

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: Environment & Economy Select Committee
DATE: Monday 31 October 2016
PLACE: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN
MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: M Downing (Chair), M Hurst (Vice-Chair), D Bainbridge, R Broom, J Brown, L Chester, J Fraser, E Harrington, A McGuinness and P Stuart

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1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no apologies for absence nor any declarations of interest.</p>	<p>ACTION/LEAD</p> <p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
2.	<p>MINUTES – 29 SEPTEMBER 2016</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 29 September 2016 are approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
3.	<p>MINUTES – 12 OCTOBER 2016</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 12 October 2016 are approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	<p>O Adeoye Ext 2809</p>
4.	<p>REVISIT TO RECOMMENDATIONS AND AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS AND FIXED PENALTY NOTICES (DOG FOULING)</p> <p>The Environmental Performance & Development Manager informed the meeting that since 2013 when</p>	<p>J Hill</p>

	<p>the Council ran a campaign to educate dog owners, there has been a significant fall in incidents of dog fouling . The Officer advised that posters suitable for either the summer and winter months, warning against dog fouling had been installed in 40 locations within the nine hotspots in town.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that in the last 6 months a dozen fixed penalty notices had been issued in relation to fly tipping and littering as it had been on the increase however no fixed penalty notices were issued for dog fouling as it was difficult to catch offending dog owners. Members were informed that although housing and private tenants receive information pack detailing their responsibilities regarding recycling and refuse, there was no information provided on dog fouling or flytipping, however the Officer advised that in most cases a warning letter to residents had a positive outcomes</p> <p>In response to incidences of dog fouling around school playing fields, Members were advised that schools were not within the remit of SBC Environmental Officers but Hertfordshire County Council.</p> <p>In response to a question on responsibilities of horse riders, Officer advised that no regulation existed that covered horse droppings but he would provide Members with information relating to the issue.</p> <p>Officers agreed to circulate the figures showing the reduction in numbers of dog fouling incidents since the 2013 campaign was carried out.</p>	Ext 2900
5.	<p>REVISIT TO RECOMMENDATIONS AND AGREED ACTIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO MAINTENANCE OF TREES, HEDGES & SHRUB BEDS</p> <p>The Arboriculture and Conservation Manager informed Members that following the review of trees in 2015, the Environmental Services Team in conjunction with Housing Tenancy Team have now implemented an integrated maintenance service for all types of trees across the town.</p> <p>Members were advised that for a long time the Housing Revenue Account trees in the town had not been maintained to the same standard as the general fund trees, the scheduled planned programmes for the trees should be completed within 2-3 years.</p> <p>With regards to the funding of the combined maintenance programme, Members were advised that</p>	<p>C Pinta Ext 2760</p> <p>P Seaby</p>

	<p>there was no guarantee that the service would continue as this was subject to the HRA funding priorities.</p> <p>In response to questions on the works schedule for the maintenance of shrub beds across the town, the Officer indicated that ward councillors would be notified of works scheduled in their area before work commences, and that a map of how the work is programmed across the town showing planned works would be circulated to Members.</p> <p>On the issue of licences to occupy, the Head of Environmental Services informed the meeting that following the review no solution had been found to simplify the process. Councillor M Hurst encouraged ward councillors to help improve amenity spaces within residential areas, by working with their local residents using awards from Local Community Budgets to improve areas.</p> <p>In response to a Member request officers agreed to inspect the maintenance of shrub beds around Burns Close and to provide details of this inspection to the local ward councillors.</p>	Ext 6218
6.	<p>URGENT PART I BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	
7.	<p>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>Not Required.</p>	
<u>PART II</u>		
8.	<p>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</p> <p>None.</p>	O Adeoye Ext 2809