

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION ON THE HEREFORD OPEN RETAIL MARKET

Report By: Director of Environment

Wards Affected

Central Ward.

Purpose

1. To consider the Cabinet decision to approve the relocation of the Open Retail Market from the Livestock Market in Hereford to the St Peter's Street/High Town interface and Commercial Street as from 8 April 2009 that has been called in by three Members of the Committee: Councillors DJ Benjamin, GFM Dawe and MAF Hubbard.

Reason For Call-In

2. In accordance with Standing Order 7.3.1 and the Scrutiny Committee Rules set out at Appendix 2 of the Constitution, the Cabinet's decision on 19th February 2009 on this issue has been called in for consideration by this Committee.
3. The stated reasons for the call-in are:
 - Concerns about the way the results of the consultation exercise have been interpreted;
 - The absence of a written Quality Stalls policy and Stall Allocation policy;
 - That the report does not consider the effects of the current economic downturn;
 - That the report does not detail how the new street market will dovetail with the regeneration of the Butter Market which is considered to be Herefordshire Council's key project for city centre regeneration;
 - The lack of detail about how this market will contribute to Herefordshire Council's developing Food Strategy;
 - Concerns over unfair competition for the retailers that are currently operating in High Town. This market will not be charged any Business Rates and there is no detail as to how stalls will be charged for the use of the Council's electricity supply. Without these elements factored in the competition seems unfair;
 - Lack of detailed consideration as to how this will affect the retailers in the proposed location and the traders in the Butter Market;
 - Lack of clarity as to whether this is truly the relocation of the existing retail market from the Livestock Market site or the creation of a completely new market.

4. The draft decision notice (Ref No: 2009.CAB.009), together with the report to Cabinet on 19th February are appended to the report as Appendix 1.
5. An extract from the draft Minutes of Cabinet held on 19th February will be forwarded for further information as Appendix 2.
6. It is for the Committee to decide whether it wishes to accept the decision of Cabinet or to refer the decision back to Cabinet for further consideration and if so what recommendations to Cabinet it wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None