

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD WAS HELD
ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Mayor (Councillor Dickson) (ex-officio); Councillors Beavis, Burgess (P), Carter, C R (P), Chegwyn (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Lane, Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillors Mrs Hook and Edgar had been nominated to replace Councillors Beavis and Lane respectively for this meeting.

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillors Beavis and Lane.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

**20. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 27 JUNE
2012**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 June 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

21. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

22. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

**23. HOUSING STAFFING REVIEW; TECHNICAL AND ASSET
MANAGEMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Services Manager detailing the implications of the review of the Council's Corporate Property function and the recent review of the current Housing Services Technical Services/Asset Management teams and proposed changes to the organisational structure and staffing levels in the light of the review reports.

The Housing Services Manager advised the Board that the proposals were as a result of the changes to HRA funding and the resulting increased investment in housing stock.

The facility management function would be moved to Housing under the new Head of Property Services and the Corporate Asset Management function would move from Community and Customer Services to the Legal Democratic and Planning Services working alongside the legal team.

A Member requested that the structure chart be reissued to include names of staff members when vacant positions had been filled, it was also requested that this be extended to other Units. Members were advised that this was being progressed.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to:

- a) the creation of a new Head of Property Services as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report of the Housing Services Manager;
- b) the continuation on a permanent basis of the administrative assistance provided for 27.5 hours per week to the technical services team by a member of staff previously employed in Corporate Services (LCS28) (paragraph 2.4.1 of the report of the Housing Services Manager); and
- c) an increase in hours of Housing Finance Support Officer as set out in paragraph 2.4.2 of the report of the Housing Services Manager.

24. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2011/12

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer summarising the outturn position for the 2011/12 financial year.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12;
- b) the accounting policies contained within the Statement of Accounts; and

That the Policy and Organisation Board note the outturn position contained in the report of the Borough Treasurer and Appendices including

- The capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report of the Borough Treasurer; and
- The write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix E of the Borough Treasurer.

25. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2011/12, PROGRESS REPORT 2012/13, & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

The Board considered a report from the Borough Treasurer detailing the annual treasury report for noting and seeking approval of the prudential indicators 2011/12.

The Head of Accountancy advised that the two reports were presented to the Board every year. The report examined treasury activity for 2011/12 together and reviewed 2012/13 to date. The report also included the Prudential Indicators for 2011/12 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

It was anticipated that the new layout of the report would be clearer to understand

and provide a clearer explanation of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing.

A Member congratulated the officers on securing favourable interest rates on the borrowing that had taken place and welcomed the investment into new homes.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The report of the Borough Treasurer be noted; and
- b) the 2011/12 prudential indicators be approved.

26. BUDGET STRATEGY 2013/14

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer detailing the strategy for the preparation of the Council's budget for the next financial year.

Members expressed concern at the potential worst case scenario, particularly recognising that the council's workforce had previously been reduced. It was acknowledged that the settlement figure would not be available until December.

A Member advised the Board that a recent change in the devolved budgets of Hampshire County Council Members meant that funds could be made available for environmental improvements. In addition, they felt that liaison between the County and Borough Council showed the two tier local government system was working well and that a good example of which was the Discovery Centre.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Policy and Organisation Board note the Council's current financial position; and
- b) The use of the principles set out in Section 3 of the report of the Borough Treasurer, which will be used in the preparation of the budget for the 2013/14 financial year, be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN