

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**Date: Tuesday, 25 January 2022**

**Time: 6.00pm**

**Place: Council Chamber**

**Present:** Councillors: Lin Martin-Haugh (Chair), Philip Bibby CC (Vice-Chair), Myla Arceno, Adrian Brown, Michael Downing, Alex Farquharson, Chris Howells, Wendy Kerby, Andy McGuinness, Sarah Mead, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris, Loraine Rossati and Simon Speller.

**Start / End Time:** Start Time: 6.00pm  
End Time: 6.39pm

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

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest.

**2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**3 PART I DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

**2. Minutes**

Noted.

**3. Minutes from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees**

Noted.

**4. Covid-19 Update**

The Strategic Director (RP) advised that Executive had received a verbal update on the Covid position both nationally and locally including:

- The numbers of Lateral Flow Testing kits had increased nationally from 300,000 per day to over 1 million per day particularly via local pharmacies;
- Members would be advised of the proposed use of the Nightingale Ward once clarification had been received from the Hertfordshire Health Protection Board (HHPB) it was not needed for the Pandemic;

- Information had been requested from the HHPB regarding the numbers of unvaccinated local hospital in-patients;
- It was noted that the pop-up vaccination centre in Bedwell had been postponed prior to Christmas. Officers advised that they were pursuing this to ensure the pop-up centre was still to be provided and would be in place and available both during the week and at weekends.

Members expressed concern that some pharmacies were struggling to source Lateral Flow Tests. Officers advised that details of any pharmacies struggling to get the tests should be notified to them for this to be followed up.

In relation to the data regarding unvaccinated hospital admissions, Members were concerned that the Borough information had not been provided as it was known to be available at CCG and GP level. Officers agreed to follow this up.

## **5. Future Town Future Transport Strategy – 12 Month Review**

The Assistant Director Planning and Regulation reported on the comments made by Executive particularly in relation to consultation with appropriate disability groups to seek their ideas on how to overcome practical difficulties experienced by them in transport related matters.

Members raised the following questions/concerns:

- In relation to the new Bus Interchange, what plans were there to inform the public about its use and how to use the Interchange; Officers agreed to consult with the Regeneration Team and report back to all Members about opening and publicity details.
- A Member asked if there were any maps showing the extension of the cycleways particularly at the end of Gresley Way near Emperors Gate. Officers confirmed that they were about to publish a new updated cycleway map which would be shared with Members. The Gresley Way route would be extended by Redrow as part of the Gresley Way development. Further details would be provided to Members in due course;
- In relation to disabled access across the Town, Officers advised that the Members through the Planning and Development Committee had flagged that there should be a variety of different options for disabled users during consideration of the new Multi Storey Car park;
- The issue of the management of E-scooters should be considered by Members;
- The Chris Boardman Group for Active Travel plus the new amendments to the Highway Code were also welcomed by Members;
- Officers confirmed that in relation to Electronic Vehicle (EV) charging points, the list included in the report were those points which were to be funded through grants for publicly accessible chargers and that could be delivered in the time frame required. It was advised that the Emperors Gate EV charging points were no longer included in this bid but Officers agreed to look into this and advise Members accordingly.

**6. Housing Revenue Account (HRA): HRA Budget 2022/23; HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26; and HRA Business Plan Review 2021**

Noted.

**7. Draft General Fund and Council Tax Setting 2022/23**

Noted.

Members were aware that due to the reduction in funding for Councils over the last decade, difficult decisions had to be made to set a balanced budget, but were pleased to note that the Council was still prioritising available business rate gains for economic and housing regeneration and the community and co-operative neighbourhood management work.

**8. Draft Capital Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26**

Noted.

**9. Urgent Part I Business  
SBC Award from Hertfordshire Public Health**

The Strategic Director (RP) reported on an award of £90,000 by Hertfordshire Public Health to continue its work in reducing health inequalities in the Town over the coming years.

Members were invited to suggest ideas for the funding and once the projects were fully developed in conjunction with the Primary Care Networks and Health colleagues within the Town, further details would be communicated to Members.

In response to a question, Officers advised that the funding would cover 2 financial years but it was hoped this would lead to additional funding opportunities.

**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 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 AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Part II Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 December 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8 **PART II DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

None.

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

None.

10 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**CHAIR**