

EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

Date of Decision	20 November 2024
Decision Taker(s) Portfolio holder	Cllr Gill Taylor
Designation	Cabinet Member for Health and Housing
Subject Matter	Future operation of Fairfield Market, Dorchester
Decision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve entering into an agreement with Dorchester Town Council for them to operate Fairfield Market and Cornhill Market under the governance of the Dorchester Market Joint Informal Panel from 3 April 2026. 2. That authority is delegated to the Interim Executive Lead for Place in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (and their nominated officers), to facilitate the necessary agreement with Dorchester Town Council for the operation of Fairfield Market and Cornhill Market. 3. That similarly, the terms of reference for the Dorchester Market Joint Informal Panel be revised to provide effective governance for the arrangements.
Reason for the Decision	To ensure the effective operation of Fairfield and Cornhill markets, providing a valuable community resource.
Alternative Options considered and rejected	Award an operating lease for operation of the market from 3 April 2026 to an appropriate contractor.
Consultees	Dorchester Town Council Dorchester Markets Joint Informal Panel Dorset Council Legal Services
Budget Implications	Securing a new operator for the market from the end of the current operating lease will help to ensure the financial stability of the market and income to the Council.

	In 2023-24, the total income from Fairfield and Cornhill Markets including rents and car park income was £132,000.
Legal Implications	Legal Services has been consulted in the development of this option for the operation of Fairfield and Cornhill Markets.
Any Conflict of Interest?	No. Dorchester Market Joint Informal Panel is comprised of Elected Members from both councils.
Reference Documents	Report titled 'Future Operation of Fairfield Market, Dorchester' dated 19 November 2024.



Signed: **Date:** ...20 November 2024.

Designation: Cabinet Member for Health and Housing