

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Council – 12 April 2023

**Report Title**

Cabinet Response to the outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Boston Castle

**Report Summary**

To report on the response to the findings and recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission spotlight review of Rotherham Markets carried out during 2022.

**Recommendations**

1. That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as detailed in the Cabinet report at Appendix 1.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 - Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Appendix 2 – Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B)

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

**Background Papers**

Cabinet – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Improving Places Select Commission – 7 June 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022 Scrutiny Review

Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

Cabinet -19 December 2022 Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Markets: Engagement and Recovery

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**  
Cabinet – 23 February 2023

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

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## **1. Background**

- 1.1 This report responds to the recommendations from the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) Spotlight Review of Rotherham Markets agreed by Improving Places Select Commission on 7 June 2022. The Spotlight Review examined the recovery and regeneration of the markets in Rotherham Town Centre, post pandemic.
- 1.2 Members undertook a site visit to tour the Markets Complex before a discussion with officers and other stakeholders regarding the current situation facing the Markets and the proposals for their redevelopment.
- 1.3 During the site visit and discussions IPSC Members identified the Market rules and regulations as an area they wished to review in greater detail. A subsequent meeting was held on 19 July 2022 to consider opportunities to update and simplify the rules and regulations.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Improving Places Select Commission's review of the Markets' and the proposed response for Council to consider, which was approved by Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.
- 2.2 The recommendations, set out below, were developed subsequent to meetings with Officers with responsibility for the management and operation of markets in Rotherham, as well as representatives of the National Association of British Markets (NABMA) and National Market Traders Federation (NMTF).
- 2.3 The recommendations from the IPSC are:
  - a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
  - b) That the service consult case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the redevelopment of Rotherham markets.
  - c) That the service re-evaluates the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with the NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.
  - d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.
  - e) That any redesign of markets spaces duly considers usability and aesthetics, consulting market research to optimise spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.
  - f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the markets may best cater to the needs and interests of younger

generations by strengthening links with Rotherham College, North Notts College and Dearne Valley College (RNN Group) student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.

- g) Recognising that the town centre markets represent a unique and distinct community of buyers and sellers with its own accompanying needs and character, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.
- h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council note the Cabinet response to outcomes from the Scrutiny Review - Markets: Engagement and Recovery Strategy set out in Appendix 1.

### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 Details of consultation have been set out in the relevant sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 The recommendations will be reviewed and implemented over a period of time, with a number likely to be part of the wider redevelopment project. The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 Financial implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report other than that the improvements identified will help commercial arrangements positively for markets.

### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 There are no material legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

### **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

### **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 Details of any implications are listed within the Initial Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B) completed and included in Appendix 2.

## **11. Implications for CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report as recorded at Appendix 3.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 Cabinet's recommendations listed in Appendix 1 of this report have considered the risks and mitigations associated with all proposed actions.

### **Accountable Officer(s)**

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director, Regeneration & Environment

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning Regeneration and Transport

Simeon Leach, Economic Strategy and Partnerships Manager

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