

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

9 February 2016

Present: Councillor Humphreys in the Chair.

Councillors Chambers, Farrell, Hayfield, Lea, Phillips, Reilly, Smith and D Wright.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Stanley (substitute Councillor Farrell).

Councillor Davey was also in attendance.

46 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.**

None were declared at the meeting.

47 **Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 23 November 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 November 2015, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48 **External Auditors' Annual Certification Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the External Auditors' Annual Certification report.

Recommended:

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

49 **External Audit Plan 2015/16**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the External Auditors' plan for their work related to the 2015/16 financial year. Autar Sohal from Ernst & Young was in attendance and answered questions from Members.

Recommended:

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

50 **Corporate Plan 2016/17**

The Chief Executive presented the Corporate Plan for 2016/17. Members were also asked to agree the 2016/17 Forward Work Plan for the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council.

Recommended:

- a **That, subject to any amendments recommended by the Safer Communities Sub-Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2016, together with any other amendments recommended by Boards/Committees the Corporate Plan Key Actions, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive, be agreed;**
- b **That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Board be given delegated authority to finalise the format of the Plan; and**
- c **That the Service Plan for the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.**

51 **The Capital Strategy**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) presented an update on the Capital Strategy and the Board was asked to agree the suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the Capital Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources), be approved.

52 **The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2018/19**

Management Team put forward proposals for the Three Year Capital Programme and outlined the availability of capital resources.

Recommended:

- a **That the Revised Capital Programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A, be adopted;**
- b **That the 3 Year Capital Programme for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 as set out in Appendix B, be adopted; and**

- c That the prudential indicators as set out in the revised Appendix F circulated at the meeting, be approved.**

53 General Fund Fees and Charges 2016 – 2017

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 and the Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended

That the schedule of fees and charges for 2016/17, set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, be accepted.

54 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2016 – 2017

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the revised budget for 2015/16 and an estimate of expenditure for 2016/17, together with forward commitments for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Recommended:

- a That the revised budget for 2015/16 be accepted; and**
- b That the Estimates of Expenditure for 2016/17, as submitted, be included in the budget to be brought before the meeting for consideration under Minute No. 55.**

55 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2016 – 2017 and Setting the Council Tax 2016 – 2017

The Deputy Chief Executive set out the proposed General Fund Revenue Estimate for 2016/17, and the options available when setting the 2016/17 Council Tax for the Borough in the context of the Authority's Revenue Support Grant settlement, and the effect on General Fund balances.

Recommended:

- a That the savings of £516,380 shown in Appendix I of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved;**
- b That the growth items totalling £60,000 set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report be approved;**
- c That the revised estimate for the year 2015/16 and the revenue estimates for 2016/17 be approved;**

- d That the Council Tax base for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix G be noted;
- e That the preferred Council Tax option for 2016/17 be agreed by the Full Council;
- f That the Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted;
- g That the manpower estimates for the year 2016/17 be approved; and
- h That a Council Tax resolution be prepared for consideration by the Council, using the recommendations agreed by this Board.

56 **Labour Group**

The Chief Executive sought authorisation for any possible amendments to representation on Boards resulting from the recent change in the leadership of the Labour Group.

Recommended:

That the amendments to representation on Boards resulting from the recent changes in leadership be brought to the meeting of Council on 24 February 2016.

57 **Devolution/Constitutional Changes (Scrutiny Board)**

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on the current position of the Devolution agenda and sought authorisation to make changes to the Constitution with regard to the Council's scrutiny arrangements.

Recommended:

- a That the current position of the Devolution agenda be noted;
- b That all reference to the Scrutiny Board in the Constitution be deleted; and
- c That the Terms of Reference for the three policy boards (Executive, Resources and Community and Environment) be amended as detailed in the report.

58 **Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2015 – December 2015.**

The Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the actual performance and achievement against the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Executive Board for April to December 2015.

A substitute Appendix B was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

59 **Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 3 December 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Sub-Committee held on 3 December 2015 were received and noted.

60 **Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 8 December 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 8 December 2015 were received and noted.

61 **Minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 15 December 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 15 December 2015 were received and noted.

62 **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.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 29 voting was recorded as follows.

Against the recommendation – Councillors Chambers, Farrell and Phillips.

63 **Borough Care Service**

The Assistant Director (Housing) set out considerations and proposals from the Borough Care Task and Finish Group set up to review the service in May 2013. The Board was invited to consider a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That recommendations (a) to (j) as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Housing), be agreed.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 29 voting was recorded as follows.

Against the recommendation – Councillors Chambers, Farrell and Phillips.

64 **Spon Lane, Grendon**

The Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of action taken, in consultation with the Chairman of the Resources Board and the Leader of the Council under the Council's urgent business protocol in respect of land at Spon Lane, Grendon.

Resolved:

That the action taken under the Council's urgent business protocol by the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Resources Board and the Leader of the Council, be noted.

D Humphreys
Chairman