

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

MEETING: Environment and Economy Select Committee
Thursday 17 September 2015, Kadoma Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors M Downing (Chair), R Broom, J Brown, M Hurst and A McGuinness.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Speller, Portfolio Holder Neighbourhoods and Co-operative Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
<p>An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Mead and P Stuart.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests.</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
2. BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (BTC) REVIEW INTERVIEW	
<p>Councillor S Speller provided Members with a historical background to the setting up of the BTC in the 1980's highlighting both its benefits and challenges to Stevenage over the years. He indicated that Stevenage had experienced a decline in manufacturing industries which resulted in high unemployment rates, with the town over reliant on a few large employers, the Council was keen to address this by diversifying the economy, hence the establishment of the BTC.</p> <p>In response to a question on the possibility of expanding incubator spaces into other venues, Councillor Speller acknowledged that an arms length or independent management company such as WENTA could play a supporting role in establishing new businesses within neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>

3. DRAFT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>The Chair informed Members that as the review was still ongoing it could not at this stage finalise the report and recommendations until the Committee has had the opportunity of interviewing Councillor R Raynor, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Enterprise and Transport and the Interim Assistant Director of Regeneration and undertaken a site visit to gather evidence, however a date in December 2015 has been provisionally reserved.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2203</p>
4. NEXT STEPS	
<p>Members were informed that a site visit to Kennington Workspace and Pop Brixton is scheduled take place now on 12 October 2015.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2203</p>
5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS	
<p>None</p>	
6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
<p>Not Required</p>	
PART II	
7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
<p>None</p>	