

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Time: 10.00am

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete

**Present:** Councillors: Sharon Taylor OBE CC (Chair), Mrs Joan Lloyd (Vice-Chair), Rob Broom, John Gardner, Richard Henry and Jackie Hollywell.

**Start / End Time:** Start Time: 10.00am  
End Time: 10.30am

### 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Thomas.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 **MINUTES - 30 APRIL 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30 April 2019 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

### 3 **STEVENAGE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN: PRE-ADOPTION DRAFT**

The Executive received a report which detailed the outcomes of consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on the initial proposals set out in the 30 April 2019 Executive Report.

The Portfolio Holder Environment and Regeneration advised the Executive that discussions at OSC had been positive with constructive points being raised with regard to the removal of references to a 'new' railway station and the removal of the words 'at least' in relation to the provision of 30% affordable housing.

It was noted that Members from all political parties were in agreement that the current railway station failed to meet the expectations of a key gateway to the town and it was expected that regeneration of the site would be progressed.

With regard to the provision of affordable housing it was noted that given the Council's commitment to providing such accommodation it would be unlikely that the amendment to the wording of the plan would make a difference to the number of properties provided.

The Leader commented that the phrase 'Affordable Housing' was open to interpretation and that there was a need to communicate the meaning that the

Council gave to the expression to avoid any misunderstandings.

In reply to questions raised at the previous Executive the meeting was advised that the Holding Direction had a negative impact on delivery of approximately 240 Affordable Homes by delaying delivery of the north of Stevenage site and that the costs of the Holding Direction in terms of QC and shared legal fees and senior officer time was estimated to be in the region of forty to forty five thousand pounds.

Members debated the other possible negative impacts on the town of the delay which included the delay of other planning objectives, such as enforcement, and a potential lack of confidence in the town for investors.

The Leader requested that thanks be extended to the QC for providing such clear and unequivocal advice.

The Leader then referred to a letter that had recently been received from a local resident concerning the impact of the Local Plan on biodiversity and the environment. She informed the meeting that the resident's concerns had been heard and considered by the Inspectorate the Public Examination hearing sessions and reiterated that the Council took its environmental responsibilities seriously. A reply would be sent to the resident and the Leader requested that an e-mail be sent to all Members advising of the course of action the Council intended to take.

Finally the Leader requested that thanks be recorded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their discussion and points raised, the Planning Team and to the Portfolio Holder Environment and Regeneration.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. the outcomes following consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are noted,
2. Council is recommended to accept the Inspector's recommendation to adopt the Stevenage Borough Local Plan, incorporating main and minor modifications (as attached at Appendix B to the report) and associated Policies Map, and
3. Council is asked to revoke the District Plan Second Review 2004.

*Reason for Decision: As contained in report.*

*Other Options considered: As contained in report.*

#### 4 **URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

None.

#### 5 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88;
2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**CHAIR**