

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Southern Rural Committee held This will be a Virtual Meeting  
on Thursday, 29th October, 2020 at 7.30 pm

### 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*Audio Recording – 0 minutes 9 seconds*

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of the Southern Rural Committee that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer undertook a roll call and gave advice regarding the following:

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

The Chair, Councillor Claire Strong, started the meeting proper.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Faye Frost, David Barnard, and Lisa Nash.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Tom Brindley, Kings Walden Parish Council, thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of their grant application.  
grant

The Chair thanked Mr Brindley for his presentation.

## 6 GRANTS & COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

### **REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To ensure the Committee is kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (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 January 2020.
- (3) The awarding of financial assistance to voluntary organisations and the use of discretionary spending allows the Committee to further the aims of the Council Plan.

## 7 GRANT APPLICATION - KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**RESOLVED:** That grant funding of £1,500 be awarded to Kings Walden Parish Council for the purchase and installation of sound monitoring equipment as outlined in paragraph 8.1 of the report.

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

## 8 SECTION 106 AND UNILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the content of the report entitled Annual Update on S106 Obligations for the Southern Rural Committee be noted;
- (2) That the Development and Conservation Manager be requested to present a report regarding Section 106 contributions to the Southern Rural Committee on an annual basis setting 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.

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- (4) That the Southern Rural Committee supports the introduction of a Small Development Sites Community Infrastructure Levy to capture the cumulative impact of small developments on local infrastructure.

***REASONS FOR DECISION:***

- (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.

**9 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Councillor Sam North gave his thanks to Hitchin Lavender, Morrison's Letchworth, and various residents in Ickleford for their support of a free school meals programme to assist vulnerable children in Ickleford and Holwell.

Councillor Terry Tyler gave his thanks to Stevenage Borough Council for opening the St. Nicholas Centre to the young residents of Great Ashby to receive free school meals.

The issue of food banks and the food provision network was discussed.