

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Cabinet

To: South Holland District Council Wednesday, 29 July 2020

(Author: Christine Morgan Democratic Services Officer)

Subject Report from Cabinet meetings held on 16 June 2020 and 21 July 2020

Purpose: To consider recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of:

- a) Re-opening of South Holland's Markets, and Spalding Market Stall provision – To consider the options for re-opening the markets in South Holland and market stall provision at Spalding market (considered first at Cabinet on 16 June 2020 (Cabinet minute 9) (Cabinet agenda items 9 and exempt agenda item 12) and reconsideration of this item at Cabinet on 21 July 2020 (Cabinet minute 15)(Cabinet agenda items 5a and exempt agenda item 11)

[Note – the only element of (a) above that requires decision by Council is the recommendation at 1) below the background to which is set out in the confidential report at Appendix C. If members wish to discuss the content of Appendix C it will be necessary to consider this item later in the meeting following exclusion of the press and public]

- b) Resourcing of the Council's Housing Development Team – To set out a proposal concerning the resourcing of the Council's Housing Development service which will bring two additional Housing Development Project Manager posts into the establishment to align with the authority's ambition to build new council houses and deliver new homes through its housing companies (considered at Cabinet on 21 July 2020 (Cabinet minute 17)(Cabinet agenda item 7)

Recommendations to Council:

a) Re-opening of South Holland's Markets, and Spalding Market Stall provision

- 1) That, in light of the outcome of the consultation with staff and in light of the content of the report at Appendix C generally, the council ceases market stall provision in Spalding and follows its usual process arising as a result and as referenced in paragraph 5.1 of the report at Appendix C.

b) Resourcing of the Council's Housing Development Team

- 2) That two additional Housing Development Project Manager posts (2 FTE) be created within the Council's permanent staffing establishment.

1.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Article 4 of the Council's Constitution provides that only the full Council may exercise the functions of approving, adopting or amending the policy framework and budget, and adopting or changing the Constitution. Staffing establishment matters are also a Council function. The Cabinet however has a responsibility for advising the Council on such matters. At its meetings on 16 June 2020 and 21 July 2020, the Cabinet made recommendations to Council in respect of the above items, as they relate to staffing establishment issues.
- 1.2 The remainder of this report details the recommendations of the Cabinet which must be read in conjunction with the individual reports to Cabinet, copies of which are attached as appendices.
- 1.3 Decisions relating to the Re-opening of South Holland's Markets, and Spalding Market Stall Provision are detailed below – at the meeting on 16 June 2020, the Cabinet made its original decision and the item was considered again on 21 July 2020, following call-in of the original decision.
- 1.4 Please note that with regard to the attached appendices relating to the Re-opening of South Holland's Markets, and Spalding Market Stall Provision, the exempt Appendix B from the original report to Cabinet on 16 June 20 has been replaced with an updated version to reflect the results of the consultation (this is attached at Appendix C which is exempt).

2.0 **RE-OPENING OF SOUTH HOLLAND'S MARKETS, AND SPALDING MARKET STALL PROVISION** **(Minute of Cabinet – 16 June 2020 – Item 9 and exempt agenda item 12)**

Consideration was given to the options for re-opening of the markets in South Holland and the market stalls provision at Spalding market.

The Cabinet voted to exclude the press and public under Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to consider the content of Appendix B. The press and public were re-admitted to the meeting for the remainder of the debate and the vote on the recommendations.

The impact of Covid-19 on the UK had meant that the government had to make the decision to introduce lock-down and shut certain outlets, including markets. On 24th March the decision was made to close markets in South Holland following government guidance and for the safety of traders, staff and visitors.

As the lock-down on England eased, the government announced on 24 May that outdoor markets could reopen from 1 June, so long as they were Covid-safe. Markets are an important part of the towns and should be opened as soon as they were safe to do so. However, changes to the way markets operate needed to be made in accordance with government guidance, dealing in particular with the requirement for social distancing.

Changes needed to be made to the markets including location, pitch booking and stall provision to make them safe and to provide confidence to those returning to the towns.

The Environmental Services Manager confirmed that there had been engagement with all traders, both regular and casual. The majority had continued to trade, stood on multiple markets and were comfortable with the level of support and engagement from the Council.

An additional recommendation was proposed by the Portfolio Holder and agreed as follows:

‘That the Environmental Services Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, to establish a Covid compliant market in the Market Place, Long Sutton if a road closure order can be obtained via the local Highway Authority and arrangements prove viable and achievable. If no such closure can be obtained the market to be established in the nearby council owned car park.’

The Portfolio Holder thanked the staff and ward members involved in the work detailed within the report.

DECISION:

1. That, in order to secure the safe re-opening of South Holland District Council markets, in line with government guidance introduced due to Covid-19,

- a) The current practice of erecting and dismantling SHDC stalls at Spalding Tuesday and Saturday markets be suspended;
- b) The removal of trade waste by South Holland District Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Crowland markets be terminated, thereby making the service equitable across all markets;
- c) A book and pay system for traders who wish to stand at any SHDC market be introduced to enable a planned approach to market layouts each week and remove the need for cash handling, both of which assist with the opening of Covid-safe markets;
- d) In the event that, following the consultation referred to in Appendix B of the report, the current practice of erecting and dismantling stalls at the Spalding market is ended, the fees for Spalding traders be amended as shown at paragraph 1.20 of the report;
- e) A rent free period be introduced for traders until 31 July 2020 to support the recovery of markets;
- f) Social distancing procedures be introduced at all markets including changing the layouts to accommodate the new government guidance;
- g) The market trader handbook be amended in line with the above recommendations;
- h) The following toilets be re-opened with an enhanced, hourly cleaning regime:
 - a) Spalding Vine Street and Winfrey Avenue, Tuesday to Saturday 8am to 4pm;
 - b) Long Sutton and Holbeach, Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

2. That the Portfolio Holder for Place be authorised to:

- a) designate a statutory market at Victoria Street car park should the volume of traders increase to such a point that it is deemed appropriate to enable the Spalding markets to operate safely in accordance with Governance guidance; and

3 That the Environmental Services Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place, to

- a) Undertake the necessary consultation in relation to any proposed impact on employment referred to in Appendix B of the report;
- b) Change fees as set out;
- c) Procure and implement a book and pay system
- d) To continue to monitor the government guidance as part of the Covid-19 response and make amendments alongside guidance changes, as requested.
- e) Establish a Covid compliant market in the Market Place, Long Sutton if a road closure order can be obtained via the local Highway Authority and arrangements prove viable and achievable. If no such closure can be obtained the market to be established in the nearby council owned car park.

3.0 **Reconsideration following call-in**

The decision relating to the erection and dismantling of stalls was called in and considered by the Performance Monitoring Panel at its meeting on 13 July 2020. The Panel resolved to ask the Cabinet to reconsider its decision and the following alternative proposal was submitted to the Cabinet for consideration:

Stalls should continue to be provided at Spalding market until the end of this financial year, or until proper and meaningful discussion is held with market traders, or their representatives, and that the whole issue be subject to a more thorough examination to enable the council to find a way to rebuild the Spalding market into an attractive, viable market, supporting the economic viability of the district and the town which would help support aims in our corporate plan.

Cabinet reconsidered this matter at its meeting on 21 July, where it affirmed its earlier decision of 16 June but also determined that “regeneration of Spalding market be addressed, in order to secure its continued success in the future”.

Cabinet indicated their intention to extend the rent free period until the end of August 2020.

4.0 **RESOURCING OF THE COUNCIL’S HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TEAM (Report submitted to Cabinet – 21 July 2020 – Item 7)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health and Executive Director Commercialisation (S151) which set out a proposal concerning the resourcing of the Council's Housing Development service, which would bring two additional Housing Development Project Manager posts into the establishment to align with the authority’s ambition to build new council houses and deliver new homes through its housing companies.

DECISION:

- 1) That the proposal to create two additional Housing Development Project Manager posts (2 FTE) within the Council's permanent staffing establishment be supported and recommended to Council for approval.

(Other options considered:

- *To do nothing - new posts would not be brought into the establishment. Vacant posts could be filled (subject to successful recruitment) but additional resources beyond the 3 FTE would not be available. If the 'do nothing' option was pursued, the authority could continue to have a moderate housing development programme likely to focus on one design and build project at any time alongside a small programme of acquisitions.*

Reasons for decision:

- *To enable the housing development team to deliver a greater number of housing projects for Welland Homes and the HRA.)*

Background papers:-	None
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Key Decision: N

Exempt Decision: N

Appendices attached to this report:

Re-opening of South Holland's Markets, and Spalding Market Stall Provision

Appendix A	Cabinet Agenda Item 9 (Cabinet meeting 16 June 2020)
Appendix B	Cabinet Agenda Item 9 – Appendix A (Cabinet meeting 16 June 2020)
Appendix C	Revised Exempt Cabinet Agenda Item 12 - Appendix B to Cabinet Agenda Item 9 (Cabinet meeting 16 June 2020). (Note that this Appendix is not for publication by virtue of Paragraphs 1 (Information relating to any individual)) and 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and is therefore attached to this agenda at item 12.

Resourcing of the Council's Housing Development Team

Appendix D	Cabinet Agenda Item 7 (Cabinet meeting 21 July 2020)
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