

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 16 October 2013, 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors J Thomas (Chair), J Brown, M Cherney-Craw, G Clark, M Hearn, J Hollywell, H Tessier 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, R Parker CC, S Speller, P Stuart and B Underwood. Matthew Partridge was introduced to the meeting as the new Strategic Director (Community). There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 OCTOBER 2013	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 October 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

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 period of time left before the end of the call-in period 22 October 2013, it be considered on this occasion.

Tenancy Contract Review

It was noted that the Committee was in agreement with the Executive regarding comments made about the language and tone of the document but acknowledged that it was a requirement for the contract to be written in unambiguous terms that would support any legal proceedings should they become necessary.

Members made a number of comments about the contract which were noted by the Officer for consideration for incorporation into the final draft of the contract, including:

- The relevance of including clauses about the running of businesses from home
- The possibility of combining the clauses relating to the use of National Insurance Numbers and birth certificates as an aid to combat tenancy fraud
- Clarification of the responsibility of tenants to clean communal areas

In response to a Member request for an explanation of the Uimprove process the Assistant Director (Housing) undertook to provide a written reply to the Member concerned.

In response to a further request the Assistant Director (Housing) undertook to inform the Committee of the duration of the consultation exercise.

Green Travel Plan

Members made a number of general comments regarding the plan to which the Officer responded.

M Haynes
Ext 2455

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<p>Concerns were expressed that elements of the plan had been watered down to which the Officer responded that the Council was keen to implement a plan and that more ambitious targets could be incorporated in future revisions of the document.</p> <p>In reply to a question it was confirmed that the targets within the plan referred equally to both staff and Members.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part 1 Decisions of the Executive taken on 15 October 2013 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy Contract Review • Green Travel Plan 	<p>R Woodisse Ext 2103</p>
<p>It was RESOLVED</p>	
<p>4. URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
<p>5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p>	
<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>	
<p>PART II</p>	
<p>7. PART II MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 OCTOBER 2013</p>	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes from the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 October 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p>8. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</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 22 October 2013, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II decision of the Executive taken on 15 October 2013 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Purchase Order. 	<p>P Bandy Ext 2288</p>
<p>9. URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	

None.	
10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	