



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 January 2024

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter,
Deputy Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Finance and
Economic Development

Streets Markets Review update

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the responses received from the Town Council's and Grantham Charter Trustees to help inform the next stages regarding the development and future management of Council-operated street markets in Bourne, Grantham and Stamford. The report proposes the creation of a task and finish group to oversee a consultation regarding the future of markets, ahead of the development of a markets strategy.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Committee:

1. **Creates a task and finish group to oversee the development of a Markets Strategy.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth and our economy• Healthy and strong communities• Clean and sustainable environment• High performing Council
Which wards are impacted?	All wards (although the Council-operated markets are within specific wards, the scope of the report is districtwide)

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 As identified in the previous Market report presented to the Committee on 5 September 2023, currently all three markets operate at a deficit although the amount varies amongst each market. The operating model of each market has largely remained unchanged for a significant period of time and it is unlikely that costs can be reduced without changes to the current operating model. It is proposed the market trader charges remain unchanged for 2024/2025 in order to retain and encourage new traders. However, it is recognised that without additional trader numbers or a reduction in the operating costs, the freezing of the charge will increase the deficit further for 2024/2025.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees can undertake in-depth scrutiny reviews as and when deemed necessary. This can be facilitated through a Task and Finish Group, or by the whole committee depending on the nature of the subject under review. Any membership of a potential Task and Finish Group can be discussed further at the Committee.

Completed by James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Health and Safety

1.3 The Council holds both a legal and moral duty to ensure the provision of robust health and safety measures, including training, the maintenance of existing equipment/provision of new equipment and ancillaries, to control any potential risk to staff, traders and the public who use the markets. Failure to manage risk could result in fines and prosecution along with reputational damages.

Completed by: Philip Swinton, Health and Safety Manager

2. Background to the Report

2.1 The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on 5 September 2023 (see **Background Papers section**) and considered creating a task and finish group to oversee a consultation regarding the future of markets. Before establishing the task and finish group, it was agreed the Chairman of the Committee would write to the Town Councils and Grantham Charter Trustees because Members felt these bodies were central to any decision regarding the development and future management of street markets within their localities.

2.2 A letter (**Appendix A**) was issued by the Chairman of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, requesting a response on two issues:

- a) Confirm a willingness to partner and engage with South Kesteven District Council in the consultation/development process.
- b) Feedback on how they could see this consultation progressing with any ideas they may have.

2.3 At the time of writing this report, communications have been received from all three bodies as follows:

- The Clerk to Bourne Town Council confirmed they were happy to engage with South Kesteven District Council regarding the consultation, and plan to offer further feedback.
- The Clerk to Stamford Town Council asked their Councillors to respond directly to South Kesteven District Council. One response was received which focussed on the continued operation of the market, rather than on progressing the consultation.
- The Deputy Mayor of Grantham confirmed the Grantham Charter Trustees' plans for: drop-in sessions in the Mayors Parlour; a questionnaire and supporting printed media (flyers, press release and social media posts – **Appendix B**); visits to market to interview stallholders, market users and staff; and intention to hold a market stall.

2.4 As previously reported, the long-term ambition is still to develop a Markets Strategy for markets across the District and provide a template against which to measure

future activity. The development of the strategy should be led by evidence and information. It is therefore recommended a task and finish group should be created to oversee the development of the strategy.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 As previously reported, to facilitate the process, it is recommended the task and finish group be formed with appropriate members and officers. The group shall draw on expertise from traders, retailers, residents, customers, key stakeholders, other elected Members and other consultees. See draft proposed terms of reference at **Appendix C**.
- 3.2 It is also proposed the task and finish group considers the appointment of external professionals to lead on the development and production of the South Kesteven markets strategy.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 This Committee requested an update be presented to this meeting. It is for this reason the 'do nothing' option has been discounted.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 Street markets play a vital role in South Kesteven as places of employment, trade and leisure. They are an essential part of residents' experience of the District. The street markets are facing pressures from technological, social and economic change, the reason for the recommendation is to ensure the Council is supporting the street markets.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 *South Kesteven District Council Streets Markets Review* – Report to 5 September 2023 Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, available online at: <https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s38883/Report.pdf>
- 6.2 **Appendix A** – Market consultation letter issued to Grantham Charter Trustees, Bourne Town Council and Stamford Town Council
- 6.3 **Appendix B** – Grantham Charter Trustees poster and questionnaire
- 6.4 **Appendix C** – Draft Market Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference