

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

**MEETING:** Council – Wednesday 18 July 2012 – 19.00 hrs.  
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Councillors with the exception of those listed at item 1 below.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jack Tomlinson, Peter Wheatley and Signy Sutherland (North Herts College).

<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Burrell, L Martin-Haugh, H Tessier, M Hearn, M Cherney-Craw, R Henry, B Underwood and M Gardner.</p> <p>Councillor S Taylor CC declared a Personal Interest in Item 5 as a Governor of North Herts College.</p>
<b>2. MINUTES – ANNUAL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2012</b>
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 23 May 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>
<b>3. MINUTES – SPECIAL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2012</b>
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Special meeting of Council on 23 May 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.</p>

<b>4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS</b>
The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events he had attended since the last meeting.
<b>5. MAIN DEBATE – 'MORE THAN JUST A QUALIFICATION – EDUCATION TRANSFORMED' – NORTH HERTS COLLEGE</b>
Jack Tomlinson and Peter Wheatley, the outgoing Sabbatical President and Sabbatical President elect respectively of North Herts College gave a presentation detailing the innovative approach to Further Education taken by the college.  After a full debate, It was moved , seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b>  ' That this Council applauds and fully supports the work of the North Herts College in creating opportunities for young people in our town by providing the highest level of education, skills and training to give them the very best chance of getting jobs or starting their own business in a very difficult economic climate'
<b>6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS</b>
None.
<b>7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL</b>
None.
<b>8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</b>
None.

## **9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE**

The Leader of the Opposition enquired when the Leisure Centre would be fully reopened following the fire outbreak and if the Council had a policy towards the Luton Airport expansion.

The Strategic Director indicated that he would provide Members the opening date of the centre in due course.

The Leader advised that the Council would respond to any consultation exercise and when a planning application the airport was submitted to Luton Council.

The Leader on behalf of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Culture, Sport and Leisure thanked staff of SLL, SBC and SHL for all their efforts in ensuring that with the exception of the damaged areas that the building was partially open within two days.

The Leader highlighted a number of recent key events within the town, the lighting of the Jubilee beacon, the Queens visit on 14 June to open the Diamond Jubilee ward at Lister Hospital, the Olympic Exhibition, opened by local Torch Bearer Graham Bowles, and the Olympic torch relay through the town on 8 July. Finally the Leader took the opportunity to welcome both the British Virgin Islands and the Afghanistan Olympic teams' stay in Stevenage as they would be utilising the Ridlins Athletics track as their training camp for the Olympics 2012.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration welcomed the opening of both the Glebe shopping centre and the Hyde on Thursday 19 July and encouraged the public to support the local businesses at these centres. He also advised Members that the Planning and Development Committee had granted planning permission for the building of a hotel and restaurant just off the junction 7 of the A1(M).

The Portfolio Holder for Resources informed Members that training would be offered for Members in light of the recent government policy on localisation of Council Tax. Members were advised that the Executive would be considering a report about the Council tax support scheme on July 31 2012.

The Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport acknowledged the role of businesses in Stevenage, North

Herts College, and the Da Vinci School with the recent launch of the Inward Investment video. He also informed Members of the various signage promoting inward investment to the town at the Railway station.

The Portfolio Holder for Community, Health and Older People informed the meeting that beneficiaries of the local community funding initiatives included the voluntary sector, pre-school projects and street and environmental improvement projects.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing informed Members of the challenges ahead for the Council as regards the Decent Homes programme especially in light of central government's directive on building affordable homes using the right to buy receipts.

The Leader welcomed the work undertaken by the Business Technology Centre especially on harnessing the potential careers of the next generation and thanked businesses in the town for its support. She also welcomed the Bioscience Catalyst on the Glaxo site which was designed to host the small and micro businesses involved in early stage research and development of new drugs.

**10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

None.

**11. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

None.

**12. OFFICER REPORT- NEW STANDARDS REGIME FOR MEMBERS**

The Borough Solicitor introduced the report explaining the new requirements of a standards regime in light of the Localism Act 2011.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council notes the report to Standards Committee attached as Appendix A and the recommendations of that Committee detailed at paragraph 3.3 that have been incorporated into the following recommendations.
2. That the Council adopts a Code of Conduct in the draft form set out in Appendix C.
3. That in addition to the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests required by the Act the Council determines that Members should register the interests set out in the draft form of Code of Conduct. (Appendix C).
4. That a Standing Order is adopted excluding a Member from a meeting who is prohibited from voting or participating in discussions at the meeting because he or she has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.
5. That the Arrangements for dealing with standards allegations set out in Appendix D to the report are adopted.
6. That Allen Holland be appointed as the Independent Person pursuant to Section 28 of the Act for a period of four years subject to any statutory restriction on the length of term of office or prior termination of the appointment by the Council.
7. That a new Standards Committee is appointed with the composition and terms of reference as set out in Appendix E.
8. That a Chair and a Vice Chair be appointed.
9. That the Borough Solicitor is appointed as the Proper Officer for the purposes of Section 33 of the Act.
10. That the Borough Solicitor arranges training on the new Standards Regime for all members as soon as is convenient for the Council

11. To note that Full Council may amend the Code and Arrangements for dealing with standards allegations at any time.

**13. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE – STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL: MAKING A DIFFERENCE – ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**

1. That Council be recommended to agree the content of the Council's Draft Annual Report 2012 at Appendix A, and arrangements for final publication.
2. That Council be recommended to approve an amendment to the Constitution; to remove the Annual Report and the Best Value Performance Plan from the Policy and Budget Framework specified items at Article 4.

**14. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE – NEW HOMES BONUS**

In response to a question it was confirmed that free parking on Saturday applied only to the multi storey car park and Primett road.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**

1. That an allocation of **£201,000** from the 2012/13 New Homes Bonus grant be approved for the implementation and delivery of the following schemes :
  - a. Indoor Market Enhancements (New Signage, Decoration and Wider Publicity) (Initiative 2) - £36,000;
  - b. Apprenticeship Programme for the Council (Initiative 4) - £90,000;
  - c. New Play Centre in Bedwell (Feasibility and Design) (Initiative 5) - £25,000.

d. Free parking on Saturdays (Initiative 1) - £50,000

2. That it be noted the Apprenticeship Programme for the Council (initiative 4) will be a two year scheme and funding to support the second year of the programme will need to be funded from the 2013/14 New Homes Bonus grant

3. That approval be given to design the 'First Step' Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (initiative 3) with a notional allocation of **£250,000** from the 2012/13 New Homes Bonus grant, and reported to Scrutiny, Executive and Council in accordance with the Council's Policy and Budgetary Framework requirements.

4. That subject to the approval of 2.1 above, Council be requested to approve the General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum held by the Executive be increased by **£201,000** to maintain this sum at the £400,000 level previously agreed.

**15. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT – 2011/2012**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the work undertaken by the Development and Scrutiny Committees during 2011/12 be noted.

**16. OFFICER REPORT – URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – AWARD OF BMO SUPPLY CHAIN CONTRACTS**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**17. OFFICER REPORT – URGENT KEY DECISION TAKEN BY THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – RESOURCES – RIGHT- TO- BUY: RE INVESTING RECEIPTS IN NEW AFFORDABLE RENTED HOMES**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**18. AUDIT COMMITTEE- 13 FEBRUARY, 28 MARCH, 13 JUNE 2012**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 13 February, 28 March and 13 June 2012 be noted.