

Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive	Corporate & Customer Overview & Scrutiny Panel	15.02.07

CHORLEY MARKETS INQUIRY – MONITORING OF INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update Members on progress made in implementing the Panel's recommendations following the inquiry into the performance of Chorley's markets.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- Issues concerning the markets have a bearing on the Council's revenue income and thus its ability to invest in its capacity to deliver its services

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial	✓	Operational	
People		Other – vitality of the town centre	✓

- Financial - The two markets produce a gross income to the Council of £300,000 and alterations to the way they are run will have an effect on their attractiveness to both traders and shoppers and thus income levels generated.

Vitality of the Town Centre - The markets contribute significantly to the vitality and viability of the town centre and any changes may have an impact upon their contribution.

BACKGROUND

- At the conclusion of its inquiry into the performance of Chorley's markets the Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel presented a number of recommendations to the Executive Cabinet as set out in the schedule with this report.
- The Executive Cabinet initially accepted two of the recommendations, those numbered 6 & 25 and instructed officers to pursue them. The Executive Cabinet deferred a decision on the remaining recommendations in order not to fetter the scope which could be offered in the investigation of partnering or outsourcing opportunities but has since re-visited the report and approved a move of stalls from the Flat iron on a trial basis (Recommendation 8).

PRESENT POSITION

7. Recommendation 6. The search for a partner to run the markets reached a conclusion with the appointment of Groupe Geraud as preferred bidder. However the due diligence exercise conducted as a preliminary to final appointment revealed a number of issues of concern and the Executive Cabinet subsequently decided not to proceed with the outsourcing but to keep the management in house whilst other options were investigated.
8. Recommendation 25. Operational constraints prevent use of the interchange for coach parking but we have prepared and now issue information sheets detailing coach parking arrangements in the town following drop off at the interchange.
9. Recommendation 8. The use of Cleveland St, Fazackerly St and Market St for re-location of the Flat Iron market requires amendments to existing traffic regulations in consultation with the town's shopkeepers. These have been undertaken by the Director of Customer, Democratic & Legal Services over a period of several months and have produced a number of objections.
10. The proposed extension to Market Walk has produces new opportunities for development along with the markets that will be investigated.
11. Other recommendations, and progress made in their implementation since the initial Executive Cabinet meeting are set out on the schedule attached to this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

12. There are no financial implications associated with this report

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

13. There are no direct HR implications associated with this report

RECOMMENDATION

14. That this progress report be noted.

PAUL MORRIS
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

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