

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1JE
on Thursday, 8th December, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Val Bryant, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Kay Tart and Raj Bhakar.

2 MINUTES - 11 OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 October 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording –

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended the Town Talk and those in attendance to give a presentation.
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded.
- (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.
- (4) The Chair advised that the Churchgate consultation was now live and encouraged attendees to complete the questionnaire.

5 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

Mr Tom Hardy, Hitchin BID Manager, provided a verbal presentation regarding the issues and activities in Hitchin.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A verbal presentation was provided from the following people in support of their grant applications:

- Hannah Lane – National Childbirth Trust
- Kava Johnson – The North Herts African and Caribbean Community
- Kate Adams and Dani Lister – Samaritans of North Herts and Stevenage

RESOLVED: That the Committee allocated:

- (1) £920 to NCT (National Childbirth Trust) North Herts towards funding for their breastfeeding and postnatal support group as outlined in 8.1.1-8.1.8 of the officer's report.

Thursday, 8th December, 2022

- (2) £1,424 to The North Herts African and Caribbean Community towards funding to provide a year of free and some subsidised events and activities for the whole community to attend and learn about African and Caribbean History and Culture as outlined in 8.1.9-8.1.15 of the officer's report.
- (3) £1,200 to Samaritans of North Herts and Stevenage towards funding for their Samaritans National Walk 2023 as outlined in 8.1.16-8.1.20 of the officer's report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: 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 AIR QUALITY UPDATE

A verbal update was provided by the Environmental Health Manager regarding Air Quality in Hitchin.

8 INFORMATION NOTE - CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE UPDATE

The Chair led an update on Churchgate Shopping Centre and the ongoing consultation which was the subject of the Town Talk which preceded the meeting.

9 GRANTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Members are 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 Grants Policy as agreed by Cabinet in July 2021.

10 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

There were no updates from Members on Ward Matter or Outside Organisations.

11 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair suggested that an update on Charnwood House would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chair requested that any further suggested items for future meetings be made to the Committee Services Team.