

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held as a Virtual Meeting
on Tuesday, 30th June, 2020 at 7.30 pm

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager welcomed everyone to this virtual Hitchin Committee that it was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online.

She then gave guidance regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting.

2 ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ian Albert be appointed Chair of the Hitchin Committee for the Civic Year 2020/21.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2020/21

RESOLVED: That Councillor Clare Billing be appointed Vice-Chair of Hitchin Committee for the Civic Year 2020/21.

5 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

6 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair thanked those who had attended Town Talk and welcomed those who were speaking at Public Participation.
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council policy, this meeting was being audio recorded and live streamed on the Council's YouTube channel.
- (3) Members were reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the longer reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chairman's Announcements on the agenda.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PHASE

Mr Kieran Murphy, Phase, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application.

The Chair thanked Mr Murphy for his presentation.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BIM AFOLAMI MP

Mr Bim Afolami MP thanked the Chair for inviting him to address the Committee.

The Chair thanked Mr Afolami for attending the Committee meeting.

9 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

Mr Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, Thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee regarding the events and issues in the Hitchin BID Area.

The Chair thanked Mr Hardy for his presentation.

NB: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 21.20 for a comfort break.

The meeting reconvened at 21.28.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call of Members and Officers to ensure that they could hear and be heard.

10 ANNUAL UPDATE ON S106 OBLIGATIONS FOR HITCHIN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the content of the report entitled Annual Update on S106 Obligations for Hitchin Committee be noted;
- (2) That a report shall continue to be presented on an annual basis to the Hitchin Committee, which sets out full records of all Section 106 activity for the preceding financial year and which reflects changes in legislation and practice;
- (3) That, other than where a contribution has been negotiated for a specific purpose or project, Ward Members of the area where the Section 106 Obligation or Unilateral Undertaking funding is generated and the Area Committee be consulted prior to funding being allocated away from that area. Members must note that the discretionary funds are rapidly diminishing and will not be replaced under current legislation and practice, for reasons that are set out in this report.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that there is a robust system for negotiating and managing Section 106 Obligations and Unilateral Undertakings, that records activity for each financial year and is placed in the public domain.
- (2) To ensure that the process is kept under constant review and Member scrutiny and that the risk associated with this activity is managed in an appropriate manner.

11 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.

12 GRANT APPLICATION - PHASE

RESOLVED: That grant funding of £1,925 be awarded to Phase (Providing Help and Support on Education) to assist with the cost of providing mentoring sessions for young people as outlined in Paragraph 8.1.1 of the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To improve services provided by local organisations and groups which are accessed by the community.

13 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

The Chair led a discussion regarding ward issues including Councillor surgeries.

14 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No discussion took place regarding possible agenda items for future meetings.