

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

<b>Meeting:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 29 January 2019	
<b>Place:</b>	Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors:	Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Michael Downing, Jody Hanafin, Michelle Gardner, Lizzy Kelly, Sarah Mead, Adam Mitchell CC and Robin Parker CC

<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>F Nyamukapa X 2707</b>
	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Fraser, J Mead and S-J Potter.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13 DECEMBER 2018</b>	<b>F Nyamukapa X 2707</b>
	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 December 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</b>	
	<p><b>Minutes of the Executive – 12 December 2018</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the comments of the Executive.</p>	

### **Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees**

The Committee noted the comments of the Executive.

### **Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Rent Setting Report 2019/20**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) gave a presentation to the Committee on the key aspects of the Final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Rent Setting Report 2019/20.

In response to a question, the Assistant Director advised that the 2019/20 53 rent week issue could potentially result in a loss of about £110,000 to the Council as a result of Universal Credit regulations. Local authorities have been in discussion with the Department for Work and Pensions and Ministry of Housing, Communities in a coordinated effort to resolve the rent loss issue at a national level as this impacted on those Councils with housing stock. The Assistant Director also responded to questions regarding recharges for retrospective permissions and damages to properties.

### **Council Tax Base 2019/20**

The Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) provided an update on Council Tax Base 2019/20.

### **Draft General Fund and Council Tax Setting 2019/20**

The Assistant Director provided an update on the Draft General Fund and Council Tax Setting 2019/20.

Officers responded to questions regarding IT funding and recharge fees.

**Draft Capital Strategy 2018/10 – 2023/24**

The Assistant Director provided an update on the Draft Capital Strategy for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period 2018/19 – 2023/24. Members sought clarification on funding arrangements for the bus station.

**Potential Impact of the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union**

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services & Transformation) updated the Executive on emerging national and regional issues in respect of preparations for a “no deal” exit from the European Union (Brexit).

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That Part 1 Decisions of the Executive are noted
2. That the Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) provides an update to Members regarding the 2019/20 53 rent week issue
3. That Assistant Director (Housing and Investment) provides a brief to Members clarifying the policy on the recharges for damages to properties
4. That the Housing Management Advisory Board (HMAB) considers the policy for recharges on damages to properties
5. That Assistant Director (Housing and Investment) provides a brief note to Members detailing the cases of retrospective permissions for building alterations

**C Fletcher X  
2933**

**J Cresser X  
2028**

**J Cresser X  
2028**

**J Cresser X  
2028**

	<p>6. That the Assistant Director (Corporate Services &amp; Transformation) provides an IT services briefing for Members</p> <p>7. That Tenancy officers advise eligible residents to apply for Attendance Allowance</p>	<p><b>R Protheroe X 2938</b></p> <p><b>Jaine Cresser X 2028</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b></p>	
	<p><b>Stevenage Local Plan</b></p> <p>The Strategic Director provided an update on the decision by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to place a holding direction on the Stevenage Local Plan. It was made clear to the Ministry officials that if no positive decision was made to remove the Holding Direction on the Local Plan by 28 January 2019, the Council would have no choice other than to commence legal processes to challenge the continuation of the Holding Direction, which had been in effect since November 2017. The Council was now preparing to challenge the holding direction.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the County Council have been supportive of Stevenage Borough Council on this topic. It was also confirmed that the local MP was not a party to the legal challenge, as the case is between the Council and the use of the holding direction by the Secretary of State. The Council was still hopeful of a resolution of the issue. The Council is expecting to incur legal costs related to the holding direction, but will be able to confirm if or when the court makes a decision regarding hearing this case. The full cost to the Council will depend on the MHCLG's response. Members were informed that a full hearing could take six to nine months.</p>	

	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the update is noted</li> <li>2. That Members be given guidance on how communicate about the issue so as not to prejudice the case</li> </ol>	
<b>5</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</b>	
	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 to 7 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.</li> <li>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 outweighed the public interest in disclosure.</li> </ol>	
<b>6</b>	<b>PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</b>	
	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the following Part II decisions of the Executive be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part II Minutes of the Executive – 21 November 2018</li> <li>• West of Stevenage Development</li> </ul>	

<b>7</b>	<b>URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	
	None.	
<b>8</b>	<b>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b>	
	None.	