

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice-Chair) (left at 7.20 p.m.), L Bell, P Bibby, J Brown, M Cherney-Craw (left at 7.15 p.m.), M Gardner, 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 and J Hollywell. There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 FEBRUARY 2015	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203

3. NEW HOMES BONUS

This report had not been published on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and therefore 28 days' notice had not been given that this matter is to be considered by the Executive on 30 March 2015. Accordingly the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider that, given the reason for urgency, whether or not it was appropriate for the matter to be considered by the Executive without such notice being given.

The Committee was advised that as the New Homes Bonus allocation formed part of the Council's Budget and Policy framework it was necessary to consider these proposals in the March cycle of meetings so that the report could be submitted for recommendation to the Executive meeting on 30 March 2015, therefore allowing the projects to commence from early April 2015.

Additionally this report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before meeting nor had it been made available for public inspection. The Chair determined however that it be considered on this occasion.

The Committee received a brief introduction to each of the seven spend proposals under consideration from the project's lead officer.

A number of detailed questions were asked on each of the proposals which were answered by the Officers. Where an Officer was unable to supply an answer he/she undertook to reply directly to the Member concerned after the meeting.

A Member expressed concern that the repainting scheduled as part of the Town Centre Improvements scheme would only be a temporary measure and would require further maintenance in the future. It was suggested that perhaps a more permanent solution could be determined. The Committee wished for this comment to be passed to the Executive.

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That given the reason for urgency the Executive may consider the report at its meeting on 30 March

<p>even though the required 28 days' notice had not been given.</p> <p>2. That the report be noted and the following comment be passed to the Executive:</p> <p>'The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the proposals put forward under the New Homes Bonus scheme but wished to express its concern that the repainting proposed as part of the Town Centre Improvements may require further maintenance at extra cost in the near future.'</p>	
<p>4. 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 19 March 2015, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>Resident Involvement Strategy 2015/2018 The Head of Housing Management presented the report and advised the Committee that an amended version of the strategy, revised to take account the comments of the Executive, would be presented to the Housing Management Board on 19 March.</p> <p>2014/2015 Capital Strategy Update The Assistant Director Finance presented the report and advised the Committee that the Executive had requested that a report be presented, if possible, to its meeting on 30 March detailing the background to the current position and further action that could be taken to reduce the likelihood of deferred capital spend occurring in the future</p> <p>3rd Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The Assistant Director Finance presented the report.</p> <p>A typographical error was identified in recommendation 2 on the Executive Notice of Decisions which the</p>	<p>J Cresser Ext 2028</p> <p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>

<p>Constitutional Services Officer undertook to correct in the final version of the Executive minutes.</p> <p>Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for Quarter Three 2014/2015 The Strategic Director (Resources) presented the report.</p> <p>The Committee was advised that the overall score had reduced to 96%, from 99.12 % at the same time in 2013/2014, and that there were 11 red indicators.</p> <p>The Strategic Director (Resources) then identified each of the red indicators and advised the Committee of the remedial actions being taken in each case.</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the scorecard, particularly about the PDM measure, which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part I decisions taken by the Executive at its meeting on 10 March 2015 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes – 10 February 2015 • Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees • Resident Involvement Strategy 2015/2018 • 2014/2015 Capital Strategy Update • 3rd Quarter Monitoring Report General Fund and Housing Revenue Account • Stevenage Borough Council Balanced Scorecard for Quarter Three 2014/2015 	
<p>5. 2015/2016 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME</p>	
<p>The Committee considered proposals for its workplan for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.</p> <p>The Committee was of the view that SBC Media and Communications and the IT Partnership with East Herts DC should be scrutinised.</p>	

A review of Local Community Budgets, and the possibility of undertaking a joint review with the Community Select Committee, was discussed. The Committee was of the view that the Community Select Committee could undertake the review, should they choose to do so, and refer back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.

The Committee considered that it was not necessary to monitor or review the recommendations from previous scrutiny studies at this time.

The Committee was advised that a review of concessions given, which the Committee would undertake a piece of Policy Development, would be welcomed as it was believed that the Council's existing policy was no longer fit for purpose.

The Scrutiny Officer undertook to work out the programme for the studies.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That feedback from the Scrutiny Evaluation Questionnaire completed by Members be noted.
2. That having considered ideas previously agreed and suggestions put forward by individual Members from their Scrutiny Evaluation Survey through January and February 2015 the Committee determined the subject matter of its Scrutiny Studies for 2015/2016 to be:
 - a. SBC Media and Communications
 - b. The IT Partnership with East Herts DC
3. That the Policy Development work identified for the Committee in 2015/16 as listed below be noted:
 - a. Design of the 2016/2017 Council Tax Support Scheme
 - b. Concessions Policy – looking at all of those concessions that the Council currently provides and

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	whether these are still appropriate.	
6.	URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
7.	URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
	None.	
8.	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	
9.	PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	This report had not been circulated to Members five clear days before the meeting. The Chair determined however that given the short time left before the end of the call-in period on 19 March 2015, it be considered	

<p>on this occasion.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II decision taken by the Executive at its meeting on 10 March 2015 be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Acquisitions at Fresson Road. 	
<p>10. URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
<p>11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None.</p>	