

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday, 13 November 2017

Time: 6.00 pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Jim Brown, Howard Burrell, Michael Downing, Alex Farquharson, Michelle Gardner, Liz Harrington, John Lloyd, Sarah Mead, Adam Mitchell CC and Robin Parker CC

Start / End Start Time: 6.00 pm

Time: End Time: 6.50 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bibby CC and Saunders.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on held on 25 September 2017 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 STEVENAGE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN: PRE-ADOPTION DRAFT

The Strategic Director (TP) advised that this report would be withdrawn from the agenda following a direction from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The Committee was advised that the Secretary of State had received a request to intervene in the Stevenage Local Plan from Stephen McPartland MP for Stevenage which raised a number of issues including Plan policies and supporting text covering the regeneration of Stevenage train station and town centre.

4 PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting nor had it been made available for public inspection. The Chair determined however that given the short time left before the end of the call-in period on 17 November 2017, it could be considered on this occasion.

Minutes of the Overview and Select Committees

Officers advised that gas safety checks were carried out on a property once a tenant

had moved in as it was necessary for a live gas account to be in place before the checks were made.

Stevenage Borough Local Plan – Pre-Adoption Draft

Report withdrawn

Town Centre Regeneration – SG1 Close of Competitive Dialogue

Strategic Director (TP) introduced the report. The Committee was pleased to note the progress with the four remaining bidders being close to submitting final submissions. The evaluation of these submissions would be brought back to Committee in January 2018.

In response to a question regarding the retail market, Members were advised that the SG1 phase of the regeneration would include food and drink offer and smaller retail outlets rather than the larger ‘out of town’ retailers. Members agreed the importance of developing a 24 hour economy for the town.

Members were reassured that the financial and ethical checks on the remaining four bidders had been undertaken by both the Council’s financial teams and the Property Agents with detailed financial strategies being submitted. Officers were confident that all four bidders were in a strong position to be able to deliver the SG1 scheme.

Officers advised that the details in the equalities implications and the environmental implications particularly in relation to the cycling network links would be included in the further guidance to bidders and within the Masterplanning details. All planning applications submitted would be subject to the usual equalities and environmental tests.

Officers advised that once a preferred bidder had been announced, a briefing for all Members of the Council would be arranged. There would also be a co-ordinated communications programme designed to ensure the public are made aware of the scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part 1 decisions taken by the Executive at its meeting on 7 November 2017 be noted:

- **Stevenage Borough Local Plan – Pre-Adoption Draft**
- **Town Centre Regeneration – SG1 Close of Competitive Dialogue**

5 **URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

6 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

7 **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 it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.
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.

8 **PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting. The Chair determined however that given the short time left before the end of the call-in period on 17 November 2017, it could be considered on this occasion.

Part II Minutes – Executive – 19 September 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes are noted.

9 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

CHAIR