

Agenda Item

REPORT OF **Head of Communities and Place**

To: **Communities and Resources**

Subject: **Delegated Market Approval**

Date: **6.12.2022**

Reference:

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| <p>PURPOSE OF REPORT: To seek approval for an extension to the agreed power of delegated market approval to the Chief Executive.</p> |
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1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the recovery efforts following the lifting of Covid restrictions, the Community and Resources committee 28 June 2021 resolved:

That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to assess and permit independent markets within 6 miles of the Bideford Pannier Market until the end of December 2022, after which time authority will again be sought by written report from Community and Resources Committee.

With town centres now challenged even more than ever before and no government financial support forthcoming, markets and whole-town activity are key to generating footfall and providing opportunities for traders and residents alike. This report therefore seeks to request that this delegated authority be extended.

During the period since June 2021 the approval process has enabled 18 markets to be approved, with the latest and final approval prior to the end of the current delegated process being Eat:Festival in Bideford, which is scheduled to take place in April 2022.

2. REPORT

There is an ancient Markets Charter that prohibits unauthorised markets taking place within a 6 mile radius of the Pannier Market in Bideford without the consent of the Council (Community and Resources Committee). In line with the approval granted on 28th June, 2021 it is requested that, in order to streamline approval processes and encourage wider activity in the town, it would be beneficial to approve Chief Executive delegation for future applications for independent markets.

The alternative is to report to committee with each and every application. This would be off-putting to market organisers and prevent vibrancy being supported just when it is needed most. However, all efforts should be made to encourage market organisers to engage with the Pannier Market to explore collaborations and mutually beneficial events.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

It is not legal to operate a market in Bideford, Northam, Appledore, Westward Ho! or other communities within a 6 mile radius of the Pannier market without Council consent.



Financial Implications

Charges for the use of Council-owned land as market spaces are set out in the Council’s Events and Licensing Policy and Guidance.

Human Resources Implications

N/A

Sustainability Implications

Careful regulation of market activity will be necessary in order to ensure that high sustainability standards are encouraged.

Equality/Diversity

N/A

Risk Management

N/A

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Team Devon Covid-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus
Heart of the South West LEP “Build Back Better” plan

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

Cllr Hicks –

Cllr James -

4. CONCLUSIONS

There remains a recognition that town centres are hugely challenged, and through that the opportunities available both to local residents and visitors alike. Markets are nationally highlighted as a crucial factor to restoring vibrancy in towns and should also be supported as a way to provide artisans (including food and drink) and crafts with a way to trade locally rather than purely online, and through that to explore opportunities to take up vacant units within the town centre. Slowing down the approvals process before licensing can begin risks jeopardising future interest.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Members delegate authority to the Chief Executive to assess and permit independent markets within 6 miles of the Bideford Pannier Market

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, S151 Officer,
Economic Development Officer,
Contact Head of Communities and Place
Officer:
Background
Papers:

