

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

25 November 2013

Present: Councillor M Stanley in the Chair

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

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

None were declared at the meeting.

44 **2012/13 Annual Audit Letter**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the 2012/13 Annual Audit Letter received from the Council's external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Alison Breadon from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was in attendance.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

45 **Council Tax Support Scheme 2014/15**

The Board was asked to consider the options for the Council Tax Support Scheme in 2014/15.

Recommended:

- a **That the retention of an 8.5% reduction in Council Tax Support to all current working age customers, in the 2014/15 Council Tax Support Scheme be approved; and**
- b **That the Council Tax Support Scheme adopted for 2014/15 be uprated in line with the statutory increases as notified by the Department of Work and Pensions.**

46 **Council Tax Support Grant to Parish Councils**

The Board was asked to consider the Council's ability to continue to provide grant to parish councils.

Recommended:

- a **That the Council continues to provide grant to Parish and Town Councils in 2014/15 in the sum of £97,245; and**

- b That the Council gives notice to Parish and Town Councils of the potential reduction in grant in future years.**

47 Portas Funding – the High Street Innovation Fund

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

Recommended:

That the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be given delegated authority to approve bids in respect of Atherstone's share of the funding in consultation with the Borough Councillors for Atherstone Central, Atherstone North and Atherstone South and Mancetter Wards.

48 Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Committee

The Chief Executive reported on a proposal to establish a Joint Committee of all the local authorities across the Coventry & Warwickshire City Deal area to provide sub-regional governance to the economic development of the area.

Recommended:

- a That the report is noted;**
- b That the Council agrees in principal to the proposed Joint Committee;**
- c That the Council's nominee to the Joint Committee be the Leader of the Council; and**
- d That the power to finalise the terms of reference and other matters for the Joint Committee be delegated to the Special Sub-Group and that this Council's concerns around the spatial planning elements of the terms of reference be referred back to partners.**

49 Corporate Peer Challenge

The Chief Executive reported on the result of the Peer Challenge exercise carried out by the Local Government Association in July 2013 and made recommendations on how the areas for action, highlighted in the Peer Challenge Team's report, could be taken forward.

Resolved:

- a That the report be noted;**
- b That reports be taken to appropriate Boards, where required, to progress actions set out under ‘Comments’ in section 3 of the report; and**
- c That the Chief Executive liaises with the Local Government Association to maximise the opportunities arising from this review, including seeking expert support around economic development and taking opportunities, both to learn from Best Practice and to develop staff and Members.**

50 Federation of Small Businesses Procurement Charter

The Board was asked to adopt the Federation of Small Businesses’ Procurement Charter.

Recommended:

That the Federation of Small Businesses’ Procurement Charter be adopted.

51 Conservative Group

The Board was asked to give authorisation to any possible amendments to representation on Boards resulting from the impending change in the leadership of the Conservative Group.

Recommended:

That any possible amendments to representation on Boards resulting from the impending change to the Leader of the Conservative Group be tabled at the Full Council meeting to be held on 11 December 2013.

52 Calendar of Meetings 2014/15

The Board was invited to approve the timetable of meetings for 2014/15.

Recommended:

That the draft calendar of meetings for 2014/15 as submitted at Appendix A to the Chief Executive’s report be approved.

53 2013/14 Capital Programme

Members were informed of the action taken by the Chief Executive, using his urgent business powers, in respect of an amendment to the approved 2013/14 capital programme, in order that suitable plant could be ordered for delivery in time for the commencement of the new carriageway sweeping service.

Recommended:

That the action taken to increase the approved capital programme by £105,875 to enable the purchase of suitable plant for the delivery of the new carriageway sweeping service be noted.

54 Implementing Individual Electoral Registration

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

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

55 Budgetary Control Report 2013/14 Period Ended 31 October 2013

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 October 2013. The 2013/2014 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 2013 to September 2013

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 2013.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

57 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 21 October and 18 November 2013

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 21 October and 18 November 2013 were received and noted.

58 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 in Schedule 12A to the Act.

59 Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal

The Chief Executive informed Members of the latest developments in the City Deal process and sought approval for the funding of certain measures contained in the City Deal proposals.

Recommended:

- a That the report be noted;**
- b That the Executive Board be asked to consider the final draft of the City Deal document;**
- c That provided the City Deal document is approved, the Council agrees the financial contribution towards the creation of the Clearing House detailed in the report of the Chief Executive on the basis of continuing finance through the LEP from top sliced New Homes Bonus;**
- d That Councillor M Stanley be authorised as Leader of the Council to sign the City Deal document, subject to the provisos set out in b and c above;**
- e That the CWLEP is informed that if New Homes Bonus is top sliced and transferred to the LEP that this Council requests that it be used to fund the Clearing House proposal and, if any additional funds are available, a local Business Investment Fund; and**
- f That if the New Homes Bonus top slicing proposal does not proceed the Council will continue to fund the Clearing House proposal from New Home Bonus.**

**M Stanley
Chairman**