
SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 9 March 2023 from 10.00 am - 10.23 am.

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Chitty and Tim Gibson (Chair).

PRESENT (Virtually): Councillor John Burden.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Flo Churchill (Interim Head of Planning Services, Swale Borough Council), Jo Millard (Democratic Services Manager, Swale Borough Council), Kirsty Stoddart (Technical and Administration Manager, South Thames Gateway Building Control), Janine Weaver (Director of South Thames Gateway Building Control),

OFFICERS PRESENT (Virtually): Wendy Lane. (Assistant Director Planning, Gravesham Borough Council) and Mark Breathwick (Head of Strategic Housing, Medway Council).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Neil Baker and Ian Stockley.

1 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Chair drew attention to the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

2 Record of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2022 (Minute Nos. 1 - 7) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(4) 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Act:

(3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

(5) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

5 Monitoring Report December 2022 - February 2023

The Director of South Thames Gateway (STG) Building Control Partnership introduced the report which updated the committee on the current forecast for the 2022/23 financial year and gave details against the progress of the objectives of the Business Plan 2022/23.

She spoke on the effects that vacancies and training had on the service; of the cost-of-living crisis and weather impact on the construction industry; balancing the budget; regular staff engagement meetings; gave an update on the delivery plan; gave an overview of the use of resources and the performance of the partnership.

The Director of STG Building Control Partnership spoke about cross boundary working and the potential for a Kent authorities building control service to join the Partnership. Members discussed the opportunity and agreed not to pursue this at the present time.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

6 Expression of Thanks

As this was Councillor Chitty's last STG meeting, the Chair thanked her for her attendance and work during the twenty-two year partnership meetings. Councillor Burden praised the hard work she put in to keep the partnership structured. The Director of STG thanked Councillor Chitty for her support. In response, Councillor Chitty thanked everyone for their kind words, and she praised officers and wished them well.

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel