

**A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 1 JULY 2015**

The Mayor (Councillor Farr) (ex-officio), Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Hicks, Hook (Chairman) (P), Jessop, Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne, Mrs Wright (P)

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6 Councillors Mrs Hook and Allen had been nominated to replace Councillor Ronayne and Jessop for this meeting.

6. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Mayor, Councillors Ronayne, Jessop and Hicks.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 18 MARCH 2015 AND 21 MAY 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Policy and Organisation Board held on 18 March 2015 and 21 May 2015 be signed as a true and correct record.

9. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

11. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer detailing the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Strategy.

Members were advised that there was an emergency budget within the next week and that the likelihood was a reduction in the grant.

There was also some uncertainty regarding the business rate appeals.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board were advised that an appointment had been made to the vacant role in the Council Tax department and that progress was being made with the backlog of work. Once the backlog had been cleared, work would be undertaken on the collection of unpaid rates.

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Members congratulated the Borough Treasurer on the work undertaken to secure the future of the Council and producing a clear document that was simple to read and understand.

The Board were advised that a report would be taken to Council on 15th July 2015 regarding devolution.

RESOLVED: That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively be approved.

12. CROSS REFERENCE FROM THE STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – EY AUDIT PLANNING AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Standards and Governance Committee setting out the work that was planned to be undertaken to enable Ernst and Young to issue an opinion on the Council's financial statement and the value for money conclusion for 2014/15.

Members were advised that the consideration had been given to the report at the Standards and Governance Committee and that challenge had been received from members of that Committee and this was welcomed.

RESOLVED That the Audit Plan for 2014/15 be agreed by the Policy and Organisation Board.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

15. REQUEST FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF PENSION ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS

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Consideration was given to the exempt report of the Head of Personnel, seeking a decision on an application from a former employee for the early payment of pension on compassionate grounds.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Organisation Board approve the early payment of pension of a former employee on compassionate grounds due to exceptional circumstances from 1st April 2015, when the request was received.

The meeting ended at 18.16

CHAIRMAN