

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