

## STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE  
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 18 October 2016

Time: 14.00 hrs.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN

**Present:** Councillors J Gardner (Vice-Chair - presiding), Mrs J Lloyd, R Henry CC, R Raynor, S Speller and J Thomas

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 14.00 hrs.  
End Time: 16.10 hrs.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Taylor OBE CC and S Batson MBE DL CC.

At the end of consideration of the Part I Agenda Councillor S Speller declared a personal interest in Item 10.

**2. MINUTES – EXECUTIVE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

**3. MINUTES – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following meetings are noted-

- A. Community Select Committee – 7 September 2016
- B. Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 15 September 2016
- C. Environment & Economy Select Committee – 29 September 2016

**4. HERTFORDSHIRE SHARED HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY**

The Executive considered a report that outlined a proposal from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to establish a county wide home improvement agency service to help elderly and vulnerable persons to live more independently and safely at home.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That it is agreed in principle that Stevenage Borough Council joins the Shared Home Improvement Agency from April 2018.
2. That a further report be brought back to the Executive with detailed proposals in due course.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## 5. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

The Executive considered a report that provided an update on the wide range of activities that have been undertaken to move the Future Town Future Council Town Centre Regeneration priority forward together with proposals for a potential first phase development area.

The Executive received a presentation from the Strategic Director (Environment). He outlined the plans to publicise the proposals that included exhibitions around the Town, including the Railway Station. Members were of the view that the publicity should be launched as soon as possible.

The Executive considered that it was important to engage the community and to be clear about the facts concerning the development, particularly in relation to the Railway Station. It was noted that the community had been made aware of previous schemes over the years and as these had not progressed some may have become cynical. It was therefore important that realistic timescales etc. were quoted.

It was agreed that all Members should be made aware of the detail of the plans in order that they could give an accurate response when questioned about the development. Officers were requested to ensure that all Members were briefed accordingly.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the progress of regeneration within the town centre is noted.
2. That the red line development area for SG1, the first phase of the Town Centre redevelopment, identified in Appendix A to this report is approved.
3. That the procurement of a developer via appropriate OJEU process is approved.
4. That officers are authorised to carry out further work on how the procurement of SG1 will link to the station redevelopment should Growth Deal 3 allocate funding for the station and a report be submitted to the Executive in early 2017 with the optimum

procurement route and timetable.

5. That a briefing note be provided to all Members regarding the SG1 scheme and works to the railway station.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and 5. To ensure that Members are able to address questions raised by constituents.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **6. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE FOR QUARTER ONE 2016/2017**

The Executive considered a report that set out the Council's performance results during 2016/2017 quarter one.

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Quarter 1 performance addressing the two strands of the performance scheme, the Future Town, Future Council (FTFC) targets and the measures relating to Corporate Performance.

Concerning the FTFC targets, those relating to the Co-op Neighbourhood Management were currently amber but action was being taken to improve performance.

Regarding Corporate Performance positive results had been achieved by the Customer Services Centre where a number of initiatives had been put in place to improve call answering times.

For Quarter 1, days lost due to sickness performance had reduced but it was considered that there was potential to further reduce such absence.

The Chief Executive highlighted performance regarding staff appraisals completed. Performance at quarter 1 had not been acceptable but had improved considerably going on to quarter 2. He stated that the importance of completing timely and high quality appraisals would be a key objective for the new Senior Leadership Team.

In response to a Member's question the Chief Executive stated that the new format of reporting was more flexible and was better able to be adjusted for key indications and targets.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the overall performance results for quarter one 2016/17 and future planned improvement activity is noted.
2. That progress on the delivery of Future Town, Future Council programme is noted.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **7. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None

## **8. 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 it involves 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 items being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

## **9. PART II MINUTES – TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II section of the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

## **10. REVISED DISPOSAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor S Speller declared a personal interest in this report.

The Executive considered a Part II report that recommended extending the current disposal programme to incorporate new sites for disposal in support of the Council's Future Town Future Council programme.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report are approved.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **11. WRITE OFF OF HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AWARD GREATER THAN £10,000**

The Executive considered a Part II report that recommended the write off of the recovery of Council Tax Support previously paid and individual Housing Benefit overpayments debts which were deemed irrecoverable.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report are

approved.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

**12. PROCUREMENT OF A REPLACEMENT MATERIALS CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIRS & VOIDS SERVICE**

To consider a Part II report concerning the procurement results for a new materials supply contract and that sets out the key contract options for differing supply arrangements.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report are approved.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Other Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

**13. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None

**Chair**