

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday 15 December 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, L Briscoe, J Brown and P Stuart.

Also Present: Councillor R Raynor (Executive Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport)

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
Ended: 6.32 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

2. MINUTES – 21 OCTOBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 21 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Committee received an Officer update to the review in to Training and Employment Opportunities for Young People Scrutiny Review that had been carried out by the Economy, Enterprise and Transport Development and Scrutiny Committee in February 2013.

The Committee expressed disappointment that the recommendation seeking the creation of a local Directory of Businesses who would be willing to visit local schools to outline career opportunities had not been progressed.

The Committee was advised that staffing changes and other priorities had resulted in

this activity not being given the attention due and it was suggested that the Executive be approached with a request for support to revisit the recommendation. In reply Councillor Raynor advised the Committee that he would discuss the issue with the Head of Planning Regeneration and Transport but cautioned that it was likely that there could still be other issues that would take priority.

It was also noted that there had been a lack of involvement from some schools in the review, but there had been good engagement with four secondary schools.

In reply to a request the Scrutiny Officer undertook to contact the Stevenage Educational Trust for a response to the issue raised by students during the review concerning the visibility and access to the Careers Advice Service in schools.

The Committee was advised that although 500 businesses had been contacted regarding their willingness to embrace an apprenticeship scheme response rates had been poor. In reply to a request the Head of Planning Regeneration and Transport undertook to provide feedback from those results received.

The Committee was further advised of an example of best practice whereby a school in the town had worked with students and local employers to provide work experience opportunities and careers advice. In reply to a question the Head of Planning Regeneration and Transport undertook to inform Members of the name of the school.

It was **RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

4 URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR