

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS -

Meeting:	Environment & Economy Select Committee	
Date:	Monday, 3 December 2018	
Place:	Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete	
Members Present:	Councillors:	Michael Downing (Chair), Lloyd Briscoe, Jim Brown, David Cullen, James Fraser, Lizzy Kelly, Sarah-Jane Potter and Simon Speller

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	F Nyamukapa Ext 2707
	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Hurst, A McGuinness and A Mitchell.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	MINUTES - 12 NOVEMBER 2018	Nyamukapa Ext 2707
	<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Environment and Economy Select Committee meeting held on 12 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
3	UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO INDOOR MARKET SCRUTINY REVIEW	S Weaver X 2332
	<p>The Assistant Director (Stevenage Direct Services) provided an update on the Executive Member response to the Indoor Market Scrutiny Review. The Principal Recommendation was to request officers to engage an external company to carry out market research in order to find out what kind of market offer is required by the Town in the long term. Members were informed that quotations for the market research were expensive. The Council had commissioned the cost effective option of a feasibility study for future business development options or diversification through a specialist company called Spacemakers.</p> <p>With regard to the short term recommendations, it was indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailers had not responded to invitations to make proposals regarding public access to the Indoor Market. The Council 	

will continue to pursue this recommendation

- The Council had commissioned a feasibility study for future development options or diversification of the Indoor Market through a specialist company called Spacemakers. A preliminary report had been submitted to the Council.
- The Indoor Market team has been taking a more robust line with operating hours. Feedback from some traders suggests that fixed opening times could be acting as a barrier for some businesses. The Council is considering the feasibility of a flexible approach.
- The 30 minute parking pilot is still ongoing. Officers are working on a parking strategy for the Borough.
- There is ongoing coordination of town centre and indoor market events.
- An annual action plan is in place. The Spacemakers report will inform the development of a longer term business plan for the indoor market.
- Staggered rents were not considered viable. Struggling traders can apply for reduced rates. The casual trader option had been replaced by “pop up stalls”.
- The Council benefitted from best practiced advice from market trader organisations.
- Officers were considering alternative use options for void spaces. A Business Technology Centre-based business support social enterprise (Wenta) will hold business advice clinics at the Indoor Market for one day a month from January 2019. A number of new traders have been secured since the last review.

Members were informed that with regard to:

- a) Long Term Recommendation 1 – The relocation of the Indoor Market is currently not considered to be a viable option. This will continue to be reviewed as plans for the town centre regeneration develop.
- b) Long Term Recommendations 2 – An alternative location for a smaller reconfigured indoor market has not been identified or considered viable at this point.
- c) Long Term Recommendations 3 – The Council has not considered the option to approach an independent company to administrate the indoor market on a commercial basis. The Council will review the applicability of this option in the future.

	<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Executive Member response be noted 2. That an update on the Spacemakers Indoor Market feasibility study and proposed upgrades to the Indoor Market be provided to the Economy and Environment Select Committee after an officer review of the report
4	URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS
	None.
5	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS
	Not required.
6	PART II MINUTES - 12 NOVEMBER 2018
	It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the Environment and Economy Select Committee meeting held on 12 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to amending the date of the Environment and Economy Select Committee meeting from Monday 3 October 2018 to Monday 12 November 2018.
7	URGENT PART II BUSINESS
	None.

