

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

27 January 2025

Present: Councillor Symonds in the Chair

Councillors Barnett, Bell, Chapman, Clews, Davey, Humphreys, Parsons, H Phillips, O Phillips, Stuart and Watson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simpson (Substitute Councillor Bell) and Taylor (Substitute Councillor H Phillips)

44 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Barnett disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in item no 50d (General Fund Revenue Resources Board Remaining – 2024/25 Forecast and 2025/26 Estimates Fees and Charges) by reason of being a Councillor on Atherstone Town Council.

45 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 November 2024.**

The minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 November 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46 **Internal Audit Progress Report**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) presented the internal audit activity and findings for the period 1 April to 15 January 2025.

Resolved:

That the audit activity and findings detailed in Appendix A of the report of The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be noted.

47 **General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes 2025/26 to 2027/28**

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) identified proposals for Resources Board capital schemes to be included within the Council's General Fund Capital programme over the next three years. Along with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme for the same period.

Resolved:

- a That the schemes detailed in Appendix A of the report of The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), as the Resources Board Services Three-year General Fund Capital Programme, be approved; and**
- b That the HRA Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix B of the report of The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), for the period 2025/26 to 2027/28, be approved.**

48 Housing Revenue Account- 2024/25 Forecast and 2025/26 Estimates, 30 Year Business, Rent Review and Fees and Charges

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported the forecast budget for 2024/25 and an estimated budget for 2025/26, together with the 30 years business plan detailed in Appendix G of the report, and detailed the recommended rent increase of 2.7% in line with the Governments social rent policy and increases for service charges and fees and charges all from 1 April 2025.

Resolved:

- a That the revised forecast for 2024/25 be approved;**
- b That the 2025/26 estimates for revenue as presented with detailed figures in Appendix A as set out in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;**
- c That the 30 year business plan detailed in Appendix G of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;**
- d That increasing rent by 2.7% in 2025/26 in line with the social rent policy set by the government be approved;**
- e That the proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix C of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved;**
- f That the service charges for cleaning, as detailed in Appendix D of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved from April 2025; and**
- g That the service charges for window cleaning, as detailed in Appendix E of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved from April 2025.**

48 Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Outstanding Debts 2019 -2024

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) provided Members with details of outstanding debts for Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates as requested previously by members of the Resources Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

49 Irrecoverable Debts

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) provided details to Members of debts which were considered to be irrecoverable.

Resolved:

- a That the total Irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates Debts totalling £11,199.86, as detailed in Appendix A to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved for write off; and**
- b That the total Irrecoverable Council Tax Debts totalling £25,912.49, as detailed in Appendix B to the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer), be approved for write off.**

50 General Fund Revenue Resources Board Remaining -2024/25 Forecast and 2025/26 Estimates and Fees & Charges

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the outturn forecast for 2024/25 and an estimate of expenditure for 2025/26, together with forward commitments for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. Details of a review of the fees and charges for Services recharged across all boards, with recommendations for increases, were given.

Resolved:

- a That the forecast outturn for 2024/25 be approved;**
- b That the 2025/26 estimates, as presented in this report for inclusion in the overall Tax Set 2025/26 report for the Executive Board on 10 February 2025 be approved;**
- c That the Fees & Charges as detailed in Appendix C of the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) be approved; and**

Recommendation to Council:

- d That consideration be given to a one year resource bid of £35,820 to fund 50% of CCTV costs if the UKSPF does not continue to fund in 2025/26.**

51 General Fund Revenue Budget Resources Board Recharged - 2024/25 Forecast and 2025/26 Estimates

The Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) reported on the outturn forecast for 2024/25 and an estimate of expenditure for 2025/26, together with forward commitments for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

Resolved:

- a That the forecast outturn position for 2024/25 be approved;**
- b That the 2025/26 estimates, as presented in the report of the Interim Corporate Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer) for inclusion in the overall Tax Set 2025/26 report for Executive Board on 19 February 2025 be approved; and**
- c That a supplementary estimate of £124,000 to increase the legal costs budget in the current year to fund commitments to date be approved. The budget would reduce to £70,000 in next year.**

52 Tenant Partnership Agreement

The Director of Housing provided the Board with the revised Tenant Partnership Agreement to consider, amend and approve.

Resolved:

That the contents of the Tenant Partnership Agreement be approved.

53 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.

54 Request to Purchase Land

The Director of Housing informed the Board about a request to purchase land in the Council's ownership.

Resolved:

That the request to purchase the piece of land shown at Appendix A in the Report of the Director of Housing, be approved.

55 Garage Site

The Director of Housing provided the Board with information and future options for its garage site.

Resolved:

That the future of the site be considered as part of the wider review agreed by the Resources Board, on 11 November 2024, for its land holdings and garage stock for potential development opportunities.

56 Exempt Extract of the Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Board held on 11 November 2024

The exempt extract of the minutes of the Resources Board held on 11 November 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Symonds
Chair