

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

**MEETING:** Council – Wednesday 8 October 2014 – 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:** Shae Field (Youth Mayor), Joseph Barnes, Hannah Jones, Mason Humberstone, Izzy Boulton, Jochebel Ohene MacCarthy and Michael Monaghan (Youth Council)

<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Bibby, G Clark, D Cullen, J Gardner, M Gardner, D Kissane, M Notley, C Saunders and V Warwick  There were no declarations of interest.
<b>2. MINUTES – COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2014</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 16 July 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>3. MINUTES – SPECIAL COUNCIL – THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2014</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting of 28 August 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.
<b>4. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS</b>
The Mayor provided Council with a brief update of events that she had attended since the last meeting.

She said that the one stand out event had been the parade in the town of the Royal Anglian Regiment on 24 July and she extended her thanks to everybody that had worked hard to ensure the success of the day. Council then received a short slide show of the event.

The Mayor concluded with a number of announcements:

Condolences were extended to Councillor Hugh Tessier following the death of his mother

Congratulations were extended to Councillors Chris Saunders and Vickie Warwick on the birth of their son, Louis Peter, and to Councillor Howard Burrell on the event of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### **5. MAIN DEBATE – THE VOTE FOR WORK EXPERIENCE**

Council received a presentation from members of the Youth Council on the value of work experience under the title 'WE4YOU - The Vote for Work Experience'.

During the presentation the Youth Council put four proposals to the Council:

1. The Council was asked to significantly increase the number of quality work experience placements offered by the Authority.
2. The Council was asked to support the Youth Council with their initiative to sign up local businesses to WE4YOU and be the first employer to sign up for the campaign.
3. The Council was asked to support the Youth Council to produce a 'Hints & Tips' Guide for employers and promote it via a series of articles in the Economic Development Newsletter and to offer to print a separate Work Experience leaflet for distribution.
4. The Council was asked to partner the Youth Council to organise and host a Work Experience Fayre for local employers and young people and to provide financial assistance to meet the cost through the Local Community Budget scheme.

Members spoke in favour of work experience and it was suggested that the Council could work with the Youth Council to draw up a charter to encourage schools, colleges and local employers to sign up to the promotion of work experience for young people.

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

‘This Council will actively explore the proposals made in the presentation with a view to supporting and or implementing them, where financially and practically possible, in partnership with the Youth Council.’

**6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

None

**7. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

None

**8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL’S UPDATE**

Council received updates on the following:

- SoActive (Bedwell)
- Stevenage Rugby Club
- Stevenage Museum’s 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Stevenage Against Domestic Violence

- Operation Vector
- National Older People's Day
- Children's Centres Procurement Update
- Summer Holiday Play Schemes
- Summer Fillerz
- Herts Bus Consultation
- On-Line Business Consultation
- Resident Involvement
- Housing Enforcers TV Programme

#### **10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

None.

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

Council received three questions:

- A. The Portfolio Holder Resources replied to a question relating to the refurbishment works to the Arts and Leisure Centre Walkway.

The Portfolio Holder then replied to a supplementary question concerning measures taken to address the issue of beggars and vagrants in the area.

- B. The Portfolio Holder Economy, Enterprise and Transport replied to a question concerning the changes to bus services as a result in the cuts to route subsidies made by the County Council.

In reply to a supplementary question concerning the factual accuracy of a press release concerning the cuts issued by the Council, the Portfolio Holder undertook to check the content of the release.

C. The Portfolio Holder Resources replied to a question concerning the implementation of car parking charges in the Fairlands Valley Showground on match days.

The Portfolio Holder then replied to a supplementary question concerning the level of consultation undertaken about the proposal.

## **12. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2013/2014 AND MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2014/2015**

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

1. That the 2013/14 Annual Treasury Management Review and 2014/15 Mid-Year Review and the prudential and treasury indicators contained within the report be approved.
2. That changes to the treasury limits (as detailed in paragraph 4.8.2 of the report) be approved.
3. That the change to the operational borrowing limit for the General Fund and hence the change to the authorised limit (as detailed in paragraph 4.8.5 of the report) be approved.

## **13. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

A Member expressed concern that both polling places in the Old Town were planned to be in shared premises where the sale of alcohol took place and queried whether the appropriate level of consultation had taken place.

In reply Council was advised that a full public consultation had been undertaken although specific groups had not been targeted. Council was further advised that no representations to the consultation had been received from any groups likely to have religious or moral objections to the proposals.

It was noted that an Equality Impact Assessment had not been presented with the report and that preparation of such an assessment should be considered in future.

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

1. That a new Polling Districts and Polling Places Order, to come into operation on 1 December 2014, be made.
2. That each Polling District and the Polling Districts bordering it be designated as the Polling Place for that Polling District.
3. That the new Polling Districts and Polling Places Order be based on the existing Order in so far as no changes to the Polling Districts are recommended but it be noted that the Returning Officer has agreed the following changes to Polling Stations –
  - Polling District CBB (Old Town Ward) be changed from the Bunyan Baptist Church to the Cromwell Hotel.
  - Polling District CBD (Old Town Ward) be changed from the Scout Association Building, rear of Barclay School to The Royal Oak Public House.

#### **14. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Leader commented that the appendix attached to the report indicated that WiFi was not available in the Council Chamber and requested that the lack of provision be investigated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the revisions to Standing Orders as detailed in section 4 of the report be approved.\*

\* Councillors A McGuinness, R Parker CC and G Snell requested that their votes opposing this resolution be recorded.

#### **15. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 12 JUNE 2014**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Audit Committee of 12 June 2014 be noted

<b>16. AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 3 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>
It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Audit Committee of 3 September 2014 be noted
<b>17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>
<p>It was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. That Members having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.</li> </ol>
<b>PART II</b>
<b>18. PART II MINUTES – SPECIAL COUNCIL – 28 AUGUST 2014</b>
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Part II Minutes of the Special Council meeting of 28 August 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.