

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

MEETING: Environment and Economy Select Committee
Monday 8 June 2015 Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Downing (Chair), L Briscoe, J Brown, J Fraser, M Hurst, J Mead and P Stuart.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Bainbridge, R Broom and A McGuinness. There were no declarations of interests.	O Adeoye Ext 2809
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE	
Noted	O Adeoye Ext 2809
3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR	
The Chair invited nominations for the post of the Vice Chair. It was moved, seconded and RESOLVED that Councillor M Hurst be appointed the Vice Chair of the Environment & Economy Select Committee for the current Municipal year 2015/16.	O Adeoye Ext 2809
4. MINUTES - 24 MARCH 2015	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 24 March 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	O Adeoye Ext 2809

<p>5. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16</p>	
<p>The Scrutiny Officer informed Members of the various scrutiny items on the work programme and advised that the Committee had agreed to review the Business Technology Centre during the 2014/15 Municipal Year.</p> <p>The Committee were informed that Members would be afforded the opportunity to contribute to development policy items such as Energy and Sustainability Strategy and Aspects of Recycling before its consideration by Executive.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Work programme be noted.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>
<p>6. DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT – SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO THE BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE</p>	
<p>The Committee received a presentation about the Business Technology Centre (BTC) from the Regeneration Officer. She provided a brief historical background to the establishment of BTC, its purpose and its management by WENTA. The officer highlighted areas of interest to Members such as SBC’s present contractual agreement with WENTA, which ends in 2017 with a further option to extend for two more years, the Centre’s future operations/undertakings, how to reinvest funds; the Centre’s plans to attract future young talent and finally what should be the Centre’s future focus from 2019.</p> <p>The Regeneration Officer advised that a site visit had been offered as part of the review process to provide an opportunity for Members to interview present users. There was also the possibility of a Committee meeting being held at the BTC.</p> <p>Members requested more information from officers on WENTA and BTC activities with the view to being able to establish if the centre was primarily an incubator or a managed work space.</p> <p>In response to a Member’s question, the Scrutiny Officer agreed to circulate to Members a previous scrutiny report undertaken in 2012 which involved the BTC on issues around inward investment opportunities and business</p>	<p>G Rowe Ext 2292</p> <p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>

<p>support. Members agreed that the previous review be revisited and if possible invite the original witnesses to take part.</p> <p>Members requested further information on how the BTC compares with other incubator spaces in the region and a breakdown on the number of businesses that had joined and left the centre on a year by year basis. Member also requested information regarding the number of available office spaces in the town for small businesses.</p> <p>Members considered the draft scoping document and were invited to amend it to suit issues that they would like to be addressed by the review.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the draft scoping document be noted.</p>	<p>G Rowe Ext 2292</p>
<p>7. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
<p>8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p>	
<p>Not Required</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
<p>PART II</p>	
<p>9. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p>	
<p>None</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>

