

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS -

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	Wednesday, 17 March 2021	
Place:	Virtual (Via Zoom)	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Lin Martin-Haugh, Philip Bibby CC, Sandra Barr, Laurie Chester, Michael Downing, Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, John Mead, Sarah Mead, Adam Mitchell CC, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris and Simon Speller

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>There were no apologies for absence.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3	PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	<p>The Committee noted the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Wednesday 10 February 2021.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the Executive – 10 February 2021</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>3. Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees.</p>	

Noted.

4. Covid-19 update

- The Strategic Director (RP) advised that he provided an update on the latest Covid-19 position at the Executive meeting held on Wednesday 10 March 2021, and a detailed update was also provided to Coronavirus Executive Committee meeting held on Friday 26 February 2021. He advised Members that the vaccination figures were now available by age group.
- The Council was closely monitoring Covid-19 cases rate and would re-open the Play Areas as soon as safe to do so (a decision which would be based on a sufficiency low R-rate regarding transmission of the virus).
- The Strategic Director (RP) to provide further information on Test and Trace Support Payments in the next Coronavirus Executive Committee.
- The Committee noted the update.

5. The Impact of Development on Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document: Adoption

- The Planning Policy Manager presented the report on Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document. He provided Members with an overview of the consultation responses on the draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document.
- The consultation outcome on the draft impact of Development on Biodiversity Supplementary Document was noted.

6. Developer contribution Supplementary Planning Document: Adoption

- In response to a question from a Member, the Principal Planning Officer advised Members that the Council liaised closely with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) on their Developer Contribution guide. If there is a need to seek contribution, the HCC would use their guide to develop a contribution.
- The Committee noted the report.

7. Housing First Approach – Stevenage Borough Council

- The Assistant Director for Housing and Investment provided a report on Council’s Housing First approach to accommodate rough sleepers, and options for implementing the Housing First approach for the 2021/22 financial year.
- The Committee noted the report.

8. Community Safety Strategy 2021-2024

- The Community Safety Manager presented the Community Safety Strategy for 2021- 2024. She advised Members about the additional recommendation made by the Executives about hate crime and to promote equality in the community.

9. Corporate Performance – Quarter Three 2020-21

- The Strategic Director (TP) advised Members on Corporate Performance for Quarter three 2021-22. He informed Members about the challenges the Council faced by Covid-19 pandemic, which had direct impact on the performance in third quarter.
- The Executives requested steps to be taken in order to enhance the Council’s website, which would include further functionality and easy navigation.
- The Committee noted the report.

10. 3rd Quarter Capital Monitoring Report – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2020/21

- The Assistant Director for Housing and Estate presented the report for the 3rd Quarter Capital Monitoring – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2020/21. She advised Members on the level of losses experienced by the Council increased in the 3rd Quarter.
- The Committee noted the report.

11. 3rd Quarter Capital Monitoring Report – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account 2020/21

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assistant Director for Housing and Estate advised Members on General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for 2020/21. She informed Members that the growth bid submitted for the vehicles after the Council budget was approved. She would ensure that overall growth information be included in the process for budget in the future. • The Committee noted the report. 	
4	URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	<p>Town Deal</p> <p>The Strategic Director (TP) advised Members on the Town Deal funding of £37.5Million by the government following the Town investment Plan submitted in October 2020 by the Stevenage Development Board. The proposal was submitted for £50Million for ten projects. The government allocated £37.5Million with additional conditions to satisfy to secure drawdown of the funding for three projects. There were no projects rejected. Business cases would need to be made in the next 12 months in order for the drawdown of the funding earmarked by the government. Members praised the worked done by the Council to secure the funding.</p>	
5	REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS	
	<p>The Scrutiny Officer presented the report on Review of Scrutiny arrangements. The Committee agreed on a scoping document to scrutinise review of the Council’s Scrutiny arrangements in September 2019.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer advised Members on the significant changes brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic in scrutiny arrangements, given the way Members met which may have changed with the hybrid meetings. He explained that the review also provided the opportunity to Members on how the scrutiny meetings may run in the future post Covid-19.</p>	

	<p>Members noted the report with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On paragraph 2.5.1, the typo should be corrected to “<i>incorporate fewer, SMART recommendations</i>”. • Under Paragraph 2.3.1, the following fourth bullet point should be added. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Where it had become necessary to broaden scrutiny (within reasons), Scrutiny Members should ask additional questions.</i></p>
6	URGENT PART I BUSINESS
	None.
7	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 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006. 2. That Members considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determined that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.
8	PART II MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

	None.	
9	PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	<p>14. Framework for the Supply of Agency Workers</p> <p>The Committed noted the report with additional recommendations proposed during the debate in the Executive meeting.</p> <p>15. SG1 Acceleration</p> <p>The Committee noted the updated on the SG1 project.</p> <p>16. Appointment of Principal Contractor at Dunn Close</p> <p>The Committee noted the appointment of Principal Contractor for the Dunn Close development scheme.</p>	
10	URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
11	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	

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