

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

**Date:** Wednesday 7 January 2015

**Time:** 6.00 p.m.

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

**Present:** Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), P Bibby (Vice-Chair), D Bainbridge, L Bell, L Briscoe, J Brown E Connolly, C Saunders, G Snell and P Stuart.

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 6.00 p.m.  
Ended: 6.35 p.m.

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

There were neither apologies for absence nor declarations of interest.

**2. MINUTES – 15 DECEMBER 2014**

With reference to paragraph four of Minute 3, Scrutiny Review into Training and Employment Opportunities for Young People, a Member expressed the view that there had been a lack of involvement from a wide range of students in the review, rather than a lack of involvement from some schools.

In reply to a further comment the Scrutiny Officer undertook to provide a timetable for the actions contained within the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 15 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**3. CLEANSING OF CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS**

The Committee received a presentation on the cleansing of children's play areas which had been requested as part of the workplan review for 2014/2015.

The Committee was advised that there were currently 19 sites listed as 'hot spots' where there were ongoing issues primarily with broken glass, the removal of which was given priority status. There were currently 19 such areas and they were cleaned on a daily basis.

In reply to a request the Head of Environmental Services undertook to circulate a list the 'hot spots' to Members. Members were advised that if they had concerns about sites not on the list they should alert officers who could amend the list accordingly. Members were further advised that the list was not fixed at 19 sites.

The Committee expressed concern that only 6 reports of broken glass in play areas had been logged through the CRM system in the previous 12 months. The Officer stated that the 'hot spot' regime probably pre-empted many reports but confirmed that a review of the reporting process would be undertaken to ensure that data was correctly input to give a more accurate representation of the issue.

In reply to a question the Committee was advised that reports of broken glass at the weekends were dealt with by the Council's emergency cleaning protocols if they were deemed to warrant immediate attention.

The Committee was advised that in addition to issues of broken glass the other most commonly reported problem was that of dog fouling. In reply to a question the Committee was advised that signage at play areas was amended to reflect changing issues affecting the area and that information was shared with the Hertfordshire Constabulary and Anti-Social Behaviour team to better police the areas.

In reply to a request the Scrutiny Officer undertook to circulate to Members a copy of the original scrutiny report and recommendations.

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

#### **4 URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

None

#### **5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Not required.

#### **6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

#### **CHAIR**