

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

**MEETING:**                    **Community Select Committee**  
**Wednesday 6 October 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, G Snell and P Stuart.

**ALSO PRESENT:**        Councillor S Speller, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council.

<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
There were neither apologies for absence nor any declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
<b>2. MINUTES – 10 NOVEMBER 2014</b>	
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
<b>3. MINUTES – 29 JUNE 2015</b>	
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

#### 4. DISCUSSION ITEM – MEMBERS FUTURE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

With the agreement of the Chair this item was dealt with after Item 5, Update on Landlord Incentivisation Scheme.

The Committee received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council and the Head of Service (Chief Executive's Unit) on the use of social media.

Members were advised of the types of social media, the benefits and potential issues of its use, the merits of separating personal and professional life on-line and the importance of dealing with issues promptly.

Members were further advised that digital inclusion was essential as many new initiatives, such as Universal Credit, would be driven entirely on-line.

There followed a discussion in which the following key points were raised:

- Members' exposure to social media varied from expert user to occasional (and reluctant) observer.
- Many Members were cautious about the use of social media and concerns were expressed that its use could lead to an expectancy of 24/7 availability with an expectation of immediate responses being provided.
- However it was also noted that there are many potential positives of making better use of social media including the opportunity to engage much more widely with local people than we are at present, in particular younger people.
- Social media should not though be used as the sole method of communication, nor should it be used to avoid playing an active role in community leadership. The value of more personal contact, such as telephone calls or face to face meetings, should not be undervalued.
- Social media can be used to 'signpost' issues.
- The need to consider Council wide standards for social media usage.
- Training and 1:2:1 peer mentoring would be essential before widespread use of social media by Members.

R Protheroe  
Ext 2938

Cllr S Speller

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observing social media is a useful way of picking up upon developing issues within the town. Some example cases were highlighted.</li> </ul> <p>In reply to a request for volunteers to join the Portfolio Holder in forming a reference group to move the topic forward and report back to the Select Committee at a future date, Councillors S Hearn, L Bell, C Saunders, J Mead, G Snell and P Stuart put their names forward.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the points raised be noted.</p>	
<b>5. UPDATE ON LANDLORD INCENTIVISATION SCHEME</b>	
<p>With the agreement of the Chair this item was dealt with before Item 4, Discussion Item – Members’ Future Use of Social Media.</p> <p>The Committee received an update on the Landlord Incentivisation Scheme from the Head of Housing Management.</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the scheme which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>In response to a Member request the Scrutiny Officer undertook to circulate electronic copies of the handouts issued at the meeting.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the update be noted</p>	<p>J Cresser Ext 2028</p> <p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>
<b>6. URGENT PART I BUSINESS</b>	
<p>Not Required</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<b>7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>	

Not Required	
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>8. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b>	
None.	