

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

BUSINESS, REGENERATION AND PLANNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

11th June 2026

A meeting of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 11th June 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor J. Clarke (Chair)

Councillors: M. Bird (Vice-Chair), D. Boughan, P. Hickling, N. King, K. Kondakor, and R. Brill (substitute for A. Brassington) and Mr J. Healy.

Apologies: Councillors A. Brassington and C. Cape.

Absent: Councillor N. Bagga.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Chair gave thanks to Councillor Hickling, the previous Chair of this Committee for the past two years, which had been run well and he hoped this would continue.

BRP1 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Business, Regeneration and Planning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 29th January 2026 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

BRP2 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED that the declarations of interests are as set out in the Schedule which can be viewed on the Council website ([Councillor Declarations of Interests](#)).

BRP3 Questions to Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Enforcement and Public Services (Councillor S. Coates-Jarman) and the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre Regeneration and Business Development (Councillor J. Groves) were not able to attend the meeting. The Council Leader (Councillor G. Finch) and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Enabling Services and Communities (Councillor M. Bannister) were in attendance at the meeting to answer questions from the Panel.

All Members were advised that if they had any specific questions that could not be answered at the meeting, they should email the question to Committee Services, and a response from the relevant Cabinet Member would be forwarded to all Panel Members.

Councillor Bird asked:

Referring to the minutes of the last meeting and staffing of the Town Centres Team, a new member of staff was being appointed and restructure was under way. Is there an update at all please with where we are with that?

The Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration responded:

The new member of staff started six months ago and is doing a great job, covering the whole Town Centres areas including the markets. There are still

gaps in the Enforcement team which are being addressed, but the team is nearly up to speed now.

Councillor K. Kondakor asked the Leader of the Council:

It would be useful to have an update on the local plan as its going to Cabinet next week please, and it would be useful to have an idea what the plan is going forward please.

The Leader of the Council responded:

With the Local Plan, we have only been in administration since May, but its obviously a very important document which we need to look at and there will be changes. We will be reviewing it and have been having discussions with Officers. With the current Government wanting us to build so many new homes, but we think, and residents have said, the infrastructure is not there – so should we be building all these new homes when the infrastructure is not there. We need to look at schools, transport, shops that are needed in the communities were housing are being built. So we will be reviewing it and updating the Committee when we know of the changes.

The Chair asked the Leader of the Council:

At a previous scrutiny meeting, we agreed that relevant Portfolio Holder should be on the Committee of the Abbey Theatre Group, Its an extremely important community group in Nuneaton and it was recommended to Cabinet that the relevant portfolio holder attends the meetings on the Councils behalf. Can that be taken forward please?

The Leader of the Council responded:

Yes, we are currently looking at all the outside bodies and if that is the request of this committee then therefore the Portfolio Holder will be on that outside body and attend the meetings.

Panel Members felt it would be useful for the relevant Cabinet Members to attend future meetings where possible, and Members were also asked to email in questions beforehand if possible so answers could be given at the meeting.

BRP4 Integrated Performance Report – Third and Fourth Quarter 2025-26

A summary report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer provided Panel Members with appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel.

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- The way some data is presented is not always easy to analyse, or establish if information is based on data from last year or last month. For example with the footfall data percentages, Members queried if this was based on the last quarter, last year, performance targets etc.
- Some measures and descriptions within the report don't currently have trend data – this will improve as its built up over time, and there will then be comparable data.
- Reports are now tailored to each Scrutiny Panel, so each Panel may get different information/data.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be considered and noted.

BRP5 Annual S106 Monitoring Report

A report of the Assistant Director for Planning gave Panel Members an opportunity to scrutinise the effectiveness of the Council's current S106 monitoring arrangements and spending of S106 monies.

Public Speaker: Councillor L. Cvetkovic

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Queries about the software enabling area based reporting so residents and Ward Councillors can see what has been invested across the Borough. It is hoped the new system will be able to provide some sort of breakdown and the new software should be installed by the end of the year.
- Ensuring all S106 monies are collected so developers do not get away with things. Concerns about money being lost and not spent.
- Transparency in relation to where money is going, at the moment it is unclear as to where money is going/what project.
- How S106 money is allocated, and the fact there are time limits before money is lost.
- Recruitment underway for a new Officer who will look at S106 and can be more proactive and on top of spend deadlines, prioritising where necessary.
- Once the new system has been installed, a briefing note can be provided to Members on the system, and how to access the information.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be considered and noted, and Panel Members views be noted by Officers.

BRP6 Abbey Theatre Lease Update

A report of the Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration provided the Panel with an update on the progression of Lease arrangements for Abbey Theatre/Nuneaton Arts CIO as recommended by Cabinet.

Public Speaker: Councillor C. Watkins

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Income comparisons with other theatres – need more information on expenditure and profits for comparison, and comparisons with leasehold venues as well as freehold.
- It was recognised that the Abbey Theatre is more of a community theatre rather than commercial, with lots of shows being community led by local groups and available to the local Scouts and youth groups/dance clubs to use.
- The new administration advised they will be reviewing the contracts and leases in place for a number of venues, and are keen on transparency.
- Next steps – Officers will be taking this item to Cabinet as a full report and the issue is on the Forward Plan.
- As part of the report to Cabinet, Panel Members requested that Cabinet be recommended to refer the matter back to scrutiny.

RESOLVED that

- a) the update be considered and noted; and

- b) as part of the report going to Cabinet, Officers advise Cabinet Members that this Panel have requested the item be referred back to the Scrutiny Panel.

BRP7 Regeneration Projects Update

A report of the Assistant Director – Economy and Regeneration provided the Panel with an update on the current progress being made with the Town Centre Development and projects and any future proposed redevelopment in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Public Speaker: Councillor C. Watkins

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Bridge for Living – planning has gone in and contractors and cabins etc are due to come back on site late July/early August (pending planning approval).
- EV charging points – a site visit by the successful contractors took place on 11th June 2026, an update on installation dates will be emailed to Members via Committee Services.
- Public event area – awaiting final drawings for Padel, this will then be going to Planning.
- A structural survey has taken place on the bank and it is structurally sound.
- Concerns about money lost due to the Cinema, and a need to learn from any past mistakes.
- It was noted that the college lease still needs signing.
- Before the next scrutiny meeting, it was requested that a site visit be arranged for Panel Members to view the Grayson Place site.
- Bedworth Market – monies have been spent in relation to regeneration of the market. Believe in Bedworth also have funding to further improve the area.

RESOLVED that

- a) the information contained within the report be scrutinised and the report be noted; and
- b) **IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that any outstanding leases be reviewed.

BRP8 Forward Plan

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

The Panel discussed and asked questions on the following:

- Local Government Reform – it was felt this should be on the Local Plan for Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

BRP9 Work Programme 2026-2027

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2026-2027.

RESOLVED that the 2025-2026 work programme be approved.

BRP10 **Work Programme Suggestion Form – Queensbury Review**

The Panel discussed a work programme suggestion form which had been received.

RESOLVED that the work programme suggestion form be approved and the item added to the Work Programme, for Officers to report on consultants costs and what money has been spent on.

Chair