**Minutes of a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Local Markets Group, held on Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 13.00, Room O, PCH, Westminster.**

**Present**

Paul Davies MP, Lord Stone of Blackheath, Lord Goddard of Stockport, Josh Fenton-Glynn MP, David Williams MP, Andrew Ranger MP, Julia Buckley MP, Lord Davies of Brixton, Ann Davies MP, Linsey Farnsworth MP, Amanda Hack MP, Cat Eccles MP, Jodie Gosling MP, Joe Powell MP, Jim Dickson MP, Simon Opher MP, Charlotte Cane MP, Blake Stephenson MP, John Whitby MP, Baggy Shanker MP, Sally Jameson MP, Lola McEvoy MP, John Slinger MP, Bernard Jenkin MP, Taiwo Owatemi MP

Also in attendance

**NABMA** – David Preston, Chief Executive; Cllr Chris Poulter, President; Graham Wilson OBE, Deputy Chief Executive and Legal and Policy Consultant

**NMTF** – Joe Harrison, Chief Executive; John Dyson, President; Mike Riley, President Elect; Pearl Dyson, Observer

**Market Place** – Allan Hartwell, Managing Director

**Welcome**

At the start of the meeting, the host Julia Buckley MP extended a welcome and the large attendance identified themselves, their local market and an item of interest to the Group

**1. Election of Officers**

To appoint Officers as required for 2024/25

It was **RESOLVED** that the following Officers be appointed

Julia Buckley MP (Labour) Chairman

The Rt Hon. the Lord McLoughlin (Conservative) Vice Chairman

Lord Goddard of Stockport (Liberal Democrat) Vice Chairman

Ann Davies (Plaid Cymru) – Vice Chairman

Based on the above election of Officers it was further **RESOLVED** that the Group is now reconstituted.

2. **The All-Party Parliamentary Local Markets Group**

To acknowledge that the APPMG is a cross-party group within Westminster that provides a conduit for the local markets industry to parliamentarians to advance the case for markets and to raise issues about their welfare. It also provides a forum for discussions about policy, strategy and operational issues recognising the role and influence of markets and market trading in retail, tourism, employment, hospitality and leisure sectors. The lead industry organisations are NABMA (the National Association of British Market Authorities) and NMTF (the National Market Traders Federation).

**3. Markets First- Securing the Future for UK Markets**

NABMA provided background to the above industry adopted Campaign following the NABMA National Markets Survey 2022 that brought to the forefront the future of markets and their importance to communities through a programme of discussion, challenges, performance monitoring and best practice.

The Campaign set five clear priorities - these being attracting and retaining traders; addressing the economic challenges of markets; demonstrating the wider value of markets; professionalising market management and improving relationships with traders.

The resulting Group discussion highlighted some of constituency issues being experienced. Importantly, it was recognized that whilst some markets are part of exciting regeneration and investment programmes, others are facing issues around austerity. As a discretionary service then some markets are at a crossroads. It was acknowledged therefore that it is vital for local markets, and their significant community value, to be better understood.

A wide-ranging discussion provided a headline agenda for the APPLMG to address in the months ahead. Issues included

* Attracting and retaining traders alongside entrepreneurship/apprenticeships
* Business start up and identifying government support and guidance
* Furthering the research into the community value of markets
* Ensuring markets have a recognition and voice in local regeneration
* Identifying and addressing the threats to markets and market trading.

**4. The Markets Year Ahead**

An update was provided on key Market events that include the annual National Young Traders Market celebrated across the UK, and Love Your Local Market, now promoted in twenty-five countries worldwide. Further recognition and interest were recorded in the Great British Market Awards and Britain’s Favourite Market with the Group wishing to receive details of all forthcoming events.

**5.** **Making the Case for Markets 2024**

Discussions brought a summary of key industry issues that require support. The NABMA publication ‘Making a Case for Markets’ was promoted as an industry wish list that can be a basis for future discussions. Both NABMA and NMTF asked the parliamentarians present if they would take the document away and read. The subject matter then to help shape the future agenda. Attention was also drawn to the publication ‘Markets and

Community’ that demonstrated the ever-increasing role that local markets can, and do, play in supporting economic, social and cultural interaction.

**6. Next Steps**

Both NMTF and NABMA recorded thanks to the Chairman and support staff for helping reconstitute the Group. It was regarded as an invaluable conduit for the industry to government and can have a vital role and contribution to the future of local high streets and shaping the policy agenda of a new government.

It was **RESOLVED**

* that a three-monthly programme of meetings be established.
* Each meeting to have a theme focus with the next meeting to consider business startups and looking at what government support and guidance may be available to promote local markets and market trading
* to note the offer from the Chairman to produce a Group email to share industry information and contacts.

**Julia Buckley MP**

**Chairman APPLMG**