

## NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

22 September 2014

Present: Councillor Sweet in the Chair

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

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

#### 21 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.**

None were declared at the meeting.

#### 22 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 17 June 2014.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 17 June 2014, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 23 **Financial Statements 2013/14**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Financial Statements for 2013/14 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

##### **Resolved:**

**That the 2013/14 Financial Statements shown in Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved.**

#### 24 **External Auditors' Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the External Auditors' report to those charged with governance.

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

##### **Recommended:**

- a That the contents of the External Auditors' report be noted; and**

- b That the Deputy Chief Executive be asked to report to a future meeting of the Board giving further information on the pensions liability.**

**25 Key Corporate issues**

The Chief Executive reported on the key corporate issues facing the Council in the mid-term future. He highlighted the issues to be addressed during the formulation of the 2015/16 Budget and in the run up to the 2015 Council elections.

**Recommended:**

**That the issues raised in the report of the Chief Executive are the main areas which should be considered for potential corporate planning.**

**26 Financial Strategy 2015 – 2019**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Authority's Financial Strategy, projected forward the Authority's General Fund budgets to 2018/19, and suggested a detailed budget approach for the 2015/16 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 2015/16 to 2018/19 be noted;**
- c That the budget approach, set out in section 12 of the report, be adopted; and**
- d That the Council continues to participate in the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rate Pool.**

**27 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

The Board was invited to approve the polling districts and polling places scheme for North Warwickshire.

**Recommended:**

**That the existing scheme of polling districts and polling places be approved without amendment.**

**28 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advised Members of the implications of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and asked Members to agree the measures necessary for the Council.

**Recommended:**

- a That the Council's Standing Orders be amended to allow filming, photography and audio recording at all meetings of the Council;**
- b That, subject a reference that the Policy also applies to Members, the Policy attached to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on filming, photography and audio recording be adopted;**
- c That Officers examine the costs of implementing live streaming of Council meetings and report back; and**
- d That the procedures regarding recording of Officers' decision detailed in the report be adopted.**

**29 HS2 Property Consultation 2014**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advised Members of the latest consultation on measures to compensate those affected by the HS2 project and sought endorsement of a draft response.

**Recommended:**

**That the consultation response attached to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be endorsed.**

**30 Core Strategy Adoption**

The report in respect of this matter was withdrawn.

**31 Borough Care Alarm Equipment Replacement and Control Centre Equipment Modification Report**

The Assistant Director (Housing) requested Members to consider the funding shortfall to purchase replacement Borough Care alarm units and pendants that was expected to occur this year and in future years.

**Recommended:**

- a That an increase in the 2014/15 capital alarm equipment replacement budget by £5K to £23K in order to ensure sufficient Borough Care alarms and pendants are available for current and new service users this year be approved;
- b That the same increase be made in the capital alarm equipment replacement budget in subsequent years, when considering the 2015/16 Three Year Capital programme;
- c That an additional capital allocation of £5K to purchase additional alarm call handling equipment to resolve a technical issue affecting the communication between the control centre and some Borough Care service users, which is an unintended consequence of the modernisation of the national telephone network be approved; and
- d That a supplementary revenue estimate of £1K per annum to fund the ongoing costs of the additional alarm call handling equipment be approved.

**32 Broadband Match Funding**

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

**Recommended:**

**That consideration of the matter be deferred and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.**

**33 Budgetary Control Report 2014/15 - Period Ended 31 August 2014**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 August 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.**

**34 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets – April 2014 to June 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 June 2014.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

**35 Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 31 July 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 31 July 2014 were received and noted.

**36 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 21 July, 18 August and 15 September 2014**

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 21 July, 18 August and 15 September 2014 were received and noted.

**37 Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 7 August 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 7 August 2014 were received and noted.

Chairman