



Item

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARTER MARKET REGULATIONS ON GENERAL & SUNDAY MARKET

To:

Councillor Rosy Moore, Executive Councillor for Environmental Services and City Centre

Environment Scrutiny Committee

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Report by:

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Wards affected:

Market

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

The Charter Market Regulations (CMR) have not been reviewed for seven years. A number of the proposed revisions remove terminology that is no longer relevant whilst other changes are aimed at improving the performance of the market. The proposed revisions have been informed by trader focus groups, a trader survey and advice from the National Market Traders Federation and National Association of British Market Authorities regarding best practice, and from 3C Legal.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

2.1 Adopt the proposed changes to the CMR as set out in Appendix A.

The main proposed changes to the CMR are as follows:

- 2.2.1 No longer having separate trading arrangements for Bank Holiday Mondays. Licence agreements will be in effect on any day the market is open.
- 2.2.2 No longer supplying wooden boards. (The use of wooden boards will still be permitted, but traders will need to return them to the store at the end of trading).
- 2.2.3 Ensuring that hot food traders use flame retardant sheeting around any part of a pitch that adjoins another.
- 2.2.4 Charging casual traders on the day an agreement is made for them to operate.
- 2.2.5 Ensuring that hot food and drink traders do not use single use plastics to dispense the food and drink that they sell.

3. Background

- 3.1 For the past twenty years the General & Sunday Markets have only been closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Historically, Good Fridays have been treated as any other Friday, whilst Bank Holiday Mondays have been subject to a higher, flat rate, casual charge. The proposal to no longer having separate trading arrangements for Bank Holiday Mondays brings Bank Holiday Mondays into line with every other day.
- 3.2 The feedback from the trader's survey (Appendix C) demonstrates that cleanliness of the market is a substantial concern. The biggest impediment to the cleanliness of the trading area are the wooden boards left strewn across the market at the end of each market day. These boards inhibit the effective wash down of the market trading area. Traders have previously been written to and encouraged to return the boards to the storage area and there have been a number of evenings that the 'Markets' team has sought to demonstrate to the traders good housekeeping of the market by clearing market boards and returning to the storage area. These have had little impact. By not replacing the Council's stock of wooden boards, traders will have to make their own arrangements to maintain existing stock and/ or provide their own. In either case, traders will be required to return all wooden boards to the store at the end of the trading day. This will allow the market wash down to be conducted effectively.
- 3.3 Hot food traders generally have a greater impact on their neighbours than those selling other commodities, in terms of smell and fumes.

Furthermore, hot food traders present a greater fire hazard risk than those selling other commodities. Requiring hot food traders to reasonably insulate their stalls will effectively manage their impact on others, and minimize the fire risk to the market.

- 3.4 The current arrangement allows traders to request a pitch, the 'Markets' team to then arrange this, which involves a small administrative burden and prevents others from being allocated the requested pitch. Unfortunately, there is a continuing practice of traders securing a requested pitch and then not turning up to trade from it on the day. This currently has no financial impact on the trader. The proposal is that if a trader requests a pitch which is confirmed, the trader is charged irrespective of whether or not they then turn up. It is hoped that this will deter 'no shows' and support the honouring of pitch commitments.
- 3.5 There is currently no obligation on hot food and drink traders to use recyclable receptacles to dispense their commodities, though, in practice, many do. The proposals aim to ensure that all traders operate under the same conditions which would improve the environmental performance of the market offer.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are no significant financial implications.

(b) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no equality or poverty implications

(d) Environmental Implications

There environmental impact rating is 'Nil'

(e) Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications.

(f) Community Safety Implications

There are no community safety implications.

5. Consultation and communication considerations

A series of Trader Focus Groups were held in the summer on Market Square during the market hours of operation to gather feedback from those that trade. The opportunity to meet at another time if this was inconvenient was also provided. An electronic survey was sent to all 152 traders with e-addresses and a hard copy of the same survey sent to the postal addresses of the 7 traders without them. Furthermore, traders received a copy of the proposals on 18th October 2017 for a 33 day consultation period. Of the 159 contacted there were 4 respondents (2.5%). Their comments are included in Appendix D.

6. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

7. Appendices

- (a) Appendix A – Proposed Charter Market Regulations
- (b) Appendix B – Current Charter Market Regulations
- (c) Appendix C(i) & Appendix C(ii) – Trader Survey Returns
- (d) Appendix D – Trader Consultation Returns

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Daniel Ritchie, City Centre Management, Markets & Street Trading Development Manager, tel: 01223 - 457466, email: daniel.ritchie@cambridge.gov.uk.