

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

14 December 2009

Present: Councillor Smith in the Chair

Councillors Bowden, N Dirveiks, Forwood, Johnston, Jenkins, Lea, Payne and Smitten.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fowler, Moore, Y Stanley and Winter

Councillor Phillips was also in attendance.

71 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillor Lea, and membership of Polesworth Parish Council of Councillor Smitten were deemed to be declared at the meeting.

72 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 7 September and 26 October 2009, copies having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73 **Presentation on Countering Fraud**

Tracey Spragg, Local Counter Fraud Specialist gave a presentation on countering fraud.

74 **Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2009 – October 2009**

The Chief Executive and Director of Resources informed Members of the actual performance and achievement against the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Board for the period April 2009 to October 2009.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

75 Corporate Services Division Capital Programme Bids

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) highlighted capital schemes relating to information and communications technology projects under the control of the Board which had been proposed by the Corporate Services Division for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

- a That the capital bids previously approved and identified in Section 4 of the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be included in the next long term capital programme; and**
- b That the schemes currently not included in the long term capital programme identified in Section 5 of the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be included in the long term capital programme on the basis that they are essential to the continued operation of Council Services.**

76 Local Land Charges Fees

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) sought approval for a revised scale of fees for the Local Land Charges service.

Resolved:

- a That the revised scale of Fees for the Local Land Charges service, as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services) be agreed with effect from 1 January 2010; and**
- b That an active promotional campaign targeting local solicitors and estate agents, to inform them of the new fees, at a cost of approximately £500 be funded from Local Land Charges Service budgets.**

77 Postal Savings

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) detailed a number of options for reducing the Council's spend on postal services and recommended that a contract be entered into with TNT Post.

Resolved:

- a That a contract be entered into with TNT Post for the distribution of outgoing mail, with a review in 12 months; and**

- b That the existing DX Post account be terminated in August/September 2010.**

78 Funding for Rural Housing Enabler

The Assistant Director (Housing) gave details of the work required to work with local communities and provide evidence for the Local Development Framework in order to deliver sustainable housing developments in the Borough.

Resolved:

- a That existing resources be used to fund an internal post of Housing Delivery Officer for twelve months; and**
- b That the Housing Division works with partners to access external funding to continue the role of the Housing Delivery Officer after the initial twelve months funded by the Council.**

79 Review of Home Improvement Agencies and Associated Work

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided the Board with an overview of work which had been undertaken to review the delivery of the work carried out by home improvement agencies in the County and the proposal to take the next steps to improve this service and those associated with it.

Resolved:

- a That the report received by and recommendations agreed by the Supporting People Commissioning Body be noted;**
- b That the Housing Division's active participation in the work required to develop and commission a new service model for the delivery of home improvement agency services and their associated work streams be agreed; and**
- c That the consideration of potential service models be considered by the Housing Portfolio Holder Group before submission to the Resources Board for a decision on the Council's participation in the proposed model.**

80 Capital Programme Bids

The Assistant Director (Housing) highlighted capital schemes relating to Private Sector Housing and Community Support under the control of the

Board which had been proposed by the Housing Division for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

That the capital bids previously approved and identified in the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be included in the next long term capital programme.

81 Capital Programme Bids

The Assistant Director (Streetscape) highlighted capital schemes relating to Municipal Buildings and Car Parks under the control of the Board which had been proposed by the Streetscape Division for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

Recommendation to the Executive Board:

- a That the capital bids previously approved and identified in the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be included in the next long term capital programme; and**
- b That the scheme currently not included in the long term capital programme identified in 6.1.3 of the report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape) be included in the long term capital programme, subject to the results of the market testing.**

82 Progress Report on Human Resources Issues

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) advised Members of progress against the Human Resources Strategy Action Plan, the work being done by the Human Resources team, the sickness levels for the period of April 2009 to September 2009 and provided some further information on action taken in managing absence.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

83 Capital Programme 2009/10 Period Ending November 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 report be noted.

84 Budgetary Control Report 2009/10 Period Ended 30 November 2009

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2009 to 30 November 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.

85 Consolidated Budgetary Control Report 2009/2010 – Period Ended 30 November 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 to 30 November 2009.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

86 Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Control Report 2009/2010 – Period Ended 30 November 2009

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated the Board on the total Housing Revenue Fund revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April to 30 November 2009.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

87 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.

88 Changes to Staffing Arrangements Within Leisure Facilities

The Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) sought approval for a number of operational changes to staffing arrangements within the Council's leisure facilities consequent upon a review of opening hours and

also further to a re-evaluation of the duties undertaken by receptionists within the centres.

Resolved:

- a** That the proposed change to the grade of the Receptionist posts in the Council's leisure facilities and the responsibilities described in the Job Description attached as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development) be approved;
- b** That the proposals for funding the grade change, as set out in section 3 of the report of the Assistant Director (Leisure and Community Development), be approved; and
- c** That the proposed changes to the staffing arrangements within the Council's leisure facilities, consequent upon the recent review of opening hours, be agreed and implemented at the earliest opportunity.

89 Sale of Land for Housing Development 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 requested a decision to sell the land for that purpose.

Recommended:

- a** That the sale of the land outlined at Appendix A of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) to a Housing Association for a small development of affordable housing, subject to a suitable scheme and land value being agreed, be approved in principle;
- b** That a further report be submitted to the Board at its meeting to be held in March 2010, detailing how the land is proposed to be developed;
- c** That the land is surplus to requirements by the Council; and
- d** That any capital receipts received by the Council in connection with the sale of land/proposed development be used for affordable housing.

90 **Re-development of Flats, Shops and Land at Lister Road, Atherstone**

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided Members with an update on the work that had been undertaken by the Housing Division with regard to the possibility of redeveloping an area of Council owned land and properties in Lister Road, Atherstone and sought a decision in principle to explore development options further.

Resolved:

- a **That the update work to explore the feasibility of developing the land at Lister Road shops, including the financial implications, be noted;**
- b **That the Housing Division carries out further work to explore the feasibility of creating a new housing development on the Lister Road shops site as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Housing), including the possibility of entering into contractual arrangements with leaseholders to end their leases and exploring a land swap or other financial contribution from the County Council; and**
- c **That the Housing Division works with Waterloo Housing Association and the County Council to explore alternative suitable sites to deliver extra housing in the Borough.**

91 **Sale of Land off Rectory Road/Bournebrook View, Arley**

The Assistant Director (Housing) updated Members about progress on the proposals to develop the Council's land off Rectory Road, Arley and provided an update about land valuations for consideration.

Recommended:

- a **That the proposed valuation for the part of the site to be used for open market sale properties developed by Lovell Partnerships set out in Section 6.1.8 of the report of the Assistant Director (Housing) be approved; and**
- b **That any capital receipts received by the Council in connection with the sale of land/proposed development off Rectory Road/Bournebrook View, Arley, be used for affordable housing.**

L Smith
Chairman