

EXECUTIVE

Excerpt of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Wednesday 24 November 2010 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Councillors Caborn, Coker, Mrs Grainger, Hammon, Mobbs and Shilton.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Barrott (Labour Group Observer), Councillor Boad (Liberal Democrat Group Observer), Councillor Gifford (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor Mrs Knight (Chair of Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Doody, Mrs Gallagher and Kirton.

Councillor Caborn Chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Michael Doody.

86. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 88 Council Tax Discounts – Second Homes and Long Term Empty Properties.

Councillor Shilton declared a personal interest because he was a Warwickshire County Councillor.

PART 1

(Items which a decision by Council is required)

88. **COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS – SECOND HOMES AND LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES**

The Executive considered a report from Finance that asked them to recommend to Council a reduction in Council Tax discounts awarded in respect of "second homes" and "long term empty" properties.

Reducing Council Tax discounts on second homes and empty properties should serve to encourage greater occupancy of dwellings and increase the fairness of the taxbase.

Reducing the Council Tax discount on second homes and long term empty properties will raise additional revenue to be distributed between Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police Authority and the parish/town councils

The Executive may chose to leave the discount arrangements unchanged or set discount levels somewhere between the statutory maximum and minimum

The Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, although a number of Members were

EXECUTIVE MINUTES (Continued)

unhappy that additional revenue raised by the proposed change would not be ring-fenced for use within Warwick District.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

The Executive thanked the Scrutiny Committees for their comments and explained that Warwickshire County Council had been written to on this matter but no response had been received.

RECOMMENDED that;

- (1) Council agrees to reduce the Council Tax Discount on second homes to 10% from 1 April 2011; and
- (2) Council agrees to remove the Council Tax Discount for long term empty homes from 1 April 2011.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Mobbs)