**Radio Station Working Group Report**

**1. Introduction**

1. The working group was formed at a time when the council believed it may be in receipt of more than one request for financial support from competing groups hoping to re- establish a local radio station. It was agreed that an updating report on the matter be submitted to the March meeting of the council.

1.2 The council has received only one such request for support from an ex Radio Rutland presenter (female) hoping to re-establish a commercial radio station in Stamford and Rutland.

**2. History**

2.1 Project One - Using her emergency powers, the former Chief Executive of RCC allocated £50K to offer employment as a project leader to another leading (male) Rutland Radio presenter. This project has now matured into a community led radio station in the form of a Community Interest Company led by a board appointed by RCC. It has one employee - the same ex Rutland Radio presenter. It is understood that a significant element of the broadcasting work will be done by unpaid volunteers. The launch of this station (online only at present) is imminent.

2.2. Project Two – This project’s prospective founder has maintained regular contact with the UTC working group coordinator following early submission of an outline budget. She has been visiting local businesses seeking financial support for her concept of a Stamford and Rutland Commercial Radio Station using employed staff. She has met with limited success at what is a difficult financial time for local business. It is worth noting that a number of significant companies have received presentations and some provisional offers made. However, at the present time, there appears to be little likelihood of the project proceeding.

**3. Working Group Actions**

a) Active ongoing engagement with both projects

b) Received an online presentation from Project One with positive feedback. Attendance at a further presentation was offered to all councillors.

c) Project One has requested help to get the launch date message out. This has been offered.

d) Project Two has been encouraged to offer a presentation to the working group with a more detailed business plan and a progress report if the project begins to look viable.

e) Discussion in the working group touched upon the possibility of more support for Uppingham and Rutland from BBC Radio Leicester. This has yet to be pursued.

**4. Recommendations**

1. That this report be received

2. That the council take no further action at this time and await developments

On behalf of the working group

Ron Simpson BEM – Coordinator 27.2.2021