

RAYLEIGH MARKET REVIEW

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on the process and timetable of the review and involvement of interested parties in the above issue.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The licence to use the Council's car park to hold a weekly market was due to expire on the 31st March 2003.
- 2.2 At the Policy and Finance Committee on the 11th March 2003 it was resolved that this Committee investigates the feasibility of the relocation of the market within the High Street and that in the interim an extension of the licence is granted for a period of twelve months.
- 2.3 The licence with the agreement of the Market Operator has accordingly been extended until 31st March 2004 pending the completion of the review.

3 THE WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 The market has historically played a key role in the vitality and importance of the Town and this remains so in many respects.
- 3.2 In reviewing the arrangements a number of issues will need to be considered including the suitability and practicality of alternative locations, the impact on High Street retail businesses, the attraction and convenience for shoppers and the car parking position.
- 3.3 The Committee will wish to examine these issues and any others that it identifies as being relevant by consulting with and receiving views and information from interested parties and stake holders.
- 3.4 The following parties are probably key persons to be consulted in the initial examination of the feasibility of alternative arrangements and could be invited to attend one or more meetings to contribute their views to the review. Thereafter any proposals can if necessary, be the subject of wider consultation.

The Market Operator
Rayleigh Town Council
The Rayleigh Chamber of Trade
Market Traders
The Highway Authority and Police

- 3.5 It is envisaged that Members should set themselves a realistic timetable for completing the review. Given the other work commitments of the Committee is suggested that the Committee should aim to complete the work prior to the summer recess. In this way any recommendation can be fed into the budget process if necessary at an early stage.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The licence as extended expires on 31st March 2004.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

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

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That Members advise officers of any additional issues which should be considered.
 - (2) That Members agree the list of consultees and arrange an initial meeting to commence the review with the aim of completing the task prior to the summer recess. (HLS)

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Background Papers:

None

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