

## NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

15 FEBRUARY 2021

Present: Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Deakin, Gosling, D Humphreys, H Phillips, Reilly, Rose, Simpson and Symonds.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Farrell (Substitute Cllr H Phillips).

Councillors D Clews, Jarvis, Jenns, Lees and Smith were also in attendance.

#### 29 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**

None were declared at the meeting.

#### 30 **Minutes of the Executive Board held on 23 November 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 November 2020, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 31 **Local Transport Plan**

The Chief Executive reported on a consultation being carried out by Warwickshire County Council on an initial stage of preparing an update of the Local Transport Plan.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the Borough Council supports the initial work on the LTP4 and that the local issues, as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the reports of the Chief Executive, should be taken into account in the production of the LTP.**

### 32 External Auditors' Report

The Corporate Director – Resources informed Members of the External Auditors' report on the 2018/19 Financial Statements to those charged with governance.

#### **Recommended:**

- a That subject to the revision of cash, investment and earmarked reserve figures to reflect those at January and March 2021 in Note 41 – Going Concern, the amended statements attached at Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources be approved; and
- b That the External Auditors' report be noted.

### 33 The Capital Strategy

The Corporate Director - Resources updated the Capital Strategy approved by the Council in February 2020.

#### **Recommended:**

**That the Capital Strategy, as attached at Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved.**

### 34 The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Management Team put forward proposals for the Three Year Capital Programme and outlined the availability of capital resources and the options to meet any shortfalls.

#### **Resolved:**

- a That the Revised Capital Programme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix A to the report of Management Team, be adopted;
- b That the 3 Year Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix B to the report of Management Team be adopted; and

**(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Deakin, Gosling, H Phillips and Rose) 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.)**

**Recommended:**

- c That the prudential indicators, set out in Section 9 of the report of Management Team, be approved.**

**35 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2021/22**

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**
- b That the Estimates of Expenditure for 2021/22, as submitted in the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved for inclusion in the overall budget considered in a later agenda item.**

**36 General Fund Revenue Estimates 2021/22 and Setting the Council Tax 2021/22**

The Corporate Director – Resources set out the proposed General Fund Revenue Estimate for 2021/22 and the options available when setting the 2021/22 Council Tax for the Borough in the context of the Authority's Settlement Funding Assessment, and the effect on General Fund balances.

**Recommended:**

- a That the savings of £705,640, as detailed in Appendix H to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved;**
- b That the revised estimate for the year 2020/21 and the revenue estimates for 2021/22, including the use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix N of the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved;**
- c That the Council Tax base for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix G to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources be noted;**
- d That a Council Tax increase of £5 for 2021/22 be approved;**
- e That the Corporate Director – Resources' comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted;**

- f That the manpower estimates for the year 2021/22, as set out in Appendix L of the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be approved; and**
- g That a Council Tax resolution be prepared for consideration by the Council, using the recommendations agreed by this Board.**

**37 Financial Statements 2019/20**

The Corporate Director – Resources reported that the Financial Statements for 2019/20 had been completed and highlighted the position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, compared with the estimated position previously reported.

**Resolved:**

**That, subject to audit, the 2019/20 financial statements be approved.**

**38 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – December 2020**

The 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 December 2020.

**Recommended:**

**That the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Executive Board for April to December 2020 be noted.**

**39 Trading Company**

The Chief Executive and Corporate Director – Resources provided information in relation to the establishment and registration of a Local Authority Trading Company.

**Resolved:**

- a That the establishment and registration of a wholly owned subsidiary Trading Company be approved;**
- b That the proposed Executive directors be endorsed and**  
**That the Leader of the Council, Chair of Resources Board and Leader of the Opposition be appointed as Non-Executive Directors;**

- c That the proposed Articles of Association for the company, as attached as Appendix A to the report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director – Resources, be approved; and**
- d That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to finalise any further details needed to set up the trading company.**

**(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Deakin, Gosling, H Phillips and Rose) 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.)**

**40 Pay Policy Statement 2021/22**

The Corporate Director – Resources reported on the requirement under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) for Councils to have and to publish a Pay Policy Statement, agreed by full Council, which would be subject to review at least annually. Details of the purpose for and the areas to be covered in the Pay Policy Statement were given.

**Recommended:**

**That the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22, as attached as Appendix A to the report of the Corporate Director – Resources, be adopted.**

**41 Minutes of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2020.**

The minutes of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2020 were received and noted.

**42 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.**

**43 Confidential Extract of the Minutes of the Executive Board held on 23 November 2020**

The confidential extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 November 2020, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**44 Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility**

The Corporate Director - Streetscape and the Corporate Director – Resources updated the Board on the progress made with the Sub-Regional Materials Recycling Facility and sought approval for the additional capital financing required.

**Resolved:**

- a That approval is given for the addition of capital financing as set out in the report of the Corporate Director - Streetscape and the Corporate Director – Resources; and**
- b That authority is delegated to the Corporate Director – Streetscape, the Corporate Director – Resources and the Solicitor to the Council (in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition and Chairs of Resources Board and Community & Environment Board) to finalise and agree the detailed terms of the transaction including the loan identified in the report.**

**(The Chief Executive has subsequently received a notice signed by Councillors Deakin, Gosling, H Phillips and Rose) 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.)**

David Wright  
CHAIRMAN