

Report To:	PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE
Date:	10 APRIL 2024
Heading:	SELECT REVIEW: MARKETS UPDATE
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Principal Select Committee with an introductory report on the Markets Update item, following inclusion on the select work programme at the February 2024 meeting.

Recommendation(s)

Principal Select Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the introductory information contained within this report.
- b. Consider key lines of enquiry for the Select Review: Markets Update.
- c. Identify next steps for the Select Review: Markets Update.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Markets Update was added to the select work programme at the February 2024 meeting of the Principal Select Committee. At this meeting, Members agreed to commence the review at a meeting arranged in April 2024.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the Select Review: Markets Update as it is still in the introductory stage.

Detailed Information

BACKGROUND

At the meeting held on 15 February 2024, the Principal Select Committee, while discussing the select work programme, voted to add Markets Update as an item for review. Members would like an update on how the various markets in Ashfield are operating, recent successes, any challenges the markets are facing, and what future plans the Council has in relation to the markets.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

The Council has information regarding markets in Ashfield published on the website through the Community & Leisure section titled Markets and Town Centres.

As per the Council's website, the Council runs two indoor markets which are in:

- Idlewells Shopping Centre in Sutton-in-Ashfield
- Moor Market in Kirkby-in-Ashfield

The Council also runs outdoor markets in:

- Hucknall
- Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- Sutton-in-Ashfield

Each location listed above has an individual page on the Council's website. Each page provides details of the market and what can be found when visited. The page for Idlewells Indoor Market includes details for each trader operating, including a summary of the service they offer as well as contact information for each market stall. The pages also include details of car parking availability and transport links.

Finally, the Markets and Town Centres page has contact information to engage with the Council regarding markets, including an online form, telephone number, and postal address.

Further on the Council's website is a page dedicated to providing information on how to become a Market Trader, including costs associated, rules and regulations, and the application process for both indoor and outdoor markets.

RELATED POLICIES

The Council has an adopted Markets Policy featuring guidance for persons wishing to hold private, commercial, charity markets, car boot sales or similar across the District of Ashfield. This policy sets out a wide range of information, including, but not limited to:

- Ashfield District Council's market rights,
- What a market is and who the Markets Policy applies to
- Markets operated by the Council,
- Licensing private markets
- Process for determining market license applications
- Renewing a market license
- Enforcement

For full details, the complete Markets Policy can be found on the Council's website, through the Community & Leisure > Markets and Town Centres page.

The Council also has an adopted Markets and Events Fees and Charges Policy, most recently revised in January 2024. This policy sets out the Council's approach to the setting of fees and charges for indoor and outdoor markets and events. The aim of the policy is to identify where variation from the agreed fees and charges is permissible for markets and events. The policy applies to Idlewells Indoor Market, the Council's outdoor markets (listed above), events held on Council land, and commercial market license fees.

These fees and charges are reviewed and set by Cabinet each year, in accordance with the Annual Budget and Tax Setting process. As explained in the policy, flexibility is required for Markets and Events fees and charges for the following reasons:

- Recognition of the Council's social responsibility, to support specific events free of charge or at a reduced rate
- To ensure charges are fair and equitable and support the Council's objective to promote equality of opportunity
- Allocate appropriate refunds due to cancellations through force majeure etc.
- To ensure specific concessionary rates for defined groupings are applied consistently
- To increase the number of third-party events to support the visitor economy
- To ensure that the Council can charge at commercial rates.

The policy further clarifies that where fees and charges are increased in comparison to regular market fees the income will be used for:

- Running an efficient waste, street cleansing and on-site market service
- Market promotion both within the District and beyond
- Improving the markets environment to be modern, safe secure and attractive
- Road Closures and traffic management
- Market team staff costs

For full details, the complete Markets and Events Fees and Charges Policy can be found on the Council's website, through the Community & Leisure > Markets and Town Centres page.

Fees and Charges

Each year, the Council reviews its Fees and Charges as part of the Annual Budget and Tax Setting process. In doing so, the Council considers levels of service demand, inflation, and how Fees and Charges in Ashfield compare with neighbouring Councils. This process was most recently completed by Cabinet in January 2024.

As part of this process, it was approved by Cabinet that Market Fees and Charges would be increased by 5%. However, charges for stalls in the Indoor Markets range in price, based on floor space, and are negotiated individually so as to maximise take up.

NEXT STEPS

For the Principal Select Committee on 10 April 2024, an invitation was extended to the Assistant Director, Regeneration and the Town Centres and Markets Manager to attend the meeting and assist Members with the early stage of the review process. Both Officers have kindly agreed to attend the meeting and assist Members with discussions and provide an update on Markets in Ashfield.

Ahead of the meeting, Members are asked to consider specific topics within the Markets Update scope to discuss with the Assistant Director, Regeneration, and the Town Centres and Markets Manager.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Economic Growth and Place is a key priority of the Council as established in the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027. Within this priority, the Council is committed to ensuring Ashfield is a location and destination of choice, being well connected and offering a great environment to live, work, learn, and visit.

Legal:

There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Finance:

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

There are no immediate risks as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no environmental/sustainability implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

Other Implications:

None.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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