

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

6 July 2009

Present: Councillor Smith in the Chair

Councillors Butcher, N Dirveiks, Forwood, Fowler, Johnston, Lea, Moore, Payne, Smitten, Y Stanley and Winter.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jenkins.

Councillor Phillips and M Stanley were also in attendance.

8 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests**

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

9 **Disabled Facilities Grants (Private Sector) – Funding and Waiting Times**

The Director of Community and Environment informed Members of a challenging financial situation and provided options to maintain a Corporate Plan target and Members' expectations on service delivery standards.

Resolved:

That the unallocated capital of £48,000 be vired to the private sector DFG budget for 2009/10 as set out in the report of the Director of Community and Environment.

10 **Funding for Rural Housing Enabler**

The Assistant Director (Housing) reported that the report had been withdrawn with a view to looking at different options.

11 **Treasury Policy Statement**

The Director of Resources invited Members to consider a revised Treasury Policy Statement.

Resolved:

- a That the Revised Policy Statement be accepted; and**
- b That further work be undertaken on credit ratings to enable a revised Strategy to be brought to Board.**

12 Council House Building

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided Members with the background to the Government's new drive to encourage Councils to build properties to add to their current stock and asked the Resources Board to consider whether the Council should bid for funds to build its own properties.

Resolved:

- a** That the Housing Division undertake the necessary work to enable the Council to prepare a bid for Social Housing Grant to develop its own properties on its land with a financial model to be considered by the Board at its meeting in September 2009;
- b** That the Housing Division employ an architect to give advice and provide outline plans, where appropriate, for the pieces of land to be put forward as development sites for the bidding process;
- c** That the areas of land outlined in the report be considered by the Housing Division, the architect employed and local Ward Councillors in order to identify which would provide the best development opportunities;
- d** That, based on the information from (c) above, the Assistant Director (Housing) be given delegated power, in consultation with the Chairman of the Resources Board, to agree which areas of land be submitted for planning permission in time for the Homes and Communities bidding round;
- e** That planning permission be sought on the land selected;
- f** That the Council apply to be a preferred partner of the Homes and Communities Agency; and
- g** That a bid be prepared to submit to the Homes and Communities Agency for 30 October 2009 in order to access Social Housing Grant to build Council properties in the areas agreed in the report.

13 Pedestrian Access – Car Park Adjacent to Croft Mead, Ansley Village

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided the Board with information relating to a request for a pedestrian access over a car park off Croft Mead, Ansley Village and recommended support of the request.

Resolved:

- a** That a licence for a pedestrian access over the Council's car park at Croft Mead, Ansley Common, be granted when planning approval is in place for a change in use of the industrial units;

- b That the licence be granted for an initial term of five years, at an annual charge of £100, with the premium paid in advance; and**
- c That the owner of the Croft Mead Business Centre be granted his request to enhance the visual appearance of the area set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Housing), which includes undertaking regular weeding, re-staining the existing timber fence and installing one CCTV camera overlooking the Council car park.**

14 Concessionary Travel Consultation

The Director of Resources advised the Board of a consultation paper issued by the Department of Transport on possible changes to the administration of Concessionary Fares. The paper looked at options for moving the administration of concessionary travel to a different tier of Government.

Resolved:

That the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board, be authorised to respond to the consultation taking into account the comments set out in his report.

15 Proposal for Funding Green Space Strategy Biodiversity Projects

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) reported on proposals for the allocation of revenue funding to projects that both enhance biodiversity and helped to deliver key priorities of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy.

Resolved:

That the proposals for the allocation of funding to projects that both enhance biodiversity and help to deliver key priorities of the North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) be approved.

16 Capital Programme 2009/10 – Period Ending May 2009

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated Members on the progress of the 2009/10 capital programme in terms of both expenditure and outcomes.

Resolved:

That the progress made against the capital budget be noted.

17 **Annual Treasury Report for 2008/09**

The Director of Resources reported the out-turn for 2008/09 and highlighted areas of significance.

Resolved:

a That the Annual Treasury Report for 2008/09 be noted; and

b That the Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix A of the report of the Director of Resources be noted.

18 **Internal Audit – Performance for 2008/09**

The Director of Resources reported on the progress of the Council's Internal Audit function against the agreed plan of work for the year.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

19 **Risk Management Annual Report 2008/09**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) informed Members of the progress made on Risk Management during 2008/09.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

20 **Budgetary Control Report 2009/2010 Period Ended 31 May 2009**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 May 2009. The 2009/2010 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date were detailed, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

21 **Consolidated Budgetary Control Report 2009/2010 – Period Ended 31 May 2009**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated the Board on the total Council General Fund revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 May 2009.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

22 **Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Control Report 2008/2009 Period Ended 31 May 2008**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) and the Director of Resources reported on the total Housing Revenue Fund revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 May 2009.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

23 **Progress Report on Human Resources Issues**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on progress against the Human Resources Strategy Plan, work undertaken by the Human Resources team, sickness levels for the period of April 2008 to March 2009 and further information on action taken in managing absence.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

24 **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.

25 **Sale of Land at Warton**

The Assistant Director (Housing) reported on a proposal to use a piece of Council owned land in Warton for a small housing development of affordable homes and sought approval for the disposal.

Resolved:

That consideration of this item be deferred to allow consultation to take place with the Parish Council and a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

26 **Redevelopment of Flats, Shops and Land at Lister Road, Atherstone**

The Assistant Director (Housing) reported on the possibility of redeveloping an area of land and properties in Lister Road, Atherstone and sought approval in principle to explore development options further.

Resolved:

- a **That the Housing Division carry out further work with Warwickshire County Council and Waterloo Housing Association to explore the feasibility of developing the area of land shown as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) in the short term for Extra Care Housing; and**
- b **That a further report be submitted to the Board at its September 2009 meeting in order to consider a comprehensive feasibility report on the potential to develop the site.**

L Smith
Chairman