

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART 1 – FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Special Council – Wednesday 23 January 2013 – 7 p.m.
Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

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

ALSO PRESENT: A Danaher (Youth Mayor) and A Pritchard (Youth Council)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Bell, H Burrell, M Cherney-Craw and V Warwick.

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor J Hollywell.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) RENT SETTING FOR 2013/2014

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

1. That the rents of HRA dwellings be increased with effect from the week commencing 1 April 2013 by an average 5.15 in accordance with the Council's rent policy.
2. That the HRA Savings Option (as shown at Appendix C of the report), of £239,080 in 2013/2014, as summarised in paragraph 4.3 of the report be approved and incorporated into the HRA budgets.
3. That the HRA Growth Options (as shown at Appendix D of the report), of £315,000 in 2013/2-14, as summarised in paragraph 4.4 of the report be approved and incorporated into the HRA budgets.

4. That the revised HRA budget for 2012/2013 and the final 2013/2014 HRA budget be approved (Appendix A refers).
5. That the 2013/2014 HRA Fees and Charges (as shown at Appendix F) be approved.
6. That the contingency sum of £400,000 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates, be approved for 2013/2014.

3. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

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

1. That the findings and outcomes from the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme consultation carried out with residents and other stakeholders as set out in section 4.3 of the report and the Consultation Report attached at Appendix C be noted.
2. That the findings on equalities and other impacts arising from the proposed CTS scheme as set out in paragraphs 4.4.19 and 4.4.20 of the report be noted.
3. That the forecasted financial implications arising from the recommended CTS scheme with effect from 1 April 2013 and the risks and assumptions attached to these as set out in paragraph 4.8.1 of the report be approved.
4. That the CTS scheme proposed within the report be adopted.
5. That the Strategic Director (Resources) be given delegated authority to apply annual uprating to the scheme when received.
6. That the reduction of Council Tax exemption for class A and class C dwellings from 100% to 10% with effect from 1 April 2013, with no grace period, be approved.

7. That the reduction of Council Tax discount for second homes from 10% to nil with effect from 1 April 2013, with no grace period, be approved.

4. 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.

5. INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

A revised recommendation 2.2 was circulated at the meeting together with an Appendix C that had been omitted from the original agenda.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the amended recommendation 2.2 and the other recommendations contained within the report be approved.