

**COUNCIL
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON HITCHIN BID AND HITCHIN INITIATIVE 2018/19

REPORT OF THE ACTING COMMITTEE & MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider nominations to two outside bodies, namely Hitchin Business Improvement District ('BID') and Hitchin Initiative.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council consider whether to nominate a District Councillor to:
- 2.1.1 the Hitchin Initiative; and/or
 - 2.1.2 the Hitchin BID;

And subject to the above:

- 2.2 That Council nominates representatives to any outside body agreed in 2.1 above.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To consider the deferred nominations issue following Full Council's resolution of 17 May 2018.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups were consulted regarding the nomination of representatives on outside bodies for 2016/2017, as part of the review of outside bodies. There was also further consultation prior to the appointments in 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 5.2 The Leaders of the Political Groups will be specifically consulted regarding these two outside bodies prior to the meeting of Council, due to be held on 6 September 2018.

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. At the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2017 Council was advised, in the report on Outside Bodies for 2017/2018 that a comprehensive review of all the nominations had been carried out during 2016/17. This included consultation with all the bodies and Councillors on the 2016/17 list and Group Leaders regarding issues *such as* insurance and indemnity offered by the organisations, invites to meeting and papers provided. As a result of this review, it was decided that the Council would not nominate to a number of bodies. One of the nominations removed from the list was the Hitchin BID. The Hitchin Initiative remained on the nominations list.
- 7.2. At the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2018 there was some confusion as to whether the Hitchin Initiative was the same as the Hitchin BID and at Minute 14 (1) (c) Members:

RESOLVED: *That a decision on the Council's nominated representative on the Hitchin Initiative be deferred, pending clarification of the roles of the Hitchin Initiative and the Hitchin Business Improvement District (BID).*

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Hitchin Initiative

- 8.1. On its website Hitchin Initiative states that it is:

"a highly effective and award winning town partnership whose aim is to ensure that the town thrives through the efforts of businesses, community organisations, residents and the local authority.

Established in 1995, the Initiative, run by Town Centre Manager aims to maintain and enhance the economic, cultural and social vitality of the town. By becoming a member, local businesses demonstrate their support for the town, and are able to take advantage of a number of benefits including free business training across a range of business skills, opportunities to network with a whole raft of potential customers and information, guidance, advice and mentoring.

The Initiative also provides essential information for all members on local services, events and issues within Hitchin and the surrounding rural areas."

- 8.2. It had been a matter of custom and practice to nominate the Chairman of Hitchin Committee as the Council's representative on Hitchin Initiative. The current Chairman of Hitchin Area Committee is Cllr Ian Albert.

Hitchin BID

- 8.3. On its website Hitchin Bid states that:

“Hitchin Business Improvement District (BID) is a business-led and operated organisation that delivers improvements to the town centre that businesses themselves identified as being key to improving the trading environment; and is supported by North Herts District Council.

The BID introduced Town Centre Rangers who act as the eyes and ears for the organisation, liaising with police and statutory services to ensure a clean, safe and secure welcome for residents and visitors alike. There are specialist evening marshals to monitor the night time economy on Fridays and Saturdays and Hitchin BID manage an effective Shopwatch, Pubwatch, CCTV and radiolink scheme. Recycling, environmental enhancements, street deep cleaning, Christmas Lights, events and marketing, car park promotions, snow clearance, training and business support are all part of the BID portfolio.”

- 8.4. Hitchin BID was established through an application and poll process of non-domestic rate payers having to vote in favour of establishment and the renewal. This process involves NHDC as the billing authority and NHDC provides support by arranging the BID poll¹.
- 8.5. Members should note that the BIDs are due for renewal for 2019/20 onwards. Therefore if Members decide to add this back to the annual outside bodies nominations list, this may only be for the remainder of the current 2018/19 year.

List of Outside Bodies and Nomination

- 8.6. Council needs to decide whether or not to reinstate the nomination of representatives to Hitchin BID and continue with the nomination of a representative to Hitchin Initiative.
- 8.7. If Council decides that they wish to make nominations to either or both of these organisations, then consideration should be given to who those nominees will be.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. It is a function of Full Council to nominate District Councillors to outside bodies, unless it is an executive function, as per Council Procedure Rule 4.4.1(h). This is ordinarily undertaken at the Council’s Annual Meeting, as per 4.8.1(b)(iv), save in this instance the issue has been deferred as per the Council resolution on 17 May 2018 detailed above. The matter can therefore be dealt with at this meeting of Full Council.
- 9.2. Other than that, to the extent relevant, statutory requirements relating to BID establishment and renewals are contained with The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004/2443 as amended.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

¹ Providing the legislative requirements are met.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from 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 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

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 human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 None.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

16.1 Hilary Dineen, Acting Committee & Member Services Manager: 01462 474353
Hilary.Dineen@north-herts.gov.uk

Contributors

16.2 Jeanette Thompson, Service Director: Legal and Community: 01462 474370
Jeanette.Thompson@north-herts.gov.uk

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 Previous report to Full Council 17 May 2018 on Council website page:
<https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=2007&Ver=4>