

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

28 March 2022

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors A Clews, Bell, D Clews, Davey, Dirveiks, D Humphreys, Morson, Moss, H Phillips, O Phillips and D Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Deakin (Substitute H Phillips), Lees (Substitute Bell) and Simpson (Substitute D Wright).

Councillor Chambers was also in attendance and, with the consent of the Chairman spoke on Minute No 48 (Leisure Facilities: Local Authority Trading Company).

41 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

42 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 24 January 2022**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 24 January 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 **HEART Shared Service Partnership**

The Director of Housing updated the Board on the HEART shared service partnership and made a proposal for future joint working.

Resolved:

- a **That the progress to provide one, consistent service to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and a Home Improvement Services for the whole County be noted;**
- b **That the proposal that 2022 acts as a transitional year to allow Authorities to refresh key aspects of the Partnership, act to strengthen it and consider how full service integration could be achieved be approved;**

- c That the Director of Housing be authorised to sign a letter of intent to agree to extend the partnership contract arrangements during the financial year 2022/2023;**
- d That the strategic objectives of the HEART Board be confirmed;**
- e That the HEART Management Board’s intention to draw on the expertise of Foundations to support it to innovate and develop HEART be welcomed;**
- f That the implications of the White Paper for Social Care for arrangements to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants be acknowledged; and**
- g That the recommendation of the HEART Board to continue to build the partnership during 2022 with a view to creating a new legal agreement for a 5 year Partnership from April 2023 be supported.**

44 Vexatious Complaints Policy

The Director of Housing asked the Board to approve the introduction of a vexatious complaints policy to accompany the Housing Division’s Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

Resolved:

- a That the Persistent or Vexatious Complaints Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Director of Housing, be approved;**
- b That consideration be given to Vexatious Complaints Policies for other areas within the Council.**

45 Off-Street Parking Scheme for Residents

The Corporate Director – Streetscape, following the public questions considered at the Full Council meeting held in January, and in response to wider concerns expressed about off-street parking restrictions for residents with no immediate access to on-street or driveway parking, proposed a trial scheme to make off-street parking easier for those residents worst affected.

Resolved:

- a That a trial off-street parking scheme for residents, as set out in paragraph 3.2 (amended to cover Monday to Saturday) of the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape, for twelve months, be agreed; and**
- b That a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Board updating Members on the scheme's success and recommending next steps.**

(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Morson, H Phillips, O Phillips and Dirveiks) under Standing Order No 30(1)(b) (Minority Report) with regard to the decision of the Board on this matter and it is therefore referred to Council for confirmation.)

46 Closure of Corley Churchyard

The Corporate Director – Streetscape advised the Board on the Council's obligation in respect of the maintenance of the churchyard at Corley Parish Church following the transfer of responsibility under Section 215 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved:

That the Council's obligations in respect of the maintenance of the churchyard at Corley be noted.

47 Housing Maintenance Service & Asset Management Plan

The Director of Housing updated Members on the delivery of the Asset Management Plan for the Council's Landlord stock and informed the Board about the challenges posed by an ageing stock profile and proposed a review of the Maintenance Team to support future service delivery.

Resolved:

- a That the current position of the Housing Asset Management Plan be noted;**
- b That the implications of the Social Housing White Paper be noted;**
- c That the Asset Management Plan and 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan be reviewed during 2022/23;**
- d That the development of the Housing Direct Works team to meet the demands of the service be welcomed and the proposal to undertake a review to further develop the**

team (including a review of the salary structure) to meet the demands on the service be noted;

- e That the market supplement for the Carpentry and Bricklayer trades approved by the Special Sub-Group and detailed in Section 7, of the report of the Director of Housing, be approved;**
- f That the temporary roles of multi trade Plasterer and Decorator continue whilst the review is undertaken; and**
- e That the progress to deliver the major works programme be welcomed and risks caused by increased costs and delays for materials be noted.**

48 Leisure Facilities: Local Authority Trading Company

The Corporate Director – Resources and the Director of Leisure and Community Development sought the Board’s approval to use the New Initiative Reserve through which to engage external advisory support to assist the Borough Council with its approved undertaking to establish a wholly owned Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company.

It was proposed by Councillor Chambers and seconded by Councillor Gosling by way of amendment:

That recommendations (a) and (b) be replaced by the following:

Recommendation to Executive Board:

- a That Executive Board clarify the governance arrangements to oversee the leadership and management of the transition of our in-house leisure services to a wholly owned Local Authority Trading Company; and**
- b That Executive Board consider the establishment of a Shadow Board in order to ensure an integrated approach to managing this change.**

Upon being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the amendment to be lost.

Resolved:

That the use of the New Initiatives Reserve, in the maximum sum of £60,000, through which to engage external advisory support to assist the Borough Council in the establishment of a wholly owned Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company be approved.

(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Morson, H Phillips, O Phillips and Dirveiks) under Standing Order No 30(1)(b) (Minority Report) with regard to the decision of the Board on this matter and it is therefore referred to Council for confirmation.)

49 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

50 IT System Replacement

The Head of Development Control and the Environmental Health Manager sought additional financial provision for the replacement of two IT systems

Resolved:

That recommendations (a) and (b), as set out in the report of the Head of Development Control and the Environmental Health Manager, be approved.

51 Staffing Matter

The Corporate Director – Streetscape detailed proposed changes to a staffing structure in a Team within his Directorate.

Resolved:

That recommendations (a) and (b) as set out in the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape, be approved.

52 Property in Coleshill

The Corporate Director Streetscape detailed the de minimus work that had been undertaken and recommended further steps for the Board to consider in respect of this property in Coleshill.

Resolved:

That recommendations (a), (b), and (c), as set out in the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape, be approved.

53 Request to Purchase Land

The Director of Housing informed the Board of a request to lease a piece of land in the Council's ownership.

Recommended:

That negotiations in respect of the lease or purchase of the land, as shown on Appendix A to the report of the Director of Housing, be delegated to the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson of the Board.

54 Confidential Extract of the minutes of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 28 March 2022

The confidential extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 28 March 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman,

C Symonds
Chairman