

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 7 March 2018

Time: 6.00 pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

**Present:** Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Margaret Notley (Vice-Chair), Jim Brown, John Lloyd, John Mead, Adam Mitchell CC and Graham Snell

**Start and End Time:** Start Time: 6.00 pm  
End Time: 7.10 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (i) Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Connolly, Harrington and Saunders.
- (ii) Cllr Margaret Notley made a declaration of interest in report 3, item 5.1.10 Community Centre Reviews as a Trustee of Symonds Green Community Association.

### 2 MINUTES OF 7 FEBRUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee, held on Wednesday 7 February 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 3 COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE - SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019

The Committee considered a report by the Council's Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Committee to agree its Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2018/2019 Municipal Year.

The Scrutiny Officer had canvassed all Members involved in the scrutiny process and a number of responses had been received from Members, which commented on the current scrutiny arrangements. A number of topics had also been suggested as potential scrutiny items.

Following discussion around the suitability of the topics proposed and whether the Committee was of the view that the scrutiny process could add value to their consideration, it was **RESOLVED:**

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That Scrutiny Members' feedback on ideas for improving Scrutiny (see

section 4 of the Scrutiny Officer's report), be noted; and

2. That having considered ideas put forward by individual Members, and from the public, the following matters be added to the long list for consideration, prioritisation and scoping as possible Community Select Committee Scrutiny Work Programme items for 2018/2019
  - (a) **Effectiveness of Resident Engagement by Stevenage Borough Council** (Paragraph 5.1.2 to the report referred)
  - (b) **Neighbourhood Planning** (Paragraph 5.1.3 to the report referred)
  - (c) **Third Sector in Stevenage** (Paragraph 5.1.5 to the report referred - to be considered as a one-off item e.g. presentation to Committee revisiting the review Members had previously undertaken) (not a full review)
  - (d) **Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL)** (Paragraph 5.1.8 to the report referred)
  - (e) **Consultation Demographic of Residents' Survey** (To be considered in conjunction with (a) above (Paragraph 5.1.9 to the report referred)
  - (f) **The Community Centres' Review** (Paragraph 5.1.10 to the report referred) (taken as a policy development item (see Resolution 6).
  - (g) **Equality and Diversity of Tenant Involvement Groups** (To be considered in conjunction with (a) above (Paragraph 5.1.11 to the report referred)
3. That, the following statutory and standing items also be provided for within the Committee's Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/2019:
  - I. Crime and Disorder Committee (Statutory Committee)
  - II. Public Health Meeting (Standing Item)

**NOTE:** For completeness, it was noted that the following matters be **NOT** added to the Community Select Committee's Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/2019:

  - **Town Centre Regeneration** (Paragraph 5.1.4 to the report referred)
  - **Sheltered Housing** (Paragraph 5.1.6 to the report referred)
4. That, issues raised by the public, as detailed in Paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.6.7 inclusive, to the report be noted.
5. That, with regard to monitoring the review of recommendations and, specifically, reports within the remit of the Committee that had been issued over the last five years together with those that had been revisited within the last five years,

follow-up work on recommendations arising from previous studies be undertaken in respect of the following:

- Decent Homes Review (Bullet Point 2 to Paragraph 6.2 to the report referred) (to be considered as a one-off item e.g. presentation to Committee)
- Damp and Mould in Stevenage Homes

**NOTE:** It was noted that reviews were conducted each year in respect of the following:

- Community Safety Action Plan
- Public Health Discussion Item

6. That, with regard to policy development work for 2018/2019:

(a) The reference to “waste exceptions for refuse collections”, as listed at Bullet Point 1 to Paragraph 7.1 to the report be deleted since this rested within the remit of the Council’s Environment and Economy Select Committee;

(b) The following matters, which were due to be considered by the Executive, be the subject of pre-scrutiny work by the Committee:

- Housing Services Charges and Allocations
- Housing Pooling and De-pooling Charges
- Co-operative Council
- Community Centres Review
- Community Engagement
- Review of Tenancy Agreements (timing subject to DCLG’s publishing guidance)
- Resident Involvement

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**CHAIR**