

**HITCHIN COMMITTEE
17 NOVEMBER 2015**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

10

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: CHURCHGATE AREA

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

1. SUMMARY

1.1 To inform Members on latest position regarding the Churchgate area.

2. INFORMATION TO NOTE

- 2.1 Since the last information note presented to Hitchin Committee in September,
- the Churchgate Project Board and officers are continuing to work with Hammersmatch on the draft Heads of Terms;
 - Hammersmatch's market consultants (Michael Felton) are continuing their discussions and research regarding their initial feasibility study in seeking to find a solution for the market;
 - Hammersmatch are continuing to progress their scheme and discussions with relevant operators.
- 2.2 Discussions with Hammersmatch are progressing well and they are keen that these continue to be on a confidential basis. Where possible regular updates will be reported to Hitchin Committee and also made available on the Council's website. As set out in the Full Council resolution of 16 July 2015, Hammersmatch have an exclusivity period until 31 December 2015. A report will then be presented to Full Council setting out the next steps in the project which will be dependent on Hammersmatch's progress during the exclusivity period.

3. CONTACT OFFICERS

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4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Full Council Report 12 February 2015 – Churchgate Area, Hitchin – Next Steps
- 4.2 Full Council Report 16 July 2015 – Churchgate Area, Hitchin – Interim Option Proposal