

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

6 February 2012

Present: Councillor M Stanley in the Chair

Councillors Hayfield, May, Moore, Morson, Phillips, Simpson, Smith and Sweet.

Councillors Barber, Fowler, Fox, Humphreys, B Moss and Pickard were also in attendance.

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

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

74 **External Audit Plan 2011/12**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the External Auditors' plan for their work related to the 2011/12 financial year. Alison Breedon from PricewaterhouseCoopers was in attendance.

Recommended:

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

75 **Corporate Plan 2012/13**

The Chief Executive presented the Corporate Plan for 2012/13. Members were also asked to agree the 2012/13 Forward Work Plan for the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council.

Recommended:

- a That the Corporate Plan, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be agreed, subject to any further amendments which may be needed as a result of the adoption of the 2012-13 budget;**
- b That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to finalise the format of the Plan; and**

- c That the Service Plan for the Assistant Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.**

76 The Capital Strategy

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) presented an update on the Capital Strategy and the Board was asked to agree the suggested course of action.

Recommended:

That the Capital Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources), be approved.

77 The Proposed 3 Year Capital Programme

Management Team put forward proposals for the Three Year Capital Programme and outlined the availability of capital resources.

Resolved:

- a That the Revised Capital Programme for 2011/12 as set out in Appendix A be adopted;**
- b That the 3 Year Capital Programme for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 as set out in Appendix B be adopted; and**

Recommended:

- c That the prudential indicators set out in Appendix F, subject to any changes that may be required as a result of decisions taken during this evening's meeting, be approved.**

78 General Fund Fees and Charges 2012 – 2013

The Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council reported on proposed fees and charges for 2012/13 and the Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended

That the schedule of fees and charges for 2012/13, set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, be accepted.

79 **General Fund Revenue Estimates 2012 – 2013**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the revised budget for 2011/12 and an estimate of expenditure for 2012/13, together with forward commitments for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Recommended:

- a **That the revised budget for 2011/12 be accepted; and**
- b **That the Estimates of Expenditure for 2012/13, as submitted, be included in the budget to be brought before the meeting for consideration under Minute No. 80.**

80 **General Fund Revenue Estimates 2012 – 2013 and Setting the Council Tax 2012 – 2013**

The Deputy Chief Executive set out the proposed General Fund Revenue Estimate for 2012/13, and the options available when setting the 2012/13 Council Tax for the Borough in the context of the Authority's Revenue Support Grant settlement, and the effect on General Fund balances.

Recommended:

- a **That the total amount of growth to be included within the 2012/13 budget estimates be noted;**
- b **That the reduction in support for Live and Local be amended from £1,500 to £500 and the reduced savings of £558,550 be approved;**
- c **That Area Forums are required to set aside £500 per Forum for applications relating to the Arts;**
- d **That the revised estimate for the year 2011/12, including the supplementary estimate, and the revenue estimates for 2012/13 be approved;**
- e **That the preferred Council Tax option for 2012/13 be 0%;**
- f **That the Deputy Chief Executive's comments on the minimum acceptable level of general reserves be noted;**
- g **That the manpower estimates for the year 2012/13 be approved; and**

- h That the Council Tax resolution be amended to reflect the revised savings, the 0% Council Tax increase and any change in format required under the Localism Act, and be forwarded to the Council for consideration.**

81 Pay Policy Statement

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the requirement under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 for Councils to have and to publish a Pay Policy Statement agreed by Council. The Board was asked to consider a draft Pay Policy Statement.

Recommended:

- a That the Council's approach to the re-employment/re-engagement of former Chief Officers who were previously made redundant from the Authority, or later engaged as Chief Officers under a contract for service is to apply its Recruitment Policy as it would to all applicants; and**
- b That the Pay Policy Statement attached as an appendix to the report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources), amended to reflect the approach set out in a above, be adopted.**

82 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April 2011 – December 2011.

The Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the actual performance and achievement against the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Executive Board for April to December 2011.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

83 Minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 4 October 2011 and 9 January 2012

The minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 4 October 2011 and 9 January 2012 were received and noted.

84 Minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 4 January 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Special Sub-Group held on 4 January 2012 were received and noted.

85 Minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 26 January 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Safer Communities Sub-Committee held on 26 January 2012 were received and noted.

86 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.

87 Payment Management System Costs

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) reported on the tenders received and the evaluation and selection process for a supplier of a Payments Management System to the Council. The Board was asked to agree a suggested course of action.

Recommended:

- a That the Capital growth of £70,000 be approved and the ongoing revenue saving of £5,000 be noted; and**
- b That the award of the contract to the preferred supplier be approved.**

88 Local Broadband Plan and Match Funding Proposal

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) reported on the Broadband Delivery UK programme and the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire draft Local Broadband Plan which supported the funding bid. The Board's views on and an in principle agreement to the matched funding proposals was sought.

Recommended:

- a That the draft Local Broadband Plan for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, as set out at Appendix 1**

to the report of the Assistant Director (Corporate Services), be supported;

- b That the match funding proposal be agreed in principle; and**
- c That the growth bid for the match funding be taken forward in to the budget process.**

M Stanley
Chairman