

## For Council: 24 January 2022 APPENDIX 1

### Lichfield City Council

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the Markets Working Group (MWG) held via Zoom on Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 10:00am

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Checkland (Chair), P McDermott, J Smith, C Spruce and M Warfield.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Thomas (Deputy Town Clerk), A Briggs (Town Clerk), Hayley Howen (Markets Officer).

**APOLOGIES:** None

**20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

The Chair advised of his position on the District Council's Regulatory and Licensing Committee; the Town Clerk confirmed this was covered by the City Council's adopted general dispensation relating to dual hatted members.

**21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** *The Minutes of the MWG meeting held on 6 October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record [Minutes received by Council on 6 December 2021].*

**22. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

None.

**23. MARKETS UPDATE**

New Markets officer Hayley Howen was formally introduced by the Town Clerk and welcomed by all present. Councillor C Spruce asked whether the market layout was under regular consideration given the relaxation of restrictions and the possibility of introducing more stalls onto the Square. The Town Clerk confirmed that removal of the 1 metre gap between stalls was not welcomed by traders when previously mooted and that such a change would only allow for one or two more stalls to be added. Moreover, there was concern as to consumer confidence if the COVID provisions on the Square were to be relaxed currently. The Markets Officer confirmed social media posts were now increasing and new opportunities for sharing information via local groups had been identified and actioned.

The Chair enquired as to the practice of not allowing duplicate stalls to stand and questioned whether it would be appropriate to revise this policy. Officers confirmed that while duplication of goods was not allowed on the Market, this was subject to a degree of judgment based on actual products for sale and likely demographic of purchasers; the Markets Officer gave an example of this relating to a stall offering home made artisan sweets being considered for the market currently, even though another stall on the market also sells sweets of a different kind.

**RESOLVED:** *That the report be noted.*

**24. MARKET SQUARE TOILET BLOCK – RENOVATION WORKS**

Members considered the agenda report confirming the renovation work was to be scheduled shortly and that it would include improvements to toilets and the addition of an outside tap; officers confirmed that the tap would be secure.

**RESOLVED:** *That the report be noted.*

**25. 2022/23 PITCH FEES – GENERAL MARKETS**

Members considered whether the Working Group wished to recommend an increase in prevailing market pitch fees/service charge costs for 2022/23. While noting the fragile consumer environment currently, Councillor C Spruce stated that a 2.5% increase should be considered as no increase has been implemented for three years; with the inflationary loss to the council mounting and, if current trends continue, this could only be recovered through larger increases in the future. The proposal was seconded by Councillor P McDermott. The Chair asked whether a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23 should preclude such an increase; Councillor Spruce stated that the issues were not directly comparable. Following further discussion it was resolved that:

***RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:***

***A 2.5% increase in prevailing pitch fees be implemented for 2022/23.***

**26. MARKET LAYOUT**

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report which set out the legal advice received in relation to the possible extension of the City Council's Markets function along Pool Walk and the advice that street trading charges would not apply. Clarity was sought on the implications of extending and relocating the market, and the possibility for Council to resolve to create new markets or vary existing ones; the Town Clerk confirmed that as a local authority, the City Council has the powers to create, dissolve and amend markets, but would be subject to any prevailing hire charges implemented by the landowner if the market was not on LCC land.

Following further discussion and in light of the District Council's current Street Trading review, it was agreed that the Town Clerk would approach the Cabinet member responsible for this function at LDC, provide the legal advice received and ask for LDC's view on that advice and its implications; the Town Clerk to report back to the Working Group in due course.

***RESOLVED: Following legal advice received and in order to seek clarity as to LDC's position, the Town Clerk to raise the matter of street trading implications relating to the possible extension/relocation of LCC markets along Pool Walk with the appropriate District Council Cabinet Member.***

**27. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Confirmed as 10.00am on Wednesday 6 April 2022.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:34am**