

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Tuesday 31 January 2017 – 7:00 pm
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Bibby, D Cullen, L Martin-Haugh, M Hurst and A Webb.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. TRIBUTES - COUNCILLOR SHERMA BATSON MBE DL CC

It was moved, seconded and Resolved that time limit for speeches for this item be waived.

The Mayor called on the Leader of the Council to lead the tributes. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Minority Group also spoke.

Tributes were then taken from Councillors and the public gallery.

Council stood and observed a minute's silence in remembrance.

3. REPORT REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017/18 AND RENT SETTINGS

The Chief Executive advised the meeting of a typographical error in the first line of paragraph 4.3.1 of the report, that the years quoted in the brackets should read '2016/2017' - and not '2015/2016'. Additionally with regards to recommendation 2 in the supplementary agenda, it should read 'other than those outlined in 1 above' and not '2.1' as quoted.

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

1. HRA dwelling rents not subject to the 1% rent reduction (currently Low Start Shared Ownership LSSO's) be increased, week commencing 3 April 2017 by 2% i.e. £2.13 per week which has been calculated using the existing rent formula, CPI +1% in line with the 2016 Rent and Service Charge Policy be approved.
2. HRA dwelling rents (other than those outlined in 1 above) are subject to the 1% rent reduction from week commencing 3 April 2017 or £0.97 and £1.70 per week for social and affordable rents respectively, as outlined in the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 be noted.
3. The final 2017/18 HRA, as set out in Appendix A be approved.
4. The proposed fees and charges be approved as shown in Appendix B be approved.
5. The proposed 2017/18 savings options as outlined in Appendix C be approved.
6. The proposed 2017/18 growth options as outlined in Appendix D be approved.
7. The 2017/18 service charges be approved.
8. That the minimum level of reserves for 2016/17 as shown in Appendix E to this report be approved.
9. The increase of £149,570 to the 2016/17 HRA working budget be approved.
10. The Rent and Service charge Policy as shown in Appendix G be approved.

11. The contingency sum of £250,000 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates for 2017/18 be approved.

4. REPORT REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/2018

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

1. The 2017/18 CTS Scheme proposed within the report be approved.
2. The removal of empty homes discounts and the introduction of the long term empty premium from April 2017 be approved.