

## NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

27 June 2011

Present: Councillor M Stanley in the Chair

Councillors Davis, Fox, Hayfield, Lewis, May, Moore, Morson, B Moss, Simpson, Smith, Sweet, Watkins and Winter.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Phillips.

Councillors Barber, Forwood, Humphreys, Lea and Pickard were also in attendance.

#### 1 **Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest.**

Any personal interests arising from the membership of Warwickshire County Council of Councillors Fox, Hayfield, May, B Moss and Sweet and membership of the various Town/Parish Councils of Councillors Davis (Atherstone), Lewis (Kingsbury), Moore (Baddesley Ensor), B Moss (Kingsbury), Morson (Dordon), M Stanley (Polesworth) and Winter (Dordon) were deemed to be declared at this meeting.

#### 2 **Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 February 2011.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 February 2011, copies having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3 **Capital Programme – 2010/11 Final Position**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated Members on the final position of the 2010/11 Capital Programme and highlighted those schemes which had not progressed as quickly as expected and which were recommended to be carried forward into the 2011/12 Capital Programme.

##### **Recommended:**

- a **That the level of expenditure incurred (both actual and committed) to the end of March 2011 against the 2010/11 Revised Capital Programme be noted;**
- b **That the schemes which have not progressed as expected during the year be noted; and**
- c **That both the committed expenditure and schemes which have not progressed during the year be agreed as**

**slippage to be carried forward into the 2011/12 Capital Programme.**

**4 Annual Governance Statement 2010/11**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Governance Statement setting out the arrangements the Council had put in place for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. Members were asked to approve the Statement and Improvement Plan.

**Recommended:**

- a That the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved; and**
- b That the Improvement Plan, attached as Appendix B to the report be approved and progress against the plan be reported to Board.**

**5 Financial Statements 2010/11**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the Annual Financial Statements for 2010/11 and Members were asked to agree a suggested course of action.

**Resolved:**

**That the position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account at 31 March 2011 be noted.**

**6 Council Constitution, Priorities and Corporate Plan – implications arising from the 2011 Elections**

The Chief Executive reported on potential changes to the Council's Constitution, Priorities and Corporate Plan following the Elections in May 2011. The Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

**Recommended:**

- a. That the Special Sub-Group be authorised:-**
  - i) to review and where appropriate make interim arrangements to revise the Council's Priorities and Key Actions;**

- ii) **to review the Council's constitutional arrangements relating to Boards including the role of Portfolio Groups and Portfolio Holders;**
- iii) **in the event of there being any proposed changes arising from (ii) to request the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances to review and report on the implications of these changes on the Members' Allowances Scheme.**
- b. **That following the review a further report be brought to the next Executive Board meeting recommending changes to the Council's Constitution, Priorities and Corporate Plan including any consequential financial implications.**
- c **That officers be authorised to review the Car Leasing Scheme and Staff Travel Allowances and prepare a report with a range of options for consideration by the Resources Board and that the Special Sub-Group be also authorised to agree any action required during the course of the review of the Scheme;**
- d **That, pending the review of the Scheme:-**
  - (i) **the ordering of new vehicles be suspended with immediate effect, other than where there is a contractual entitlement to a car and no previous lease agreement has been entered into; and**
  - (ii) **where existing leases are coming to an end, they are temporarily extended; and**

**that staff and unions be informed accordingly in relation to (d) and the unions be consulted in relation to the review to be carried out at (c).**

## **7 Planning for Travellers Site – Consultation Paper**

The Head of Development Control reported that the Government had published a consultation paper outlining its draft planning policy to replace existing advice on the provision of gypsy and traveller sites. Members were informed of the content and implications for North Warwickshire.

### **Recommended:**

- a **That the Council considers its own land holdings to assess whether it has sites that might be appropriate for Gypsies and Travellers; and**

- b That a further report be brought back to members on the possible opportunities.**

## **8 HS2 (High Speed Rail Route)**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council provided an update on work for HS2 and sought authorisation to submit a response as part of the current consultation process.

### **Recommended:**

- a That delegated power be given to the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in consultation with the HS2 Spokesperson (Councillor Ferro) and Opposition Spokesperson (Councillor May) to prepare a draft response to the Government's consultation on the preferred route of HS2; and**
- b That a special meeting of the Full Council be arranged to agree the Council's response to the Government's consultation on the preferred route of HS2.**

## **9 Meetings Timetable 2011/12**

The Board was asked to approve amendments to the timetable of meetings for 2011/12.

### **Recommended:**

**That the amended timetable of meetings for 2011/12 as submitted at Appendix A to the Chief Executive's report be approved.**

## **10 Local Development Framework Sub-Committee/North Warwickshire Community Partnership**

The Board was invited to consider the membership of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee for the ensuing year. In addition Members were asked to note a change by the Labour Group of its representation on the North Warwickshire Community Partnership.

### **Recommended:**

- a That membership of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee comprise Councillors Sweet, L Dirveiks, Phillips, Winter, May, Simpson and Smith; and**

**b That the change of representation from Councillor A Stanley to Councillor M Stanley on the North Warwickshire Community Partnership be noted.**

**11 Budgetary Control Report 2011/2012 Period Ended 31 May 2011**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 May 2011. The 2011/2012 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, were given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

**12 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2010 to March 2011**

The Chief Executive reported on the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets applicable to Executive Board for April 2010 to March 2011.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

**13 Capital Accounts 2010/11**

The Board was informed that the Capital Accounts for 2010/11 had been prepared. Members were invited to approve the methods of funding used.

**Recommended:**

**That the methods of funding to meet capital expenditure incurred in 2010/11 be approved.**

**14 Earmarked Reserves 2011/12**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the level of reserves at 31 March 2011. Members were asked to approve the proposed use of reserves in 2011/12.

**Recommended:**

**That the reserves held at 31 March 2011, and the planned use of reserves in 2011/12 be approved.**

15 **Future of Local Public Audit**

The Board was informed that the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had issued a consultation paper regarding proposed revised arrangements for the audit of local authorities. The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the proposals and Members were asked to endorse a suggested response.

**Recommended:**

**That the response attached to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be approved.**

16 **Partnership Landscapes – Consultation by Warwickshire County Council**

The Board was asked to formally endorse the response already sent to the County Council by the Chief Executive in order to meet the County Council's consultation deadline.

**Recommended:**

**That the response sent to the County Council by the Chief Executive as set out in Appendix B to his report be agreed.**

17 **Membership of West Midlands Councils**

The Board was invited to consider a recommendation that the Council retained its Membership of the West Midlands Councils (formerly West Midlands LGA).

**Recommended:**

**That the Council remains in membership of the West Midlands Councils.**

18 **Changes to the Constitution – Environmental Health**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council sought approval to update the Constitution of the Council to reflect recent changes in Environmental Health legislation.

**Recommended:**

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

19 **Sub-regional Update**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the work at the sub-regional level and sought approval for officers to work collaboratively with other authorities in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region to prepare a sub-regional strategy.

**Recommended:**

**That the report be forwarded to the LDF Sub-Committee for consideration.**

20 **Consultation Responses - Interim Planning Policy Statement**

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on the consultation relating to the Interim Planning Policy Statement and the Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

**Recommended:**

**That the Interim Planning Policy Statement be agreed and adopted.**

21 **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 by Schedule 12A to the Act.**

22 **Minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 18 April 2011**

The minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 18 April 2011 were received and noted.

M Stanley  
Chairman