

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

29 January 2024

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors Barnett, Chapman, Clews, Davey, Hobley, Humphreys, Parsons, O Phillips, Simpson, Stuart, and Watson

An apology for absence were received from Councillor Taylor (Substitute Councillor Hobley)

Also in attendance was Councillor H Phillips.

23 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

24 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 13 November 2023**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 13 November 2023, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25 **General Fund Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) identified proposals for Resources Board capital schemes to be included within the Council's three-year General Fund capital programme for Resources Board services.

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

That the schemes, detailed in Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be supported as the Council's three-year General Fund capital programme for Resources Board services.

26 **Housing Revenue Account – 2023/24 Revised and 2024/25 Estimates, Capital Programme, 30 Year Business, Rent Review and Fees and Charges**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the revised budget for 2023/24 and an estimate of expenditure for 2024/25, together with the 30 years business plan and detailed HRA capital programme for 3 years. A rent increase of 7.7% in line with the Government's social rent policy and increases for service charges, garages and fees and charges from 1 April 2024 was recommended.

Resolved:

- a** That the revised estimates for 2023/24 be approved;
- b** That the 2024/25 estimates for revenue, as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;
- c** That the 3 year capital programme, as detailed in Appendix H of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;
- d** That the 30 year business plan, as detailed in Appendix I of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved;
- e** That, in line with the social rent policy set by the Government, a rent increase of 7.7% in 2024/25, be approved;
- f** That an increase in garage rents of 50 pence per week from £7.58 to £8.08, as detailed in Appendix D of report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved;
- g** That the proposed fees and charges, as set out in Appendix D of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;
- h** That the service charges for cleaning, as detailed in Appendix E of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved from April 2024;
- i** That the service charges for window cleaning, as detailed in Appendix F of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved from April 2024; and
- j** That further work on the New Build scheme to utilise the Right to Buy receipts before March 2025 be supported.

27 Land at Trinity Road – Use of Urgent Business Powers

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape sought the Board’s endorsement of action taken under the Chief Executive’s Urgent Business Powers to dispose of land at Trinity Road, Kingsbury, and Member approval that the Chief Executive had the power to dispose of this land accordingly.

Resolved:

That the action taken under the Chief Executive’s Urgent Business Powers to dispose of land at Trinity Road be approved.

28 Private Sector Shared Services

The Director of Housing informed the Board about the current position with regards to the Council’s shared service with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to deliver its private sector housing condition oversight and enforcement duties and detailed a proposed change.

Resolved:

- a That the work undertaken by the Private Sector Housing shared service be noted;**
- b That the proposal to bring the service back in house be approved; and**
- c That a growth bid in 2024/25 for £25,000 be agreed to cover the additional costs of bringing the service in house.**

29 General Fund Revenue Budget – 2023/24 Revised and 2024/25 Estimates – Services Recharged Across All Boards

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the revised budget for 2023/24 and an estimate of expenditure for 2024/25, together with forward commitments for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Resolved:

- a That the revised budget for 2023/24 be accepted; and**

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

- b That the 2024/25 estimates, as presented in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be included in the overall Tax Set 2024/25 report to Executive Board on 12 February 2024.**

30 General Fund Revenue Budget – Services Remaining 2023/24 Revised and 2024/25 Estimates and Fees and Charges

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the revised budget for 2023/24 and an estimate of expenditure for 2024/25, together with forward commitments for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 for the services remaining in the Resources Board, that were not recharged to other services. A review of the fees and charges was also detailed, with recommendations for increases.

Resolved:

- a That the revised budget for 2023/24 be accepted;**
- b That the fees and charges, as detailed in Appendix C to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved.**

Recommendation to Executive Board:

- b That the 2024/25 estimates, as detailed in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be included in the overall Tax Set 2024/25 report for Executive Board on 12 February 2024; and**

31 Irrecoverable Debts

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) provided Members with details of debts which were considered to be irrecoverable.

Resolved:

- a That the total Irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates Debts totalling £262,218.59, as detailed in Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources, be approved for write off; and**
- b That the total Irrecoverable Council Tax Debts totalling £9,197.25, as detailed in Appendix B to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources, be approved for write off.**

32 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.

33 Review of Housing Maintenance Service

The Director of Housing detailed a proposal in respect of staffing in the Housing Maintenance Service.

Resolved:

That recommendations a – h as set out in the report of the Director of Housing be approved.

34 Property Adaptation Polesworth

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information about a recommendation which had been received to provide an adaptation for a disabled person who lived in Council owned accommodation.

Resolved:

That recommendations a and b as set out in the report of the Director of Housing be approved.

Councillor Symonds
Chair