

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND LEISURE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

18th June 2026

A meeting of the Environment, Health and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 18th June 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton.

Present

Councillor S. Markham (Chair)

Councillors: R. Brill, C. Cape, S. Finch, B. Hughes, P. Smith, C. Watkins and M. Wright

Absent: Councillor B. Pandher

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

EHL1 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Leisure OSP meeting held on 26th March 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.

EHL2 Declarations of Interest

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

EHL3 Questions to Cabinet

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health Councillor B. Greenwood was in attendance, the following questions were asked and the answers including the written responses after the meeting are shown below.

Question 1: Councillor Hughes asked the following question to Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health:

I have two questions, firstly I have received the Dashboard update from Strategic Director – Kevin Hollis, would the Portfolio Holder confirm in phase 2 of Bedworth Physical Activity Hub if any bats were found in the building and how the contractors are dealing with this?

Secondly question, has asbestos been found in the building and how much has this cost the council?

Councillor B. Greenwood, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health responded as follows:

A visit from the ecological department was made to the building, advised to wait until after breeding season has finished but it has now been checked and signed off that there are no bats.

For the Bedworth Leisure centre, it is the third day of demolition, the building is still half in tact but no asbestos has been found at this point and I am not sure of the costs.

Further written response from the Portfolio Holder received after the meeting:

Thank you for your enquiry, no Bats were found as part of the ecology work undertaken in May for the old Bedworth Leisure Centre. Therefore, the demolition works commenced on Monday 15th June.

Yes, asbestos was found in the old Bedworth Leisure Centre, as expected due to the age and building material used at the time of construction in the 1970's. The contractor (BAM) following the closure of the site undertook full intrusive surveys and assessments as required. Additional costs from the original assumptions in the contract were required. The roof lining material and following grounds works being undertaken; in developing the new car park a single site (at this time) of buried asbestos was uncovered. The costs over and above project assumption have been £23K (to date), which is covered by the project contingency /approved project fund as reported to Cabinet on 4th March 2026.

Councillor P. Smith commented that an investigation should have taken place prior to demolition as part of health and safety checks.

Councillor B. Greenwood replied that she would check on asbestos and costs and get a response back to the panel.

Further written response from the Portfolio Holder received after the meeting:

This was undertaken by the contractor and provided all the necessary reports to meet legislation required.

EHL4 Health and Wellbeing Strategy

A report of the Director of Public Health submitted the annual report to the Panel. Jane Coates (JC) – Head of Inequalities and Public Health Commissioning attended to present the report in conjunction with the Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture.

The following points were raised and summarised below:

- A panel member observed that there needs to be data surrounding the strategy demonstrating what can be delivered and to be used as a benchmark to measure against. JC acknowledged that there does need to be supporting data and the key is to identify projects that data can be sought from. A lot of work is in progress for example Suicide Prevention, a Suicide Surveillance Officer has been recruited to look through death certificates and seek out any patterns and trends that are driven by a particular activity. Similar with childhood obesity it is identifying specific projects where data could be derived from.
- A panel member commented that there have been no improvements to the JNSA, there is still obesity, people in the borough die earlier, higher rates of cancer. Gambling addiction can lead to depression and suicide and yet residents have to travel to outside of the Borough before they can be seen by a health professional. Suicide Services need to be more local. Walks and cycle routes are not promoted on the NBBC website, need money and time spent promoting them. The hospital discharge protocol needs reviewing; people have been discharged to the town hall to help improve discharge

figures. JC acknowledged panel members comments and responded that gambling in April 2026 received £111k to look at gambling related harms and look at prevention opportunities.

- A panel member commented that he agreed with previous comments. In addition, he raised that incentives are needed for school meals to be nutritious as health habits start from a young age. GP practices are oversubscribed and the population is increasing. There is no multi-disciplinary approach to health they are all deviated. JC acknowledged that it is a real challenge and there is not enough funding. The purpose of the board is to bring influence and work together to commission different services.
- A co-opted member commented that the report demonstrated a good approach in trying to address issues and it was positive to see mental health information being included.
- A panel member commented that a strategic approach is positive, but it takes 3-5years to enact. Advocate the use of green spaces and use of the walking routes. Reactivating footpaths in the county are quick wins but there seems to be barriers in getting them accessible. The AD – Recreation and Culture responded that they work closely with Active Travel and look at how accessibility can be improved by identifying strategic responsibilities.
- A panel member highlighted that in the report it states maternity services are difficult to access for some ethnic groups and asked how difficult it was to access these groups? JC advised it can be difficult as often they do not always declare they are pregnant for the impact it may have such as getting accommodation/employment.
- A panel member also asked how the 80% Place Universal Investment funding will be distributed to Nuneaton and Bedworth. The AD – Recreation and Culture advised it will be focused on community engagement and physical activity to improve services over a longer term.
- A panel member commented that cycling is not just a leisure activity but a way of getting from A to B an investment in cycle tracks would be valuable to residents.

RESOLVED that

- a) an update on Active Travel from Warwickshire County Council and an update on cycle/walking routes.
- b) the cycle and walking routes be more publicised to residents.

EHL5

Integrated Performance Report Quarter 3 and Quarter 4

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 panel raised the following points:

- Panel members raised concerns that data and trends were presented but in some cases, there are no targets in order to measure performance. The Risk Management and Performance Officer advised that some departments have gone through lean reviews to create efficiencies therefore in those instances targets are not set as the focus is on service improvements.
- The panel members requested data on Passport to Leisure and Leisure Contractor and the Grounds Maintenance Contract. The AD – Recreation and Culture advised that data for these would be coming to OSP, the leisure operator will be attending two meetings and the Ground Maintenance contractor would also attend OSP with more data.
- A panel member queried the combined recycling figure being 37.55% and the waste and incineration is 67.7%. The AD - Environment and Enforcement advised that it is a different type of waste for each figure, there are different waste streams 1) composting 2) waste for incineration 3) recycling, as a council we are responsible for the collection but not the disposal of waste this comes under Warwickshire County Council.
- A panel asked about the soft market testing for grounds maintenance and mapping of borough so when the contract is agreed the council have a map of the grounds owned by NBBC. The AD – Recreation and Culture advised that soft market testing is underway as recommended by the Member Working Party and the mapping is currently being progressed and a new officer has been recruited to help with this.

RESOLVED that

- a) the report be noted; and
- b) the Integrated Performance Reports include targets and numbers (not just percentages) for all service areas that report to Environment, Leisure and Health OSP

EHL6 Museum Update

The Museum Officer presented an update report to the panel on the Museum activities for 2025/26.

The panel raised the following summarised points:

- A panel member raised that in the report there is no detail in respect of expenditure e.g. running costs/staffing etc. The Museum Officer advised that this is not usually detailed in this report and comes under the corporate budget setting process. In respect of income the museum has reduced its opening hours which impacts on income. The museum provides a valuable source of support in the operation of the parks, it is able to give first aid and has public toilets, it also supports the economic development of the town centre and contributes towards footfall.
- A panel member advised that he had recently visited the museum and could see as detailed in the report how the museum is a valuable asset to the community.
- A panel member asked if the registry office was still using office space next to the museum as he had been advised that some residents were having to go Rugby. The Officer advised that yes the registry office is still operational

however it comes under Warwickshire County Council. They pay rent and costs of heating. The tearoom also occupies a part of the building and is operational and leased to a private business holder.

- It was suggested that panel members are invited to the museum to showcase what they do and show past plans of redevelopment that had to be placed on hold.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

EHL7 **Kerbside Recycling and Refuse Collection**

The Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement presented to the panel the data on kerbside recycling and refuse collection

The following summarised points were raised:

- A panel member had seen in the press empty vape cartridges causing waste vehicle fires and asked if NBBC had experienced this and how much were any costs associated with it and are NBBC engaging with shops who sell them. The AD advised they had not had any vehicle fires and advised that shops have a requirement to provide a take back scheme if the cartridges are a certain size. There is a dedicated webpage on the website for vapes but we will look at promoting it.
- A panel member raised that the recycling centre only accept 2 sheets of asbestos per month, is there any way to review this. The AD advised that this is a WCC function for disposal of waste but will raise this at the next Warwickshire Waste Partnership meeting.
- A panel member raised about increasing the recycling rates and increase awareness about what we can recycle e.g a sticker on bin. The AD advised that a few local trials have been completed but sticker on the bin is an option, will have to take it back.
- A panel member queried food waste collection progress. The AD advised that a small food waste bin will be provided to residents that will be collected weekly. This is a legislative requirement. They are also looking at different ways of getting the message out to residents e.g TikTok. For commercial food waste this came into force a year earlier but as yet there has not been much uptake from businesses nor enforcement from the government for not delivering.
- A panel member asked about how many subscribers for the green bin collection. The AD – Environment and Enforcement advised there is around 20k subscribers each paying £45 per household. WCC do run workshops around home composting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

EHL8 **Forward Plan**

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

The following points were raised:

- A panel member raised a concern that there is a gap in oversight in the allocation of S106 monies and some being used in the regeneration programme and a 23K in Biodiversity fund that hasn't been spent. It was advised that this was discussed in a different OSP but that an officer has

been recruited who will be looking at the allocation of s106 and tracking what is remaining.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

EHL9 **Work Programme**

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

RESOLVED that

- a) the work programme be updated to include Lawn Burial Provision and approved;
- b) an update be provided on the progress of the Lawn Burial recommendations approved at Cabinet

EHL10 **Any Other Items**

None

Chair