



ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2026

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber

Contact: Gemma O'Donnell (01438) 242216

committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Members: Councillors: Leanne Brady (Chair), Peter Wilkins (Vice-Chair),
Jim Brown, Claire Parris, Jade Woods, Doug Bainbridge CC,
Jan Bainbridge CC, John Blackwood, Jaysica Marvell,
Graham Spencer and Nigel Williams

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

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3. FLY-TIPPING REVIEW - OFFICER PRESENTATION

Members are invited to consider an officer presentation regarding fly-tipping as an introduction to the review and touching on the issues that Members raised in the draft scoping document that the Committee agreed at its meeting on 16 June 2026.

Presentation to follow.

4. ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER 2026

To consider the Environment & Economy Select Committee's Action Tracker for 2026 and for Members to indicate if they wish to receive an update on any previous reviews where they are not already covered in this year's work programme.

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5. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

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

6. 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.

7. 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: Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: Councillors: Leanne Brady (Chair) , Peter Wilkins (Vice-Chair) , Jim Brown, Claire Parris, Jade Woods, Doug Bainbridge CC, Jan Bainbridge CC, John Blackwood, Graham Spencer and Nigel Williams

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 6.35pm

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jaysica Marvell.

2 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March were agreed by the Committee.

3 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

4 **ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026-27**

The Committee considered the proposed work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and agreed that the annual climate emergency monitoring meetings should be streamlined to place greater emphasis on local activity and outcomes, rather than national updates. Members noted that previous meetings had been lengthy and that local issues had not always received sufficient scrutiny.

The Committee also agreed to receive a follow-up report on cycling to review progress against recommendations arising from the previous scrutiny exercise. In addition, Members supported the inclusion of an update on skills and employment, recognising the Council's ongoing focus in this area. Suggestions included arranging a visit to the new college campus, reviewing adult literacy levels within the town. Members noted the value of previous engagement with the college and agreed that further scrutiny of its developing facilities would be beneficial.

The Committee also discussed a proposed review of cost-of-living issues. Members acknowledged that, although previous scrutiny work had been undertaken in this area, many challenges remained for local residents and warranted further examination. It was suggested that the review should consider demand for local food

banks, the characteristics of those requiring support, and the extent to which employment and skills issues may be contributing factors. Concerns were also raised regarding the affordability of travel and access to employment opportunities, with Members noting forthcoming updates relating to local bus services. The importance of monitoring the implementation and impact of previous scrutiny recommendations was emphasised, and Members agreed that reviews should be revisited periodically to assess progress.

The Committee received an explanation of the Action Tracker process, which enables scrutiny recommendations from recent years to be monitored and reviewed, and noted that a more detailed consideration of the tracker would take place at the next meeting.

5 DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT - FLY-TIPPING REVIEW

The Committee considered the E&E Select Committee Work Programme for the forthcoming year and agreed that the principal scrutiny review would focus on fly-tipping. Members discussed the scope of the review and identified a number of key areas for investigation, including enforcement activity, deterrents and penalties, the use of CCTV and signage, reporting processes, performance indicators, hotspot identification, and the accessibility and capacity of waste disposal facilities. Members also highlighted concerns regarding barriers to accessing recycling and waste sites, particularly for residents without access to a car, those with disabilities, and individuals affected by digital exclusion. Members referenced the number of fast-food takeaways in the town centre, leisure park, retail parks and in the neighbourhood centres as an area of potential interest re the number of litter bins and the responsibility of the restaurants. It was suggested that comparisons be made with approaches adopted by other local authorities and external organisations to identify examples of good practice.

The Committee further discussed the role of repeat offenders, commercial waste dumping, community engagement, education and behavioural change initiatives, and the potential contribution of local community groups in providing intelligence on fly-tipping hotspots. Officers advised that further information would be brought forward on enforcement activity, intelligence gathering, hotspot mapping, and the development of an action plan. Members supported the inclusion of site visits, engagement with residents and community organisations, and consideration of equalities and diversity impacts as part of the review. The Committee agreed the overall direction of the scrutiny exercise and noted that fly-tipping would form the Committee's major work programme item throughout the year, alongside other scheduled business.

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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Environment & Economy Select Committee - Action Tracker								
<u>Review Title & C'ttee</u>	<u>Date added to the work programme</u>	<u>Scoping/ started complete/ updated</u>	<u>Review start date (& follow-up dates)</u>	<u>Review Status (date if completed)</u>	<u>Key Recommendations</u>		<u>Exec Portfolio Holder Response</u>	<u>Date brought back to Committee for monitoring</u>
Waste & Recycling in Flat Blocks	11/06/25	Scoping Document - 11 June 2025	11/06/25	Final Report 28 01 26	Rec 1	Recycling Champions - Recycling Champions - It is recommended that regarding recycling champions officers would be asked to consider encouraging recycling with awards and recognition for the areas with the most recycling, promote with young residents, consider smiley stickers on bins etc.	Portfolio Response to Refuse & Recvcling Review	To be scheduled
					Rec 2	Infographic stickers on the bins - It is recommended that SDS Officers consider using large infographic stickers on the bins to differentiate different recycling bins, this would be a cheaper and easier option than multiple-coloured bins.		
					Rec 3	Mobile CCTV at Bring Bank Sites - (i) Regarding Bring Bank sites, Officers consider using mobile CCTV of sites with signage saying CCTV in operation and where fly tipping can be evidenced follow up with education and civil prosecution and (ii) Regarding any future plans to rationalise the Bring Bank Sites Members asked to see the plans for early consideration ahead of any public consultation as there were concerns over reducing the capacity		
					Rec 4	Use of Signage in bin stores - That any signage used should not be overly descriptive, the primary focus should be on encouraging positive behaviour and educating the public, rather than enforcing rules or regulations.		
					Rec 5	Use of easy to understand and easy to do recycling methods at flat blocks - Members recognise the challenges of implementing recycling provision across such a diverse range of flat blocks and that there is not one single solution that can be rolled out across the flat blocks. (i) It is recommended that whatever offer officers consult on they will need to be simple and accessible to residents to encourage them to take part in any new recycling schemes and (ii) ensure that the literature is available in different formats including other languages, on request (noting however that the literature is mostly pictorial) and in braille.		
					Rec 6	A possible solutions to collection of recycling at Vardon Road Flats and similar flat blocks - It is recommended that in areas similar to the Vardon Road flats, where there are currently no recycling bins, an option could be to provide large plastic bins or large strong flexible sacks that residents would put their recycling into and then the refuse operatives could move up to the exit/ car park area to the freighters using light fabric sacks (the SDS refuse operatives currently manually lift general waste plastic sacks up a set of steps to the refuse freighters)		
					Rec 7	Measures to counter fly tipping around bin stores by non-residents - It is recommended that Officers ensure that all new bin stores have locks of some sort and existing ones are also made secure to stop incidents of fly tipping from non-residents.		
					Rec 8	Use of innovative 3 wheeled bin - Members commend Stevenage Direct Services Officers for the innovation of their own designed 3 wheeled bin. (i) Members recommend that a survey of flat block sites be carried out to see where this bin can be utilised in recycling collections around the town and (ii) That SDS work with the Assistant Director, Business Change and Digital regarding the business opportunity protecting the design		
Skills Agenda Review	12/02/24	16/07/24	16/07/24	Final Report & Recs 14 01 24 - Skills Agenda Review	Rec 1	(i) Expansion of Stevenage Works - It is recommended that the Council be encouraged to expand Stevenage Works beyond construction into the health and social care sectors. (ii) Expansion of Stevenage Works into “Green Construction” Solar and air source heat pump technology - It is recommended that the Council be encouraged to expand Stevenage Works into a third iteration beyond health and social care sectors into Green Technologies.	Cabinet Response - 11 06 25	To be scheduled
					Rec 2	Upskilling - It is recommended that all partners including the DWP, Citizens Advice, Step2Skills, the Council and SMEs and larger employers should be encouraged to do this. Efforts from all partners would be needed to help lower skilled individuals obtain the skills they need to access higher skilled and higher paid roles which would directly tackle the problems associated with insecure employment from low-skilled, low-paid work.		

Environment & Economy Select Committee - Action Tracker							
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					Rec 3 Promotion of the T-Level qualification for nursery childcare into the local economy - The potential of new T-level qualifications that involved hands-on learning, could help nurseries train staff more efficiently. It is recommended that North Herts College be encouraged to expand the T-Level qualification in nursery care to help train more people locally to expand the provision of trained staff. Rec 4 Challenge to HCC & Local Children Centres regarding providing clear accessible information on what funding is available for families for childcare – The funding position is currently confusing to parents so clarity would help in this area. Rec 5 Promotion of work experience opportunities - It is recommended that (i) the Council's Business Relationship Manager works with colleagues to promote opportunities for young people to connect with local employers for work experience; (ii) That SBC offers a range of work experience opportunities for young people across the organisation, and that these are offered consistently every year to local schools and colleges; and (iii) That SBC social media is used to share local job opportunities for young people across the organisation, and that these are offered consistently every year to local schools and colleges; and (iii) That SBC social media is used to share local job Rec 6 Promotion of success stories from Stevenage- It is recommended that members and officers consider ways to promote success stories from the local community, celebrating successes by the college and schools where students attain excellent skills outcomes, as they in turn become the role models for successive years of students, i.e. Mayors Award for Learning. Rec 7 Promotion of a clear local careers advice service Work with partners towards a credible local careers advice service. Establishing a clear source of objective careers information which is available to pupils, students, and those wanting to re-train, or change direction. That a local link within the National Careers service is readily available, and that this reflects national standards in career entry qualifications, but also what is available in Stevenage, and wider Hertfordshire. Rec 8 Commendation to North Herts College and Barnwell School for their work in promoting skills - It is recommended that North Herts College and Barnwell School be commended for their work to promote skills to their students. North Herts College by providing Industry standard facilities and equipment the college are equipping young people with the skills they need to move straight into higher level courses, apprenticeships or employment and are responding to what employers have been saying for some time that young entrants don't have the necessary skills to be work ready. Barnwell School are offering an excellent peer to peer mentoring to ready pupils for university applications and interviews as well as collaboration with the University of Hertfordshire through their "zero gravity" and "Brilliant Club" initiatives. Rec 9 Devolved, local skills strategy That SBC along with its partners in the broadest sense (Herts Growth Board, Job Centre Plus, North Herts College, Local Secondary Schools, Local Employers) continue to work to develop and genuine, local skills strategy, which reflect local skills opportunities and challenges within the economy.		
Bus Scrutiny	23/03/23	14/06/23	14/06/23	16/01/24	Rec 1 SBC Executive Portfolio Holder for Transport be invited to consider holding a yearly transport seminar for Stevenage bringing together the HCC transport unit and the public transport providers to hold them to account regarding the performance of their contracts with a view to champion local users' needs and bring a focus on improved performance.	16 July 2024 - Cabinet Member & external	

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					Rec 2 It is recommended that (i) Arriva be strongly encouraged to update the real time information for bus services on their website and App , as bus users rely on this information to wait for bus services, if cancelled or delayed; and (ii) that real-time information also be included at bus stops, so passengers know when the next bus is due and also if a service is not running etc.	partner response	
					Rec 3 (i) to help wheelchair users and disabled and the visually impaired that some (a least two or three) of the information screens in the bus interchange be lowered and the contrast of those screens be adjusted to provide a good contrast to enable those users to be able to read the information more easily, and (ii) in addition, that a similar sign to the RNIB signage used near the ticket office at the railway station be installed at the bus interchange.		
					Rec 4 (i) The HCC Passenger Transport Unit and Arriva need to engage in an open and ongoing conversation with disability groups like Herts Vision Loss to help refine and shape the services, as it appeared to Members that this was not currently the case; and (ii) the use of trusted apps for those with disabilities be championed by bus providers and transport authorities at HCC.		
					Rec 5 Arriva should revisit their driver training regarding courtesy and care towards disabled passengers. This should be looked at based on the evidence submitted by Herts Vision Loss, who reported that their members were, on occasion, not given sufficient time to be seated when boarding or were dismissed or ignored by some drivers when asking for assistance or information about the bus route etc.		
					Rec 6 HCC Passenger Transport Unit and Arriva advance the roll out of audio announcement on buses as well as visual displays screens, which need to be retrofitted to all existing fleet and be provided as standard on any new fleet stock.		
					Rec 7 (i) In the first instance, bus companies should be encouraged to consider electric vehicles or other alternatives to move away from fossil fuels ; and (ii) during the long transition to EV electric replacement buses and considering the variable supply of hydrogen, that HCC and Arriva be invited to consider using a more environmentally friendly Biodiesel which produces 90% less carbon than conventional diesel.		
					Rec 8 Regarding new housing developments, that SBC Planning and Development Officers should consult with Bus Companies regarding their views to help avoid any unintended consequences to buses using routes into new housing developments and that HCC Highways Officers should be invited to consult with bus companies regarding the introduction of traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, narrowed roads or chicanes that can make bus journeys slower and therefore not run to optimum journey times. If there are to be any changes made to road schemes for traffic calming these should consider such measures as bus gates.		

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					Rec 9 (i) SBC, fully consider the use of the Bus Station in its new location, and the user experience. In respect of the pedestrian access from the Bus Station through to the shops, the existing signage be reviewed ; (ii) Consider means of assisting older and disabled users to move from the Bus Station into the town, such as a shuttle bus (iii) that the provision of WiFi be considered at the Bus Interchange to help passengers access the Arriva App; and(iv) that Officers and Partners consider all available options to ensure that there is a safe and comfortable user experience at the Bus Station.		
					Rec 10 It is recommended that as part of the regeneration of the town centre strategically placed bus stops near public infrastructure will need to be provided , for example there should be a bus stop provided at the new leisure centre when this is built at the town centre gardens, St Georges Way site, as well as consideration of a new bus route to service any new stops.		
					Rec 11 It is recommended that Arriva and HCC be encouraged to consider the provision of a spine route running from the north to the south of the town.		
					Rec 12 It is recommended that SBC via the Executive Portfolio Holder for Enterprise and Transport lobby HCC to consider different funding models for the provision of bus travel for Hertfordshire as it was felt that it was right to challenge the funding model which was not currently delivering a service that was fit for purpose.		
					Rec 13 It Is recommended that consideration should be given to a circular bus route between Roaring Meg, Leisure Park, Old Town and the Town Centre , and that officers of the Council review this to identify any funding opportunities, if possible as an electric bus service.		

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E&E Final Report & Recs Climate Emergency	Continuation of review (23 03 22)	N/A continuation of review	Final part of review started 23 06 22	Final report 17 01 23	1 SBC & Area Wide Pathway & Targets - It is recommended that clear targets and a pathway to 2030 for both SBC targets and area wide targets need to be established. It is not currently clear what the targets or pathway are to see how Stevenage gets from where it is now to 2030. The way progress against the 2018 baseline figure is measured and publicised needs to be thought through so that this is clearly described to show what progress is being made each year and understood by officers, Members and by the public.	Exec Member response - 23 03 23	The E&E Select Committee receives a twice yearly update on Climate Change in November and March
					2 Pace - Is the climate emergency really being treated as an emergency? It is recommended that there is a need to ramp up the pace to get to net zero for the town by 2030. Members accept there are challenges around funding but where it sits in corporate priorities is an area that is a decision for the authority. Members will be looking to see how the pace is picked up leading to 2030.		
					3 Adaptations - The review established that due to extreme weather events linked to climate change there is already a need for adaptations to buildings and for up-to-date emergency response plans to care for older residents in sheltered housing schemes. It is recommended that there be an audit of all adaptations required across the Council.		
					4 Behaviour Change - It is recommended that officers from SBC link up with officers from the HCC Behaviour Change unit to work together on behaviour change initiatives.		
					5 Review - It has been recommended by the Chair of the Environment and Economy Select Committee that the issue of the climate emergency should be under regular review by the Committee and that a progress report should be brought back to the committee on a yearly basis.		
					6 Training - The Committee recommends the creation of a training package for members, and additional training for senior officers, on climate change mitigations and adaption, so that future decision makers are well informed in all aspects of the councils' operations, and the bearing climate change mitigation and adaption may have on them.		

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E&E Interim report & Reccs Climate Emergency	E&E Select Committee 22 09 20 - Work Programme	E&E Select Committee - 4 Oct 2021 - Scoping Document	04 10 21	Interim report & recommendations complete - 23 03 22	1 Recognising the main areas of emissions for the Stevenage area - (Transport and domestic emissions combined 2/3 of the overall emissions (64%) (i) Provide details of plans to decarbonise the housing stock & (ii) share plans for influencing local people, modal shift.	Date sent 05/04/22 Date due 31/05/22	The E&E Select Committee receives a twice yearly update on Climate Change in November and March
					2 Resident engagement - Regards the Citizens Panel, handling of future iterations needs to be improved re feedback.		
					3 Refine Baseline figures - measuring our Net Zero targets for 2030 Rec'mndation: Continue to work with the Uni of Herts Zero Carbon Lab towards our zero carbon ambitions.		
					4 Est.of a Climate Change Lead Officer Rec'mndation: that the post be made permanent.		
					5 HEART – Challenge Rec'mndation: engage with HEART to provide Member seminars & team up in support of a social enterprise such as a Climate Emergency Centre.		
					6 Mainstreaming of Climate Emergency thinking re all Council activities. Rec'mndation: (i) consider how an activity or an event can be made as low carbon as possible.		
					7 Tree Canopy - Rec'mndation: Exec establish an ambitious plan to meet the 2% gap in Stevenage's Tree Canopy, then expand the number of trees in Stevenage or offset elsewhere, as this offers the		
					8 Planning & Development Rec'mndation: Within the constraints of exiting legislation, establish a plan to make Climate change a planning consideration for all applications.		
					9 Focus on improved Recycling Exec brings back a report on the actions and strategy to improve the Council's recycling rates.		
					10 Protecting climate emergency targets in the budget setting process (i) Mbrs and Officers involved in the budget setting process, consider the climate change implications of any budget decisions, with no cut to services if there is a detrimental climate change implication; & (ii) Exec consider creating a small ring fenced budget to investigate the long term budget implications of climate change for business units.		
					11 EV Charging in neighbourhood centres: (i) were possible, the locations used should be close to the cycle network; (ii) when Electric Car Club charging equipment is reinstalled a promotion campaign with neighbouring residents be carried out & (iii) consider rebranding it, making it clear		
					12 SBC Social Housing (i) That new tenants receive info on climate change in their "welcome packs", to include the Council's ten climate change pledges & info on recycling at their property; (ii) more be done with residents groups to move away from day to day housing tenant issues to consider wider Climate change matters (iii) encourage very local, small scale events that focus residents on environmental projects (gardens/trees) or community kitchen/growing or bulk buying schemes.		

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					13 Recommendations of Informal Member Working Group (i) devise a strategy re tree management & P&D (Strategic); (ii) Mbrs & Officers lead by example, even if benefits small e.g. plastic bottles, drinks cups etc. (Quick wins); (iii) Consider how to represent the progress of the strategy? Fishbone chart/Gantt chart, target lines, KPIs (Strategic); (iv) Communications plan is needed with channels, calendar, etc. start with a campaign to reduce your heating by 2 degrees (Strategic); (v) Review Council activities to ensure carbon friendly practices are truly embedded. (Strategic) (vi) Engage with young people via schools, Youth Mayor and Mayor's activities. (Distinct Project); (vii) Promoting the 20 Minute Neighbourhood theory, encourage local businesses to tap into big business. Would suit a workshop to be facilitated externally to tease out tangible actions. (Distinct Project).		

Environment & Economy Select Committee - Action Tracker							
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E&E - Economic Impact of Covid-19	E&E Select Committee - 22 09 20 - Work Programme	E&E Select Committee - 10 Nov 2020 - Scoping Document	10/11/20	Complete - 21 10 21	1 Executive supports, with whatever means are at its disposal (in kind buildings/officer time/promotion via LCB funding), the efforts of STEMPOINT East to provide some hands on events in 2022 of STEM sessions looking to promote and build “science capital” in young people.	E&E Select Committee - 23 03 22 - Exec Member Response	To be scheduled
					2 Exec consider the case study of partners working in micro areas (sub-neighborhoods) such as at the Oval project, with 8 or 9 Young People who would be in danger of becoming NEET and that the AD for Communities & Neighbourhoods meet with the interested parties from HCC YCH, STEMPOINT and NH College to explore what role SBC could do to further support.		
					3 Exec consider the case study of Brandles School foodbank outreach to vulnerable families. Exec to provide examples of where they are already doing this type of outreach through the Co-operative Neighbourhood Management or other programmes and to consider new opportunities to reach out to vulnerable families to help young people access services and opportunities.		
					4 establish a local work experience project for Stevenage school leavers in 2022 to enable them to find local employers who can offer work experience.		
					5 Exec consider the case study of the Herts Careers School Hub that all partners work together to establish how funding can be found to assist the STEM Centre to secure its future funding.		
					6 The Exec lobby HCC and partners via the Covid-19 Community Reassurance Cell to check that they carry out a revised impact assessment on the impact on BAME, Disabled and Young People, looking at all ten districts not just the County as a whole, as Stevenage had particular challenges with disabled, BAME and young people, who in many cases stated the pandemic in a deficit position and were in danger of this being further compounded.		