

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Meeting:	Council	
Date:	Wednesday, 27 February 2019	
Place:		
Members Present:	Councillors:	Simon Speller (Deputy Mayor in the Chair), Doug Bainbridge, Sandra Barr, Philip Bibby CC, Lloyd Briscoe, Rob Broom, Jim Brown, Howard Burrell, Michael Downing, John Gardner, Michelle Gardner, Jody Hanafin, Richard Henry, Jackie Hollywell, Lizzy Kelly, Graham Lawrence, John Lloyd, Mrs Joan Lloyd, Lin Martin-Haugh, Andy McGuinness, Maureen McKay, John Mead, Adam Mitchell CC, Robin Parker CC, Ralph Raynor, Graham Snell, Sharon Taylor OBE CC, Jeannette Thomas and Tom Wren

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Mayor Councillor Margaret Notley, Councillors Laurie Chester, Dave Cullen, James Fraser, Liz Harrington, Roni Hearn, Matthew Hurst, Sarah Mead, Sarah-Jane Potter and Ann Webb.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	MINUTES - COUNCIL - 18 DECEMBER 2018	
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.</p>	
3	MINUTES - SPECIAL COUNCIL - 30 JANUARY 2019	
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 January 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor.</p>	

4	MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS	
<p>The Deputy Mayor informed the Council that he had undertaken a number of engagements since the last meeting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending an event regarding gambling addiction at the Citizens Advice Bureau with the Leader of the Council and the Bishop of St Albans to ;• A visit to Tracks, a thriving centre for children with autism and one of the Mayor's charities this year to receive a cheque for £5,000 for the Charity;• Attending the Stevenage Rotary Awards. <p>At this juncture the Deputy Mayor invited Councillor John Gardner to speak.</p> <p>Councillor John Gardner moved and Councillor Jackie Hollywell seconded that the order of business be varied by bringing forward Item 13 – Consultation Response, Gresley Park to be taken at this point.</p> <p>Upon being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that Item 13 – Consultation Response, Gresley Park be taken immediately after this item.</p> <p>Councillor Robin Parker then moved and Councillor Andy McGuinness seconded that the order of business also be varied by bringing forward Item 10B – Notice of Motion, Gresley Park to be taken at this point.</p> <p>Upon being put to the vote it was lost.</p>		

5	MAIN DEBATE - 2019/20 COUNCIL TAX AND GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGETS	
<p>The Main Debate related to item 5A and item 5B on the agenda.</p> <p>The Leader then presented the 2019/2020 Budget and moved the Motion, recommendations of the Executive and the formal Council Tax Resolution that was circulated around the Chamber.</p> <p>After a full debate, a recorded vote* was taken and it was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the 2018/19 revised net expenditure on the General Fund of £10,063,500 is approved. 2. That a final General Fund Budget for 2019/20 of £8,802,520 is approved for consultation purposes, with a contribution from balances of £48,446 and a Band D Council Tax of £210.57. This is reflected in the formal Council Tax Resolution 3 – 8 below. 3. That the following are approved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the revised working revenue estimates for the year 2018/19 amounting to £10,063,500 and the revenue estimates for 2019/20 amounting to £8,802,520; b. the contribution from balances totalling £1,368,639 in 2018/19; c. the contribution from balances totalling £48,446 in 2019/20. 4. That it is noted that at its meeting on 23 January 2019 the Executive calculated the amount of 27,329.9 Band D equivalent properties as its council tax base for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011. 		

5. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2019/20 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 74 of the Localism Act 2011:

- a. £84,308,395 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act, less the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d)
- b. £78,553,484 Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3)(a) to (d) of the Act.
- c. £5,754,911 Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3a above exceeds the aggregate at 3b above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- d. £210.57 Being the amount at 3c divided by the amount at 2 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year
- e. Valuation Bands
 - A £ 140.38
 - B £ 163.78

C	£ 187.17
D	£ 210.57
E	£ 257.36
F	£ 304.16
G	£ 350.95
H	£ 421.14

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 3d. above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

6. a. That it is noted that for the year 2019/20 Hertfordshire County Council have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	Basic Amount Of Council Tax	Adult Social Care Charge	2019/20 Council Tax
A	£ 842.78	£ 63.85	£ 906.63
B	£ 983.22	£ 74.51	£ 1,057.73
C	£ 1,123.70	£ 85.14	£ 1,208.84

D	£ 1,264.15	£ 95.79	£ 1,359.94
E	£ 1,545.08	£ 117.07	£ 1,662.15
F	£ 1,825.99	£ 138.37	£ 1,964.36
G	£ 2,106.93	£ 159.64	£ 2,266.57
H	£ 2,528.30	£ 191.58	£ 2,719.88

- b. That it is noted that for the year 2019/20 Hertfordshire Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and amended by Section 27 of the Police and Magistrates' Court Act 1994, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£ 125.33
B	£ 146.22
C	£ 167.11
D	£ 188.00
E	£ 229.78
F	£ 271.56
G	£ 313.33

H £ 376.00

7. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e. and 4a. and b. above, the Council in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts for council tax for the year 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

A	£1,172.34
B	£1,367.73
C	£1,563.12
D	£1,758.51
E	£2,149.29
F	£2,540.08
G	£2,930.85
H	£3,517.02

8. To determine in accordance with Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992 that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2019/20 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved by the Secretary of State under Section 52ZC having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3e.

9. That the General Fund Summary as shown at Appendix A to the report, is approved.
10. That the Risk Assessments of General Fund Balances and the minimum level of General Fund reserves of £2,671,410, as shown at Appendix B to the report, is approved.
11. That the contingency sum of £400,000 within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates, is approved for 2019/20, (unchanged from 2018/19).
12. That the 2019/20 proposed Fees and Charges increase of £219,790 (Appendix C to the report) are approved.
13. That the 2019/20 proposed Financial Security Options of £798,552 (Appendix D to this report and including fees and charges detailed in Appendix C) are approved.
14. That 2019/20 business rate gains totalling £400,000 above the baseline assessment be ring fenced for town centre regeneration (SG1), (paragraph 4.6.7 of the report refers) are approved.
15. That 2019/20 business rate gains totalling £364,830 above the baseline assessment be used to increase General Fund balances for 2019/20, (paragraph 4.6.7 of the report refers) are approved.
16. That 2019/20 business rate gains totalling £275,000 above the baseline assessment be transferred to the NDR allocated reserve for 2019/20, (paragraph 4.6.7 of the report refers) are approved.
17. That the 2019/20 Council Tax Support scheme is approved as set out in section 4.8 to this report.
18. That the advice of the Assistant Director (Finance and Estates) on the robustness of the draft budget and the adequacy of reserves (Appendix G) is noted.
19. That the following individual initiatives are noted:
 - £26,000 to fund a spring clean for the Town, with the Council's Environment Teams working with community groups such as green space volunteers and resident action groups;
 - £5,000 to support road safety initiatives around schools to match fund spending from County Councillor highways

budgets;

- £1,000 to support events to mark the anniversary of 100 years of council housing this year;
- £1,000 to work with the Co-op in Stevenage on a Red Box project to provide free sanitary products in Stevenage schools; and
- £1,000 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Stevenage Day.

*Details of the recorded vote will be published in the Minutes of the meeting.

6	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS	
	None received.	
7	QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL	
	None received.	
8	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC	
	None received.	

9	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S UPDATE	
<p>The Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked about the Council's aspirations to apply for Sustainable Travel Town Plan status.</p> <p>In response the Leader of the Council replied that she was very keen for the Council to do this as significant progress had been made in the area of sustainable travel, including electric vehicle points, the cycleway network, and in trying to encourage people out of their cars. The excellent transport links into London also meant Stevenage was an ideal town where sustainable travel should be encouraged. The Leader urged the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in his role as Herts County Council Executive Member for Highways to talk to the County Council about this issue particularly in relation to bus services in the Town.</p>		
10	NOTICE OF MOTIONS	
<p>10A Parental Leave Policy for Members</p> <p>After a full debate, including a request for the LGA Policy to be circulated to all Members of the Council, it was moved, seconded and RESOLVED:</p> <p>'That this Council notes that analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. Of the seats that were up for election in 2018, 38% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2014 when these seats were last contested; That across England, Labour has improved its representation since seats were last up for grabs, with 45% women compared with 40% in 2014, Liberal Democrat representation up from 34% to 36% whilst the Conservative Party saw a fall from 31% to 29% in the share of its councillors who are female; That as of the 2018 local elections, only 26 out of 119 Labour councils and only 33 out of 130 opposition Labour Groups are led by women; As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies, according to research by the Fawcett Society; That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors; That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who</p>		

choose to adopt.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the LGA Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting; To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate; To notify the LGA Labour Group that this council has passed a motion at full council to adopt the parental leave policy.'

10B GRESLEY PARK, STEVENAGE

At this juncture, the Chief Executive advised the Council that the recommendations in the officer report at item 13 on this matter were approved earlier in the meeting and that as such, much of the content of this Motion was incompatible with that decision and therefore, as it stood, the Motion was now void and could not be moved.

11

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS/PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Council received four questions. Details of the responses given to the questions are summarised below.

A. Question from Councillor R Parker

In response to a question regarding Air Quality, Councillor John Gardner advised that the Council was required to provide an annual report to Defra on air quality and at present SBC deployed 33 air quality monitoring devices around the Borough which were left in place for a minimum of a year to evaluate data trends. Defra encouraged a flexible approach to locating them and officers carry out a review of their deployment annually to assess whether an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) needed to be designated to achieve the health-based air quality objectives of an Air Quality Action Plan.

Stevenage did not currently have any AQMAs because we did not meet the thresholds. Environmental Health officers were regularly involved in the identification of new sites to monitor; to consider whether any new development proposals

were likely to have a detrimental effect on air quality or introduce populations to areas of poor air quality.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Gardner agreed that an email be sent to Councillor Parker with further information on SBC air quality monitoring including an explanation of how to access the air quality data.

B. Question from Councillor A McGuinness

In response to a question regarding the recycling bag trial, Councillor Gardner advised that the recycling pilot concluded in January 2019. Officers were currently finalising their analysis of the findings including feedback from participant surveys and resident focus groups. Initial indications were positive. Officers were also liaising with Councillor Gardner in respect of the Government's Resources & Waste Strategy that was published recently. Consideration was being given to the potential impacts for Stevenage and the future configuration of recycling and waste management services in the future. Consultations were expected to be launched imminently by Government regarding draft proposals for Extended Responsibility for producers to cover the total net cost of recycling or processing packaging from their products and a Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers. Feedback was also expected to be sought on proposals to harmonise recycling arrangement across collection authorities including the possibility of non-chargeable garden waste collection services to households with gardens and weekly separate food waste collections.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Gardner agreed that the comments received from Councillor McGuinness would be incorporated into the work the Council was doing to determine options for the future.

C. Question from Councillor G Snell

In response to a question regarding Blue Badge enforcement, Councillor Ralph Raynor advised that the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices was guided by clear legislation and requirements, with different forms of violation recorded under particular codes.

In relation to violations of the rules related to Blue Badges, there was one particular PCN code (code 40) which related to non-display of a Blue Badge or parking in the wrong place.

Between 1 February 2018 and 31 January 2019, a total of 625 PCNs were issued for the violation of being “Parked in a designated disabled person’s parking place without displaying a valid disabled person’s badge in the prescribed manner”. 121 of these were subsequently cancelled as the driver produced a valid Blue Badge which they’d forgotten to display or hadn’t been clearly visible in the windscreen. This meant that 504 notices were issued for parking in the wrong place.

Councillor Raynor advised that it was not possible to separate out overstays by Blue Badge holders, as opposed to other overstays because as all overstays were issued with a different form of PCN ticket for “Parking for longer than permitted”.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Raynor agreed to ask officers to provide information to Councillor Snell regarding Blue Badge contravention in neighbourhood centres.

D. Question from Councillor T Wren

In response to a question regarding IT performance, Councillor Broom advised that over the last twelve months uptime stood at 97.5 %. The ICT systems had four major outages in the past year. There had been two related to Dark fibre cuts by road works and two in relation to our Horizon VDI desktop provisioning system. The Council was mitigating the dark fibre cuts by installing a secondary Microwave network link in the coming months. The VDI desktop solution had a proposed full upgrade for software and hardware this year, which would mitigate the failures the Council have experienced from aging hardware and software.

During the downtime staff were able to remain productive by instigating their Business Unit business continuity plans.

In response to a supplementary question, Councillor Broom advised that the Council had an emerging ICT strategy which would be shared with all Members in due course.

12	UPDATES FROM SCRUTINY CHAIRS	
	<p>The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked Members for their continued hard work and diligence in the work of the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair of the Environment and Economy Select Committee advised that the Committee had been busy and active over a range of issues and invited Members to attend the meeting of the Select Committee on 28 February which would be discussing the Stevenage Rail Service update.</p>	
13	STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO EAST HERTS COUNCIL REGARDING THE GRESLEY PARK PLANNING APPLICATION	
	<p>This item was brought forward on the agenda and taken immediately after the Mayoral Communications.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor asked the Interim Assistant Director (Planning and Regeneration) to introduce the report.</p> <p>Following a full debate including contributions from the public gallery, it was moved, seconded and RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That East Hertfordshire District Council be advised that Stevenage Borough Council, whilst accepting that the principle of development in this location has already been established by Policy EOS1 of the East Herts District Plan (2018), expresses significant concerns with regard to a number of aspects of the proposed development. 2. That East Hertfordshire District Council be advised that prior to the determination of this application, further consideration should be given to the following areas, as outlined in the report :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing • Access and highways issues 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education provision • Health provision • Design and neighbourhood issues • Environmental concerns • Financial considerations. <p>3. That East Hertfordshire District Council be advised that the current noise impact assessment (report reference:- AC104941-2R0, Dec 2018) does not adequately cover the impact that increased traffic noise could potentially have on existing residents in Stevenage to the west of the application site and that therefore the applicant should be required to undertake a further noise assessment of the proposed development.</p> <p>4. That the report be submitted to EHDC as the corporate response of Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) to the current application.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCLUDING PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATORS 2019/20</p>	
	<p>It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Treasury Management Strategy as shown at Appendix A to the report is approved. 2. That the draft prudential indicators for 2019/20 are approved. 3. That it is noted that no changes are being proposed to treasury limits contained within the Council's Treasury Management Policies. 	

	4. That the investment services provided to Queensway Properties LLP be noted.	
15	MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2019-20	
	It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.	
16	PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20	
	It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED : 1. That the Pay Policy Statement set out in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Data Transparency Code 2015 attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved 2. That the Pay Policy be placed on the Council's website and that a notice of the policy be published in the next edition of Chronicle.	
17	AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES	
	It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that the Draft Minutes of the Audit Committee of 4 February 2019 are noted.	

18	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	<p>It was RESOLVED that:</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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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. 	
19	INTERIM APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE, HEAD OF PAID SERVICE, ELECTORAL REGISTRATIONS OFFICER AND RETURNING OFFICER	
	<p>It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the appointment of Matthew Partridge, with effect from 1 March 2019 be approved, as: Electoral Registrations Officer Returning Officer 2. the appointment of Matthew Partridge, with effect from 8 April 2019 be approved, as: Interim Chief Executive Interim Head of the Paid Service 	