

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: Monday 28 November 2016
PLACE: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN
MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby (Vice Chair), M Downing, M Gardner, E Harrington, J Hollywell, A Mitchell, R Parker CC, C Saunders and P Stuart.

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1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	ACTION/LEAD
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Brown, C Latif and S Mead. There were no declarations of interest.	L Jerome Ext 2203
2.	MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2016	
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 October 2016 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Clarification was sought by Members on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Community Budgets - The Chair advised that discussions had been held with Members regarding the Local Community Budget (LCB) limits. Agreement had been reached to continue with the £100 limit but that 10% of the LCB should be set aside for Members to use in smaller amounts if and when required. The Chair agreed to follow this up to ensure that all Members were informed of this change in procedure. • Land Registry Maps - The Strategic Director (Community) advised that he would request the Strategic Director (Environment) to send out to Members the Land Registry Maps referred to in 	<p>L Jerome Ext 2203</p> <p>T Pike Ext 2288</p>

	<p>the Minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness Information - Officers advised that detailed information relating to the days lost due to sickness broken down to reflect long term sickness against short term illness and section by section would be produced as part of the next performance report submitted to this committee. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part I decisions of the Executive taken on 22 November 2016 are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Minutes – 18 October 2016 • Environment & Economy Select Committee Minutes – 12 October 2016 • Community Select Committee Minutes – 19 October 2016 • OSC Minutes – 24 October 2016 • Community Select Committee Minutes - 25 October 2016 • Environment & Economy Select Committee Minutes – 31 October 2016 • 2016/17 Mid-Year Treasury Management Review - Members requested clarification on the implications of the removal of the current treasury management limit to maintain £10Million in instant access or overnight balances limits. • Revision to Contract Standing Orders - Report withdrawn • Stevenage Borough Council Co-operative Corporate Plan Future Town Future Council – A revised version of the Appendices were circulated showing minor revisions to the Plan following the Executive meeting. Officers advised that the Plan would be published on the Council website immediately following the Full Council Meeting and regular updates would be reported via Chronicle. • Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Review • Revised Rent and Service Charge Setting Policy (Residential Properties) - In response to a question, Officers clarified the difference between social rents and affordable rents. • 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – The Committee was pleased to note the improving position in relation to the Repairs and Voids Service. <p>Officers advised that in terms of Housing Benefit overpayments, Cllr Joan Lloyd, Executive</p>	<p>L Jerome Ext 2203</p>

	<p>Member for Resources would be reviewing all those cases that had been in the system for 12 months or longer.</p> <p>A number of questions were asked regarding the Indoor Market. It was noted that a review of the Market would be taking place in early 2017 and a report would be submitted to Members on the outcome of the review. It was suggested that the Market could be the subject of a future scrutiny review.</p> <p>In response to a question about recycling, officers advised that there had been a mechanical breakdown which had led to an exception of having to 'co-mingle' recycling but this had now been rectified and recycling was now being separated again.</p> <p>The Assistant Director (Finance) agreed to take on board the concern that when the position with regard to the Council's reserves was reported publicly, we need to make it clear why the Reserves were required as this could be misunderstood by the public.</p> <p>In respect of Neighbourhood Wardens, the Committee was advised that the first round of recruitment had been unsuccessful but it was hoped that interviews would be taking place in the next few weeks and appointments made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016/17 2nd Quarter Capital Strategy Update • Appointment of External Auditors (for Audit of Accounts from 2018/19 onwards) – In response to a question, officers advised that the change in process following the decision to join the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors would not affect the Council's current Audit Committee arrangements. 	C Fletcher Ext 2933
4.	<p>URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>None</p>	
5.	<p>URGENT PART I BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203
6.	<p>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that:</p>	L Jerome

	<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 Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.</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>	Ext 2203
PART II		
7.	<p>PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</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 30 November 2016, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II decisions of the Executive taken on 22 November 2016 are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part II Minutes – Tuesday 22 November 2016 • Financial Security 2017/18 – 2018/19 - The Committee noted that subject to the deferral of proposal S7 recommendations in the report the Executive had approved the report. 	
8.	<p>URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>None</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203
9.	<p>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203

