Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
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Date: 18 September 2026
Our Ref: SPB/SA

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the **SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER BOARD** will be held on Friday 18 September 2026 at 12.30 pm, Committee Room A, Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA.

Yours faithfully

TOM SHARDLOW

Chief Executive Officer

To: All Members of the Simplification Pathfinder Board:

Sean Farnell (Chair), Marion Plant (Vice-Chair).
Councillors: Jake Groves (NBBC), TBC (NBBC), Jennifer Warren (WCC)
Alison Thompson, Jet Jones, Jodie Gosling (MP), Les Ratcliffe, Lindsey Randle, Marion Plant, Rachel Taylor (MP) and Lynsey Smith.

A G E N D A

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

   Please make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. APOLOGIES - to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES – of the meeting held on 12 June 2026 attached (Page 4)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

   Declaring interests at meetings
   If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non- pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

   Arrangements have been made for interests that are declared regularly by Board Members to be appended to the agenda **(Page 7).** Any interest noted in the Schedule at the back of the agenda papers will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Committee Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Board Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.

   There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

   1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the Board Member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the Board Member must inform the Chair of the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.

   2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Council's Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation need to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

5. HIGHLIGHT REPORT – presented by NBBC.

6. COMMUNICATION UPDATES – presented by NBBC

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Recommended 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 (iii) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

9. RISK REGISTER – presented by NBBC.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11/12/2026– Location TBC

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER BOARD **12 June 2026**

A meeting of the Simplification Pathfinder Board was held on Friday 12 June 2026. The meeting was held in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA.

Present: Sean Farnell (Chair) Marion Plant (NWSLC) – Vice Chair, Garry Palmer (WCC), Councillor Jake Groves, Jodie Gosling (MP)

Officers in attendance: Tom Shardlow (NBBC), Jonathan White (NBBC), Salewa A-Ogunleye (NBBC) - Mins

Apologies: Alison Thompson (WCAVA), Rachel Taylor, Nicky King, Les Ratcliffe, Dawn Dawnson

SPB21 Chair's welcome and announcements

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

SPB22 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2026, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

SPB23 Declarations of Interests

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

SPB24 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 and performance is improving. A strengthened commercial team is in place; weekday corporate business is supporting the hotel and weekend occupancy strategies are being developed. Coventry's Premier League status may support commercial performance.
  Phase 2 – Construction contract with BAM is complete; retention/defects period to continue. Design and costing work is underway for amendments including:
  i. Reconfiguration/extension of car parking to retain 120 spaces while accommodating outdoor paddle courts.
  ii. Division of the food court area to meet anchor tenant specifications and allow a second tenant to occupy the remaining space.
- Digital Skills & Innovation Centre – College contractors are on site for kitchen fit-out; lease drafting is with legal teams. Officers are following up to expedite completion ahead of the academic year.
- George Eliot Visitors Centre – Delivery delayed due to power supply issues arising from ownership changes of adjacent licensed premises. The Visitor

Centre may need to bring a new power supply at added cost; funding to secure this is under consideration.
The board requested a meeting with the George Eliot group, funders and National Grid to map timelines and clarify funding options.

- Saints – JJ to update on the Saint project, follow up with JJ was suggested. Lease close to completion.
- Parks Revival – Parks Revival team finalising evaluations; decisions and timings are pending, with a July commencement window referenced for some activity. Funding considerations remain important.
- E-mobility – Concession model supplier selected via procurement; mobilisation is underway. Site visits from contractors were positive. Existing ducting is in place; confirmation awaited on exact installation timelines and any additional provision above the currently planned capacity. Contract includes KPIs and downtime/repair response requirements (e.g. 24-hour repair target).
  Board requested timeline confirmation and marketing plans for first charge.
- Bedworth Physical Activity Hub – Main building complete and operational. Old site demolition progressing after asbestos and bat surveys confirmed manageable conditions. Early usage figures are strong, exceeding forecasts.
  Board requested formal usage numbers to be presented.
- Bridge to Living – Planning required splitting due to conservation area constraints. Detailed planning submission made; environmental surveys completed where required. Contractors likely to return to site subject to planning; anticipated contractor mobilisation and construction timeline aimed at end of July (subject to approvals).
  Coordination with other town centre construction (Debenhams site, Devolution Group work) is ongoing to reduce traffic disruption.

SPB25 **Communication Updates**

JW provided some general communication updates;

- Constraints and approach
  Formal announcements of operators (food & beverage, college lease, etc.) are restricted until leases are signed; need to balance publicity with contractual confidentiality.
  Board emphasised the importance of continuous positive messaging to residents about progress, even where announcements are embargoed.
- Proposed communications activity
  Use visuals, updated brochures, on-site hoardings and social media (including non-corporate, creative content for platforms such as TikTok) to share progress and keep the public informed.
  Identify a communications coordinator: an officer in the regeneration team was proposed to lead a creative, non-corporate campaign; internal comms and partners (college multimedia, student voices) to be engaged.
- Revisit original marketing budget and assess reinstatement or use of internal comms resources.

Board agreed that communications activity must be more visible and continuous.

Board requested a coordinated communications plan with key milestones and actions, dates where possible, and suggested creative content and channel plan.

SPB26 **<u>Any Other Business</u>**

- Transparency and business case
  The board requested officers to prepare a transparent report for Cabinet/Council revisiting the original 2019 business case versus current delivery and costs, showing what was promised, what has been delivered and the financial position. This is intended to address community questions and build confidence.
  The report should redact commercially sensitive pricing where appropriate but provide clear program-level transparency.
- Site appearance / temporary mitigation
  Concerns raised about empty spaces around Grayson Place impacting perceptions, safeguarding and attractiveness to users and students. Suggestions included temporary soft landscaping, screening or tidying to reduce negative impact until permanent works are funded and delivered.
  Officers to prepare options costed for temporary and medium-term treatments (e.g. seeding, screening, soft landscaping, lighting/CCTV implications) to present to the board and to Cabinet as required.
- Positive progress
  Board noted significant delivery progress (hotel, college, leisure, food hall, business centre) compared with earlier years and recommended focusing comms on these positives while being open about challenges.

SPB26 <u>Exclusion of the Public and Press</u>

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.

<u>CONFIDENTIAL ITEM</u>

SPB28 <u>Risk register</u>

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

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Chair of the Board

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.

SCHEDULE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - TOWN DEAL BOARD

Name of Board Member	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
Alison Thompson	• Area Manager, Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action • Service Level Agreement between WCAVA and NBBC for services to support the voluntary and community sector • WCAVA Leases with NBBC: Newtown Centre, Newtown Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4HG and 1 Donnithorne Avenue, Nuneaton, CV10 7AF • Director, Arts in Arts CIC, lease with NBBC for 22 Abbey Street, Nuneaton CV11 5BT • Spouse/Partner: A-Dec Dental UK Ltd • Owner of a property in Nuneaton		
Amanda Bourne	• Managing Director, FindaBiz Ltd	• Vice Chair, Nuneaton BID Steering Group • Secretary, Nuneaton Business Alliance • FSB Representative Nuneaton and Bedworth • Representative Warwickshire Town Forum • TC Partnership	
Catherine Marks	None	None	None
Councillor Jan Matecki	None	None	None
Councillor Nicola King	• Employed by Love Hair and Beauty		

Councillor Steve Hey	Director: - Heywire Ltd - Brilliant Bookings Ltd - Member of the Labour Party - National Trust - CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) - Royal Photographic Society Representative on the following Outside Bodies: • West Midlands Employers Board (NBBC representative) • Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board • West Midlands Employers • Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum		
Jenni Northcote	• George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust - Director of Strategy, Service Improvement and Primary Care		
Jet Jones	• Director of Regeneration and Community Transformation of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Church of England. • CEO of Together for Change - Together for Change lease Saints, Nuneaton • Spouse is curate of St Nicholas Parish Church and St James Parish Church, Nuneaton • Daughter works for Creative Live • Son works for Walsgrave Mega Bowl	• Trustee of Bedworth Parish Church	
Jodie Gosling (MP)	• Paid role as Member of Parliament for Nuneaton	• Unpaid directorship of Jelly Beans Nurture Nursery. • Unpaid trustee Lifelines Arley Whitacre, a small charity.	

Leo Pollak	•	•	
Les Ratcliffe	• Managing Director - Community Engagement Limited • Director - Engineering in Motion Ltd. • Non-Executive Director - Verity Housing • Spouse/Partner: Director Community Engagement Ltd	• Chairman – Coventry & Warwickshire Place Board • Board Member – CWLEP Growth HUB • Deputy Lieutenant – West Midlands Lieutenancy • Board Member – Coventry & Warwickshire NSPCC Business Group	
Lindsey Randle	• MIRA • Spouse/Partner: MIRA • Owner of a property in Hartshill		
Marion Plant (Vice Chair)	• Principal & Chief Executive, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (NWSLC) • North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College Property/land • Spouse/Partner: Relations Manager, Christian Aid	• The Midland Academies Trust (07191874), Chief Executive Officer and Director (company dormant, no financial interest) • Skills Advisory Panel, West Midlands Combined Authority, Member • Trustee, National Council Church of England • Chair, Director and Trustee WorldSkills UK (0210423) • Director The Skills Show Ltd (05880193) • Local Skills Accountability Board, Member (Coventry and Warwickshire and Leicester and Leicestershire) • Colleges West Midlands (NWSLC) is a member • Coventry Skills Board member • Aoc Portfolio Group for Climate Change, Member • Coventry University Lifelong Steering Group, Chair • Health and Social Care Skills for Care Group	

		(Coventry University led), Member • Health and Social Care Future Skills Board (NHS), Member • P1k Programme Board (NHS), Member	
Rachel Taylor (MP)	None	None	None
Sean Farnell FCA (Chair)	• Burgis & Bullock, Chartered Accountants • Burgis & Bullock Management Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock Ltd (dormant) • CCWP Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock (Audit) Ltd (dormant) • Burgis & Bullock Corporate Finance Ltd	• Coventry & Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust Ltd • Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd • Growth Hub Business Solutions Ltd • Director of Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub Ltd Board	
Lynsey Smith	• Deputy Principal of King Edward VI College, Nuneaton		