

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Postponement of Leominster and Hereford Mayfairs 2021 due to the Covid-19 outbreak
Date of decision:	25 March 2021
Decision maker:	Director of Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation – Updated 29 September 2020 SA56 Markets, fairs and street trading
Wards:	Leominster East, Hereford Central
Consultation:	<p>Event organisers for Leominster and Hereford fairs Herefordshire Safety Advisory Group (HESAG) Cabinet member for Housing, regulatory services and community safety Ward member Hereford Central Ward member Leominster East Leominster Town Council Hereford City Council Hereford Business Improvement District</p> <p>All consultees have indicated support to the postponement of Leominster and Hereford fairs, as well as support in principle to the rescheduled dates</p>
Decision made:	<p>To postpone and reschedule the 2021 Mayfairs as follows:</p> <p>Leominster: Originally: 29th April 2021 to 1st May 2021 inclusive Rescheduled to: 29th to 31st July 2021 inclusive</p> <p>Hereford: Originally: 4th to 6th May 2021 inclusive Rescheduled to: 3rd to 5th August 2021 inclusive</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>To note the consensus of the HESAG group following the meetings held on 10th March 2021, in which the complexities and challenges of holding street fairs were discussed and the relevant submitted event management plans, including covid risk assessments were scrutinised.</p> <p>The unprecedented significant impact of the covid-19 outbreak is having continued ramifications across society and notably the economy.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 – Roadmap out of Lockdown suggests that outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues and theme parks may be able to allowed to open from 12th April 2021 at the earliest in accordance with the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 which come into force on 29 March 2021. However, any event should still be assessed on its individual circumstances with regard to public safety from a covid perspective.</p> <p>Street fairs in Hereford and Leominster by their nature mean areas are relatively cramped when rides and attractions are in situ, coupled with the public in attendance also.</p>

	<p>To hold the events at the end of April/beginning of May at a time when society is still the process of opening up, based on the government roadmap timetable, would mean that the covid related risks would be uncertain and potentially still significant.</p> <p>Postponing these street fairs until later in the year would mean that the events could potentially take place if and when the covid related risks have diminished.</p> <p>Each event will once again be assessed at an appropriate lead in time by the Herefordshire Event Safety Advisory Group who will make a recommendation of the suitability to hold the events.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Should the fairs not take place at all in 2021 there would be a loss of income to the council, totaling £50k, though some of this would be offset by costs the council would not incur in making the streets available.</p> <p>Postponing, rather than cancelling the fairs would ensure contractual obligations are met, by way of a contract variation covering the change of dates.</p> <p>Rescheduling the fairs will be done through a negotiated contract variation for each fair, which will incorporate an appropriate safeguard to not hold the events on the rescheduled dates, should there be public health reasoning for this.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	None, as it is clear and all are in agreement that these events cannot take place on their original scheduled dates this year.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Richard Ball
Director for Economy and Place

Date: 25 March 2021