

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

19 September 2016

Present: Councillor Humphreys in the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Hayfield, Phillips, Reilly, Simpson, Smith, Sweet and D Wright

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Farrell (substitute Councillor Sweet)

Councillor Lea was also in attendance.

27 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Simpson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 30 External Auditors' Report.

28 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14 June 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14 June 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29 **Financial Statements 2015/16**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Financial Statements for 2015/16 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Resolved:

That the 2015/16 Financial Statements shown in Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved.

30 **External Auditors' Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the External Auditors' report to those charged with governance. Stephen Clark and Avtar Sohal from Ernst & Young LLP were in attendance

Recommended:

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

31 Financial Strategy 2017 – 2021

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Authority's Financial Strategy, projected forward the Authority's General Fund budgets to 2020/21, and suggested a detailed budget approach for the 2017/18 General Fund Budget.

Recommended:

- a That the Financial Strategy shown as Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved;**
- b That the General Fund budget projections for 2017/18 to 2020/21 be noted; and**
- c That the budget approach, set out in section 12 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be adopted.**

32 Budgetary Control Report 2016/17 - Period Ended 31 August 2016

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2016 to 31 August 2016. The 2016/2017 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.

33 Appointment of External Auditors

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the appointment of the Council's current auditors ended at the end of 2017-18 and it would therefore be necessary to appoint new auditors for the 2018-19 financial audit and beyond. The Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the Council agrees to join the national scheme.

34 **Needs and Redistribution of Funding**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Government had issued a consultation paper on the assessment of relative spending needs for local authorities and the Board was asked to consider a draft response.

Recommended:

That the draft consultation response set out in the Appendix to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be agreed.

35 **100% Business Rates Retention Consultation**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the areas covered within the Government's consultation document on 100% Business Rates Retention and the Board was asked to consider a suggested response.

Recommended:

- a **That in principle the draft response to the consultation set out in Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be endorsed; and**
- b **That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree the final version of the response.**

36 **Review of Leisure, Health and Well-being Provision in North Warwickshire – Use of Urgent Business Powers**

The Board was asked to note the action taken under the Chief Executive's Urgent Business Powers to engage consultants to undertake the previously approved Review of Leisure, Health and Well-being Provision in North Warwickshire. In addition the Board was asked to note the increase in the revenue budget through which to carry out this work.

Resolved:

- a **That the action taken under the Chief Executive's Urgent Business Powers to engage consultants to undertake the approved Review of Leisure, Health and Well-being Provision in North Warwickshire be noted; and**
- b **That the £15,250 increase in the revenue budget, consequent upon the engagement of the Leisure, Health and Well-being Review consultants be noted.**

37 **Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – June 2016**

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 June 2016.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

38 **Board Membership**

The Chief Executive sought authority for any possible amendments to representation on Boards resulting from the Arley and Whitacre Ward By-Election to be tabled at the Full Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 September 2016.

Recommended:

That any amendments to representation on Boards following the Arley and Whitacre Ward By-Election be tabled at the Full Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 28 September 2016.

39 **Efficiency Plan**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Government had given local authorities the opportunity to apply for a four year financial settlement deal. Applications were required by 14 October 2016. The Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the application for a four year settlement deal and the Efficiency Plan attached at Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved.

40 **Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 3 August 2016**

The minutes of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 3 August 2016 were received and noted.

41 **Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 19 July 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 19 July 2016 were received and noted.

42 **Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 26 July, 23 August and 13 September 2016**

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 26 July, 23 August and 13 September 2016 were received and noted.

David Humphreys
Chairman