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COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 5 September 2022

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Contact: Ramin Shams - 01438 242308 01438 242308

committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Members: Councillors: S Mead (Chair), A Farquharson (Vice-Chair), S Booth, A Brown, J Brown, N Chowdhury, J Duncan, L Harrington, W Kerby and A Wells

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES - 7 JULY 2022

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Community Select Committee held on 7 July 2022.

Pages 3 – 6

3. OFFICER PRESENTATION ON VOIDS

To receive an officer presentation on the Committee's main scrutiny review item for the Municipal Year on Voids. The presentation is an introduction to the issues and challenges that face the Council in dealing with void properties in the Council's social housing stock.

Verbal Report

4. UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME

To receive and note an updated version of the Community Select Committee's Work Programme for 2022-23.

Pages 7 – 12

5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent

6. 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 ground that they involve 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 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.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

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

NOTE: Links to Part 1 Background Documents are shown on the last page of the individual report, where this is not the case they may be viewed by using the following link to agendas for Executive meetings and then opening the agenda for Monday, 5 September 2022 – <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/have-your-say/council-meetings/161153/>

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 7 July 2022

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Alex Farquharson (Vice-Chair), Adrian Brown, Jim Brown, Nazmin Chowdhury, John Duncan and Wendy Kerby

Start / End Time: Start Time: 06:00 pm
End Time: 06:54 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stephen Booth and Anne Wells.

There were no declarations of Interest.

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE - COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS 16 MARCH & 29 MARCH 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of Community Select Committee meetings held on Wednesday 16 March 2022 and Tuesday 29 March 2022 be approved as correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's Work Programme for Municipal year 2022/23. The Work Programme was a 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. Members discussed and debated the following items currently on the Work Programme for 2022/23:

- Housing Repairs and Voids - Members were informed that Housing Repairs and Voids Standards came in red in the Performance Indicator. The Committee agreed that a review would need to focus on a particular area of the Voids standard as Voids and Repairs were too wide an area to scrutinise. It was agreed that Stevenage Direct Services should provide an update on the repairs performance describing their process; how they are measuring performance; their digital solutions and their time scales for implementing their new processes.

- Crime and Disorder- The Committee expected to have the Chief Inspector of the Police in attendance for that meeting to present a full picture of their day-to-day operations. Chief Executive Matt Partridge as Chair for the Responsible Authorities Group would be invited to the meeting. Members also questioned the effectiveness Police Priorities meetings.
- Public Health - There had been major changes in the health governance process with a new NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Core Board replacing the East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group from 1 July 2022. Members were keen to have an update. Members indicated that they valued the session with the HCC Director of Public Health. Members agreed to prepare specific evidence-based questions for the meeting. Cllr Maureen McKay regularly updated Members on health issues as she was Stevenage's representative on the Health Scrutiny for the County.
- Local Community Budgets – This item would be covered on 9 January 2023 meeting as a one-off update on the Local Community Budgets. The committee expected to interview Operations Director and the Executive Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods. Members raised concerns about some repeat requests for funding from the same groups year on year which was therefore supporting core funding for these groups.
- Housing Allocation – Members were interested to know the process and how the housing allocation works. An update from the Operations Direction and an interview with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Older People would be arranged for this meeting. Members questioned people's access and understanding of the bidding process. Members also considered that some people did not understand how the criteria was applied, particularly on supply and demand issue. The Operations Director advised Members that it was a good opportunity to review the document now, as it was due to be reviewed by the Executive later this year.
- A Portfolio Holder's Advisory Group (PHAG) on Community Centres – Members noted that it was a good opportunity for the Committee Members and the Executive Portfolio to meet and discuss the future plans for Community Centres as part of Locality plans being led by Estates.
- A PHAG on Service Charges for residents - Members raised concerns on the increased service charges for the residents who could not afford it. A Member advised that the Committee perhaps could look at the recent census data to evaluate the changes in the community.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Work Programme document for 2022/23 be noted.

5 **COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Action Tracker document to the Committee. The Action tracker contained useful information to track the progress of items that the Committee had previously scrutinised.

A Member raised concern over the resident engagement that many people under the age of 35 had not participated in the resident surveys and suggested to the Committee to look at the resident survey again to find out causes of under participation in younger generation. The Operations Director advised Members that resident surveys were now more focused and could be used to target a specific demographic. He suggested to disband small group representation and connect to the wider population in the community. However, people who used to sit on the Housing Management Advisory Board could still be involved in the scrutiny of the policies and other activities in the wider community.

The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that a response was not received from Executive on the New Town Heritage Centre recommendations in the regular two months' time period in the normal way, as this was undertaken as a piece of Policy Development work. He suggested that an updated report on the progress made so far could be provided to the Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the Action Tracker.

6 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

7 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Note required.

8 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR

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Lead AD	Operations Director (Housing & Investment, Communities and Neighbourhoods) – Rob Gregory
Deputy	Vacant
Chair	Cllr Sarah Mead
Vice-Chair	Cllr Alex Farquharson

Community Select Committee Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23
(Including main review items, one-off meetings, statutory and standing items, review revisits and policy development items)

Scrutiny Review items 2022/23: (Priority of potential scrutiny review items High/Medium/Low and suitability in 2022/23)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Other details: i.e. (i) Number of meetings item can be covered in? (ii) Whether scoping required? (iii) Expectation/ style of meeting & (iv) other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/Deputy	SD/AD Comment - Likelihood of being delivered in 2022-23?	Complete ✓ ✗
<u>Main review item on Housing Repairs and Voids standards</u>	Assistant Director, Stevenage Direct Services, Steve Dupoy, Operations Director, Housing & Investment, C&N Rob Gregory. Portfolio Holder for Housing & Housing Development, Cllr Jeannette Thomas.	To be scheduled. Likely to start in Summer/Autumn 2022, with general officer presentation Provisional date(s) • Monday 5 September	(i) This will require a number of meetings to complete the review (ii) Yes, full scope required (iii) Interviews with the Operations Director and Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health & Older People Cllr Jeannette Thomas	The review will start with a presentation covering the main features of the service and then Members will need to narrow down their review to a specific issue and carry out a scope of the review before undertaking it.	As the main review item this will be completed in 2022-23	

Scrutiny Review items 2022/23: (Priority of potential scrutiny review items High/Medium/Low and suitability in 2022/23)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Other details: i.e. (i) Number of meetings item can be covered in? (ii) Whether scoping required? (iii)Expectation/ style of meeting & (iv) other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/Deputy	SD/AD Comment - Likelihood of being delivered in 2022-23?	Complete ✓ ✗
Page 8		2022 (Presentation & Scoping document) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 11 October 2022 • Wednesday 2 November 2022 				
<u>Statutory Item - Crime & Disorder Committee</u> (High priority statutory Committee & suitable for Scrutiny in 2022-23)	Operations Director, Housing & Investment, C&N Rob Gregory, Lead Officer Sarah Pateman, Portfolio Holder for Communities (including Safer Communities) Cllr Jackie Hollywell	Agreed date - Wed 29 March 2023	(i) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with Chair of RAG, Herts Constabulary, Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety looking at past performance of the Community Safety Action Plan and future priorities		Comment from Scrutiny Officer - as the commitment is just one meeting this will be delivered.	This is a statutory item so will be delivered.

Scrutiny Review items 2022/23: (Priority of potential scrutiny review items High/Medium/Low and suitability in 2022/23)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Other details: i.e. (i) Number of meetings item can be covered in? (ii) Whether scoping required? (iii)Expectation/ style of meeting & (iv) other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/Deputy	SD/AD Comment - Likelihood of being delivered in 2022-23?	Complete ✓ ✗
<u>Standing Item - Public Health</u> (High priority & suitable for Scrutiny in 2022-23)	OD Housing & Communities & Neighbourhood, Rob Gregory, Health & Sports Strategy Manager, Candice Bryan Portfolio Holder for Housing Health & Older People Cllr Jeannette Thomas	Agreed date - Wed 1 Feb 2023 (Confirmed with Director of Public Health – Prof Jim McManus)	(i) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with the HCC Director of Public Health, SBC Executive Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Public Health and the SD for Community. (iv) Other Members to be invited – Cllr Maureen McKay, HCC Health Scrutiny Member	Members indicated that they value this session with the HCC Director of Public Health and would like to focus on general health and wellbeing and specifically on Health Inequalities for Stevenage.	Comment from Scrutiny Officer - as the commitment is just one meeting this will be delivered.	The Chair and Vice-Chair are keen for this item to be supported so will be delivered.
<u>One-off update on Local Community Budgets</u>	Operations Director Housing & Investment, Communities & Neighbourhoods Rob Gregory, Executive Portfolio Holder for	To be scheduled - provisional date Monday 9 January 2023	(i) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with the Operations Director and Executive Portfolio Holder for			

Scrutiny Review items 2022/23: (Priority of potential scrutiny review items High/Medium/Low and suitability in 2022/23)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Other details: i.e. (i) Number of meetings item can be covered in? (ii) Whether scoping required? (iii) Expectation/ style of meeting & (iv) other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/Deputy	SD/AD Comment - Likelihood of being delivered in 2022-23?	Complete ✓ ✗
	Neighbourhoods & Co-operative Council, Cllr Rob Broom.		Neighbourhoods, Cllr Rob Broom			
<u>One-off update on the Housing Allocations Scheme</u> Ⓟ 10	Operations Director Housing & Investment, Communities & Neighbourhoods Rob Gregory, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health & Older People, Cllr Jeannette Thomas.	To be scheduled – provisional date Monday 9 January 2023	(i) Yes, covered in one meeting (ii) No scope required (iii) Interviews with the Operations Director and Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health & Older People Cllr Jeannette Thomas			

Monitoring of Previous Recommendations/Actions								
Scrutiny items: (Follow up in 2022/23)	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Number of meetings item can be covered in?	Expectation/ Style of meeting	Scoping details (whether full scope or simple scope required)	Other details	Comment by lead Assistant Director/ Deputy	Complete ✓ x
Action Tracker 7 July 2022.	N/A	7 July 2022	(i) <u>Covered in a single meeting</u> revisiting the previous review and seeing where we are today		N/A			
Pre-Scrutiny review work on the New Towns Heritage Centre	Operations Director, Housing & Investment, C&N, Rob Gregory, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Children & Young People, Cllr Richard Henry.	No date yet identified	(i) <u>Covered in a single meeting</u> revisiting the previous review and seeing where we are today	Monitor progress of the issue.	N/A			

Policy Development - Portfolio Holder Advisory Group:	Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Lead Officer(s) & Portfolio Holder	Provisional meeting date(s) identified	Number of meetings item can be covered in?	Expectation/Style of meeting	Scoping details (whether full scope or simple scope)	Other details	Complete ✓ ✗
<p><u>PHAG on Community Centres</u></p> <p>Page 12</p>	<p>Operations Director Housing & Investment, C&N Rob Gregory Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods, Cllr Rob Broom.</p>	<p>To be scheduled.</p>	<p>One meeting</p>	<p>Opportunity for Executive Portfolio Holder to meet with officers and Scrutiny Members to discuss content and shape of a Policy document before it is finalised in order to shape the final outcome</p>		<p>These meetings are informal, however Constitutional Services will now clerk these meetings, but will need prior notice and input from the ADs in advance of these 0meetings.</p>	
<p><u>PHAG on Service Charges for residents</u></p>	<p>Operations Director Housing & Investment, C&N Rob Gregory Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health & Older People, Cllr Jeannette Thomas.</p>	<p>To be scheduled.</p>	<p>One meeting</p>	<p>Opportunity for Executive Portfolio Holder to meet with officers and Scrutiny Members to discuss content and shape of a Policy document before it is finalised in order to shape the final outcome</p>		<p>These meetings are informal, however Constitutional Services will now clerk these meetings, but will need prior notice and input from the ADs in advance of these meetings.</p>	