



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 16 March 2020 Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Lisa Jerome 01438 242203

Members:

Councillors: L Martin-Haugh (Chair), P Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), S Barr, J Brown, L Chester, M Downing, ME Gardner, S-J McDonough, A McGuinness, J Mead, S Mead, A Mitchell CC, R Parker CC and C Parris

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 AND 17 FEBRUARY 2020

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 12 and 17 February 2020.

Minutes attached

Pages 5 – 12

3. PART 1 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

To consider the following Part 1 Decisions of the Executive taken on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

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	Select Committees	
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10 3rd Quarter Capital Monitoring Report – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2019/20

Notice of Decisions to follow

PLEASE BRING YOUR AGENDA AND REPORTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2020

4. URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

5. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

To agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee for the new Municipal Year.

Pages 13 - 20

6. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part 1 business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

- 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs1 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.
- 2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

8. PART II MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 FEBRUARY 2020

To approve as a correct record the Part II Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 12 February 2020.

Minutes attached

9. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

To consider the Part II Decisions of the Executive taken on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

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Notice of Decisions to follow

PLEASE BRING YOUR AGENDA AND REPORTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2020

10. URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

Agenda Published 6 March 2020



STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair) (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-

Chair) (Vice Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Laurie Chester, Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, John Mead, Sarah Mead, Adam Mitchell

CC, Robin Parker CC and Claire Parris

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm Fime: 5.20pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Downing.

There were no declarations of interest.

At this juncture, the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first call-in that the Committee had considered. She introduced Simon Banks, solicitor from the Shared Legal Service and Mary Cormack the Council's Monitoring Officer who was present to support the Executive.

2 URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

3 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**:

- 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 to 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

4 APPOINTMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT PARTNER AT KENILWORTH CLOSE - CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

The Committee considered a call-in of the Executive's Part II decision, made at its meeting on 22 January 2020 in respect of the appointment of a development partner for the Kenilworth Road Scheme.

The call-in was requested by three Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Prior to the meeting, Officers made available for inspection to all Committee Members documents relating to the tender. A number of Members took up the offer of the Proper Officer to view these documents under controlled arrangements.

Additional information was circulated to Members of the Committee including the instructions to tenderers, a note relating to the procurement requirements of the contract and feedback relating to a previous contract undertaken by the chosen contractor.

As part of the discussions, Members requested that this committee receive regular progress reports, including key performance indicators, alongside any other monitoring arrangements by the Housing Development and Regeneration Executive Committee.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- 1. That having considered the matter, the Committee had no objection to the called in Executive decision being implemented, and that no further action be requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 2. That (i) once the award of a development partner is in place, officers ensure that as part of the award, a condition be placed on the contractor to attend an All Member Seminar to hear about the scheme; and (ii) a Contract Management Review meeting be carried out at 3 months and 9 months into the contract and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee so progress against the contract can be reviewed.

5 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, 17 February 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair)

(Vice Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Laurie Chester, Michael Downing,

Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, Robin Parker CC and

Claire Parris

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm End Time: 8.30pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sarah-Jane McDonough, John Mead, Sarah Mead and Adam Mitchell.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2020 AND 28 JANUARY 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 January 2020 and 28 January 2020 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

3 PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered the decisions on the following matters arising from the Executive meeting held on 12 February 2020:

Minutes of the Executive – 22 January 2020

Noted.

Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny and Select Committees

Noted.

Parking Provision and Sustainable Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Public Consultation

The Committee was advised that the public consultation for the SPD would be published on February 24 2020 and run until 22 March 2020.

In response to Members' questions, the Assistant Director (Planning and Regulatory) commented:

- The suggestion that the size of residential garages should be increased to make them fit for purpose would be taken on board;
- developers would be required to make a financial contribution towards parking contributions in the area of any approved application;
- In relation to the Town Centre, although the provision of parking spaces was still important, the opportunity to reduce the numbers should be considered as all amenities could be reached without the use of a car;
- Consideration would be given to what was included in the S106 agreement for the development on land to the North of Stevenage to try to avoid any overflow parking issues from the Lister Hospital;
- The suggestion of a park and ride scheme and the issue of parking spaces being taken up by commercial vans would be looked at as part of the Transport Strategy.

Stevenage Borough Council Climate Change and Engagement Update

It was noted that the first meeting of the Climate Change Working Group had recently taken place. Members asked that the importance of including young people, youth groups and local schools be highlighted as a crucial strand of work.

An on-line digital engagement programme with interested people had been started which had resulted in a high number of responses so far.

Members were advised of the programme of projects for 'quick wins' for the Council over the next 12 months including free water in the Town Centre, Orchard planting schemes and the reduction in fleet emissions. Officers agreed that the report back to the Climate Change Working Group on the programme of quick wins would also be submitted to this Committee.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Officers advised that a limited number of additions and amendments to the existing Statement of Licensing Policy had been consulted upon. However, the format of the new Policy reflects that of the previous version and is in line with central government and Local Government Association guidance and best practice. In response to a question Officers advised that the consultation had been by way of the website, a press release, with Ward Members, licence holders and trade bodies.

It was noted that the Senior Environmental Health and Licensing Manager would be investigating the possibility of imposing conditions requiring the recycling of empty bottles by licensees.

Household Waste Management Policy

Members were informed of the changes to Existing Practice for household waste which would help the Council deliver its environmental aspirations.

In considering the Policy the following issues were raised:

- Communications were key particularly with regard to
 - o the changes around clinical waste collection;
 - o the transition between the change from boxes to bags;
 - recharging for replacement wheelie bins and free additions/replacement of recycling receptacles. It was noted that the current cost of replacement bins was in the region of £10,000 per annum including admin and delivery;
 - o the recycling of tetrapak was unclear to many residents;
 - o missed collections and the reporting thereof.
- It was suggested that a future edition of Chronicle could be used to set out clearly the rules and changes around the waste policy;
- Concern was raised about the need to report missing or stolen bins to the Police as it was felt this could be a waste of time and Police resources;
- Difficulties around side waste, and that it should be made clear that refuse and recycling would only be collected if it was in the correct container.

Final General Fund and Council Tax Setting 2020/2021

It was noted that the Executive had asked officers to investigate enhanced advertising/marketing for Council garages and to explore options with SLL to reduce the level of management fee.

In response to a question, officers advised that the budget included all the options agreed at the Leaders Financial Services Group. A rough estimate of the New Homes Bonus figure in relation to the land North of Stevenage would be sent to Cllr Parker.

Members asked about the percentage of unlet garages across the Town. Officers advised that there were currently in the region of 600 although some of these were not of a standard to be let.

Final Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2024/25

Noted.

Annual Treasury Management Strategy Including Prudential Code Indicators 2020/21

Officers were congratulated on the clarity of the information presented in respect of the Council's reserves.

In response to a question officers confirmed that all Executive reports now had a climate change implication paragraph included.

Urgent Part I Business

(i) Town Fund

The Town Centre Board had met at the end of January in line with the

Government requirements. Local Partners have initiated a recruitment process for an independent Chair for a new Stevenage Development Board.

(ii) Storm Ciara

Noted.

(iii) Coronavirus

Noted.

(iv) Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse (SADA)

Noted.

Part II Minutes – Executive 22 January 2020

Noted.

Debt Write Offs Greater than £10,000

Noted.

Urgent Part II Business

None.

4 URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

5 URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**:

- 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 to 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

7 PART II MINUTES - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28 JANUARY 2020

8 PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Noted.

Noted.

9 URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

10 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR

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Part I - Release to Press

Agenda item:

Meeting OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Portfolio Area

Date 16 MARCH 2020



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2020-21

Authors Stephen Weaver | 2332

Contributor

Lead Officers Tom Pike

Contact Officer Stephen Weaver | 2332

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee for the new Municipal Year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That having considered ideas put forward by individual Members, (see section 5), the Committee determines the subject matters to be added to a 'long list' work programme of potential Scrutiny reviews items for 2020/2021.
- 2.2 That consideration is given to including in the work programme, specific monitoring or review of recommendations from previous studies (see section 6.2).
- 2.3 That the Portfolio Holder Advisory Group meetings to carry out policy development work identified so far for the Committee (see section 7.1) be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committees are asked to draft their work programme ahead of the new Municipal year in order that work may begin as soon as the Committees are appointed at Annual Council. Any outstanding and unfinished studies, where applicable, will also need to be included. Such cases are detailed at item 5.2.1 to 5.2.4
- 3.2 During February 2020 Members provided ideas for the Work Programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.
- 3.3 When considering what work to undertake in the coming year, Members may wish to consider if the matter in question is of a cross-cutting nature and might lend itself to being considered jointly with another Select Committee.
- 3.4 Officers have also been requested to bring to the Committee's attention, likely Portfolio Holder Advisory Group (PHAG) policy development items that the Select Committee might be requested to consider and comment on before reports there are submitted to the Executive.
- 3.5 The Committee may also consider whether specific time should be allocated for monitoring or review of recommendations of previous studies. It is recognised that there is a limited dedicated officer resource for the scrutiny work of three Scrutiny Committees and therefore it is important to ensure that work plans are in place in order that the call on those resources and on each Committee's time on all its activities are prioritised and evenly spread across the year.
- 3.6 Budget & Policy Framework Items
- 3.6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to scrutinise Budget and Policy Framework items. The following matters have been identified for scrutiny by the Committee as Budget & Policy Framework items -

The HRA and Rent Setting

General Fund Budget and Council Tax Setting

Savings and Growth Proposals

Council Tax Support Scheme

3.6.2 The Committee may be required to scrutinise any further Budget and Policy Framework items as and when required in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Article 4 and Section 4 Rules of Procedure.

4 MEMBERS' IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SCRUTINY

4.1 Previously as part of the annual survey of Scrutiny Members, Members were invited to provide feedback on their ideas to improve scrutiny. It was agreed with the Chair that this area has been covered as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements and as such will be addressed in the O&S Committee's recommendations.

5 MEMBERS' IDEAS FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEWS

- 5.1 <u>Scrutiny Members' Suggestions for Future Scrutiny Review Items</u>
- 5.1.1 The following issues have been raised by Members as potential Scrutiny review items:
- 5.1.2 Procurement & General Robustness of our IT structures Officer Comment: The ICT Joint strategy was considered at a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group in August 2019 and then the Executive and subsequently at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in October 2019. The strategy included a delivery plan to enhance the Council's IT service provision and prepare it for the future. The Audit Committee will regularly be monitoring the delivery of the ICT Strategy.
- 5.1.3 Scrutiny of the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) (This issue has also been raised at the Environment & Economy Select Committee as a possible work programme item so coordination would be required if agreed to scrutinise) Officer comment: As well as being raised by Members there has been an offer from the LEP Chairman to provide and update on the work of the LEP at a local and County level and update on its future plans. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory, Regeneration)
- 5.1.4 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Transparency of project allocation (This issue has also been raised at the Environment & Economy Select Committee as a possible work programme item so coordination would be required if agreed to scrutinise) Officer comment: CIL will be adopted on 1 April 2020. The Council is committed to reviewing the rates of CIL after 1 year and to produce updates on income and expenditure of S106/ CIL. Officers are targeting that for May /June 2021 and Jan 2021 respectively. It would seem logical to have the E&E or O&S review as part of this in either Feb/March or April 2021. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory)
- Progress with the Town Centre Regeneration/Progress of the SG1
 project (This issue has also been raised at the Environment & Economy
 Select Committee as a possible work programme item so coordination would
 be required if agreed to scrutinise) Officer comment: A review of the overall
 regeneration programme and SG1 scheme in particular can be provided,
 though the choice of timing may need to be carefully considered for example
 in relation to the Planning elements of the regeneration programme. This
 topic may suit an All Member Briefing which would cover of any potential
 conflict of interest with Planning Members linked to the timing of related
 planning matters. (Lead AD Regeneration)
- 5.1.6 <u>Update on the Climate Emergency</u> (This issue has also been raised at the Environment & Economy Select Committee as a possible work programme item so coordination would be required if agreed to scrutinise) Officer comment: As part of last year's work programming it was agreed that a regular item updating Members on progress with individual Executive Portfolio areas and related service departments and selected partners could be provided to the Committee starting in 2020-21. This would provide an opportunity to hold to account the ongoing Climate Change and Engagement process with a series of interviews with officers/Executive Members and Partners. (Lead AD Planning & Regulatory and all Assistant Directors)

- 5.2 <u>Items that are on the existing work programme, which in some cases</u> may have started but have not been completed and others which are yet to start are rolled over for completion or start in 2020-21:
- 5.2.1 Scrutiny of the way that we do Scrutiny Officer Comment: Members review of the current scrutiny arrangements is almost complete and will be making its final report and recommendations in due course. The resulting actions, such as arranging an action tracker for all scrutiny review recommendations and review of the wording for call-in arrangements which will be addressed as part of the review of the Constitution could take some time to implement and Members will be kept informed of progress through the Municipal Year.
- 5.2.2 <u>Complaints handling</u> from the public or from members. **Officer Comment**: This review was started in 2017, was due to continue in 2018 but was replaced by the committees work on Sickness Management and then in 2019/20 by the review of the scrutiny arrangements. It is possible to recommence this review if the Committee would like to prioritise this in 2020-21.
- 5.3 Members are asked to consider, which of the above items they wish to include in their work programme and which approach they favour to review the items, based on those suggested at paragraphs 5.1.2 to 5.2.2, namely a more in-depth review or a one-off discussion item?
- Members should note that whatever issues they agree to be scrutinised as a main review item would be subject to a full scoping process and subsequently a scoping document would need to be agreed by the Committee at a future meeting. Other items, which can be addressed by a briefing and discussion item, may not require a full scoping document.
- 5.5 Work Programme Schedule for 2020/21
- 5.5.1 When the Scrutiny Work Programme is agreed by the Select Committee, the Scrutiny Officer will, using the agreed dates for generic Select Committee meetings in the Calendar of Meetings, draw together a work programme schedule for the 2020/21 Municipal Year, including scrutiny review meetings, monitoring of previous reviews selected by Members and policy development meetings, which will be circulated to Members, and electronic diary invites will be sent to all Community Select Committee Members.
- 5.6 Alignment of Scrutiny with the Strategic Leadership Team
- 5.6.1 It is important that the three Scrutiny Committees (Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Community Select Committee and the Environment and Economy Select Committee) are aligned to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). As such, the following Scrutiny Committees are covered by the relevant nine Assistant Directors and SLT areas:
- 5.6.2 Customer Community Select Committee:
 - Assistant Director for Housing and Investment (Jaine Cresser) and the Assistant Director for Communities and Neighbourhoods (Rob Gregory)
- 5.6.3 Place Environment and Economy Select Committee:

Assistant Director for Direct Services (Dave Brown/Steve Dupoy), Assistant Director for Regeneration (Interim Chris Barnes), Assistant Director for Housing Development (Ash Ahmed) and Assistant Director for Planning and Regulatory (Zayd Al-Jawad)

5.6.4 <u>Transformation and Support</u> – Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Transformation (Vacant), Assistant Director for Finance and Estates (Vacant) and Digital & Transformation (Ruth Luscombe)

- 5.6.5 Role of the Assistant Directors and Scrutiny
- 5.6.6 The Assistant Directors will take a leadership role in assisting and supporting the relevant Scrutiny Committees and specific reviews that align to their area of expertise. The Assistant Directors will support each review through its various stages, from scoping of reviews, attending Chair and Vice-Chair briefings and offering support to the Scrutiny Officer in providing written and oral evidence for reviews as well as identifying 'Critical Friends' and other review witnesses. The Assistant Directors will liaise with the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder(s) and the Senior Leadership Team (CE and Assistant CE's).
- 5.6.7 Strategic Director, Tom Pike from the Senior Leadership Team has overall responsibility for the Scrutiny function, deputised by Strategic Director Richard Protheroe.

6 MONITORING REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee may consider there is a need to undertake some follow-up work on recommendations arising from previous studies. It may be considered sufficient to simply request update briefings from the relevant Heads of Service to be circulated to Members at appropriate intervals. However, if the Committee requires more detailed consideration or examination of the progress of previous recommendations, this should be factored into its work programme.
- Reports within the remit of this Committee that have been issued over the last five years or have been revisited within the last five years are as follows:
 - Section 106 Agreements 2014-15
 - Members' Expenses and Hospitality 2013-14
 - Council Tax Support Scheme since 2012-13
 - Media & Communications 2015 & 2018
 - Complaints Feedback Handling (Incomplete review started in 2017-18)
 - Sickness Management Completed 2019

7 PORTFOLIO HOLDER ADVISORY GROUP - POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORK FOR 2020/2021

- 7.1 Following consultation with the Assistant Directors for Corporate Services & Transformation, Finance & Estates & Corp Projects and Customer Service & Technology the following matters have been identified for potential Policy Development at a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group (PHAG) meeting to be undertaken with the relevant Portfolio Holders during the Municipal Year for 2020/2021:
 - Local Asset Reviews
 - Commercial Insourcing Strategy
 - Customer Channel Shift Strategy / Transformation Programme / Digital Strategy
- 7.2 In line with organising meeting dates to deliver the Committee's work programme, as detailed at Section 5.3, dates for Portfolio Holder Advisory Group meetings will be scheduled into Members' diaries once the relevant Assistant Directors confirm when Scrutiny Members can undertake this work, ahead of consideration by the Executive. If any further matters are identified by officers, Members will be notified and a meeting invitation sent to Members in due course.
- 7.3 These meetings will continue to be clerked by Constitutional Services but are private informal meetings Chaired by the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder and supported by the relevant Assistant Director.

Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.1.2 A small budget of £1000 is held to support the work of the Select Committees in their research and study.

Legal Implications

8.2. The role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is set out in the Local Government Act 2000. The recommendations made in this report are to facilitate the Committees to fully undertake this role.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

8.3. There are no direct Equalities and Diversity implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Specific equalities and diversity implications are considered during each scrutiny review.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

All documents that have been used in compiling this report, that may be available to the public, i.e. they do not contain exempt information, should be listed here:

BD1 Submissions from Councillors.

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Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

