



Enquiries to:

Kelly Baxter

Direct Dial: 024 7637 6204

Direct Email:

kelly.baxter@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 16th April 2024

Our Ref: KB

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addendum 2 - Council – 17th April 2024

I refer to **Item 9 – Cabinet report to Council** on the agenda for the meeting of Council on Wednesday, 17th April 2024 and attach the report marked to follow. **(Page 2)**

In addition, in respect of **Agenda item 8 – Special Urgency Decisions** the following item be added for noting:

- Cabinet – 10th April 2024 – Bedworth Town Deal Board – Min no CB134

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Davis'.

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Cabinet Report to Council April 2024

1. Introduction

This report deals with the Cabinet meetings held on 6th March 2024, and 10th April 2024

It also references any reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority [WMCA] Board, which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC, namely the WMCA Board meetings held 15th March 2024.

2. 6th March 2024 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy – Housing and Communities – (Councillor C. Golby) KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029. The Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a duty on all local authorities to review the homelessness in their area of which the current expires in April. Tackling the causes and impact of homelessness cannot be achieved by the council alone. Without the support and close collaboration of partner statutory and third sector organisations, the council's ability to deliver comprehensive and effective prevention and relief initiatives would be considerably reduced. This multi-agency strategy, led by the council, but developed in partnership with stakeholders working closely to tackle the causes of homelessness and prioritising prevention is to be welcomed. The council will continue to consider any and all initiatives to collaboratively address homelessness.

b) Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH) – Public Services – (Councillor S. Markham) – KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the report updating on the progress of the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub. To deliver the project by agreed timelines, with external funds secured and achieve the first milestones that the new Physical Activity Hub building will be in completed by September 2025, therefore it is crucial that enabling works are undertaken on site to keep within agreed time limits.

c) Building a Better Borough (BaBB) 2022/2025 – Review of Assessment Document for 2024/25 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the refreshed Building a Better Borough (BaBB) 2022/2025 document. The BaBB 2022-25 details the Council's corporate plan objectives. It is monitored on a quarterly basis using an annual assessment document to determine the progress of designated actions for each year.

d) General Fund Budget Monitoring Q3 2023/24 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the above report considering the spend pressures that may be coming to the forefront, whether income projections are on target and whether savings that were built into the budget are on track.

A freeze on recruitment has been implemented by the S151 Officer to mitigate further cost pressures and reduce the burden on reserves. This will be kept under review and any removal of the freeze will be reported to Cabinet.

The transformation programme is starting to gather pace and will be key to increasing efficiency and effectiveness across the Council which will in turn generate savings and income and is essential to ensure the Council remains financially viable. £1.3m was set-aside as part of the budget round to ensure financial resilience plus to invest in changes to services through transformation.

The underspend position forecasted will mitigate some of the need to utilise reserves at year-end. This will allow the funds to be used in the future and bolster the financial resilience of the Council.

e) Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Q3 2023/24 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring report for Q3. Spend pressures as a result of the cost of inflation have affected the day-to-day operation of the HRA but these increases are being managed.

The HRA is looking to underspend and is in an improved position from Q2. A review of the HRA Business Plan is underway and will lay out the future plan for income generation and cost mitigation. With the changes to housing legislation and expectations on housing providers, the profile of expenditure is likely to alter. When finalised, the Business Plan will be presented to Cabinet.

f) Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 2023/24 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION

Cabinet approved the Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 report. The capital programme has been reviewed with regeneration projects being scaled back to ensure affordability into the future. The biggest risk to the Council has been the economic landscape with high inflation and interest rates. Consideration of projects has been undertaken and the programme is now sustainable only if the grant funding is retained for the refreshed plan.

g) Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) KEY DECISION

The Local Council Tax Support scheme for financial year 2024/25 were approved by Cabinet in order to bring it in line with the regulations required by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Other Items considered:

- Civic Honours – Street Renaming (x2) – Business and Regeneration – (Councillor K. Wilson)
- Nuneaton Market Operational Review – Business and Regeneration – (Councillor K. Wilson) **EXEMPT – KEY DECISION**
- Revised Governance Arrangements – Finance and Corporate – (Councillor S. Croft) **EXEMPT – KEY DECISION**

3. 10th April 2024 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Creative Explorers Update

– Public Services (Councillor S. Markham) - KEY DECISION

The approved report provided an update on the delivery of programme - Creative Explorers 21-month journey with the Council, arts organisations, artists, and residents working together to create a unique cultural identity for Nuneaton & Bedworth which builds skills, generates civic pride and confidence, develops the visitor economy, and leads to a creative borough.

b) Borough Plan Review – Examination in Public – Planning and Regulation (Councillor R. Smith) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet agreed the recommendations in the report, to be put for full council approval, that the Planning Inspector be requested to submit modifications to the Borough Plan Review, should the inspector feel they are necessary to make the submitted plan sound and legally compliant, pursuant to S20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

c) Bedworth Town Deal Board – Business and Regeneration (Councillor K. Wilson) - KEY DECISION

Cabinet agreed recommendations in the report to establish a Bedworth Town Deal Board. The Town Board will be responsible for developing the Bedworth Long Term Plan to show where the investment will be spent. The Towns Deal Board will receive funding and support totalling up to £20M delivered through the powers set out in Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020.

Other Items Considered

- i) Newdigate Recreation Ground – Public Services – (Councillor S. Markham)
- ii) Suicide Prevention – Public Services – (Councillor S. Markham)

4. West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

In terms of items which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC:

The WMCA Board meeting of 15th March 2024 considered:-

- A Financial Monitoring Report for the year 2023/24 providing an update on the Combined Authority's financial position based on the information known at the end of January 2024. The report also included capital and revenue financial performance, explanations for variations, an update on the likely outturn for 2023/24 and risks which are being managed by the Authority.
- A report seeking the Board's ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding for the single settlement announced at the Spending Review (November 2023) and noting subsequent related developments.
- A report seeking delegated authority to receive funds and to undertake commissioning and procurement of skills funding in line with the WMCA Employment and Skills Strategy.

5. Conclusion

This report is presented on behalf of Cabinet, and, as always, my colleagues and I are only too happy to take any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor K. Wilson
Leader of the Council on behalf of Cabinet