

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

24 November 2014

Present: Councillor Sweet in the Chair

Councillors Hayfield, Humphreys, Moore, Morson, Phillips, Simpson, Smith and Winter

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simpson and M Stanley (substitute Councillor Winter).

Councillor Forwood was also in attendance.

40 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

None were declared at the meeting.

41 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22 September 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22 September 2014, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42 **2013/14 Annual Audit Letter**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the 2013/14 Annual Audit Letter received from the Council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Matthew Elmer from PricewaterhouseCoopers was in attendance at the meeting and presented his report on which Members asked a number of questions.

Recommended:

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

43 **The Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on some of the detail on the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by the Council.

Recommended:

That the report be noted.

44 Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Board of the Council Tax support grant allocations to Parish Councils for 2015/16.

Recommended:

- a That the grant allocation of £82,367 to Parish Councils be approved; and**
- b That future grant allocations are scaled in line with reductions in general grant funding.**

45 Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) detailed the options for a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/16.

Recommended:

- a That the retention of an 8.5% reduction in Council Tax Support to all current working age customers, in the 2015/16 Council Tax Support Scheme be approved.**
- b That the Council Tax Support Scheme adopted for 2014/15 be updated in line with the statutory increases as notified by the Department of Work and Pensions; and**
- c That following the initial 12 month period of setting up a new business, future income projections for self-employed people will be based on the customer receiving as a minimum the equivalent of the National Minimum wage.**

46 Broadband Match Funding

The Board was asked to decide if the Council would provide additional match funding for investment in improving the Broadband infrastructure in the Borough as part of CSW Broadband project.

Recommended:

That this item be deferred and considered as part of the budget setting process.

47 High Street Innovation Fund - Coleshill

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought the Board's approval for the grants specified in the report.

Recommended:

That the grants specified in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be awarded.

48 HS2 and Business Rates

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Board about a decision taken under the Council's urgent business procedure to commission a report on the potential impact of HS2 on business rates income.

Recommended:

That Members note the action taken.

49 Representation on Boards and Committees

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought approval for changes to the make-up of Boards following recent Councillor changes.

Recommended:

- a That the revised representation on Boards be agreed;
and**
- b That Group Leaders confirm their nominations for
approval at Council on 10 December 2014.**

50 Economic Development

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on recent economic development work.

Recommended:

That the report be noted.

51 Calendar of Meetings 2015/16

The Chief Executive sought approval for a draft calendar of meetings for 2015/16.

Recommended:

The draft calendar of meetings for 2015/16 as submitted at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report be approved.

52 Budgetary Control Report 2014/15 - Period Ended 31 October 2014

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 October 2014. The 2014/2015 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, was given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to this Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

53 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets – April 2014 to September 2014

The Chief Executive informed Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Executive Board for April to September 2014.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

54 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 20 October and 17 November 2014

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 20 October and 17 November 2014 were received and noted. The Chief Executive reported further on the devolution agenda.

Chairman