

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS -

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	Monday, 14 June 2021	
Place:	Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Myla Arceno, Adrian Brown, Alex Farquharson, Chris Howells, Wendy Kerby, Sarah Mead, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris, Loraine Rossati and Simon Speller

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>Apologies were received from Councillors Michael Downing and Philip Bibby.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	MINUTES - 17 MARCH 2021	
	<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	TERMS OF REFERENCE	
	<p>The Committee noted the Terms of Reference.</p>	
4	PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	<p>2. Minutes of the Executive 10 March 2021</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>3. Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committee</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>4. Covid19 Update</p>	

The Strategic Director (RP) advised that he provided an updated on the latest Covid19 position at the Executive meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2021. He provided the following key updates to Members.

- Epidemiology statistics were ward- related and did not indicate the socio-economic or employment of individuals;
- Stevenage was little below the average for vaccination rate across Hertfordshire;
- Vaccine hesitancy; lower take up of the vaccines in some communities, linked to deprivation areas;
- Hertfordshire County Council was working to set up vaccination walk in centres without prior appointments.
- Council was working on new ways of working, further information would be provided in the next Executive meeting.

Strategic Director (RP) advised on vaccine hesitancy that low income residents were concerned about the impact of the vaccine on them, in case they developed symptoms and would not be able to go to work.

Members asked numerous questions and received the following comments:

- Members would be provided with a briefing note with details of relevant phone numbers of organisations offering help to those with suicidal tendencies;
- Vaccine hesitancy was considered to be a major issue, further work would be needed to tackle the issue.

The Committee noted the report.

5. Co-operative Tenant and Resident involvement Strategy

The Committee was briefed that the Executive considered a report in respect of proposed new arrangement for ensuring that SBC tenants and residents have a range of opportunities to participate in the management of their homes and neighbourhoods, building on the development of the Co-operative Neighbourhood operating model.

The Assistant Director (RG) advised Members that the Housing Management Advisory Board would be consulted on the new proposal by

way of a workshop session. The consultation exercise would put the residents' views first. Members were informed about the new co-operative customer scrutiny model for housing function, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report on the Executive agenda.

The Committee noted the report.

6. Leisure Contract Work Programme

The Committee was briefed that the Executive received a report on Leisure Contract Work Programme. Members were advised on the current arrangement that the Council had in place with the Stevenage Leisure Limited since its formation in 1998, the current contract was due to end in 2023.

The following key updates were provided to the Committee:

A number of leisure facilities are included in the current leisure contract. In respect of the project to create new leisure and sport facility, part funded by the Town Deal, would look to bring wet and dry facilities together under one site.

The project would look in to leisure and cultural provision across the Borough to involve as many sports and arts organisations as possible in the primary stage.

The Committee noted the progression of the Leisure Contract Work Programme.

7. Corporate Performance – 4th Quarter 2020/21

The Strategic Directors (TP & CF) presented a report in relation to the Corporate Performance. The report gave a review of the performance of the fourth quarter of 2020/21 for the delivery of the Council's priorities.

Directors provided the following key updates in response to Member questions:

- Covid19 impacted the savings for the Council;
- The impact of the Brexit on the community;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of the website was planned, with Members and a Customer Testing Panel would be established; <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>
5	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22
	<p>The Panel received a suggested Work Programme and agenda planning for the future meetings. The Work Programme was flexible working document that was subject to change as new issues arose. Members were encouraged to suggest items to be included in the Work Programme at any time.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer outlined the following key issues that would be discussed at the future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.T outage incidents (to remain on the Work Programme pending the output from a proposed all Member briefing seminar). • Resident and Tenant Survey (to be directed by the Assistant Director, Community) • Review of the Council's Scrutiny Arrangements (to receive the Executive Member proposal at the July meeting) • General Fund Budget and Council Tax Setting • Transformation Programme <p>The PHAG to be withdrawn from the Work Programme.</p> <p>The Committee noted the Work Programme.</p>
6	ACTION TRACKER
	<p>The Scrutiny Officer presented the Action Tracker to the Committee. The Action Tracker contained useful information to track the progress of items that the Committee had previously scrutinised.</p>

7	URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
8	URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
	<p>Government Levelling Up Fund</p> <p>The Strategic Director (TP) advised that the Government had allocated £4.8 billion nationally in respect of the Levelling up Fund. He informed Members that the Council would submit a bid by June 2021, and Officers would be working closely with the Stevenage Development Board to provide a compelling case.</p> <p>The Strategic Director (TP) explained that as part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022, the Queen would be creating a number of new cities. He advised that it would be an opportunity for the Council to put in an application for the City Status and the Executive had requested Officers to identify how the bid process operates, noting the strong connections between the New Town and the Monarch’s reign.</p>	
9	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. 	

10	PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE	
	<p data-bbox="271 384 925 416">DANESTRETE ROUNDABOUT SITE DISPOSAL</p> <p data-bbox="271 456 1995 488">The Committee considered the resolutions of the Executive in respect of a report regarding the Danestrete Roundabout site disposal.</p>	
11	URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
	None.	
12	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	