

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2013

Time: 18.00 hrs.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN

Present: Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), J Brown, J Mead, P Stuart and B Underwood.

Start/End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
 Ended: 6.50 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Apologies were received from Councillors R Parker CC, P Bibby and L Bell.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 11 JUNE 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 11 June 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. SCOPING DOCUMENT

The Head of Environmental Services answered Members questions on the various aspects regarding refuse and recycling and offered to provide the Committee with a short presentation which would provide Members with a better understanding of the service and subsequently what they would wish to scrutinise.

Members were informed that six out of ten districts in Hertfordshire County had decided to out source some of its services whilst others opted to keep their service in house, Stevenage inclusive.

Members requested that background information on issues such as recycling figures, missed bin collections, landfill sites and charges and cardboard recycling be included in the presentation being provided by Officers.

Members were advised that as part of the review exercise, an analysis of comparative Councils with in house service either locally (Dacorum) or outside Hertfordshire (Harrow/Basildon) would be useful.

In response to a question, Officers advised that the Committee could invite organisations such as Friends of the Earth, Waste Aware etc, to participate in the process as a 'critical friend'.

Members agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Regeneration and the Head of Environmental Services be invited by the Scrutiny Officer as part of the review exercise.

The Scrutiny Officer informed Members that any review undertaken should ensure that issues of equality and diversity are considered.

It was **RESOLVED**

1. That a presentation be provided to Members to include the following issues that Members identified during the scoping discussion:- Recycling figures since 2009/2010 to the present, to include the period before the service went on to alternative weekly collections; number of missed bin collections; communications during inclement weather; how to avoid using landfill; recycling bins in public places - 'street recycling'; and cardboard recycling.
2. That the Head of Environmental Services arrange to invite a critical friend from the Herts Waste Partnership and or a similar new town to Stevenage outside of the County, ie Harlow.

4. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

PART II

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR