

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL****EXECUTIVE  
MINUTES****Date: Tuesday 7 June 2016****Time: 14.00 hrs.****Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN**

**Present:** Councillors S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), S Batson MBE DL CC, R Henry CC, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor, S Speller and J Thomas

**Also Present:**

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 14.00 hrs.  
End Time: 15.15 hrs

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Henry submitted apologies for lateness

There were no declarations of interest.

At this juncture the Executive took the opportunity to record its thanks to Councillor A Webb who had served as both Chair of the Housing Committee as more recently as Portfolio Holder for Housing. It was noted that Councillor Webb had played a key role in ensuring that the Council retained its housing stock. The Executive wished her well.

**2. MINUTES – EXECUTIVE – 5 APRIL 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

**3. MINUTES – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

With reference to the Minutes of the Community Select Committee the view was expressed that it was unfortunate that no attention had been brought to the role of the Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse Partnership.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following meetings are noted

Environment & Economy Select Committee – 22 March 2016

Community Select Committee – 31 March 2016

Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 4 April 2016.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2016.

#### 4. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE BODIES

The Executive considered a report that set out proposed terms of reference for 6 Committees/Joint Committees of the Executive.

The Leader circulated her nominations for the appointments.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Executive Bodies are established with the terms of reference as detailed in the report and the membership detailed below –

Joint Consultative Committee (Employers' Side) -

Councillor Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman)  
Councillor J Gardner  
Councillor R Raynor  
Councillor J Thomas

Appeals, Grievances and Litigation Committee -

Councillor Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman)  
Councillor J Gardner  
Councillor R Raynor  
Councillor S Taylor OBE CC

Housing Development Committee

Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People, Councillor J Thomas (Chair)  
Leader of the Council, Councillor S Taylor OBE CC  
Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Mrs Lloyd  
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration, Councillor J Gardner  
Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council, Councillor S Speller

Stevenage, North Herts., East Herts. and Hertsmere Joint CCTV Committee

Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC – SBC Lead  
Councillor Mrs J Lloyd  
Councillor R Henry CC

Stevenage and East Herts. Joint Executive Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Committee

Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Mrs J Lloyd – SBC  
Lead Member (serving as Chairman when appropriate)  
Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People, Councillor  
J Thomas  
Portfolio Holder for Communities (including Safer Communities)  
& Equalities, Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC  
Substitute - Councillor R Raynor

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **5. STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL BALANCED SCORECARD – QUARTER FOUR 2015/2016**

The Executive considered a report that set out the overall performance results for Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for quarter four 2015/2016.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and explained that there had been a small drop in the overall trend score for the end of year. There were now eleven red scores and two more scores had gone from yellow to amber.

The Chief Executive firstly summarised the areas where there had been an improving performance trend. Sickness absence had continue to fall but it was questioned whether the target was not ambitious enough. There had been an improvement in the level of user satisfaction with ICT although it was noted that this was only measured by staff opinion and not customers. Individual Members commented on various IT problems and it was considered that where there were issues productivity levels of all staff were affected. Measures taken in the Customer Service Centre had seen improvement in the last quarter, although the results over the year had not been so good.

The score for the number of affordable homes delivered had gone from green to red. The target had been based on the Open Market Acquisition Programme but due to difficult market conditions a change of strategy had to be adopted.

The Executive were informed that the Senior Management Board were particularly concerned regarding the time taken to re-let standard void properties. The Executive was of the view that the target should be no more than 25 days.

Concerning the measures relating to Community Safety the Executive was concerned that the policing resourcing levels needed review together with the focus on different types of crime. The Leader

indicated that she and Councillor Batson would be meeting with the new Area Commander and these matters would be raised.

Members noted that number of households living in temporary accommodation, a measure that had gone from yellow to amber, was likely to continue to be a challenging measure. The same view was expressed regarding the percentage of new build budget allocated to identified new build schemes as £3.9million had been returned to the Government as the Council did not have the budget to spend the receipts. Representations continued to be made to Ministers to change this process.

The Assistant Director (Finance) detailed why some of the approved savings from the General Fund Budget and Housing Revenue Account. Additionally, whilst the score for percentage of General Fund Capital receipts achieved was red this was part due to the delay in a couple of schemes due to negotiations to increase the return.

The Executive was informed that progress on the Local Plan had been delayed, with the report to Executive pushed back to July, due to the number of consultation responses received.

Members concluded that the target for the number of press releases issued was not meaningful and should be adjusted to consider the effectiveness of those press releases and publicity campaigns.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the overall performance results for Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for quarter four 2015/16 summarised on Appendix A are noted.
2. That performance improvement outlined in paragraphs 3.8 and status updates set out in paragraph 3.9 as a result of the implementation of performance management activity previously approved is noted.
3. That for areas of performance considered outside an acceptable variance of the target set, the planned performance management activity outlined in paragraph 3.10 are endorsed.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **6. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

The Executive took the opportunity to record its thanks to Aidan Sanderson, Geoff Caine, Louise Gallagher, Robbie Bratchell and all

their colleagues who had made the Pearl Izumi Cycle Event so successful. The Executive also recorded its thanks to SweetSpot the event organisers and Councillor R Henry, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Leisure.

**7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Not required

**8. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None

**Chair**