

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, 1 August 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

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

Start / End Start Time: 6.00pm
Time: End Time: 6.45pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Brown and Lizzie Kelly.

Councillor McGuinness declared a personal interest in item 3 relating to public toilet provision in the town as he was employed as the Campaigns Manager for Crohns and Colitis UK.

2 MINUTES - 13 JUNE 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Select Committee held on 13 June 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was noted that the items relating to the Licence to Occupy procedures and the review of the Direct Services Business Unit would be submitted to the October meeting of the Committee.

In relation to the item on the Transport Strategy officers advised this would be coming forward towards the end of the year.

3 PRESENTATION ON PUBLIC TOILETS

The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director Direct Services on the current situation regarding the provision of toilets in the Town including the New Town Centre (Joy Ride), Old Town (Middle Row) and Stevenage Indoor Market.

The Committee were pleased to note the improvements to the Town Centre facilities including replacement vanity units, floor coverings and total redecoration internally and externally. It was also noted that the funding had now also been approved for improvements to the Middle Row facilities in the Old Town.

Members were concerned regarding the opening times and accessibility of toilets during the evening, particularly with the regeneration of the town centre and the night time economy offer. The Assistant Director advised that this issue would form part of the discussions around the regeneration proposals including the potential for toilets to be listed as part of the new wayfinder information.

In response to a question, the Committee was advised that the Town Centre (Joy Ride) facilities had come to the end of their serviceable life and required replacement. The works had also given the Council an opportunity to review and enhance the cleansing arrangements for the facilities.

It was agreed that safety and cleanliness of the facilities were the main considerations but that different styles of facilities should be looked at during the regeneration of the Town including a Changing Places toilet for people with profound disabilities who cannot use standard accessible toilets. The importance of inclusiveness and accessibility was also stressed with the requirement for ease of access to a functioning disabled toilet including for those with hidden disabilities. Members were supportive of the 'can't wait' card issued by Crohns and Colitis UK as a discreet mechanism to access toilet facilities and agreed that more promotion was needed in this area.

It was **RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR