

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

3 June 2024

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors Barnett, Chapman, Clews, Davey, Humphreys, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips, Smith, Stuart and Watson

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Simpson (Substitute Councillor Smith) and Taylor (Substitute Councillor H Phillips)

1 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 March 2024.**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 March 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Haunchwood Sports Junior Football Club and Ansley Workshops Sports Ground**

The Director of Leisure and Community Development sought the Board's approval to enter into a long-term lease with Haunchwood Sports Junior Football Club, through which it could assume responsibility for the management and maintenance of Ansley Workshops Sports Ground and secure its engagement in the national Home Advantage Programme, through which a 100% grant of up to £250,000 was available to help improve the site.

Resolved:

That the proposal to enter into a long-term lease with Haunchwood Sports Junior Football Club, through which it could assume responsibility for the management and maintenance of Ansley Workshops Sports Ground, be approved, and that the terms of the draft lease, as attached at Appendix B to the report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development, be used as the basis for negotiation of the final agreement with the Junior Football Club.

4 **Council Tax – Discretionary Reduction in Liability S13A Policy**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the Council Tax – Discretionary Reduction in Liability S13A policy detailed in Appendix a to her report, for Members’ approval.

Resolved:

That the Council Tax – Discretionary Reduction in Liability S13A policy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director Resources (Section 151 Officer), along with a budget of £10,000 funded from the New Burdens specific earmarked reserve fund, be approved.

5 **Internal Audit Annual Report 2023-24**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Opinion Report (Head of Central Midlands Audit Partnership CMAP), which included a statement on conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS); the Head of Internal Audit’s opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of NWBC’s framework of governance, risk management and control; and a summary of the work that supported that opinion.

Resolved:

- a That the findings of an assessment of the internal audit function against the PSIAS and quality assurance programme be noted;**
- b That the summary of internal audit work, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), which supports the Head of Internal Audit’s opinion, be noted; and**
- c That the Head of Internal Audit’s overall opinion on the control environment, detailed in Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be noted.**

6 **Members’ Allowance 2023/24**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) advised Members of the allowances paid for 2023/24 and the amounts paid to Members under the Members’ Allowance Scheme which the Council had a duty to publish.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy

The Director of Housing introduced an updated Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, together with associated policies, to enable robust and fair regulation of matters relating to Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing.

Resolved:

- a That the draft Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Director of Housing, be approved; and**
- b That a 4-week consultation period be approved and the draft Environment Health and Private Housing Enforcement Policy brought back to the Board for either:**
 - i approval without modification, subject to no relevant objections being received; or**
 - ii approval after modification, subject to relevant objections being considered.**

8 Housing Ombudsman Service – Statutory Complaints Handling Code

The Director of Housing asked the Board to consider the revised complaints policy for its domestic stock and to comment on how the Housing Division was handling complaints received about the service.

Resolved

- a That the revised complaints handling policy for the Council’s services to its tenants be agreed and adopted;**
- b That the report about the complaints received during 2023-2024 be considered; and**
- c That the completed self assessment against the Code of requirements be approved.**

9 Social Housing Regulator – Tenant Satisfaction Measures

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information about the Social Housing Regulator’s requirement for the Council to provide an annual return for performance measures specified in the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted and that the Tenant Satisfaction Measures be published on the Council's website.

10 **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.

11 **Garage Site**

In consultation with the Board the item was deferred for further consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

12 **Vacant Property Repairs**

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information about a vacant property that required extensive work.

Resolved:

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

13 **Property Adaptation – Warton**

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 noted and agreed.

14 **Update on Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery**

Following a request from Members of the Resources Board in March 2024, the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) provided Members with an update on Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery activity including the current collection rates.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

15 **Land Austrey – Options**

Following a report presented to the meeting of the Resources Board held on 11 March 2024, on the future usage of a plot of land owned by the Council, as request, the Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape tabled a further report including other land use options on the site.

Resolved:

That the item be deferred for further consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

16 **Confidential Extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 March 2024.**

The confidential extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 March 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Symonds
Chair