

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 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 K. Price (Communities & Public Services)  
Councillor N. King (Business & Regeneration)

CB118**Apologies**

Councillor T. Venson (Planning & Enforcement)

CB119**Declarations of Interest**

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

CB120**Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026, be approved, and signed by the Chair

CB121**Pay Policy Statement 2026/27**

The People Services Manager submitted a report to Cabinet to provide an overview of the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/2027

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2026 – 2027 be endorsed and the statements for previous years be noted; and
- b) it be recommended to Council that the Pay Policy Statement for 2026 – 2027 and for previous years 2024 – 25, and 2025 – 26 be ratified and published as required by Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011

**SPEAKERS:**

None

**Options**

- Do nothing – Rejected as under the Localism Act 2011, all Council's must publish a Pay Policy Statement.

**Reasons**

Under the Localism Act 2011, all Council's must publish a Pay Policy Statement.

**CB122 Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)**

The Assistant Director – Planning submitted a report to Cabinet updating members on the responses received to the SPD's consultation and to seek approval to recommend to full council to adopt.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) it be recommended to Full Council the adoption of the Affordable Housing SPD (2026), Health Impact Assessment SPD (2026), Heritage SPD (2026), Creating a Healthier Food Environment - Hot Food Takeaways SPD (2026), Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2026) and Transport Demand Management Matters – Parking Standards SPD (2026).
- b) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director for Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, to make any minor amendments to the SPDs prior to consideration at Full Council.
- c) subject to Full Council adoption, the Affordable Housing SPD (2020), Health Impact Assessment SPD (2021), Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways SPD (2020), Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020), Transport Demand Management Matters – Parking Standards SPD (2022) and Car Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Guidance (2003) be formally revoked in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**SPEAKERS:**

County Councillor Keith Kondakor  
Councillor Michele Kondakor

**Options:**

- Not to recommend the adoption of the SPD's to full council - Rejected – The adoption of the SPDs will provide supplementary planning guidance in accordance with the commitments set out in the adopted Borough Plan Review (2021-2039) and latest Local Development Scheme (December 2025). The SPDs will provide greater certainty to applicants and developers preparing applications for submission. Having a suite of updated SPDs will likely assist with improving the quality of planning applications, which helps to accelerate the planning process whilst achieving better outcomes for the community.

**Reasons:**

The adoption of the SPD's will provide supplementary planning guidance in accordance with the commitments set out in the adopted Borough Plan Review (2021 – 2039).

**CB123 Gas Supply and Associated Services Contract**

A report by the Assistant Director – Democracy & Governance and Assistant Director – Assets & Compliance submitted a report seeking Cabinet approval to award a new service contract with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO).

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the procurement and award of a new service contract with ESPO for the procurement of gas from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2031 be approved;
- b) the award of a gas supply contract for the same period to Total Energies Gas and Power Limited via the ESPO Gas Supply Framework be approved; and
- c) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director – Democracy & Governance and the Assistant Director – Assets & Compliance to award and enter into the contracts.

**SPEAKERS:**

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

**Options:**

- Do nothing – Rejected - This will mean the Council is no longer under contract, resulting in non-compliance with the Procurement Regulations but also, increased rates and higher tariffs.
- Undertake own Tender Process rather than using a Framework Agreement - The Council did consider undertaking its own tender however, it currently does not have the capacity or industry knowledge to procure gas itself due to the complexities of the market. Furthermore, doing so would reduce economies of scale and present a risk of non-supply as the Council on its own may not be attractive enough in isolation to attract sufficient competition
- Utilise the Crown Commercial Services Framework - as per 6.5.1 of the report, it's the same supplier as the supplier proposed under the ESPO framework. Furthermore, ESPO have recently procured and awarded the new gas supplier framework so it's very recent and up to date in terms of the market. It would also mean the Council's electricity and gas supply contract are under the same framework provider for consistency of information and account management. Furthermore, ESPO is a centrally located organisation, with their headquarters based at Enderby Leicestershire. Given the proximity to Nuneaton and Bedworth, it also makes economic sense to utilise ESPO as it supports the local economy and job market more locally, whereas Crown Commercial Services is a service area of Central Government operating nationally.
- Utilise the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Framework - as per 6.5.2 of the report, it's a different supplier proposed under the ESPO framework. This would mean the Council's electricity and gas contracts would be operated by different suppliers. Furthermore, ESPO have recently procured and awarded the new gas supplier framework so it is very recent and up to date in terms of the market. It would also mean the Council's electricity and gas supply contract are under the same framework provider for consistency of information and account management. As per option above, ESPO is a centrally located organisation, with their headquarters based at Enderby Leicestershire. Given the proximity to Nuneaton and Bedworth, it also makes economic sense to utilise ESPO as it supports the local economy and job market more locally, whereas Crown Commercial Services is a service area of Central Government operating nationally.

- Utilise the West Mercia Energy route to market:

- Option 1

As per 6.5.3.1 of the report, the single supplier is the same as the proposed ESPO supplier. Therefore, the justification under C applies to this.

- Option 2

The Council could undertake a mini-competition process but the time to undertake this could be up to 6 months from commencement to award of contract, at which point, the Council has lost 6 months of forward purchasing its gas via ESPO or another single supplier framework, which in turn could place a financial risk on the authority with higher rates/tariffs. Noting the recent geopolitical instability, this could impact wholesale pricing and place additional pressure on Council financials. However, it could provide cheaper rates but noting geopolitical instability and the impact already seen on petrol and diesel pricing, it is likely to increase. Furthermore, as per option C, ESPO is a centrally located organisation, with their headquarters based at Enderby Leicestershire. Given the proximity to Nuneaton and Bedworth, it also makes economic sense to utilise ESPO as its supports the local economy and job market more locally, whereas Crown Commercial Services is a service area of Central Government operating nationally.

Reasons:

ESPO provides a compliant, cost-effective, and low-risk route to the procurement of gas for the Council for the period 2027–2031. The approach offers budget certainty, economies of scale, and continuity with existing supply arrangements

**CB124 Bedworth Regeneration and Investment Plan**

The Assistant Director – Economy & Regeneration provided an update to Cabinet on the progress of the Bedworth Pride in Place Fund (Believe in Bedworth).

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the update and priorities for the Bedworth Pride in Place Fund ‘Believe in Bedworth’ be noted; and
- b) it be recommended to Council that an increase to the Bedworth Market refurbishment budget of £25k, as detailed at Section 6 of this report be approved.

**SPEAKERS:**

Councillor Rob Roze

Options:

- a) To not approve the recommendations would create a shortfall in funding and delay progress on the Bedworth Market improvements

Reasons:

To update Cabinet and ensure compliance with the legal implications contained in the Technical Guidance.

**CB125**Culture Update

The Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture submitted a report to Cabinet on actions being delivered following the adoption of the Culture Strategy and to update regarding project delivery.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the report to develop a large-scale public art event be noted and endorsed;
- b) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and Strategic Director for Public Services in consultation with the Assistant Director for Recreation & Culture, the Portfolio Holders for Leisure & Health and, Resources & Central Services to fully implement the project to develop a large-scale public arts event programme during 26/27 and 27/28; and
- c) it be recommended to Council that:
  - i) the 2026/2027 General Fund Revenue budget be amended to include the grant funding of £750,000; and
  - ii) delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture to enter a contract with Artichoke Trust to deliver the programme.

**SPEAKERS**

Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- Not approve entering the funding agreement – Rejected - this would prevent national coverage of Nuneaton and Borough within the Cultural landscape and reduce the accessibility of large-scale cultural events to residents of the Borough.

Reasons

The delivery of the proposed program will help deliver recommendations within the borough's adopted Culture strategy.

**CB126**Cemeteries Regulation Update

The Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture submitted a report to Cabinet presenting the updated Cemeteries Regulation and to update on the new contract with Deceased Online in relation to the operational procedure and fees for genealogy requests.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Council Policy for cemetery regulations and operations be adopted
- b) the update provided regarding the new contract with Deceased Online be noted; and

- c) delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Leisure and Health to implement the operational procedure for genealogy requests and Deceased Online.

**SPEAKERS**

Councillor Michele Kondakor

Options

- Do nothing – Rejected - the existing regulations are from 2021 and required a refresh and update. Improving the accessibility of data, via an online platform improves the service for customers and manages payment transfers directly for purchases.

Reasons

All local authority managed cemeteries are subject to standards and conditions known as “Cemetery Rules and Regulations”. These are designed to inform all cemetery users about the management of the cemeteries and the reasonable requirements applicable to them.

**CB127 Development Management Funding and Local Plan Implement Funding Awarded by Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)**

The Assistant Director – Planning submitted a report to update Members on two sets of grant funding awarded to the Planning Department by the MHCLG.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the MHCLG Development Management Funding and Local Plan Implementation Funding received by the Planning Department in 2026/27 be noted;
- b) the proposals to spend the Development Management Funding and Local Plan Implementation Funding during the financial year 2026/27 be noted.
- c) the conditions set by MHCLG in relation to the spending of these grants be noted.
- d) it be recommended to Full Council that;
- i) the 2026/27 General Fund Planning Budget be updated to account for:
- The Development Management Grant Funding of £92,340.78, and
  - The Local Plan Implementation Grant Funding of £108,474.57.
- ii) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Public Services and the Assistant Director for Planning to spend the funding in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement.

**SPEAKERS**

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

### Options

- Not to note the recommendations - Rejected – MHCLG has awarded the authority funding to support delivery of statutory planning functions under the new local plan making system. The funding provides essential capacity, specialist support and digital tools. Failure to recognise and progress the funded activities may undermine the authority's ability to meet its statutory deadlines and legislative requirements.

### Reasons

Grant funding must be spent within the financial year 2026/2027. NBBC is required to comply with MHCLG's monitoring, reporting and evaluation requirements.

## CB128 **Contract Variation – Finance Systems (Unit 4 Enterprise Resources Planning Solutions)**

The Assistant Director – Finance submitted a report to Cabinet seeking approval to uplift the value of existing procured contracts, to absorb the spend in relation to the purchase ordering system.

**RESOLVED** that the increase to financial values as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be approved.

### **SPEAKERS**

None

### Options

- Do nothing – Rejected - the Council would not be able to acquire goods and services from suppliers to deliver services from 31st May 2026.
- Procure a new system specifically for acquiring goods and services. – Rejected - this would be time-consuming and require a bulk of additional work for the finance team to transfer data from the existing system to a new system once the full procurement exercise concluded.

### Reasons

Procurement regulations allow an uplift in value of up to 50% of the original contract value. The proposal is for 22.55% of the original contract. Advice and guidance has been sought from the Procurement Team and as the value of the variations exceeds £50,000, cabinet approval is required as per the Contract Procedure Rules.

## CB129 **Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Panels**

### **a) Environment and Leisure OSP – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

#### **Lawn Burial Provision**

At its meeting the panel considered the report on the continued provision of lawn burial space within the Borough. The report was updated by Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture that included the recommendations put forward by the panel for Cabinet consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) Subject to the Strategic Directors for Resources and for Culture & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources &

Central Services and for Leisure & Health, being able to identify the £95,000 funding required to deliver the works:

- i) the options identified within section 6 of the report be approved and support the proposed allocation of £95,000, as detailed in section 6 of the report, for works at Bucks Hill and Oaston Road Cemeteries, and the corner plot at Attleborough Cemetery, to deliver additional lawn burial plots and extend the lawn burial timescale in the Borough; and
  - ii) a further report will be brought back to Cabinet to confirm the funding arrangements and to seek delegated authority for officers to deliver the works within the proposed £95,000 budget, both of which will be subject to a recommendation to Full Council to amend the budget.
- b) further to section 4 of the report, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Directors for Resources and for Culture & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources & Central Services and for Leisure & Health, to undertake consultation at the earliest opportunity to explore the potential use of the upper area of the Garden of Remembrance at Bucks Hill Cemetery for lawn burials;
  - c) existing lawn burial sections at Bucks Hill Cemetery be infilled across the whole of the cemetery, rather than in part;
  - d) Officers be instructed to clear the compound at Bucks Hill Cemetery as soon as reasonably practicable and to investigate the requirement for the existing 3-metre access road running through the newly identified land, together with the adequacy of available space for arisings, subject to operational and cost considerations;
  - e) Officers clear the shrubs and trees to the right of the chapel at Bucks Hill Cemetery, with an update to be provided to Cabinet within the report referenced in decision 1(b);
  - f) a budget of £100,000 be identified to undertake a feasibility study and subsequent surveys on identified land at Park Lane to assess its suitability as a potential long-term burial ground for Nuneaton, and that a further report on the outcomes, funding options, and recommendations be brought back to Cabinet and Full Council later in the 2026/27 financial year, once a funded option has been identified;
  - g) no recreation ground, including Attleborough and Park Lane Recreation Grounds, be used as future cemetery space, due to the impact on greenspace provision within the Borough;
  - h) no further action be taken at this time in relation to any adjoining land not owned by the Borough Council at Marston Lane, Bedworth, due to cost considerations; and
  - i) Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Directors for Resources and for Communities & Place, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder(s), to develop proposals and identify funding options for the potential repurposing of chapels at Attleborough, Bucks Hill, and Oaston

Road Cemeteries for burial vaults, and to report back to Cabinet and Full Council with recommendations.

**SPEAKERS:**

Councillor Michele Kondakor

**b) Environment and Leisure OSP – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Access to Open Water**

At its meeting the panel considered the report on a request by the sea cadets to access an open water site. The panel put forward recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) the Sea Cadets be supported in looking for Private Water Bodies that could meet their activity needs
- b) the use of Borough Lottery funds be approved to establish a community fund to be used for organisations whose aim is to provide youth advocacy where use of open water is a key function and delegated authority given to the Assistant Director - Economy and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Public Services for establishing this specific community fund application and funding.
- c) Bar Pool Brook on Queen Elizabeth Road be considered.
- d) the Leader writes to Warwickshire County Council (WCC) to explore the feasibility of resurrecting the previously proposed Flood Alleviation Attenuation Lake Scheme within the Borough, and to assess whether such a scheme could also present opportunities to support recreational water use. Although this was reviewed previously by WCC and NBBC in 2023 and not pursued at that time, Cabinet believe it warrants further consideration.

Revisiting this scheme could contribute significantly to flood risk reduction for local residents, while also creating a valuable community asset. In particular, there may be potential to align the scheme with Camp Hill funding and to support outdoor and water-based activities for organisations such as the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts, for whom access to water forms an important part of their curriculum.

**SPEAKERS:**

County Councillor Keith Kondakor

Eva Thompson

Councillor Christian Smith

Councillor Sue Markham

Councillor Michele Kondakor

**c) Environment and Leisure OSP – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Grounds Maintenance Procurement**

At its meeting the panel considered the report on the Grounds Maintenance Procurement feeding back the recommendations of the

working group. The panel put forward recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

It was **RESOLVED** that

a) the contents of the report be adopted with the following amendments:

- i) item 4.3 to come back to Cabinet with a further report with the Housing grounds Maintenance costed separately; and
- ii) an additional item be added for a report detailing who pays for removal of arisings following a burial and that the uses of the chapels be removed from the Grounds Maintenance Contract

For the purposes of amendments to any existing contracts, they be subject to due diligence and if viable, endorsed, noting that further reports may need Cabinet approval to vary contracts in accordance with the contract procedure rules.

**SPEAKERS:**

Councillor Michele Kondakor  
Councillor Christian Smith

**CB130****Any Other Items**

None

**CB131****Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that 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 paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**CB132****Regeneration Projects Update**

The Strategic Director – Communities & Place and Strategic Director – Culture & Environment submitted a report for Cabinet on the regeneration projects update.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the project issues identified be noted.
- b) the allocation of the remaining £280k of Pathfinder Funding to the Grayson Place project be approved;
- c) £247k of UK Shared Prosperity Funding administered by Warwickshire County Council be allocated to the Grayson Place project.
- d) the change to the car parking bay sizes at Bedworth Physical Activity Hub of £20K noting the financial implications in section 9 and risks in section 15 be approved; and
- e) it be recommended to Council the changes to the budget as detailed at Section 8 of this report be approved

**SPEAKERS**

Councillor Rob Roze

Options

- Do nothing – Rejected - Failure to deliver the outcomes mandated by the funding criteria may result in the Council being required to repay all or some of the Pathfinder Funding.

Reasons

Failure to deliver the outcomes mandated by the funding criteria may result in the Council being required to repay all or some of the Pathfinder Funding.

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Chair

**PUBLICATION DATE: 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**DECISIONS COME INTO FORCE: 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**