

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 16 February 2015, 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice-Chair), L Bell, P Bibby, J Brown, 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 R Broom, M Cherney-Craw and M Gardner. There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2015	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

3. PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
<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 18 February 2015, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>SoSafe Community Safety Strategy 2015/2018 The Head of Business Strategy, Community and Customer Services presented the report.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that although there was no longer a statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Community Safety Strategy, the SoSafe Partnership wished for the strategy to continue.</p> <p>Prudential Code Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 The Assistant Director Finance presented the report.</p> <p>In reply to a question the Committee was informed that financial institutions were invited to tender to provide banking services to the Council.</p> <p>In reply to a further question the Committee was advised that the Council took advantage of a scheme whereby cash balances could be invested with other Local Authorities.</p> <p>Building a Brighter Financial Future – Financial Inclusion Strategy 2015-2018. The Strategic Director Community presented the report.</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>Older Person’s Services Guide The Head of Business Strategy, Community and Customer Services presented the report and advised the Committee that an alternative title for the document was being sought.</p>	

Members commented that the document required proof reading to correct a number of typographical errors.

R Protheroe
Ext 2938

2015-2016 Council Tax Setting and General Fund Budget

The Assistant Director Finance presented the report.

The Committee was advised that the report had been amended to reflect the Executive's decision to freeze council tax for the year 2015/2016.

In reply to a question concerning New Homes Bonus the Committee was advised that spend proposals would be presented to Council at its February meeting and would then go through the usual budget scrutiny process.

Members then asked a number of questions about the Council Tax Freeze Grant which were answered by the Officer.

2015/2016 Capital Forward Plan and 5 Year Capital Strategy Update

The Assistant Director Finance presented the report.

The Committee was advised of further project spend slippage in both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), due primary to the Archer Road regeneration project.

The Committee was further advised that the number of Right to Buy purchases remained a major factor with the HRA.

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

- Minutes – 20 January 2015
- Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees
- SoSafe Community Safety Strategy 2015/2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prudential Code Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16 • Building a Brighter Financial Future – Financial Inclusion Strategy 2015-2016 • Older Person’s Services Guide • 2015-2016 Council Tax Setting and General Fund Budget • 2015-2016 Final Capital Forward Plan and 5 Year Capital Strategy Update. 	
4.	URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
5.	URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
	None.	
6.	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	Not required.	
PART II		
7.	PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	None.	
8.	URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	

9. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	