

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 24 November 2015

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Place: Shimkent Room Stevenage

Present Councillors: M Downing (Chair), M Hurst (Vice-Chair), D Bainbridge, L Briscoe, J Brown, J Fraser and P Stuart.

Start/End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
Ended: 7.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Broom, A McGuinness, J Mead and the Leader Councillor S Taylor OBE CC.

There were no declarations of interests

2. MINUTES – 14 OCTOBER 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 14 October 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. INTERVIEW WITH THE LEADER OF STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

In the absence of the Leader the Committee discussed the need for the aspirations of the Council in respect of the Business Technology Centre (BTC) to be articulated and incorporated into the report and recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Scrutiny Officer be requested to arrange an informal interview with the Leader, the Chair and the Vice-Chair, if possible, in time for any comments made by the Leader to be incorporated into the final report due to be presented to the Committee on 12 January 2016.

4. BTC REVIEW – NEXT STEPS

This report had not been circulated to Members five clear working days before the meeting nor had it been made available for public inspection. The Chair determined however that given the reason for urgency as detailed in the report it be considered on this occasion.

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report and Members made a number of comments

which included:

- The need to determine the Council's longer term aspirations for the Centre.
- The possibility of the Council taking a facilitative role in bringing together the Centre, schools and higher education providers to identify opportunities for young people in the town.
- The potential to ring-fence some income generated by the BTC to support activity with schools to identify opportunities for young-people in the town.
- The desire to undertake a review of the profile of occupiers of the BTC and potential opportunities for encouraging an occupier profile more representative of the town's demographic.
- Ways of offering support services to the Bio Science Catalyst.
- Ways to encourage more start-up enterprises.

The Chair requested that Members consider the report and the comments made at the meeting and then make any suggestions regarding recommendations to the Scrutiny Officer by 8 December 2015. A finalised report, together with recommendations, would then be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 12 January 2016.

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

5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

None.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

Chair