

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday 30 September 2013

Time: 18.00 hrs.

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

Present: Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), R Parker CC (Vice-Chair), L Bell,
and P Bibby.

Start/End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
Ended: 7.25 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, J Mead, P Stuart and B Underwood.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 6 AUGUST 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 6 August 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. REFUSE AND RECYCLING REVIEW

Members were invited by the Chair to consider a report which included responses received from SBC Officers around the review exercise on refuse and recycling and welcomed any additional questions or clarification on the responses received in the report.

Members were advised that when the new Customer Resources Management System of the Customer Services complaints system is in place complaints will be logged under various categories thereby enabling Officers to address the issues raised. Also Members were informed that within 6 months of the introduction of the new complaints system Officers will have some trend data to report to Members.

As regards the different response times to the complaints logged by residents and Members, The Head of Environmental Services advised that Officers do not distinguish between sources of complaints but he would look into this matter.

Members were informed that on the issue of collection times for bins, information to

residents was very widely publicised on the council website on flyers and publications such as Comet.

Members were advised that during inclement weather, the Council had a duty of care to its drivers and that staff do endeavour to undertake tasks that would not comprise health and safety issues. The meeting was informed that in no circumstances would a driver/staff be forced to carry out collections during severe weather periods.

A suggestion that a consistent policy be developed on managing missed collections especially during long periods of snowfall was noted.

As regards the question on the causes for the drop in numbers for residents who had signed up originally for the nappy collection service, Members were advised that in most instances the service was no longer required.

Members were informed that since cardboard was not compostable, it could no longer be sent to the South Mimms recycling unit as there was now a high cost associated because of the contamination of the end product but will be sold to the market as mixed papers.

On the issue of recycling for residents in flats and tower blocks, the meeting was informed that Officers are presently undertaking a survey to establish recycling requirements. Members were advised any modification to the properties to accommodate any recycling facilities would require investments which will fall on the Housing Revenue Account.

Members were informed that Environmental Services are consulted by Planning Officers as part of the planning process where new build homes or blocks of apartments are being proposed in the town.

The Head of Environment Services agreed to revisit the issues previously raised by Members who were not able to attend the meeting on 30 September 2013 when the Committee next meets.

4. INTERVIEW WITH “CRITICAL FRIEND” FOR THE REVIEW INTO REFUSE AND RECYCLING

The Chair informed Members that this item has been deferred to a future meeting. The interview of the ‘Critical Friend’ will be scheduled alongside the Executive Portfolio holder for Environment and Regeneration.

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

PART II

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR