

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Suspension of all Street Trading and Highways Amenity Licence activity during the period of the covid-19 outbreak
Date of decision:	27.3.20
Decision maker:	Director of Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Council constitution 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies
Ward:	Countywide (where applicable)
Consultation:	Emergency consultation between senior officers and cabinet member for Housing, regulatory services and community safety. Details of this change will be communicated to all stakeholders
Decision made:	Suspend all Street Trading and Highways Amenity Licence activity during the period of the covid-19 outbreak
Reasons for decision:	<p>The unprecedented significant impact of the covid-19 outbreak is having ramifications across society and notably the economy.</p> <p>Whilst Government advice on 23.03.2020 has indicated that street trading could conceivably continue if they were offering takeaway food/drink or other essential items, a number of traders have already decided not to trade at this time.</p> <p>As stated in Trader conditions – 3.8 The Council may terminate or suspend the consent with 14 days notice in writing and without notice in cases of emergencies.</p> <p>There is a concern being shared by enforcement partners that the ‘Stay at home’ message is not being adhered to as fully as it should be.</p> <p>It would be difficult to provide social distancing and would require policing, causing extra strain on the system.</p> <p>Highways amenity licences for pavement cafes should also be suspended during the covid-19 outbreak, in line with government advice.</p> <p>Relevant council staff within this service area could now be temporarily redeployed to other vital service areas.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	There could be a challenge from some traders that the council is suspending trading when they are not listed in the types of businesses that the government has ordered to close at this time (notwithstanding the overall general message to the public is one to ‘stay at home’).
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Maintain the position of permitting street trading consents/licences. This may be challenged by some that the ‘Stay at home’ message is not being encouraged by allowing this type of trading.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Date: 27.3.20

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place