

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

25 November 2024

Present: Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Barnett, Bell, Chapman, Clews, Osborne, H Phillips, Reilly, Ridley, Symonds, Watson and Whapples

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gosling (Substitute Chapman), Simpson (Substitute Watson) and Ririe (Substitute Osborne)

33 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

None were declared at the meeting.

34 **Minutes of the Executive Board held on 16 September 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 16 September 2024, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35 **Electoral Review – Stage 2 Consultation**

The Chief Executive asked the Board to consider the Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's review of ward boundaries in North Warwickshire.

Resolved:

- a That the consultation be noted;**
- b That the views of the Board be included in the Council's response to the consultation; and**

Recommended:

- c That Full Council, at its meeting on 4 December 2024, agree a date for an additional council meeting in January 2025 to facilitate submission of the Council's response to the consultation.**

36 **Feedback Policy**

The Head of Legal Services sought approval for the Feedback Policy for managing complaints to the Council.

Resolved:

That the Feedback Policy be approved and adopted.

37 Draft Financial Statements 2021/22 & 2022/23

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) highlighted the position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, compared with the estimated position previously reported.

Resolved:

That the financial statements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be approved.

38 External Auditors Completion Report for Those Charged with Governance 2021/22 & 2022/23

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) explained the approach and outcomes of both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 audits.

Recommended:

- a That the Completion Report, as presented in Appendix A of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved; and**
- b That, in consultation with the Chairman of the Executive Board, delegated authority be given to the Interim Corporate Director - Resources (Section 151 Officer) to sign off the Letter of Representation for 2021/22 and 2022/23.**

39 External Auditors' Report – Value for Money Interim Report 21/22 & 22/23

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the Value for Money Interim Report for years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 received from the Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young LLP.

Resolved:

That the contents of the Value for Money report be noted.

40 External Auditors' Report – planning 2023/24 and Rebuilding Assurance during the Recovery period

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the Audit Plan for year ended 31 March 2024 received from the Council's external auditors, Azets.

Resolved:

- a That the contents of the Audit Planning report be noted; and**
- b That the contents of the Local Audit Backlog- Rebuilding Assurance during the Recovery Period be noted.**

41 Budgetary Control Report 2024/25 Period Ended 31 October 2024

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024. The 2024/25 approved budget and the actual position for the period were given, together with an estimate of the outturn position for services reporting to this Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

42 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024 - 2029

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) summarised the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy, which projected forward the Authority's General Fund budgets to 2028/29 and suggested a budget approach for the 2025/26 General Fund Budget.

Recommended:

- a That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, attached at Appendix A of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;**
- b That the General Fund budget projections for 2024/25 to 2028/29 be noted;**
- c That the approach for balancing the Medium Term Budget set out in Table 2 of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be adopted;**
- d That the budget movements for 2024/25 as detailed in Table 3 of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;**

- e That the strategy for increasing the council tax to the maximum level approved by the Government, continue;
- f That the high level projects/initiatives for delivering reductions and increased income in Appendix A section 11 of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be noted and more detail and financial targets for the Tax Set report be requested; and
- g That a review of earmarked reserves with the balance on any funds no longer required being transferred to the general fund balance be carried out.

43 Remote attendance and Proxy voting

The Chief Executive asked the Board to consider the Government's consultation on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England.

Resolved:

- a That the consultation be noted; and
- b That the Board's views be forwarded to the Government as part of the consultation.

44 Performance Management

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update to the work that the newly appointed Data Analyst was undertaking.

Resolved:

- a That the report be acknowledged; and
- b That the new Power BI reporting dashboard be agreed.

45 Calendar of Meetings 2025/26

The Chief Executive sought approval for a calendar of meetings for 2025/26.

Recommended:

- a That the draft calendar of meetings for 2025/26, as submitted at Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive, be approved; and
- b That future meeting dates for working parties and task and finish groups be added to the calendar when arranged and that calendar meeting invitations be sent to all Borough Councillors for these meetings.

46 **Corporate Peer Challenge**

The Chief Executive asked the Board to note the Corporate Peer Challenge ('CPC') report.

Resolved:

- a **That the report be noted;**
- b **That the report be published on the Council's website; and**
- c **That a further report and action plan be reported to the next meeting of the Board in February.**

47 **Fillongley Public Spaces Protection Order**

The Chief Executive asked Members of the Board to consider consulting on a Public Spaces Protection Order in Fillongley.

Resolved:

That the draft Public Spaces Protection Order be consulted upon.

48 **Minutes of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 12 November 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 12 November 2024, were received and noted.

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 **Supplementary – Corporate Services**

The Chief Executive sought approval of a supplementary estimate to enable changes within the Division.

Resolved:

That the supplementary estimate be approved.

51 **Waste In-Cab Solution**

The Interim Corporate Director – Streetscape sought approval for the additional capital spend in the 24/25 budget.

Resolved:

That, subject to Community and Environment Board approval, the additional capital spend be approved.

D Wright
CHAIR