

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday 18 June 2014

**Time:** 6.00 p.m.

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

**Present:** Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), P Bibby (Vice Chair), L Bell, J Brown, G Snell and P Stuart.

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 18.00 hrs.  
Ended: 19.35 hrs.

**1. TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Committee for the Municipal year 2014/15 appointed at Annual Council on 10 June 2014 be noted.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Bainbridge, L Briscoe, E Connolly and C Saunders.

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

**4. MINUTES – 12 MARCH 2014**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 12 March 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5. EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING**

The Head of Environmental Services provided the Committee with the Portfolio Holder's response to the Committee's recommendation following its review on Refuse and Recycling.

The Officer advised Members that most of the Committee's recommendations had been accepted and where possible put in place. In some instances the recommendations were being considered as part of a whole service review which would be undertaken

during 2014/15.

In response to a question on flats with mixed tenure, a Member asked whether leaseholders were being subsidised by tenants from the HRA Rents towards changes to communal recycling in flats. The Officer agreed to look into the issue and report back to the Committee.

The Officer advised Members that the review had acted as a catalyst for a whole service review considering the way recycling is being collected.

## **6. DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT – TREE AND HEDGE SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Head of Environmental Services answered questions on the various aspects regarding tree and hedges and offered to provide the Committee with a presentation which would provide Members with a better understanding of the service and its various activities.

It was **RESOLVED**

1. That a presentation be provided to Members to include the following issues that Members identified during the scoping discussion: maintenance of tree/ hedges and parks, consultation process with residents, promotion of 'friends of' groups etc.
2. That during the review, a 'critical friend' from another local authority and SBC Housing Officers should be invited to take part in the review.
3. A site visit to various areas around the town incorporating parks and sites that demonstrate typical overhanging and overgrowing hedges and trees be arranged by Officers.
4. That the Draft Scoping Document be noted.

## **7. URGENT BUSINESS**

None

## **7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Not required.

## **8. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

## **CHAIR**