

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday, 15 July 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Laurie Chester, Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, Adam Mitchell CC, Robin Parker CC and Claire Parris

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.40pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Downing, S-J McDonough, J Mead and S Mead.

There were no declarations of interest

2. MINUTES - 19 JUNE 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2019 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

3. PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered the decisions on the following matters arising from the Executive held on 10 July 2019.

Minutes of the Executive – 12 June 2019

Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny and Select Committees

4th Quarter Revenue Monitoring Report 2018/19 – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

In response to a Member's question the Assistant Director (Finance & Estates) outlined the policy for purchasing commercial properties. There were different rules for local authorities to pension funds particularly relating to properties outside the geographic area of the individual Council. Additionally the potential risks had to be considered.

Members expressed concern regarding delays on the part of the External Auditor to complete the work on the Statement of Accounts. The Assistant Director (Finance &

Estates) explained that whilst there was no risk for SBC this would cause some problems and she anticipated that discussion would be necessary to renegotiate the fee.

4th Quarter Capital Monitoring Report 2018/2019 – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account

Richard Protheroe, the Interim Strategic Director, explained why it had been necessary to re-run the procurement process for the sprinkler systems as there had been a problem with the Procurement Framework whereby a bid had been received from a company that was not allowed to be included. He stated that unfortunately this would delay the work for 2 to 3 months.

The Interim Strategic Director updated the progress on the boiler works for a number of Community Centres. Members were of the view that the Council should not sign off on the works until the Community Centre Managers had confirmed that the boilers were working as they should.

In response to Members' questions the Assistant Director (Finance & Estates) explained the Council benefited from providing grants to Registered Social Landlords as in return nomination rights were given for the individual schemes.

Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Principles

The Committee concurred with the issues raised by the General Purposes Committee and the Executive regarding the submission of risk assessments and identifying what powers the Council had to limit the number of betting premises in the Borough.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Planning Policy Manager answered a number of Members' questions on CIL and S.106 funding in relation to the Council and HCC.

She stated that the proposed post of CIL Officer would be funded by 5% of CIL monies local authorities are allowed to keep to administer CIL.

Regarding the level of the CIL rates, the Committee was informed that a number of developers had argued that the rates were too high, whereas both HCC and NHDC had questioned whether they were too low. The next stage in the process was to submit the Charging Schedule for independent examination when the evidence base and the consultation responses were to be considered and the proposed CIL rates examined.

A Member queried the use by HCC of S.106 monies for the provision of Schools as he understood that local authorities could no longer build schools. The Assistant Director (Finance & Estates) undertook to clarify what the process was.

2018/19 Annual Report and Performance Overview

Procurement of a Principal Contractor at Symonds Green

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part I decisions of the Executive are noted.

4. URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

6. 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraphs 1 to 7 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.
2. That, having considered the reasons for the following items being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

7. PART II MINUTES - 19 JUNE 2019 - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that Part II section of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2019 are approved as a correct record for signature by the Chair.

8. PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered the Part II decisions on the following matters arising from the Executive held on 10 July 2019.

Part II Minutes – Executive – 12 June 2019

Procurement of a Principal Contractor at North Road

Procurement approach to the Regeneration Scheme at Kenilworth Close

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II decisions of the Executive are noted.

9. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

CHAIR