

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 3 July 2013 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT J Thomas (Chair), J Brown, M Cherney-Craw G Clark, M Hearn, S Speller, H Tessier and B Underwood.

THE AGENDA ITEMS REFERRED TO IN THIS SUMMARY OF DECISIONS MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE RECEPTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, DANESHILL HOUSE.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Parker CC, P Stuart and S Walker. There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2013	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on 3 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
3. SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND HOSPITALITY	
Members identified a number of strands of the topic that they wished to review and lead roles for questioning were agreed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Town Twinning – Councillor M Cherney-Craw	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparative Figures – Councillor S Speller ▪ Equalities and Diversity – Councillor J Brown ▪ Community Reception – Councillor H Tessier ▪ Conferences – Councillor J Thomas ▪ Refreshments – Councillor G Clark ▪ Mayoral Expenses – Councillor B Underwood ▪ Travel and Car Parking – Councillor M Hearn <p>It was suggested to Members that they could meet informally in advance of the next meeting to prepare questions for witnesses and the Scrutiny Officer undertook to liaise with the Chair to arrange a date to conduct the formal review meeting.</p> <p>The Chair reminded the Committee that as the scope of the review was Members’ Expenses and Hospitality any questions should only focus on benefits received by Members.</p> <p>Two requests were made at the meeting for details of the cost and numbers attending the Community Reception and Mayoral Taxi costs and the Constitutional Services Manager and the Strategic Director (Resources) undertook to provide further relevant background information for Members on request.</p> <p>In reply to a question the Scrutiny Officer undertook to investigate the possibility of the attendance of a ‘critical friend’ from a neighbouring authority with a similar demographic at the review meeting.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that scoping document, along with the amendments identified above, be noted.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p> <p>J Cansick Ext 2216</p> <p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>
<p>4. PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</p>	
<p>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 period of time left before the end of the call-in period on 3 July 2013, it be considered on this occasion.</p>	

In reply to a question the Committee was advised that presentation of the Corporate Strategy would be finalised once the content had been agreed at Council in July.

R Protheroe
Ext 2938

In reply to a further question the Committee was advised that a summary document would be prepared to accompany the full strategy to highlight the key points. A Member requested that a simple pictogram be included with the summary to show how the various plans within the Council interrelated.

R Protheroe
Ext 2938

Members asked a number of detailed questions about the Balanced Scorecard which were answered by the Lead Officer.

The Strategic Director (Resources) undertook to follow up an enquiry relating to the data quality for the number of ICT incidents per day measure.

S Crudgington
Ext 2185

In reply to a question concerning Members ability to view the Balanced Scorecard the Strategic Director (Resources) advised the Committee that it should be possible for access to be arranged via the computer in the Members' library if required.

S Crudgington
Ext 2185

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part 1 Decisions of the Executive taken on 25 June 2013 be noted:

- **SoStevenage Community Strategy**
- **Stevenage Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2013-2018**
- **Consultation and Engagement Strategy**
- **Balanced Scorecard 2012/2013 Quarter 4**

5. URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
None.	
6. URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
None	
7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <p>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 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 SI2006 No. 88.</p> <p>2. That, having considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II, it be agreed that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203
PART II	
8. PART II MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2013	
It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on 3 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

9. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE (IF ANY)	
None	
10 URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	