

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART I - FOR PUBLICATION)**

Agenda Item:

**3**

**MEETING:** Executive – Tuesday 10 December 2013 – 14.00 hrs.  
Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), S Batson MBE DL CC, H Burrell, R Henry CC, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor and A Webb.

**The deadline for Call-in of any of the decisions below is 18 December 2013.  
Subject to there being no call-in the attached decisions may be implemented with effect from 19 December 2013**

<b>ITEM / TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION/LEAD</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	J Cansick Ext 2216
There were no apologies for absence nor declarations of interest.	
<b>2. MINUTES – EXECUTIVE – 4 NOVEMBER 2013</b>	J Cansick Ext 2216
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>3. MINUTES – OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES</b>	J Cansick Ext 2216
The Chair indicated that she would be responding formally to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee action being taken to alert the Government to issues faced by local authorities as a result of the welfare reforms.	

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the following meetings be noted:

- A. Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 16 October 2013
- B. Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 11 November 2013
- C. Environment & Economy Select Committee – 21 October 2013
- D. Housing Select Committee – 23 October 2013
- E. Housing Select Committee – 14 November 2013
- F. Community Select Committee – 6 November 2013

#### **4. DRAFT RENT SETTING AND HRA BUDGET**

C Fletcher Ext 2993

The Chair indicated that she would be asking the Leader's Services Priority Group to look at the HRA at an early stage in its deliberations in the coming year. One particular element they would be asked to consider was the calculation of the depreciation allowance.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That it be recommended that HRA dwelling rents be increased, week commencing 7 April 2014 by an average 5.62% or £5.25 per week which has been calculated using the Rent Restructuring Formula, subject to the Government's caps and limits applicable to each property.
2. That the draft 2014/15 HRA budget be recommended, as set out in Appendix A to the report. This may be subject to change as a result of consultation and the finalisation of recharges from the General Fund.
3. That the proposed fees and charges be recommended as shown in Appendix B to the report.
4. That the final HRA rent setting budget for 2014/15 be presented to the Executive on the 21 January 2014 and then Council on 29 January 2014.

5. That key partners and other stakeholders be consulted and views fed back into the 2014/15 budget setting process.
6. That Officers be requested to include in the Rent Setting and HRA Budget report to Executive in January details of the effect of the rent increase on those tenants in receipt of Benefits.
7. That the Portfolio Holder for Housing be requested to write to Kris Hopkins MP, Minister for Housing, bring his attention to the financial impact on local authorities of the increase in Right-to-Buys and the potential problems Stevenage would face in the repayment of monies borrowed.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and 6) to ensure that Members are aware of the impact of the rent increase on those tenants in receipt of Benefits; and 7) to bring the Minister's attention to the additional financial burden being placed on HRAs due to the increase in Right-to-Buys and the potential difficulty in repayment of monies borrowed.*

*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

E Wright Ext 2192

It was **RESOLVED** that the overall performance results for Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for quarter two 2013/14 and the performance management activity outlined in paragraph 3.6 (and summarised in Appendix A to the report) be noted.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report*

*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **6. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

### The Restructuring of the EADS Group (Astrium)

The Chair informed the meeting of a communication she had received from the Business Development Director of Astrium regarding the restructuring of EADS Group (Airbus Group from January 2014) and how it affects Astrium UK. There were to be 4,500 posts lost worldwide, with approximately 10% of those being from the UK. It was the Company's ambition that the majority of these reductions

would be achieved through a combination of natural attrition and redeployment.

It was stressed that the two main Astrium sites in the UK, Stevenage and Portsmouth, remained central to the Company's long term growth plans and that there would be no reduction to Astrium's core activities in the UK.

The Chair indicated that it was important to avoid speculation at this stage and the Council would be looking to protect posts in Stevenage.

## **7. 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 they involve 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.

## **PART II**

### **8. PART II MINUTES – 4 NOVEMBER 2013**

J Cansick Ext 2216

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **9. GENERAL FUND ASSET REVIEW**

J Herbert Ext 2141

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report be approved together with a further request that potential income generation initiatives for particular sites be considered.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and to ensure that avenues for income generation be considered.*  
*Options Considered: As contained in the report*

**10 . URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None