A meeting of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} March, 2014.

**Present**

Councillor J. Glass – Chair


Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor S. Doughty and Councillor D. O’Brien.

430 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14\textsuperscript{th} November, 2013, be confirmed.

431 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor D. C. Navarro declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of his appointment as a Non-Executive Director of the George Eliot NHS Trust.

Councillors J. Sheppard and W.H. Sheppard declared an Other Interest in agenda item no. 8 by reason of their appointment as a Director of Wembrook Community Centre.

432 **Potential Cemetery Land – Eastboro Way**

The Panel considered a report from the Parks and Countryside Officer on the up to date position relating to the suitability of the land at Eastboro Way for the use as burial land.

Members made the following comments:

- concern that alternative sites for burial had not yet been identified. Cabinet be requested to investigate suitable land as a matter of urgency, and the Council should not wait until the publication of the Borough Plan to identify sites. All negotiations should be conducted in a legal, formal and transparent way.

- members be encouraged to suggest any potentially suitable sites.
other options be considered, including the compulsory purchase of any suitable land and the use of Council parks and open spaces for burial land.

- the re-use of graves only be considered as a last resort.

- the Muslim Community’s concerns over the allocation of burial land in Marston Lane cemetery and their preference for burial land in Nuneaton be noted. However, as the shortage of burial space impacted on all faiths and religions, the Panel felt that existing burial land should be allocated between the different faiths on a fair and equitable basis, taking into account demographics and the projected number of burials for different faiths.

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the report be noted and the above comments made at the meeting be noted; and

(b) Cabinet be asked to investigate alternative sites for use as burial land as a matter of urgency.

**Speakers:** Yaseen Ahmedabadi - Nuneaton Muslim Society and Nuneaton Muslim Society Funeral Directors.

Mr. Osman Sheikh – Minister of Religion representing the Nuneaton Khalifa Muslim Society.

**Strategic Performance Report – Third Quarter 2013/14**

The Director - Finance and Procurement and Governance and Performance Officer submitted a joint report seeking to provide appropriate performance measures and financial budget information for service areas within the scope of this Panel. The report also provided the Panel with appropriate information to monitor performance and finance information in order to address issues arising.

Various items marked ‘red’ were considered and concerns were raised as follows:

- a breakdown of costs in respect of Environmental Protection was requested to assist members in monitoring the service, and further information on the reduction in pest control service.

- information required on the effects of the changes in parking charges at the Pingles and Meadow Street car parks.
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- consideration be given to the introduction of performance indicators and benchmarking in respect of cemeteries, including comparisons between the estimated number of burials and the actual number of burials.

- the new working arrangements and monitoring of Glendale’s performance in order to improve performance was noted.

- concern that the Action Plan did not contain specific completion dates in respect of the Borough Plan. Work on the Borough Plan needed to move forward as it impacted on several areas of the Council.

- economic development should be promoted to re-vitalise Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres.

- the lack of availability of burial land should be included in the Strategic Risk Register.

- concern over members and officers not being able to use their own IT equipment in future could have serious operational and cost implications for the Council.

RESOLVED that the Operational Integrated Performance Report -Third Quarter 2013/14 and the Performance Indicators attached to the report and the requests and comments made at the meeting be noted.

434 **Allotment Update**

The Open Space & Play Development Officer submitted a report on the Allotment Action Plan 2013-17, which had been updated to reflect the current position as of 1st March, 2014.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

435 **Work Programme 2013/14**

The Panel was informed that the Work Programme 2013/14 had been completed.

RESOLVED that the completion of the work programme be noted.

436 **Any Other Items**

None