

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

<b>Meeting:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 16 July 2018	
<b>Place:</b>	Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete	
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors:	L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), S Barr, J Brown, M Downing, J Fraser, J Hanafin, M Gardner, L Kelly, S Mead, A Mitchell CC and R Parker CC.

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<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>G. Moody X 2203</b>
	<p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor S-J Potter.</p> <p>Councillor M Gardner declared a non-pecuniary financial interest in item 4 on the Decisions of the Executive (The Future of Fairlands Valley Farmhouse) and left the meeting for the discussion of that item.</p> <p>There were no other declarations of interest.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES - 5 APRIL 2018</b>	<b>G. Moody X 2203</b>
	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>3</b>	<b>PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</b>	
	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 20 July it be considered on this occasion.	

## **Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees**

The Committee noted the comments of the Executive.

### **The Future of Fairlands Valley Farmhouse**

Councillor M Gardner left the meeting for this item.

The Strategic Director (Tom Pike) requested that the Council's appreciation for the work undertaken by the two community groups that had made bids for the property be recorded in the minutes and advised the Committee that full consideration had been given to those bids.

Members asked a number of detailed questions about the report which were answered by the Officer.

### **4th Quarter Monitoring Revenue Report – General Fund and HRA 2017/18**

Members asked a number of questions about the recovery of Housing Benefit overpayments, overseas deposits and the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit which were answered by the Officer.

### **4th Quarter Monitoring Capital Report – General Fund and HRA 2017/18**

In reply to a question concerning the repayment of £112,000 Right to Buy receipts to the Government the Committee was advised that all options had been considered and that repayment could be made early to avoid the accrual of extra interest charges.

### **Statement of Community Involvement**

The Committee was advised that the consultation period for the draft Statement of Community Involvement had been extended to 8 weeks (from 4) at the request of the Executive to take into account any potential impact of the school holiday period.

In reply to a question concerning potential improvements resulting from the Statement, the Committee was advised that the Council was seeking to establish a proactive interaction with residents and to draw out comment early in any process. The Council would also look to increase the use of social media.

A Member commented on the consultation process in planning applications and the Strategic Director (Tom Pike) invited the Member to raise those concerns outside of the meeting.

### **Adoption of General Fund Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan**

In reply to a question concerning the valuations of the Council's properties, the Committee was advised that the valuations shown reflected those listed in the Council's Asset Register which would be presented to the Statement of Accounts Committee on 26 July. It was noted that the valuation was not the potential sale value, rather the asset's replacement cost or a measure of the income that it generated.

### **2017/18 Annual Report and Performance Overview**

The Strategic Director (Matt Partridge) advised the Committee that the report had received a favourable reception from the Executive and that the Executive had requested a social media campaign highlighting the work of the Council.

In response to a Member request the Strategic Director (Matt Partridge) undertook to liaise with Hertfordshire Constabulary to determine the factors in the increase in the reporting of criminal damage.

The Committee requested that the performance table in the Annual Report be printed in black, rather than blue, in future.

In reply to a question concerning the circulation of the Annual Report the Committee was advised that the report was published on-line and the Strategic Director (Matt Partridge) undertook to clarify who received a copy.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Part I decisions of the Executive are noted:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees</li> <li>• The Future of Fairlands Valley Farmhouse</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Monitoring Revenue Report – General Fund and HRA 2017/18</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Monitoring Capital Report – General Fund and HRA 2017/18</li> <li>• Statement of Community Involvement</li> <li>• Adoption of General Fund Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>• 2017/18 Annual Report and Performance Overview</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19</b>	<b>S. Weaver X 2332</b>
	<p>The Committee requested that a robust approach be taken to the topic ‘Diversity in SBC Workforce’ and suggested a number of areas to include in the review.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the report is noted.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO MEDIA &amp; COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW</b>	<b>S. Weaver X 2332</b>
	<p>In reply to a question concerning the follow up process for Executive Member responses the Committee was advised that follow up reviews could be scheduled into the Committee’s workplan.</p> <p>Members requested that this response be reviewed by the end of the Financial Year to tie in with the launch of the Council’s Communications Plan.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Executive Member response to the Media and Communications review is noted.</p>	

<b>6</b>	<b>URGENT PART 1 DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	
	None.	
<b>7</b>	<b>URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS</b>	
	None.	
<b>8</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b>	<b>G. Moody X 2203</b>
	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 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 the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 20016; and</li> <li>2. That, having considered the reasons for the following items being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.</li> </ol>	
<b>9</b>	<b>PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE</b>	
	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 20 July it be considered on this occasion.	

	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the following Part II decisions of the Executive are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property Investment Strategy – Update</li> <li>• Award of Contract for the Refurbishment and Maintenance of Lifts (2018 – 2023)</li> <li>• Award of Contract for Insurance Services</li> </ul>	
10	<b>URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	
	None.	
11	<b>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b>	
	None.	