

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

**MEETING:** Executive – Tuesday 11 February 2014 – 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.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor H Tessier.

**The deadline for Call-in of any of the decisions below is 19 February 2014.**

**Subject to there being no call-in the attached decisions may be implemented with effect from 20 February 2014**

<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 or declarations of interest.	
<b>2. MINUTES – EXECUTIVE – 21 JANUARY 2014</b>	J Cansick Ext 2216
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014 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
It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the following meetings be noted:  <b>A. Environment &amp; Economy – 6 January 2014</b>	

## B. Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 23 January 2014

### 4. PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT

C Fletcher Ext 2933

The Executive was informed that the Audit Committee on 3 February 2014 made no comment on the report.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That Council be recommended to adopt the 2014/15 Treasury Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix A.
2. That Council be recommended to adopt the Prudential Code Indicators as detailed in Appendix A, attachment six.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report*

*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

### 5. PROPOSED NEW STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) VALUES

C Hefferon Ext 2164

It was noted that the final design of the Values document would be addressed once formal approval had been given to the content.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the proposed new SBC values, as attached at Appendix 1 be approved subject to the 'One Team' box being amended by the addition of '- Having Pride in our Town' and the 'Responsive' box being amended by the addition of '-Encouraging the Community to help us design services'.
2. That the new values come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 replacing :
  - SBC's current values
  - The SHL values.

- SBC's Co-operative Principles

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and having consulted with Members and staff*  
*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## 6. COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAMME 2014/15

R Protheroe Ext 2936

Paragraph 5.6.2 of the report was corrected to read –

*' A review of rent in kind for garage provision was undertaken in 2012/2013. The findings of this review are to be implemented when the economic situation improves.'*

It was reported that there were some errors in the list shown at Appendix D but these would be corrected.

The Portfolio Holder for Community, Health & Older People indicated that she would be reviewing the work undertaken by Stevenage Community Action and Volunteer Brokerage Services as they were both relatively new service providers.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the £202,250 in community funding be allocated as shown in Tranche 1 and 2 in Appendix A for the 2014/2015 financial year.
2. That the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Community, Health & Older People and Resources further consider the 2014/2015 funding allocations to Community Associations and Douglas Drive Day Centre. The outcome to be reported to Council on 26 February when the General Fund Budget is finalised.
3. That £196,323 in financial assistance, comprising of rent in kind for council premises and rent free council garages, be allocated to various voluntary and community organisations for the 2014/15 financial year, as set out in Appendix D subject to necessary amendments being made to the list for accuracy.

4. That officers be requested to ensure that the proposed Community Centre Strategy is submitted to the Executive before the end of 2014 and that draft proposals for future years' Community Funding Programme are brought forward to Members no later than 3 months before the beginning of each financial year.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report; and 2. For further consideration to be given to the funding for Community Associations and Douglas Drive Day Centre pending the outcome of the Community Centre Strategy and in the light of the updated 2014/2015 budget position reported at item 8; and 4. To ensure that a Community Centre Strategy is in place before consideration is given to future years' Community Funding Programme and that draft proposals for such funding is provided in good time.*  
*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **7. 2014/15 FINAL CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN & 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

C Fletcher Ext 2933

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That Council be recommended to approve the revised 2013/14 and the final 2014/15 General Fund Capital programme, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B.
2. That Council be recommended to approve the 2013/14 and the final 2014/15 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B.
3. That Council be recommended to approve that only General Fund essential works will be undertaken in 2014/15 until such time that the programme is fully funded.
4. That Council be recommended to approve the updated forecast of resources as summarised in Appendix A.
5. That the Leader's Services Priority Group (LSPG) be reconvened to review and challenge the General Fund Capital Strategy and 15 Year Investment Plan.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report*  
*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## 8. 2014/2015 COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND GENERAL FUND BUDGET

C Fletcher Ext 2933

An Addendum to the report was circulated at the meeting together with revised recommendations and revised Appendices A and B.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the following proposals be recommended to Council on 26 February 2014.

1.1 That the Budget summarised at Appendix A to this report, be the Council's General Fund Budget for 2013/14 and 2014/15 subject the outcome of the further considerations to be given by the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Community, Health & Older People and Resources on funding for Community Associations, Douglas Drive Day Centre and Local Community Budgets. A further update on the 2013/14 budgets will be given at the March Executive as part of the quarterly monitoring process.

1.2 That approval be given to a General Fund Net Budget Requirement for 2014/15 of £9,544,040 a contribution to balances of **£321,596** and a Band D Council Tax of £192.10 (assuming a 1.9% increase), as reflected in the draft Council Tax Resolution at Appendix B to the report. (Subject to the further considerations in 1.1 above).

1.3 That approval be given to a General Fund Revenue Account Contingency Sum in the Budget and Policy Framework for 2014/15 of £400,000.

1.4 That the advice of the Strategic Director (Resources) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix C) be noted.

1.5 That the Fees and Charges increases (Appendix F) be noted.

1.6 That the contribution from the Collection Fund (Council Tax) for 2014/15 of £124,616 be noted.

1.7 That the cost falling on the General Fund below the safety net calculation (Non Domestic Rates) for 2013/14 of £152,039 and the

levy payment for 2014/15 of £184,339 falling due in 2014/15 be noted.

2. That it be noted that the General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy remains largely unchanged from that reported to the meeting of the Executive held on 21 January 2014 and continues to meet the financial objectives set by the Chief Finance Officer.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and the further considerations quoted in 1.1 following the decisions on item 6 on the agenda and the comments made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.*

*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

## **9. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

### The former Fujitsu Building – Six Hills Way

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that following the deterioration of the building, exacerbated by travellers using the site, investigations have shown that the building is owned by an offshore company, with UK Managing Agents, so it has been difficult to trace them.

A Notice has been served on 'The Owner' under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, requiring the removal and disposal of all the waste throughout the site. The Notice expires on 21/02/14 and if it had not been complied with, the Council could undertake works in default, to remove all the accumulations on the site and recharge the owners accordingly.

On 6 February further Notice was served under Section 79 of the Building Act. This provided the owners with 28 days to:

1. Make perimeter of site secure
2. Secure ground floor against entry and access at any other floor
3. Clean site of glass etc.
4. Remove broken glass from windows and replace with clear Perspex

5. Remove anything hanging from windows etc.

It was explained that at the end of 28 days the Council could prosecute through the Magistrates Court. At that stage the Council could consider undertaking the works in default and recharging the owners.

**10. 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 item 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**

**11. CONTRACT AWARD: LIFT SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

J Cansick Ext 2216

A typographical error to the Legal Implications at paragraph 5.2.1 was brought to the attention of Members.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report be approved.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in the report.*

*Options Considered: As contained in the report.*

**12 . URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None