

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

INTERNAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

11th June, 2020

A meeting of the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 11th June, 2020. Due to Government guidance on social-distancing and the Covid-19 virus this meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

Present

Councillors J. Glass (Chair) and S. Gran (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J. Beaumont, S. Croft, S. Doughty, P. Elliott, K. Evans, J. Gutteridge, W. Hancox (Substitute for Councillor S. Doughty), L. Hocking, K. Kondakor, G. Pomfrett, A. Sargeant, J. Tandy, K. Wilson and Mrs D. Ross.

Apologies: Councillor S. Doughty and Mrs L. Price.

Due to technical difficulties, the Chair, Councillor J. Glass, was unable to join the meeting until 19:25 pm and did not take part in the consideration of nor vote on recommendations in regards to Agenda items 1 - 8. With the agreement of Committee Members, the first part of the meeting, which included consideration of Agenda Items 1 - 8, was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Councillor S. Gran.

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

I01 Chair's Announcements

The meeting was being live streamed and recorded for future publication on the Council's website.

I02 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2020, were submitted to the Panel for approval.

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

I03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor W. Hancock declared an interest in that his daughter was an employee of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. Councillor Hancox also declared an interest in regards to Agenda Item 7 in that he had a funeral plot reserved which was coming to end of its 30 year period.

Councillor J. Beaumont declared that his interests had changed as he was no longer a Board Member of Bulkington Village Centre.

Councillor K. Evans requested that his declarations of interest be amended, in that he was an employee of UK Parliament and not the House of Commons as stated in the Schedule.

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these Minutes, and as amended above.

104 **Monitoring of the Grounds Maintenance Contract**

The Acting Parks and Countryside Manager submitted a report to provide the Panel with information on the performance of the grounds maintenance contract provided by Glendale Grounds Management.

Appendix 1 to the report listed the significant work undertaken in mobilising for the new single grounds maintenance contract, which commenced on 1st November 2019, and Appendix 2 provided examples of the contractor's procurement of maintenance equipment.

The following actions were requested to be undertaken by officers:

- Councillor Evans be provided with additional information regarding examples of formal and informal sites;
- the contractor be informed of residents' concerns regarding recent inconsistent grass cutting on Coronation Walk, Nuneaton; and
- enquiries be made regarding the water feature in All Saints Square, Bedworth.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) thanks be expressed to Paul Daly, Parks and Countryside Manager for his many years of service to Nuneaton and Bedworth Council and that he be wished well in his retirement;
- c) a recommendation be made to Cabinet that Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council cease to recognise a nil return on a grounds maintenance satisfaction survey as a positive response.

Speakers: Councillor D. Brown

105 **Cemetery Regulations and Operations**

The Parks and Countryside Manager submitted a report to provide the Panel with proposed revised cemetery regulations, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, and also the basis to introduce additional fees related to the management and administration of the cemetery service, as set out at Appendix 1.

The following further information was requested to be provided to members:

- the number of current vacant burial plots in Nuneaton and Bedworth - Councillor Gutteridge; and
- confirmation whether residents will have to pay another fee to extend their burial plot reservation to take it from 30 to 50 years – Councillor Hancox.

RESOLVED that this document be used as a framework to go out to consultation with members, funeral directions, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and the Local Guild, to seek their feedback prior to finalising the policy and submitting recommendations to Cabinet.

Public Statement: Miss J. Hughes

106 **Monitoring of Borough Local Plan**

The Head of Planning submitted a report to provide the Panel with an up-to-date position in regards to land supply and housing completions and requesting consideration of the effectiveness of the Council's Local Plan. An extract of the regulations relating to Authorities' monitoring reports was attached at Appendix A to the report.

Paragraph 4.6 of the report advised the Panel that monitoring of the policies and the housing position commenced in April 2020 and would be completed for scrutiny by the Panel later in 2020. The report recommended that a further report on the matter be included in the Panel's work programme for 2020/21.

Councillor K. Evans moved the following recommendation:

"This Panel resolves to recommend to Council that it adopt the following motion:

"This Council resolves to request that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development requests the Head of the Planning Department to commence a review of the Borough Plan on Thursday 16th July 2020, in accordance with regulation 10A of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)."

The motion was seconded by Councillor K. Kondakor.

The following recorded vote was taken:

FOR: Councillors S. Croft, K. Evans, S. Gran, J. Gutteridge, K. Kondakor, A. Sargeant and K. Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors P. Elliott, W. Hancox, L. Hocking, G. Pomfrett, and J. Tandy.

ABSTAIN: Councillor J. Beaumont.

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED that

- a) thanks be expressed to Katherine Moreton, Head of Planning, for her many years of service to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, and in particular to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and that she be wished well in her retirement;
- b) further update reports be brought back to future meetings of the Panel; and
- c) it be recommended to Council that the following motion be adopted:
"This Council resolves that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development requests the Head of the Planning Department to commence a review of the Borough Plan on Thursday 16th July 2020, in accordance with regulation 10A of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)."

107 **Flood Risk and Drainage**

The Head of Planning submitted a report requesting that the Panel consider the Council's role in the management of flood risk. The report set out details of responsibilities for flood risk and management by agencies, authorities and Councils. Appendix A attached to the report provided an extract from the National Planning Policy Guidance 2019.

Section 6.0 of the report detailed further work to be undertaken and recommended that the Panel consider this topic be revisited in the work programme for 2020/21.

RESOLVED that

- a) a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Panel; and
- b) officers from Warwickshire County Council, acting as the Local Lead Flood Authority, be invited to attend the meeting to present the plans for Nuneaton Town centre, together with officers from the Environment Agency.

108 **Integrated Performance Report – Third Quarter 2019/20**

The Audit and Governance Manager and Governance, Risk Management and Performance Officer, submitted a report to provide the Panel with the appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel, for Quarter 3 of year 2019/20.

The report informed the Panel that during the quarter, there had been no surveillance operations in regards to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

The Panel requested the following additional information:

- details of the Civic Hall monitoring process and data for customer satisfaction of Council promoted shows – Councillor Evans;
- update on the replacement of a Brexit Lead Officer, following the retirement of Director Ian Powell – Councillor Evans;
- update on the installation of overt cameras for fly tipping – Councillor Kondakor;
- an explanation as to the reason why 20% of Freedom of Information requests and Complaints were processed seemingly late; measuring data by avoidable and unjustifiable processing times in future reports and providing comparisons – Councillor Evans;
- more details of a one off grass cutting collection in the third quarter of 2019/20 and also the five criteria that are measured against – it was requested that the criteria be included as a footnote in future reports – Councillor Gran.

In order to complete the business on the agenda, Councillor K. Wilson moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4A.21, to suspend standing orders, as the maximum time for the meeting should not normally exceed 3 hours and that this amount of time had passed.

RESOLVED that

- a) the contents of the report be noted;
- b) Kevin Hollis be congratulated on his recent promotion to Director – Leisure, Recreation and Health; and
- c) the additional information requested above be provided to members.

109 **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st July, 2020, was provided to the Panel for information.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

110 **Draft Work Programme 2020/2021**

A draft Work Programme for 2020/2021 was submitted to the Panel for consideration.

The Chair encouraged Panel Members to consider and submit new items for the Work Programme for the coming year.

RESOLVED that

- a) the draft Work Programme be approved; and
- b) a special meeting be scheduled as soon as possible by the Panel to bring an update on Covid-19.

111 **Draft Internal Overview and Scrutiny Report 2019/20**

A report of the work completed by the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Panel during 2019/20 was presented to the Panel.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted, and future annual reports be provided in larger print.

112 **Any other business**

The Chair notified the Panel that co-opted member Mrs Lynne Price had stood down from the Panel.

The Chair expressed thanks for Mrs Price's service to this and previous scrutiny panels and wished her all the best for her future.

Chair

Internal Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2020/2021

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	J. Beaumont		Board member of Bulkington Community Library CIC in addition to an unpaid Manager of the library. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Older People's Forum 	
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association	
	S. Doughty	People in Action Cherville Limited	Unite the Union	
	P. Elliott	Employee of CW Mind ASD Support Service Mentor	Governor at Stockingford Nursery Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children 	
	K. Evans	Employee of the House of Commons	Executive Officer at the North Warwickshire & Bedworth Conservative Association Association Representative of Warwickshire Conservative Area Association	
	J. Glass	None	None	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	S. Gran (Vice-Chair)		Member of Warwickshire County Council	
	J. Gutteridge	Startin Tractors	Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) 	To speak and vote on any matters involving the Borough Plan related to land at Leyland Road Bulkington
	L. Hocking	Employed by Openreach	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unite the Union • Communication Workers Union 	
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	K.A. Kondakor		Member of Warwickshire County Council 100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD	
	G.D. Pomfrett	None	None	
	A. Sargeant		Member of Warwickshire County Council Chairman of The Nook (Nuneaton) Residents Association. Chair of Attleborough Community Matters group. Chair of Attleborough Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer at Volunteer Friends Bulkington. Member of Nuneaton Carnival Committee	
			Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice Rights 	
	J.A. Tandy		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Festival of Arts • Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership • Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership • West Midlands Combined Authority Audit Group 	
	K. Wilson	Employee of the Courts Service	Non Executive Director with Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Limited	Dispensation to speak and vote