

RAYLEIGH MARKET LICENCE

1 SUMMARY

The current market licence expires on the 31st March 2003 and arrangements are proposed for its review and renewal.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A weekly market has for many years been held in the Hockley Road car park, Rayleigh. This market, as with Rochford market is an ancient charter market the rights to which are held by the present market operators.
- 2.2 The current licence to use the Council's car park is for a period of 21 years from 1st April 1982. This is subject to an annual fee and conditions relating to the times and regulating the use. The licence expires on the 31st March 2003.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 In recent years the market has been in decline with fewer stalls and less activity but nevertheless it does make a contribution to the vitality of the town and remains popular with local residents.
- 3.2 The reduction in the size of the market and number of stalls may allow for alternative locations to be explored, such as within the main High Street. A more central position, as in Rochford, may benefit the market and better support retail activity in the High Street, whilst increasing the car parking capacity on market days.
- 3.3 The Market Operator has indicated that he would be interested in renewing the licence at the present site, but has reservations as to the feasibility of its relocation within the High Street.
- 3.4 There would appear to be some value in reviewing the present market arrangements and alternative locations that might be more suited to the current level of market activity. This could be undertaken by the Finance & Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee which would enable the issues to be fully explored and consultation undertaken with interested parties.

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- 3.5 Pending the outcome of the review it will be necessary to extend the current licence for a period to allow the current market arrangements to continue.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Use of the car park is subject to an annual licence fee offset by loss of income from car parking charges whilst the market is in operation.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The agreement of the market operator will be required to any variation or extension of the licence arrangements.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

The Market car park is within the Rayleigh Town Council area.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES

That the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee investigates the feasibility of relocation of the market within the High Street and in the interim the existing licence is extended on the same terms for a period of twelve months pending the completion of the review. (HLS)

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Background Papers:

None

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