

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

26 November 2012

Present: Councillor M Stanley in the Chair

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

Councillors Davis, May and Pickard were also in attendance. With the consent of the Chairman, Councillor May spoke on Minute No 49 (HS2 – Property Compensation and Safeguarded Area) and Councillor Pickard spoke on Minute No 41 (Review of Democratic Arrangements).

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

None were declared at the meeting.

39 **Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 11 and 24 September 2012.**

The minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 11 and 24 September 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40 **Annual Audit Letter 2011/12**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2011/12 Annual Audit Letter received from the Council's external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Alison Breadon from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was in attendance.

Resolved:

That, subject to minor alterations relating to acronyms and the inclusion of an Executive Summary, Appendix A attached to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be agreed for publication.

41 **Review of Democratic Arrangements**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on proposals to implement certain recommendations from the Democratic Arrangements Task and Finish Group, together with a minor Constitutional amendment relating to Environmental Health.

Recommended:

- a That the report to the Democratic Arrangements Task and Finish Group be noted;
- b That the following amendments be agreed
- that providing notice has been given to the Chief Executive or his representative by 12 noon on the day of a meeting, substitutes be permitted;
 - that Standing Task and Finish Groups be established for each Policy Board;
 - that the operation of the Task and Finish Groups and Scrutiny Board be reviewed after 12 months; and
 - that at the discretion of the Mayor or Board Chairman, a person or organisation may submit under Public Questions more than one question to Full Council or a Board meeting.
- c That subject to the amendments set out on b above, the changes to the Constitution detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be made; and
- d That the additional authorisations for members of the Environmental Health Division detailed in the report be made.

42 **Assets of Community Value**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the new provisions regarding assets of community value and the Board was asked to approve how the new duties on the Council would be discharged.

Recommended:

That the arrangements for the discharge of this function detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be agreed.

43 **Members' Code of Conduct**

The Board was asked to consider further applications for the role of Independent Persons.

Resolved:

That the consideration of the applications for the role of Independent Persons detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be deferred until later in the meeting following the withdrawal of the public and press.

44 Consultation Action Plan

The Board was asked to approve the draft consultation action plan developed by the Scrutiny Board.

Recommended:

That the Consultation Action Plan detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be adopted and that where possible opportunities to use social media be developed.

45 Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal

The Chief Executive reported on the City Deal process and sought endorsement for Officers and Members to continue to engage with the emerging bid for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal.

Resolved:

- a That the report is noted; and**
- b That Members and Officers are authorised to continue to engage with the emerging bid for a Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal.**

46 Portas Funding – the High Street and Innovation Fund

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought approval for an approach to using the funding the Council had received through the Portas scheme.

Recommended:

- a That the approach detailed in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be endorsed; and**
- b That the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be given delegated authority to approve bids from Love Coleshill in respect of Coleshill's share of the**

funding in consultation with the Borough Councillors for Coleshill.

47 Community Governance Review – Parish of Middleton

The Board was invited to consider the response received in respect of the Community Governance Review for Middleton. A letter from the Clerk to Middleton Parish Council was circulated at the meeting.

Recommended:

That having considered the representations received, no increase be made to the number of Parish Councillors for the Parish of Middleton and the Chief Executive be authorised to give notice of the decision accordingly.

48 Statement of Common Ground and Cooperation for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Region

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought agreement for a Duty to Co-operate Planning Statement covering the Local Authorities in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Region.

Recommended:

That the Agreement be approved as the basis for working across the Sub-Region on planning matters of common interest.

49 HS2 – Property Compensation and Safeguarded Area

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the consultation by the Secretary of State on the Property Compensation and the Safeguarding Area.

Recommended:

That the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council prepares a final response in consultation with the Leader, Leader of the Opposition, Chairman of Planning & Development Board and Opposition Spokesperson, HS2 spokesperson and Opposition HS2 spokesperson to meet the consultation deadline.

50 Supplementary Estimate Refuse Collection, Recycling and Horticulture

The Board was asked to agree a supplementary estimate of £40,000, to cover the additional costs on refuse collection and

horticulture and the reduction in income from recycling and refuse. The matter had previously been considered by the Community and Environment Board.

Recommended:

That the supplementary estimate of £40,000, to cover the additional costs on refuse collection and horticulture and the reduction in income from recycling and refuse, be approved.

51 Adoption of a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2013/14

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Services) reported further on the Council's proposed localised Council Tax Support Scheme to be implemented on 1 April 2013. The Board was provided with a summary of the results of the recently completed consultation exercise and asked to consider whether to accept the subsequent offer from Government of a transitional grant in respect of 2013/14 only.

Recommended:

- a That the findings of the Local Council Tax Consultation, as set out in Section 4 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Services), be noted;**
- b That the implementation of an 8.5% reduction in existing levels of Council Tax Benefit to all current working age customers in relation to the Proposed Council Tax Support Scheme to be adopted in 2013/14 only be approved; and**
- c That a full appraisal of the Council Tax Support Scheme is undertaken by December 2013 with a view to recommending any necessary changes in respect of 2014/15 onwards.**

52 Site Allocations Plan – Issues Options and Preferred Options

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council presented the Site Allocations Plan – Issues, Options and Preferred Options to Board for approval. A revised Appendix A was circulated at the meeting.

Recommended:

- a That the issue of Green Belt Infill boundaries be delegated to the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee to resolve prior to the formal consultation process; and**

- b That the revised Appendix A, as circulated at the meeting, be approved for consultation.**

53 Calendar of Meetings 2013/14

The Board was invited to approve the timetable of meetings for 2013/14.

Recommended:

That the draft calendar of meetings for 2013/14 as submitted at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report be approved.

54 Implementing Individual Electoral Registration

The Chief Executive reported on the progress being made towards the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration.

Recommended:

- a That the report be noted; and**
- b That, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition , the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Government expressing the Council's concerns at the impending introduction of Individual Electoral Registration.**

55 Budgetary Control Report 2012/13 Period Ended 31 August 2012

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 August 2012. The 2012/2013 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.

56 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets – April 2012 to September 2012

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 September 2012.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

57 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 9 October and 12 November 2012

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 9 October and 12 November 2012 were received and noted.

58 Minutes of the meetings of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 11 September 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 11 September 2012 were received and noted.

59 Minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 23 October and 14 November 2012

The minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 23 October and 14 November 2012 were received and noted.

60 Notes of the meeting of the Democratic Arrangements Task and Finish Group held on 23 October 2012

The notes of the meeting of the Democratic Arrangements Task and Finish Group held on 23 October 2012 were received and noted.

61 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 in Schedule 12A to the Act.

62 Members' Code of Conduct

The Board was asked to consider further applications for the role of Independent Persons.

Recommended:

That with the exception of application number 8, the applications for the role of Independent Persons detailed in

the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, be accepted.

63 Future of West Midlands Council

The Chief Executive reported on developments in relation to the future of West Midlands Councils and recommend that the Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to act on the Council's behalf in any discussions and negotiations.

Recommended:

- a That the Leader of the Council be authorised to carry out discussions as outlined in the report of the Chief Executive; and**
- b That the Chief Executive be given delegated powers to make any urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader.**

M Stanley
Chairman