

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

18 April 2016

Present: Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Davey, N Dirveiks, Henney, Reilly, Simpson, Smith, Smitten, and E Stanley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davis (Substitute Councillor Smith) and Waters (Substitute Councillor Reilly)

Councillors Chambers, Humphreys, Jarvis, Lea and Phillips were also in attendance. With the consent of the Chairman Councillor Chambers spoke on Minute No 77 (Borough Care Service).

73 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

74 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 25 January 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25 January 2016, copies having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75 **Public Participation**

Pamela Green raised a number of concerns in respect of the proposed introduction of charges for the Borough Care Service and presented a petition to the Chairman of the Board.

76 **Presentation on the Work of the Housing Division**

The presentation by The Assistant Director (Housing) on the work of her Division was deferred.

77 **Borough Care Service**

The Assistant Director (Housing) detailed the feedback that the Council had received from its customers in response to the consultation letter about the proposal for introducing a charge for the service.

It was proposed by Councillor Henney and seconded by Councillor E Stanley

“That this item not be resolved by the Resources Board at this meeting but recommended to Full Council in order to give Councillors a chance to debate the effect on their constituents of the implementation of charges for the Borough Care Service.”

Upon being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the proposed recommendation to be lost.

In accordance with Standing Order No 29 the vote was recorded as follows:

For the recommendation – Councillors N Dirveiks, Henney and E Stanley.

It was then proposed by Councillor Davey and seconded by Councillor Smitten and

Resolved:

- a That the consultation feedback be noted;**
- b That the recommendations agreed by the Executive Board at its meeting held on 9 February 2016, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report to this Board of the Assistant Director (Housing) be agreed, subject to the charge for current customers being implemented from 1 September 2016.**
- c That alternative methods of payment to Direct Debit be offered to current customers by agreement and exception on request;**
- d That customers who currently pay for the service be charged the same as other current customers following the Resources Board’s decision as proposed in paragraph 6.2 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing);**
- e That the principle of full cost recovery be used when applying a charge to other organisations for their customers as proposed in paragraph 6.3 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing); and**
- f That the principle of full cost recovery be used when applying a charge to legacy customers who live outside of North Warwickshire as proposed in paragraph 6.4 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing).**

In accordance with Standing Order No 29 the vote was recorded as follows:

Against the recommendation – Councillors N Dirveiks, Henney and E Stanley.

(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Henney, E Stanley and N Dirveiks under Standing Order No 30(1)(b)(Minority Report) with regard to the decision of the Board on this matter and it is therefore referred to Council for determination.)

78 Internal Audit – Performance for Third Quarter 2015-16

The Deputy Chief Executive detailed the progress of the Council's Internal Audit function against the agreed plan of work for the year.

Resolved:

That the progress of the Council's Internal Audit function against the agreed plan of work for the year be noted.

79 Adoption of a Revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) sought Members' approval for a revised Discretionary Housing Payment Policy (DHP) following an update of the Discretionary Housing Payments Guidance Manual issued by the Department of Works and Pensions in February 2016.

Resolved:

That the Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) policy as attached at Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) be approved.

80 Safeguarding Adults – Policy Update

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided Members with information about how the Borough Council supported the work of the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board and set out a revised Policy for consideration.

Resolved:

That the revised Safeguarding Policy for Adults with Care and Support needs as attached at Appendix B to the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be approved.

81 Homelessness Service Update

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided an update on the current homelessness service and current trends, reported progress against the Housing Strategy Action Plan and proposed a way forward for the review of the service.

Resolved:

- a That the progress against the 2012-2015 Homelessness Strategy be noted;**
- b That the current homelessness situation and trends be noted; and**
- c That the proposals set out in Section 6 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be agreed.**

82 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.

83 Housing Management Section – Review of Tenancy and Neighbourhoods Service

The Assistant Director (Housing) sought approval for a change in structure for the Tenancy and Neighbourhoods Team which had been agreed by the Council's Special Sub-Group at its meeting on 8 March 2016.

Resolved:

- a That the challenges facing the Housing Management Section be noted;**
- b That the number of Tenancy Services Officers be increased from 4 to 5;**
- c That the roles of Tenant Participation Officer and Neighbourhood Services Officer be combined;**

- d That a post of Tenancy Sustainment Officer be created for a temporary period of 2 years; and**
- e That the in-house communal area cleaning service be managed within the Tenancy and Neighbourhoods Team.**

D Wright
CHAIRMAN