

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 4 October 2016

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Members: The Mayor (J Lloyd CC), D Bainbridge, S Batson MBE DL CC, L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, H Burrell, L Chester, E Connolly, M Downing, J Fraser, J Gardner, M Gardner, R Henry CC, J Hollywell, M Hurst, C Latif, G Lawrence, Mrs J Lloyd, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead, S Mead, A Mitchell, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, G Snell, S Taylor OBE CC and J Thomas.

In Attendance: Kevin Fiorelli - Chair of the Youth Council,
Maddison Downie - Vice Chair,
Santino de Freitas - Youth Councillor,
Tamara Harrison - Youth Councillor,
Emma Chapman - Stevenage Youth Mayor

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7:00 pm
End Time: 8:30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Bibby, D Cullen, L Harrington, S Hearn, A McGuinness, C Saunders, S Speller, P Stuart and A Webb.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2016

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 20 July 2016 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor informed Council that since the last meeting, the Mayoral Team had undertaken over 50 civic events in the town which included celebrating the new Mondrian style façade at Woolenwick School.

The Mayor thanked Cllr S Speller for his fundraising cycle ride for Charity. He also paid tribute to of the late Pat Palmer who had undertaken invaluable voluntary work in the Community.

4. **MAIN DEBATE – PRESENTATION FROM THE STEVENAGE YOUTH COUNCIL – ‘READ ALL ABOUT IT!’**

The Council received a presentation from the Stevenage Youth Council concerning its initiative to improve communication with young people in the Town by way of a Newsletter.

The Mayor thanked the Members of the Youth Council for their well prepared and informative presentation.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Henry and seconded by Councillor Batson.

The Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People & Leisure indicated that they would positively consider bids for funding from their County Council Budgets for the first edition of the newsletter.

A full debate ensued with both Councillors and members of the public taking part. Points raised included:

- Praise for the work of the Youth Council in championing the Council’s equality and diversity values.
- Praise for the Youth Council’s presentation for its clarity and succinctness.
- Members asked a number of questions to the Youth Council about options for distribution.
- A Member asked the Youth Council about the possibility of involving local press to assist with distribution.
- The newsletter was a positive initiative, particularly for encouraging constructive participation and engagement of Youths in the area, and being able to work together positively with wider members of the community.
- There will be great rewards from team working.
- This gave individuals specialised work experience, e.g. journalism skills.
- This may go some way in addressing issues of isolation.
- It will be essential to keep to a schedule and not underestimate potential problems.

Following the debate it was **RESOLVED** that this Council supports Stevenage Youth Council’s introduction of the newssheet SYC Exclusive; The Council welcomes this initiative as a platform for young people to speak out on what matters to them, and extend an offer to distribute the first edition of SYC Exclusive alongside the Council’s Chronicle newsletter. Stevenage Borough Council recognises and proactively seeks the opinions of young people; we encourage the development of initiatives which help

young people to express their views and help shape local decision making.

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 Leader of Opposition enquired what work had been commissioned and undertaken regarding the Neighbourhood programme following the visits and presentations. The Leader responded that a comprehensive update would be provided at an all Member Briefing that was to be arranged.

In response to a question from Councillor Parker regarding the Minister of Housing's comments that building new Council Housing may lead to increased inequality the Leader stated that she disagreed with it and read a letter she had drafted to the Minister. In response to a supplementary question the Leader indicated she would provide details of the number of new homes the Council had built and those under development in a written response.

Council then received updates on the following:

- Celebrating 50 years of "Play" work in the Borough
- Tackling child poverty in the Borough
- Relay run at Hampson park to encourage families of Stevenage to get active together
- The provision of 8 new social rented homes on Archer Road
- The Council's action in dealing with major floods and gas leaks at Brent Court
- Ongoing education campaigns against domestic abuse
- The local promotion of National Safety Day
- The Great British High Street of the Year Awards
- The Rosetta Mission
- Recruiting a new Town Centre Manager
- Update on business rates consultation

Following on from the update on the Rosetta Mission the Council formally recorded its congratulations to Airbus for the part it played in this ground-breaking project and requested the Mayor to send a letter.

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

None.

11. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Polio Holder for Resources gave an update on financial forecasting for the Council based on Annual Treasury Management Review.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the 2015/2016 Annual Treasury Review is approved.

12. CHAPTER 7 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Chief Executive indicated that there was a typographical error in the report where the surname of the Independent person was “Cawley” and not “Crawley” (although it did not affect the recommendation to Council). The Chief Executive explained why an Independent person was needed for the Standards Board and the processes when it would be required such as to consult on alleged breaches to the Member Code of Conduct and potential disciplinary action involving Proper Officers.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Dr. Robert Cawley is appointed as the Council’s Independent Person for a term of 4 years.

13. REVISED ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2016/2017

The Chief Executive advised Council on revisions made since the Pay Policy Statement had been considered in February.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 and the Data Transparency Code 2015, as shown at Appendix 1 to this report, is approved.
2. That the revised pay policy is placed on the Council’s web site and that a notice of the policy is published in the next edition of Chronicle.

14. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 5 September 2016 are noted.

15. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. Members considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

17. PART II REPORT – SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW

This report circulated on supplementary agenda was accepted as an urgent item by the Mayor. The reason for urgency was in order to minimise the uncertainty for senior personnel involved in this restructure and the next opportunity to take this report would be Council in December.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**:

1. That Council notes the proposals for the future organisation of the authority's senior management team which has been informed by the consultation feedback.
2. That the Chief Executive is authorised to proceed with implementing the final proposals as set out in this report and associated appendices.
3. That any redundancies arising as a result of the restructure are funded from the appropriate General Fund or Housing Revenue Account balances.

CHAIR