

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 26 October 2021

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Myla Arceno, Adrian Brown, Michael Downing, Chris Howells, Wendy Kerby, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris, Loraine Rossati, Simon Speller and Graham Snell.

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 6.40pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alex Farquharson, Sarah Mead and Andy McGuinness. Councillor Graham Snell replaced Councillor McGuinness for this meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22 September 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

2. Minutes of the Executive – 22 September 2021

Noted.

3. Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny and Select Committees

Noted.

4. Covid-19 Update

A Member sought to clarify the booking arrangements for the booster vaccine now being offered. It was confirmed that the National position was that bookings could only be made either by telephone or on-line once the 182 days since the second vaccine had elapsed. There was also a walk-in option for residents at Robertson House after this deadline had passed. No appointments could be made prior to this time.

5. Climate Change – Annual Update 2021/21

Officers recapped the decisions taken by Executive on 20 October. The following comments/questions were raised:

- Further detail was requested on the £8,000 grants which had been announced for local businesses to help transition to lower carbon, how this would be achieved and the rationale behind the figure of £8,000. Officers agreed to request that the Assistant Director Planning and Regulation send the detail of the grants to all Members following the meeting;
- The Chair of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee advised that the Committee had embarked on a detailed scrutiny of the Council's response to the Climate Change Emergency. The Committee had already interviewed the Council's Portfolio Holder for the Environment and would be meeting with all other Portfolio Holders and climate change experts as part of their review. The Committee's next meeting was on 18 November 2021;
- A Member asked if the Council had any engagement with the Supply Change Sustainability School, a resource of climate change experts set up to help SME's. Officers agreed to look into this;
- Officers advised that they were still looking at representation for the Climate Change Residents Group and would update Members with this information as soon as possible along with information relating to the date of the next Climate Change Emergency Committee later this year;
- In relation to an electronic vehicle charging structure, a Member asked if any discussions had been held with businesses and private suppliers. Officers advised they would investigate and get back to Members;
- In relation to recycling, Officers agreed to ensure that communication published by the Council would be understandable in terms of the types of materials that could be recycled. Following a question by a Member, officers agreed to look into the percentage of waste recycled figures and send those out to Members after the meeting;
- In relation to Home Schemes, it was confirmed that this did not just cover social housing.

6. Review of the Co-operative Procurement Strategy 2021/24

The following comments/questions were raised:

- The Strategy was endorsed although it was suggested that reference to in-sourcing could be more prominent throughout the document;
- The Public Sector was an extensive employer in the surrounding area and the possibility of collaboration between the health sector/local authority should be explored;
- The link with the Community neighbourhood Strategy could make a difference in the support available for small businesses in the Neighbourhood areas;

- Members were advised that the Council's Procurement Team worked closely with local businesses to ensure information relating to potential contracts was made available;
- Officers advised that ethical safeguards were covered through the contract process. The Strategic Director (CF) agreed to send an example to Members.

7. Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23

Noted.

8. 1st and 2nd Quarter Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2021/23

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

Not required.

7 URGENT PART II DECISIONS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

8 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR