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ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber

Contact: committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Members: Councillors: Leanne Brady (Chair), Andy McGuinness (Vice-Chair), Robert Boyle, Jim Brown, Forhad Chowdhury, Alistair Gordon, Rob Henry, Claire Parris, Ceara Roopchand, Peter Wilkins and Jade Woods

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2026.

3 – 6

3. INPUT FROM CYCLING USER GROUPS

The Chair has invited various cycling user groups to provide comment on the delivery of the Cycle Strategy Action Plan focusing on two elements for development (i) Create an implementation plan for cycle network improvements and maintenance (including signage and wayfinding) and (ii) Increase the provision of secure and accessible cycle parking across the town, including e-bike charging points. The groups will be invited to share their main request as a future focus for cycling in Stevenage and what they can offer to support cycling.

7 – 8

4. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part 1 business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions –

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: Councillors: Leanne Brady (Chair) (Chair), Andy McGuinness (Vice-Chair) (Vice Chair), Robert Boyle, Jim Brown, Forhad Chowdhury, Alistair Gordon, Claire Parris, Ceara Roopchand, Peter Wilkins and Jade Woods

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.41pm

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rob Henry

2 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment and Economy Select Committee meeting held on 24 November were approved and signed by the Chair.

3 **NOTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE - 3 NOVEMBER 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment and Economy Select Committee informal meeting held on 3 November were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 **FOCUS ON CYCLING STRATEGY**

The Portfolio Holder for Economy, Skills, Transport and Devolution introduced a presentation reviewing the Stevenage Cycling Strategy 2018.

The Director of Planning and Regulation summarised the report and provided an update on progress made since 2018. The report outlined the vision, objectives and impact of the current strategy. Matters discussed included the maintenance of cycleways, safety, cycle parking, and more recent issues relating to e-charging.

It was noted that most of the cycle network is adopted highway and therefore the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) has more limited direct control, with roles ranging from lobbying and partnership working to delivery on land within its ownership (e.g. parkland and regeneration sites). Members highlighted historical context and concerns about the

County Council's understanding of the unique Stevenage cycleway network.

Members raised concerns that not having an officer dedicated to cycling in Stevenage had impacted on the implementation of the strategy since 2018. It was noted that a lack of resources has been the main contributing factor.

It was further noted that there was no baseline data since 2018 in the report. Officers advised that direct comparisons using 2021 Census data are limited, though more recent county-level transport data may be available. The portfolio holder clarified that this is being looked at with a view to providing up to date information at a later stage of the review.

Members questioned whether references to cycling routes relate to dedicated cycleways or roads, noting that some maps in the report appear to show roads (for example around Chells Way and Gresley Way) rather than actual cycleways. The Committee asked that the maps be checked and updated for accuracy.

Members discussed cycling restrictions within the town centre. It was confirmed that cycling remains prohibited in the main shopping area. Members expressed mixed views, noting pedestrian safety concerns alongside difficulties accessing cycle parking without dismounting. There was general support for improving safe cycling routes around, rather than through, the town centre, and for reviewing access arrangements as part of future work.

Committee Recommendations

1. Network Familiarisation for the New Authority

That officers undertake preparatory work to ensure the new authority has a clear understanding of the existing cycling and walking network in Stevenage, rather than relying on transition alone.

2. Update to Strategy Data

That updated data be prepared to accompany the 2018 Strategy, providing a 2025/26 position statement on available data and progress since adoption.

3. Cycling Access in the Town Centre

That officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, explore improvements to cyclist access through the town centre, including safe routing and appropriate cycle parking provision.

4. Responsible Use and Management of the Cycling Network

That engagement take place with cyclists and relevant stakeholders to encourage responsible use of the network, clarify appropriate routes, and address parking and access issues within the town centre.

5. Single Point of Officer Responsibility

That a single, named officer (or dedicated role/champion) be identified to lead on implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the Cycling Strategy and associated action plan.

6. Underpass Lighting Improvements

That officers investigate the feasibility of graduated or adaptive lighting in underpasses to reduce glare and improve safety when entering and exiting.

7. Cycling Promotion and Events

That opportunities be explored to deliver cycling-focused initiatives or events, potentially supported through Section 106 or other appropriate funding mechanisms, subject to discussions with relevant officers and funding constraints.

5 FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW OF RECYCLING IN FLAT BLOCKS

It was **RESOLVED** that the final report and recommendations of the review of recycling in flat blocks be noted

6 URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Part I Business

7 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required.

8 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Part II Business

CHAIR

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Evidence note for Cycling Groups/invited representatives to E&E Select Committee 24 February 2026

Organisation and presenter name:

Commentary on progress made against objective. Current status (one short paragraph), RAG and factual information about delivery concerns, areas of particular concern/investment need:

Table 12.1 — Cycle Strategy Implementation Plan

Objective	Impact / outcome	RAG Score (Red, Amber, Green)	Areas of Concern/Investment Need
Create an implementation plan for cycle network improvements and maintenance (including signage and wayfinding).	A world-class cycling infrastructure for Stevenage that is connected, convivial and safe to use and, together with behaviour change interventions, will lead to cycling around Stevenage becoming irresistible.		
Increase the provision of secure and accessible cycle parking across the town, including e-bike charging points	Address the concerns many people have about safe storage of bikes and make cycles more visible around Stevenage, acting as a 'nudge'		

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Agenda Item 3

	to encourage others to cycle. Provision of cycle storage in the town centre will help to reinforce the lifting of the cycle ban in that area.		
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Concrete ask to Committee (single, specific ask):

Offer of support / delivery role (what the organisation can commit):