

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**Date: Thursday 10 October 2013**

**Time: 18.00 hr.**

**Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

**Present:** Councillors: S Walker (Chair), M Notley (Vice Chair), L Bell, and L Harrington.

**In attendance:** A Mboho (Youth Mayor)

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 18.00 hrs.  
End Time: 19.15 hrs.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Latif, J Mead G Snell and P Stuart.

There were no declaration of interests.

#### 2. MINUTES – 18 JULY 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 3. FEEDBACK ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT RESEARCH

In response to a Members question about increasing the fares for using the bus, the Head of Leisure, Environmental Health and Children's Services advised that an increase in fares would only have a minimal effect on the overall cost of the services. He advised that the service could not be looked at purely on a balance sheet basis but needed to be considered against the Council's strategic priority to fund the service, where the social cost benefit to the community was hard to measure. He also noted that incorporating other groups to use the bus beyond the current clients, especially in the evening and weekends, would be a challenge but worth considering.

The Youth Mayor informed the meeting that when considered by the Youth Council recently, the possibility of extending the service for use by young people and youth clubs was welcomed.

The Chair informed the meeting that she had met with the Community Transport Officer who had provided her with a valuable summary on how the service was run.

Councillor Bell attended a community bus trip as part of the review.

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN STEVENAGE**

The Leisure Manager and the Community Transport Officer provided Members with an overview of the operation and activities of the Community Transport in Stevenage

Members welcomed the various activities provided by the service such as facilitating shopping trips, visiting day centres and lunch clubs for the elderly and the disabled but enquired if the services could be extended to other users in the town. Members suggested that consideration could be given to using the Community buses during periods when it was not currently in use to transport food bank parcels.

In response to a question on whether issues around Community Transport had been reflected in the Green Travel plan, the Head of Leisure, Environmental Health & Children Services advised that at this stage due to the economic climate, it had not been considered.

The Head of Leisure, Environmental Health & Children Services advised that an equality impact assessment had recently been undertaken for services for Older People.

It was agreed that the best way forward for the review would be to hold a roundtable discussion with other notable Community bus services providers such as CVS, Dial-a-ride etc. to ascertain any gaps with the current service coverage and identify what capacity there might be for working together to support and grow the service.

The Chair thanked both the Leisure Manager and the Community Transport Manager for the presentation.

#### **5. STEVENAGE'S COMMITMENT TO CARERS**

The Head of Leisure, Environmental Health & Children Service informed Members that following Council's commitment to being a Carer Friendly Council, the Committee was requested to consider the contents of the draft commitment.

A suggestion for a Carers Passport to be included was noted and Members suggested that carers be provided with the opportunity to identify themselves when accessing Council services and, most importantly, be encouraged to shape the services they require.

The meeting was advised that Members observations or comments should be sent to the Head of Leisure, Environmental Health & Children's Services before the final report was to be considered by the Executive in December 2013.

#### **6. CHILD POVERTY**

The Chair requested that discussion of child poverty be an agenda item at a future meeting.

The Committee requested a briefing paper from the Children's Services Manager highlighting the issues regarding child poverty in Stevenage to help the Committee understand the issues better.

**7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

None

**8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**PART II**

**9. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

None

**Chair**