

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Thursday 14 July 2016

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors L Martin-Haugh (Chair), M Downing, M Gardner, E Harrington, J Hollywell, C Latif, S Mead, A Mitchell, R Parker CC and P Stuart

Start / End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
 End Time: 8.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Bibby, J Brown and C Saunders.

Councillor M Downing declared a personal interest in Item 3, Part I Notice of Decision as he was a Member of the Symonds Green Community Centre Management Committee.

2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2016

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June 2016 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting nor had it been made available for public inspection. The Chair determined however that given the short time left before the end of the call-in period on 22 July 2016, it be considered on this occasion.

Minutes – Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 13 June 2016

Reference from Stevenage & East Herts Joint Revenues & Benefits Executive Committee – Amendment to Terms of Reference

Local Development Scheme (LDS) – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Head of Planning and Engineering informed the meeting that the report set out the time frame for the planning policy, the local plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Stevenage Local Plan – Submission

In response to a question on whether the Local Plan addressed future developments sited between neighbouring authorities such as East Hertfordshire, the Head of Planning and Engineering advised that as the East Herts Local Plan was not as far developed as Stevenage and whilst each authority would consult the other, the individual Plans may only consider land use in their own area.

Review of Town Centre Management in Stevenage

In response to a question on the impact of the review on food stalls in and around the town centre, the Head of Planning and Engineering advised that the review would ensure that the various commercial services complimented one another and most importantly met the needs of the residents of Stevenage.

Community Safety Data Trends

In response to a question concerning the provision of information on crime types at ward level, the Head of Leisure, Community & Children's Services advised that he would investigate and report back to Members.

Capital Strategy Outturn Report 2015/2016

4th Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

Town Centre Electric Car Club and On Street Parking Proposals

In response to a question, the Head of Planning and Engineering advised that operators of the car club would implement a system of fines and penalties and have checks in place to prevent any potential abuse by users.

Council Tax Support Scheme

Garages Asset Management Plan

The Architectural Services Manager provided a presentation on the Ten Year Business Plan for the Garage Estate, highlighting both the benefits and challenges.

In response to a question on whether the proposed programmes of work would be extended to issues around improving the lighting and the resurfacing of the floor and hardstanding areas outside the garages, the acting Head of Property and Estates Officer indicated that presently the works would be directed at bringing the garage stock into a condition that was fit for purpose.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part 1 decisions of the Executive are noted:

- Overview and Scrutiny Minutes
- Reference from Stevenage & East Herts Joint Revenues & Benefits Executive Committee – Amendment to Terms of Reference
- Local Development Scheme (LDS) – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Stevenage Local Plan – Submission
- Review of Town Centre Management in Stevenage
- Community Safety Data Trends
- Capital Strategy Outturn Report 2015/2016
- 4th Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account
- Town Centre Electric Car Club and On Street Parking Proposals
- Council Tax Support Scheme
- Garages Asset Management Plan

4. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Work plan for the year 2016-2017 is noted.

5. URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None

6. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. 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 Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.
2. Members having considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

8. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting. The Chair determined however that given the short time left before the end of the call-in period on 22 July 2016, it be considered on this occasion.

The Chair welcomed Tom Pike, Strategic Director (Environment) to his first Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Freehold Disposal of Land

Joint Marketing Proposal

Members reiterated the need for Council to ensure the safeguarding of cycle tracks especially when development schemes were being planned as Stevenage's cycle network represented one of the key features of the town.

Proposed Extension to Symonds Green Community Centre

Councillor M Downing declared a personal interest in this item as he was a Member of the Symonds Green Community Centre Management Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part II decisions of the Executive taken on 12 July 2016 are noted:

- Freehold Disposal of Land
- Joint Marketing Proposal
- Proposed Extension to Symonds Green Community Centre

9. URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None

10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

Chair