. The notification will include the reason for the decision and advise the applicant of their appeal rights.

11.2 If a Council Taxpayer is aggrieved by the council's decision a written request for a review of its decision can be submitted if it is made within 2 months of the original decision. If the original decision is upheld and the council taxpayer remains aggrieved, there is a further right of appeal to the valuation tribunal.

12 Delegated Powers

12.1 This S13A (1) (c) policy has been approved by the Council. However, the Head of Revenues and Benefits (Shared Services) is authorised to make technical scheme amendments to ensure it meets the criteria set by the Council and, for certain defined schemes, Central Government guidance.

13 Appeals

14.1 Appeals against the Council's decision may be made in accordance with Section 16 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

13.2 The Council Taxpayer must in the first instance write to the Council outlining the reason for their appeal. Once received the council will then consider whether any additional information has been received which would justify a change to the original decision and notify the Council Taxpayer accordingly.

13.3 Where the Council Taxpayer remains aggrieved, a further appeal can then be made to the Valuation Tribunal. This further appeal should be made within 2 months of the decision of

the Council not to grant any reductions. Full details can be obtained from the Councils website or from the Valuation Tribunal www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

14 Fraud

- 14.1 The Council is committed to protecting public funds and ensuring funds are awarded to the people who are rightfully eligible to them.
- 14.2 An applicant who tries to fraudulently claim a reduction in liability by falsely declaring their circumstances, providing a false statement or evidence in support of their application, may have committed an offence under The Fraud Act 2006.
- 14.3 Where the Council suspects that such a fraud may have been committed, this matter will be investigated as appropriate and may lead to criminal proceedings being instigated.

15 Complaints

- 15.1 The Council's Complaints Procedure (available on the Councils website) will be applied in the event of any complaint received about this policy.

16 Policy Review

- 16.1 This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate to ensure it remains fit for purpose. However, a review may take place sooner should there be any significant changes in legislation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11m

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2026

Subject: Non-Domestic Rates Policy Updates

Portfolio: Resources and Central Services

Responsible Officer: Assistant Director - Finance

Corporate Plan – Theme: Work

Corporate Plan – Aim: Grow a strong and inclusive economy

Ward Relevance: All

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan: Yes

Subject to Call-in: No this is not subject to call-in due to the amendments being legislative.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's approach to Mandatory and Discretionary Relief for Non-Domestic Rates for the 2026/27 financial year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the policy outlining the Council's approach for Non-Domestic Rates Relief for 2026/27 be approved and recommended to Council for approval;
- 2.2. Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources, Assistant Director – Finance and Head of Revenues and Benefits to implement the scheme(s) in accordance with the policy; and

- 2.3. The report be marked not for call in due to the timescales for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27 as provided for in paragraph 15(f) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. Non-domestic rating has a large number of reliefs divided into two types, mandatory and discretionary. Mandatory reliefs are laid in legislation with the Council obliged to implement these in full in England.

4. Body of report and reason for recommendations

- 4.1. In the case of discretionary relief, the basic provisions are laid down by Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The decision whether to grant relief is at the discretion of each Council.
- 4.2. Councils are required to develop their approach to granting the relief in line with the legislative framework. Each Council has full discretion to develop its own policy if required, and relief can be awarded to any ratepayer the Council deems eligible.
- 4.3. Discretionary relief which is wholly defined and reimbursed by the Government. Where Council's adopt the suggested approach, the full amount of relief is recovered through a Section 31 grant.
- 4.4. The government announced on 27th January 2026 that in 2026-27, eligible pubs and live music venues will benefit from a 15% business rates relief on top of the support announced at the 2025 Budget. Their bills will be frozen in real terms for a further 2 years.

5. Consultation with the public, members, officers and associated stakeholders

- 5.1. None

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. No specific implications associated with mandatory relief as reimbursed by the Government under S31.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

8. Equalities implications

8.1. A review has been undertaken and it has been identified that no assessment is required following consultation and liaison with the appropriate officer.

9. Health implications

9.1. No specific health implications have been identified following the completion of an impact assessment.

10. Climate and environmental implications

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

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

11.1. No direct Section 17 crime and disorder implications have been identified.

12. Risk management implications

12.1. No direct risk management implications have been identified.

13. Human resources implications

13.1. No direct human resource implications have been identified.

14. Options considered and reason for their rejection

14.1. In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	The Local Government Finance Act 1988 and subsequent legislation requires Local Authorities to grant relief.

15. Conclusion

15.1. Council's approach to discretionary rate relief, hardship relief and partly occupied relief is provided by a clear, robust, and transparent policy. How ratepayers apply for the relief or how decisions are

made remains unchanged. The Council will continue to support key businesses within the area with a comprehensive and aligned policy.

16. Appendices

Appendix A -Nuneaton & Bedworth Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy 2026

17. Background papers

17.1. Please note there are no background papers attached to this report.

18. Report Writer Details:

Officer Job Title: Assistant Director - Finance

Officer Name: Liam Brown

Officer Email Address: Liam.brown@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk



Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Policy for the granting of Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief

Version Control

<i>Version</i>	<i>Version date</i>	<i>Revised by</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	January 2026	LM/DA	Creation of policy in line with 2026 requirements and changes in legislation.

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1.0 Purpose of the Policy

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to determine the level of discretionary relief and related areas to be granted to certain defined ratepayers within the Council's area. The policy includes all changes effective from 1st April 2026.
- 1.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1988 and subsequent legislation requires the Council to grant mandatory relief for premises occupied by Charities and similar organisations that own or occupy them wholly or mainly for charitable purposes. Likewise, certain premises situated within a rural settlement area will be eligible for mandatory relief. Powers have also been granted under the Localism Act 2011, which allow for the granting of discretionary rate relief to any premises where the Council feels the granting of such relief would be of benefit to the local community.
- 1.3 In addition to the above, Central Government is keen that in certain cases, assistance should be provided to businesses who have had increases in their rate liability due to the revaluation of premises in April 2017. In these cases, and where the Council meets Central Government guidelines, grants are available under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 1.4 Whilst the Council is obliged to grant relief to premises, which fall within the mandatory category, the Council also has powers to grant discretionary relief and reductions to ratepayers, subject to certain criteria being met. In the case of the new reliefs, some guidance has been issued by Central Government outlining actions expected to be taken by local authorities. This policy includes Government guidance where appropriate but also looks to target discretionary relief in line with the Council's vision and priorities.
- 1.5 This document outlines the following areas:
- Details of the criteria for receiving Discretionary Reliefs for all relevant areas;
 - The Council's policy for the granting of all types of Discretionary Reliefs;
 - Guidance on granting and administering the reliefs and awards;
 - Governments requirements including provisions for Subsidy; and
 - The Council's Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.6 Where organisations apply for relief they will be granted (or not granted) relief or reductions in line with the following policy.

2.0 Mandatory Relief - Legislative Background

Charity Relief

- 2.1 The powers relating to the granting of mandatory and discretionary relief are given to the Council under the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Charities and Trustees for Charities are only liable to pay one fifth of the Non-Domestic Rates that would otherwise be payable where property is occupied and used wholly or mainly for charitable purposes. This amounts to mandatory relief of 80%. For the purposes of the Act, a charity is an organisation or trust established for charitable purposes, whether or not it is registered with the Charity Commission. The provision has been extended under the Local Government Act 2003 (effective from 1st April 2004) to registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). Full details of the mandatory provisions are given later within this policy.
- 2.2 In the case of charity shops, the premises must meet the criteria laid down by section 64 (10) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which states that the premises are to be treated as used for charitable purposes at any time it is wholly or mainly used for the sale of goods donated to the charity and the proceeds of goods (after any deductions for expenses) are applied for the purpose of the charity.

- 2.3 The Council has discretion to grant relief of up to a further 20% for these mandatory cases under its discretionary provisions.
- 2.4 From 1st April 2026, Central Government determined that all Private Schools which would have previously been entitled to mandatory relief (either as a charity or charitable organisation), will **no longer be entitled to mandatory relief**. For the purposes of this change the definition of 'Private School' is an educational establishment that provides compulsory full time education where a fee is payable.
- 2.5 The Non-Domestic Rating (Multipliers and Private Schools) Act 2025 ended relief eligibility for private schools. Private schools which are 'wholly or mainly' concerned with providing full time education to pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will remain eligible for relief

3.0 Discretionary Relief – Legislative Background

Introduction

- 3.1 The original purpose of discretionary relief was to provide assistance where the property does not qualify for mandatory relief, or to 'top' up cases where ratepayers already receive mandatory relief.
- 3.2 Over recent years and particularly since 2011, the discretionary relief provisions have been amended to allow authorities the flexibility to provide more assistance to businesses and organisations.
- 3.3 The range of bodies, which are eligible for discretionary rate relief, is wide and not all of the criteria laid down by the legislation will be applicable in each case.
- 3.4 Unlike mandatory relief, ratepayers are obliged to apply to the Council. The Council will expect all businesses to make applications in such a format as is required (which may vary from time to time) and for the business to provide such information and evidence as required in order to determine whether relief should be awarded.
- 3.5 The Council is obliged to carefully consider every application on its merits, taking into account the contribution that the organisation makes to the amenities within the authority's area. There is no statutory appeal process or Tribunal against any decision made by the Council although, as with any decision of a public authority, decisions can be reviewed by Judicial Review. The authority will however, upon request, review decisions made.
- 3.6 Granting of the relief falls broadly into the following categories:
- (a) Discretionary Relief – Charities who already receive mandatory relief;
 - (b) Discretionary Relief – Premises occupied by organisations not established or conducted for profit whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise philanthropic or religious or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts or premises occupied by organisations not established or conducted for profit and wholly or mainly used for purposes of recreation;
 - (c) Discretionary Relief – Granted under the Localism Act 2011 provisions;
 - (d) Supporting Small Businesses Relief (from 1st April 2023);
 - (e) Retail Hospitality & Leisure Relief (from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026 only);
 - (f) Pubs and Live Music Venues Relief (from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2027)
- 3.7 The decision to grant or not to grant discretionary relief is a matter purely for the Council.

The Council's general approach to granting Discretionary Relief

- 3.8 In deciding which organisations should receive discretionary rate relief, the Council has considered the following factors and priorities:
- (a) The awarding of relief will be in line with the Council's vision and values - The organisation will need to demonstrate how its use of business property contribute to the Council's priorities.
 - (b) Be equitable and balance the wider interests of the community with the resources made available by the Council Taxpayer;
 - (c) Any award should support business, charities, organisations, and groups that help to retain services in the Council's area and not compete directly with existing businesses in an unfair manner;
 - (d) Local organisations will be given priority over national organisations;
 - (e) Where requested, the organisation will need to supply the Council with clear evidence of **all** financial affairs (normally two full years) including, and most importantly, the amounts of monies raised, used, and invested locally.
 - (f) To enable appropriate organisations to start, develop or continue their activities, which deliver outcomes to the community and that also relate to the priorities of the Council, which without granting discretionary relief they would be unable to do; and
 - (g) To assist the Council in delivering services which could not be provided otherwise;
- 3.9 Where any reduction or remission is granted to a ratepayer under S49 Local Government Finance Act 1988 where hardship is proven to the Council, then this will be provided **after** applying any Government funded relief, where possible and subject to the requirements of individual reliefs.
- 3.10 In certain cases, the order in which relief is granted is specified. Mandatory relief shall be granted in all cases where the criteria is met irrespective of whether discretionary relief can be granted or not.

The Council's approach to granting Government led Discretionary Relief schemes.

- 3.11 Over the past few years, a number of schemes have been led by Central Government but without specific legislative changes. These are administered under S47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and guidance is often provided. The Council is keen to support such initiatives especially where they are designed to help local businesses and will look to maximise both the reliefs given as well as maximise any grants receivable. However, the Council reserves the right to vary its approach where thought appropriate.

4.0 Effect on the Council's Finances

- 4.1 The granting of discretionary relief will, in the main, involve a cost to the Council. Since the change to the funding for Non-Domestic Rating in April 2013, the effect of the relief is complex.
- 4.2 Any amounts granted prior to 1st April 2013 and continuing since that date will be included in the Council's baseline within the Business Rates Retention Scheme. For any amounts granted for similar cases, the costs of the relief will be borne in accordance with the Business Rates Retention Scheme shown above. This also applies where mandatory relief is granted.
- 4.3 Where Central Government leads an initiative; grants are often available through Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is not automatic and Central Government will look to the Council to adopt the recommended approach when granting in these areas.
- 4.4 The financial effects of discretionary reliefs covered by this policy are as follows:

Appendix	Relief Type	Granted after 1 st April 2026
	Charity Relief	
A	Discretionary relief granted to Mandatory Relief recipients.	40% borne by the Council
B	Non-profit Making Organisations including Sports Clubs and societies.	40% borne by the Council
	Localism	
C	Discretionary Relief granted to ratepayers generally and not covered by any other section.	40% borne by the Council
	Supporting Small Business Relief	
D	Supporting Small Businesses Relief (from 1 April 2023 for a period of up to three years if conditions are met.	Section 31 Grant
	Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief	
E	Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme (ends 31st March 2026).	Section 31 Grant
	Pubs and Live Music Venues Relief	
F	Pubs and Live Music Venues Relief (from 1 st April 2026 to 31st March 2027)	Section 31 Grant

5.0 Discretionary Relief – Subsidy

- 5.1 Discretionary relief is potentially subject to the Subsidy Control Act 2022. The purpose of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 is to implement a domestic subsidy control regime in the United Kingdom that reflects the UK’s strategic interests and particular national circumstances, providing a legal framework within which public authorities make subsidy decisions.
- 5.2 To the extent that the Council is seeking to provide relief that falls below the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) thresholds, the Subsidy Control Act 2022 allows an economic actor (e.g., a holding company and its subsidiaries) to receive up to £315,000 in a three-year period (consisting of the 2026/27 year and the two previous financial years). MFA subsidies cumulate with each other and with other subsidies that fall within the category of ‘Minimal or SPEI financial assistance’.
- 5.3 In those cases where it is clear to the Council that the ratepayer is likely to breach the MFA limit then the Council will withhold relief. Otherwise, the Council may include the relief in bills and ask the ratepayers, on a self-assessment basis, to inform the Council if they are in breach of the MFA limit.
- 5.4 MFA subsidies above £100,000 are subject to transparency requirements. This is not cumulated per beneficiary but applies per subsidy award. This means that for every individual subsidy provided of more than £100,000, the Council will include details of the subsidy on the subsidy control database.

6.0 Administration of Discretionary Relief

- 6.1 The following section outlines the procedures followed by officers in granting, amending, or cancelling discretionary relief and reduction. This is essentially laid down by legislation.

Applications and Evidence

- 6.2 The Council will specify how applications are to be received (if required) and this may vary from time to time.

6.3 Where indicated by the Council, organisations may be required to provide a completed application form plus any such evidence, documents, accounts (normally the last two years), financial statements etc. necessary to allow the Council to make a decision. Where insufficient information is provided, then no relief will be granted. In some cases, it may be necessary for officers to visit premises and we would expect organisations claiming relief to facilitate this where necessary.

6.4 Where applications are required, they should initially be made to the Revenues and Benefits Service and will be determined in accordance with this policy.

6.5 The Council will provide this service and provide guidance free of charge. Ratepayers are encouraged to approach the Council direct and NOT pay for such services through third parties. Applications for relief will be accepted from ratepayers only.

Granting of relief

6.6 In all cases, the Council will notify the ratepayer of decisions made.

6.7 Where an application is successful, the ratepayer will be notified. Where relief is not granted, then the following information is provided;

- An explanation of the decision within the context of the Council's statutory duty; and
- An explanation of the appeal rights (see below).

6.8 Discretionary relief is to be granted from the beginning of the financial year in which the decision is made or when liability begins whichever is the later. Where the relief is fully Government funded, relief will be granted as long as the ratepayer is eligible.

6.9 A fresh application for discretionary relief may be necessary for each financial year **or** at such time-period as the Council determines.

Variation of a decision

6.10 Variations in any decision will be notified to ratepayers as soon as practicable and will take effect on a date determined by the Council.

6.11 A decision may be revoked at any time by the Council.

7.0 Scheme of Delegation

Granting, Varying, Reviewing and Revocation of Relief

7.1 All powers in relation to reliefs are given under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Local Government Act 2003, and the Localism Act 2011. However section 223 of the Local Government Act 1992 allows for delegation of decisions by the Council to Cabinet, Committees, Sub-Committees or Officers.

7.2 The Council's scheme of delegation allows for the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service to award, revise or revoke any discretionary relief applications. However, any application which is considered to be of a significant nature will be subject to consultation with the relevant executive or committee prior to final determination.

7.3 Applications that are refused will, on request, be reconsidered if additional supporting information is provided or the refusal is subsequently considered to be based on a misinterpretation of the application.

Reviews

- 7.4 The policy for granting relief will be reviewed annually or where there is a substantial change to the legislation or funding rules. At such time, a revised policy will be brought before the relevant committee of the Council.

Appeals

- 7.5 Where the Council receives an appeal from the ratepayer regarding the granting, non-granting or the amount of any discretionary relief, the case will be reviewed by . Where a decision is revised then the ratepayer shall be informed, likewise if the original decision is upheld. If a ratepayer is unhappy with the decision made, full details should be submitted, in writing to the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service within 30 days of notification of the decision.
- 7.6 Where the ratepayer wishes to appeal the decision of the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service, the case will be considered by the Council's Section 151 Officer whose decision on behalf of the Council will be final. We will aim to conclude any review within 30 days.
- 7.7 Ultimately the formal appeal process for the ratepayer is Judicial Review although the Council will endeavour to explain any decision fully and openly with the ratepayer.

8.0 Reporting changes in circumstances

- 8.1 Where any award is granted to a ratepayer, the Council will require any changes in circumstances which may affect the relief, to be reported as soon as possible or in any event within 21 days of the change. This will be important where the change would result in the amount of the award being reduced or cancelled e.g., where the premises comes unoccupied or is used for a purpose other than that determined by the Council as eligible for relief.
- 8.2 Where a change of circumstances is reported, the relief will, if appropriate, be revised or cancelled. Where any award is to be reduced, the Council will look to recover the amount from the date the change of circumstances occurred.

9.0 Fraud

- 9.1 Where a ratepayer falsely applies for any relief, or where the ratepayer provides false information, makes false representation, or deliberately withholds information in order to gain relief, prosecutions will be considered under the Fraud Act 2006.

Appendix A
Discretionary Relief – Mandatory Relief recipients

Discretionary Relief – Mandatory Relief recipients

General Explanation

- A.1 S43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 allows mandatory relief (80%) to be granted on premises if the ratepayer is a charity or trustees for a charity and the premises are wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes. No charge is made in respect of unoccupied premises where it appears that *when next in use* it will be used wholly or mainly for those purposes.
- A.2 The legislation has been amended by the Local Government Act 2003 (effective from 1st April 2004) to include registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). These organisations can now receive the mandatory (80%) relief.

Charity registration

- A.3 Charities are defined within the legislation as being an institution or other organisation established for charitable purposes only or by persons administering a trust established for charitable purposes only.
- A.4 The question as to whether an organisation is a charity may be resolved in the majority of cases by reference to the register of charities maintained by the Charity Commissioners under s.4 of the Charities Act 1960. Entry in the register is conclusive evidence. By definition, under the Non-Domestic Rating legislation, there is no actual need for an organisation to be a registered charity to receive the relief and this has been supported by litigation, however in all cases the organisation must fall within the following categories:
- trusts for the relief of poverty;
 - trusts for the advancement of religion;
 - trusts for the advancement of education; and
 - trusts for other purposes beneficial to the community but not falling under any of the preceding heads.
- A.5 Certain organisations are exempted from registration generally and are not required to make formal application to the Charity Commissioners these are:
- the Church Commissioners and any institution administered by them;
 - any registered society within the meaning of the Friendly Societies Acts of 1896 to 1974;
 - units of the Boy Scouts Association or the Girl Guides Association; and
 - voluntary schools within the meaning of the Education Acts of 1944 to 1980.
- A.6 The Council will consider charitable organisations, registered or not, for mandatory relief.

Use of Premises – wholly or mainly used.

- A.7 Irrespective of whether an organisation is registered as a charity or not, the premises **must** be wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes. This is essential if any relief (either mandatory or discretionary) is to be granted. In most cases this can be readily seen by inspection, but on occasions the Council has had to question the actual use to which the premises are to be put. In some cases, it will be necessary for the Council to inspect any premises fully.
- A.8 Guidance from the MHCLG has stated that in the case of ‘mainly’, at least 51% must be used for charitable purposes whether of that charity or of that and other charities.
- A.9 The following part of this section gives details on typical uses where relief may be given plus additional criteria that have to be satisfied. The list is not exhaustive but gives clear guidance on premises for which mandatory relief can be granted *and therefore* premises which may be equally considered for discretionary rate relief.

Offices, administration, and similar premises.

A.10 Premises used for administration of the Charity include:

- Offices;
- Meeting Rooms; and
- Conference Rooms.

Charity shops

A.11 Charity shops are required to meet additional legislative criteria if they are to receive mandatory relief. Section 64 (10) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 provides that a property is to be treated as being wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes at any time if, at the time, it is wholly or mainly used for the sale of goods donated to a charity and the proceeds of the sale of the goods (after any deduction of expenses) are applied for the purposes of the charity.

A.12 In order to ascertain whether an organisation meets these requirements, inspections may be made by an officer of the Council when an application is received.

Granting of Mandatory Relief - the Council's Policy

A.13 Where the criteria for awarding mandatory relief are met, the rate charges shall be calculated in accordance with the legislation reducing the liability of ratepayers for each day that the criteria are met.

Charity Relief – Mandatory Relief recipients, the Council's Policy for granting discretionary relief.

A.14 The Council will consider applications for a discretionary rate relief 'top up' from charities based on their own merits, on a case-by-case basis.

A.15 In determining the application, the following matters will be taken into consideration:

- How the charity supports and links into the Council's corporate vision and priorities;
- The purpose of the charity and the specific activity carried out within the premises for which the relief is requested; and
- Whether the charity operates at a local or national level and where appropriate, the local and national funding streams and financial position of the charity. The Council is keen to ensure that the organisation provides significant benefit to local residents.

A.16 The Council is keen to support businesses that have a critical role to play in the local economy and to assist the Council in meeting the Corporate aims and values.

A.17 In the case of registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs, the key criteria in determining the application will be:

- The ratepayer occupies the whole hereditament;
- Relief cannot be granted in respect of premises that are occupied by the Council or precepting authority;
- How the CASC supports and links into the Council's corporate vision and priorities;
- The membership and fee structure, and whether the CASC is accessible to all residents, including whether there are concessions for certain groups, for example people on a low income or young people under 18;
- Membership numbers and the number and percentage of these members that are local residents;
- If the CASC has due regard to equality issues and if it actively encourages members from under-represented groups, for example black and minority ethnic residents, people over 50 and people

with disabilities;

- Whether facilities are available to the wider community regardless of ability; and
- If the CASC runs a bar or food provision: the level of income from this activity and how this money is used; and whether the CASC operates at a local or national level and where appropriate, the local and national funding streams and financial position of the CASC.

A.18 The Council wishes to support and enable appropriate businesses to start, develop and continue with their operations that deliver outcomes directly related to the Council's aims and vision. In the main, this will be done through other means rather than granting discretionary relief. There may be occasions where applications are made for such relief or where a package of measures, including discretionary relief, are appropriate in supporting businesses. This would need to be in accordance with any limitations in respect of subsidy.

Appendix B

Discretionary Relief – Non-Profit Making Organisations including Recreation.

Discretionary Relief – Non-Profit Making Organisations including Recreation.

General explanation

Non-Profit

- B.1 The legislation allows the Council to grant discretionary relief where the property is not an *excepted* one and all or part of it is occupied for the purposes of one or more institutions or other organisations none of which is established or conducted for profit and each of whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise philanthropic or religious or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature, or the fine arts.
- B.2 Relief cannot be granted to any premises occupied by the Council, or any town, parish council or major Precepting Authority (*excepted premises*).
- B.3 A number of issues arise from the term ‘not established or conducted for profit’. This requires the Council to make enquiries as to the overall purpose of the organisation although if surpluses and such amounts are directed towards the furtherance or achievement of the objects of the organisation then it does not necessarily mean that the organisation was established or conducted for profit.

Recreation Clubs

- B.4 Ideally all recreation clubs should be encouraged to apply for Community Amateur sports Club (CASC) status, which would automatically entitle them to 80% relief. The relief granted to CASCs is covered earlier within this policy.
- B.5 Recreation clubs can also apply to the Charity Commissioners for registration as a Charity (thereby falling under the mandatory provisions for 80% relief) where they meet the following conditions:
- The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation and by the provision of facilities for the playing of particular sports; and
 - The advancement of the physical education of young people not undergoing formal education.
- B.6 Where sports clubs do not meet the CASC requirement, and are not registered charities, discretionary relief can be granted (0-100%) where the property is not an *excepted* one, it is wholly or mainly used for purposes of recreation and all or part of it is occupied for the purpose of a club, society or other organisation not established or conducted for profit.

Access to clubs

- B.7 Guidance issued by MHCLG also requires the Council to consider access to clubs within the community before granting discretionary relief.
- B.8 Membership should be open to all sections of the community. There may be legitimate restrictions placed on membership which relate for example to ability in sport or to the achievement of a standard in the field covered by the organisation or where the capacity of the facility is limited, but in general membership should not be exclusive or restrictive.
- B.9 Membership rates should not be set at such a high level as to exclude the general community. However, membership fees may be payable at different rates that distinguish the different classes of membership such as juniors, adults, students, pensioners, players, non-players, employed and unemployed. In general, the club or organisation must be prepared to show that the criteria by which it considers applications for membership are consistent with the principle of open access.

B.10 The Council also asks the following question to help establish the level of access ‘Does the organisation actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community e.g., young people, women, older age groups, persons with disability, ethnic minorities’ etc.?’

Provision of facilities.

B.11 Clubs which provide training or education are encouraged, as are those who provide schemes for particular groups to develop their skills e.g., young people, the disabled, retired people.

B.12 A number of organisations run a bar. The mere existence of a bar will not in itself be a reason for not granting relief. However, the Council focuses on the main purpose of the organisation. The Council is encouraged to examine the balance between playing and non-playing members.

B.13 Within this area, the Council also considers whether the facilities provided relieve the Council of the need to do so or enhance and supplement those that it does provide.

Discretionary Relief - Non-Profit Organisations including Recreation – the Council’s Policy.

B.14 The Council will consider applications for discretionary rate relief from non-profit making organisations on their own merits on a case-by-case basis. In determining the application, the following matters will be taken into consideration (The list is not exhaustive):

- The organisation should be prepared to show that there is a policy of open access to all sections of the community. Restriction on membership may be acceptable where required standards of achievement are necessary (e.g. sports or other fields covered by the organisation) or where capacity is limited;
- Organisations should actively encourage membership from groups which the authority consider to be particularly deserving of support (e.g. young people, older age groups, persons with a disability, ethnic minorities etc.);
- Rate relief might be granted in order to encourage an organisation to make its facilities available to people other than members;
- The fact that an organisation which provides schemes to develop the skills of their members and where the facilities available have been provided by self-help or grant aid may be an indicator that it is deserving of support;
- The existence of a bar is not, in itself, a reason for not granting relief but should be considered in relation to the main purpose of the organisation;
- Organisations which provide facilities which indirectly relieves the authority of the need to do so or which enhance and supplement those which it does provide should be considered in relation to the needs of the community as a whole;
- Other considerations to be taken into account when determining the level of relief is whether the organisation is affiliated to local or national organisations and whether membership is drawn from people who are mainly resident in the billing authority’s area; and
- The authority should bear in mind the need to encourage new activities in a wide range of organisations.

B.15 The Council will also require additional financial information including:

- If the organisation runs a bar or food provision, the level of income from this activity and how this money is used; and
- Whether the organisation operates at a local or national level and where appropriate, the local and national funding streams and financial position of the organisation.

B.16 In view of the changes in legislation from 1st April 2025 which removes certain private schools from receiving mandatory relief , the Council has decided that those establishments will **not** be granted any discretionary relief.

B.17 For the purposes of this change the definition of 'Private School' is an educational establishment that provides compulsory full time education where a fee or other consideration is payable.

Appendix C
Discretionary Relief – Localism Act 2011

Discretionary Relief – Localism Act 2011

General explanation

- C.1 Section 69 of the Localism Act 2011 amended Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. These provisions allow all Councils to grant discretionary relief in **any** circumstances where it feels fit having regards to the effect on the Council Taxpayers of its area.
- C.2 The provisions are designed to give authorities flexibility in granting relief where it is felt that to do so would be of benefit generally to the area and be reasonable given the financial effect to Council Taxpayers. An example where the Council has granted relief in the past are where premises were affected by flooding.

Discretionary Relief – Localism – the Council’s Policy

- C.3 Applications will be considered from any ratepayer who wishes to apply. However, where a ratepayer is suffering hardship or severe difficulties in paying their rates liability then relief can be granted under the existing provisions as laid down by Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. There will be no requirement to grant relief in such cases under the Council’s discretionary relief policy.
- C.4 Any ratepayer applying for discretionary rate relief under these provisions and who does not meet the criteria for existing relief (charities, non-profit making organisations etc.) may apply. When considering an application for rate relief the following factors will be taken into account:
- (a) That relief is for a temporary period;
 - (b) The significance of potential loss of employment in the area;
 - (c) Opportunities for new business growth, expansion, and employment within the area;
 - (d) The positive effects on business cash flow and evidence of positive impact on future viability;
 - (e) Sufficient evidence of likelihood of recovery of the applicant’s business;
 - (f) Reassurance of duration of retained employment and continued production/operation in the area;
 - (g) Uniqueness of service/commodity being provided within the community/district;
 - (h) What proactive measures the business/organisation is taking to reduce overheads, etc.;
 - (i) Measures being taken to reduce their rate liability, for example occupying smaller premises, letting out parts of the building, etc.;
 - (j) Consideration will also be given to rate deferral, reprofiling of instalments, arrangements as an alternative method of support;
 - (k) It is in the interests of council taxpayers as a whole to give relief;
 - (l) Giving rate relief to a business/organisation must be balanced against whether this creates unfair market conditions to the detriment of others;
 - (m) It should also be recognised that one of the main overheads of any business is Non-Domestic Rates and therefore it is reasonable to expect that businesses have made provision to pay this;
 - (n) Businesses can appeal against the rateable value or where there is a material change can apply to the Valuation Office Agency to have the rateable value reassessed the Council would expect businesses to use this mechanism first; and
 - (o) Payment record history will be taken into account.
- C.5 Relief will be withdrawn/ cancelled if:

- (p) the conditions or circumstances on the basis of on which the relief was granted change or
- (q) fail to materialise, or the information submitted as part of the application proves to be misleading;
- (r) the applicant ceases to be the ratepayer; or
- (s) business/organisation ceases to trade (in case of occupied rates) or downscales operations and workforce in contravention of any agreement; or
- (t) the use of the property changes

- C.6 A formal application from the ratepayer will be required in each case and any relief will be granted in line with subsidy requirements as specified within this policy.
- C.7 In view of the changes in legislation from 1st April 2025 which removes certain private schools from receiving mandatory relief, the Council has decided that those establishments will **not** be granted any discretionary relief.
- C.8 For the purposes of this change the definition of 'Private School' is an educational establishment that provides compulsory full time education where a fee or other consideration is payable.

Appendix D
Supporting Small Businesses Relief (2026-2029)

Introduction

- D.1 At the 2025 Autumn Budget the Chancellor announced that the 2026 SSBR scheme will cap bill increases at £800 per year or the relevant caps within transitional relief (whichever is the greatest) for any business losing eligibility for certain reliefs, including Small Business Rate Relief and Rural Rate Relief, at the 2026 revaluation.

How will 2026 SSBR be provided?

- D.2 For 2026/27 to 2028/29, the government will, in line with the eligibility criteria set out in this guidance, reimburse local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, to grant 2026 SSBR.
- D.3 It will be for individual local authorities, which administer the 2026 SSBR, to adopt a local scheme and determine in each individual case when, having regard to this guidance, to grant relief under section 47.
- D.4 Central government will reimburse billing authorities and major precepting authorities for the actual cost to them under the rates retention scheme of the 2026 SSBR that falls within the definitions in this guidance.

Who is eligible for the 2026 SSBR and how much relief will be available?

- D.5 2026 SSBR will help those ratepayers who at the revaluation are seeing large increases in their bills as a result of losing some or all of their:
- (a) Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief;
 - (b) 40% Retail Hospitality and Leisure Relief, and/or;
 - (c) 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief.
- D.6 Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs, who are already entitled to mandatory 80% relief, are not eligible for 2026 SSBR.
- D.7 To support eligible ratepayers, 2026 SSBR will ensure that the increase in the bills of these ratepayers is limited to £800 per year or the relevant caps within transitional relief whichever is the greater
- D.8 For those ratepayers receiving 2023 SSB relief on 31/3/26 (including those also receiving SBRR, Rural Rate Relief and/or RHL Relief on 31/3/26), any eligibility for 2026 SSBR will end on 31 March 2027.
- D.9 All other eligible ratepayers remain in 2026 SSBR for either 3 years or until they reach the bill they would have paid without the scheme.
- D.10 A change of ratepayers will not affect eligibility for the Supporting Small Business scheme but eligibility will be lost if the property falls vacant or becomes occupied by a charity or Community Amateur Sports Club.
- D.11 There is no second property test for eligibility for the 2026 SSBR scheme. However, those ratepayers who during 2025/26 lost entitlement to Small Business Rate Relief (because they failed the second property test) but have, under the rules for Small Business Rate Relief, been

given a 12 month period of grace before their relief ended (or from 27/11/25 3 years) - can continue on the 2026 SSBR scheme for the remainder of their period of grace.

Sequence of reliefs

D.12 Hereditaments eligible for charity or Community Amateur Sports Club relief or hereditaments which are unoccupied are not eligible for 2026 SSBR. And, for the avoidance of doubt, small business rate relief or rural rate relief should not be applied to further reduce the bill found under 2026 SSBR.

For example,

- a non-RHL ratepayer eligible for Small Business Rate Relief whose rateable value has increased from £3,000 (paying £0 in 2025/26) to £14,000 would be paying the following in 2026/27 before 2026 SSBR:

Bill before reliefs (including 1p Transitional Relief Supplement):	£6,188
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Bill after transitional relief:	£1,572
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Bill after Small Business Rate Relief (@1/3)	£1,048
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- After 2026 SSBR the bill for 2026/27 would be reduced to £800. No further Small Business Rate Relief should be applied to the £800 bill. No addition for Transitional Relief Supplement is made to a bill within SSBR.

D.13 The same principle applies to properties for which a Section 44A certificate has been granted (apportionment of rateable values for partly occupied properties).

D.14 The presence of a section 44A certificate should not further reduce the bill found under 2026 SSBR.

D.15 All other discretionary reliefs, including those funded by section 31 grants, should be considered **after** the application of 2026 SSBR.

Subsidy control

D.16 The 2026 SSBR is likely to amount to a subsidy. Therefore, any relief provided by local authorities under this scheme will need to comply with the UK's domestic and international subsidy control obligations.

D.17 To the extent that a local authority is seeking to provide relief that falls below the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) thresholds, the Subsidy Control Act allows an economic actor (e.g. a holding company and its subsidiaries) to receive up to £315,000 in a three-year period (consisting of the 2026/27 year and the two previous financial years). MFA subsidies cumulate with each other and with other subsidies that fall within the category of 'Minimal or SPEI financial assistance'. Any other subsidies claimed under the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance limit of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement should be counted under the £315,000 allowance.

D.18 In those cases where it is clear to the local authority that the ratepayer is likely to breach the MFA limit then the authority should automatically withhold the relief. Otherwise, local authorities may

include the relief in bills and ask the ratepayers, on a self-assessment basis, to inform the authority if they are in breach of the MFA limit.

D.19 MFA subsidies above £100,000 are subject to transparency requirements. This is not cumulated per beneficiary but applies per subsidy award. This means that for every individual subsidy provided of more than £100,000, the local authority will need to include details of the subsidy on the subsidy control database.

Recalculations of reliefs

D.20 As with other reliefs, the amount of SSBR awarded should be recalculated in the event of a change of circumstances. This could include, for example, a backdated change to the rateable value or to the hereditament. This change of circumstances could arise during the year in question or during a later year.

Detailed guidance for operation of the 2026 Supporting Small Business Relief (2026 SSBR)

Day 1 Eligibility for the Scheme

D.21 For 1 April 2026, a hereditament will be eligible for 2026 SSBR where:

(a) the chargeable amount for 31 March 2026 was calculated in accordance with:

- (i) paragraph 4 of Schedule 4ZA (SBRR not in transitional relief), or
- (ii) regulation 12(6) of, or paragraph 4(5) or 5(5) of the Schedule to, the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2022 SI 2022 No. 1403 (SBRR within transitional relief), or
- (iii) paragraph 5 of Schedule 4ZA by virtue of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4ZA (Rural Rate Relief), or
- (iv) section 47 by virtue of being eligible for schemes introduced by local authorities to deliver:
 - a. the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme as set out in guidance issued by this Department on 21 December 2022, or
 - b. the 2025/26 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Scheme as set out in guidance issued by this Department on 16 January 2025, and

(b) the hereditament for 1 April 2026 was occupied, and

(c) the ratepayer for 1 April 2026 was not a charity or trustees for a charity or a community amateur sports club eligible for relief under paragraph 2 of Schedule 4ZA or regulation 12(5) of, or paragraphs 2(4), 3(4), 4(4) or 5(4) of the Schedule to, the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026.

D.22 Where a hereditament meets these criteria then the rules for determining a chargeable amount below will apply provided that the chargeable amount within the 2026 SSBR scheme is less than it would otherwise be absent the 2026 SSBR scheme.

Ceasing of eligibility for the scheme after 1 April 2026

D.23 After 1 April 2026, 2026 SSBR will cease to apply where:

- (a) the chargeable amount for a day found under 2026 SSBR is the same as or more than the chargeable amount found in the absence of 2026 SSBR. This ensures that where, for example, the increase in the chargeable amount in 2026 SSBR would take the bill above the level it would otherwise have been then the hereditament will drop out of 2026 SSBR. It also ensures

that where, for example, with effect from after 1 April 2026, the hereditament becomes eligible for 100% Small Business Rate Relief then they also fall out of 2026 SSBR, or

- (b) the ratepayer changes to a charity or trustees for a charity or a community amateur sports club eligible for relief under paragraph 2 of Schedule 4ZA or regulation 12(5) of, or paragraphs 2(4), 3(4), 4(4) or 5(4) of the Schedule of the Schedule to, the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026, or
- (c) the hereditament for a day is unoccupied, or
- (d) in respect of days from the 1 April 2027 onwards the hereditament had its chargeable amount for 31 March 2026 found by section 47 by virtue of being eligible for schemes introduced by local authorities to deliver the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme as set out in guidance issued by this Department on 21 December 2022. For the avoidance of doubt, such hereditaments which were also eligible for SBRR/RRR or RHL Relief on 31 March 2026 will also cease to be eligible for 26 SSBR from 1 April 2027.

D.24 Furthermore, where the ratepayer during 2025/26 lost entitlement to small business rate relief because they failed the 2nd property test but have, under the rules for small business rate relief, been given a 12 month (or from 27/11/25 3 years) period of grace before their relief ended (and therefore was still entitled to small business rate relief on 31 March 2026), then eligibility for 2026 SSBR will cease at the end of that period of grace.

D.25 Hereditaments which cease to be entitled to 2026 SSBR for a day cannot return to eligibility if their circumstances change from a later day. For example, if a property falls unoccupied it will not then be eligible for 2026 SSBR if it subsequently becomes occupied again.

Eligibility post 1 April 2026 by virtue of a regulation 17 certificate

D.26 As with the transitional relief scheme, where the valuation officer issues a certificate of rateable value under regulation 17 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026 certifying the correct rateable value at 1 April 2026 (in circumstances where they cannot by rule now amend the list for 1 April 2026) then eligibility for 2026 SSBR and the calculation of 2026 SSBR should be revisited using the regulation 17 certified value in place of the value shown in the list for 1 April 2026. As with the transitional relief scheme, this should have effect as regards the days referred to in regulation 17(4) (the effective date of when the list was altered to correct the inaccuracy and subsequent days) or regulation 17(5) (where no alteration has been made).

D.27 This ensures that those ratepayers whose compiled list 2026 rateable values are increased by the Valuation Officer but only from the date the list is altered may still be eligible for SSBR from that point onwards. This ensures those ratepayers are not penalised just because the increase in their rateable value was not backdated to 1 April 2026. This follows the same principle which exists in the transitional relief scheme.

Chargeable Amount under the Supporting Small Business Scheme

D.28 Where 2026 SSBR applies then MHCLG will fund local authorities to apply a chargeable amount under section 47 of the 1988 Act for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 found in accordance with the rules in Part 1 to Part 3 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026 (“the 2026 TR Regulations”) subject to the following changes.

Base Liability

- D.29 References in the 2026 TR Regulations to the Base Liability (BL) for 2026/27 should be taken to be the chargeable amount for 31 March 2026 x 365 for the hereditament adjusted as necessary for the assumption that:
- (i) section 47 did not apply for 31 March 2026 other than where the hereditament was eligible for the 2023 Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme or the 2025/26 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Scheme,
 - (ii) The ratepayer on 31 March 2026 was not a charity or a CASC,
 - (iii) the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2022 SI 2022 No. 1403 did not apply for 31 March 2026 (the 2023 Transitional Relief Scheme), and
 - (iv) the City of London's special authority multiplier and small business multiplier for 2025/26 were 55.5p and 49.9p respectively.
- D.30 This ensures the starting BL for hereditaments eligible for 2026 SSBR include the SBRR, rural rate relief, 2023SSBR or 2025/26 RHL relief for 31 March 2026 but assumes there was no transitional relief or charity relief .
- D.31 Where as a result of the subsidy control limits the amount of RHL relief awarded for 31 March 2026 for a hereditament is less than 40% then the 2026/27 BL for that hereditament should reflect the actual level of RHL relief awarded for 31 March 2026.
- D.32 Where a certificate has been issued under regulations 18 or 19 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026 then BL for 2026/27 should be found in line with the above but on the assumption that the rateable value in the rating list was the rateable values as certified.
- D.33 References in the 2026 TR Regulations to BL for 2027/28 and 2028/29 should be taken to be references to “(BL x AF) or (BL + 800) whichever is the greater” from the year immediately preceding the year concerned.

Recalculation of chargeable amount for 31/3/26 for the purposes of BL in the 2026 SSBR Scheme

- D.34 Where a hereditament which is eligible for 2026 SSBR was receiving transitional relief on 31 March 2026 it will, therefore, be necessary, for the purposes of determining BL in the 2026 SSBR scheme, to recalculate the chargeable amount for 31 March 2026 on the assumption that transitional relief did not apply.
- D.35 For those ratepayers receiving SBRR, Rural Rate Relief and/or RHL relief on 31/3/26 (but not 23 SSBR), this recalculation for 31/3/26 will give a different figure to the actual chargeable amount. This is because all of those reliefs apply a set percentage relief to the sum after transitional relief – i.e. they are “top down” reliefs.
- D.36 The same is not true for those receiving 2023 SSBR on 31/3/26. 2023 SSBR is a “bottom up” calculation where the chargeable amount is found by increasing the liability for the previous year (in that scheme by £600). Transitional relief therefore has no bearing upon the final chargeable amount of a bill found by 2023 SSBR. In these cases, recalculating the 31/3/26 bill ignoring transitional relief gives the same result. The value of the 2023 SSBR will just compensate for the loss of transitional relief to deliver the same outcome for 31/3/26. This is as intended.

Calculation of Chargeable Amount

- D.37 References in the 2026 TR Regulations to “(BL x AF)” should be taken to be references to “(BL x AF) or (BL + 800) whichever is the greater. This ensures the bill increase is the greater of £800 or the increase under the caps in the transitional relief scheme.
- D.38 Regulations 12(6) & (7) of the 2026 TR Regulations should be assumed to have been omitted. This ensures SBRR is not also applied to the capped bill in 2026 SSBR. This avoids double counting of relief if the hereditament is in the SBRR taper.
- D.39 No change is made to the meaning of NCA from that in the 2026 TR Regulations. Therefore, as with the 2026 TR Regulations, the Transitional Relief Supplement in 2026/27 will be added to NCA. Again, as with the 2026 TR Regulations, there should be no separate addition to bills for hereditaments eligible for 2026 SSBR such that, for example, an eligible ratepayer losing their 100% SBRR on 1 April 2026 would under the 2026 SSBR scheme pay £800 in 2026/27 and not £800 plus the Transitional Relief Supplement.
- D.40 For the avoidance of doubt, the rules for changes in rateable value with effect from after 1 April 2026 (regulation 13) will continue to apply as normal subject to the amendments above. This ensures that, for example, later increases in rateable value are paid in full in the normal way. As with the main transitional relief scheme, references to the rateable value in the list should, if the hereditament is eligible for Improvement Relief, be taken to be references to the rateable value less the value of the Improvement Relief certificate.

Splits and mergers

- D.41 Hereditaments will be eligible for 2026 SSBR where they have:
- (a) come into existence because of the circumstances described in paragraph 1 of the 2026 TR Regulations, and
 - (b) where one of the hereditaments from which the new hereditament was formed in whole or in part was for the day immediately before the creation day eligible for 2026 SSBR.
- D.42 2026 SSBR will not apply or cease to apply to splits and mergers in the circumstances described above (Ceasing of eligibility for the scheme after 1 April 2026).
- D.43 The number of hereditaments eligible for 2026 SSBR which then split or merge is likely to be small and devising rules in particular for mergers with properties outside of 2026 SSBR would be complex. Therefore, as with the previous SSBR schemes, the government has concluded it would be disproportionate to devise detailed rules to prescribe the chargeable amounts in the various circumstances which could arise from a split or a merger.
- D.44 Instead, for hereditaments meeting the criteria above, MHCLG will fund local authorities to apply a chargeable amount under section 47 of the 1988 Act found in accordance with the following principle:
- (a) that the protection offered by 2026 SSBR (that the bill will not rise by more than £800 p.a. or the transitional reliefs caps whichever is the greater) will continue to apply in principle to that part of the newly created hereditament which was immediately before the creation day in 2026 SSBR, and
 - (b) that increases (or reductions) in overall rateable value arising from the split or merger are not subject to the protection of 2026 SSBR.

D.45 For simple splits of hereditaments previously eligible for 2026 SSBR, authorities may wish to simply apportion the chargeable amount in the SSB scheme for the hereditament before the split in line with the change in rateable value from the split (i.e. in line with the principle in the Schedule of Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (England) Regulations 2026).

D.46 For mergers and reorganisations, the authority will have to estimate the degree to which, in line with the principle of the 2026 SSBR scheme, that part of the hereditament which was formerly eligible for 2026 SSBR should continue to receive support under the 2026 SSBR scheme. MHCLG does not expect authorities to seek any formal apportionments of the rateable value for this purpose.

Supporting Small Businesses Relief – the Council’s policy for granting discretionary relief.

D.47 The Council has decided to grant relief strictly in accordance with Central Government guidelines.

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Appendix E
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief (Ending 31st March 2026)

General Explanation

E.1 The 2025/26 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates Relief scheme will provide eligible, occupied, retail, hospitality, and leisure properties with a 40% relief, up to a cash cap limit of £110,000 per business. This relief ends on 31st March 2026 and has been replaced by changes in the multipliers under Non Domestic Rating (Private Schools and Multipliers) Act 2025 and this policy will only apply for periods up to the end date.

How will the relief be provided?

E.2 As this is a temporary measure for 2025/26, Government is not changing the legislation relating to the reliefs available to properties. Instead, Government will, in line with the eligibility criteria set out in this guidance, reimburse the Council if it uses its discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended) to grant relief. It will be for the Council to adopt a local scheme and determine in each individual case when, having regard to this guidance, to grant relief under section 47.

E.3 Government will fully reimburse the Council and major precepting authorities for their loss of income under the rates retention scheme as a result of awarding the relief that falls within the definitions in this guidance, using a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

E.4 The government expects the Council to apply and grant relief to qualifying ratepayers from the start of the 2025/26 billing year.

Which properties will benefit from relief?

E.5 Hereditaments which benefit from the relief will be those which for a chargeable day in 2025/26:

- meet the eligibility criteria; and
- the ratepayer for that chargeable day has not refused the relief for the eligible hereditament.

The ratepayer may refuse the relief for each eligible hereditament anytime up to 30 April 2026. The ratepayer cannot subsequently withdraw their refusal for either all or part of the financial year.

E.6 The Council has decided that, for the purposes of section 47 of the 1988 Act, hereditaments where the ratepayer has refused the relief are outside of the scheme and outside of the scope of the decision of which hereditaments qualify for the discount and are therefore ineligible for the relief.

E.7 In line with the legal restrictions in section 47(8A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council may not grant the discount to themselves or precepting authorities.

How much relief will be available?

E.8 Subject to the £110,000 cash cap per business, the total amount of government-funded relief available for each property for 2025/26 under this scheme is for chargeable days from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, 40% of the chargeable amount.

E.9 The relief will be applied after mandatory reliefs and other discretionary reliefs funded by Section 31 grants have been applied, but before those where the Council has used its wider discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011, which are not funded by Section 31 grants.

However, the former categories of discretionary relief available prior to the Localism Act 2011 (i.e., charitable relief etc.) will be applied first in the sequence of discretionary reliefs and, therefore, before Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief. Authorities may use their discretionary powers to, at cost to themselves, offer further discounts outside this scheme or additional relief to hereditaments within the scheme. However, where the Council applies a locally funded relief under section 47, this will be applied after the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief.

E.10 The ordering **will** be applied in following sequence:

- Transitional Relief
- Mandatory Reliefs (as determined in legislation)
- S.47 Discretionary Relief in the following order:
 - (i) 2023 Supporting Small Business (SSB);
 - (ii) Former categories of discretionary relief available prior to the Localism Act 2011 (i.e., charitable, CASC, rural top up, and not for profit) will be applied first in the sequence of discretionary reliefs, after SSB;
 - (iii) Other discretionary (centrally funded);
 - (iv) 2025/26 Retail Hospitality and Leisure relief scheme; and
 - (v) Other locally funded schemes (such as section 49 hardship).

E.11 Subject to the cash cap, the eligibility for the discount and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula will be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a chargeable day for a particular hereditament in the financial year 2025/26:

- Amount of relief to be granted = $V \times 0.40$ where:
- V is the daily charge for the hereditament for the chargeable day after the application of any mandatory relief and any certain other discretionary reliefs in line with the above.

E.12 This will be calculated ignoring any prior year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.

E.13 Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to relief for each of their eligible properties up to the maximum £110,000 cash cap, per business.

The Cash Cap and Subsidy Control

E.14 Under the cash cap, no ratepayer can in any circumstances exceed the £110,000 cash cap across all of their hereditaments in England.

E.15 Where a ratepayer has a qualifying connection with another ratepayer, then those ratepayers will be considered as one ratepayer for the purposes of the cash caps. A ratepayer shall be treated as having a qualifying connection with another:

- (a) where both ratepayers are companies, and
 - (i) one is a subsidiary of the other, or
 - (ii) both are subsidiaries of the same company; or
- (b) where only one ratepayer is a company, the other ratepayer (the “second ratepayer”) has such an interest in that company as would, if the second ratepayer were a company, result in its being the holding company of the other.

E.16 The Retail Hospitality and Leisure Scheme is likely to amount to subsidy. Any relief provided by the Council under this scheme will need to comply with the UK’s domestic and international subsidy control obligations.

- E.17 To the extent that the Council is seeking to provide relief that falls below the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) thresholds, the Subsidy Control Act allows an economic actor (e.g., a holding company and its subsidiaries) to receive up to £315,000 in a 3-year period (consisting of the 2025/26 year and the 2 previous financial years).
- E.18 In those cases, where it is clear to the Council that the ratepayer is likely to breach the cash cap or the MFA limit, then the Council will automatically withhold the relief.
- E.19 MFA subsidies above £100,000 are subject to transparency requirements. This is not cumulated per beneficiary but applies per subsidy award. This means that for every individual subsidy provided of more than £100,000, the Council will include details of the subsidy on the subsidy control database.

Splits, mergers, and changes to existing hereditaments

- E.20 The relief will be applied on a day-to-day basis using the formula set out above. A new hereditament created as a result of a split or merger during the financial year, or where there is a change of use, will be considered afresh for the relief on that day.

Recalculations of relief

- E.21 The amount of relief awarded will be recalculated in the event of a change of circumstances. This could include, for example, a backdated change to the rateable value or the hereditament. This change of circumstances could arise during the year in question or during a later year.

Eligibility for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme

- E.22 The Council uses the following definitions to establish eligibility for the relief:

Hereditaments that meet the eligibility for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure scheme will be occupied hereditaments which meet all of the following conditions for the chargeable day:

- they are wholly or mainly being used:
 - (i) as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, or live music venues,
 - (ii) for assembly and leisure; or
 - (iii) as hotels, guest & boarding premises, or self-catering accommodation

i. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public:

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off licences, chemists, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Charity shops
- Opticians
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops/ display rooms (such as: carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car/caravan show rooms
- Second-hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale/hire)

ii. Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Hair and beauty services (such as: hairdressers, nail bars, beauty salons, tanning shops, etc)
- Shoe repairs/key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices e.g., for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC/TV/domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- Tool hire
- Car hire

iii. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and/or drink to visiting members of the public:

- Restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Bar

iv. Hereditaments which are being used as cinemas.

v. Hereditaments that are being used as live music venues:

- Live music venues are hereditaments wholly or mainly used for the performance of live music for the purpose of entertaining an audience. Hereditaments cannot be considered a live music venue for the purpose of business rates relief where a venue is wholly or mainly used as a nightclub or a theatre, for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).
- Hereditaments can be a live music venue even if used for other activities, but only if those other activities (i) are merely ancillary or incidental to the performance of live music (e.g., the sale/supply of alcohol to audience members) or (ii) do not affect the fact that the primary activity for the premises is the performance of live music (e.g., because those other activities are insufficiently regular or frequent, such as a polling station or a fortnightly community event).
- There may be circumstances in which it is difficult to tell whether an activity is a performance of live music or, instead, the playing of recorded music.

vi. Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of sport, leisure, and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities).

- Sports grounds and clubs
- Museums and art galleries
- Nightclubs
- Sport and leisure facilities
- Stately homes and historic houses
- Theatres
- Tourist attractions
- Gyms

- Wellness centres, spas, massage parlours
- Casinos, gambling clubs and bingo halls

vii. Hereditaments that are being used for the assembly of visiting members of the public.

- Public halls
- Clubhouses, clubs, and institutions

viii. Hereditaments where the non-domestic part is being used for the provision of living accommodation as a business:

- Hotels, Guest, and Boarding Houses
- Holiday homes
- Caravan parks and sites

E.23 To qualify for the relief the hereditament should be wholly or mainly being used for the above qualifying purposes. In a similar way to other reliefs (such as charity relief), this is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief.

E.24 The list set out above is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list the many and varied uses that exist within the qualifying purposes.

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

E.25 The list below sets out the types of uses that the government does not consider to be an eligible use for the purpose of this discount. Again, it is for the Council to determine for themselves whether particular properties are broadly similar in nature to those below and, if so, to consider them **not** eligible for the discount under their local scheme:

- Financial services (e.g., banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, short-term loan providers, betting shops);
- Medical services (e.g., vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors);
- Professional services (e.g., solicitors, accountants, insurance agents/ financial advisers, employment agencies, estate agents, letting agents); and
- Post office sorting offices.

Retail Hospitality and Leisure Relief – the Council’s policy for granting discretionary relief.

E.26 The Council has decided to grant relief strictly in accordance with Central Government guidelines.

Appendix F
Pubs and Live Music Venues Relief

General Explanation

- F.1 The government on 27 January 2026 that in 2026-27, eligible pubs and live music venues will benefit from a 15% business rates relief on top of the support announced at Budget 2025. Their bills will then be frozen in real terms for a further 2 years.
- F.2 The pubs and live music venues relief will be delivered via section 47 (discretionary relief) funded by section 31 grant.
- F.3 The government's policy intention is that pubs and live music venues should be eligible for the relief. **The relief should apply to occupied properties only.**

Pubs

- F.4 Relief should only be awarded to pubs which meet all of the following characteristics:
- (a) is open to the general public
 - (b) allows free entry other than when occasional entertainment is provided
 - (c) allows drinking without requiring food to be consumed
 - (d) permit drinks to be purchased at a bar
- F.5 For these purposes, the meaning of pub does not include:
- (a) restaurants, cafes, nightclubs, snack bars
 - (b) hotels, guesthouses, boarding houses
 - (c) sporting venues
 - (d) festival sites, theatres, cinemas
 - (e) museums, exhibition halls
 - (f) casinos
- F.6 The proposed exclusions in the list in the paragraph above is not intended to be exhaustive and it will be for the local authority to determine those cases where eligibility is unclear.
- F.7 Where eligibility is unclear authorities should also consider broader factors in their considerations – i.e., in meeting the stated intent of policy that it demonstrates the characteristics that would lead it to be classified as a pub by the natural meaning of the word. For example, being owned and operated by a brewery.

Live music venues

- F.8 Live music venues are properties that are:
- (a) wholly or mainly used for the performance of live music for the purpose of entertaining an audience
 - (b) can be used for other activities but only if those other activities are:
 - (i) ancillary or incidental to the performance of live music (e.g. the sale of food or drink to audience members)
 - (ii) Do not affect the primary use of the premises for the performance of live music (e.g. because the activities are infrequent such as use of the venue as a polling station or fortnightly community event)

- F.9 Properties are not a live music venue for the purpose of this relief if the property is wholly or mainly used as a nightclub or a theatre, for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended).
- F.10 There may be circumstances where it is difficult to tell whether an activity is a performance of live music or, instead, the playing of recorded music. Although we would expect this to be clear in most circumstances, guidance on this may be found in Chapter 16 of the statutory guidance issued in April 2018 under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

How much relief will be available?

- F.11 The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a chargeable day for a particular hereditament in the financial year 2026-27:

Amount of relief to be granted = $V \times 0.15$ (i.e. 15% relief) where:

V is the daily charge for the hereditament for the chargeable day after the application of any mandatory relief and certain other discretionary reliefs in line with the list below.

- F.12 This should be calculated ignoring any prior year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day. The relief is not subject to any cap.
- F.13 The relief should be applied after mandatory reliefs and other discretionary reliefs funded by section 31 grants have been applied, but before those where local authorities have used their wider discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011, which are not funded by section 31 grants.
- F.14 However, as required in the NNDR guidance notes, the former categories of discretionary relief available prior to the Localism Act 2011 (i.e. charitable/CASC and not for profit) should be applied first in the sequence of discretionary reliefs and, therefore, before pubs and live music venues relief. Authorities may use their discretionary powers to, at cost to themselves, offer further relief outside this scheme or additional relief to hereditaments within the scheme. However, where an authority applies a locally funded relief under section 47, this should be applied after the pubs and live music venues relief.
- F.15 The ordering should be applied in following sequence:
- (a) Improvement Relief
 - (b) Transitional Relief
 - (c) Other mandatory Reliefs (as determined in legislation)
 - (d) Section 47 Discretionary Relief in the following order:
 - i. 2026 Supporting Small Business (SSB)
 - ii. Former categories of discretionary relief available prior to the Localism Act 2011 (i.e. charitable, CASC, not for profit) should be applied first in the sequence of discretionary reliefs, after SSB
 - iii. Other discretionary (centrally funded) including Freeport relief
 - iv. 2026-27 pubs and live music venues relief scheme
 - v. Other locally funded scheme.

Pubs and Live Music Venues Relief - the Council's policy for granting discretionary relief.

F.16 The Council has decided to grant relief strictly in accordance with Central Government guidelines.