

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 20 January 2016, 6pm, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), L Bell, P Bibby, L Briscoe, J Brown, M Downing, M Gardner, L Harrington, C Latif, R Parker CC 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	
An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Mead. There were no declarations of interest.	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2015	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 December 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
3. DRAFT 2016/2017 COUNCIL TAX SETTING AND GENERAL FUND BUDGET	
The Committee was reminded that the report was before them as a Budget and Policy Framework item and	

<p>any comments made would be incorporated into the final report that the Executive would consider for recommendation to Council in February.</p> <p>In reply to a question concerning the requirement to identify an alternative savings option to compensate for the Executive's decision not to realise Community Transport Service savings of £14,050 the Committee was advised it was a matter of principle to do so as relying on reserves to meet savings shortfalls would be unsustainable in the longer term.</p> <p>In reply to a further question when the meeting had moved into its Part II session the Committee was advised of the savings options discussed by the LSPG that had been rejected by the Executive.</p> <p>A Member suggested that the Committee make a comment to the Executive that the Council propose a zero percent Council Tax increase. The Committee did not support this proposal.</p> <p>The Committee did not wish for any comments to be passed to the Executive.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	<p>C Fletcher Ext 2933</p>
<p>4. 2016/2017 DRAFT CAPITAL FORWARD PLAN AND 5 YEAR CAPITAL STRATEGY UPDATE</p>	
<p>The Committee was reminded that the report was before them as a Budget and Policy Framework item and any comments made would be incorporated into the final report that the Executive would consider for recommendation to Council in February.</p> <p>In reply to a question concerning parking enforcement and the provision of parking bays the Committee was advised that works would generally be prioritised on highway safety issues and it was noted that the recommendations of the Broadwater Parking Survey had yet to be fully implemented.</p> <p>In reply to a further question the Committee was advised of potential funding sources to move forward the</p>	<p>C Fletcher Ext 2933</p>

<p>redevelopment of the Forum.</p> <p>The Committee did not wish for any comments to the passed to the Executive.</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 2016, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget Proposals 2016/2017 and Rent Setting</p> <p>In reply to a question concerning communication to tenants the Committee was advised that all tenants would receive a comprehensive leaflet detailing changes to the rents and services structure and that drop-in sessions would be arranged for those requiring further assistance.</p> <p>Final Council Tax Support Scheme</p> <p>In reply to a question it was confirmed that the 2% social care precept increase as shown in table 3b referred solely to the County Council element of the total.</p> <p>In reply to a further question it was confirmed that it was the Council's intention to review the Council Tax Support Scheme in 2016/2017.</p> <p>Draft 2016/2017 Council Tax Setting and General Fund Budget</p> <p>This report was dealt with as a Budget and Policy Framework item at item 3.</p>	<p>J Cresser Ext 2028</p> <p>C Fletcher Ext 2933</p>

National and Non-Domestic Rates 2016/2017 Tax Base

In reply to a question concerning the Government's announcement on the retention of Business Rates the Committee was advised that the provisional settlement had been drawn up under the existing regime pending the outcome of the consultation process.

C Fletcher
Ext 2933

Council Tax Base 2016/2017

In reply to a question concerning the reduction in provisions for bad debts the Committee was advised that as the levels of Council Tax Support Scheme payments fell there would be a corresponding drop in the level of bad debt provision for those payments.

C Fletcher
Ext 2933

2016/2017 Draft Capital Forward Plan and 5 Year Capital Strategy Update

This report was dealt with as a Budget and Policy Framework item at item 4.

Review of the Implementation of the Allocations Scheme

Members asked a number of detailed questions about the 5 year rule, key-workers, exemptions and the reduction in the numbers on the allocations list which were answered by the Officer.

J Cresser
Ext 2028

The Committee was advised that a further review of the scheme was possible in 2016/2017 due to a number of pending changes to legislation.

Revised Rent and Service Charging Policy.

In reply to a question it was confirmed that the 1% rent reduction would be cumulative over the next 4 years.

SBC ICT Strategy 2016/2018

<p>The Committee was advised that the Executive had discussed ICT training for Members and were of the view that a 'one size fits all' approach would be inappropriate.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following part 1 decisions of the Executive be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget Proposals 2016/2017 and Rent Setting • Final Council Tax Support Scheme • Draft 2016/2017 Council Tax Setting and General Fund Budget • National and Non-Domestic Rates 2016/2017 Tax Base • Council Tax Base 2016/2017 • 2016/2017 Draft Capital Forward Plan and 5 Year Capital Strategy Update • Review of the Implementation of the Allocations Scheme • Revised Rent and Service Charge Setting Policy • SBC ICT Strategy 2016-2018 	<p>H Lewis Ext 2496</p>
<p>6. URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None.</p>	
<p>8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p>	
<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</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>

<p>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>	
<p>PART II</p>	
<p>10. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE (IF ANY)</p>	
<p>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 28 January 2016, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>BMO Review and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>Framework for the Provision of Agency Workers – Contract Award</p> <p>Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following part 1 decisions of the Executive be noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMO Review and Improvement Plan • Framework for the Provision of Agency Workers – Contract Award 	<p>M Partridge Ext 2456</p> <p>H Lewis Ext 2496</p>
<p>11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p>	

None.	
12. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	