

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

5th February 2026

A meeting of the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 5th February 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Sheppard (Chair)

Councillors: J. Collett, J. Gutteridge, S. Markham, B. Saru, C. Smith, R. Roze, and M. Walsh (Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Councillor C. Phillips

The Chair welcomed the new co-opted member - Mr Jon Healy to the panel and the new Depot and Transport Manager – Stacey Vail

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

EL23 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Environment and Leisure OSP meeting held on 16th October 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair; and
- b) the minutes of the Extraordinary Environment and Leisure OSP meeting held on 4th December 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

EL24 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule available to view on the website.

EL25 **Questions to Cabinet**

The Portfolio Holders were not in attendance, but the following questions were asked in their absence. These questions were circulated to the Portfolio Holders for response, and the answers are included below.

Councillor J. Collett asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Public Services and Communities:

A couple of residents within my ward have both raised the fact that there's an extremely large amount of litter off the A-444 on both sides between the College Street roundabout and the George Elliott Hospital roundabout.

It's the main entrance into Nuneaton, so it's creating an appalling impression of our town. I just wondered if something could be actioned to deal with it, and if we could be updated on that.

Portfolio Holder for Public Services and Communities, Councillor K. Price, gave the following written response:

Monday 9th Feb - we had services on the section of A444 from Ricoh Arena up to the M6 junction undertaking litter picks and sweeping activities. The feedback was that the significant litter issues will likely see us return again to carry out a further cleanse in March/April

Tuesday 10th Feb – we had services working on Woodland Lane and Bedworth Lane to litter pick and sweep verges etc. This included the clearance of two large fly tips that occurred last week on Bedworth Lane which are being investigated and leads being chased currently.

Wednesday 11th Feb - our planned works on the Bedworth Bypass section were cancelled by the Highways team at county last week.

Thursday 12th Feb – we will have litter picks and cleansing work being undertaken along the Griff Way section of the A444 from Bermuda roundabout to Chilvers Coton roundabout.

Friday 13th Feb – we will have litter picks and cleansing work being undertaken along Pickard's Way.

We have had some issues getting access onto the A444 this year, and encountered issues trying to get all this work booked in. With the Bedworth Bypass section still needing works scheduling we are pushing for a March date to undertake this work asap (existing works in Feb is why we can't do it now apparently).

Councillor J. Gutteridge asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Health:

Can you tell me about Attleborough Cemetery? We've heard a lot about no flooding or flooding, but I believe in the last week that a friend of mine went to Attleborough Cemetery and it was flooded. So I was going to ask her about that. And also, I was going to ask her another question about the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub of, but hopefully she will attend the next, meeting out of courtesy. Thank you.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health, Councillor B. Hughes gave the following written response:

Dear Cllr Gutteridge,

Whilst works have been carried out at the cemeteries across the borough, several MET office reports have stated clearly over the last week that rainfall has been at record levels which has led to ground saturation, not just burial sites, but also recreation areas. Just for clarification – I was particularly unwell on the day of the OSP. As you will be aware – it is not compulsory to attend the OSP, however my record of attendance at others has been consistent despite the demands of a cabinet portfolio and my ongoing full time caring duties to my 95-year-old father-in-law, who also had to be rushed to A&E with a suspected stroke. I find it extremely disappointing that my absence was characterised in a way that implied lack of commitment. While robust debate is healthy, personal insinuations are

neither constructive nor helpful to the work of the council, I would therefore ask that future contributions reflect that standard.

Councillor M. Walsh asked the following question to the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Health:

I had a question for Councillor Hughes with regards to cemeteries; a resident raised the concern about the Marston Lane cemetery where traffic is concerning and made a suggestion that a one way system be put in place so that vehicles don't have to pass each other in opposite directions and going on to the verges etc and causing issues. I have raised that already and so I was wondering if there is an answer for from that.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health, Councillor B. Hughes gave the following written response:

Thank you, Cllr Walsh.

The officers are indeed looking into a one-way system and are currently obtaining the necessary costings for signage and markings.

I will keep you informed of progress.

EL26 Integrated Performance Report – Quarter Two 2025/26

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

The following points were raised:

- A panel queried that the amount of Member Enquiry Forms (MEF) was declining across the board and why this might be. The Risk Management and Performance Officer advised that members are using the correct designated forms e.g. a housing query will use the housing form rather than the MEF form hence the reduction in MEF
- A panel member queried that Housing, Leisure and Culture take up two thirds of the total MEF, are the other areas evenly spread. The Risk Management and Performance Officer advised that the remaining is evenly spread between departments.
- A panel member queried if the Grounds Maintenance data was coming direct from the contractor. The Risk Management and Performance Officer advised that this is the case.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

EL27 Tree Strategy

The Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture presented the report and strategy to the panel for consideration.

The following the points were raised:

- A panel member queried what was the thinking behind risks to a property or the defined target and how it was going to be reflected in the strategy. The Assistant Director (AD) – Recreation and Culture responded that the risk is based on solely the officer who has commenced and reviewed that based on health and safety and risk taking into consideration location, footfall, proximity to areas where potentially children are playing or school routes, or where there's a high volume of people where it increases the risk versus the end of a cul-de-sac where there's a large green space that is limited access that would be taken into that likelihood and risk and severity everything would be considered on a risk basis depending on proximity.
- A panel member queried in respect of the targets and aims how is the success of the strategy going to be measured. The AD – Recreation and Culture advised that it would be measured from a surveying perspective to update our database on the trees, the condition of the trees and the proactive management of them.
- A panel member advised that they fully supported the policy to plant the right tree in the right place
- A panel member raised that there are trees planted in the wrong place and can cause issues with property. A resident had raised to the panel member that a tree was causing damage to the property and when the council was contacted, they were advised to 'prove it'. The emphasis should not be on the owners. The Strategic Director (SD) – Public Services advised that they are picking up legacy issues from 25/30years ago and they are being worked through with consideration given to the highest risk priority.
- A panel member queried if this strategy covers new builds. The SD – Public Services advised that the Tree Officer does have input into planning applications
- A panel member queried if there was an appropriate budget to carry out everything in the strategy. The SD – Public Services advised that by assessing and having the relevant data on the trees this will inform future budget allocation. The removal of trees is expensive and if possible be avoided.
- A panel member raised that how will it be differentiated between a self-seeded tree and a council planted tree. In addition, would the grounds maintenance team be removing self-seeded trees before it grows. The AD – Recreation and Culture advised that to differentiate will depend on the site of the tree. In respect of grounds maintenance this is being reviewed as part of the contract renewal.
- A panel member was concerned regarding the low priority of community work, the strategy states it will work with the community, but then it is listed as a low priority. There also needs to be a glossary of terms

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Cabinet to adopt the Tree Strategy with consideration given to the comments made

EL28 Sub-regional Recycling Contract

The Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement gave a presentation to the panel on the recycling performance at Sherbourne Recycling facility.

The panel raised the following points:

- A panel member queried what metric 24.44% was, the AD – Environment and Enforcement advised it is the percentage collected.
- A panel member queried if we have any comparison data with other waste collecting authorities to assess our performance and in respect of engagement what messages are being promoted and how is the success being measured? The AD – Environment and Enforcement advised that currently key data is missing such as the residential demographic profile of each authority, an elderly couple produce different amount/type of waste than a young family and this all impacts the performance data. Stratford District Council have high performance but produce more waste than NBBC and has a different make up of properties. In addition, in the south of the county they have implemented the 1,2,3 scheme which encourages residents to use recycling but can present other challenges such as fly tipping, it is dependent on the policies and as a council what enforcement level is comfortable with elected members. In respect of messaging NBBC try to ensure there is an alignment with other authorities that use Sherbourne but also looking forward to food waste and how we promote that to set the residents up for success.
- A panel member queried if the council will be promoting education on the appropriate disposal of batteries. The AD – Environment and Enforcement advised that this has been part of discussions with the County Council as they are the waste disposal authority, it was explored to set up a separate curb side collection with a cage fitted to the side of vehicles to store them, this is challenging in terms of insurance and achievability but we are re-looking at it. The new Waste Engagement Officer will re-look at pushing the message again re: battery disposal.
- A panel member raised that it was good to see recycling in flats being explored. However, the composting schedule that was received by members via email does not have any reference to Nuneaton, can this be fed back to the County as there is one in Bedworth.

RESOLVED that the report be noted with consideration given the comments made by the panel

EL29 Briefing Note - Domestic Food Waste Service

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a briefing note to the panel detailing updating on the food waste service due to be implemented this year.

The panel raised the following points:

- A panel member raised if the new vehicles with the changes are within budget. The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised that the vehicles are within budget as the changes are minor.
- A panel member queried if chemicals will be used in the cleaning of the vehicles. The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised that for regular cleaning it will be a mild detergent but an annual clean using chemicals would be completed by an external company.

- A panel member queried that with NBBC rolling out the service in October when the legislation comes into force in April 2026 would NBBC receive any penalties for this. The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised that there are no indications of penalties, only 50% of local authorities in the country will have the service rolled out by the deadline but conversations will be taking place with DEFRA regarding this.

RESOLVED that the briefing note be noted.

EL30 **Forward Plan**

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

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

EL31 **Work Programme**

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

The following comments were made:

- The panel raised that the reports for the additional OSP be submitted in plenty of time prior to the panel.
- A panel member raised that there is a lag with the Integrated Performance Reports for the time period in which the reports are produced to when they are received at OSP. It was requested that the meeting dates be reviewed to enable the panel to view the data in a timely manner.

RESOLVED that

a) the work programme be updated and approved; and

b) an additional Environment and Leisure OSP be held on 26th March 2026 to conclude the remaining business on the work programme.

EL32 **Any Other Items**

None

EL33 **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

EL34 **Annual Update – Everyone Active**

The annual update from Everyone Active was presented to the panel.

RESOLVED that the report be noted