

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

14 September 2010

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair

Councillors Fox, May, Moore, Morson, B Moss, Phillips, Smith, Swann, Sweet and Zgraja.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Lewis and Simpson.

17 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Fox, Hayfield, May, B Moss and Sweet and membership of the various Town/Parish Councils of Councillors Fox (Shustoke), Moore (Baddesley Ensor), B Moss (Kingsbury), Phillips (Kingsbury) and Zgraja (Over Whitacre) were deemed to be declared at this meeting.

18 **External Auditors Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of changes to the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts following the audit and the External Auditors' report to those charged with governance.

In addition there was also a report from the External Auditors on grant work undertaken relating to 2008/09

Alison Breedon and Leon Mayfield from PricewaterhouseCoopers were in attendance at the meeting and presented their report on which Members asked a number of questions.

Resolved:

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

19 **Corporate Plan 2011/12 – Key Corporate Issues**

The Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the key corporate issues facing the Council over the next 18 months and sought Members' agreement to addressing those issues during the formulation of the 2011/12 Budget and Corporate Plan.

Recommended:

That the issues raised in the report of the Chief Executive are the main areas which should be considered for inclusion in the 2011/12 Corporate Plan.

20 Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Department of Communities and Local Government had issued a consultation paper regarding how formula grant was distributed to Local Authorities. The Board was to consider a draft response.

Recommended:

That the draft response be approved.

21 Financial Strategy 2011-15

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report summarising the Authority's Financial Strategy, projected forward the Authority's General Fund budgets to 2014/15, and suggested a detailed budget approach for the 2011/12 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 2011/12 to 2014/15 be noted;**
- c That the budget approach, set out in paragraph 13.1 and 13.2 of the report, be adopted; and**
- d That growth bids be assessed according to the criteria set out in 9.2 of the report.**

22 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets – April to June 2010

The Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive reported on the actual performance and achievement against the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to Executive Board for the first quarter of 2010/11 from April to June.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

23 **Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People**

The Chief Executive reported on a national consultation by the Coalition Government on plans for policing reform and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action. Members were of the view that the response should emphasise that local Community Safety Partnerships on Borough boundaries were effective, reflected local priorities and should be retained.

Recommended:

- a That the report be noted; and**
- b That following consultation with the Chairman, the Opposition Spokesperson and the Portfolio Holder and Shadow Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, the Chief Executive be authorised to prepare a response to the Policing in the 21st Century: Reconnecting Police and the People consultation taking account of the views expressed at the meeting.**

24 **Interim Planning Policy Statement**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the recent changes to the Planning system and set out the Borough Council's planning policy stance in order to give clarity to residents, landowners, developers and other stakeholders on how the Council would consider development proposals. A Draft Interim Planning Policy Statement had been prepared and would be taken into account as a relevant material consideration in determining planning applications.

Recommended:

- a That the Draft Interim Planning Policy Statement be approved for consultation;**
- b That representations be brought back to Board;**
- c That the Interim Planning Policy Statement be considered as a material planning consideration; and**
- d That the Statement be kept under review as further changes are announced.**

25 **Review of Area Forum Working**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on a review of Locality/Area Forum working conducted by Warwickshire County Council. The County Council had asked for comments and Members were asked to agree a suggested response. Members discussed ways in which forum meetings could be made more effective and inclusive.

Recommended:

That the draft response be endorsed.

26 Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Chief Executive reported on the abolition of Regional Development Agencies and proposals for their replacement with Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Recommended:

That the report be noted and the action of the Chief Executive, including the specific action taken since the report was prepared in relation to the cross boundary arrangements with Hinckley and Bosworth and Nuneaton and Bedworth, be endorsed.

27 Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Poling Stations

The Board was invited to agree a process for the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

Recommended:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations in consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and other stakeholders and a report be submitted to Full Council following completion of the review.

28 Value for Money Efficiency Update

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Council's Value for Money efficiency achievements to date in 2010/11.

Recommended:

That the progress made against the 2008-11 Value for Money and Efficiency target be noted.

29 Budgetary Control Report 2010/11 – Period Ended 31 August 2010

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 August 2010. The 2010/2011 budget and the actual position for the period,

compared with the estimate at that date, were given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

30 Warwickshire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Board – Co-Opted Member

The Board was invited to consider a replacement for Councillor Davis as the co-opted Member on the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board.

In addition a request had been received from Councillor Phillips, Leader of the Labour Group, to change one of his representatives on the Environment Portfolio Group.

Recommended:

- a That Councillor Bowden be appointed as this Council's representative on the County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board; and**
- b That Councillor Neil Dirveiks replace Councillor Pickard on the Environment Portfolio Group.**

31 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 item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

32 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 5 July and 9 August 2010

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 5 July and 9 August 2010 were received and noted.

C Hayfield
Chairman