

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

**MEETING:** Community Select Committee  
**DATE:** Monday 6 March 2017  
**PLACE:** Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), J Brown, E. Harrington, A Mitchell and C Saunders

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| <b>1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b><br><br>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bainbridge, Connolly, J Mead and Snell.<br><br>There were no declarations of interest.   | <b>ACTION/LEAD</b><br><br>L. Jerome<br>Ext 2203 |
| <b>2</b> | <b>MINUTES – 11 January 2017</b><br><br>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 11 January 2017 are approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.   | L. Jerome<br>Ext 2203                           |
| <b>3</b> | <b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO DAMP, MOULD &amp; CONDENSATION SCRUTINY REVIEW</b><br><br>The Committee was presented with the Executive Member response to the Damp, Mould and Condensation Scrutiny Review. The Committee was pleased to note that the Executive Member had accepted all recommendations from the Review.<br><br>In relation to recommendation 2 regarding contact with tenants reporting a damp or mould issue, Officers reassured the Committee that although the Council was pushing a more digital approach to service delivery, there would never be a time when face to face communication was not an option for |   |

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|                 | <p>customers.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p>  |                              |
| <p><b>4</b></p> | <p><b>2017/18 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer presented a report seeking Member’s approval for the Scrutiny Work Programme for the new Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer had canvassed all Members involved in the scrutiny process, responses had been received from a number of Members commenting on the current scrutiny arrangements. A number of topics had also been suggested as potential scrutiny items.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Scrutiny Members’ feedback on ideas for improving Scrutiny (see section 4 of the Scrutiny Officer’s report) be noted.</li> <li>2. That having considered ideas put forward by individual Members, and from the public, the Committee determine the following subject matters to be added to a ‘long list’ work programme of potential Scrutiny reviews items for 2017/2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing Allocations Policy</b> – including allocations into the sheltered housing schemes and flexicare schemes AS Members were keen to see how the Policy is working;</li> <li>• <b>Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL)</b> – following a review being undertaken by the Strategic Director regarding the operating cost of the SLL contract, it was agreed that a report should come to Committee later in the year giving an update on the revised Business Plan for SLL. Members also requested information relating to data on ticket/membership sales in order to determine the number of local people using the facilities.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation</b> – Members suggested that it would be useful to review how the Council</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <p>S Weaver<br/>Ext 2332</p> |

communicates and consults with local residents. The Strategic Director advised that an LGA Peer Review was due shortly on the Council's Communications Policy. He would arrange for the terms of reference and scope for that review to come to this Committee. It was also noted that this item was on the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- **Rough Sleepers** – consideration of the plight of rough sleepers in the Town. The Strategic Director agreed to arrange for Officers to report back on the action plan which had come out of the recent Modern Member Programme (MMP) back to the Committee to receive an update on progress in the area and to look at what added value a scrutiny review could bring to this issue.
- **Lettings** – a new Reconnection Key Worker post had been established within the Homelessness Team on a 6 month pilot. It was agreed that this issue be considered again later in the year at the end of the pilot period;
- **SSE (Southern Scottish Electric) Energy Utility Contact with Community Centres** – a response would be sent to all Members from the Strategic Director updating them on the current situation with regard to the monitoring of this contract;
- **Symonds Green Community Centre** – agreed that the Scrutiny Officer liaise with Councillor Notley and contact the local resident who raised the issue of a lack of facilities for older people. The Strategic Director informed the Committee that a review of all community centres across the Town would be taking place shortly and the results of this review would be reported back to this Committee later in the year.
- **Crime and Disorder** – This would be covered at the usual Annual Meeting
- **Public Health** – to be dealt with as an annual review item;

3. That the comments regarding the Future Town Future Council programme and the relationship between Scrutiny and the officer Senior Leadership Team (see section 5.4 & 5.5 of the report respectively) be noted.

4. That it be noted that item on the Private Rented Sector – monitoring of recommendations and agreed actions would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

5. That the following Policy Development work identified so far for the Committee be noted:

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|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Management Framework</li> <li>• Sheltered Housing – this issue to be dealt with alongside the scrutiny of the Housing Allocations Policy.</li> </ul> |                      |
| <b>5</b>              | <b>URGENT PART I BUSINESS</b><br><br>None   |                      |
| <b>6</b>              | <b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b><br><br>Not Required.   | L Jerome<br>Ext 2203 |
| <b><u>PART II</u></b> |   |                      |
| <b>7</b>              | <b>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b><br><br>None.   |                      |