

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 14 October 2015

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room Stevenage

Present Councillors: M Downing (Chair), L Briscoe, R Broom, J Brown, J Mead, and P Stuart.

Start/End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
Ended: 7.40 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Bainbridge, J Fraser, M Hurst and A McGuinness.

There were no declarations of interests

2. MINUTES – 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 7 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of Councillor L Briscoe as an attendee.

3. MINUTES – 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 17 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. NOTES – 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes from the informal meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee be noted.

5. SBC GREEN TRAVEL PLAN

The Engineering Services Manager presented an update to the Council's Green Travel Plan.

Members raised a number of issues related to, but not directly covered by, the travel plan which the Officer undertook to review at a later date. It was suggested that a

further review of the plan could be undertaken in twelve months' time.

In response to a request the Engineering Services Manager undertook to circulate a copy of the Stevenage Cycle Map to all Members.

The Committee was advised that a low cost hosting service to provide a 'closed group' for potential car sharers had been identified. The Committee expressed the view that the Officer should proceed with a trial period for the service.

The Committee discussed various methods of promoting the plan and was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be conducting a review into Media and Communications. The Scrutiny Officer undertook to advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the discussion that had taken place concerning the travel plan.

In reply to a question concerning mileage rates the Engineering Services Manager undertook to reply directly to the Member concerned.

Note – after the meeting it was confirmed that the mileage rate for motorcars was 45 pence per mile irrespective of engine size, whilst the rate for bicycles was 20 pence per mile.

In reply to a further question it was confirmed that Working from Home requests would be considered where circumstances permitted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the progress towards the delivery of the Green Travel plan be noted.

6. FEEDBACK FROM SITE VISIT TO KENNINGTON OVAL WORKSPACE AND BRIXTON IMPACT HUB FOR THE BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (BTC) REVIEW

The Committee received a verbal update from Members and the Scrutiny Officer about the site visits undertaken on Monday 12 October.

The Committee was advised of the contrasting approaches taken and then discussed the potential benefits of adopting elements from either approach for the Town.

It was suggested that a recommendation could be that the Council enter into a discussion with Impact Hub to determine the viability of various locations within Stevenage.

In reply to a question the Scrutiny Officer undertook to contact Lambeth Council to determine that Council's view on the operation and merits of the Brixton Impact Hub.

The Chair requested that formal thanks be sent to Gail Rowe, as former employee of the Council, who had facilitated the visits.

It was **RESOLVED** that the feedback be noted and incorporated into the draft report and recommendations accordingly.

7. NEXT STEPS OF THE BTC REVIEW

The Committee was advised that the next meeting, which would review the draft recommendations from the review, would take place on Tuesday 24 November. The Committee requested that the Leader of the Council be interviewed so that her views on the BTC going forward could be heard.

It was confirmed that the final report and recommendations would be presented to the Committee at a meeting on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the dates of the next meetings and the following stages of the review process be noted.

8. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

Chair