

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: Thursday 23 February 2017
PLACE: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN
MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby (Vice Chair), J Brown, M Downing, M Gardner, E Harrington, J Hollywell, S Mead, A Mitchell, R Parker CC and P Stuart.

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1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Saunders</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	ACTION/LEAD
		L Jerome Ext 2203
2.	<p>MINUTES – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 JANUARY 2017</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 January 2017 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203
3.	<p>DRAFT PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY</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 for recommendation to Council in February.</p> <p>The report outlined proposals for a Draft Property Investment Strategy for 2017/18 – 2019/20 and recommended an initial investment of £15m in Property Investment to be resourced from prudential borrowing. Periodic reports on the progress in this area would come back to Executive and this</p>	

	<p>Committee.</p> <p>In response to a question, the Property Development Manager advised that she would be leading on any acquisitions, supported by her team alongside the engagement of consultants when considered necessary.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>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 2 March 2017, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Review Including Prudential Code Indicators 2017/18 – The Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) advised that the Executive were of the view that Council should be recommended to implement the revised arrangements from 1 March 2017 rather than waiting for the new financial year. <p>The Committee also noted the comments from the Audit Committee and Executive in relation to the use of property funds. It had been agreed that the Assistant Director (Finance & Estates) should also consult with the Audit Committee, not just the Chair. In response to a question on this matter, the Assistant Director advised that the timing of investments would not be compromised as special meetings of the Audit Committee would be convened if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in Play Areas – Following an introduction from the Strategic Director, the Committee received a presentation from the Environmental Performance & Development Manager on the proposals. <p>The Environmental Performance & Development Manager replied to a number of Members' questions including in relation to the play area at Bray Drive. She advised that officers were looking to resolve the issue of ownership and if it was the Council a Community Asset Transfer</p>	

could be investigated. Officers also confirmed they would respond to Members on the detail of equipment at the Sparrow Drive site.

Members were pleased to note that ward councillors would be consulted on the proposals in their areas at the earliest opportunity including a tour/walkabout with Officers and Members of the play areas in each ward.

- **2017/18 Final Capital Forward Plan & 5 Year Capital Strategy Update** – The Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) advised the Committee that the Executive was of the view that the proposals to fund drainage work at the golf course (£345,000) could not be viewed as a priority at this time

In response to a question, the Strategic Director advised that a fundamental review of the whole of Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) was underway and a report would be brought to the Committee in due course.

- **2017/2018 Council Tax Setting and General Fund Budget** – The Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) advised that proposals for the New Homes Bonus would be reported to the Council meeting on 28 February and on to the Special Meeting of this Committee scheduled for 2 March 2017.
- **Corporate Procurement Strategy 2016 – 2020** – The Committee was advised that the issue of local procurement, recognising the relevant legal/procurement boundaries, with a view to encouraging investment within the Town's economy had been discussed at the Executive.

Members were keen to ensure that the Council's commitment to equalities and diversity was also carried through to ensure suppliers were aware of the requirements.

- **Draft Property Investment Strategy** – Dealt with as a Budget and Policy Framework item at item 3.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

5.	<p>URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>None</p>	
6.	<p>URGENT PART I BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203
7.	<p>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	L Jerome Ext 2203
PART II		
8.	<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 2 March 2017, it be considered on this occasion.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the following Part II decisions of the Executive taken on 22 February 2017 are</p>	

	<p>noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part II Minutes – Wednesday 22 February 2017 • Stevenage Football Club – North Stand – The Committee noted that the Executive had approved the report. <p>The Chair of the Committee agreed to waive the call-in on in relation to this decision to enable the decision on this matter to be made known to the football club as soon as possible after discussion at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaseholder Payment Options (Major Works) Policy – The Committee noted that the Executive had approved the report. 	
9.	<p>URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>None.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203
10.	<p>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	L Jerome Ext 2203