

Public Document Pack



COUNCIL

18 December 2025

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART 1

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

An answer to the question submitted by the Youth Council is attached.

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11 NOTICE OF MOTIONS – URGENT MOTION: SAVE OUR LOCAL RAIL TICKET OFFICES

An answer to the question submitted by the Youth Council is attached.

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YOUTH COUNCIL QUESTIONS

Questions to Portfolio Holders / Committee Chairs

YOUTH COUNCIL QUESTION

- (A) Could the Council provide an update on the initiatives or planned initiatives they are supporting to equip young people in schools with the necessary skills to progress to the next stage of their lives, particularly in STEM, and what efforts are being made to increase awareness of these?

Answer (Councillor Lloyd Briscoe/Conor McGrath):

Cllr Briscoe – Perspective on Economy & Skills Elements:

Thank you, Lahaina, for your important question regarding the Council's efforts to equip young people with the skills needed to succeed, particularly in STEM fields. From an economic and skills perspective, the Council is deeply committed to supporting initiatives that prepare young people for future opportunities and ensure they are ready to thrive in Stevenage's growing economy.

STEM is vital to Stevenage's economy, with the town home to a range of innovative businesses and industries, particularly in Life Sciences, Space and Defence. By fostering a strong pipeline of STEM talent, we are not only enhancing individual opportunities for young people but also supporting the continued growth and competitiveness of our local economy. Initiatives like this ensure that our young people are well-positioned to take advantage of the high-quality jobs being created within Stevenage's thriving business sectors.

A key initiative in this regard is the Pioneering Young STEM Futures programme, which directly aligns with our ambitions around Enterprise & Skills – linked to our Corporate Plan. Phase One of the programme engaged primary, secondary and special schools in projects that focused on critical STEM and employability skills, including teamwork, communication, and organisation. These foundational skills are essential for providing young people growing up in Stevenage with the tools they need to access high-growth careers in STEM.

Looking ahead, we want to continue the success of the Pioneering Young STEM Futures programme, and our partnership with Mission44 and other partners including North Hertfordshire College, the University of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire Futures.

Cllr McGrath – Perspective on Young People

I'd also like to thank Lahaina for her critical question. As she well knows my Portfolio has a specific focus around young people and I'd like to add to what

Lloyd has already stated. As a council we are committed to ensuring that all young people in Stevenage have access to initiatives that enhance their life skills and open doors to meaningful futures.

As Lloyd already referenced, The Pioneering Young STEM Futures programme is a cornerstone of these efforts. Phase One had a distinct and specific focus on capturing the voice of young people and ensuring that this was at the heart of what we do going forward. We know that Stevenage is a unique place in Hertfordshire and feel that our role is to make sure that young people growing up in Stevenage are aware of the opportunities on their doorstep and are provided with the tools to make these as accessible as possible.

Looking forward, we are continuing to prioritise engagement and accessibility through initiatives like our Youth Engagement Vehicle. This project will continue to capture young people's feedback and ensure that information is effectively shared across schools and community networks, specifically by the young people involved in them. This targeted engagement will help raise awareness among young people and their families about the opportunities available to them, reinforcing our commitment to providing young people with agency and empowerment.

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MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Questions to Portfolio Holders / Committee Chairs

(A) Question from Councillor Phil Bibby

Does the Cabinet Member agree that following the fire at the Luton Airport multi story car park, the Council would be expected to protect residents, shoppers and their cars by installing a sprinkler system in St Georges Way car park?

Answer (Councillor Lloyd Briscoe/Jeannette Thomas):

The fire at Luton Airport car was shocking and highlighted the potential danger of all vehicles in car parks, including diesel and EV. The Council has committed to review options for fire safety including sprinkler systems in the MSCPs, noting the need to consider the relevant fire safety requirements for all types of vehicle. There is a capital allocation in the current budget for improvements to fire safety at St George's MSCP specifically related to EV charging.

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