

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	Monday, 8 October 2018	
Place:	Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Michael Downing, Jody Hanafin, Michelle Gardner, Lizzy Kelly, John Mead, Sarah Mead and Adam Mitchell CC

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1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	F. Nyamukapa X 2707
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, J Fraser, R Parker CC and S-J Potter. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	MINUTES - 10 SEPTEMBER 2018	F. Nyamukapa X 2707
	It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 10 September 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	

3	PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
<p data-bbox="271 400 1308 432">Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees</p> <p data-bbox="271 488 1032 520">The Committee noted the comments of the Executive.</p> <p data-bbox="271 571 1279 603">The Formation of a wholly owned Housing Development Company</p> <p data-bbox="271 659 2051 730">The Assistant Director (Housing Development) introduced the report on the formation of a wholly owned housing development company. Members asked that security of tenure be considered to aid social cohesion.</p> <p data-bbox="271 786 1290 818">In response to questions, the Assistant Director informed Members that:</p> <ul data-bbox="322 874 2040 1358" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="322 874 1951 946">• It was standard market practice for purchasers to negotiate discounts on multiple property purchases. Discounts received by the WOC would, ultimately be to the benefit of the Council when the assets are sold<li data-bbox="322 986 1957 1058">• There was no risk of competition between the proposed housing development company and properties that were provided under the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund’s existing development programmes<li data-bbox="322 1098 1973 1169">• Income from the proposed company would boost the Council’s General Fund (GF) and ultimately could contribute towards the provision of more social housing when decisions to prioritise spend were made by the Council<li data-bbox="322 1209 1939 1281">• The Council was facing revenue and capital pressures related to the one percent reduction for HRA rent setting introduced by the previous Government<li data-bbox="322 1321 2040 1358">• There was a shortage of good quality private sector housing in Stevenage and any delays in formation of the proposed		

	<p>company would result in a loss of income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed company would buy services from the Council, subject to procurement protocols and assurances over quality • Tenancies offered by the WOC will not be the same as those offered under current Council arrangements through the HRA. Officers were exploring tenancy models including twelve month tenancy with extension options that would provide added security to prospective tenants • The governance arrangements and structure of the proposed SBC WOC would be different from the set up in other local authorities as they had to be personalised to the Council's priorities <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part I decisions of the Executive are noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of the Executive – 5 September 2018 2. Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees 3. The formation of a wholly owned Housing Development Company 	
4	DIVERSITY IN SBC WORKFORCE	S. Weaver X 2332
	<p>The Committee considered the Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) Workforce Diversity Statistics. The Council undertook equality and diversity assessments on new policies, policy reviews and major projects. There was a legal obligation for the Council to publish gender pay gap figures annually.</p>	

	<p>In response to questions about low percentages of some ethnic groups, the Senior Human Resources Manager indicated that the statistics were broadly reflective of the Stevenage community and were similar to figures of other local authorities in the region. There was no obligation on staff to disclose protected characteristics. The Council's recruitment procedures were fair and inclusive. Members were informed that there had been no evidence of discrimination against any ethnic group, religion or gender.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the statistics are noted.</p>	
5	SBC SICKNESS MANAGEMENT SCOPING DOCUMENT	S. Weaver X 2332
	<p>The Scrutiny Officer and the Senior Human Resources Manager presented the scoping document for SBC Sickness Management for Members to consider.</p> <p>Members recommended that numbers, percentages and day trends be included in the sickness data report.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the scoping document is noted.</p>	
6	URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
7	URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS	
	None.	

8	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	F. Nyamukapa X 2707
	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they 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 the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006; and 2. That, having considered the reasons for the following items being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure. 	
9	PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	<p>The Assistant Director (Stevenage Direct Services) introduced the Garage Business Plan Update.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions about the update which were answered by officers.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II decisions of the Executive are noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Part II Minutes – 5 September 2018 2. Garage Business Plan Update 	

10	URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
11	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	