

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

MEETING: **Environment and Economy Select Committee**
Tuesday 3 February 2015 Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), D Bainbridge, L Bell, L Briscoe, J Brown, E Connolly, C Saunders, G Snell and P Stuart.

<p>1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p>	
<p>An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor P Bibby and there were no declarations of interests.</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
<p>2. MINUTES – 7 JANUARY 2015</p>	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 7 January 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
<p>3. UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO INWARD INVESTMENT & BUSINESS SUPPORT REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	
<p>The Head of Planning, Regeneration & Transport provided the Committee with the Portfolio Holder’s response to the Committee’s recommendation following its review on inward investment & business support.</p> <p>Members were informed that since the review in 2012, most of the recommendations had been undertaken.</p> <p>Officers had met with 60 members of the Federation of Small Businesses regarding the Government’s policy on business rates, and the revised information on business rates had now been published on the Council website.</p>	<p>P Pinkney Ext 2257</p>

Members were informed that Council had employed 11 apprentices and following a recent recruitment exercise 5 more apprentices were about to commence.

On the issue of supporting local businesses with regards to procurement for goods and services, the Committee were advised that the Council facilitated a 'meet the buyer' day annually, however the Council would continue to explore ways without breaching UK and EU legislation on procurement issues.

Members were advised that using the services of the Business Technology Centre 'My Incubator' to support the indoor market traders was challenging for a number of reasons and that BTC had visited and offered support but had received no response.

With regards to the disused Kodak building, Members were advised that the building had now been demolished and had recently been granted planning permission for commercial use.

In response to a suggestion about using locally skilled workforce in Stevenage, Members were advised that through the Job & Skills Fair, over 260 opportunities had been created.

The Committee were advised that a recommendation requesting whether the Council could incorporate sustainable building methods in any future building projects could not be linked or delivered through a local plan as had previously been the Officer response but should be addressed by initiatives such as the Decent Homes Programme or any future Council House building programme.

The Head of Planning, Regeneration & Transport requested Councillor Brown to email him the specific issue he had regarding SAP ratings to which he would respond.

In response to a question, the Head of Planning, Regeneration & Transport offered to provide Members with a comprehensive briefing on all the activity that was taking place to support inward investment in Stevenage.

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

P Pinkney
Ext 2257

P Pinkney
Ext 2257

4. URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
<p>The Scrutiny Officer informed Committee that he had circulated a draft report and recommendations on the review of the maintenance of tree, hedge & shrub beds for Member input or comments.</p> <p>He also advised that the Head of Planning, Regeneration & Transport would update the Committee on the Executive Members' response to the review into Training and Employment Opportunities for Young People and any actions resulting from the Committee's meeting in December 2014.</p>	S Weaver Ext 2332
5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
Not Required	O Adeoye Ext 2809
PART II	
6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None	O Adeoye Ext 2809