

## **STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2003 at 7.00pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors B. Jackson (Deputy Mayor), G. Clark, R.A. Clark, D.W. Cullen, M. Downing, CC, B.G. Dunnell (from 7.05 pm), P.E.J. Gallagher, J. Gardner, B.P. Hall, E. Harrington, R.J. Henry, J. Hollywell, T.G.M. Kent, CC, P.D. Kissane, L. Knight, C. Latif, Mrs J.E. Lloyd, A.J.R. McCarthy, M.A. Mason (from 7.06 pm), D.F. Monaghan, S.M. Myson, M. Notley, R.G. Parker, M.P. Patston, D. Royall, CC, R.J. Smith, MBE,DL,CC(from 7.10 pm), S.K. Speller, Mrs. L.G. Strange, S. Taylor, H.C.L. Tessier, J. Thomas, K. Vale and Mrs P.A. Webb, CC.

The formal Minutes of this meeting comprise this covering document detailing the decisions taken, together with the Agenda papers and reports referred to herein. Each Minute relates to the item bearing the same number on the Agenda.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Her Worship The Mayor – Councillor P. Stuart and Councillors A.T. Turner, B.G. Underwood and J. Wallis Price.

#### **2. MINUTES**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2002, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

#### **3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

At the request of the Deputy Mayor, the Council observed a Minute's Silence as a mark of respect to Barry Keene, who had served as an independent member of the Standards Committee and who had died over the Christmas holidays.

#### **4. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2003/04**

Members considered the report concerning the Council Tax Base 2003/04 in conjunction with a recommendation thereon from the Executive (15<sup>th</sup> January 2003).

It was RESOLVED that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Stevenage Borough Council for the year 2003/04, shall be 28,198.47 equivalent Band D properties.

#### **5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2003/04**

Members considered a report on the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2003/04 in

conjunction with recommendations made thereon for the Executive (15<sup>th</sup> January 2003)

It was RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Housing Revenue Account estimates for 2002/03 Probable showing a net deficit of £246,960 be approved, as detailed in Appendix A of the Executive report (15<sup>th</sup> January 2003);
- (ii) that the Housing Revenue Account 2003 Estimates showing a net deficit of £924,990 be approved, as detailed in Appendix A of the Executive report;
- (iii) a Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2003/04 of £300,000 for the HRA be agreed;
- (iv) that the second year of phasing in of tenant Service Charges not be implemented in 2003/04 and no inflationary increases be applied in 2003/04 to those tenant Service Charges introduced in 2002/03;
- (v) that the rents of HRA dwellings be increased, with effect from the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003, by 3.14% and increased or decreased by the Rent Restructuring figure determined for each dwelling in accordance with the Government's National Rent Formula, subject to the Government's rent cap applicable to each property as detailed in paragraph 3.2.3. of the Executive report;
- (vi) that the sum of £924,990 of balances be utilised to equalise the Housing Revenue Account in 2003/04;
- (vii) that the increase in fees and charges as detailed in Appendix D of the Executive report be approved;
- (viii) that the rent of garages be increased by £0.25p per week (plus VAT where applicable) from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

## **6. REFERENCES UP**

None.

## **7. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS**

### **Arrangements for Health Scrutiny in Hertfordshire**

The Council was asked to agree the constitution of a Joint Primary Care Trust Scrutiny Committee with North Herts District Council and Hertfordshire County Council and to appoint four non-executive Members to serve on that body for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2002/03.

It was RESOLVED:

- (I) that the constitution of a Joint Primary Care Trust Scrutiny Committee with North Herts District Council and Hertfordshire County Council be approved

for the purpose of scrutinising services provided or commissioned by the Primary Care Trust covering the Stevenage and North Hertfordshire area;

- (ii) that Councillors D.W. Cullen, M. Downing, M.A. Mason and R.J. Smith, MBE,DL,CC be appointed to serve as this Council's representatives on the Joint Primary Care Trust Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2002/03 Municipal Year.

**The meeting ended at 7.20 pm**

**B. JACKSON  
Deputy Mayor**