

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE
MINUTES****Date: Tuesday 9 June 2015****Time: 14.00 hrs.****Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN**

Present: Councillors S Taylor OBE CC (Chair),
J Gardner (Vice-Chair), R Henry, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor,
S Speller, J Thomas and A Webb.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 14.00 hrs.
End Time: 16.00 hrs.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Batson MBE DL DCC.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Leader welcomed Scott Crudgington to the meeting as the Council's new Chief Executive and congratulated him on his appointment.

2. MINUTES – EXECUTIVE – 30 MARCH 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2015 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE BODIES

The Executive considered a report that recommended the appointment of four Executive bodies as detailed in the Constitution.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Executive Bodies are established with the terms of reference as set out in Section 3 of the report and with the Membership, Chairs/Lead Members as set out below –

Joint Consultative Committee (Employers' Side) – Councillors Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman), J Gardner, R Raynor and A Webb

Appeals, Grievances and Litigation Panel - Councillors Mrs J Lloyd (Chairman), J Gardner, R Raynor and S Taylor OBE CC

Stevenage, North Herts., East Herts. and Hertsmere Joint CCTV Committee – Councillors S Batson MBE, DL CC (Lead), Mrs J Lloyd and A Webb.

Stevenage and East Herts. Joint Executive Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Committee - Councillors Mrs J Lloyd (Lead), J Thomas, A Webb and R Raynor (substitute).

4. MINUTES – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES

It was requested that the Community Select Committee be reminded that following Annual Council responsibility for Local Community Budgets would be held by the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council (Councillor S Speller), whilst responsibility for policing issues would be held by the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Equalities (Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC).

It was noted that the Silver Street Meets had been well received by residents.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following meetings of the Select Committees be noted –

4A Community Select Committee – 18 March 2015

4B Environment & Economy Select Committee – 24 March 2015

4C Community Select Committee – 30 March 2015

5. STEVENAGE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN: REVISED HOUSING TARGETS CONSULTATION

The Executive considered a report that provided an update on progress in producing the new Stevenage Borough Local Plan, the findings of key evidence studies and that sought approval of public consultation on revised housing target options for the Borough.

The Executive was advised that without an adjustment to the Green Belt it would be impossible for the Council to meet its target of providing 7600 new homes. It was confirmed that the areas of Green Belt referred to in the Consultation Document were within the boundaries of the Borough.

Concerns were expressed that the document did not make specific reference to the area of land known locally as 'Forster Country' as being exempt from the proposals to adjust the Green Belt. Officers were requested to amend the wording of the consultation document accordingly.

Issues of viability and the mix of social and affordable homes were discussed and it was acknowledged that the review being undertaken by North Herts District Council on Green Belt land adjoining the Borough boundary should improve the deliverability of any scheme proposed by the Council.

A Member expressed concern that paragraph 2.3 of the Consultation Document did not accurately reflect the situation regarding the housing waiting list in the Town. Officers were requested to amend the wording of the document accordingly.

The need for 'quick wins' was debated and it was accepted that the phased development of larger schemes would be acceptable should it expedite the building of new homes.

The Leader thanked the Officers for a clear and easily understood report.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the progress of the new Stevenage Borough Local Plan to date and the findings of key evidence (as set out in the report) is noted.
2. That the draft Stevenage Borough Local Plan: Revised Housing Targets Consultation and associated Sustainability Appraisal ("the consultation documents" attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report respectively), is approved.
3. That a public consultation on the consultation documents commencing on Monday 22 June 2015 and closing on Monday 27 July 2015 is approved.
4. That delegated powers are granted to the Strategic Director (Environment), following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration, to make such minor amendments as are necessary in the final preparation of the consultation documents.
5. That an interim 20-year housing target of 7,600 new homes, or 380 homes per year, for the period 2011 - 2031 is adopted for the purposes of calculating the five-year housing land supply and determining planning applications pending the formal selection of a new housing target for the Borough at 'publication' stage of the local plan.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.

6. HOUSING ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2015-2018

The Executive considered a report that sought approval of the draft Housing Energy and Sustainability Strategy 2015/18.

The Executive was advised that the report before them had been presented to the Housing Management Board (HMB) in March and that the Board had been supportive of the proposals contained therein.

It was commented that the Executive did not receive formal feedback from the HMB although it was highlighted within the report that the HMB had

reviewed and endorsed this strategy. The Strategic Director Community undertook to provide an annual report from the HMB to the March meeting of the Executive.

In discussing the benefits to both tenants and the Council it was acknowledged that tenants must be provided with sound advice to make informed choices in order to maximise the benefits from the proposals contained within the strategy, for example how to make the best use of any photovoltaic panels that may be affixed to a property to minimise utility bills.

Links to the Commercialisation Agenda were also discussed and the possibility of offering services to owner occupied properties, especially in terraced properties, was considered.

In reply to a question concerning previous energy efficiency schemes the Strategic Director (Community) undertook to seek again to provide feedback from the Developers regarding the project at Courtney Croft.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Housing Energy and Sustainability Strategy 2015/2018, as appended to this report, is approved.
2. That delegated authority is given to the Strategic Director (Communities), following consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, to make any agreed amendments to the strategy and related action plan prior to its implementation.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.

7. BALANCED SCORECARD 2014/2015 – QUARTER FOUR

The Executive considered a report on the overall performance results for Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for quarter four 2014/15 and the impact of performance management activity related thereto together with a presentation from the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive presented the quarter four balanced scorecard results and focussed his report on the red and amber measures.

For the quarter there had been an improvement in the number of red indicators, down to 10 from 11, whilst the number of amber indicators had increased from 4 to 5. Overall the score for the year had resulted in a green indicator.

In reply to a question the Executive was advised that when tenants with rent arrears refused to engage with the Council's welfare services possession orders would ultimately be initiated.

Concerns were expressed at the levels of user satisfaction with the business benefits delivered by ICT given the recent levels of investment. It was acknowledged that there was a need for improved communications regarding the causes of system outages and the estimated times of reconnection.

The Chief Executive drew the Executive's attention to Appendix B to the report and advised that there would be a review of the scorecard for 2015/2016 with the challenge being to align information from all of the Council's data sources.

The Leader indicated that she wished to see productivity indicators included where productivity proved possible to measure effectively.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the overall performance results for Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for quarter four 2014/15 is noted.
2. That for areas of performance considered outside an acceptable variance of the target set, the planned performance management activity outlined in paragraphs 3.6.2 to 3.6.15 of the report (and summarised in Appendix A) are approved as appropriate.
3. That performance improvement, outlined in paragraphs 3.8.2 to 3.8.4 of the report, as a result of the implementation of performance management activity previously approved is noted.
4. That the changes made to the Balanced Scorecard for 2015/16 as a result of the activity outlined in paragraphs 3.10.1 to 3.10.4 of the report and identified in Appendix B are endorsed.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.

Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.

8. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

The Chief Executive gave an update on the recruitment of the four senior management positions that had recently been advertised.

The Leader informed the meeting of the discussions that had taken place at the Stevenage First Board on the 27 May.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

PART II

10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

Chair