

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25th February 2026

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Present

Councillor S. Hey (Leader and Resources & Central Services) (Chair)
Councillor C. Watkins (Deputy Leader and Housing)
Councillor B. Hughes (Leisure & Health)
Councillor N. King (Business & Regeneration)
Councillor T. Venson (Planning & Enforcement)

CB88 **Apologies**

Councillor K. Price (Communities & Public Services)
Councillor N. King arrived at 4.15pm (meeting commenced at 4pm)

CB89 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interest for this meeting are as set out in the Schedule published on the website.

CB90 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21st January 2026, be approved, and signed by the Chair

CB91 **Utility Management Solution and Energy Administrative Services Provider – Concession Contract**

The Assistant Director – Housing and Community Safety submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval to procure and enter a concession contract to provide utility management solutions and energy administrative services for the Council's property portfolio including domestic void and commercial properties.

RESOLVED that

- a) the appointment of a specialist organisation to provide the services outlined in 3.4 of the report be approved; and
- b) Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to procure and appoint a supplier under a concession-based services contract to assist and support the provision of utility management solutions and energy administrative services for the Council's property portfolio for a term of no more than 5 years.

SPEAKERS:

Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

Do nothing – This would continue to extend periods of time for completing works turning around void properties and re-letting commercial properties. Additionally, this option would continue to require additional costly capacity to manage the existing process.

Reasons

The proposed approach will reduce the amount of officer time spent in dealing with utility providers which in turn will improve turnaround times for works, void properties and re-letting commercial properties.

CB92 Domestic Food Waste Collections

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report to Cabinet setting out arrangements for enacting the delivery of domestic food waste collections in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Bill 2021

RESOLVED that

- a) the service provision enclosed in this report and the subsequent appendices for the roll out and delivery of domestic food waste collections be approved; and
- b) the key specifics of these recommendations being:
 - The provision of 7 bespoke 7.5 tonne food waste collection vehicles
 - The provision of 23 litre kerbside caddies and 5 litre kitchen caddies to all households
 - The provision of all kitchen caddies and wheeled bins to all communal properties and flats
 - The provision of caddy liners at the point service roll out and through public collection points moving forward

SPEAKERS:

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options:

Do nothing - NBBC would be in breach of its statutory duties and could be subject to penalty actions by central government.

Reasons:

With a legal requirement to implement domestic food waste collections NBBC needs to conclude the procurement process and set in place the full timeline for the roll out of domestic food waste service.

CB93 General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27

A report by the Strategic Director – Corporate Resources presented the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2026/27 to Cabinet for recommending to Council

RESOLVED that

- a) It be recommended to Council that:

- i. 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;
 - ii. 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;
 - iii. the Fees and Charges for 2026/27 (Appendix C of the report) be approved and implemented;
 - iv. the net General Fund revenue expenditure budget of £23,838,704 be approved (Appendix A of the report);
 - v. the Section 25 Statement of the S151 Officer in part 9 of the report detailing the reserve position, robustness of estimates and affordability was given due consideration when approving the budget and Council Tax for 2026/27;
 - vi. 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;
 - vii. 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;
 - viii. the update to the medium-term financial plan (section 6 of the report) and use of reserves (section 7 of the report) be noted;
 - ix. 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;
 - x. 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; and
- b) 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.

SPEAKERS:

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options:

Do nothing – Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Reasons:

Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

CB94 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2026/27

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and Strategic Director – Housing and Community Safety submitted a report to Cabinet presenting the HRA budget for 2026/27

RESOLVED that

- a) it be recommended to Council that:
 - i. The budgeted surplus of £181 for 2026/27 be approved;
 - ii. A rent increase on dwellings of 4.8% from 6th April 2026 be approved;
 - iii. The Fees and Charges for the HRA (Appendix B of the report) are approved and implemented from 6th April 2026;
 - iv. 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
- b) 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

SPEAKERS:

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options:

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.

Reasons:

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.

CB95 Capital Budget 2026/27

The Strategic Director – Corporate Resources and Strategic Director – Housing and Community Safety submitted a report to Cabinet presenting the Capital budget for 2026/27.

RESOLVED that

- a) It be recommended to Council that:

- i. the capital budget and forecast for 2026/27 to 2028/29 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be approved;
 - ii. 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; and
- b) 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.

SPEAKERS

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

Options

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.

Reasons

Having a balanced budget is a key concept outlined in Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988

CB96 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval to update the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme in-line with the regulations required by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Local Council Tax Support scheme for financial year 2026/27 be endorsed;
- b) the report and Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2026/2027 be recommended to Full Council for approval; and
- c) 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

SPEAKERS

None

Options

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

Reasons

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.

CB97 Crisis and Resilience Fund Policy 2026

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval of NBBC’s approach to supporting our customers who need additional financial support with their housing costs.

RESOLVED that

- a) the policy outlining the Council’s approach for Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be endorsed;
- b) the report and the policy for the Housing Payment Crisis Resilience Fund 2026/27 be recommended to Full Council for approval;
- c) 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
- d) 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.

SPEAKERS

None

Options

Do nothing - Non-compliance with the changes from April 2026. The legislation underpinning the Discretionary Housing Payments is revoked

Reasons

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.

CB98 Council Tax S13 Policy

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet to seek approval of NBBC’s approach to supporting Council Taxpayers in line with S13a (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Council Section 13A (1) (c) Policy for financial year 2026/27 be endorsed
- b) the report and the Council Section 13A (1) (C) Policy for financial year 2026/27 be recommended to Full Council for approval;
- c) 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

- d) 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.

SPEAKERS

None

Options

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.

Reasons

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.

CB99 NBBC Business Rate Discretionary Relief Policy

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval of NBBC’s approach to Mandatory and Discretionary Relief for Non-Domestic Rates for the 2026/27 financial year.

RESOLVED that

- a) the policy outlining the Council’s approach for Non-Domestic Rates Relief for 2026/27 be approved and recommended to Council for approval;
- b) 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
- c) 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.

SPEAKERS

None

Options

Do nothing - The Local Government Finance Act 1988 and subsequent legislation require Local Authorities to grant relief.

Reasons

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 and subsequent legislation require Local Authorities to grant relief.

CB100 **Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Panels**

a) Housing and Communities OSP – 22nd January 2026

At its meeting the panel considered a motion on the placement of asylum seekers approved at Full Council on 16th September 2025. From this a recommendation was put forward for Cabinet approval as follows:

i) it be recommended to Cabinet to examine the possibility of giving access to the Passport to Leisure Scheme for asylum seekers.

It was **RESOLVED** that engagement is being made by Cabinet with the appropriate bodies who implement the Passport to Leisure Scheme on the possibility of giving access to asylum seekers.

b) Business, Regeneration and Planning OSP – 29th January 2026

At its meeting the panel considered a motion referred from Full Council on 10th December 2025 regarding the lease of Abbey Theatre/Nuneaton Arts CIO. From this a recommendation was put forward for Cabinet approval as follows:

i) it be recommended to Cabinet that the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health (or a substitute) take up the second available seat on the Board of Trustees for Nuneaton Arts CIO, alongside Councillor S. Markham

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be deferred to Annual Council in May 2026 where consideration will be given to this appointment during the allocation of representatives on the Outside Bodies list.

c) Health and Corporate Resources OSP – 12th February 2026
Equalities Policy

At its meeting the panel considered the report on the Equalities Policy and put forward the following recommendation for Cabinet consideration:

i) It be recommended to Cabinet that the revised Equality Policy be approved and adopted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the revised Equality Policy be approved and adopted.

d) Health and Corporate Resources OSP – 12th February 2026
People Strategy 2026 - 2029

At its meeting the panel considered the report on the People Strategy 2026 - 2029 and put forward the following recommendation for Cabinet consideration:

i) it be recommended to Cabinet that the People Strategy 2026-2029 be approved and adopted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the People Strategy 2026 - 2029 be approved and adopted.

CB101 **Any Other Items**
None

PUBLICATION DATE: 2ND MARCH 2026

DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 10TH FEBRUARY 2026