

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 22 June 2021

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Julie Ashley-Wren, Doug Bainbridge, Stephen Booth, Adrian Brown, Wendy Kerby, Sarah Mead, Claire Parris and Simon Speller.

Start / End Start Time: 6.00 PM
Time: End Time: 7.10 PM

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Downing and Maureen Mckay.

2 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference.

3 **MINUTES - 13 JANUARY 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **REPORT BACK FROM THE SUB GROUP LOOKING AT THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE**

The committee received a sub-group report and suggested recommendations relating to the impact of Covid19 on young people as part of the Committee's wider review of the economic impact of the pandemic on Stevenage.

The Committee met on 10 October 2020 and agreed to set up a sub-group led by Councillor Speller. Councillors Downing, Mitchell, Barr and Mckay volunteered to sit on the sub-group, and helped to discuss and investigate the economic impact of Covid19 on young people.

The Committee agreed on the following scope for the sub-group:

- Meet with Schools Head Teachers, North Herts College Principal, HCC YCH Services for young people and STEMPOINT East
- Find out what are the main challenges to young people regarding Covid-19 in education and employment

- Make recommendations for partners to work together to offer practical help for local young people

Councillor Speller provided a presentation in regards to the report. He advised Members that six meetings of the sub-group had taken place to conclude the recommendations. The following co-opted persons (volunteered) played a key role in providing information on the economic impact of Covid19 on young people.

- Helen Spencer, STEMPOINT East
- Judith Sutton, Area Team Manager North Herts & Stevenage HCC YCH
- Kit Davies, Principal & CE North Herts College
- Sean Trimble, Head Teacher Larwood School
- David Pearce, Head Teacher Brandles School
- Mark Lewis, Head Teacher Alleyne's Academy

Councillor Speller described the sub-group report as qualitative and case driven. He advised Members on Near Horizon and Far Horizon Recommendations as set out in the report.

Members debated the sub-group report, and appreciated the time and efforts that had been put into the report. Members suggested the following could be considered to be added to the recommendations:

- The Council to provide help and support to arts as well as STEM students;
- To provide young people with opportunities to help in cleaning the environment e.g. through litter picking.

The Committee thanked all officers, Members, and co-opted Members and organisations for helping in collating information for concluding the report.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That the Committee endorsed the recommendations as set out in the sub-group report, together with the Members recommendations at the meeting as set out above.
- That a copy of the sub-group's report be sent to the contributors.

5 **ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22**

The Committee received a suggested Work Programme and agenda planning for the future meetings. The Work Programme is a flexible working document that is subject to change as new issues arise. Members were encouraged to suggest items to be included in the Work Programme at any time.

The Scrutiny Officer outlined the following key issues that would be discussed at the future meetings:

- Continue the scrutiny of the impact of Covid19 on Economic Development in Stevenage and the Council's response (To agree any further evidence and meetings required to complete the review);
- Scrutinise the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy Action Plan (Review of the Action Plan Consultation response)
- Update on the 2016 Business Technology Centre Review (To consider delivery of WENTA contract since July 2019)
- Local Neighbourhood Centres – Consider the Executive Portfolio Holder Response
- Bulky Waste Charging Proposal – Officer Key Decision – In a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group
- Indoor Market Medium Term Investment Business Case –In a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group
- Final Future Town Future Council Parking Strategy – Keep a watching brief on the progress of the Strategy
- Parks and Open Space Strategy – In a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group
- Trees and Woodland Strategy – In a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group

It was **RESOLVED** That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

6 **ACTION TRACKER**

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Action Tracker to the Committee. The Action Tracker contained useful information to track the progress of items that the Committee had previously scrutinised.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Action Tracker be noted.

7 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

8 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

9 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR