EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 February 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Michael Doody (Chairman); Councillors Caborn, Coker, Cross, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mobbs, Shilton and Vincett.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Barrott (Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee), Councillor Boad (Liberal Democrat Group Observer), Councillor Edwards (Labour Group, observing), Councillor Gifford (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Councillor MacKay (Independent Group Observer) and Councillor Williams (Conservative Group, observing).

142. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

143. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 December 2012 and 9 January 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PART 1

(Items on which a decision by Council is required)

144. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2013-14**

RECOMMENDED that

(1) Councillor Davies be Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2013/14; and

(2) Councillor Mrs Sawdon be Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2013/14.

145. **BUDGET 2013/14 AND COUNCIL TAX – REVENUE AND CAPITAL**

The Executive considered a report from Finance which updated Members on the overall financial position of the Council.

It included the latest position in respect of the 2012/13 General Fund Revenue Budget and the future implications of the proposed changes within. For 2013/14 onwards, the report considered both the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme.

The information contained within the report supported the recommendations to Council in respect of setting next year's budgets and Warwick District's level of

Council Tax for 2013/14. It updated members on the latest projections and assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, identifying the on-going savings required by 2017/18. The report also updated Members on the Council's Reserves and General Fund.

The Council was required to set a budget and council tax each year and took into account the many factors detailed in the report. The budgets proposed for both capital and revenue were in accordance with Fit for the Future. The financial strategy and capital strategy were revised in the light of the proposed revenue and capital budgets, and the issues that these budgets addressed.

No specific alternatives to the recommendations were made; however, the information given would enable Members to propose variations to the proposals. Members had a duty to consider all possible options. The proposals in the report reflected the Portfolio Holder priorities contained within the Fit for the Future programme which was approved by Members in October 2010.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report and made the following comments:

The Committee supported recommendation 2.8 and emphasised that the Council needed to look toward growth and development in the local community, taking into account the five Delivery Plans that would accompany the Local Plan.

Concerns were raised regarding the planning appeal reserve which the Committee felt may need looking at in light of what could happen with HS2 and as a consequence of the emerging Local Plan.

The Committee also had concerns about recommendation 2.9 and felt that contributions from the smaller councils should be on a pro rata / population basis and not on the equivalent level as the larger, city councils. The Committee therefore recommended to Executive that the contribution to the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership for District Councils be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Responding to this point, Councillor Doody pointed out that the figure in recommendation 2.9 related solely to Borough and District Councils. He stated that if contributions were calculated on a pro-rata basis, Warwick District's contribution would increase. Councillor Barrott accepted this explanation on behalf of the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee and Executive voted not to accept the proposed amendment. Members noted that paragraph 3.4.19 in the report set out the contributions being made by Coventry City and Warwickshire County Councils.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance summarised the report before the Executive and pointed out new reserves for public amenity and play equipment. He asked Members to note the removal of a bullet point from recommendation 2.14 and paragraph 3.6.6 which related to a business case for the tendering of off-street parking management. The budget underpinned the need for growth in order to give a solution to the projected savings required by 2017/18.

Responding to questions relating to consequences of the Local Plan and reserves for planning, the Head of Finance pointed out that there was an uncommitted balance of nearly £400,000 and estimates suggested that such a reserve was sufficient.

Councillor Doody noted that the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee had thanked the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Head of Finance and Finance staff for all their hard work on the budget, and he extended the Executive's congratulations too.

Having read the report and considered the comments made by the scrutiny committee, Members were satisfied that the resolutions in the report be recommended to Council, subject to the removal of a bullet point relating to off-street parking management.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the 2012/13 Latest General Fund Revenue Estimate of net expenditure, including the proposed adjustments in section 3.2, be agreed by Council at £16.1m, after the projected £520,000 surplus has been appropriated as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report;

(2) Council approves the allocation of the 2012/13 projected surplus of £520,000:-

- £2,000 to a new Public Amenity Reserve
- £200,000 to the General Fund Early Retirement Reserve
- £300,000 a new Sports and Cultural Facilities Reserve
- £18,000 to the General Fund Balance, from where it will be used to fund the 2012/13 Collection Fund Balance;

(3) the Council Tax of a Band D property for Warwick District Council for 2013/14 before the addition of parish/town council, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police Authority precepts is agreed by Council at £146.86, representing a zero increase on 2012/13;

(4) the Council Tax charges for Warwick District Council for 2013/14 before the addition of parish/town council, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police Authority precepts, for each band is agreed by Council as follows:-

Band	**2013/14**
A	£97.91
B	£114.22
C	£130.54
D	£146.86
E	£179.50
F	£212.13
G	£244.77
H	£293.72

(5) Council approves that the 2013/14 projected surplus of £680,000 is allocated as follows:-

- £74,000 to the Public Amenity Reserve
- £200,000 to the 2013/14 Contingency Budget
- £200,000 to the Capital Investment Reserve
- £206,000 to the Service Transformation Reserve;

(6) Council approves the changes to the financial projections and the significant future forecast deficit, currently estimated to rise to over £1.34m by 2017/18 on net expenditure of £17m are noted and that further on-going savings/ increased income of this amount must be secured in order for the authority to be able to set balanced budgets in the future without impacting on the range and quality of services provided;

(7) Council approves the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Investment Programme, together with their financing, as set out in Section 3.8 of the report and Appendix 8; and

(8) Council approves and endorses the Prudential indicators (paragraph 3.9 refers) as shown within Appendix 10 in paragraphs 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2, 8.2 and the annual adoption of the Code of Practice, as shown at paragraph 9.1 of Appendix 10.

RESOLVED that

(1) the Chief Executive's use of his Emergency Powers, in consultation with Group Leaders, to approve the use of £14,000 funding from the Service Transformation Reserve to fund temporary Agency staff at the Royal Spa Centre, be noted;

(2) the changes to the latest 2013/14 General Fund revenue budgets (as previously agreed by the Executive on 12 December 2012) in paragraph 3.3.1 with net expenditure of £15.9m after the appropriations in recommendation 2.12 below, as summarised in Appendix 1, be approved;

(3) the Grant Settlement for 2013/14, be noted and approved that should there be a non-material change to the final grant settlement for 2013/14 when the announcement is made, this be accommodated within the Contingency Budget in 2013/14;

(4) the creation of a Business Rates Retention Volatility Reserve, and the allocation to it in 2013/14 of anything above the Baseline figure of £3.011m, be approved;

(5) the Statement of New Homes Bonus Use within Appendix 11, be approved, and the New Homes Bonus allocation due for 2013/14 of £1,009,000, of which £30,000 will be allocated to the W2 (Waterloo/Warwick District Council) Joint Venture and £215,000 to Chase Meadow Community Centre project, be noted and approved that the balance of £764,000 is appropriated as follows :-

- £80,000 Warwick Fire Station/Old Gas Works housing development
- £224,000 Public Amenity Reserve
- £160,000 Community Forum Grant Funding for the period 2014/15-2017/18 in place of current revenue funding
- £300,000 Rural and Capital Improvement Schemes for the period 2016/17 and 2017/18 to enable the current scheme to be funded within the Capital Programme for a further two years;

(6) that the Job, Skills & Economy Delivery Plan, one of the five Delivery Plans that will accompany the Local Plan, will set out a strategic approach to delivery of significant growth in the local economy and consequent increases in the Business Rates and Council Tax tax bases of the Council be noted;

(7) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and s151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Finance Portfolio Holder, to agree the financial contribution to the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) up to a maximum of £25,000 per annum for 2013/14 and 2014/15, funded from the 2013/14 Contingency Budget and 2014/15 to be included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy when the amount becomes definitive;

(8) the following projects be included within the Fit For the Future Change Programme :-

- A business case exploring alternative delivery models for the Council's Cultural Services;
- A business case for the relocation of WDC's HQ by April 2016;
- The development of an Asset Management Plan with proposals for the future management of the Council's assets;
- The development of proposals to reduce Council costs in line with the reduction in Housing Benefit Administration Grant;
- The development, through CMT discussions with the Trade Unions for changes to staff Terms and Conditions so that a sustainable pay award (or awards) could be made;
- The development of proposals for all discretionary spending so Members can consider whether the Council's objectives are being met;

(9) the £33,000 deficit on the Collection Fund Balance (this Council's share) is met from the General Fund Balance;

(10) the creation of a new Public Amenity Reserve, be approved and that the existing balance on the Play Equipment Reserve is transferred to the created Public Amenity Reserve;

(11) the creation of a new Sports and Cultural Facilities Reserve, be approved;

(12) the latest schedule in respect of the Equipment Renewal Reserve, be noted, and that this Reserve estimated to have an unallocated balance of £1.3m as at the 1 April 2013, will be exhausted during 2016/17 should all the indicated projected requests be fully funded;

(13) the de minimis limit for all individual items of capital expenditure other than land and buildings is revised tot £5,000, with the limit for land and buildings remaining at £20,000;

(14) should the Executive agree future capital projects, self–funded or otherwise, amendments be made to the Capital Budget as appropriate (paragraph 3.8.5);

(15) the continuation of the Housing Investment Programme as set out in Appendix 8 to the report, be approved and grants authority to the Head of Housing and Property Services to incur expenditure, using existing compliant contracts in accordance with the Code of Financial Practice;

(16) if there is any future mismatch between the proposed General Fund budgets and subsidiary strategies and action plans, officers must bring forward proposals for managing service provision within the agreed budgets;

(17) the risks and opportunities that may impact upon the Council's financial position as detailed in paragraph 3.10 of the report, be noted;

(18) the arrangements for Financial and Budget Management as outlined in paragraph 3.10.7 of the report and the continuation of quarterly reports, be noted;

(19) the revised Financial Strategy as set out in Appendix 12 of the report, be noted; and

(20) the cost of £51,000 of the extension of one of the Project Co-ordinator posts for a further 12 months, be financed from the Service Transformation Reserve.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Mobbs)
(Forward Plan reference 424)

146. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2013/14 AND HOUSING RENTS**

The Executive considered a report from Finance and Housing and Property Services which updated members on the latest Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets in respect of 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The report supported the recommendations to Council in respect of setting next year's budgets and the proposed increases to council tenant rents, garage rents and Supporting People charges for 2013/14. Compared to the budgets approved in December 2012, the contribution to the HRA Capital Investment reserve had increased by £9,000 in 2012/13 but reduced by £82,600 in 2013/14.

The Council was required to set a budget for the Housing Revenue Account each year, requiring agreement on the level of rents and other charges that were levied. The Executive was therefore required to make recommendations to Council that took into account the base budgets for the HRA and current Government guidance on rent restructuring.

The report recommended housing dwelling rents be increased by 3.63%, garage rents be increased by 5.5% and the Supporting People charges be increased by 1%. The revised HRA budgets were attached as an appendix to the report and officers requested that the HRA Business Plan be updated to reflect the increases and reported back to Executive.

An alternative option would be to apply the national rent restructuring formula which, in line with previous rents policy, would increase average rents by 5.24% (£4.31 per week) from those charged in 2012/13, this being an additional 1.61% (£1.33 per week) increase compared to the rents recommended to the Executive.

It would be possible to entirely ignore national rent restructuring and set rents on any other basis the Council believed to be more appropriate, as long as rents were set consistently and fairly; however this would be a significant divergence from Government policy and was, therefore, strongly discouraged.

Garage rents were already amongst the lowest in the county. Keeping garage rents artificially low would mean they were effectively subsidised from tenants' rents. Since most tenants did not also rent a garage, and most garages were rented to people who were not Council tenants, this was hard to justify. It would be possible to set garage rents higher than those proposed to maximise income; however significantly higher rents could make garages harder to let and so reduce income.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee felt that the Executive might like to consider increasing garage rents at a higher level, to encourage development of garage sites for social housing.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property thanked the scrutiny committees for their comments. He believed that the proposed increase for garage rents was appropriate because there were clearly people who required garages but an increase might deter those who did not from keeping them. Additionally, not all garage sites were appropriate and it would be difficult to have differential rates.

While the Portfolio Holder applauded the sentiment of the Scrutiny Committee's suggestion, he felt that to increase rents at this stage would be premature and that over the next twelve months the proposals in the report would give a clearer indication of how increases would affect people. The Portfolio Holder recognised the need for a fine balance between affordability and maximising revenue schemes for the benefit of all.

Having read the report and considered the comments made by the scrutiny committees, the Executive decided to propose the recommendations, to Council, as set out.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) housing dwelling rents for 2013/14 be increased by an average of 3.63%;

(2) garage rents for 2013/14 be increased by 5.5%;

(3) 2013/14 Supporting People charges for housing tenants receiving housing related support be increased by 1%;

(4) the latest 2012/13 and 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be agreed; and

(5) the HRA Business Plan is updated to reflect the proposed 2013/14 Estimates and Rent increase, with details reported back to the Executive.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Vincett)
(Forward Plan reference 425)

147. **APPROVAL OF HEATING, LIGHTING AND WATER CHARGES 2013/14 – COUNCIL TENANTS**

The Executive considered a report from Finance and Housing and Property Services which detailed the proposed recharges to Council housing tenants for 2013/14, for the provision of communal heating, lighting and water supply.

Recharges were levied to recover costs of electricity, gas and water supply usage to individual properties within two of the sheltered, and the five very sheltered housing schemes, which were provided as part of communal heating and water supplies. The costs of maintaining communal laundry facilities were also recharged at those sites benefiting from these facilities under the heading of miscellaneous charges.

The charges necessary to fully recover costs were calculated annually from average consumption over the past three years, updated for current costs and adjusted for one third of any over or under-recovery in previous years.

To fully recover costs the weekly heating/lighting charges at each scheme would need to increase by a significant amount; the necessary increase varied for each scheme, from £1.50 up to £4.30 per week. This was considered unaffordable for tenants living at these sheltered and very sheltered schemes, who were typically older and more vulnerable. Therefore, it was recommended that the price increase be spread over a 5 year period in order to keep the charges affordable. This would not significantly impact on the resources available within the Housing Business Plan for the development of new homes and maintaining service quality. The full review of the energy requirements of all of these assets would enable the council to significantly reduce energy costs into the future. Hence the policy of spreading changes for cost increases over a longer period was affordable for both the customers concerned and the Housing Business Plan.

Housing and Property Services had programmed a full review of the heating and lighting systems at these sheltered and very sheltered housing schemes where utility costs were pooled and then recharged to customers, to identify improvements that might reduce future costs.

The proposed increases for water charges were significantly lower and it was therefore recommended to fully recharge the projected costs, full details of which were shown in appendix 1 and appendix 2 of the report.

An alternative option was to set heating/lighting charges to fully recover the costs from the utility suppliers in line with the policy followed in previous years, which would eliminate any cost to the HRA. Compared to the recommendation in this report it would increase HRA resources by £23,200 in 2013/14 and potentially by £57,700 over 5 years. To achieve this, weekly heating/lighting charges would have to increase by between 22% and 43% for the various sites (£1.50 to £4.30 per week) from 2012/13 charges, which was considered to be unaffordable for affected tenants.

The Executive noted that heating/lighting charges could be set at any level between those proposed and the charges required to fully recover costs. This would reduce the cost to the HRA, but increase the cost to tenants in receipt of this service.

Charges could be set above the real costs of recovery. This would mean tenants of these schemes would have no choice but to pay above the real cost of these utilities, as the communal nature of these services meant they could not choose their own energy suppliers. However, officers did not feel that this would be fair.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee felt that the full energy costs should be passed on as they had been previously.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but felt that recommendation 2.3 was not strong enough. The Committee therefore recommended that 2.3 be amended to read "that officers identify the energy efficiency improvements of sheltered housing and very sheltered housing schemes by May 2013, with a view to begin work over the summer and in time for completion by Winter 2013".

Councillor Boad pointed out that a lot of resources and effort had already been spent on Council properties, including on making them energy efficient. He suggested that any further gains, were likely to be small and talked about the value for money which the residents at these sheltered housing schemes were getting.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services felt that, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the people in question and the current financial climate, it was right to make concessions this year. With regard to the Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee's suggestion of a report by May 2013, he pointed out how much work this would involve. He emphasised Housing and Property's commitment to investigating areas where savings could be made and to completing works as soon as possible, while resisting setting a completion date. He therefore, did not feel that the Executive were able to agree to the recommendation in full.

Having read the report and considered the comments made, the Executive decided to agree the recommendations as set out, but with the addition of the words "at the earliest opportunity" to recommendation 2.3.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the revised recharges for Council tenants relating to heating, lighting, water and miscellaneous charges for the year commencing 1 April 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 & Appendix 2 of the report, are agreed;

(2) the increase to fully recover the costs of heating, lighting, water and miscellaneous charges is phased in over a five year period; and

(3) the Head of Housing and Property Services reports back to Executive at the earliest opportunity on proposals to improve the energy efficiency of sheltered and very sheltered housing schemes.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Vincett)
(Forward Plan reference 426)

148. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PLAN 2013/2014**

The Executive considered a report from Finance which detailed the strategy for 2013/14 that the Council would follow in carrying out its treasury management activities including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.

Appended to the report were; the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Plan 2013/14; the 2013/14 Annual Investment Strategy; the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement; an explanation of credit rating terms; and economic background.

The Council was required to have an approved Treasury Management Strategy, including an Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy within which its treasury management operations could be carried out. The Council would be investing approximately £18.359 million in new capital in 2013/2014 and would have average investments of £39 million (2011/12 actual £43m). This level of investments arose from the Council's reserves and provisions, the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances, and accumulated capital receipts as well as cash flow.

The Council's treasury management operations were also governed by various Treasury Management Practices (TMP's), the production of which was a requirement of the CIPFA code and which had to be explicitly followed by officers engaged in treasury management. These had previously been reported to the Executive and approved. Various changes to TMPs were outlined in the report.

The approval of an annual Treasury Management Strategy was a requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, the latest version of which had been adopted by the Council in 2011/12.

An alternative to the proposed strategy for 2013/14 would be to vary the counterparty limits and investment periods from those recommended, in order to increase investment returns. However, this would expose the Council to increased credit risk and was not recommended. The Council could choose not to amend the counterparty limits and/or investment periods, but this would not achieve the stated aim of reducing credit risk within the investment portfolio. The Council could also choose not to approve a mechanism to share any future investment capital losses, but in this case the General Fund would bear all losses.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report and were pleased that the Council had far safer investments with little loss in earnings.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance commended the report to the Executive and felt that it underpinned the extremely sound investments recommended by Council officers.

The Executive decided to agree the recommendations as set out.

<u>RESOLVED</u> that

(1) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14 as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the report and detailed in Appendix A, is approved;

(2) the changes to the various Treasury Management Practices as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report are approved; and

(3) it is agreed that in the event of any future investment capital losses, that these are apportioned between the General Fund and the HRA in proportion to the relative reserves/balances.

RECOMMENDED that

(1) the 2013/14 Annual Investment Strategy as outlined in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the report and detailed in Appendix B, including the following changes, is approved:-

a) as per paragraph 2.5, the total amount that can be invested for periods of more than 364 days remains at £9m and that Local Authorities are added to the list of counterparties in which this Council can invest for a maximum of two years (including any forward dealing period);

b) as per paragraph 6.2(a) & (b), the counterparty limits for the counterparties and instruments listed therein be raised from £6m to £12m (paragraph (a)) and from £6m to £9m (paragraph (b));

c) as per paragraph 2.3, a group limit of £8 million be introduced for investments with unrated i.e. Category C Building Societies;

(2) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report and contained in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of Appendix C, is approved; and

(3) the Prudential Indicators as outlined in paragraph 3.7 of the report and contained in paragraphs 5.4 & 5.5 of Appendix A, is approved.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Mobbs)
(Forward Plan reference 443)

PART 2
(Items on which a decision by Council is not required)

149. **RURAL FOOTWAY LIGHTING**

The Executive considered a report from Community Protection which made recommendations for the financing of the replacement of 187 concrete columns and 372 lanterns (luminaires) for lighting rural footways which had reached the end of their lifespan.

The 187 concrete columns were demonstrating clear evidence of physical deterioration, with increasing danger of actual mechanical failure and with the attendant health and safety risks. These needed to be replaced in the near future and it would be more cost effective to replace all affected columns in a planned programme than waiting until each one failed and replacing them individually.

The 372 lanterns (luminaires) for rural footway lighting were no longer waterproof, affecting the efficiency and amount of light produced and increasing the frequency of maintenance. They needed to be replaced in the near future, to improve the quality of lighting and reduce maintenance costs.

The anticipated lifespan for new steel columns was between 35 and 40 years, and for luminaries between 15 and 30 years, dependent upon the type. Replacements would provide service for a significant lifespan, subject to normal routine maintenance which involved bulb changes and cleansing on a 3 year cycle.

Since provision of rural footway lighting benefited parishes, it was considered appropriate to approach parish councils for contributions towards replacing the lighting within their areas and enhancing their local street scene. Similarly it was considered appropriate that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) make a contribution towards replacing rural footway lighting associated with the Council's housing stock.

Some of the columns in question were situated within conservation areas and needed to be replaced with conservation type columns and luminaries. It was therefore considered appropriate to receive a conservation grant towards the additional cost of meeting this standard.

An alternative option was for the Council not to carry out repairs. Due to all Rural Footway Lighting being an "unmetered electricity supply" the Council remained responsible for the rated electricity consumption because all lamp columns and luminaires were on the "Electricity Inventories Lists" until such time that the light sources were removed and the electricity supply was disconnected, which would incur costs. Unless the entire lighting structure was also removed, the Council would remain responsible and liable for the lighting structure in place on the highway.

If street lighting lamp columns got damaged, they would need to be made safe, with the electricity supply disconnected and columns removed, although the

Council could choose not to replace them. This would result in an annual saving of £23,200 which could be re-paid to the Capital Investment Reserve.

The Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations.

The Executive thanked the scrutiny committee for its support and agreed the recommendations as written.

RESOLVED that

(1) officers commence a tender process for the replacement of 187 concrete columns and 372 lanterns (luminaires) for footway lighting situated in the parish areas (see appendix 1to the report) at a cost of up to £241,000 and that this project is added to the General Fund Capital Programme;

(2) funding of £31,900 is available from savings made on the 2012/13 Rural Footway Lighting & Improvements budget, and an additional £48,400 has been identified from other sources (HRA - £26,400; Conservation Grant £14,000; Barford Parish Council £3,000 from Community Forum fund; Bishops Tachbrook £5,000), be noted, and officers contact other Parish Councils to determine whether they would be prepared to contribute funding given that the proposed programme is being brought forward earlier than would otherwise be necessary;

(3) the savings realised on this year's Revenue Budget be transferred to the Capital Investment Reserve upon closure of the 2012-13 Accounts to contribute towards the costs of these works, be approved;

(4) the remaining costs after these contributions (£31,900 and £48,400) be funded from the Capital Investment Reserve, which currently are estimated to be a maximum of £162,000 depending on the success achieved in raising further external contributions;

(5) should there be further savings during 2013-14 on the Revenue Rural Footway Lighting & Improvements budget, that these be transferred to this scheme to reduce the sum being funded by the Capital Improvement Budget; and

(6) the £23,200 on-going saving realised by this scheme be factored into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Vincett)

150. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
153	1	Information relating to an individual
153	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
151, 152, 154	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The full minutes of Minutes 150 to 154 would be contained within a confidential minute which would be considered for publication following the implementation of the relevant decisions. However, a summary of the decisions was as follows:

151. **RETAIL DEVELOPMENT IN LEAMINGTON TOWN CENTRE – UPDATE REPORT**

The recommendation as set out in the report was agreed.

(The Portfolio Holders for this item were Councillor Mobbs and Councillor Hammon)
(Forward Plan Reference 496)

152. **EMPLOYMENT LAND WORK PROCUREMENT – USE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE DELEGATED POWERS**

The recommendation as set out in the report was agreed.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Caborn)

153. **EARLY RETIREMENT**

The recommendation as set out in the report was agreed.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Vincett)

154. **MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012 and 9 January 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(The meeting ended at 7.12 pm)