

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday, 17 February 2020

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, Michael Downing, Michelle Gardner, Andy McGuinness, Robin Parker CC and Claire Parris.

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 8.30pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Sarah-Jane McDonough, John Mead, Sarah Mead and Adam Mitchell.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2020 AND 28 JANUARY 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 January 2020 and 28 January 2020 be 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 meeting held on 12 February 2020:

Minutes of the Executive – 22 January 2020

Noted.

Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny and Select Committees

Noted.

Parking Provision and Sustainable Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Public Consultation

The Committee was advised that the public consultation for the SPD would be published on February 24 2020 and run until 22 March 2020.

In response to Members' questions, the Assistant Director (Planning and Regulatory) commented:

- The suggestion that the size of residential garages should be increased to make them fit for purpose would be taken on board;
- developers would be required to make a financial contribution towards parking contributions in the area of any approved application;
- In relation to the Town Centre, although the provision of parking spaces was still important, the opportunity to reduce the numbers should be considered as all amenities could be reached without the use of a car;
- Consideration would be given to what was included in the S106 agreement for the development on land to the North of Stevenage to try to avoid any overflow parking issues from the Lister Hospital;
- The suggestion of a park and ride scheme and the issue of parking spaces being taken up by commercial vans would be looked at as part of the Transport Strategy.

Stevenage Borough Council Climate Change and Engagement Update

It was noted that the first meeting of the Climate Change Working Group had recently taken place. Members asked that the importance of including young people, youth groups and local schools be highlighted as a crucial strand of work.

An on-line digital engagement programme with interested people had been started which had resulted in a high number of responses so far.

Members were advised of the programme of projects for 'quick wins' for the Council over the next 12 months including free water in the Town Centre, Orchard planting schemes and the reduction in fleet emissions. Officers agreed that the report back to the Climate Change Working Group on the programme of quick wins would also be submitted to this Committee.

Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

Officers advised that a limited number of additions and amendments to the existing Statement of Licensing Policy had been consulted upon. However, the format of the new Policy reflects that of the previous version and is in line with central government and Local Government Association guidance and best practice. In response to a question Officers advised that the consultation had been by way of the website, a press release, with Ward Members, licence holders and trade bodies.

It was noted that the Senior Environmental Health and Licensing Manager would be investigating the possibility of imposing conditions requiring the recycling of empty bottles by licensees.

Household Waste Management Policy

Members were informed of the changes to Existing Practice for household waste which would help the Council deliver its environmental aspirations.

In considering the Policy the following issues were raised:

- Communications were key particularly with regard to
 - the changes around clinical waste collection;
 - the transition between the change from boxes to bags;
 - recharging for replacement wheelie bins and free additions/replacement of recycling receptacles. It was noted that the current cost of replacement bins was in the region of £10,000 per annum including admin and delivery;
 - the recycling of tetrapak was unclear to many residents;
 - missed collections and the reporting thereof.
- It was suggested that a future edition of Chronicle could be used to set out clearly the rules and changes around the waste policy;
- Concern was raised about the need to report missing or stolen bins to the Police as it was felt this could be a waste of time and Police resources;
- Difficulties around side waste, and that it should be made clear that refuse and recycling would only be collected if it was in the correct container.

Final General Fund and Council Tax Setting 2020/2021

It was noted that the Executive had asked officers to investigate enhanced advertising/marketing for Council garages and to explore options with SLL to reduce the level of management fee.

In response to a question, officers advised that the budget included all the options agreed at the Leaders Financial Services Group. A rough estimate of the New Homes Bonus figure in relation to the land North of Stevenage would be sent to Cllr Parker.

Members asked about the percentage of unlet garages across the Town. Officers advised that there were currently in the region of 600 although some of these were not of a standard to be let.

Final Capital Strategy 2019/20 – 2024/25

Noted.

Annual Treasury Management Strategy Including Prudential Code Indicators 2020/21

Officers were congratulated on the clarity of the information presented in respect of the Council's reserves.

In response to a question officers confirmed that all Executive reports now had a climate change implication paragraph included.

Urgent Part I Business

(i) Town Fund

The Town Centre Board had met at the end of January in line with the

Government requirements. Local Partners have initiated a recruitment process for an independent Chair for a new Stevenage Development Board.

(ii) Storm Ciara

Noted.

(iii) Coronavirus

Noted.

(iv) Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse (SADA)

Noted.

Part II Minutes – Executive 22 January 2020

Noted.

Debt Write Offs Greater than £10,000

Noted.

Urgent Part II Business

None.

4 URGENT PART I DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW & 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 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.

7 **PART II MINUTES - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28 JANUARY 2020**

Noted.

8 **PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Noted.

9 **URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

10 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR