

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

29 JANUARY 2025

BRIEFING NOTE - FUTURE OPERATION OF FAIRFIELD & CORNHILL MARKETS

1. The Market Panel sub-group established to support the Panel in ensuring the operation of the market after the contact with Ensors finishes, met on 10 December 2024. The sub-group discussed a range of issues associated with task and officers took away a number of actions to progress before the next meeting (date to be arranged).
2. The intention is for Dorchester Town Council to directly manage the market and Dorset Council Legal Services has offered to prepare the draft lease/concession for consideration by the Panel and both Councils. The principle functions to be exercised by each party are proposed to be as follows;

It is envisaged that the Town Council will...

- Have day to day control and management of the Fairfield Market and tolls at the sites and locations on which the same are existing or entitled at the 1 October 1978.
- Have day to day control and management of Cornhill Market (or oversee an agent appointed for the purpose).
- Determine hours of opening.
- Provide for the nature and arrangement of stalls.
- Provide agreements and licences for market tenants.
- Arrange necessary insurance pertaining to Market days.
- Provide financial operating accounts for the market(s), production of annual accounts and trading surplus distribution.
- Provide democratic support services to the Market Panel.

It is envisaged that Dorset Council will...

- Maintain the infrastructure of the market sites.
- Arrange for the undertaking of any infrastructure development on the sites subject to necessary permissions and funding.

It is envisaged that the Market Panel will...

- Make policy in respect of financial matters including review of rents, fees, tolls and charges relating to market operations and other arrangements referred to in the 1984 Agreement relating to Dorchester Market.
- Exercise any other powers resulting from the Market Charter including the levying of fees for markets within the prescribed distance of the Charter Market.
- Provide oversight on the performance of the markets and arrangements with both Councils.

3. The above is not exclusive and more detailed iterations will be referred to the Market Panel sub-group for comment as work progresses.
4. Officers are meeting on 10 February 2025 to identify financial matters in relation to the direct operation of the market(s) and where necessary, issues will be brought to the attention of the sub-group for consideration and guidance.
5. A draft timeline for this work will be available at the Market Panel meeting for comment.

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