

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Council – Wednesday 5 December 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: Mr A Merrin (Keapmoat).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Cullen and V Warwick, A Danaher, Youth Mayor and A Wilson from the Youth Council. There were no declarations of interest.
2. MINUTES – COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2012
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 10 October 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
3. MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS
The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events he had attended since the last meeting.
4. MAIN DEBATE – ‘FEELING THE HEAT – HOW THIS COUNCIL WILL WORK WITH PARTNERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF RISING ENERGY COSTS’

Andy Merrin, Head of Sustainability for Keepmoat gave a presentation detailing actions that could be taken to tackle the causes and effects of fuel poverty and of the 'Green Deal Scheme'.

After a full debate, which included input from the public gallery, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED**

'That this Council is aware of the anxiety faced by many people in our community at the ever increasing cost of energy for our homes. The Council is committed to addressing the issue of fuel poverty and reduced carbon emissions by working with partners to continue to increase the energy efficiency for all homes in Stevenage.

In addition, dependent on the actual impact of the proposed energy bill on domestic tariffs, we will continue as a matter of urgency to seek opportunities to promote a Bulk Buy Scheme for Stevenage residents either on our own or in conjunction with other local authority partners. The Council will also prepare an action plan covering all service areas detailing fuel poverty and currently planned energy / carbon emission reduction activities.'

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

None.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE

The Leader of the Opposition gave details of a case whereby a tenant had received an invoice from the Council for damage caused to a property eleven months after the property had been vacated. He asked if this was an exceptional case and questioned whether the delay could have been as a result of the reintegration of Stevenage Homes to the Council.

The Leader requested full details of the case and advised that the Housing Portfolio Holder would investigate the process by which such cases were handled.

Council received updates of the following:

- The Chancellor's Autumn Statement
- The Small Business Summit
- Wild Life Sites
- Local Authority Mortgage Scheme
- GovMetric Awards
- Pod 53
- Award to Council's Income Team
- Stevenage Community Food Bank

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

None

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

None.

11. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES REVIEW

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the proposed Stevenage Borough Council Statement of Principles 2013-2016, as set out at Appendix A to the report, drafted in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005, be approved.

12. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY – MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2012/2013

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

1. That the 2012/13 Mid-year Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy Review be approved.
2. That the amendments made by Council on 10 October 2012 to the Treasury Management Strategy ahead of the implementation of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme be noted, together with the updated authorised investments.
3. That the amended strategy for Urgent Decisions on (i) the safe haven status of the Government's Debt Management Office, and that unlimited funds may be placed with them; and (ii) the use of Money Market Funds up to a limit of 25% of total investments and limited to a maximum of £5 million in any one Money Market Fund, be noted.
4. That the updated Treasury and Capital Prudential Indicators as shown in Section 8 and in Appendix A of the report be approved. The changes are in respect of:
 - Additional approvals to borrowing limits included in the September Capital Strategy; and
 - Amending the variable rate investment limit from £25 million to £35 million, reflecting a higher level of balances and the risk associated with fixing investments in the current market.

13. OFFICER REPORT – PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY CHANGES

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

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Chief Executive be requested to respond to the consultation issued by the Boundary Commission for England as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.

14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 no 88.
2. That Members, having considered the reasons for the report being in Part II, determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

PART II

15. PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.