

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

17 January 2013

Present: Councillor M Stanley in the Chair

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

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

None were declared at the meeting.

65 **Local Government Finance Settlement**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Secretary of State had announced the provisional local government finance settlement and outlined the figures and implications for the Borough Council.

Resolved:

That the details of the proposed settlement be noted.

66 **Reduction of Council Tax Discounts for Second Homes and Long Term Empty Dwellings**

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) reported on proposals to use discretionary powers to reduce council tax discounts and exemptions awarded in respect of "second homes" and specific "long term empty" properties and the Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

- a That with effect from 1 April 2013, the following changes are made to Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions;**
 - i the reduction of council tax discounts on second homes from 10% to 0% from day one;**
 - ii the reduction of the council tax discount on uninhabitable dwellings (Class A) from 100% to 25% in line with the existing 12 month period of exemption;**
 - iii the reduction of the council tax discount exemption period on long-term empty dwellings (Class C – empty and substantially unfurnished) from 6 months to 14 days;**

- iv the charging of a 50% premium on Class C long term empty dwellings once they have been so for a continuous period of two years;
- b That the exemption status for repossessed dwellings (Class L) is removed from day one with immediate effect on the passing of enabling regulations; and
- c That a full appraisal of the changes to the Council Tax discounts and exemptions is undertaken by December 2013 with a view to recommending any necessary changes in respect of 2014/15 onwards.

67 **Adoption of the Council Tax Base**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the proposed Council Tax base for 2013/14.

Recommended:

That the Council Tax Base for 2013/14, attached at Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be approved.

68 **Business Rates**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the amount of money to be collected from Business Rates in North Warwickshire and the amounts needed to be paid over to Central Government and the County Council.

Recommended:

- a **That the figures for the estimated collection of Business Rates, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be agreed; and**
- b **The Deputy Chief Executive be authorised to make any necessary adjustments in consultation with the Leader of the Council, prior to final submission.**

69 **The Impact of Council Tax Support on Parish Councils**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the proposed options for ensuring that individual parishes did not suffer a reduction in funding as a result of the move to Council Tax Support from April 2013. A revised Appendix A was circulated at the meeting.

Recommended:

That the grant payments to Parish Councils in 2013/14, as set out in the revised Appendix A circulated at the meeting, be approved.

M Stanley
Chairman