

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES BOARD

5 September 2017

Present: Councillor D Wright in the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Davey, Davis, N Dirveiks, Henney, Jenns, Lea, Moss and Waters.

An apology absence was received from Councillor Simpson (Substitute Councillor Jenns).

Councillors Humphreys, Jarvis, Lewis, Phillips and Symonds were also in attendance.

22 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

23 **Minutes of the Resources Board held on 22 May 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22 May 2017, copies having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24 **Housing and Planning Act 2016 – Private Sector Housing Enforcement Implications** – Report of the Assistant Director (Housing)

Summary

The Assistant Director (Housing) informed Members of the introduction of new legal powers to assist with the regulation of standards in private housing.

Resolved:

- a That the report be noted; and**
- b That the enforcement policy for private sector housing is updated and implemented as set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Housing), and that the Council's scheme of delegation in the Constitution is updated as appropriate.**

- 25 **Capital Programme 2017/18 Period 4 Update – Report of the Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources)**

Summary

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) updated Members on the progress of the 2017/18 Capital Programme in terms of expenditure up to the end of July 2017.

Resolved:

That the progress made against the 2017/18 Capital Programme be noted.

- 26 **General Fund Budgetary Control Report 2017/18 Period Ended 31 July 2017**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 July 2017. The 2017/18 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.

- 27 **Housing Revenue Account Budgetary Control Report 2017/18 – Period Ended 31 July 2017**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Human Resources) reported on the total Housing Revenue Account revenue expenditure and income for the period from 1 April to 31 July 2017.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

- 28 **Internal Audit – Performance for First Quarter 2017-18**

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the progress of the Council's Internal Audit function against the agreed plan of work for the year.

Resolved:

That the progress of the Council's Internal Audit function against the agreed plan of work for the year be noted.

29 Internal Audit – Performance for 2016-17

The Deputy Chief Executive reported on the progress of the Council's Audit function against the agreed plan of work for 2016-17.

Resolved:

That the progress of the Council's Audit function against the agreed plan of work for 2016-17 be noted.

30 Progress Report on Achievement of Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator Targets April – June 2017

The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive informed Members of the progress with the achievement of the Corporate Plan and Performance Indicator targets relevant to the Resources Board for April to June 2017.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

31 Online Services Update and Plans for Promoting and Increasing Use

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) updated Members on the use of the Council's Website and provided information on the progress made in promoting and increasing the use of the internet for those services that could be most effectively provided online.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

32 Local Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme to Provide Revaluation Support to North Warwickshire Businesses

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) set out proposals for a local Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme for the Council to assist those businesses who face an increase in bills for 2017/18 onwards arising from the recent evaluation.

Resolved:

That Option 3, as set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services), be approved and adopted as the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme for revaluation support.

33 HEART Shared Service

The Assistant Director (Housing) sought approval for a joint Housing Financial Assistant policy for the HEART Shared Service.

Resolved:

That the joint Housing Financial Assistance Policy for the HEART shared service be approved.

34 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.

35 Irrecoverable Local Taxation Debts

The Assistant Chief Executive (Community Services) detailed the amounts recommended for write off in accordance with the write off policy agreed by the Board on 23 May 2016.

- a That the write off of balances over £5,500 totalling £6,229.52 in respect of unpaid Non Domestic Rates as outlined in Appendix A of the report of the Chief Executive (Community Services) be agreed; and**
- b That Appendix B to the report of the Chief Executive (Community Services) which summarises the total amount of write offs in the year to date and over the last 5 years, which includes those written off under delegated powers, be noted.**

36 Garage Site – Church Lane, Middleton

The Assistant Director (Housing) provided the Board with information and future options for the Council garage site at Church Lane, Middleton.

Resolved:

- a That the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Assistant Director (Housing) and Chairman of the Resources Board, be given delegated authority to negotiate a lease of the Council garage site at Church Lane, Middleton with Middleton Parish Council; and**

- b That the Council pay the costs for the clearance of the site.**

37 Exemption to Contract Standing Orders

The Assistant Director (Housing) reported on exceptional circumstances in the procurement of a contract to undertake building works and requested an exemption to contract standing orders.

Resolved:

That an exception to contract standing orders be approved to allow works to Alder and Heather Court, Atherstone to proceed in a timely manner.

38 Request for a Right of Way Over Council Land at Pear Tree Avenue, Kingsbury

The Assistant Director (Housing) reported on a request received from a property owner in Kingsbury to have a right of way or a licence to access their rear garden across the Council's land so that they could develop a new bungalow on the site.

Resolved:

That the request for a right of way or licence over the Council's land be refused.

39 Corporate Counter Fraud Annual Report 2016-17

The Deputy Chief Executive summarised the key issues contained within the Corporate Counter Fraud Annual Report.

Resolved:

That the Corporate Counter Fraud Annual Report 2016/17 be noted.

D Wright
CHAIRMAN