

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

19 June 2017

Present: Councillor Humphreys in the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Davey, Farrell, Gosling, Hayfield, Phillips, Simpson, Smith and D Wright

Councillors Bell and Lea were also in attendance.

1 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.**

Councillor Hayfield declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 11 Payroll System and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Humphreys declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 18 Land Issues left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

2 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 February 2017.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 February 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **External Audit Plan 2016/17**

The Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the External Auditors' plan for their work related to the 2016/17 financial year. Avtar Sohail from Ernst & Young LLP was in attendance.

Recommended:

That the contents of the External Auditors' report be noted.

4 **Capital Programme – 2016/17 Final Position**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated Members on the final position of the 2016/17 Capital Programme and highlighted those schemes which had not progressed as quickly as expected and which were recommended to be carried forward into the 2017/18 Capital Programme.

Recommended:

- a That the level of expenditure incurred to the end of March 2017 against the 2016/17 Revised Capital Programme be noted;
- b That the requests to carry forward schemes identified in column 6 of Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) be approved and added to the 2017/18 Capital Programme; and
- c That following recent events the Council issues a statement of reassurance in respect of its housing stock.

5 Capital Accounts 2016/17

The Board was informed that the Capital Accounts for 2016/17 had been prepared. Members were invited to approve the methods of funding used.

Recommended:

That the methods of funding to meet capital expenditure incurred in 2016/17 be approved.

6 Earmarked Reserves 2017/18

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the level of reserves at 31 March 2017. Members were asked to approve the proposed use of reserves in 2017/18.

Recommended:

That the reserves held at 31 March 2017, and the planned use of reserves in 2017/18 be approved.

7 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Governance Statement setting out the arrangements the Council had put in place for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. Members were asked to approve the Statement and Improvement Plan.

Recommended:

- a That the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved; and

- b That the Improvement Plan, attached as Appendix C to the report be approved and progress against the plan be reported to Board.**

8 Financial Statements 2016/17

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Financial Statements for 2016/17 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Resolved:

That the position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account at 31 March 2017 be noted.

9 100% Business Rates Consultation

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Government had indicated its intention to introduce 100% retention of Business Rates in the 2019/20 financial year. A consultation paper had been issued on the design of the reformed system and the Board was advised of the response that had been sent.

Recommended:

That the report and response be noted.

10 Local Authority Trading Company

The Deputy Chief Executive requested authority to investigate the establishment of a Local Authority Trading Company.

Recommended:

- a That a report is commissioned in line with paragraph 2.7 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive; and**
- b That a supplementary estimate for the sum in paragraph 2.8 of the report be agreed.**

11 Payroll System

The Board was asked to approve a supplementary estimate of £5,970 in 2017/18 in connection with the payroll system.

Recommended:

That a supplementary estimate of £5,970 be approved.

12 **Council Tax Resolution – 22 February 2017**

The Chief Executive sought guidance from Members on how they wished to proceed with the resolution from Council to report on growth items listed in the proposed amendment by Labour which formed part of the Council Tax resolution for 2017/18. The report set out current action being taken in relation to a number of issues connected to the growth proposals.

Recommended:

That the position set out part 3 of the report be noted.

13 **Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2016 to March 2017**

The Chief Executive reported on the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets applicable to Executive Board for April 2016 to March 2017.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

14 **Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 14 March 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 14 March 2017 were received and noted.

15 **Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 14 February, 7 March and 23 May 2017**

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 14 February, 7 March and 23 May 2017 were received and noted.

16 **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 in Schedule 12A to the Act.

17 **Implementation of the LGA's Communications Health Check Report.**

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) reported that the Local Government Association (LGA) had carried out a communications health check for the Council in November 2016. The Board was informed of the proposed actions being taken to implement a number of the LGA's recommendations and Members were asked to consider the strategy and resourcing implications.

Recommended:

That the proposals set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be approved in principle and that a further more detailed report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

Councillor D Wright in the Chair

18 **Land Issues**

The Board was invited to consider the financial implications relating to the land ownership issues at Sheepy Road, Atherstone.

Recommended:

That a budget be established as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) and the Assistant Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council to meet the potential cost of any future legal action.

David Humphreys
Chairman