## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

## MEETING: Community Select Committee Monday 2 March 2015 Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice Chair), L Bell, R Broom, M Gardner, A McGuinness, J Mead and P Stuart

ALSO PRESENT: Jim McManus, HCC Director of Public Health

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor E Connolly and the Youth Mayor Shae Field. There were no declarations of interests.	G Moody Ext 2203
	Derek Lau, the Constitutional Services Apprentice, was introduced to the meeting.	
2.	MINUTES – 12 JANUARY 2015	
	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 12 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
3.	UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH	
	The Committee received an update on public health in Stevenage from Jim McManus, Hertfordshire County Council's Director of Public Health.	

	A copy of the public health statistics for Stevenage were circulated to the Committee and used as a basis for the discussion which centred on smoking cessation, life expectancy rates and ways of encouraging residents to adopt healthier lifestyle choices.	
	In reply to a question the Committee was advised of the plans for, and progress of the, 'Healthy Hub' in the Arts and Leisure Centre.	
	Jim McManus advised the meeting that further funding could be made available and suggested that the way forward would be to convene a meeting of the interested parties. The Scrutiny Officer undertook to arrange such a meeting.	S Weaver Exr 2332
	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the update be noted.	
	The Chair expressed her thanks to Jim McManus for his attendance at the meeting.	
4.	REVISED UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS	
	The Scrutiny Officer represented a revised update of the Homelessness Review Recommendations which had been revised to include more detail on actions taken at the request of the Committee.	
	In reply to a question concerning the actions taken to assist people in managing their finances the Committee was advised that outcomes of the assistance given were monitored and that result were reviewed on a quarterly basis.	
	The Committee requested that a definition of the role of the Young Person Prevention Officer be added to recommendation 3.	M Partridge Ext 2456
	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the revised update be noted.	

5.	CONDITIONS OF THE LOCAL PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR AND THE COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SECTOR	
	The Scrutiny Officer presented the report and draft recommendations from the Community Select Committee's review into the private rented sector.	S Weaver Ext 2332
	Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by Officers.	
	The Committee was advised that the finalised recommendations would be sent to the relevant Portfolio Holders and Officers who would then have two months in which to formally respond to the recommendations.	
	In reply to a question concerning the vetting of potential landlords the Strategic Director (Community) undertook to share the Council's process with the Committee.	
	Members requested that recommendation 6 be reworded to include details of the advice available to tenants to help them avoid becoming homeless.	S Weaver Ext 2332
	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that:	
	<ol> <li>Having been considered by the Community Select Committee the recommendations below be presented to the Environment and Regeneration Portfolio Holder; the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Strategic Director (Community) and that a response be provided from these, and any other named officers and partners, within two months of the publishing of this report</li> </ol>	S Weaver Ext 2332
	<ol> <li>Resident Involvement Groups undertake a fresh awareness campaign, promoting a generic logo and recognisable branding for the groups as well as promoting its purpose amongst local residents (of any tenure). This could be via a news article in the Chronicle, the Council's Residents magazine.</li> </ol>	
	3. SBC endorse the work of the National Landlords' Association and consider the possibility of promoting and hosting training sessions to encourage local landlords who are not associates to take up the advice	

		and best practices regarding relationships with tenants, the caveat that officers provide some more background information to the NLA before embarking on any formal promotion or training with that group.	
	4.	Subject to the delivery of some satisfactory training sessions with the National Landlords' Association that officers investigate the possibility of a local Accreditation Scheme and report back to Members on the feasibility of this proposal at a future meeting of the Community Select Committee in 2015.	
	5.	Housing Officers consider providing some awareness training to tenants on their expectations when renting a property, to educate them and avoid possible pitfalls.	
	6.	Officers consider undertaking an awareness campaign regarding the extensive advice that Council Housing Officers are able to provide to Stevenage residents for both private and social rented sector irrespective of the residents tenure.	
	7.	Members support the introduction of a Landlord Forum for Stevenage as detailed by the Strategic Housing Solutions Manager and would like to receive an update on the progress of this initiative at a future meeting of the Community Select Committee in 2015.	
	8.	The Committee welcome the Strategic Housing Solutions Manager offer of a feasibility study being undertaken into the local suitability of a social lettings agency and await with interest its findings, which Members would like reported to a future meeting of the Community Select Committee in 2015.	
6.	PART	I BUSINESS	
	Not Re	quired	G Moody Ext 2203
7.	EXCL	JSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	Not Re	quired	

PART II		
8.	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	G Moody Ext 2203