

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

18 September 2017

Present: Councillor Humphreys in the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Davey, Hayfield, Morson, Phillips, Simpson, Sweet, Waters and D Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Farrell (substitute Councillor Morson), Councillor Gosling (substitute Councillor Sweet) and Councillor Smith (substitute Walters).

19 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.**

None were declared at the meeting.

20 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19 June 2017.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19 June 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21 **Financial Statements 2016/17**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Financial Statements for 2016/17 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Resolved:

That the 2016/17 Financial Statements shown in Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved.

22 **External Auditors' Report**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the External Auditors' report to those charged with governance. Avtar Sohal and Stephen Clarke from Ernst & Young LLP were in attendance.

Recommended:

That the contents of the External Auditors' report be noted.

23 Financial Strategy 2018-2022

The Deputy Chief Executive report on the Authority's Financial Strategy projected forward the Authority's General Fund budgets to 2021/22, and suggested a detailed budget approach for the 2018/19 General Fund Budget.

Recommended:

- a That the Financial Strategy shown as Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved;**
- b That the General Fund budget projections for 2018/19 to 2021/22 be noted; and**
- c That the budget approach, set out in section 8 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be adopted.**

24 Grant to Parish Councils

The Deputy Chief Executive detailed proposal to stop grant payments to Parish Councils, with regard to the Council Tax Support scheme.

Recommended:

That Parish Councils be informed that a grant towards Council Tax Support will not be paid in 2018/19 and subsequent years.

25 Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) outlined the recommended Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2018/19.

Recommended:

- a That the retention of an 8.5% reduction in Council Tax Support to all current working age customer, in the 2018/19 Council Tax Support Scheme be approved; and**
- b That the Council Tax Support Scheme adopted for 2015/16 be updated in line with the statutory increases as notified by the Department of Work and Pensions.**

26 **Economic Review**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advised Members of an economic review undertaken with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

27 **Review of Area Forum Working**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council made recommendations to the Board regarding Area Forums, following the debate at Full Council and a subsequent meeting of the Area Forum Task and Finish Group.

Recommended:

- a **That the Council consults with the Police, Warwickshire County Council and other interested parties on the current round of Area Forums being the last such meetings; and**
- b **That subsequent reports be brought to the Board as part of the Council's review of communications, including a revised Consultation Strategy, in order to ensure that the positive elements of Forum meetings are continued.**

28 **Public Speaking at the Planning and Development Board/ Substitutes for all Boards**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council asked Members to consider a slight revision to the public speaking at Planning and Development Board Scheme and to endorse a 1pm deadline on the day of a meeting for substitutes at all Boards.

Recommended:

- a **That the revised scheme for public speaking, as set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be agreed and implements from the meeting to be held on 9 October 2017; and**

- b That substitutes for all Boards must be notified to the Democratic Services Section by 1pm on the day of the meeting.**

29 HS2 Update and Consultation

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought Member approval for a joint consultation response with Warwickshire County Council and updated Members on issues relating to HS2.

Recommended:

- a That the report be noted; and**
- b That Warwickshire County Council's response to the current consultation be endorsed.**

30 Unauthorised Encampments Protocol

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council asked Members to adopt the Unauthorised Encampments Protocol.

Recommended:

That consideration of the Unauthorised Encampments Protocol be deferred to allow further discussions to take place with partners.

31 Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review 2016/17

The Chief Executive informed the Board about the results of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review 2016/17. The number of complaints and enquiries considered by the Ombudsman relating to the Council and the outcome of their determinations were highlighted. Information was also given about the compliments and complaints received via the Council's corporate Compliments and Complaints Procedure.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

32 Bretts Hall Play Area – Use of Urgent Business Powers

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) asked the Board to endorse the action taken under the Chief Executive's Urgent Business Powers to contract a play equipment supplier to undertake the previously approved work at Bretts Hall Recreation Ground, Ansley Common and sought approval for an

increase in the Capital Programme budget through which to carry out the work.

Resolved:

- a That the action taken under the Chief Executive's Urgent Business Powers to contract a plan equipment supplier to undertake the approved work at Bretts Hall Recreation Ground be noted; and**
- b That an increase of £38,800 in the Capital Programme budget be approved, consequent upon the progression of the play area scheme at Bretts Hall Recreation Ground.**

33 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – June 2017

The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Executive Board for April to June 2017.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

34 Residents Satisfaction with Communication Survey 2017 Results

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) provided Members with the results of the Communication Survey carried out in July 2017 and made recommendations for decisions, based on the results, in some areas.

Resolved:

- a That the survey results be noted; and**
- b That the recommendations set out in Section 5 of the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be agreed.**

35 Corporate Narrative

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) provided Members with the final draft of the 'Corporate Narrative' developed as one of the agreed actions from the Council's Communications health check, carried out by the Local Government Association (LGA).

Recommended:

- a That the draft ‘Corporate Narrative’ provided at Appendix 1 to the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be approved; and**
- b That a further report be brought to the Board on developing a strapline for the Council.**

36 Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 18 July 2017

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 18 July 2017 were received and noted.

37 Minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 20 June, 11 July and 15 August 2017

The minutes of the meetings of the Special Sub-Group held on 20 June, 11 July and 15 August 2017 were received and noted.

38 Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 11 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 11 September 2017 were received and noted.

39 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Act.

40 Communications Resourcing

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) provided additional details requested by the Board at its meeting on 19 June 2017, relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the LGA’s communications health check.

Recommended:

- a That the report be approved;**

- b That a supplementary estimate as detailed in Section 5.1.2 of the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be agreed.**

David Humphreys
Chairman