

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

29 November 2010

Present: Councillor Hayfield in the Chair

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fox and Simpson.

Councillor Lea was also in attendance and with the consent of the Chairman spoke on the business recorded at Minute No 37 (High Speed 2).

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

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

34 **2009/10 Annual Audit Letter and 2010/11 Audit Plan**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2009/10 Annual Audit Letter received from the Council's external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, together with their audit plan for 2011/12.

Alison Breadon from PricewaterhouseCoopers was in attendance at the meeting and presented their reports on which Members asked a number of questions.

Resolved:

That the reports presented as Appendices A and B to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be noted.

35 **Comprehensive Spending Review**

The Deputy Chief Executive highlighted the main issues arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review and commented on the potential implications for the Council.

Resolved:

That the implications of the Comprehensive Service Review for the Council be noted.

36 **New Homes Bonus**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Government had issued a consultation paper on the New Homes Bonus. The Board was informed of the main issues in the consultation paper and the Deputy Chief Executive sought authority to formulate a response in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

Recommended:

- a **That the consultation paper on the New Homes Bonus be noted; and**
- b **The Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to provide a response following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.**

37 **High Speed 2 – HS2**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council outlined the current situation in relation to the proposed construction of a high speed railway line called HS2 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

The Chief Executive circulated at the meeting a letter received from Ian Waddell, Chair of the Middleton HS2 Action Group. Members also received a copy of the response from the Chief Executive of HS2 indicating that a presentation would be made to the Council in December. A provisional date of Tuesday 14 December 2010 had been agreed.

Recommended:

- a **That the Department of Transport and HS2 Ltd be notified of the Council's interim response of a holding objection;**
- b **That a further report be brought back to Board once the formal consultation period has begun;**
- c **That proposals for liaising with our local communities affected by the route be explored with the County Council and other affected Councils and reported back to Board;**
- d **That the action of the Chief Executive in pursuing a presentation by HS2 to Members be endorsed; and**
- e **That HS2 Ltd be requested to postpone the formal consultation process until such time as the full**

economic and environmental impact of the proposals are available.

38 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets – April to September 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 April to September.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

39 Meetings Timetable

The Board was invited to approve the timetable of meetings for 2011/12.

Recommended:

That the calendar of meetings for 2011/12 as submitted at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report be approved.

40 Officer/Member Protocol

The Board was invited to consider a draft Officer/Member Protocol.

Recommended:

That the Officer/Member Protocol attached as an Appendix to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be approved.

41 Petitions Scheme

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the need for the Council to adopt a Petitions Scheme and sought approval for a draft scheme.

Recommended:

That the draft Petitions Scheme attached to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be approved.

42 Extension to Sick Pay

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on a recommendation from the Special Sub-Group to discontinue the Extension to

Sick Pay Scheme and the Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action. The consultation response from Unison was reported to the Board.

Recommended:

That the Extension to Sick Pay Scheme be discontinued.

43 **Policy for Relocation Expenses**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) submitted a revised relocation expenses policy and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the revised Policy for Relocation Expenses attached as an Appendix to the report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) be adopted.

44 **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 for North Warwickshire be approved without amendment.

45 **Budgetary Control Report 2010/11 – Period Ended 31 October 2010**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 October 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.

46 **Equality Act Update**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the main elements of the Equality Act 2010 and updated Members on the Council's overall approach to improving equality and diversity.

Resolved:

That the changes arising from the Equality Act 2010 be noted.

47 **Section 106 Agreements - Variations**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council and the Head of Development Control reported on a draft paper, outlining the options that the Council could consider to increase flexibility in Section 106 Agreements as a consequence of the current economic conditions. The draft paper was recently considered and approved by the Planning and Development Board.

Recommended:

That the draft paper be approved for the purposes of consultation with a view to adding it to the Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Affordable Housing following consideration of any responses from that consultation period.

48 **Local Growth – White Paper from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the implications of the White Paper for North Warwickshire.

Recommended:

That the report be noted.

49 **Corporate Plan Targets – Planning and Development Board**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on proposed changes to Corporate Plan Targets recommended by the Planning and Development Board and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the changes to the Corporate Plan Targets detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be agreed.

50 **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.

51 **Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 1 November and 22 November 2010**

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 1 November and 22 November 2010 were received and noted.

52 **Shared Legal Services**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on a proposal for a shared arrangement for the delivery of legal services.

Recommended:

That the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be authorised to enter into the Shared Service Agreement.

C Hayfield
Chairman