

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday 10 April 2017

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby (Vice Chair), J Brown, M Downing, M Gardner, E Harrington, C Latif, S Mead, A Mitchell and C Saunders.

Start / End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
 End Time: 7.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hollywell, R Parker and P Stuart. There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2 MARCH 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 March 2017 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

In response to a question relating to the Stevenage Festival of Cycling (CycleFest – First and Best), officers agreed to follow up the request to investigate the possibility of updating and printing the cycleway map and pages on the SBC website.

3. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 March 2017 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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 4 April 2017, it be considered on this occasion.

Apprenticeship Levy

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services and Transformation) presented a report setting out the Council's approach to apprenticeships following the introduction of the Government's Apprenticeship Levy in April 2017. It was noted that the levy funding could be used to pay for apprenticeship training and apprentices could study with accredited training providers for recognised qualifications from level 2 to level 7 (post graduate).

It was noted that Stevenage had in recent years a strong record in developing an Apprenticeship Scheme. The Chief Executive indicated that he would ensure that Members were provided with an update report assessing achievements to date, including statistics on destination data of former apprentices, the conversion rate from 'apprentice' to permanent member of staff and how apprenticeships will be developed within the business units reviews that were currently underway.

The Chief Executive also stated that officers would be reminded of the need to give greater consideration to the equality and diversity implications of proposals in reports.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it 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 Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. Members having considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

7. PART II 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 4 April 2017, it be considered on this occasion

Shared Legal Service

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report are noted.

8. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

Chair