

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Monday 29 July 2013 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT J Thomas (Chair), J Brown, M Cherney-Craw, J Hollywell, S Speller, P Stuart, H Tessier, B Underwood and S Walker.

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 G Clark, M Hearn and R Parker CC. Councillor S Speller declared a Personal Interest at Item 8.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 3 July 2013	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting held on 3 July 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
3. PROJECT PLAN FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND HOSPITALITY.	
In reply to a request the Committee's informal meeting was rearranged to be held at 2pm on Wednesday 7 August. The Scrutiny Officer undertook to find a room for the meeting and to notify Members accordingly.	S Weaver Ext 2332

<p>The Chair requested that Members unable to attend the meeting should notify the Scrutiny Officer so that paperwork could be sent to them for comment.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the updated project plan be noted.</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 31 July 2013, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>4th Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>In reply to a question about the potential effect of the recent court judgement against Barnet Council in respect of parking charges the meeting was advised that revenues from off-street parking were not affected however the Council was checking to ensure that its interpretation of the judgement was correct.</p> <p>In reply to a request the Strategic Director Resources undertook to provide details of the net income from the Council's car parks to Members.</p> <p>General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategies (2014/15 – 2016/17)</p> <p>A Member expressed concern at potential levels of rent and council tax arrears following changes to the benefits system. The Strategic Director Resources advised the Committee that there would be a review in October and that officers were preparing a 'performance dashboard' to reflect trends and issues in a number of indicators including rent payments and council tax collection. Early indications were that the impact of the changes was not as high as expected, but this could be because the Council had undertaken an extensive communications exercise and it was believed that, at the moment, residents were prioritising rent and council</p>	<p>K Brown Ext 2154</p> <p>S Crudgington Ext 2185</p> <p>S Crudgington Ext 2185</p>

<p>tax payments.</p> <p>In response to a comment regarding Priority Based Budgeting the Strategic Director Resources advised the meeting that engagement with Members would take place when Officers had a range of proposals to present.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part 1 Decisions of the Executive taken on 23 July 2013 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevenage Borough Council: Making a Difference – Annual Report 2013. ▪ 4th Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account ▪ 2012/2013 Expenditure Outturn ▪ General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Strategies (2014/15 – 2016/17) ▪ Stevenage / East Herts Shared ICT, Business Improvement. Print and Design Partnership 	<p>S Crudgington Ext 2185</p>
<p>5. URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Chair’s decision to allow the following reports to be considered as urgent items by the Executive on 23 July be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevenage Borough Council: Making a Difference – Annual Report 2013. ▪ 4th Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account ▪ 2012/2013 Expenditure Outturn 	

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 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
<p>Councillor S Speller declared a Personal Interest for part of this item.</p> <p>This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting. The Chair determined however that given the short period of time left before the end of the call-in period on 31 July 2013, it be considered on this occasion.</p>	

<p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II Decision of the Executive taken on 23 July 2013 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asset Management Strategy – Supporting the Capital Programme. 	
<p>9. URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
<p>10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None.</p>	