

For Council: 25 July 2022 APPENDIX 2

Lichfield City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Markets Working Group (MWG) held via Zoom on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 10:00am

PRESENT: Councillors P McDermott (Deputy Chair, in the Chair), D Robertson, J Smith, C Spruce and M Warfield.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Checkland, A Briggs (Town Clerk).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: *The Minutes of the MWG meeting held on 6 April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record [Minutes received by Council on 20 April 2022].*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor McDermott enquired about the progress of the new urinal and outside tap in the market square toilet block. Officers confirmed further quotations had been sought and this was being progressed.

4. MARKETS UPDATE & JUBILEE WEEKEND REPORT

The Working Party discussed the Markets Officer's report at agenda appendix 1. Councillor Spruce commented that the Jubilee market was a lovely and innovative event and would encourage similar such events on Pool Walk. Councillor Robertson enquired if the success of the event had made the general market traders more amenable to relocating to Pool Walk when the Market square was unavailable. The Markets Officer confirmed that discussions had taken place with traders explaining the benefits.

RESOLVED: *That the report be noted.*

5. VEGAN MARKET

Members considered the agenda report detailing the dialogue between LCC Officers and the Vegan market Company regarding the possibility of Vegan Market events during the latter part of 2022.

Due to various other events on the square and the availability of the Vegan Market Company the proposed dates to create a market are Sunday 23 October, Sunday 13 November and Sunday 11 December 2022. Members attention was drawn to the 13 November also being Remembrance Sunday and the appropriateness of a market taking place. Upon discussion it was agreed that the market should continue on the understanding that all Traders observe the 2 minutes silence at 11.00am as part of the National Act of Remembrance.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: *Utilising the Powers available to LCC under the Food Act Part III, Markets be created on 23 October 2022, 13 November 2022, and 11 December 2022 to facilitate the first three Vegan Markets in the City. The Markets to take place on the Market Square and/or Pool Walk.*

6. ADVERTISING AT LCC BUS SHELTERS

Members considered the agenda report. Officers confirmed that discussions with contractors are ongoing and the MWG would be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

7. TRADER ELECTRICITY PROVISION – ADDITIONAL ELECTRICAL ITEMS

The implications of increased electricity costs were discussed by the Working Party, noting that the Council should not subsidise a benefit that is subject to VAT, and it should therefore take action as a result of these increased costs.

Councillor Spruce noted that the cost of electricity for individual appliances used by Traders had not been increased for a considerable amount of time and mindful of the predicted increase in price cap in the autumn suggested an increase of more than £1.00

It was proposed by Councillor Warfield and seconded by Councillor Spruce that the cost of electricity charges for individual appliances therefore be raised from £1 per appliance to £2.50 per appliance

It was agreed that the wider 'Service Charge' be reviewed later in 2022 when the implications of other likely costs/savings on the overall charges subject to VAT would be clearer [the prevailing market pitch fees and service charge are discussed annually by Council at its January meeting]

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the cost of electricity for individual appliances be increased from £1 (VAT inclusive) per day to £2.50 (VAT inclusive) per day as a result of the increase in electricity costs payable by the Council. The increase to take effect from 1 August 2022.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Confirmed as Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 10.00am via Zoom

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:32am**