

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

MEETING: **Community Select Committee**
Monday 12 January 2015, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice Chair), L Bell, L Harrington, J Mead and P Stuart.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	ACTION/LEAD
<p>Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Broom, E Connolly and A McGuinness.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
2. MINUTES – 9 DECEMBER 2014	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 9 December 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
3. UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The Committee received an officer update to the Executive Portfolio Holder response to the Homelessness Review carried out by the Housing Development and Scrutiny Committee in June 2013.</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the update which were answered by the Officers.</p>	

<p>A Member questioned why the update under recommendation 3 stated that the funding for the women’s refuge had ceased. The Officer advised the Committee that the funding to the refuge had been in the form of a ‘one-off’ grant to cover a specific financial issue. However it was also noted that the level of in-kind support provided would have a significant monetary value.</p>	<p>J Cresser Ext 2028</p>
<p>In reply to a request the Strategic Director (Community) undertook to investigate methods of determining the effectiveness of support given to the Credit Union.</p>	<p>M Partridge Ext 2456</p>
<p>The Committee requested the opportunity to input into the Council’s new Homelessness Strategy. The Strategic Director (Community) undertook to arrange a Policy Development Meeting for Committee Members to consider the draft strategy before it was presented to the Executive.</p>	<p>M Partridge Ext 2456</p>
<p>The Committee acknowledged that there had been good progress against a number of the recommendations and requested that the update be rewritten in more detail, to include the following specific points raised at the meeting:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 – include the work undertaken to help clients manage their budget with the change to monthly benefits payments under the Universal Credit regime. • Recommendation 3 – amend the wording to reflect the fact that the funding to the women’s refuge had been made as a ‘one-off’ grant and to note other support provided. • Recommendation 5 – include details of the completion date of the Haven project, the ratio of places available for SBC and NHDC clients and details of any contingency arrangements • Recommendation 9 – state that apart from issues over the availability of temporary accommodation units the Homelessness Prevention Service was handling well the demands made of it. • Recommendation 11 – include actions taken, or being considered, as part of the Customer Service Review • Recommendation 12 – to include the consideration being given to manage public perception of the issues of homelessness and to acknowledge that some individuals sleep rough through choice. 	<p>M Partridge R Protheroe J Cresser S Waller T Campbell</p>
<p>It was RESOLVED that the updates to the Executive Portfolio Response be noted.</p>	

4. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS	
None	
5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
Not required.	
<u>PART II</u>	
6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None	