

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:-	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Business Growth and Regeneration
2.	Date:-	Monday 14 th July 2014
3.	Title:-	Nomination of RMBC representative to the National Association of British Market Authorities.
4.	Directorate:-	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Rotherham Borough Council, as a market operating authority are long standing members of the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and as such are entitled to representation at NABMA meetings and conferences, in recent times this representation being made by officers rather than elected members. In order to maintain its strong position as the leading markets organisation a NABMA working group has requested that each member authority nominate an elected member as its representative.

6. Recommendation

That one elected member be nominated as RMBC representative to attend NABMA meetings and conferences.

7. Proposals and Details

The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) is an organisation which was established more than 90 years ago to promote the markets industry, look after the interests of market operators and to provide a wide portfolio of services to its members, its membership consists mainly of Local Authorities but also includes private operators, social enterprise and community groups.

Rotherham Borough Council has been a member since its inception.

While working on the national stage NABMA co-operates with organisations which play an important role in securing the future of markets such as the Association of Town & City Management (ATCM), the National Market Traders Federation (NMTF), National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) as well as government departments in the UK and Europe, with the aim of raising the profile of market operations and protecting the interests of its members.

NABMA is very effective at promoting and co-ordinating market initiatives and promotional campaigns such as the Mary Portas Report, Market of the Year and Love Your Local Market – the single biggest market event ever promoted.

The services provided to NABMA members includes, advice and up to date information on market issues, free legal advice, free market health checks, a consultancy service, forums for retail and wholesale matters, best practice guidance documents, a “buddy” scheme for new officers, training seminars and networking opportunities. It also provides access to the only available accredited professional

market qualification the Diploma in Market Management and membership of the Institute of Place Management.

Although initially established as an organisation for elected members – with officers attending as advisers, elected member attendance has fallen in recent years. NABMA recognise that elected member support is essential if the organisation is to maintain its position as the leading markets organisation in the UK and Europe and to this end are asking for nominations of a named elected member from each member authority.

The member representative will be invited to attend approximately four retail forum meetings per year and two conferences, a single day in January and the annual two day conference in September. There will also be the opportunity to attend training seminars and special events. Meetings, seminars and conferences are held at various venues throughout the country with member authorities often offering to act as host.

8. Finance

Delegate attendance at the two conferences will incur costs of approximately £125.00 & £250.00 there will also be travel costs to these and each meeting attended.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Not having an elected member representative at NABMA meetings could lead to the Cabinet Member for Business Growth & Regeneration not being fully advised on matters relating to markets. There is also the added risk that the decreasing numbers of elected member representatives attending NABMA meetings could lead to NABMA losing some of its strength as the leading voice of markets, in particular on the political stage.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Vibrant and successful markets are an essential feature of any Town and a key element in delivering the Council's Corporate priorities, they also support regeneration priorities by providing a sustainable environment for business start-up.

The proposal will ensure that RMBC members are kept fully informed on market matters and give them a voice on national issues affecting the market industry.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Further details about the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) can be found at WWW.nabma.com .

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