

SECTION 1A - To be filled in by submitter of the Motion:

Report from	Town Clerk
On behalf of	N/A
Date	23 rd March 2023
For Meeting of Council/Committee	Full Council
Date of meeting	28 th March 2023
Agenda item no.	261/22-23
Confidentiality	N/A
TITLE OF MOTION	RURAL MARKET TOWNS GROUP – MEMBERSHIP '23-'24
MOTION(S)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To receive an invitation for renewal of the membership of the Rural Market Towns Group, for '23-'24. 2) To consider the invitation for membership renewal. 3) To approve the 2023-'24 Rural Market Towns Group membership fee for £105.64 + VAT (at 20%).
Background	At the Full Council meeting held on 22nd November 2022 (item 172/22-23) , the Town Council agreed to join the Rural Market Towns Group, taking up on its offer for free trial membership until the end of March 2023.
Issues/items for consideration by the Council	<p>Attached is an email from D. Inman, Rural Services Network with an invitation to renew the membership for the Rural Market Towns Group, also setting out the benefits of membership. With this email was attached a document, titled 'Fair Funding Summary 2023' with invitation for membership renewal for '23-'24. Both documents are attached.</p> <p>The fee for '23-'24 membership is £105.64 + VAT.</p>
Recommendations	<p>For the Town Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To receive an invitation for renewal of the membership of the Rural Market Towns Group, for '23-'24. 2) To consider the invitation for membership renewal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a new town in a rural setting, the Council may wish to consider the potential benefits of linking up with other towns nationally through the Rural Market Towns Group. 3) To approve the 2023-'24 Rural Market Towns Group membership fee for £105.64 + VAT (at 20%).
Appendices	N/A
Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email received 13th March 2023, inviting for renewal of membership. - Fair Funding Summary 2023

SECTION 1B - To be filled in by submitter of the Motion:

Input needed from Clerk?	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

PLEASE NOTE: Agenda item requests: in order to be considered for inclusion on the agenda, motions with all associated papers *must* be received by the Clerk in a final format at least 7 clear daysⁱ before the meeting at which you would like your item to be considered – if any input is required from the Clerk please provide sufficient additional time for the Clerk to schedule in for any feedback and/or additional research that may be required.

SECTION 2 - To be filled in by the Clerk:

Meets/links with Council objectives:	Obtaining external expertise	√
Staffing Implications: ⁱⁱ	N/A	√
Volunteer need implications:	N/A	√
Equalities & Human Rights ⁱⁱⁱ	<i>There are no equalities and human rights issues Details, where relevant: N/A</i>	√
Crime and Disorder ^{iv}	<i>Crime and disorder have been considered Details, where relevant: N/A</i>	√
Biodiversity ^v	<i>There are no (negative) bio-diversity implications Details, where relevant: N/A</i>	√
Sustainability	<i>Is in line with the Council's Plastic-Free Pledge - N/A</i>	√
Financial ^{vi}	<i>There are no financial implications at this stage - N/A</i>	√
	<i>There will be financial implications; Details: YES – membership fees, as per above.</i>	√
	<i>There is provision within the budget Budget heading & details: LIKELY – although membership for the Rural Market Towns Group was not specified in the approved '23-'24 budget, there is likely to be sufficient budget under the budget heading 'membership'. A total of £1,700 has been set aside for '23-'24 under 'membership'. Currently approved are: NABMA (£384), although still awaiting precise costs for CAPALC and SLCC before these can be presented to the Council (all three identified in the notes under that budget heading). Based on information available at the time of writing, it is unlikely that the total is to go over a total of £1,550 (see also the subscriptions overview recently presented to Full Council), allowing for additional membership, were the Council wanting to continue this membership.</i>	√
	<i>Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure; Details: N/A</i>	√
	<i>Decisions may have potential for income generation; Details: N/A</i>	√
Other Resource implications (besides finance):	<i>Details: N/A</i>	√
Health and Safety implications ^{vii}	<i>Details: N/A</i>	√
Legal	<i>Power under which the spend can be actioned:^{viii} Local Government Act 1972, s111 ('Ancillary Power')</i>	√
	<i>GDPR - Data Privacy Impact Assessment:^{ix} Details, where relevant: N/A</i>	√
	<i>Other considerations: N/A</i>	√
Risk Management	<i>Material risks^x exist and these are considered and being assessed: Details: N/A</i>	√
Other Considerations:	N/A	√

ⁱ Northstowe Town Council's [Standing Order 9 b,d](#).

ⁱⁱ The Council has a legal duty to ensure it looks after employees' health and wellbeing (the Health and Safety at Work etc act 1974).

ⁱⁱⁱ The key legislation regarding unlawful discrimination is the Equality Act 2010, which amongst other requires the Council to monitor for compliance with the Equality Duty.

^{iv} The Council has a legal duty to act with due regards to crime and disorder in the area (Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s17).

^v The Council has a legal duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40).

^{vi} It is the RFO's duty to manage financial risks on behalf of the Council, as described in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, reg 4.

^{vii} See also Town Council's [Health and Safety Policy](#).

^{viii} See here for an [Overview of relevant discretionary powers](#) beyond the General Power of Competence.

^{ix} See also the Town Council's [Data Protection Policy](#).

^x See Town Council's [Risk Management Plan](#).