

NON KEY DECISION: REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Councillor Nick Robins
Cabinet Member for Retail and Visitor Economy

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REPORT NO. SDG001A

DATE: 24th October 2018

SUBJECT OF NON KEY DECISION:	Extensions to mid-Lent fairs in Grantham and Stamford
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CABINET MEMBER REMIT:	Cabinet Member for Retail and Visitor Economy	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	The crime and disorder implications of the potential extensions to the Mid Lent fairs for Grantham and Stamford have been considered within the attached consultation reports.	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available on the Council's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk via your Council and Democracy link	
INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	<p>Carried out and appended to report?</p> <p>An extension to the fair may impact on access to public areas which may affect people with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>Full impact assessment required?</p> <p>An initial assessment may be required</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the results of the consultation into a proposed extension to the mid-lent fairs in Grantham and Stamford
- 1.2. The consultation was conducted following a request made by the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain (the Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Mid and South Lincolnshire section).
- 1.3. The objectives of the consultation are set out on Page 2 of the papers appended to this report, and which are summarised as follows:
 - 1.3.1. To communicate the change that would happen if the proposals was approved to four main groups of stakeholders
 - 1.3.2. To find out if those stakeholders agree or disagree with the proposals to extend the duration of the Mid Lent Fair in Grantham by one day
 - 1.3.3. To ascertain if there are any specific issues for those living or running businesses in the area
 - 1.3.4. To establish what the statutory agencies think of the proposal
 - 1.3.5. To find out what other stakeholders (local businesses and residents that are not directly affected by the road closure order) think to the proposal
- 1.4. The results of the consultation are as follows:

Grantham

- 1.5. The consultation on proposals to extend the Mid Lent Fair in Grantham produced the following results:

	Number	%
Support	98	32.6
Object	178	59.1
Not sure	25	8.3
Total	301	100.0

- 1.6. Cross tabulating these responses against stakeholder type (local resident, business, hackney carriage licence holders or market traders) revealed that three fifths of residents that responded were against extending the duration of the fair, with 105 out of 178 choosing to object.
- 1.7. Only six businesses were in favour of extending the duration of the fair. The majority of businesses were against the proposal, with 35 choosing to object.
- 1.8. Both residents and businesses objected to the proposal. The proportion of businesses objecting to the proposal was greater than the proportion of residents objecting, but this is perhaps not surprising given where the fair is situated and the location of the businesses that were contacted.

1.9. The Charter Trustees for Grantham were approached directly for their views on the proposed extension and no comments were received at the time of writing this report.

1.10. Statutory stakeholders were contacted directly by the Markets and Events Supervisor. The feedback from Lincolnshire County Council Highways was as follows:

"Lincolnshire County Council would like to object to South Kesteven District Council's proposal to extend the length of the Charter Fun Fairs in Stamford and Grantham.

This objection is based on the grounds of:

- 1. Protecting the highway asset;*
- 2. Upholding the right of free passage to all road users, both locally and those travellers from outside the area*

When reaching this conclusion we took into account the views of the locally elected member/Executive Councillor for Highways, to ascertain if there is likely to be local assent to the proposals. It was their opinion that on a local level there would be no support for extending the length of the Charter Fairs due to the additional disruption it would cause to the highway network and to members of the travelling public."

1.11. The local policing team inspector for Grantham's comment was as follows:

"We do not police this event at present, we do direct the PCSO's to it but only during regular patrol and commitments permitting. The Saturday night time economy in Grantham will spill into this so if the proposal goes ahead I would advise that we need to insist on more security for the Saturday night as we really do not have the staff to police it"

1.12. No feedback was received from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

1.13. A petition organised by Tuffies in Westgate, containing 340 signatures objecting to the proposal, was handed to the Markets and Events Supervisor on 23 August 2018.

Stamford

1.14. The consultation on proposals to extend the Mid Lent Fair in Stamford produced the following results:

	Number	%
Support	90	40.3
Object	119	53.4
Not sure	14	6.3
Total	223	100.0

- 1.15. Cross tabulating these responses against stakeholder type (local resident, business or hackney carriage licence holders) revealed that 53.3% of residents that responded were against extending the duration of the fair, with 90 out of 169 choosing to object.
- 1.16. 5 businesses were in favour of extending the duration of the fair. The majority of businesses were against the proposal, with 22 choosing to object.
- 1.17. Both residents and businesses objected to the proposal. The proportion of businesses objecting to the proposal was greater than the proportion of residents objecting.
- 1.18. Stamford Town Council were approached directly for their views on the proposed extension and encouraged each of their members to respond individually.
- 1.19. Statutory stakeholders were contacted directly by the Markets and Events Supervisor. The feedback from Lincolnshire County Council Highways was as follows:

"Lincolnshire County Council would like to object to South Kesteven District Council's proposal to extend the length of the Charter Fun Fairs in Stamford and Grantham.

This objection is based on the grounds of:

- 1. Protecting the highway asset;*
- 2. Upholding the right of free passage to all road users, both locally and those travellers from outside the area*

When reaching this conclusion we took into account the views of the locally elected member/Executive Councillor for Highways, to ascertain if there is likely to be local assent to the proposals. It was their opinion that on a local level there would be no support for extending the length of the Charter Fairs due to the additional disruption it would cause to the highway network and to members of the travelling public."

- 1.20. The local policing team inspector for Stamford's comment was as follows:

"Looking at the Stamford proposal the only concern is the closure effect for the Monday 8th April to ensure that it is lifted at 6am, to ensure vehicle flow through the town. From a crime and disorder perspective, there is very little ASB or crime that takes place throughout the fair period currently, and there is no Police Officer presence assigned for it. PCSOs do pay passing attention throughout the evening, but this will also depend on when school holidays fall and if there is an overlap with these and the volume of people who may be present. From a licensing perspective of the establishments that are here, there are no issues I can recall of people who are causing problems from intoxication or disorder, and the extra day being a Sunday (there is already a Saturday involved) should not add to the issues based on knowledge of the current public order situation"

1.21. No feedback was received from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1. It is recommended that, following consideration of the consultation carried out, the proposed extensions of the mid-lent fairs for Grantham and Stamford are not supported.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

Grantham – reason for recommendation

- 3.1. Those who live or work in the area affected by the road closure order were contacted directly, with others made aware of the opportunity to participate through local media.
- 3.2. The majority of respondents, along with the statutory consultees, and those signing the petition, did not support the proposal to extend the Mid Lent Fair in Grantham. The main reasons for this were because of the impact on trade – specifically accessibility and deliveries, noise and traffic congestion.

Grantham – alternative options considered

- 3.3. Consideration was given to how the proposal to extend the Mid Lent Fair in Grantham could be acceptable. However, in the light of the consultation responses and the specific comments from Lincolnshire County Council and the Police, and the number of residents and businesses against the proposal, it was felt that such an option could not be recommended to the Cabinet Member.

Stamford – reason for recommendation

- 3.4. Those who live or work in the area affected by the road closure order were contacted directly, with others made aware of the opportunity to participate through local media.
- 3.5. Just over half of respondents, along with LCC, did not support the proposal to extend the Mid Lent Fair in Stamford. The main reasons for this were because of the impact it would have on parking, the disruption it causes in the town and the effect it has on trade.

Stamford - alternative options considered

- 3.6. Consideration was given to how the proposal to extend the Mid Lent fair in Stamford could be acceptable. However, give the objection from the County Council and the lack of support from residents and businesses, it was felt that such an option could not be recommended to the Cabinet Member.

4. COMMENTS FROM FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 4.1. In the event that there is a variation to the current arrangements then any additional costs incurred would be recharged to the Showmen's Guild.

5. COMMENTS FROM LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 5.1. The right to hold mid lent fairs in Grantham and Stamford was granted by virtue of ancient charters which were upheld in accordance with the Fairs Act 1873. S.6 of the Fairs Act gives power to the Secretary for State to alter the days for holding fairs. Following representations made in response to a consultation for a proposed change, a recommendation has been made not to support such a change. Should the recommendation be upheld, no action would be required in accordance with S.6. The decision and the reasons for the decision should be made known to the Showmen's Guild.

6. OFFICER CONTACT

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7. DATE DECISION EFFECTIVE:

- 7.1. **If the decision is made on 31 October 2018 then it can be implemented on Friday 9 November 2018 subject to the decision not being called-in by any five Members of the Council or the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

8. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report outlining the results of the consultation on extending the Mid Lent Fair in Grantham 2018

Appendix 2: Report outlining the results of the consultation on extending the Mid Lent Fair in Stamford 2018