

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

28 March 2011

Present: Councillor Smith in the Chair

Councillors Bowden, Butcher, N Dirveiks, Fowler, Fox, Johnston, Moore, Payne, Y Stanley and Winter.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lea and Smitten.

Councillor Phillips was also in attendance.

104 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Fowler and Fox, and membership of various Parish Councils of Councillors Butcher and Y Stanley (Polesworth), Fox (Shustoke) and Moore (Baddesley Ensor) were deemed to be declared at the meeting.

105 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 1 February 2011, copies having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

106 **Housing Self Financing**

The Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the proposals for the reform of council housing finance issued by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) and highlighted changes from the original proposals and implications for the Council.

Resolved:

- a That the proposals be noted;**
- b That the CLG be informed of any potential demolitions;
and**
- c That representations be made to CIPFA and CLG about
the potential impact on the General Fund.**

107 Potential Change of Refuse Collection Service Depot

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) sought the Board's agreement, in principle, to relocate the Refuse Collection and Garden Waste Collection services to the Lower House Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre and Transfer Station when the facility opened in 2013.

Resolved:

- a That the Board agree, in principle, to the future relocation of the Refuse Collection and Garden Waste Collection Services to Lower House Farm, Lower House Lane, Baddesley Ensor; and**
- b That a further report be brought back to the Resources Board following completion of Warwickshire County Council's tender process.**

108 ICT Strategy Action Plan for 2011/2012

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) presented the ICT Strategy Action Plan for 2011/2012 which supported the delivery of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy 2009-2012.

Resolved:

That the ICT Strategy Action Plan for 2011/2012 provided as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be approved.

109 Procurement and Commissioning Strategy Action Plan 2011-2012

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) presented the Procurement and Commissioning Strategy Action Plan 2011-2012 to Members for their approval.

Resolved:

That the Procurement and Commissioning Strategy Action Plan 2011-2012, provided as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services), be approved.

110 Internal Audit – Plan of Work for 2011 - 2012

The Deputy Chief Executive explained the basis upon which the Audit Plan for 2011/12 had been developed, using a variety of sources of information to ensure that all appropriate aspects of service activity were embraced as part of the approved three-year review programme.

Resolved:

That the Audit Plan for 2011 – 2012 be approved.

111 Revised Service Standards for Housing Management and Maintenance

The Assistant Director (Housing) presented the revised service standards for the Council's landlord service to the Board for consideration.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

112 Procurement Performance Indicators 2010/11

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) updated Members on the performance indicators being used by the Council's Corporate Procurement function.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

113 Tenant Services Authority – Statutory Consultation on Use of Powers

The Assistant Director (Housing) set out the proposals of the Tenant Services Authority on how they would use four specific enforcement powers in their recent consultation paper.

Resolved:

That the proposals set out in the consultation paper and the proposed response at Section 4.9 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be noted.

114 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.

115 Facilities Management Section

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) suggested changes to the structure of the Facilities Management Section following the retirement of the Assistant Facilities Manager at the end of March 2011.

Resolved:

- a That the Assistant Facilities Manager post be deleted from the establishment upon the retirement of the current post holder;
- b That the Facilities Management Officer will become responsible for the duties currently carried out by the Assistant Facilities Manager and the post re-evaluated;
- c That the Premises Officer post be split into two posts. The current post holder be flexibly retired into one post and the other post advertised; and
- d That a potential saving of at least £25,290, achieved from the proposed restructure be agreed.

116 Irrecoverable Housing and Local Taxation Debts

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) detailed the amounts recommended for write-off, in accordance with the write-off policy agreed by the former Finance Sub-Committee in September 2000.

Resolved:

- a That the write-off of 1 balances over £1,250 totalling £1,453.26 in respect of unpaid Council Tax be approved;
- b That the write-off of 10 balances over £1,250 totalling £79,935.23 in respect of unpaid Non Domestic Rates be approved;
- c That the write-off of 4 balances over £1,250 totalling £7,788.05 in respect of unpaid Housing Rent be approved;
- d That the write-off under delegated powers of 11 balances under £1,250 totalling £3,359.78 in respect of unpaid Council Tax be noted;
- e That the write-off under delegated powers of 6 balances under £1,250 totalling £1,719.27 in respect of unpaid Non Domestic Rates be noted;
- f That the write-off under delegated powers of 20 balances under £1,250 totalling £5,613.55 in respect of unpaid Housing Rent be noted;
- g That the write-back under delegated powers of 6 balances totalling £2,780.41 in respect of Council Tax be noted; and

- h That the write back under delegated powers of 1 balance totalling £1,441.62 in respect of Non Domestic rates be noted.**

117 Funding for Affordable Housing – 2011-2015

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided the Board with information about the launch of the Government's new Affordable Homes Programme Framework and set out the implications for North Warwickshire.

Resolved:

- a That the Council participate in the Affordable Homes Programme 2011-2015;**
- b That the Housing Division continue discussions with the Council's preferred partners Waterloo Housing Group, Jephson Housing Association and Warwickshire Rural Housing Association in order to participate in the programme; and**
- c That the Council continue the practice of selling land to private social provider partners to develop affordable housing at less than market value as appropriate.**

118 Housing Register Officer Post

The Assistant Director (Housing) requested the Board make the post of Housing Register Officer permanent following a review of the demands on the Council's housing options and allocations service.

Resolved:

That the post of Housing Register Officer be made permanent and a growth bid for the ongoing costs agreed.

119 Recycling Officer – Temporary Post

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) sought the Board's agreement to establish a temporary post of Recycling Officer.

Resolved:

That the proposal to establish a temporary post of Recycling Officer for the financial year April 2011 to March 2012 be agreed.

120 Request to Use Rowland Court Communal Room as a Pharmacy

The Assistant Director (Housing) asked the Board to consider a request from the General Practitioner Surgery at New Arley to transfer their pharmacy to Rowland Court Communal Room when the new medical centre at Rectory Road was in place.

Resolved:

That, subject to planning permission being granted, the proposal to use part of Rowland Court Communal Room as a pharmacy be agreed.

L Smith
Chairman