

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 23 October 2018

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Liz Harrington, Roni Hearn, John Mead, Sarah-Jane Potter and Tom Wren

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.20pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Simon Speller.

Councillor Sandra Barr declared an interest in item 2 – Presentation from Young Enterprise as Chair of Governors at Larwood School.

Councillor Tom Wren declared an interest in item 3 – Decent Homes Scrutiny Review as a Leaseholder.

2 PRESENTATION FROM YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The Committee received a presentation Jo O'Reilly, Area Manager from Young Enterprise (YE), an organisation offering a wide range of programmes to help young people develop key employability competencies including:

- Team Programme –for students who have mild to moderate learning difficulties or are studying Entry Level or Level 1 qualifications;
- Company Programme – enables participants to experience what its like to set up and run a student company;
- Tenner Challenge – providing a broad and balances curriculum that prepares students for life as active citizens and providing opportunities to explore financial mathematics;
- Employability Masterclass – CV's, skills and attitudes to upskill and raise aspirations for future workforce;
- Learn to Earn – careers and qualifications required for certain careers.

The Committee was informed that over 4,500 students in 60 schools and colleges had benefitted from the work of YE.

In response to a question regarding SEN pupils or those young people who had disengaged from learning, Jo O'Reilly advised that YE delivered access for all programmes and gave examples of previous work. She advised that YE would adapt

programmes to whatever was required by the school or organisation.

The Committee was informed that YE was happy to work with partners across Stevenage including North Herts College and all Secondary Schools although other organisations would be welcomed and programmes could be developed as appropriate. The Chair suggested that the Stevenage Works programme which is a partnership between Stevenage Borough Council and, North Herts College and Job Centre Plus aimed at ensuring local people benefit from jobs and development opportunities associated with major contracts let across the Town (ie Flat Block refurbishment – MRC Regeneration, Garages etc) could be a useful contact for YE to exchange details with.

It was **RESOLVED** that Jo O'Reilly from Young Enterprise be thanked for her presentation.

3 **DECENT HOMES SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Committee revisited the Scrutiny Review of Decent Homes which was completed in January 2014.

Members were pleased to note that all works inspected post their completion.

Officers informed the Committee of potential social value opportunities within future contract commitments including trade apprenticeships. This would be followed through with the contracts awarded for the regeneration works to the Town Centre and also the Major Refurbishment Contracts for the flat blocks around the Town. Members were pleased to note the Stevenage Works programme and felt there could be potential for this to become a social enterprise if deemed appropriate in due course.

Members discussed and endorsed the requirement to monitor customer satisfaction through surveys and feedback.

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

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR