

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 30 January 2018

Time: 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN

Present: Councillors: The Mayor P Stuart and Councillors, D Bainbridge, P Bibby CC, R Broom, J Brown, L Chester, E Connolly, M Downing, A Farquharson, J Fraser, J Gardner, M Gardner, E Harrington, R Henry, J Hollywell, G Lawrence, Mrs J Lloyd, J Lloyd, L Martin-Haugh, A McGuinness, M McKay, J Mead, S Mead, A Mitchell CC, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor, C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, S Taylor OBE CC and J Thomas

Start / End Time: Start Time: 7.00pm
End Time: 7.24pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Briscoe, Burrell, Cullen, Hearn, Hurst, Latif and Webb. Apologies for absence were also received on behalf of the Youth Mayor and the Chair of the Youth Council.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. REPORT REFERRED FROM THE EXECUTIVE - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/2019 AND RENT SETTING

Council considered a report, which updated Members on the final proposals on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budgets and rent-setting for 2018/2019.

Prior to the debate, the Chief Executive referred to the Supplementary Agenda which set out the Executive's recommendations to Council following consideration of this matter at its meeting held on 23 January 2018.

The Executive Member for Housing, Health and Older People, in moving the Executive's recommendations, assured Members that housing remained a top priority for the Council despite, she said, the Government's best efforts to make it as hard as possible for the Council to maintain and provide the homes that its residents deserved due to the impact of the Government's policy initiatives and related ongoing uncertainty.

Accordingly, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That HRA dwelling rents not subject to the 1% rent reduction (currently Low

Start Shared Ownership LSSOs) be increased, week commencing 2 April 2018 by 4% i.e. £4.37 per week, which had been calculated using the existing rent formula, CPI +1% in line with the Rent and Service Charge Policy approved at the January 2017 Council.

2. That it is noted that HRA dwelling rents, (other than those outlined in 2.1) were subject to the 1% rent reduction from week commencing 2 April 2018 or £0.95 and £1.62 per week for social and affordable rents respectively, as outlined in the Government's Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.
3. That the final 2018/19 HRA budget, as set out in Appendix A and the revised 2017/18 budget of £2,802,250, (surplus), is approved.
4. That the HRA Financial Savings options, as outlined in Appendix B, are approved.
5. That the HRA Growth options, as outlined in Appendix C, are approved.
6. That the HRA Fees and Charges, as outlined in Appendix D, are approved.
7. That the 2018/19 service charges, are approved.
8. That the minimum level of reserves for 2018/19, as shown in Appendix E, are approved.
9. That the contingency sum of £250,000 within which the Executive could approve supplementary estimates, is approved for 2018/19 (unchanged from 2017/18).

3. REPORT REFERRED FROM EXECUTIVE - COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/2019

Council considered a report, which proposed a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2018/2019.

Prior to the debate, the Chief Executive referred to the Supplementary Agenda, which set out the Executive's recommendations to Council following consideration of this matter at its meeting held on 23 January 2018. He also highlighted an error in Recommendation 4, which referred to paragraph 4.1.15 of the report. This, he said, should read paragraph 4.1.4.

Accordingly, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the impact of welfare reforms on the CTS scheme (section 4.4 of the report refers), is noted.
2. That the options considered as part of changes in the scheme (section 4.6 of the report refers), are noted.
3. That the work of the Members of Overview and Scrutiny in reviewing the scheme, is noted.
4. That the timescale recommended by the Members of Overview and Scrutiny

in reviewing the scheme for 2019/20 (paragraph 4.1.4 of the report refers), is noted.

5. That the 2018/19 CTS Scheme proposed within this report (based on a 8.5% liability) as set in section 4.5. of the report, is approved.

MAYOR