

## NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

25 January 2021

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Davey, Deakin, Dirveiks, Farrow, Hayfield, D Humphreys, Simpson and Singh.

Councillors Bell, D Clews, Gosling, Jarvis, Jenns, Lees, Moss, H Phillips, Smith, D Wright were also in attendance.

With the consent of the Chairman, Councillor D Clews spoke on Minute No 46 – Adaption to a Property in Atherstone.

#### 29 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillors Chambers and Singh declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 45 (Housing Service Area).

#### 30 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 9 November 2020**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 9 November 2020, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 31 **General Fund Fees and Charges 2021/22**

The Chief Executive, Corporate Director – Streetscape, Corporate Director – Resources and Director of Housing reported on the fees and charges for 2020/21 and the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the schedule of fees and charges for 2021/22, as set out in the report of the Chief Executive, Corporate Director – Streetscape, Corporate Director – Resources and Director of Housing be approved.**

**32 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2021/22 – Services Recharged Across All Boards**

The Corporate Director – Resources reported on the revised budget for 2020/21 and gave an estimate of expenditure for 2021/22, together with forward commitments for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**a That the revised budget for 2020/21 be accepted; and**

**Recommendation to the Executive Board:**

**b That the Estimates of Expenditure for 2021/22, as submitted in the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be included in the budget to be brought before the meeting of the Executive Board on 15 February 2021.**

**33 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2021/22 – Services Remaining within the Board**

The Corporate Director – Resources reported on the revised budget for 2020/21 and gave an estimate of expenditure for 2021/22, together with forward commitments for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**Resolved:**

**a That the revised budget for 2020/21 be accepted; and**

**Recommendation to Executive Board:**

**b That the Estimate of Expenditure for 2021/22, as submitted in the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be included in the budget to be brought before the meeting of the Executive Board on 15 February 2021.**

**34 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2021/22 - Summary**

The Corporate Director – Resources reported on the revised budget for 2020/21 and gave an estimate of expenditure for 2021/22, together with forward commitments for 2022 in terms of expenditure up to the end of September 2020.

**Recommendation to Executive Board:**

**That the following items be recommended to the Executive Board for consideration in setting the Council Tax of the Borough Council:**

- a The revised budget for 2020/21; and**
- b The schedule of expenditure requirements totalling £8,770,730 for 2021/22**

**35 Countywide Homelessness Strategy**

The Director (Housing) provided the Board with a draft of a homelessness strategy for Warwickshire to consider.

**Resolved:**

- a That the Countywide Homelessness Strategy, as attached at Appendix A to the report of the Director (Housing) be agreed;**
- b That the strategic vision and recommendations contained within the strategy; Preventing Homeless in Warwickshire: a multiagency approach, be agreed; and**
- c That the Council supports the Homelessness Strategic Group to develop an action plan underpinning these recommendations and continues to work towards preventing homelessness in 2021/22**

**36 HEART AND Private Sector Shared Services**

The Director (Housing) informed the Board about a recent review of the HEART shared service, which delivered grants for adaptations and provided for contractors to undertake the work, and gave an update about activity in the Private Sector Shared Service.

**Resolved:**

- a That the recommendations of the HEART shared service review, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Director (Housing) be agreed; and**
- b That the work undertaken by the Private Sector Housing shared service be noted.**

**37 Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2021/22 and Rent Review**

The Corporate Director – Resources detailed the Treasury Management activity for the period up to the end of September 2020.

**Resolved:**

- a That the revised estimate for 2020/21 be accepted;**
- b That the rent be increased by 1.7% in 2021/22 in line with the social rent policy set by the Government;**
- c That the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix D to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved;**
- d That the service charges for the cleaning of communal areas, as set out in Appendix E to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved;**
- e That the service charges for window cleaning, as set out in Appendix F of the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved; and**
- f That the Estimates of Expenditure for 2021/22, as submitted, be accepted.**

**38 Asset Management Plan & Housing Maintenance Service**

The Director (Housing) provided an update for Members about the delivery of the Asset Management Plan for the Council's Landlord stock and informed the Board about the challenges posed by an ageing stock profile and implications from the Social Housing White Paper.

**Resolved:**

- a That the current position of the Housing Asset Management Plan be noted;**
- b That the requirements of the Social Housing White Paper be considered in anticipation of reviewing the Asset Management Plan and 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan during 2021;**
- c That the requirement for a major works programme to deal with roof repairs and latent defects at the Council's blocks of flats at Alexandra Court, Abbey Green Court & Drayton Council be anticipated and subject to an option report;**

- d That introducing a new role of Trainee Contracts Surveyor be considered subject to budget availability, job evaluation and consideration by the Special Sub-Group; and**
- e That the capital programme for 2021/22 be adjusted to reflect the priorities set out in the report of the Director (Housing), and it be noted that a supplementary estimate will be proposed for the extensive works needed to specific blocks of flats.**

**39 Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2023/24**

The Corporate Director – Resources identified changes to the Council's 2020/21 capital programme and proposals for schemes to be included within the Council's capital programme over the next three years.

**Resolved:**

- a That the changes to the 2020/21 revised capital programme be supported;**
- b That the schemes, as shown in Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, previously approved within the Council's three-year capital programme, including any 2023/24 additions relating to previously approved schemes, be supported;**
- c That the growth bids included in the 2021/22 capital programme be supported;**
- d That the schemes which will not be included within the capital programme, as shown in Appendix B to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be noted; and**
- e That the proposed vehicle replacement schedule, shown in Appendix C to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be supported.**

40 **Customer Contact / Reception Service**

The Corporate Director - Resources proposed changes to the operation of the Council's reception service and area.

**Resolved:**

- a **That the move to an appointment only reception service be approved; and**
- b **That the staffing establishment be reduced in line with section 5 of the report of the Corporate Director – Resources.**

**(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Deakin, Dirveiks, Chambers and Farrow) 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 confirmation.)**

41 **Treasury Management and Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22**

The Corporate Director – Resources outlined the Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2021/22.

**Recommended:**

**That the proposed strategies for 2021/22 be approved.**

42 **Sheepy Road Football Ground**

The Corporate Director – Streetscape proposed that the Council entered into a Tenancy at Will with Atherstone Town Community Football Club in respect of its use of the Football Ground, Sheepy Road, Atherstone/

**Resolved:**

**That the Board enter into a Tenancy at Will with Atherstone Town Community Football Club in respect of its use of Sheepy Road Football Ground and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to complete the necessary documentation, subject to consultation with local Members and the agreement of the terms by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Resources and Community and Environment Boards.**

43 **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.**

44 **Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the Resources Board held on 9 November 2020**

The confidential extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 9 November 2020, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45 **Housing Service Area**

The Director of Housing reported on a proposal for the future of part of her Service Area in consideration of the Council's General Fund savings programme.

**Resolved:**

- a **That the need for savings in the General Fund be noted;**
- b **That the Board have regard to the Director of Housing's consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty in making the proposals set out in her report;**
- c **That having taken into account the alternative provision which is readily available to customers the service is ended in order to provide sufficient contribution to the savings required;**
- d **That the Council offers to facilitate the transfer of customers to another suitable alternative provider;**
- e **That notice is given end the contract in relation to the service;**

- f That other authorities concerned are advised of the impact of the decision upon their services and discussions are invited about how an alternative service can be provided; and**
- g That alternative arrangements are made for the out of hours service affected; and**
- h That a Member task and finish group be established to consider how those people affected can access support available in their community to meet their needs.**

**(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Deakin, Dirveiks, Chambers and Farrow) 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 confirmation.)**

#### **46 Adaptation to a Property in Atherstone**

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information about a referral which had been received to provide an adaptation for a disabled person.

**Resolved:**

- a That the referral to provide an adaptation for a disabled person be noted; and**
- b That a supplementary estimate from the Housing Revenue Account, as set out in the report of the Director of Housing, be approved to fund the adaptation required.**

#### **47 High Street, Coleshill**

The Corporate Director – Streetscape sought approval for repair works to properties as set out in his report.

**Resolved:**

- a That, subject to further consideration of the budget by the Executive Board, Members are minded to approve the repair works to properties, as set out in the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape; and**

**Recommendation to Executive Board:**

- b That the budget provision as set out in the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape be included within the 2021/22 capital programme to cover the cost of the repairs.**

C Symonds  
Chairman