



## **REPORT of MARKETS TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

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**to  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
22 MAY 2018**

### **MARKETS WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an overview of the work carried out to date by the Markets Working Group in relation to Market provision within Maldon town.
- 1.2 To seek Committee approval to extend the existing contract with the Maldon Market Co-operative for a further 6 months to allow further research to be completed and reported back to Members.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) That Committee agrees an extension of the Maldon Market Co-operative for a further 6 months.

#### **3. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION**

##### **3.1 Background**

3.1.1 Members will be aware that at its meeting held on 21 November 2017 (Minute No. 612 refers) this Committee resolved to create a Markets Task and finish Working Group (working group) to consider the provision of markets within Maldon town. At the same meeting it was agreed that the existing market contract with the Maldon Market Cooperative should be extended for a period of six months to allow time for the working group to explore options and report back.

3.1.2 The working group has since met on a number of occasions reviewed and debated the following in relation to market provision within the town:

- The pros and cons of 14 different locations including impact on car parking within the town.
- The appropriate scale of a market
- The models of operations (in-house management and contract options)
- Researched other local authorities market operations
- Conducted discussions with the current market operator
- Investigated Planning Permission requirements
- Considered the current market offer available and whether it meets perceived demand.

- 3.1.3 The details of this discussion and conclusions will be made available to Members within a future report to this Committee which will then allow an informed decision to be made on the future of the market. However it is worth noting that the working group have approached their task with the assumption that the Council wishes to retain some form of regular market within the Maldon town.
- 3.1.4 The next scheduled meeting of the working group is on the 21 May 2018, and a verbal update of discussion will be provided if necessary.
- 3.1.5 The group's work has not yet been concluded and in view of this it is requested that the existing contract with Maldon Market Co-operative is extended for a period of six months. This will allow time for outstanding work to be completed, a full report to be considered by Members and, subject to agreement, a new procurement / tender process to be completed.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The working group has assumed that a Maldon Market should continue to be provided for the town. Further research and investigation is required before a final conclusions and proposal is offered to the Community Services Committee for wider discussion. It is necessary to extend the current contract with the current incumbent contractor in order to facilitate this work.

#### **5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 This report links to the corporate goals of "Delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services" and "Creating opportunities for Growth and Economic Prosperity".

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The Council must research the location of the market to ensure that there is easy access for customers and that the market is in the best possible location for the customer. The Committee must also consider the other neighbouring businesses.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – It is possible that halting a market could have a negative impact on individuals and families on lower incomes that might traditionally shop at markets. However, for this to be the case the range of goods on offer would need to be quite diverse.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – No corporate risks have been identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The current market generates income of £4,750 per annum. However, the market is operated from a Council managed car park and the Committee should take into account any loss of income that may arise because of the loss of parking spaces.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

(vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Previous reports to the Community Services Committee

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