

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SUB-GROUP

22 August 2011

Present: Councillors Moore, Phillips, Smith and Sweet.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hayfield and M Stanley.

Councillors Barber, Davis, Fowler, Fox, Humphreys, Morson, and Wykes were also in attendance.

1 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillor Sweet and membership of the various Town/Parish Councils of Councillors Moore (Baddesley Ensor) and Phillips (Kingsbury) were deemed to be declared at this meeting.

2 **Changes to Boards and the Special Sub-Group**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought the Sub-Group's approval to changes in the Constitution and terms of reference of the Policy Boards and the Special Sub-Group and the creation of a Resources Sub-Committee.

Recommendation to the Executive Board that the Council make the following changes to the Constitution:

- a **That the number of Members on the Executive, Resources and Community and Environment Boards be reduced to nine;**
- b **That substitutes for all Boards be allowed in accordance with the scheme set out in revised Standing Order 23 in the Appendices to this report;**
- c **That responsibility for Human Resource matters be given to the Special Sub-Group;**
- d **That Appeals Panels consist of either the Chairman of the Special Sub-Group or the Chairman of the Resources Board together with three other Members from either the Special Sub-Group or the Resources Board and that all the Council's policies that refer to Appeals Panels or similar be amended accordingly;**

- e That a Sub-Committee consisting of 5 Members be appointed with delegated powers over Housing matters as set out in the attached Appendix;
- f That the changes to the Constitution detailed in the Appendices to this report be approved; and
- g That the above changes be reviewed by a cross party task and finish group with a view to evaluating whether other forms of decision making structures would be more effective.

3 Council Vision, Priorities and Corporate Plan Key Actions – Implications arising from the 2011 Elections

The Sub-Group was invited to consider what actions needed to be taken in relation to the Council's Vision, Priorities and Corporate Plan Key Actions, following the elections in May 2011. A revised version of Appendix 2 was circulated and a minor amendment to Priority 4 reported to the meeting. Members were asked to approve appropriate recommendations.

Resolved:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to report to the Executive Board recommending:-

- a That the Council's Vision, Logo and Priorities be confirmed as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the amendment reported to the meeting; and
- b That Appendix 2, as amended, be adopted as the format for the Council's Priorities and Corporate Plan Key Actions and that further reports be brought on any proposals for the areas in italics in Appendix 2 which require additional budget provision to take forward in the current financial year.

4 Public Speaking at Planning and Development Board Meetings

The Sub-Group was invited to approve a scheme to allow the public to speak on planning applications considered by the Planning and Development Board.

Recommendation to the Planning and Development and Executive Boards:

- a That the scheme for public speaking at the Planning and Development Board detailed in the Appendix be adopted; and

b That the scheme be reviewed in twelve months time.

5 Executive and Planning and Development Board Terms of Reference

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought approval to changes in the terms of reference of the Executive and Planning and Development Boards.

Recommendation to the Executive and Planning and Development Boards:

That changes to the Constitution detailed in the Appendices to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be approved.

6 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 in Schedule 12A to the Act.

7 Accommodation Review

The Sub-Group was informed of the progress of the accommodation review and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Subject to the views of the Resources and Executive Boards, the Council be recommended:-

- a To agree to pursue Option 2 as set out in the body of the report at section 6.2 as its preferred option for the refurbishment of the Council House;**
- b To appoint a specialist contractor to project manage the design, tendering and delivery of the preferred option as soon as possible;**
- c To establish a budget of £50,000 to fund the appointment and initial fees of that contractor;**
- d That once the refurbishments are completed, all staff currently located at Old Bank House be moved to the main**

Council House building to free up Old Bank House for disposal or rental to a third party; and

- e That Members agree on the preferred mechanism for progress on the project being reported back to them on an ongoing basis.**

8 Senior Management Structure

The Chief Executive reported on his final recommendations for the Senior Management Structure, following the implementation of the one year trial period agreed in May 2010.

Recommended:

That the consideration report be deferred.

Chairman