

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

16 November 2015

Present: Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Davey, Davis, N Dirveiks, Henney, Simpson, Smitten, E Stanley and Waters

Councillor Humphreys was also in attendance.

36 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Henney declared a Pecuniary Interest in Minute No 54, Land at Sheepy Road, Atherstone, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

37 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 August and 8 September 2015**

The minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 11 August and 8 September 2015, copies having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38 **Presentation on the Work of the Community Services Division**

Bob Trahern, Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) gave a presentation on the work of his Division.

39 **Treasury Management Update 2015/16**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Treasury Management activity for the period up to the end of September 2015.

Resolved:

That the Treasury Management report for the period up to the end of September 2015 be noted.

40 **Capital Programme 2015/16 Period 6 Update**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated Members on the progress of the 2015/16 Capital Programme in terms of expenditure up to the end of September 2015.

Resolved:

That the progress made against the 2015/16 Capital Programme be noted.

41 General Fund Budgetary Control Report 2015/16 Period Ended 30 September 2015

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the General Fund between 1 April 2015 and 30 September 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

42 Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Control Report 2015/2016 Period Ended 30 September 2015

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the total Housing Revenue Account revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2015.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

43 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – September 2015

The Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Resources Board for April to September 2015.

Resolved:

That the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Resources Board for April to September 2015 be noted.

44 Internal Audit – Performance for 2014-15

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on 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.

45 Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

The Deputy Chief Executive provided an update on recent legislation which would impact on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

Resolved:

That the issues contained within the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be considered again at the January 2016 meeting of the Board.

46 The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 and the Deregulation Act 2015 relating to the Private Rented Housing Sector

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided the Board with information in respect of the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 and the Deregulation Act 2015 relating to the Private Rented Housing Sector and put forward a proposed approach for the Council to take to meeting these new arrangements.

Resolved:

- a That the changes in respect of private rented tenancies set out in the Deregulation Act 2015 be noted;**
- b That with regard to the Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Alarms (England) Regulations 2015:-**
 - 1. The Memorandum of Understanding be approved;**
 - 2. The Fixed fine and variable fee for Penalty Charge Notices is agreed;**
 - 3. The Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service be appointed as the authorised person to carry out works in default on failure of landlords to comply; and**

Recommended:

- c That delegated authority be given for Environmental Health Officers to carry out enforcement of the new provisions.**

47 Recovery of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates – Court Authorisation

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) sought authorisation for John Payne to prosecute or defend on the Council's behalf or appear in proceedings before a Magistrates' Court in relation to the recovery of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved:

That John Payne be authorised to appear on the Council's behalf in relation to the recovery of Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates.

48 Proposed Discontinuation of Discretionary Taxi Voucher Scheme

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) provided Members with information to support the proposed removal of the discretionary taxi voucher scheme.

Resolved:

That the discretionary taxi voucher scheme be discontinued from 1 April 2016.

49 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.

50 Request to Purchase Land at Willow Walk, Old Arley

The Assistant Director (Housing) detailed a request received from a resident in Old Arley to purchase a piece of land adjacent to their property.

Recommended:

- a That the land at Willow Walk, Old Arley, shown in Appendix A of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council; and**
- b That the request to purchase the land at Willow Walk, Old Arley be approved.**

51 Request for Licence for Access Over Land in Kingsbury

The Assistant Director (Housing) detailed a request from a resident in Kingsbury to be granted a licence to use the Council's land.

Resolved:

That the request for a licence to use the Council's land in Coventry Road, Kingsbury, as shown at Appendix A of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be granted.

52 Request to Purchase Land in Pear Tree Avenue, Kingsbury

The Assistant Director (Housing) detailed a request received from an owner in Pear Tree Avenue, Kingsbury to purchase a grassed area adjacent to their house.

Recommended:

- a That the land at Pear Tree Avenue, Kingsbury, shown in Appendix A of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be declared surplus to the requirements of the Council; and**
- b That the request to purchase the land in Pear Tree Avenue, Kingsbury be approved.**

53 Abbey Green Park Sheltered Scheme Communal Room and Sports Pavilion

The Assistant Director (Streetscape), Assistant Director (Housing) and Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) highlighted physical, operational and social issues regarding the Housing Sheltered Scheme Communal Room and Sports Pavilion in Abbey Green Park, Polesworth and sought Members' consideration of the permanent closure and demolition of the facility.

Resolved:

- a That the closure and demolition of the Housing Sheltered Scheme Communal Room and Sports Pavilion in Abbey Green Park, Polesworth be approved, subject to consultation with, and the consent of, Fields in Trust and the Council's Planning and Development Board; and**

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

- b That, subject to the required consultation, a supplementary estimate to the capital programme as set out in the report for the demolition of the Community Centre and Sports Pavilion be approved.**

54 Land at Sheepy Road, Atherstone - Update

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) updated Members on the progress at property owned, but not managed and operated, by the Borough Council in Sheepy Road, Atherstone, and the action taken by Officers to date.

Resolved:

- a That the contents of the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be noted;**
- b That in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be given delegated authority to take legal advice in relation to the issues identified in the report and arrange to undertake a site visit; and**
- c That a further report be brought back to the Board, as necessary, updating Members on progress and any further action taken or required.**

55 St Helena Road, Polesworth

The Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of action taken, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board and the Leader of the Council under the Council's urgent business protocol relating to land and buildings in St Helena Road, Polesworth.

Resolved:

That the action taken under the Council's urgent business protocol by the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board and the Leader of the Council, relating to land and buildings in St Helena Road, Polesworth, be noted.

D Wright
CHAIRMAN