

NOTICE OF DECISIONS

Meeting:	Executive	
Date:	Wednesday, 13 December 2023	
Place:	Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Richard Henry (Chair), Jeannette Thomas (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jackie Hollywell, Loraine Rossati and Simon Speller.

THE DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN OF ANY OF THE DECISIONS BELOW IS FRIDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2023. SUBJECT TO THERE BEING NO CALL-IN THE ATTACHED DECISIONS MAY BE IMPLEMENTED WITH EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2023.

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lloyd Briscoe and Mrs Joan Lloyd. There were no declarations of interest.	
2	MINUTES - 15 NOVEMBER 2023	
	It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.	
3	MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SELECT COMMITTEES	
	It was RESOLVED that the following Minutes of meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees be noted – Community Select Committee – 19 October 2023 Environment & Economy Select Committee – 1 November 2023 Community Select Committee – 14 November 2023	

4	CORPORATE PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 2 2023/24	R. Protheroe
<p>The Executive considered a report in respect of Corporate Performance for Quarter 2 of 2023/24 (July to September 2023).</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the service performance against 35 corporate performance measures and delivery of key milestones in Quarter 2 2023/24 through the Future Town Future Council Programme, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be noted. 2. That the Council's performance as demonstrated through the 13 Community Measures, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be noted. 3. That the performance challenges in relation to voids (as set out in Section 4.4.2 of the report) be noted, and the planned measures to improve performance be endorsed. 4. That the strategic risk updates, as set out in Section 4.7 of the report, be noted. <p><i>Reason for Decision: As contained in report.</i> <i>Other Options considered: As contained in report.</i></p>		
5	COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25	C. Fletcher B. Moldon
<p>The Executive considered a report in respect of the proposed Council Tax Base for 2024/25.</p> <p>In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director (CF) explained that the Council Tax Base had been calculated based on the number of properties as at October 2023, discounting those in receipt of Council Tax Support or Single Persons Discount, and converting the resultant figure to a Band D equivalent property. This was why the final Council Tax Base figure was invariably not a whole number.</p>		

	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Stevenage Borough Council for the year 2024/25 will be 29,088.5 equivalent “Band D” properties, reduced to 28,579.4 “Band D” properties after making allowance for a 98.25% collection rate. 2. That the 2024/25 Council Tax Base be approved, subject to any changes made to the Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2024/25, the Executive having approved the CTS Scheme at its meeting held on 20 September 2023 for recommendation to Council. <p><i>Reason for Decision: As contained in report.</i> <i>Other Options considered: As contained in report.</i></p>	
6	DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET SETTING AND RENT REPORT 2024/25	C. Fletcher B. Moldon
	<p>The Executive considered a report in respect of the draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Setting for 2023/24.</p> <p>In reply to a Member’s question, the Strategic Director (CF) confirmed that when a Council property was let, it became the responsibility of the tenant to pay rent/Council Tax etc. This responsibility passed to the Council when properties became void. She referred to initiatives aimed at improving the identification of when properties became vacant/void, including the recent employment of an Empty Homes Officer and enhanced information collaboration arrangements between the Revenue & Benefits Team and Housing Officers.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the HRA dwelling rents be increased (week commencing 1 April 2024) by 7.7%, which equates to an average increase of £8.45 for social rents, £13.12 for affordable rents and £9.96 for Low Start Shared Ownership homes per week 	

(based on a 52-week year).

2. That Council be recommended to approve the 2024/25 service charges, as set out Paragraph 4.2 of the report.
3. That Council be recommended to approve the HRA budget for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix A to the report.
4. That the 2024/25 growth options, as set out in Section 4.4 of the report, be approved.
5. That Council be recommended to approve the 2024/25 Fees and Charges, as set out in Appendix B to the report.
6. That Council be recommended to approve the revised minimum levels of balances for 2024/25, as shown in Appendix C to the report.
7. That the Rent Increase Equalities Impact Assessments, as shown in Appendix D to the report, be approved.
8. That the increase to the 2023/24 Working Budget of £256,540, to fund the 2023/24 pay award, as detailed in Paragraph 4.4.11 of the report, be approved.
9. That the contingency sum of £400,000, within which the Executive can approve supplementary estimates, be approved for 2024/25 (unchanged from 2023/24).
10. That the decisions taken on Resolutions 1 to 9 above be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules in the Council's Constitution.
11. That key partners and other stakeholders be consulted and their views considered as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

Reason for Decision: As contained in report.

Other Options considered: As contained in report.

7	URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
	None.	
8	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That under Section 100A 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 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 the reasons for the following reports being in Part II were accepted, and that the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure. 	
9	PART II MINUTES - 15 NOVEMBER 2023	
	It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.	
10	HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENT AND SUNDRY DEBT WRITE OFFS GREATER THAN £10,000	C. Fletcher D. Brown
	The Executive considered a Part II report seeking approval to the writing off of a Housing Benefit Overpayment and Sundry Debts deemed irrecoverable which were properly due to the Council and were greater in value than £10,000.	

	It was RESOLVED that the recommendation set out in the report be approved. <i>Reason for Decision: As contained in report.</i> <i>Other Options considered: As contained in report.</i>	
11	URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
	None.	