

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

**MEETING:** Community Select Committee  
Monday 29 June 2015 Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice Chair), L Bell, E Connolly, L Harrington, S Hearn, J Mead, C Saunders and P Stuart.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
<p>The Chair welcomed new Members to the meeting.</p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor G Snell.</p> <p>Councillor E Connolly declared a personal interest in item 8 as a member of the Irish Network Stevenage and as a trustee of the Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Communities, organisations that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor J Mead declared a personal interest in item 8 as the organiser of the Stevenage Food Bank an organisation that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor L Harrington declared a personal interest in item 8 as the Council's nominated representative on the Bedwell Community Association an organisation that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor L Bell declared a personal interest in item 8 as the Council's nominated representative for the</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p> <p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>

<p>Bragbury Centre (formerly known as the Hertford Road Community Association) an organisation that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor M Notley declared a personal interest in item 8 as a member of the Kadoma Link Association and as Chairman of the Symonds Green Community Association, organisations that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor P Stuart declared a personal interest in item 8 as a member of the Kadoma Link Association an organisation that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p> <p>Councillor S Hearn declared a personal interest in item 8 as her husband is the Chair of the Shephall Residents' Association an organisation that had applied for and been awarded funds under the Local Community Budget scheme.</p>	
<p><b>2. TERMS OF REFERENCE</b></p>	
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Terms of Reference be noted.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p><b>3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR</b></p>	
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that Councillor N Motley be appointed as Vice Chair of the Community Select Committee for the Municipal Year 2015-2016.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p><b>4. MINUTES – 18 MARCH 2015</b></p>	
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>

<p><b>5. MINUTES – 30 MARCH 2015</b></p>	
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p><b>6. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016</b></p>	
<p>The Committee was advised of a typographical error in the workplan. The question mark against the date of 2 December 2015 in the second item should be deleted.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the timeframe for the review of the HRA Business Plan could change. The Strategic Director undertook liaise with the Scrutiny Officer to confirm a revised date. The Scrutiny Officer undertook to circulate a revised workplan as appropriate.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the meeting schedule for the Community Select Committee Work Programme for the year 2015/2016 be noted.</p>	<p>M Partridge Ext 2456 S Weaver Ext 2332</p>
<p><b>7. EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO CONDITIONS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR SCRUTINY REVIEW</b></p>	
<p>The Head of Housing Management presented the Executive Member response to the scrutiny review into conditions in the private rented sector.</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>Some questions were raised about the option to offer cash incentives to private landlords through the Incentivisation Scheme which was being developed to respond to the pressures upon emergency and temporary accommodation. The Head of Housing Management undertook to provide a written update to the Committee in early September prior to the launch of the scheme.</p>	<p>J Cresser Ext 2028</p> <p>M Partridge Ext 2456</p>

It was **RESOLVED** that the Executive Member response to the Scrutiny Review into conditions in the private rented sector be noted.

**8. DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT – SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO LOCAL COMMUNITY BUDGETS**

The Scrutiny Officer presented draft scoping document for the proposed scrutiny review into Local Community Budgets (LCBs).

Members requested that the following information be provided:

- The percentage of monies paid to bids inside and outside the ward by Members
- Guidance as to whether bids from other statutory bodies and outside agencies should be considered
- A list of recipients of LCB awards made in years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015 to date
- A breakdown of LCB awards by ethnicity, religion and age
- Desk top research of other LCB schemes (in lieu of a ‘critical friend’)
- Analysis of allocations by project - looking at some examples to determine possible risks to the Council around issues such as financial status, safeguarding etc.

It was noted that the recommendations from the Shared Internal Audit Service audit of LCBs could be used as evidence in the review.

It was agreed that the scoping document be amended as follows:

- Include a review of the existing policy and application procedure
- Clarify the statement regarding complaints about LCBs to say that no complaints have been received from external groups
- Include possible areas where the Council could be at risk in the focus of the review
- Include the Chief Executive as an interviewee
- Include the Leader as an interviewee.

R Protheroe  
Ext 2938

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Ext 2332

<p>Group leaders were requested to nominate Members for interview.  It was agreed that the lead roles for questioning in topic areas be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllrs E Connolly and L Harrington – Purpose and focus of LCBs</li> <li>• Cllrs L Bell and S Mead – Analysis of LCB allocations by project</li> <li>• Cllrs P Stuart and C Saunders – Value for Money, use of resources</li> <li>• Cllr S Mead – LCB spend alignment with corporate, local and town wide needs</li> <li>• Cllr J Mead – Equalities and Diversity Issues</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the scoping document, along with the amendments above, be noted.</p>	<p>S Weaver  Ext 2332</p>
<p><b>9. URGENT PART I BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>Not Required</p>	<p>G Moody  Ext 2203</p>
<p><b>10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p>	
<p>Not Required</p>	
<p><b>PART II</b></p>	
<p><b>11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>None.</p>	