

NOTICE OF DECISIONS TAKEN (PART I - FOR PUBLICATION)

MEETING: Executive – Tuesday 18 November 2014 – 14.00 hrs.
Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors S Taylor OBE CC (Chair), J Gardner (Vice-Chair), H Burrell, Mrs J Lloyd, R Raynor, S Speller, J Thomas and A Webb.

The deadline for Call-in of any of the decisions below is 27 November 2014.
Subject to there being no call-in the attached decisions may be implemented with effect from 28 November 2014.

ITEM / TITLE	<u>ACTION/LEAD</u>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	J Cansick Ext 2216
<p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Henry CC</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2. MINUTES – 28 OCTOBER 2014	J Cansick Ext 2216
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3. MINUTES – OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES	J Cansick Ext 2216
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting Environment and Economy Committee held on 21 October 2014 be noted.</p>	

4. DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

R Protheroe Ext 2938

In reply to a request the Head of Business Strategy, Community and Customer Services undertook to provide Members with details of the changes from the previous strategy.

The Executive was of the view that there was a need to address the issue of the public's perception of the extent of anti-social behaviour given that the report indicated that there had been a fall of 40% in the last three years, although these figures might have been affected by changes to police recording procedures.

It was **RESOLVED** that the content of the draft Community Safety Strategy 2015/18 and consultation proposals be approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

5. NEW POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

J Herbert Ext 2141

The Executive was of the view that recommendations 2.2 – 2.3 would benefit by deleting the references to 'clause 24' and quoting 'the policy for letting commercial properties to voluntary and community organisations' (VCOs). It was also considered that it was not appropriate to set a deadline for the necessary dialogue between Portfolio Holders for Communities and Neighbourhood and Resources and the affected groups.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources stated that in addition to the matters addressed in the report it had become apparent that there was also the need to undertake further work of the extent of compliance costs for the various community and voluntary groups.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the Policy for the Management of Commercial Properties, as set out at Appendix A of the report, is approved and brought into immediate effect with the exception of arrangements for Voluntary and Community Organisations (VCOs).

2. That the timescale for the implementation of the new policy for the letting of commercial properties to voluntary and community organisations is delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment), following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Neighbourhood and Resources.
3. That once the new policy for letting commercial properties to voluntary and community organisations has been implemented, they will apply to new applications on a timescale to be determined by the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Neighbourhood and Resources.
4. That the Council provides appropriate support to those VCOs currently occupying commercial premises in preparing for the new policy and that the policy implementation for those groups be delayed to ensure sufficient dialogue between the Portfolio Holders for Communities and Neighbourhoods and Resources and those organisations affected .
5. That further work be undertaken by the officers, in consultation with Portfolio Holders for Communities and Neighbourhood to determine the proportion of compliance costs to be met by the individual VCOs.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and (5) for the necessary work to be undertaken to ensure that these compliance costs charges were not overly burdensome to the affected VCOs.

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN

K Shirley Ext 2018

The Executive took the opportunity to thank all the officers and the members of the Housing Management Borad who had worked on the drafting of the business plan.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the key challenges and opportunities set out within the revised HRA Business Plan and the suggested means by which they will be addressed, as shown in the table in paragraph 4.1 of the report is noted.

2. That the HRA Business Plan (Appendix A) is approved and that delegated authority is given to the Strategic Director (Community), following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to make any amendments and agree the final version of the plan.
3. That an officer HRA Business Plan Implementation Group be established to track delivery of the plan and that this group reports into the Housing Management Board.
4. That the HRA Business Plan and the 30-year Financial Plan be refreshed on an annual basis and presented to the Executive for approval in July each year, in order to ensure that necessary adjustments are made after taking account of any changes to the underlying assumptions (including those highlighted in section 4.12 of the report).
5. That a strategic communications campaign be produced to effectively communicate the Council's housing plans to key stakeholders.
6. That the HRA growth which amounts to £121,375 in 2014/15 and £1,508,000 in 2015/16, as identified at paragraph 4.4 and in Appendix B of the report, is approved and incorporated into the draft HRA budget report to Executive in December 2014.
7. That the impact of the HRA growth on the General Fund, which totals £3,350 in 2014/15 and £4,050 2015/16, be incorporated into the draft General Fund budget.
8. That a Plain English summary of the plan be produced and that delegated authority is given to the Strategic Director (Community) to agree the summary document following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing.

Reason for Decision As contained in the report.

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

It was noted that the report did not include any impact that arose from the recommendations in the Priority Based Budgeting report in the Part II section of the agenda.

A revised Table 8 (paragraph 4.7.1 of the report) had been circulated.

Members noted that the funding for the Tenancy Handbook had now been carried forward on more than one occasion and if this budget was not used in 2015/2016 it would be withdrawn. It was considered that it might be more appropriate to publish the hand book online and only provided hard copies where requested.

The Executive was of the view that the previous year's proposals regarding car parking charges at the football ground should be quoted as 'deleted' rather than 'deferred'.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the 2014/15 2nd quarter net decrease in expenditure for the General Fund of £109,490 (£940,490 underspend including carry forward requests) is approved.
2. That a carry forward of £831,000 for the revenue contribution to capital for three New Homes Bonus projects is approved.
3. That the progress of the 2014/15 New Homes Bonus funded schemes is noted.
4. That the 2014/15 2nd quarter net increase in expenditure to the HRA of £198,570 is approved (£183,570 underspend including carry forward requests).
5. That a carry forward request of £15,000 for the HRA is approved.
6. That the proposal for 2014/2015 to introduce match day parking at Southfields be deleted.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and 6. To recognise that the proposal was not going to be pursued at this time.

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

8. CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE

C Fletcher Ext 2933

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the changes to the capital programme as reported and summarised in paragraph 4.1.1 and 4.6.1 of the report be approved.
2. The reduction in Prudential Borrowing costs as identified in paragraph 4.5.1 of the report for 2014/15 be noted and approved.

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

9. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None

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. PART II MINUTES – 28 OCTOBER 2014

J Cansick x 2216

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes Part II of the Executive held on 28 October 2014 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12. PRIORITY BASED BUDGETING

S. Crudgington x2185

The Strategic Director (Resources) informed the Executive of a meeting held the previous day with the Trades Unions and he reported on the matters raised.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations in the report, with some amendment, be approved

Reason for Decision: As contained in the report and addressed in the Part II Notice of Decisions.

Options Considered: As contained in the report.

13 . URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None