

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 21 January 2015, 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice-Chair), L Bell, P Bibby, R Broom, M Gardner, J Hollywell, L Harrington, C Latif, S Mead and P Stuart.

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 J Brown and M Cherney-Craw. There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 DECEMBER 2014	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 December 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

<p>3. 2015/2016 DRAFT CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE</p> <p>This item was considered at item 5 on the agenda.</p> <p>The Committee was reminded that this report was before them as a Budget and Policy Framework item.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the Garages Asset Management Plan was scheduled to be presented to the Executive in March.</p> <p>The Committee was further advised of slippage in both the General Fund and HRA capital programmes.</p> <p>The Committee did not wish to record any comments on the update.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the strategy be noted.</p>	
<p>4. DRAFT 2015/2016 COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND GENERAL FUND BUDGET</p> <p>This item was considered at item 5 on the agenda.</p> <p>The Committee was reminded that this report was before them as a Budget and Policy Framework item.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions concerning the impact of accepting the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant in lieu of any proposed Council Tax increase.</p> <p>A Member then proposed that the Committee recommend a 0% Council Tax increase. This proposal was not supported by the rest of the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee did not wish to record any comments on the report.</p>	

<p>It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	
<p>5. 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 time left before the end of the call-in period on 28 January 2015, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 In reply to a question the Committee was advised that both Stevenage and North Herts Councils had a duty to co-operate in the formulation of local plans. Without such co-operation it was possible that both plans would fail.</p> <p>Council Tax Base 2015-2016 In reply to a question it was confirmed that the basis of the Council Tax calculations had not changed from the previous year.</p> <p>Resizing of the Revenues and Benefits Service. Members asked a number of questions about the provision of anti-fraud services which were answered by the officers.</p> <p>Final Council Tax Support Scheme 2015-2016 The Committee was advised that a full review of the scheme was scheduled for early in 2015-2016.</p> <p>In reply to a question the Committee was advised that the scheme had not been significantly revised as it was believed that it remained fit for purpose for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>In reply to a further question the Committee was advised that there was a requirement to consult Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner in the formulation of any scheme as</p>	

they were preceptors.

Housing Revenue Account Final Budget Proposals 2015-2016 and Rent Setting

The Committee was reminded that the proposals had previously been submitted in draft format.

National and Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) 2015-2016 Tax Base

The Committee was advised of the reasons for the withdrawal of the report and for the delegation of authority to the Strategic Director (Resources) to approve the NNDR tax base for 2015-2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part I decisions taken by the Executive at its meeting on 20 January 2015 be noted:

- Minutes – 16 December
- Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees
- North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031
- Council Tax Base 2015-2016
- Resizing of Revenues and Benefits Service
- Final Council Tax Support Scheme.
- Housing Revenue Account Final Budget Proposals 2015-2016 and Rent Setting
- National and Non-Domestic Rates 2015-2015 Tax Base.

6. URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the urgent Part I Decision in respect of the Shared Anti-Fraud Service Partnership authorised by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.	
8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
<p>It was RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. Under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it 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. Members having considered the reasons for the following report being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203
PART II	
9. PART II MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 DECEMBER 2014	G Moody Ext 2203
It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 December 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
10. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
None.	
11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	