Nuneaton & Bedworth

United to Achieve

# AGENDA
# for
# THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

to be held on

## Wednesday 18th November 2026

Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**
Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton,
Warwickshire, CV11 5AA

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Date: 10th November 2026

Our Ref: KB

To: All Members of the Borough Council

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on **Wednesday 18th November, 2026, at 6.00 p.m.**

In accordance with Procedure Rule Part 4A, Paragraph 4.3.1(iv) of the Council's Constitution, the Head of Paid Service is calling an Extraordinary Meeting following a request from Councillors G. Finch, B. Greenwood, S. Coates-Jarman, M. Bannister and J. Groves

All members of the Council are summoned to attend to determine the business of the meeting.

Yours faithfully

TOM SHARDLOW

Chief Executive

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The Council is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for our employees, customers and elected members. As such, please be advised that any form of abuse, aggression, or disrespectful behaviour towards our team will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

# A G E N D A

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Please exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs. If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

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

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in matters under consideration pursuant to Council procedure Rule 4A.2(iii).

**a) 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 so that interests that are declared regularly by members can be viewed in a schedule on the Council website (Councillor Declarations of Interests) Any interest noted in the schedule on the website will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Democratic Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those 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 member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform 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 Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.**

**Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon**

**as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.**

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Audit and Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

**Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.**

**Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council's Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.**

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS - to receive announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - (maximum 20 minutes).
to hear and answer questions by any resident of the Borough concerning the item on the agenda (maximum 20 minutes). A copy of the Procedure Rule 9 is attached **(Page 10)** and this is not subject to debate. A question or statement can be submitted using the link below which will send your submission to the Chief Executive and Member Services: Ask a question at full council. NB – For an Extraordinary Council meeting the question/statement must be in connection with the business listed in the agenda.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS – copy of the requisition is attached **(Page 12)**

**a) Declaration of Council Housing Crisis – Recognising Failure, Restoring Trust**

This Council notes

1. That on 30 September 2026 the Regulator of Social Housing published its first ever inspection judgement of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as a landlord, awarding a consumer grade of C3 – meaning the regulator found serious failings in the delivery of the consumer standards and that significant improvement is needed.

2. That the regulator found serious failings in gas, fire and water safety. Gas safety compliance fell to just 80% earlier this year, and the

regulator found the Council has yet to show the improvements in gas safety management needed to stop further problems arising.

3. During the inspection, over 1,600 fire safety remedial actions and over 1,000 water safety remedial actions were found to be overdue – which the regulator itself described as serious failings.

4. That in 2025 the Council received audit outcomes on gas and electrical safety concluding only limited assurance.

5. The Council was found to have no repairs policy, to give tenants no information on target timescales for repairs, and to be unable to accurately report how long repairs take – meaning it could not assure tenants that repairs were being completed on time.

6. That a repairs backlog was self-referred to the regulator in 2024, yet inspectors found limited evidence of progress and limited reporting on repairs performance over the previous two years.

7. It has been reported that around 4,700 council homes have been waiting for repairs, some since 2023.

8. That the Council's own figure for non-decent homes did not consider all the criteria for non-decency, with some homes with known hazards left out of the count.

9. 64% of the Council's homes do not have a valid Energy Performance Certificate, and no detailed plan existed to address this.

10. The regulator found limited performance reporting, out-of-date policies, fragmented data systems and systems "not fit for purpose", together with weaknesses in the Council's readiness for new requirements to investigate and repair hazards in tenants' homes.

11. The regulator criticised the Council for failing to inform it promptly of material issues, and found further weaknesses in complaints handling and in meeting the diverse needs of tenants.

12. That the regulator will now engage intensively with the Council and has said it will keep the use of its enforcement powers under review.

13. That these failings affect more than 5,600 council homes and the families who rely on this Council to keep them safe.

<u>This Council believes</u>

1. That these failings did not happen overnight. They developed on the watch of the previous Labour administration, whose Leader, Cllr Chris Watkins, held direct responsibility for housing as Cabinet portfolio holder.

2. The previous administration knew of the repairs backlog by 2024 at the latest and was told by auditors in 2025 that gas and electrical safety offered only limited assurance. Despite those warnings, it failed to get a grip on the backlog, failed to put a basic repairs policy in place, let thousands of fire and water safety actions go overdue, and allowed gas safety – a matter of life and death – to slip to unacceptable levels.

3. That the previous Leader and his Cabinet completely failed the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth who live in council homes. They betrayed the trust of those tenants and destroyed public confidence in the Council's housing service.

4. That the new Reform UK administration has inherited this failure, has brought it into the open, and will not hide from it. Tenants deserve honesty about what went wrong and a serious commitment to put it right.

5. That the blame for these failings lies with political leadership, not with the front-line officers and staff who work hard for tenants every day, and whose efforts will be central to recovery.

<u>This Council resolves</u>

1. To formally accept the findings of the Regulator of Social Housing in full and to apologise unreservedly to every council tenant who has been let down.

2. To commission a full, minded review of the housing service and housing portfolio covering stock condition, safety compliance, repairs, systems and data, complaints, and governance – with findings reported to Cabinet as soon as they are available.

3. To develop and publish a clear Housing Improvement and Recovery Plan, with measurable milestones, whose stated ambition is to lift the Council from C3 to C2 and ultimately to C1, the highest grade the regulator awards.

4. To make health and safety compliance – including gas, fire, electrical, water and asbestos safety – the first and non-negotiable priority of that plan, with the aim of reaching and sustaining full compliance.

5. To restore confidence through transparency: by reporting progress regularly to tenants, to this Council and to the public, and by publishing housing performance data openly.

6. To put tenants' voices at the heart of the recovery by involving them directly in shaping and monitoring the plan.

7. To commit to full and prompt candour with the Regulator of Social Housing from this day forward.

8. To send a Letter to every council tenant in Nuneaton and Bedworth: the failures of the past will not be the future. This administration is committed to fixing what was broken and to rebuilding the trust that was lost.

**b) <u>Restoring Local Democracy in Planning</u>**

Proposed by: Cllr George Finch, Leader of the Council
Seconded by: Cllr Shane Coates-Jarman

<u>This Council notes</u>

1. That the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, made by the Labour Government under section 54 of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, came into force on 31 October 2026.

2. That the Regulations impose a single national scheme of delegation on every planning authority in England, replacing schemes that councils previously set for themselves.

3. That applications listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations must now be decided by officers, with no route for elected members to bring them to committee.

4. That applications in Schedule 2 may only reach the Planning Committee if they pass a nationally set gateway test, and that local referral and call-in arrangements of the kind this Council previously operated are no longer permitted.

5. That the Regulations also cap planning committees at a maximum of 13 members.

6. The applications now removed from member scrutiny can include the smaller-scale proposals that matter most to residents day to day, such as conversions to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and changes of use of shop units in our town centres.

7. That this Council has already amended its Constitution at its meeting on 30th September 2026, as it was legally obliged to do, and that any decision not taken in line with the national scheme could be open to legal challenge.

8. That the Secretary of State is required to review the Regulations by 31 October 2028.

<u>This Council believes</u>

1. That the National Scheme of Delegation is undermining local democracy, and that it is wrong.

2. That residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth elect councillors to stand up for their communities, and that stripping those councillors of a say over what is built on their doorstep breaks the link between the ballot box and the decisions that shape their neighbourhoods.

3. That a one-size-fits-all rulebook written in Whitehall cannot understand the pressures facing our borough, including the concentration of HMOs in some wards and the changing character of our high streets

4. Those decisions taken behind closed doors, without public debate in committee, will erode residents' trust in the planning system.

5. That this Labour Government has chosen centralisation over community, and that this Council wholeheartedly disagrees with the National Scheme of Delegation and calls for it to be withdrawn.

<u>This Council resolves</u>

1. To place on record its strong opposition to the National Scheme of Delegation and its disgust at the removal of elected councillors from planning decisions in this borough.

2. To request the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to explore commissioning independent external legal and planning advice on every lawful option available to the Council to restore democratic scrutiny of planning decisions, including but not limited to:

   a. the fullest lawful use of the Schedule 2 gateway, so that every eligible application can reach committee;
   b. the use of Article 4 Directions to bring HMO conversions and other changes of use under planning control in the wards most affected;
   c. strengthening Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document policies on HMOs, town centre uses and the character of our high streets, so that officer decisions are bound by locally agreed policy;
   d. formal arrangements for ward councillors to make representations on applications in their wards and to have those representations reported in officer decisions;
   e. whether any aspect of the Regulations, or their application, is open to legal challenge.

3. That the findings of this advice be reported to Cabinet within three months, together with recommendations for action.

4. That the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the terms set out in the accompanying letter, setting out this Council's opposition and calling for the Regulations to be withdrawn or amended so that councils can once again set their own schemes of delegation.

5. To send a copy of that letter to the Members of Parliament whose constituencies cover the borough, the Local Government Association and the District Councils' Network.

6. To respond in full to the Government's statutory review of the Regulations, due by 31 October 2028.

**NOTE: Points of Order and Personal Explanation can only be raised in accordance with Council Procedure Rules which are set out below:-**

**Point of order**

A Member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law. The Member must indicate the rule of law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The Mayor shall consider the Point of Order and, if necessary, take advice on the matter from the Monitoring Officer and, shall then rule on the Point of Order raised. There shall be no discussion or challenge to the advice given or the Mayors decision in the meeting. If a Member persistently seeks to raise a Point of Order but is unable to identify the procedure rule or legal principle infringed then, after having been warned by the Mayor, any further abuse of this procedure rule shall not be tolerated, and the Mayor shall move that the Member not be heard further pursuant to Procedure Rule 4.19.13. The ruling of the Mayor on the matter will be final.

**Personal explanation**

A Member may make a point of personal explanation at any time. The Mayor will hear them at the end of the speech of the Member speaking at the time the point is raised. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the Member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

**Agenda Item No 5**

## 4A.9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 4.9.1 General

At each Ordinary Meeting or Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 20 minutes (which can be extended at the discretion of the Mayor) shall be set aside for questions or statements from the public gallery by any resident of the Borough in relation to matters in respect of which the Council has powers or duties, or which affect the Borough. In the case of an Extra Ordinary Meeting the question or statement must relate to the business of that meeting.

### 4.9.2 Notice of Questions and Statements

No such question shall be asked, or statement made, unless it shall have been delivered in writing to the Head of Paid Service no later than 12 noon, two working days, before the meeting of the Council.

### 4.9.3 Scope of Questions and Statements

The Head of Paid Service may reject a question or statement if it:

a) is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which doesn't affect the Borough;

b) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;

c) is substantially the same as a question or statement which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months;

d) requires or involves the disclosure of confidential or exempt information; or

e) It is not a question nor a statement, as provided for in these Procedure Rules.

4.9.4 The Mayor will invite the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair to give a reply. Such reply shall not exceed five minutes. In the case of a question, on the discretion of the Mayor, a supplementary question may be asked if arising directly from the reply, provided that the original allocation of five minutes is not exceeded. The Mayor may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in paragraph 4.9.3 above

4.9.5 **Time Limit and Number of Questions**

No question or statement shall exceed three minutes. In the event of there being more than one question or statement, the Head of Paid Service will ensure that questions and statements are dealt with in the order received. At the expiry of the 20 minute period, or such period as may be agreed by the Mayor, or after the reply to the final question or statement, whichever shall first occur, the Council will proceed to the next business.

4.9.6 **Record of Questions and Statements**

The question or statement and the reply given shall be minuted.

4.9.7 **Reference of Question to the Cabinet or a Committee**

Unless the Mayor decides otherwise, no discussion will take place on any question, but any Member may move that a matter raised by a question be referred to the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee. Once seconded, such a motion will be voted on without discussion.

4.9.8 Any question or statement which cannot be dealt with during Public Participation because of lack of time will be dealt with in writing, and recorded in accordance with paragraph 4.9.6.

# Motion: Declaration of Council Housing Crisis – Recognising Failure, Restoring Trust

Proposed by: Cllr James Bartlett

Seconded by: Cllr George Finch, Leader of the Council

## This Council notes

1. That on 30 September 2026 the Regulator of Social Housing published its first ever inspection judgement of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council as a landlord, awarding a consumer grade of C3 – meaning the regulator found serious failings in the delivery of the consumer standards and that significant improvement is needed.
2. That the regulator found serious failings in gas, fire and water safety. Gas safety compliance fell to just 80% earlier this year, and the regulator found the Council has yet to show the improvements in gas safety management needed to stop further problems arising.
3. During the inspection, over 1,600 fire safety remedial actions and over 1,000 water safety remedial actions were found to be overdue – which the regulator itself described as serious failings.
4. That in 2025 the Council received audit outcomes on gas and electrical safety concluding only limited assurance.
5. The Council was found to have no repairs policy, to give tenants no information on target timescales for repairs, and to be unable to accurately report how long repairs take – meaning it could not assure tenants that repairs were being completed on time.
6. That a repairs backlog was self-referred to the regulator in 2024, yet inspectors found limited evidence of progress and limited reporting on repairs performance over the previous two years.
7. It has been reported that around 4,700 council homes have been waiting for repairs, some since 2023.
8. That the Council's own figure for non-decent homes did not consider all the criteria for non-decency, with some homes with known hazards left out of the count.
9. 64% of the Council's homes do not have a valid Energy Performance Certificate, and no detailed plan existed to address this.
10. The regulator found limited performance reporting, out-of-date policies, fragmented data systems and systems "not fit for purpose",

together with weaknesses in the Council's readiness for new requirements to investigate and repair hazards in tenants' homes.

11. The regulator criticised the Council for failing to inform it promptly of material issues, and found further weaknesses in complaints handling and in meeting the diverse needs of tenants.
12. That the regulator will now engage intensively with the Council and has said it will keep the use of its enforcement powers under review.
13. That these failings affect more than 5,600 council homes and the families who rely on this Council to keep them safe.

## This Council believes

1. That these failings did not happen overnight. They developed on the watch of the previous Labour administration, whose Leader, Cllr Chris Watkins, held direct responsibility for housing as Cabinet portfolio holder.
2. The previous administration knew of the repairs backlog by 2024 at the latest, and was told by auditors in 2025 that gas and electrical safety offered only limited assurance. Despite those warnings, it failed to get a grip on the backlog, failed to put a basic repairs policy in place, let thousands of fire and water safety actions go overdue, and allowed gas safety – a matter of life and death – to slip to unacceptable levels.
3. That the previous Leader and his Cabinet completely failed the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth who live in council homes. They betrayed the trust of those tenants and destroyed public confidence in the Council's housing service.
4. That the new Reform UK administration has inherited this failure, has brought it into the open, and will not hide from it. Tenants deserve honesty about what went wrong and a serious commitment to put it right.
5. That the blame for these failings lies with political leadership, not with the front-line officers and staff who work hard for tenants every day, and whose efforts will be central to recovery.

## This Council resolves

1. To formally accept the findings of the Regulator of Social Housing in full and to apologise unreservedly to every council tenant who has been let down.

2. To commission a full, minded review of the housing service and housing portfolio covering stock condition, safety compliance, repairs, systems and data, complaints, and governance – with findings reported to Cabinet as soon as they are available.

3. To develop and publish a clear Housing Improvement and Recovery Plan, with measurable milestones, whose stated ambition is to lift the Council from C3 to C2 and ultimately to C1, the highest grade the regulator awards.

4. To make health and safety compliance – including gas, fire, electrical, water and asbestos safety – the first and non-negotiable priority of that plan, with the aim of reaching and sustaining full compliance.

5. To restore confidence through transparency: by reporting progress regularly to tenants, to this Council and to the public, and by publishing housing performance data openly.

6. To put tenants' voices at the heart of the recovery by involving them directly in shaping and monitoring the plan.

7. To commit to full and prompt candour with the Regulator of Social Housing from this day forward.

8. To send a Letter to every council tenant in Nuneaton and Bedworth: the failures of the past will not be the future. This administration is committed to fixing what was broken and to rebuilding the trust that was lost.

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**
Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton,
Warwickshire, CV11 5AA

www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk
024 7637 6376

The Tenant
[Address line 1]
[Address line 2]
[Town],
Warwickshire,
[Postcode]

Enquiries to:
Councillor George Finch

Direct Email:
george.finch@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: [Date]

Dear Tenant

**Re: Your home, your safety, and my promise to you**

I am writing to you personally about the inspection of our council homes by the Regulator of Social Housing, published on 30 September.

I will be straight with you: the findings are serious. The regulator gave the council a C3 grade, the second-lowest it awards. It found failings in gas, fire and water safety, and in repairs. It also found that the council had not kept you or the regulator properly informed. Many of you have waited far too long for repairs, some since 2023. That is not good enough, and I am sorry.

These problems built up over several years. They are now out in the open, and I will not hide from them. I am taking personal responsibility for putting them right.

Here is what we are doing:

- **Safety comes first.** We are clearing overdue gas, fire, electrical and water safety work as our top priority.
- **A full review.** We are carrying out a top-to-bottom review of the housing service, covering repairs, systems, complaints and the condition of your homes.
- **A clear plan.** We will publish an improvement plan with clear deadlines. Our goal is to reach the regulator's highest grade, C1.
- **Regular updates.** You will hear from us regularly about our progress, not just when things go wrong.
- **Your voice.** We will involve tenants directly in shaping and checking this plan.

**If you have a safety concern right now:**

- If you smell gas, call the National Gas Emergency line on **0800 111 999** at any time.
- To report a repair, call **[repairs number]** or go to **[web address]**.

You deserve a safe, decent home and a council you can trust. I am determined to earn that trust back.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor George Finch**
Leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

# Motion: Restoring Local Democracy in Planning

Proposed by: Cllr George Finch, Leader of the Council

Seconded by: Cllr Shane Coates-Jarman

## This Council notes

1. That the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, made by the Labour Government under section 54 of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, came into force on 31 October 2026.

2. That the Regulations impose a single national scheme of delegation on every planning authority in England, replacing schemes that councils previously set for themselves.

3. That applications listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations must now be decided by officers, with no route for elected members to bring them to committee.

4. That applications in Schedule 2 may only reach the Planning Committee if they pass a nationally set gateway test, and that local referral and call-in arrangements of the kind this Council previously operated are no longer permitted.

5. That the Regulations also cap planning committees at a maximum of 13 members.

6. The applications now removed from member scrutiny can include the smaller-scale proposals that matter most to residents day to day, such as conversions to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and changes of use of shop units in our town centres.

7. That this Council has already amended its Constitution at its meeting on 30th September 2026, as it was legally obliged to do, and that any decision not taken in line with the national scheme could be open to legal challenge.

8. That the Secretary of State is required to review the Regulations by 31 October 2028.

## This Council believes

1. That the National Scheme of Delegation is undermining local democracy, and that it is wrong.

2. That residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth elect councillors to stand up for their communities, and that stripping those councillors of a say over what is built on their doorstep breaks the link between the ballot box and the decisions that shape their neighbourhoods.

3. That a one-size-fits-all rulebook written in Whitehall cannot understand the pressures facing our borough, including the concentration of HMOs in some wards and the changing character of our high streets.

4. Those decisions taken behind closed doors, without public debate in committee, will erode residents' trust in the planning system.

5. That this Labour Government has chosen centralisation over community, and that this Council wholeheartedly disagrees with the National Scheme of Delegation and calls for it to be withdrawn.

## This Council resolves

1. To place on record its strong opposition to the National Scheme of Delegation and its disgust at the removal of elected councillors from planning decisions in this borough.

2. To request the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to explore commissioning independent external legal and planning advice on every lawful option available to the Council to restore democratic scrutiny of planning decisions, including but not limited to:

a. the fullest lawful use of the Schedule 2 gateway, so that every eligible application can reach committee;

b. the use of Article 4 Directions to bring HMO conversions and other changes of use under planning control in the wards most affected;

c. strengthening Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Document policies on HMOs, town centre uses and the character of our high streets, so that officer decisions are bound by locally agreed policy;

d. formal arrangements for ward councillors to make representations on applications in their wards and to have those representations reported in officer decisions;

e. whether any aspect of the Regulations, or their application, is open to legal challenge.

3. That the findings of this advice be reported to Cabinet within three months, together with recommendations for action.

4. That the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the terms set out in the accompanying letter, setting out this Council's opposition and calling for the Regulations to be withdrawn or amended so that councils can once again set their own schemes of delegation.

5. To send a copy of that letter to the Members of Parliament whose constituencies cover the borough, the Local Government Association and the District Councils' Network.

6. To respond in full to the Government's statutory review of the Regulations, due by 31 October 2028.

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024 7637 6376

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities
and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Enquiries to:
Councillor George Finch

Direct Email:
george.finch@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: [date]

Dear Secretary of State

RE: The National Scheme of Delegation – an attack on local democracy in Nuneaton and Bedworth

I am writing as Leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, following a resolution of Full Council on 18 November 2026, to tell you plainly that this Council utterly rejects your Government's National Scheme of Delegation.

In May, the people of this borough voted for change. They voted for an Administration who would listen to them, fight for them and stand up to a Westminster establishment that has taken them for granted for far too long. Within months, your Government has handed the decisions that matter most on their streets to an unelected rulebook drafted in Whitehall.

Since 31 October, councillors here can no longer call in an application their residents are worried about. HMO conversions, shop units on our high streets turning into yet another vape shop or barber, and developments that change the character of whole neighbourhoods can now be waved through without a single elected member asking a single question in public. That is not efficiency. It is the removal of democracy from the planning system.

Residents do not knock on the door of a policy framework. They knock on the door of their councillor. When they ask us why the house next door has become a ten-bed HMO, or why their high street is losing the shops they actually use, "Whitehall says the officers decide" is not an answer they will accept, and nor should they.

This is the pattern of a Labour Government that talks about devolution while hoarding power at the centre. You tell councils to take responsibility

for their places, then strip away the tools we need to do it. The people of Nuneaton and Bedworth have been let down by Labour Government for years, and this is one more example of a Government that thinks it knows our borough better than the people who live here.

Full Council has resolved explore taking independent legal and planning advice on every lawful route to restore democratic scrutiny of planning decisions here, and we will use every one of them.

I therefore call on you to:

1. withdraw the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, or amend them so that councils can once again set their own schemes of delegation;

2. at the very least, restore the right of ward councillors to refer applications in their own wards to the planning committee;

3. bring forward the statutory review of the Regulations, rather than leaving it until October 2028, and commit to publishing the evidence on how they have affected local accountability.

I would welcome a meeting with you or your officials to discuss the impact on this borough, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor George Finch
Leader of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

cc: Members of Parliament for Nuneaton and for North Warwickshire and Bedworth; Local Government Association; District Councils' Network

Full council: 18th Nov









