

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	Wednesday, 19 August 2020	
Place:	Virtual (via Zoom)	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Laurie Chester, Michael Downing, Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, Adam Mitchell CC, Claire Parris and Simon Speller

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors John Mead, Sarah Mead and Robin Parker CC. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	MINUTES - 14 JULY 2020	
	It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 July 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 August 2020. Minutes of the Executive – 8 July 2020 Noted.	

Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees

Noted.

Co-operative Neighbourhoods

A Member raised concerns regarding the nature of engagement with Ward Councillors and the level of Member input that was incorporated into the Co-operative Neighbourhoods programme. Officers clarified that the Pin Green Community Plan of 2017-18 was not directly related to the introduction of Co-operative Neighbourhoods operating model in December 2019. It was noted that the boundaries agreed by the Executive in 2019 served to optimise staff resources. Officers acknowledged that there were distinct strengths and challenges for each Ward.

The Committee also sought clarification on projected improvements in the first two years of the Co-operative Neighbourhoods programme, implications on staff resources, prioritisation and lessons learned from previous initiatives for localised working.

Covid-19 Update

In response to a Member's request, Strategic Director (RP) undertook to provide Covid-19 data where applicable that was tailored to Stevenage and Hertfordshire. The Strategic Director reported that officers were discussing with Public Health (Hertfordshire) ways of improving the flow of data from Public Health England and NHS England to the Council.

Co-operative Commercial and Insourcing Strategy 2020-2023

A Member was concerned that some tenants would be priced out of their garages as a consequence of the Commercial Strategy. Officers indicated that the Council's differential pricing policy offered tenants choice in terms of cost and garage specification. With regards to the Garage Improvement Programme (GIP), the Commercial Manager informed the Committee that the programme had increased the number of garages in circulation. It was anticipated that the GIP would contribute towards neighbourhood improvements and reduction in anti-social behaviour. Officers advised that the policy of bringing newer and better garages back onto the market would help to ease parking issues in neighbourhoods.

	Urgent Part I Business	
	Noted.	
4	URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
5	URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
	None.	
6	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	<p>It was RESOLVED:</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 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 DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	It was RESOLVED that the Part II decisions of the Executive meeting held on 12 August 2020 be noted.	
8	URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
9	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	