

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 20 July 2016 – 19.00 hrs.
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Councillors with the exception of those listed at item 1 below.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Martin-Haugh, M Hurst, G Snell and the Youth Mayor Emma Chapman.

Councillors M Downing and M Notley declared personal interests in Item 18 – Proposed Extension to Symonds Green Community Centre.

The Mayor informed the meeting that item 16 – Treasury Management Strategy had been accepted as an urgent item which had been circulated on the supplementary agenda.

2. MINUTES – ANNUAL COUNCIL – TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 24 May 2016 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor informed the meeting that since the last meeting, the Mayoral Team had undertaken 50 civic events in the town which included attending the Stevenage-Ingelheim-Autun reunion and unveiling a memorial plaque in honour of Peter Mason, the former Chair of the Market Traders Association.

The Mayor invited Members and the public in the chamber to stand for a minutes' silence for both Peter Mason and the 84 people who were tragically killed in a terrorist attack in Nice, France.

4. MAIN DEBATE – ‘ OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS – OUR FUTURE’ – HOW EFFECTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING WILL DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE TOWN

Council received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council, Councillor S Speller and members of Community Groups in Pin Green.

After a full debate, which included input from the public gallery, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that:

"This Council strongly believes in the positive contribution that neighbourhood planning and working can make towards improving the local environment and the quality of life of those living in the Borough and vows to work proactively with local organisations from the public, private & voluntary sectors to seek to maximise the impact that effective neighbourhood planning can achieve".

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed Tom Pike, Strategic Director (Environment) to his first Council meeting.

With respect to the new initiatives and the various programmes around the Future Town Future Council (FTFC) and the Local Plan, the Leader of Opposition enquired if the projects would represent value for money to the residents and sought assurances on whether some of the projects were deliverable.

In response the Leader informed Members that Council had sound plans and it was a matter for both Members and Officers to ensure that the plans were delivered, however this could be subject to external factors including the implications of the European Union referendum

Council then received updates on the following:

- Pearl Izumi Cycle Event
- Stevenage Day
- 1st Park Run Fairlands Valley Park Run
- The Healthy Hub within the Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre
- Acquisition of new build homes at Meredith Road
- Insulation Contract for homes
- Emergency / Temporary Accommodation
- Public Space Protection Order
- Herts FSB Stevenage Small Business Award
- Green Flag Award Scheme

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Mayor referred the meeting to the Motion detailed in the agenda.

After a debate, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that -

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in Stevenage or in our country. We, Stevenage Borough Council condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Stevenage Borough Council will work with our partners to ensure local programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We will continue to promote and encourage the reporting of hate crime.

We reassure all people living and working in or visiting Stevenage that they are valued members of our community.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Council received three questions.

- A. The Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration, Councillor J Gardner responded to a question concerning the large number of empty retail units in the town centre and Council regeneration plans.

The Portfolio Holder then responded to a supplementary question from Councillor R Parker (on behalf of Councillor G Snell) relating to a question on whether Council owned units were being marketed on a competitive basis.

- B. The Portfolio Holder Environment & Regeneration Councillor J Gardner responded to a question on whether he would commit to working with ward councillors on their objections of plans to include the Gresley Park Development within the East Hertfordshire Local Plan.

The Portfolio Holder then responded to a supplementary question from Councillor A McGuinness on the benefits of Stevenage residents of expanding urban extensions into green belt area.

- C. The Leader of the Council responded to a question relating to the effect of United Kingdom leaving the European Union on the Council finances and its strategic objectives.

In a supplementary question Councillor sought assurances that Members would be informed of any implications and that the proposed working party would have representations from each political group on the Council. The Leader replied that a member of the Local Government Association was to serve on the Government Group working on Brexit and the Council's Working would be cross party.

11. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2015/2016

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the work undertaken by the Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Select Committees during 2015 / 2016 is noted.

12. STEVENAGE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN : SUBMISSION

Council were advised that the item was considered by Executive on 20 July 2016 and the recommendation to Council was set out in the Supplementary Agenda.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Stevenage Borough Local Plan (attached as Appendix 2) and associated Policies Map (attached as Appendix 3), the Regulation 22 Consultation Statement (attached as Appendix 1), and the Sustainability Appraisal (attached as Appendix 4) for submission to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 is approved.

(NOTE: Councillors A McGuinness and R Parker CC requested that their vote opposing the resolution above be recorded.)

13. A TEN YEAR BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE GARAGES

The Chief Executive advised Council that due to administrative error, the revised draft resolution of the Executive was circulated to all Members (although it did not affect the recommendation to the Council).

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the funding of £9.24m over 10 years from £1.62m of capital reserves, capital receipts from the disposal of selected garage blocks (estimated at £860k, ring fenced to the investment ongoing) with the

balance secured from prudential borrowing (of £6.76m) is approved.

14. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the following officers are appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers

- Constitutional Services Manager
- Electoral Services Manager

15. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 29 MARCH AND 8 JUNE 2016

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 29 March and the draft Minutes of 8 June 2016 are noted.

16. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – URGENCY DECISION ON SOVEREIGN RATING DOWNGRADE

This report circulated on supplementary agenda was accepted as an urgent item by the Mayor. The Portfolio Holder for Resources informed Council that due to the uncertainty with regards to the UK's sovereign rating, an additional recommendation has been proposed.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**

1. That the exclusion of the UK from the Council's minimum sovereign rating criteria of AA- for approved countries for investment is approved.
2. That the use of UK financial institutions based on their individual UK entity ratings and not the UK sovereign rating is approved.
3. That any changes in the UK's rating and resulting investments is reported back to the Audit Committee and Executive at

the earliest opportunity.

17. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.
2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

18. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO SYMONDS GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

As noted in Item 1 above, Councillors M Downing and M Notley had declared personal interests in this item and left the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report are approved.