<u>Template Scoping Document (DRAFT)</u>

Environment & Economy Select Committee	
Scrutiny Review Title:	Business Technology Centre
Background issues to review – rationale for scrutinising this issue:	Members raised the issue of reviewing the Business Technology Centre, which was agreed by the Select Committee at its meeting on 24 March 2015 as the focus of its scrutiny review.
	Members wish to investigate this matter as they were of the view that the BTC is an important initiative supporting small to medium sized enterprises in Stevenage and is therefore worth investigating to consider how successful it is in supporting new businesses. BTC also provides a valuable income stream to the authority in rental income so scrutinising this would be worthwhile given its commercial value to the Council.
Is the issue highlighted as one of the Council's corporate aims and	There are no specific references to the BTC within the Council's Corporate Strategy. However, within the corporate strategy there is a commitment to "Have a growing town and economy".
objectives of the Council's <u>Corporate</u> <u>Strategy</u> , – 'Sharing the Dividends"? If so which one:	Regarding the Council's Community Strategy there is a commitment under the ambition to "Regenerate Stevenage" to "Have a Growing Town and Economy". Having a Business Technology Centre with its 'my Incubator' new business start-up support at the BTC is a positive and tangible initiative towards this Corporate Strategy ambition.
	Healthy Economy
	In compiling the Community Strategy residents told the Council that there are not enough jobs in the area and they don't have the right skills for local jobs.
Is the issue addressed by the Council's Community Strategy?	The Council's Community Strategy has a commitment to "improve the local economy" and "increase skills and employability".

Is this issue one that raises interest with the public via complaints or Members' surgeries?:	There have been no recorded complaints regarding the BTC.
Focus of the review: (State what the review focus will be)	To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting. Members/Officers have suggested the following possible Options: The review should act as a timely health check for the organisation. BTC Future Operations - Is the BTC an incubator space or a managed work space? BTC Funds - Should the receipts generated by the BTC be reinvested into test trading grants for start-ups or recycled and used to develop a new enterprise facility BTC Future Talent - How can we improve our relationship with Hertfordshire University and North Herts College to grow a pipeline of start-up talent with roots in Stevenage? Is there scope for more vocational/apprenticeships to be supported? BTC Future Focus - Does the BTC need to have similar brand values/identity to that of Stevenage BioScience Catalyst or does it need to do something different?
Timing issues: Are there any timing constraints to when the review can be carried out?	None apparent prior to scoping, but the review will have to fit in with the timing of the other Select Committee review work programme items. Officers will advise at the meeting if there are any timing issues to consider.
The Committee will meet on (provide dates if known):	Dates: Day/Month/Time/Venue Monday 8 June 2015 – Presentation of Service/Consider Draft Scoping Document Wednesday 24 June 2015 – Formally Agree Scope and identify lead Member roles Thursday 25 June 2015 – (Networking event/site visit and performance review – not part of the formal review process but a useful information gathering event) Tuesday 7 July 2015 – BTC Site Visit (site visit late afternoon and then 6pm evening meeting at BTC) Monday 7 September 2015 - Interview review witnesses Wednesday 14 October 2015 - Draw together findings and draft recommendations

	Identify a date for the Final Report and Recommendations
SBC Leads (list the Executive Portfolio Holders and SD's Heads of Service who should appear as witnesses):	 Officers have suggested the following people: Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise & Transport – Cllr Ralph Raynor Strategic Director (Environment) – Peter Bandy Head of Planning, Regeneration & Transport – Paul Pinkney Representatives of BTC Management Committee- Chris Pichon WENTA Chairman and another member of team perhaps a support professional from the BTC Stevenage 'My Incubator' (to be identified) Current occupant of BTC - (to be identified) Former occupant of BTC - (to be identified) Input from University of Hertfordshire/North Herts College/LEP/Chamber of Commerce (to be identified)
	Others officers or Members?
Any <u>other witnesses</u> (external persons/critical friend)?:	 To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting. Possible options identified by officers: A peer from a neighbouring area to act as a 'critical friend' (from an authority with a similar business support start up hub)
Allocation of lead Members on specific individual issues/questions:	To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting.
	Members will ask questions on the following areas XXXXX (list the issues to address during the interviews):
	Cllr XXX will lead questioning on XXX
	Cllr XXX will lead questioning on XXX.
Any other Questions Members wish to cover:	Cllr XXX will lead questioning on XXX
	Cllr XXX will lead questioning on Equalities & Diversity Issues – Are there any E&D issues to consider in this review?

Site visits and evidence gathering in the Community	To be agreed by the Committee at the scoping meeting but it is recommended that the Committee visit the Centre A Possible option is – Tuesday 7 July 2015 – BTC Site Visit (if this date is not suitable for BTC then an alternative date will be agreed)
Equalities and Diversity issues: The review will consider what the relevant equalities and diversity issues are regarding the Scrutiny subject that is being scrutinised	To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting XXXX
Constraints (Issues that have been highlighted at the scoping stage but are too broad/detailed to be covered by the review):	To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting XXXX (These issues can be captured and dealt with via other means – Briefings/email/officer action etc)
Background Documents/data that can be provided to the review	To be identified by the Committee at the scoping meeting XXXX Possible options suggested by officers: • Presentation describing the purpose of the BTC and the service