

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 16 April 2013

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors J Thomas (Chair), M Cherney-Craw, G Clark,
and B Underwood.

Also Present: Councillor M Notley

Start / End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
End Time: 7.25 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Pickersgill, S Speller and R Parker CC.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. MINUTES – RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
25 MARCH 2013**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. NEW HOMES BONUS

The Committee had before it a draft report for the Executive meeting in May outlining a range of schemes and initiatives to be funded from the 2013/14 New Homes Bonus allocation that had been outlined by the Leader at the Council meeting on 27 February 2013.

An update to the report was circulated at the meeting which detailed the inclusion of an additional 'one-off' allocation of New Homes Bonus grant of £19,048 for the year 2013/2014. However the Committee was advised that the substance of the original report, and the spend proposals, had not changed as a result of the inclusion of this sum.

The Committee was invited to comment on six spend proposals which were presented by the Lead Officer for each project. Members asked a number of detailed questions about the schemes which were answered by the Officers.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the recommendation to the Executive to approve an allocation of £357,000 from the 2013/14 New Homes Bonus grant for the implementation and delivery of the following schemes be supported:

- (a) Town Centre Improvements Project (Initiative 1) - £200,000;
- (b) Improvements to the Leisure Centre Walkway (Initiative 2) - £60,000;
- (c) BTC Network of Enterprise Clubs for Young People (Initiative 3) - £5,000;
- (d) Women's Resource Centre Grant (Initiative 4) - £5,000;
- (e) Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator (Initiative 5) - £47,000 per annum for 2 years;
- (f) 'No More' Intervention Project (Initiative 6) - £40,000.

2. That it be noted the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator (initiative 5) would be a two year scheme and funding to support the second year of the programme would need to be funded from the 2014/15 New Homes Bonus grant.

3. That it be noted that Council would be requested to approve the General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum held by the Executive be increased by £357,000 to maintain this sum at the £400,000 level previously agreed.

4. That the following comments be included in the final report to the Executive:

- (a) The Committee welcomed all of the proposals.
- (b) The proposed Town Centre Improvement and Leisure Centre Walkway projects could do more to advertise the town to residents.
- (c) It had been anticipated that the improvements to the Leisure Centre Walkway would provide both an introduction to the town and draw people into the town centre.
- (d) The Committee requested that a link be made between the BTC Network of Enterprise Clubs for Young People and Youth Connexions.
- (e) The Committee requested that the Council encourage the Women's Resource Centre to become more accessible as its services are currently unavailable at times when they are most likely to be needed (during the late evening and at the weekend).

4. STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2013 / 2018

The Committee had before it a report seeking its views, and agreement for, the framework, tone and content of the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2013 to 2018. The

draft had been considered by the Executive at its meeting on 12 February 2013. In response to a Member request the Corporate Strategy Partnerships and Policy Manager undertook to notify members of the Committee when the Corporate Plan was scheduled to be reviewed by the Executive and to flag up any changes that had been made since the original draft document.

The Committee was advised that individual comments to the draft Corporate Plan would be welcomed after the meeting.

A Member commented that it was essential that all contributors to the consultation exercise should be given feedback regarding their comments and the Officer advised the Committee of the Council's process for doing so.

In reply to a question it was confirmed that a summary of the responses received from the consultation would be published in the Autumn edition of the Chronicle.

In reply to a further question regarding negative feedback the Committee was advised that where such feedback had been received from a named respondent the respondent would be contacted and asked if they required a reply to their comment from the relevant Head of Service.

It was **RESOLVED** that the framework and content of the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2013 to 2018, as appended to the report, be agreed.

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

Chair