

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
EAST HERTS COUNCIL AND STEVENAGE
BOROUGH COUNCIL JOINT REVENUES
AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
SHIMKENT ROOM, DANESHILL HOUSE,
DANESTRETE, STEVENAGE, SG1 1HN ON
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015, AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor L Haysey (Chairman).
Councillors Mrs J Lloyd, G McAndrew,
J Thomas and A Webb.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Clare Fletcher	- Assistant Director of Finance
Su Tarran	- Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service
Adele Taylor	- Director of Finance and Support Services

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor L Haysey in the Chair. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Tindale and S Crudgington (Strategic Director Resources – SBC). There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES – 13 OCTOBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of held on 13 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9 QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Committee received a report detailing the current position in the following areas:

- Performance Reporting
- Other Challenges.

In addition the report contained proposals that the Committee move to an annual meeting schedule and that the S151 Officers continue to determine the budget proposals for the shared service.

The Committee was advised that the resizing proposal had been discussed at East Herts Council and was an agenda item for the meeting of the Executive at Stevenage Borough Council on 20 January.

The Committee was further advised that although there had been a marginal reduction in the number of cases referred from the DWP there had been a substantial increase in workload due to the complexity of those cases.

Members then asked a number of detailed questions with regard to the Spare Room Subsidy and the rules concerning the minimum size for bedrooms, which were answered by the Officers. It was noted that the number of bedrooms per property was specified in the tenancy agreement for that property and could only be amended, through appeal, should that property become vacant.

Members commented on the good working relationships that had developed between the two Councils and the success of the shared service. It was noted that this success had enabled the proposal to move to an annual meeting for the Committee and it was requested that thanks to all those involved in the process be recorded in the Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That the Committee meet annually in June, and
3. That the responsibility to complete budget

preparations for the shared service be delegated to the Section 151 Officers.

10 URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

12 URGENT PART 2 BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm

Chairman
Date