

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2017

Time: 12 noon

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), J Gardner, R Henry, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor, S Speller and J Thomas

Start and End Time: Start Time: 12 noon
End Time: 1.46 pm

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J Hollywell.

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

2. **MINUTES – 7 NOVEMBER 2017**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive, held on 7 November 2017, are approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

3. **MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

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

A. Community Select Committee – 1 November 2017

C. Environment and Economy Select Committee – 7 November 2017

4. **2017/18 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The Executive considered a report, which updated Members on the Treasury Management activities in 2017/18 and reviewed the effectiveness of the 2017/18 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, including the 2017/18 prudential and treasury indicators.

It was reported that, at its meeting held on 8 November 2017, the Audit Committee had made no comment or changes to the recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to any comments from the Executive and the Audit Committee, it be **RECOMMENDED** to **COUNCIL**:

1. That the 2017/18 Treasury Management Mid-Year review, be approved; and
2. That the latest approved Countries for investments, as detailed in Appendix D to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other options considered: As contained in the report.

5. INTRODUCTION OF PERMIT PARKING AREAS IN STEVENAGE

The Executive considered a report, which set out the proposals for the introduction of a Permit Parking Area in Burymead, the impact of doing so and to recommend the Council's approaches to similar proposals in future.

Members were of the view that with the introduction of this scheme, it was important that communications with residents made it clear that resources were limited and it was unlikely that the Council could respond quickly to other requests for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) elsewhere in the Town.

It was also considered appropriate that should the consultation on this scheme provide a positive response, when the CPZ was introduced, there should be a period of a month where warnings were given out rather than penalty notices.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That a Permit Parking Area in Burymead be publicised for statutory consultation forthwith and that if no objections were received in response to that consultation, the draft scheme be implemented as proposed;
2. That if objections were received in response to that statutory consultation, the decision on whether to proceed be taken by the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Ward Councillors;
3. That following any future investigations into permit parking in other areas, permit parking be publicised for statutory consultation where, within a logical geographic unit, when surveyed by the Council, a clear majority of not less than 60% of responses had been in favour of the introduction of permit parking controls, and indicated that they were willing to pay the necessary permit costs for the scheme to break even; and
4. That following such future investigations, if objections were received in response to the statutory consultation, the decision on whether to proceed be taken by the Portfolio Holder, in consultation with the Ward Councillors, unless otherwise agreed in the meantime by the Executive.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other options considered: As contained in the report.

6. 2ND QUARTER MONITORING CAPITAL PROGRAMME REPORT – GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Executive considered a report, which updated Members on the Council's 2017/18 and 2018/19 Capital Programme and sought approval for the revisions to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme.

With regard to the public realm improvements in the Town Centre (paragraph 4.1.10 to the report referred), Members were concerned that the work in the Town Square did not get delayed and should be undertaken as soon as possible rather than awaiting the SG1 scheme, which would require the submission of a planning application etc. once the preferred developer was appointed in January 2018.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the 2017/18 General Fund Capital Programme net decrease in expenditure, of

£546,450, as summarised in paragraph 4.1.1 to the report, be approved;

2. That the virement to the Deferred Works Budget of £32,800, as detailed in paragraphs 4.1.7 and 4.1.8 to the report, be approved;
3. That the 2017/18 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme net decrease in expenditure of £30,330, as summarised in paragraph 4.2.1 to the report, be approved; and
4. That the 2018/19 General Fund increase in capital expenditure of £488,210 (slippage from 2017/18), as summarised in table one to the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other options considered: As contained in the report.

7. **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None

8. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **RESOLVED**:

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 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88; 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

9. **BUSINESS REVIEWS GROWTH FUNDING**

The Executive considered a Part II report, which sought its approval for funding required to support the implementation of the Business Unit Reviews that would create the corporate capacity to meet the current and future anticipated customer need and to deliver the Council's ambitious Future Town, Future Council Programme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations within the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other options considered: As contained in the report.

10. **FINANCIAL SECURITY OPTIONS AND OVERARCHING CAPITAL STRATEGY**

The Executive considered a Part II report, which updated Members on the financial security work stream; the General Fund and HRA balances as a result of proposed fee income and on the approach to capital funding for 2018/19. The report also proposed a range of General Fund and HRA revenue budget options to be incorporated into the 2018/19 to 2019/20 budget process and General Fund Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and HRA Business Plan and fees and charges increases to the 2018/19 General Fund and HRA 2018/19.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations within the report, be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.
Other options considered: As contained in the report.

11.

TECHNOLOGY SHARED SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Executive considered a Part II report, which set out proposals for the broad direction of the Technology Shared Service (TSS), and a three-phased approach to improving the service over the next 18 months. Members were advised that the first phase would focus on improving IT resilience and security and the recruitment of a permanent service manager to bring stability and contribute to the longer-term direction. The report also set out the longer-term areas of focus to improve the service and how it would support the Council's digital and efficiency agendas.

Members were reminded that as the Council had a shared service, this was also being considered by East Herts Council and would be jointly funded, subject to both parties agreeing to the Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations within the report, as amended, be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.
Other options considered: As contained in the report.

12.

URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

CHAIR