



Agenda Item

Rationalising the allocation process for named 'Councillor Representatives' to groups and organisations.

Approval / Noting

For approval

Purpose of the Report

To identify the iniquitous situation concerning formal links between Belper Town Council and the numerous groups and organisations operating in the town and to propose a logical solution to address this.

Background Information

In May 2019, newly elected BTC Councillors introduced a system whereby groups and organisations within the town would be allocated a named Councillor Representative in an attempt to develop improved working relationships and integration between the Council and some of these organisations.

This system has continued with varying degrees of success since. However, there are an enormous number of organisations in the town delivering a fantastic array of services, but only a small proportion of these have been allocated a Councillor Representative. In addition, some have a strong connection with BTC through the receipt of sizeable SLA grants, often on an annual basis, whereas others are significantly smaller, have no financial link with the Council and have a lesser impact on the Town.

At the 2021 Annual Council Meeting it was agreed that 14 organisations should be allocated named Councillor Representative/s, (see appendix 1). Although 4 of these organisations receive financial support from BTC in the form of an SLA Grant, the remainder do not. In addition there are currently 4 organisations that receive an SLA Grant who do not have a named Councillor Representative.

It should be noted that this paper does not refer to Trustees who are also Belper Town Councillors. However, it is presumed that where a Belper Town Councillor is also a Trustee of a group or organisation that receives an SLA Grant, there would be no need or requirement to select a Councillor Representative.

Legislation

There is no current legislation relating to Town Councils and their links with organisations or groups that provide services within their parish.

Accessibility Implications - *Have the recommendations in this report taken in to account the need for Council services and information to be accessible for people with a Disability and if so how is this illustrated.*

SLA grant applications request that applicants, '*describe how the project/grant will benefit people with a Disabling Condition?*'. Ensuring that each



organisation in receipt of an SLA has a Councillor Representative would provide the Council with an overview of progress in this area and facilitate ongoing advice and/or signposting to other sources of information and assistance where appropriate.

Climate Emergency Implications - *Demonstrate any environmental consequences and how these would be addressed*

SLA Grant applications request that applicants identify, '*how (their) project responds to climate change and the global climate emergency?*' Providing a Councillor Representative for each organisation in receipt of an SLA would provide the Council with an overview of progress in this area and facilitate ongoing advice and/or signposting to other sources of information and assistance where appropriate.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this proposal

Recommendation(s)

That Councillor Representatives are selected only for those groups and organisations who are currently in receipt of an SLA Grant from Belper Town Council unless specifically requested by the organisation and agreed by Council.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

If agreed the Council and representatives of the groups and organisations functioning in the town would have a clear understanding why some are allocated a Councillor Representative and others are not.