

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER BOARD

6 March 2026

A meeting of the Simplification Pathfinder Board was held on Friday 6 March 2026. The meeting was held in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA.

Present: Marion Plant (NWSLC) – Acting Chair, Alison Thompson (WCAVA), Steve Hey (Councillor), Garry Palmer (WCC), Jodie Gosling (MP), Jet Jones (Together for Change), Les Ratcliffe (CWC)

Officers in attendance: Dawn Dawson (NBBC), Jonathan White (NBBC), Salewa A-Ogunleye (NBBC) - Mins

Apologies: Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair, Lindsey Randle – Horiba Mira, Lynsey smith

SPB21 Site visit to Grayson Place and Bridge to Living.

SPB22 Chair's welcome and announcements

The Acting Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting and introductions took place.

SPB23 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Acting Chair.

SPB24 Declarations of Interests

Board members' interests for the meeting were as set out in the Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

SPB25 Highlight Report

NBBC submitted a Highlight Report (which had been circulated prior to the meeting) to update Board members on the status of the Simplification Pathfinder programme and individual projects. The report detailed the overall Simplification Pathfinder programme financial status, the key risks and upcoming activities.

- Grayson Place – Phase 1 – hotel is operational, asset management company contract has been extended.
Phase 2 – Leisure box is completed, finalising lease arrangement with padel operator.
Food Hall build completed.
External - kerbs and feeder pillar installed to south car park.

- Grand opening planned for end of March 2026.
- Digital skill & Innovation Centre – Completion of Agreement for Lease & Lease with NW&SLC will be communicated.
- George Eliot Visitors Centre – Contractor appointment confirmed but works delayed by power supply issues.
- Saints – Building purchase and ground floor has been completed. Lease expected to be resolve shortly.
- Parks Revival – procurement elements are still being worked through; some contractors quotation came in higher than expected so proposals are being reviewed.
- E-mobility – Concession contract has been signed; contractors will mobilise imminently and EV chargers to be installed within 2- 3 weeks. A communication/press release will be issued to introduce the contractors and the provision.
- Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – Phase 1 is scheduled to be handed over to NBBC on 9 March 2026, with the leisure operator set to begin operations on 10 March. The existing site is also scheduled to close on 9 March. A soft opening will take place on Friday, 20 March. Communication/press activity will follow the soft handover.
- Bridge to Living – Demolition and structures will start coming down soon, there will be a press release/visuals to show the new connection from high street into green spaces and river access.

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Communication Updates

- a) Grayson place – JW informed the board that completion of phase 2 is March and grand opening will be communicated, the project, legal and communication will prepare PR assets and event plan once lease signed.
- b) DS&IC – JW informed that the completion of lease with NW&SLC was February and the completion and handover of building in spring.
- c) George Eliot Visitor centre – Contractor appointed but start delayed by adjacent building power supply issue. Commencement of work will be communicated.
- d) The Saint – Signing of lease will be communicated.
- e) E-mobility – JW mentioned Concession contract signed, planned press release to introduce contractors and EV charger provision.
- f) Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – work progressing; soft opening imminent with limited attendees; fuller PR at grand opening later.
- g) Bridge to living – Road closure in March and tentative completion of works in July.

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Any Other Business

The board agreed project leads to provide update on procurement and contractor decision and to be report at the next board meeting, legal/project lead to resolve Saint lease and Gorge Elliot power issue and report progress, BAM/project manager to complete snagging and confirm off -site date- confirm status at next update, communication lead to implement refreshed communication to mitigate reputational risk and present relaunch plan before June.

SPB27 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 9172, the public and press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, it being likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information on the description specified in paragraph (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

SPB28 Risk register

NBBC submitted an updated Programme Risk Register. The Board considered the specific risks raised by the updated register.

Chair of the Board