

**Local Economy & Place Policy Development Advisory Group**  
**11 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Present: Councillors: Ruth Fletcher (Chair), Jon Campbell, Paul Clarke, Nigel Emery, Tony Hogben, Alex Jeffery, Joanne Knowles, Colin Minto and John Trollope

Apologies: Councillors: Mark Baynham and Richard Landeryou

Also Present: Councillor Mike Croker

9 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the meeting on 3 July were received.

10 **HORSHAM BID (BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT)**

Rachel Noel from Horsham BID and Mo Aswat from the Mosaic Partnership joined the meeting to give a presentation on proposals to make a Business Improvement District (BID) for Horsham town.

A BID is an arrangement whereby businesses cooperate with each other to create a costed business plan comprising a number of improvements and initiatives, which focus on areas that are not the statutory responsibility of the local authority. Each business pays an annual levy during the lifetime of the BID (up to five years). The proposal for the Horsham BID is that the size of the levy is 1.5% of the rateable value of the premises, with those below £12,000 exempt from payment.

Mosaic had helped develop over 140 BIDs in the UK and were supporting the Horsham BID with a 100% success rate. A feasibility review and setup of the project had been completed and consultation with over 300 local businesses, including face to face visits, were taking place. A business plan was being developed which was likely to include projects related to: destination marketing and investment; events and promotion; safety and security; and accessibility and parking.

The proposed business plan would then be put to the vote in a postal ballot of all the businesses throughout the month of November. It was noted that HDC's key responsibility in the process was running the ballot. If a majority vote to establish a Horsham BID all businesses would pay the annual levy, including HDC as a business within the town centre defined BID area.

The Group noted the processes being undertaken in the run up to the ballot. The different areas of focus of the emerging business plan were discussed, including the extent to which security issues might be prioritised. It was confirmed that the BID would work alongside other agencies, including the

police, to ensure any initiatives in the BID would complement rather than duplicate other services.

It was noted that existing BIDs were almost universally successful, bringing business support and additional income into each area. The Cabinet Member thanked Rachel and Mo for their informative presentation.

11 **QUEEN STREET/QUEENSWAY PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

The Project Manager briefed the Group on progress on the public realm improvements at the junction of Queen Street and Queensway. Work was expected to commence shortly, now that the CityFibre cable laying has been suspended for the time being while they establish a new delivery partner.

It was noted that the two TROs (Traffic Regulation Orders) submitted to WSCC had been rejected (one was to make part of a bay in Queensway for scooter parking, and to reduce both bays from 2-hour to ½-hour parking). The Project Manager agreed to formally respond to WSCC.

12 **ELECTRICITY AND GAS PROCUREMENT CONTRACT**

The Cabinet Member explained that the current flexible energy procurement arrangement was due to expire in September 2024, and a new contract would continue the same flexible arrangement. This was the first part of the process and focussed on the nature of the procurement. The Director of Place confirmed that details of what energy sources could be chosen, including participating in 'green baskets' to allow purchases from renewable generators, would be considered at a later date.

13 **CLEANING SERVICES CONTRACT**

The Group noted that the current Cleaning Services contract would come to an end in May 2024. The contract included a number of public spaces including The Capitol and the Museum as well as offices and public toilets. It was proposed to continue with a similar arrangement together with Mid Sussex, Crawley and Mole Valley.

14 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMY & PLACE PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan extract was noted.

*The meeting closed at 6.42 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm*

CHAIRMAN