

## **Requisition of a Full Council**

### **TRANSFORMING NUNEATON**

This Council recognises that Nuneaton Town Centre secured record investment during the previous Conservative Government and administration, recognising the decline in our town centre after decades of Labour rule.

As significant amounts of funding are required to be spent by deadlines as part of the funding agreements, this Council:

1. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet and Group to proceed with the town centre regeneration projects as a matter of urgency
2. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to ensure that Grayson Place construction contracts are signed as soon as possible to safeguard the Council's financial position
3. Calls upon the Labour Cabinet to work constructively with the administration at Warwickshire County Council to ensure that the new Library & Business Centre and regeneration of Vicarage Street is progressed to revitalise that end of, and gateway into, Nuneaton Town Centre.

### **BEDWORTH TOWN DEAL**

This Council expresses alarm at the apparent cancellation by the incoming Labour Government at Westminster of the funding for a Bedworth Town Deal that would bring in up to £20 million investment into the town.

This Council:

1. Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to call on them to honour the funding for a Bedworth Town Deal that was set out in the 2024 Conservative Budget and confirmed in the Treasury Papers presented to Parliament.
2. Requests the Leader of the Council to write to the new Member of Parliament for Bedworth and North Warwickshire to call on her to stand up for the residents she was recently elected to represent and make representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government supporting this Council's position.

### **BULKINGTON LIGHTS**

Bulkington is the largest village in the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth (and one of the largest in the County of Warwickshire), with a long tradition of this Council supporting its unique identity.

Following the announcement by the Leader of the Council that he will be withdrawing support for the Bulkington Light Switch On event this Council:

1. Expresses its dismay that the new Labour administration has withdrawn the funding to support the Christmas Light Switch On for Bulkington Village Centre
2. Requests the Leader of the Council to restore the £1600 allocated (Budget Entry Account 3825 / Cost Centre EH20 / Subdata E159) in the Budget set in February 2024 to enable the Christmas festivities in Bulkington to be supported by the Borough Council.

## **HOUSING NUMBERS CONSULTATION**

Following the announcement by the incoming Labour Government that the housing target for Nuneaton and Bedworth will increase by 83.8% if the figures as set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation are confirmed, this Council:

1. Confirms its view that any housing targets set for Nuneaton and Bedworth should be dictated by local need and not arbitrary figures imposed by central government
2. Requests that the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning urgently to respond to the Government consultation to set out this Council's opposition to any housing targets being imposed on Nuneaton and Bedworth that are not based on local need and an objection to the proposed increase to our housing target of 83.8%
3. Requests the Leader of the Council writes to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for our Borough to outline this Council's opposition to the Government consultation and their imposition of arbitrary housing targets and ask them to reply to the consultation supporting the position of this Council

## **WINTER FUEL PAYMENT**

The Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many thousands across Nuneaton and Bedworth sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.

The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.

The government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible for Pension Credit which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.

2. Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
3. Request that the Leader of the Council write to the three new Labour Members of Parliament for Nuneaton expressing our opposition to the changes to the Winter Fuel Payment and asking them to support local residents by voting against the changes in Parliament
4. Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.
5. Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Nuneaton and Bedworth are supported in claiming their entitlement.