

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

**MEETING:** Environment & Economy Select Committee  
**DATE:** Wednesday 18 January 2017  
**PLACE:** Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors: M Downing (Chair), M Hurst (Vice-Chair), R Broom, J Brown, E Harrington and P Stuart.

**THE AGENDA ITEMS REFERRED TO IN THIS NOTICE OF DECISIONS MAY BE INSPECTED AT THE RECEPTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, DANESHILL HOUSE. COPIES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE COMMITTEE SERVICES SECTION 01438 242992**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bainbridge, L Chester, J Fraser and A McGuinness.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	<b>ACTION/LEAD</b>  O Adeoye Ext 2809
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES – 15 November 2016</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 15 November 2016 are approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	O Adeoye Ext 2809
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>REVIEW OF ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <p>The Committee were asked to consider the report and recommendations of the review into the Allotments.</p> <p>Members welcomed the content of the report, and considered that it reflected the review findings.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that an additional recommendation had been included relating to future improvements for plot holders with disabilities.</p>	S Weaver Ext 2332  J Hill Ext 2900

It was **RESOLVED**

1. That the findings of the review contained within this report and the recommendations below be presented to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment & Regeneration and the Strategic Director (Environment) and that a response be provided from these and any other named officers and partners within two months of the publishing of this report.
2. That Members and officers work with the Stevenage Gardens and Allotments Association and local schools to establish ways to encourage young people to take up gardening and keeping allotments as a way of widening the demographics of allotment users.
3. That officers explore the possibility of working with Stevenage Gardens and Allotments Association to explore the possibility of Community Ownership of Allotments.
4. That officers revisit the current Appeals arrangements to improve and speed up the process.
5. That officers discuss with Stevenage Gardens and Allotments Association ways in which overgrown allotments might be tidied up (without using a cultivator that spreads weeds) to encourage new allotment hirers to take on allotment strips.
6. That officers work with the Stevenage Gardens and Allotments Association to consider ways in which new allotment hirers could be trained to gain the basic understanding and knowledge to work an allotment successfully.
7. That officers consider what measures can be taken to direct allotment holders to publicly available toilets in the area as any further onsite provision is not viable within the current budgetary restraints, but better information such as a map would be helpful.
8. That, building on the achievements already made working with Stevenage Gardens and Allotments Association, officers consider ways in which the security can be improved and vandalism designed out of the allotment sites.

	<p>9. That a detailed breakdown of the internal service charges be provided to Members of the E&amp;E Select Committee in order that they can better understand why this makes up the largest proportion of the Allotment services overall costs.</p> <p>10. That improved facilities for plot holders with disabilities would be monitored by Members when they revisit the review at a future meeting of the Environment &amp; Economy Select Committee.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>URGENT PART I BUSINESS</b></p> <p>None.</p>	O Adeoye Ext 2809
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <p>Not Required.</p>	O Adeoye Ext 2809
<b><u>PART II</u></b>		
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b></p> <p>None.</p>	O Adeoye Ext 2809