

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

3 September 2024

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors Barnett, Chapman, Clews, Davey, Jarvis, Osborne, Parsons, O Phillips, Simpson, Stuart and Watson

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Humphreys, (Substitute Councillor Jarvis) and Taylor (Substitute Councillor Osborne)

17 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

18 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 3 June 2024.**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 3 June 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 **Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy**

The Director of Director of Housing submitted the finalised Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (“the policy”) for approval and adoption together with associated policies, enabling robust and fair regulation of matters relating to Environmental Health and Private sector housing.

Resolved:

That the Environmental Health and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy as set out in Appendix 1 and supplementary policies listed in Section 3 of the report of the Director of Housing be approved.

20 **Social Housing Regulator – Consumer Standards**

The Director of Housing updated the Board with information about how the Council is acting to ensure it meets the Social Housing Regulator’s Consumer Standards requirements as specified in the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023.

Resolved:

a That the draft policy on Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion be approved;

- b That the draft policy on Hate Crime be approved;**
- c That the draft policy on Domestic Abuse be approved;**
- d That the growth bid of £12,240 to purchase case management software of cases of damp and mould and anti-social behaviour be approved; and**
- e That the growth bid of £40,000 to appoint a working Charge Hand to deliver damp and mould remedial works be approved subject to consideration by the Special Sub-Group.**

21 Homelessness Strategy

The Director of Housing presented the Board with a draft homelessness strategy for consideration.

Resolved:

- a That the draft Homelessness Strategy at Appendix A of the report of the Director of Housing be agreed; and**
- b That consultation on the strategy be undertaken, with feedback shared with the Board, with a final version of the Strategy signed off for approval.**

22 General Fund Budgetary Control Report 2024/25 (Apr-Jul)

The Corporate Director - Resources detailed revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024. The 2024/25 approved budget and the actual position for the period, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

23 Insurance Contract Renewal – Additional Cost

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented to Members a request for additional funding for the insurance contract which, when it was renewed in July 2024, increased by 26.4% (£91,529). A supplementary estimate was required to cover the additional cost for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

Resolved:

That a supplementary estimate for the additional cost of insurance £91,529 (split £65,611 General Fund and £25,918 HRA) be approved. This covers the contract from 24 July 2024 to 23 July 2025. This is the last year of renewal; a full procurement process will take place during this year and a new contract will be in place for July 2025.

24 Capital Programme – 2023/24 Final Position and Carry forwards Capital Programme – 2024/25 Position at 30 June 2024

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) updated Members on the position of the 2023/24 Capital Programme at the end of March 2024 and the progress of the 2024/25 Capital Programme in terms of expenditure up to the end of June 2024.

Resolved:

- a That the level of expenditure incurred to the end of March 2024 against the 2023/24 Revised Capital Programme be noted;**
- b That the requests to carry forward schemes identified in column 5 of Appendix A of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) totalling £1,962,116 for HRA and £1,557,878 for General Fund be approved and added to the 2024/25 Capital Programme;**
- c That progress made against the 2024/25 Capital Programme be noted.**

25 Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Control Report 2024/2025 Period Ended 31 July 2024

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported the total Housing Revenue Account revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2024.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

26 Internal Audit Progress Report

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the internal audit activity and findings for the period 1 April to 31 July 2024.

Resolved

That the audit activity and findings be noted.

27 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 by Schedule 12A to the Act.

28 Irrecoverable Debts

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) provided details to Members of debts.

Resolved:

That recommendations a and b as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved.

29 Garage Matter

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information regarding garage purchase.

Resolved:

That the decision be deferred until a full report about garages is considered by the Resources Board in January 2025.

30 Middleton Report

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information regarding a site at Middleton.

Resolved:

That the decision be deferred until a full report about garages is considered by the Resources Board in January 2025.

Councillor Symonds
Chair