

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday, 5 June 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Roni Hearn, John Mead, Sarah-Jane Potter, Simon Speller and Tom Wren

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 6.55pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E Harrington.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES - 27 MARCH 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Select Committee (CSC) meeting of 27 March 2018 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

4 EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO HOUSING ALLOCATIONS REVIEW

The Committee considered the Executive Member response to the report and recommendations made by the Committee following the review into Housing Allocations.

Members were informed that the recommendation to prioritise under occupiers wishing to downsize was now in operation. The Council had started implementing the recently approved local connection criteria. With regard to the bidding process, Members highlighted the need to manage the expectations of applicants. The Empty Homes Manager confirmed that the Choice Based Lettings website had been updated to clarify the process and that new communication material was now available.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the Executive Member response to Housing Allocation Review is noted

- That with regard to the recommendation to provide a narrative on the bidding website to explain the scenarios that are likely to result in multiple unsuccessful bids over a long period of time, it be clarified on the website that one's position on a bid did not have any bearing on future bids
- That the issue of pre-tenancy gas checks be revisited in future

5 **COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING SCHEDULE 2018-19**

The Committee considered the Work Programme and Meeting Schedule 2018-19.

With regard to the Resident Engagement Review, Members highlighted the need to ensure that all resident groups were representative of the demographics of Stevenage. It was noted that although there had been an improvement in diversity for some groups but there was still room for improvement. It was indicated that there was a risk of marginalising the residents that were active in resident forums and that their time and contributions need to be valued.

It was pointed out that there should be a focus on improving resident engagement and raising awareness of the various resident groups. Members also suggested ways of improving the resident survey including using a follow-up questionnaire to augment the original survey.

Members were informed that the Leisure Management contract was not due for renewal until 2023. It was indicated that a one-off meeting would focus on assessing progress on the Independent Consultants recommendations and Action Plan. .

Members indicated that an officer review on Community Centres which would be brought to Members via a Policy Development meeting and would be an opportunity to shape recommendations to the Executive. This review was particularly important considering that the Council would no longer be providing grants to community centre after this financial year.

The Chair concluded the meeting by advising Members to consult residents on the review topics and bring practical cases for discussion during reviews.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the main review items, one off meetings, statutory and standing items, review revisits and policy development items on the Work Programme 2018-19 are noted
- That the Meeting Schedule 2018-19 is noted
- That details of the scope of the review into Resident Engagement will be discussed at the next CSC meeting on 20 June 2018
- That SBC officers and representatives of Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) be invited to a committee meeting on 04 July 2018

- That Members consult residents and other stakeholders in preparation for a revisit on the Damp and Mould Review at a Committee meeting on 02 October 2018
- That officers prepare reports to assess progress on the implementation of recommendations of the previous review into the Third Sector in Stevenage to be considered at a meeting of the Committee on 12 July 2018
- That further meetings of the Committee be scheduled to deliver the other agreed Work Programme items for 2018-19

6 URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

7 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required.

8 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR