

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

**MEETING:** Council – Wednesday 9 December 2015 – 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:** David Lloyd, Police & Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire  
Y Tiako (Youth Mayor) and Tamara Harrison (Chair of Youth Council)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Batson MBE DL CC, D Cullen, L Harrington, S Hearn, M Hurst, R Raynor, S Mead and C Saunders.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2. MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting of 7 October 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor informed the meeting of the death of Freeman and former Councillor Hilda Lawrence on Friday 23 October 2015.

Members then paid tribute to former Councillor Hilda Lawrence and the meeting stood for a minutes' silence in her memory.

The Mayor congratulated Lewis Hamilton on winning the Formula 1 World Championship for the third time, wishing him all the best for next season.

The Mayor informed Council that following the letters of sympathy sent to both the Mayors of Paris and Autun he had received a reply from the Mayor of Autun which he read to the Council. The response expressed the gratitude of the citizens of Paris to the British people who had stood in solidarity following the atrocities in Paris.

The Mayor informed Members that a book entitled 'Aden to Afghanistan' had been presented to the Council by Major Peter Williamson of the Royal Anglian Regiment to the Council and it would be placed in the Members library.

Finally the Mayor expressed the Council's thanks to the outgoing Chair of the Stevenage Youth Council, Alex Thurley for his contributions and participation at Council meetings and congratulated the new Chair of Stevenage Youth Council, Tamara Harrison who was duly elected on 19 November 2015.

<p><b>4. MAIN DEBATE – HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL? – PROTECTING POLICE FUNDING IN STEVENAGE</b></p>
<p>Council received a presentation from the Police Crime Commissioners David Lloyd.</p> <p>After a full debate, which included input from the public gallery, it was moved, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <p>"This Council endorses the key strategic aims outlined within the Police &amp; Crime Plan (Everybody's Business) and welcomes the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner's ongoing support and commitment to community policing and to working in conjunction with the SoSafe Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>This Council notes that in spite of welcome recent announcements of no further cuts to police funding through the comprehensive spending review, there are still pressures on police funding from previous budget announcements which will impact at local level.</p> <p>The Council recognises the high priority Stevenage people place on tackling crime and disorder and commends the work of the SoSafe partnership in helping more people to feel safe in the town as highlighted by improved performance in the recent town-wide Resident Survey.</p> <p>This Council notes the recent increase in crime in some crime types and will continue to work with partners to tackle key local issues to reduce crime, domestic abuse and ASB within Stevenage. In spite of severe government funding reductions over the last five years, this Council has protected funding for Police Community Support Officers in the town centre and continues to provide front line community safety services whilst working with partners to help our residents feel safe".</p>
<p><b>5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS</b></p>
<p>None</p>
<p><b>6. QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL</b></p>
<p>None.</p>
<p><b>7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC</b></p>
<p>None.</p>
<p><b>8. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE</b></p>
<p>The Leader of the Opposition enquired on how the Council assessed its future home building programme within the context of the draft local plan.</p> <p>In response the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration advised that a</p>

number of factors were considered such as information provided by the National Statistics Office on population growth, the relationship with neighbouring authorities, the local plan and government guidelines such as the National Planning Policy Framework.

Council then received updates on the following:

- Refugees
- Prevent
- Small Business Saturday
- MIPIM & Regeneration
- Homelessness

In reply to questions on accommodation being offered to Syrian refugees, the Leader of the Council confirmed that as previously stated the refugees would be accommodated in the private rented sector and not in the council's housing stock.

## 9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Mayor informed Council of the 2 motions detailed on the agenda

After the first motion had been moved and seconded an amended motion was proposed. This was duly carried and after a lengthy debate which included contributions from members of the public, It was **RESOLVED** that -

This Council is concerned about the increase in the number of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Stevenage and recommends that appropriate evidence gathering and consultation are carried out to enable the Council to fully consider if one or more Article 4 Directions for parts of Stevenage should be imposed.

The Mayor informed the meeting of the second motion on the agenda regarding the Trade Union Bill.

After a debate, it was Moved, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that

1. This Council recognises the positive contribution that trade unions and trade union members make in our workplaces. This Council values the constructive relationship that we have with our trade unions and we recognise their work commitment, and the commitment of all our staff, to the delivery of good quality public services.

This Council notes with concern the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the Government and which would affect this Council's relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole. This Council rejects this Bill's attack on local democracy and the attack on our right to manage our affairs.

This Council is clear that facility time, negotiated and agreed by us and our trade unions to suit our own specific needs, has a valuable role to play in the creation of good quality and responsive local services. Facility time should not be determined

or controlled by Government in London.

This Council is happy with the arrangements we currently have in place for deducting trade union membership subscriptions through our payroll. We see this as an important part of our positive industrial relations and a cheap and easy to administer system that supports our staff. This system is an administrative matter for the Council and should not be interfered with by the UK Government.

This Council resolves to support the campaign against the unnecessary, anti-democratic and bureaucratic Trade Union Bill.

This Council resolves to seek to continue its own locally agreed industrial relations strategy and it will take every measure possible to maintain its autonomy with regard to facility time and the continuing use of check-off.

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

Council received three questions.

- A. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration responded to a question relating to Refuse and Recycling

In reply to a question that Older people without access to computers might not be aware of changes to collection dates publicised on the Council website, the Portfolio Holder outlined other methods that were used to advise of changes and advised that there was no evidence that there was any increase in missed collections.

- B. The Portfolio Holder for Community, Health and Older People responded to a question concerning Council's plans to promote the importance of mental health.

- C. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration responded to a question on whether the Council plans to introduce parking charges around Fairlands Valley Showground and confirmed that SBC has no plans to do so as highlighted in the Minutes of the Executive meeting held on the 30 September 2014.

**11. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Gambling Act 2005 be approved.

**12. MATTER REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE – 2015/2016 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW REPORT**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the 2015/16 Mid Year Treasury Management Review report be approved.

**13. DRAFT AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 9 NOVEMBER 2015**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Draft Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 9 November 2015 be noted.

**14. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

**None**

**15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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 having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**PART II**

**16. DRAFT AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 9 NOVEMBER 2015**

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Part II section of the Draft Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 9 November 2015 be noted.