

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, 13 June 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Michael Downing (Chair), Matthew Hurst (Vice Chair), Lloyd Briscoe, Jim Brown, David Cullen, James Fraser, Lizzy Kelly, Andy McGuinness, Adam Mitchell CC, Sarah-Jane Potter and Simon Speller

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 7.15pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations of interest.

Chris Berry was introduced to the meeting as the interim Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration covering for Zayd Al-Jawad whilst he was on Adoption Leave.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ralph Raynor, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport to the meeting who had been invited to discuss the current issues around the change in rail timetables.

2 MINUTES - 21 MARCH 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 21 March 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

4 ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND MEETING SCHEDULE 2018-19

The Chair welcomed Councillor Raynor, Portfolio Holder for Economy, Enterprise and Transport to the meeting and informed members that he had invited Councillor Raynor along to give an update to the meeting regarding the current situation with regards to the recent problems relating to the change of timetables on the rail network.

The Portfolio Holder advised that he had written to the Secretary of State to find out

when the timetable would be fully implemented and what kind of compensation scheme would be available for those affected by the problems. He would update the Committee when he had received a response.

It was suggested that when the timetable was fully up and running it would be a positive for Stevenage with more trains per hour stopping at the station.

It was noted that there were no Rail User Groups in Stevenage and that the Committee should think about how the Town could develop a voice.

The Committee agreed that the matter should be added to the Committee's work programme and that representatives from the Rail Companies involved be invited to the relevant meeting of the Committee.

In relation to the remainder of the work programme it was noted that there was not one big issue for scrutiny as there had been in previous years for the Committee to review. Following consideration of the programme, the Committee agreed to include the following items:

- Rail Users;
- District Plan Regeneration as a discussion item;
- Re-imaging Fairlands Valley Park;
- Update on refurbishment of Middle Row and other public toilets – single meeting;
- Licence to Occupy procedures – single meeting;
- Cycling Strategy – single meeting;

The Assistant Director Stevenage Direct Services agreed to further consider the provision of outdoor space and sports provision and bring this back to the Committee for further discussion.

It was agreed that the items relating to Neighbourhood Maintenance and Neighbourhood Wardens should be addressed by the Community Safety Select Committee.

The Scrutiny Officer also outlined the items to be included in the work programme for monitoring of previous recommendations and those matters to be included as Policy Development Items including:

- Indoor Market Review (six and twelve month monitoring);
- BTC Contract Renewal;
- Living Streets;
- Transport Strategy;
- Stevenage Direct Services Business Unit Review;
- Trees Policy and
- Bus Interchange (subject to the delivery of the Town Centre Regeneration).

In response to a question regarding previous reviews and recommendations, the Scrutiny Officer agreed to bring a paper back to the next meeting with details of

previous reviews undertaken by the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the main review items, one off meetings, review revisits and policy development items on the Work Programme 2018-19 and as detailed above are noted.

5 **STRATEGIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2031 - INCLUDING LIVING STREETS - DISCUSSION ITEM**

The Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration introduced the Stevenage Strategic Transport Strategy 2031 to the Committee. He highlighted the headline details of the Strategy and details of the seven key areas within the strategy which demonstrated the Council's commitment to securing vital improvements for communities.

The Committee was advised that more detailed proposals around the Strategy would be brought back to the Committee at a later date.

Members were pleased to see the submission of the Strategy and agreed that the potential for improvements to the Town were substantial. In response to a question the Assistant Director advised he would check the 'Living Streets' branding which it was understood was the marketing name for the Pedestrian Association. The Assistant Director also agreed to consider the inclusion of taxi and hire cars.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Strategy be noted and the start of the work on this area be welcomed.

6 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

7 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

8 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR