

# Public Document Pack

31 August 2018

Our Ref Hitchin Committee11.09.18  
Your Ref.  
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillor Ian Albert, Councillor Clare Billing, Councillor Judi Billing, Councillor Val Bryant, Councillor Paul Clark, Councillor Sam Collins, Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Councillor Nicola Harris, Councillor Simon Harwood, Councillor Mike Hughson, Councillor Bernard Lovewell, Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb and Councillor Richard Thake

You are invited to attend a

## **MEETING OF THE HITCHIN COMMITTEE**

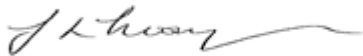
to be held in the

**WESTMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
JOHN BARKER PLACE. HITCHIN**

On

**TUESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,



Jeanette Thompson  
Service Director – Legal and Community

## **Agenda** **Part I**

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Page</b>       |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |                   |
| <b>2. MINUTES - 5 JUNE 2018</b><br>To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on the 5 June 2018.<br><br>These Minutes are to follow.  |                   |
| <b>3. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS</b><br>Members should notify the Chairman of other business which they wish to be discussed by the Committee at the end of the business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency.<br><br>The Chairman will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.   |                   |
| <b>4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b><br>Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wished to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote. |                   |
| <b>5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b><br>To receive petitions and presentations from members of the public including:<br><br><div style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>1.</b> Hitchin Initiative;<br/><b>2.</b> North Hertfordshire MS Society;<br/><b>3.</b> Hitchin Fun Club;<br/><b>4.</b> Rhythms of the World.</div>  |                   |
| <b>6. GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE</b><br>To update the Committee on the activities and actions of the Communities Officer, to advise on the current expenditure and balances of the delegated budgets and to consider applications for grant funding.  | (Pages 1<br>- 12) |
| <b>7. HITCHIN BID MANAGER</b><br>To receive an oral presentation from the Hitchin BID Manager.   |                   |

- |     |  |                    |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 8.  | <b>INFORMATION NOTE - CHURCHGATE UPDATE</b><br>Information note updating Hitchin Committee on Churchgate proposals   | (Pages<br>13 - 16) |
| 9.  | <b>THE NEW WASTE CONTRACT</b><br>The Chairman to lead a discussion regarding the waste contract.   |                    |
| 10. | <b>WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS</b><br>To receive any oral reports from Members regarding Ward matters and Outside Organisations. |                    |
| 11. | <b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS</b><br>To receive suggestions for Items to be discussed at future meetings from Members of the Committee            |                    |

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**HITCHIN COMMITTEE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE**

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES MANAGER  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

PRIORITY: ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING / PROSPER AND PROTECT / RESPONSIVE AND  
EFFICIENT

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee budgets.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of recent requests received for Area Committee Grant Funding, made by community groups and local organisations.
- 1.3 To advise the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Officer has been involved.
- 1.4 To bring to the Committee's attention some important community based activities that will take place during the next few months.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee considers allocating funding from their discretionary community budget towards the projects below:
- 2.2 £1,500 MS Society towards a specialist exercise bicycle as outlined in 8.1.1
- 2.3 £2,000 to Strathmore Fun Club to assist with the hire of the venue for the afterschool club as outlined in 8.1.2
- 2.4 That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Officer.
- 3.2 This report is intended to inform Members of the financial resources available to the Committee. It draws attention to the current budgetary situation by assisting in the effective financial management of the Area Committee's budget. This ensures that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in June 2016.
- 3.3 The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Corporate Plan.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There are no alternative options being proposed other than those detailed within the text of this report. However in the course of debate at committee, Members may wish to comment and offer additional views on any of the items included within this report.

### **5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 5.1 Consultation with Members has occurred in connection with the allocation of funds for Community Projects
- 5.2 Consultation with the respective officers and external bodies/groups has taken place with regard to funding proposals for Area Committee Funds.

### **6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

### **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix A Hitchin Area Committee Budget Spread sheet, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for 2018/19.
- 7.2 The spreadsheet also details pre-allocated sums carried forward from the previous financial years, including balances and past expenditure.

## 8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

### 8.1 Grant Applications

|       |                                |   |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|
| 8.1.1 | <b>Applicant</b>               | North Herts Multiple Sclerosis Society      |
|       | <b>Project</b>                 | Purchase of a specialist exercise bicycle   |
|       | <b>Sum requested</b>           | £1,500                                      |
|       | <b>Total project cost</b>      | £12,720                                     |
|       | <b>Match funding</b>           | £8,000                                      |
|       | <b>Annual expenditure</b>      | £26,964.44                                  |
|       | <b>Funds held</b>              | £26,568.13                                  |
|       | <b>Previous support</b>        | None  |
|       | <b>NHDC Policy met</b>         | Yes   |
|       | <b>Strategic objective met</b> | Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect |

North Herts MS Society is requesting £1,500 towards the total of £4,480 cost of a specialist exercise bicycle.

The group are trying to raise £12,720 towards a range of physiotherapy methods for the group who meet weekly at Hadleigh a sheltered housing scheme in Letchworth.

Their members are drawn from across North Herts District to attend and undertake activities such as Neuro Physiotherapy, Pilates and Occupational Therapy. The addition of the specialist exercise bicycle will be a huge help to their members' health and wellbeing enabling them to stay stronger for as long as possible when living with a condition such as MS.

The group have fundraised £8,000 towards these activities but are requesting that NHDC provide the necessary funding to purchase the exercise bicycle.

As their members attend from all areas of North Herts officers have split this grant by a per capita percentage and the sums being requested from each Area Committee are:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Hitchin            | £1,500 |
| Letchworth         | £1,500 |
| Baldock & District | £740   |
| Royston & District | £740   |

A contribution from the Southern Rural Area Committee is not being requested as very few people attend from that area.

This organisation receives no Rate Support or other formal benefits from NHDC.

This organisation has never received an NHDC grant in the past.

|       |                                |   |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|
| 8.1.2 | <b>Applicant</b>               | Strathmore Fun Club                                   |
|       | <b>Project</b>                 | Funding towards venue hire for afterschool activities |
|       | <b>Sum requested</b>           | £2,000  |
|       | <b>Total project cost</b>      | £4,940  |
|       | <b>Match funding</b>           | £500  |
|       | <b>Annual expenditure</b>      | £80,283   |
|       | <b>Funds held</b>              | £24,341   |
|       | <b>Previous support</b>        | None  |
|       | <b>NHDC Policy met</b>         | Yes   |
|       | <b>Strategic objective met</b> | Attractive & Thriving and Prosper & Protect           |

The Strathmore afterschool club was set up in 1998 and now provides both afterschool and holiday activities for approximately 40 children per day from schools around the Hitchin area.

They provide fun activities and a cooked meal. They try to keep the cost to families as low as possible in order to make the service affordable to local families. They have had to make a small increase this year as their own costs have increased. The not for profit group are requesting £2,000 grant funding in order to cover the shortfall in covering the cost of venue hire.

## 8.2 **Update on Previous Grants awarded and Community Engagement**

### 8.2.1 Herts & Essex Air Ambulance Shop Defibrillator

This equipment was purchased following a grant application in December 2017.

The equipment has now been installed and included in the list of equipment available around the town. The organisation has also now linked up with the local first responders.

There is to be a PR event with funders and local press on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

### 8.2.2 Rhythms of the World

ROTW received £3,756 grant funding for the event that was planned to take place around Hitchin town centre, market place and St Mary's Church.

Due to objections placed on their premises licence application by the Police and NHDC Environmental Health the group's application went to appeal via the Licencing Committee.

Subsequently, the Committee agreed a licence, but not for the Town Centre, or Market Place, only for the Church area.

Unfortunately St Mary's Church was unwilling to host the whole event and as the Authority had prevented ROTW from using the Town Centre the Church declined to take part.



The volunteers at ROTW have been working very hard to find alternative venues for all the acts they had booked. There will be music in Hitchin over 3 days, 8 venues and 62 acts.

ROTW events for the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018 - currently taking place at the following venues:

- 10.00 – 16:00 Market Place – Hitchin Art Hub (not a licensable activity)
- 12:00 – 18:15 Taste of Rhythms at Club 85
- 15:00 – 22:00 Osinskys – Local bands acoustic sessions

These events are all free entry. There is a fundraising event ticketed event at Club 85 in the evening.

The changes to the original plans have meant that any of the grant funding will most likely not be used for the items as laid out in the group's original grant application.

Therefore, Members may wish to request that any funds not used for ROTW events are returned; alternatively, they may wish to allow the organisation to hold onto the funding and stipulate that it is ring fenced for an event in 2019.

#### 8.2.3 Walsworth Parent & Toddler Group

Officers have been liaising with an individual who wishes to start up a parent and toddler group in the Walsworth area, as they have identified a lack of provision locally within that part of the town.

At present the group is not constituted and does not have a bank account. Officers have been advising on potential partners such as Walsworth Community Centre and St Faith's Church. Also on how to set up as a constituted voluntary group with a clear financial plan showing how much it will cost to start up such a group and how they will need to show its sustainability in the long term. Once these actions have been undertaken the group may come to the Hitchin Area Committee with a request for grant funding later in the year.

#### 8.2.4 Section 106 & funding secured via the Planning Process

The following amounts of Section 106 & Unilateral Undertakings / obligations are currently available for allocation / utilisation under each category heading:

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Leisure:               | £37,212.30  |
| Pitch Sports:          | £6,142.49   |
| Play Space:            | £4,016.25   |
| Public Realm:          | £9,952.18   |
| Sustainable Transport: | £122,035.88 |

If members have any capital project in mind which may benefit from potentially utilising some of these collated funds please contact the Communities Officer to investigate further possibilities.

The Communities Team is also collating a database of future requirements in terms of community need across the District in the response to potential developments arising from the Local Plan.

Such perceived need will be communicated to planning officers to assist when negotiating any new planning obligation with prospective developers. Similarly, if members have any suggestions of suitable projects or possible future requirements within their wards please inform the Communities Officer.

### **8.3 Highways Matters**

8.3.1 This section is included within the community update report for each committee cycle to facilitate debate and enable appropriate feedback on any of the proposed or listed Highways related schemes.

8.3.2 Any new proposals or revised schemes will be forwarded to the respective Herts County Councillor for consideration who will in turn report back and advise the Committee accordingly.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Area Committees also have delegated power under section 9.8.1 (a) & (b) to allocate discretionary budgets and devolved budgets within the terms determined by the Council and outlined in the current Grant Policy agreed by Cabinet in June 2016. Section 9.8.2 (g) of the Constitution in respect of Area Committees' Terms of Reference provides that they may: "establish and maintain relationships with outside bodies/voluntary organisations operating specifically with the area including, where appropriate, the provision of discretionary grant aid/financial support etc. but excluding grants for district-wide activities".

9.2 Chapter 1, s1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 provides a General Power of Competence which gives local authorities the powers to do anything provided that it is not specifically prohibited in legislation.

9.3 Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides specific authority for the Council to incur expenditure on anything which is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to its area. This includes a charity or other body operating for public service.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 As outlined in Appendix A Committee budget 2018/19:-  
The agreed budget for this financial year is £13,700. In addition to £13,131 carried forward from 2017/18 equates to a total amount of £26,831 for the provision of Community Development Grants. It is suggested that any funds allocated use the 2017/18 funding in the first instance. At the first meeting of the financial year in June the committee allocated £11,576 of the 2017/18 carry over amount leaving £1,555 available.

The allocated budget for 2018/19 has not yet been spent and members will notice that an amount of £1800 has been added from the transfer of Members Allowances. This provides a total of £15,500 available.

- 10.2 Should Members be minded to provide grant funding as requested under recommendation 2.1 the total awarded will equate to £3,500. Utilising the remaining funds from 17/18 and the remainder from 2018/19 this would leave an amount of £13,555 to allocate prior to the end of the financial year.
- 10.3 The Capital Visioning funds are now all been drawn down and utilised for redevelopment projects in Bancroft Gardens.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Pentana Performance, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 Area committee funding is awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this report.

## **14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no pertinent Human Resource implications associated with any items within this report.

## **15. APPENDICES**

- 15.1 Appendix A - 2018/19 Budget Sheet

## **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

- 16.1 Author: Claire Morgan, Senior Community Development Officer  
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## **17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 17.1 Review of Policies and Procedures for Financial Assistance to Voluntary and Community Organisations, November 2002.
- 17.2 Review of Grant Policy Cabinet June 2016.

**HITCHIN COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19**

**BUDGET BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2017/18**

| SUMMARY/ TOTALS             | Funding | Allocated | Spent   | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| Memorandum of Understanding | £1,403  | £1,403    | £0      | £1,403      | £0                 |
| Central Area Grants         | £13,131 | £11,576   | £11,576 | £0          | £1,555             |
| Total                       | £14,534 | £12,979   | £11,576 | £1,403      | £1,555             |

**HITCHIN AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19**

| Page 9 | SUMMARY/ TOTALS     | Funding | Allocated | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated Budget |
|--------|---------------------|---------|-----------|-------|-------------|--------------------|
|        | Central Area Grants | £15,500 | £0        | £0    | £0          | £15,500            |
|        | Total               | £15,500 | £0        | £0    | £0          | £15,500            |

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**HITCHIN COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/19**

|   | Funding |  | Project                                     | Allocated | Date<br>Allocated | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated<br>Budget |  | Comments                         |
|---|---------|--|---|-----------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Memorandum of Understanding                         |         |  |   |           |                   |       |             |                       |  |                                  |
| Pre allocated Funds Brought Forward from<br>2017/18 | £1,403  |  | Revenue Contribution to Bancroft<br>Gardens | £1,403    |                   | £0    | £1,403      |                       |  | Final retention still to be paid |
| Total   | £1,403  |  |   | £1,403    |                   | £0    | £1,403      | £0                    |  |                                  |

**DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS**

| Central Area Grants                                 | Funding |  | Project                            | Allocated | Date<br>Allocated | Spent   | Outstanding | Unallocated<br>Budget |  | Comments |
|---|---------|--|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------------|--|----------|
| Pre allocated Funds Brought Forward from<br>2017/18 | £13,131 |  | Rhythms of the World               | £3,756    | 05/06/18          | £3,756  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  | Headway                            | £1,500    | 05/06/18          | £1,500  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  | 11th Hitchin (Holy Saviour) Guides | £1,500    | 05/06/18          | £1,500  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  | Hitchin Rugby Club - JOCA          | £1,000    | 05/06/18          | £1,000  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  | British Schools Museum             | £1,320    | 05/06/18          | £1,320  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  | Hitchin Christian Centre           | £2,500    | 05/06/18          | £2,500  | £0          |                       |  |          |
|   |         |  |                                    |           |                   |         |             |                       |  |          |
| Total   | £13,131 |  |                                    | £11,576   |                   | £11,576 | £0          | £1,555                |  |          |

**DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS**

| Central Area Grants | Funding |  | Project | Allocated | Date<br>Allocated | Spent | Outstanding | Unallocated<br>Budget |  | Comments |
|---------------------|---------|--|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-----------------------|--|----------|
| 2018/19             |         |  |         |           |                   |       |             |                       |  |          |
| Base Budget         | £13,700 |  |         |           |                   |       |             |                       |  |          |

|                               |         |  |  |    |  |    |    |         |  |  |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|--|----|--|----|----|---------|--|--|
| Transfer of Member Allowances | £1,800  |  |  |    |  |    |    |         |  |  |
|                               |         |  |  |    |  |    |    |         |  |  |
| Total                         | £15,500 |  |  | £0 |  | £0 | £0 | £15,500 |  |  |



**HITCHIN COMMITTEE  
11 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE : CHURCHGATE UPDATE**

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND IT

PRIORITY PROPSE AND PROTECT

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This information note is provided in order to update the Committee on the proposals for the regeneration of the Churchgate Shopping Centre which were considered by Full Council on 8 February 2018.

**2. STEPS TO DATE**

- 2.1 Full Council received a report on a proposal for the regeneration of the Churchgate Shopping Centre and adjacent Hitchin Market and public realm, whereby the Council would work in partnership with Shearer Property Group. That report set out the initial indicative proposals for the area, with the Council acting as funder for the regeneration. Full Council agreed to support the principle of joint venture regeneration with the Council as funder and authorised that negotiations progress on the terms of a potential joint venture, subject to Full Council's final approval.
- 2.2 Cabinet on 27 March 2018 received a report on the Future Management of Hitchin Market, given the expiry of the contract with Hitchin Markets Limited (HML) on 31 July 2018 and in light of the proposals for the regeneration. One of the options considered, as indicated in the Full Council report, was whether to bring back in-house the management of the market. Cabinet decided to defer a decision on the future management of the market until there was greater clarity on the deliverability of the proposals for the Churchgate Centre and Hitchin Market. Authorisation was given to enter into negotiations with HML to extend the existing management contract.

- 2.3 In March and April 2018 the Council carried out a survey seeking the views of people who live and/or work in North Hertfordshire on the broad principles of the proposals considered by Full Council, in order to inform our thinking going forward. The survey was carried out online, although paper copies were also made available on request. Additionally some members of the community took the opportunity to put forward their views generally, rather than answer the survey.

### **3. INFORMATION TO NOTE**

- 3.1 Over the last few months negotiations have been progressing with Shearer Property Group (SPG) on the terms of a deal between SPG and the Council. These negotiations have been informed by legal and financial advice, in order to ensure the structure of the relationship gives the proposals the best possible chance of succeeding whilst complying with the various statutory obligations on the Council. Negotiations are ongoing on the proposed Heads of Terms, which would be reported to Full Council for approval prior to any work being undertaken on the detailed legal agreements which would be required for a project of this nature. Full Council would then be reported to, to make a final decision once those legal agreements had been negotiated.
- 3.2 Agreement has been reached with HML on the terms of an extension to their management contract and that new contract commenced on 1 August 2018. As with previous management contracts with HML there are clauses protecting the Council's position in the event that the regeneration proposals are able to proceed.
- 3.3 In July the Council published the results of the overwhelmingly positive response to the questionnaire. The results have been published in full on the Council's website, accompanied by an Executive Summary of the key findings. Members received copies of the summary and results in Members Information Service. The survey generated responses from 578 people, with some 86% of respondents supporting the idea of regenerating the existing Churchgate Centre to provide improved shop units. An overwhelming majority (93%) of respondents also supported the principle of investing in Hitchin's market to ensure it is fit for the 21st Century.
- 3.4 Key Findings:
- The consultation received 578 responses in total, with 76% of respondents living in Hitchin, 12% living in a village or rural area in North Herts and 6% living in Letchworth.
  - 86% of respondents supported the idea of regenerating the existing Churchgate Centre to provide improved shop units.
  - Respondents who visited the Churchgate Centre less often than fortnightly were asked what would make them visit more often. The top three responses were: more attractive environment (79%), better quality shops (71%) and more attractive buildings / shop fronts (67%).

- When asked whether they support the principle of regenerating the public space to the rear of the Churchgate Centre, including opening up the views of the Church from the market, 76% of respondents said yes, 11% said no and 13% didn't know.
- The vast majority (93%) of respondents supported the principle of investing in Hitchin's market to ensure it is fit for the 21st Century.
- When asked what types of regular stalls they would like to see in an improved market, the most popular response was food and drink i.e. food consumed at home (81%), followed by street food e.g. tapas (77%), with antiques and home-wares receiving 53% and 50% support respectively.

3.5 The results show that there is widespread support for a scheme to improve both the Churchgate Centre and the Market. The feedback is being used to help inform the development of the proposals moving forward. The results for improving the public space in the area also received a positive response, however there were a significant proportion of people who either didn't know if they supported this proposal or didn't support it. In any future consultations plans for this part of the proposal in particular will need to be explained in more detail.

3.6 If the proposals progress there will be further opportunities for public consultation. One of the Council's requirements in the negotiations on the potential Heads of Terms is that a Consultation Strategy be agreed as part of the detailed legal agreements.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

4.1 As stated in 3.1 above negotiations are ongoing on the potential Heads of Terms between SPG and the Council. The outcome of those negotiations will be reported to Full Council in the near future to make a decision on whether to proceed.

4.2 Provided a suitable, viable, proposal has been agreed by Full Council further work would then be required on the legal agreements which would be reported back to Full Council for final approval.

4.3 Further steps beyond that would be determined by the requirements of the approved legal agreements.

#### **5. APPENDICES**

5.1 None.

#### **6. CONTACT OFFICERS**

6.1 Anthony Roche, Deputy Chief Executive  
[anthony.roche@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.roche@north-herts.gov.uk) ; ext 4588

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Full Council report and minutes - <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=154&Ver=4>
- 7.2 Cabinet report and minutes - <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=161&Ver=4>
- 7.3 Consultation results - <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-data-and-performance/land-and-property/hitchin-churchgate-regeneration>