

Decision Session – Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement (Deputy Leader)

1st November 2016

Report of the Director of City and Environmental Services

Grant of a licence under the Markets Charter for Acomb Market

Summary

1. The Council wishes to work with local businesses to promote local high streets. To support this, in April 2016 the Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement agreed that £17,800 – the remainder of a one off Council fund of £30k agreed in 2013 - be transferred to ‘Acomb Alive!’ to promote Acomb Front Street.
2. Since this announcement, ‘Acomb Alive!’ introduced a trial street market in June this year, taking place each subsequent last Friday in the month.
3. The Market has been a success, with an increase in shopper footfall in Acomb and a rise in interest from stalls selling both traditional and modern goods. The latter is evidenced by the monthly growth in the amount of participating stalls, many of which are sell out on the day, and a ‘record number’ of businesses coming forward for the September event. This is a boost to the local economy, evidenced by positive coverage in the newspapers and a refreshed sense of community pride in the area.
4. As a result of these factors, ‘Acomb Alive!’ are keen to extend this provision from a trial market to a permanent market on the last Friday of every month. To allow them we do this we need to grant a licence under our Markets Charter.

5. The Markets Charter for York has existed since 1316. The purpose of the Charter is to ensure that the Shambles Market is the principal market for York. As such, no markets are permitted within a six and two-thirds mile of the Shambles Market unless they are on a trial basis or unless the Council agrees to a licence under the Charter.
6. Granting a licence under the Charter is not new for York, and an existing licence was implemented in 2010 to allow Haxby & District to hold a market.
7. To allow Acomb Front Street the option to run a monthly market, the Executive Member is asked to agree the licence under the Markets Charter to allow the Acomb Market to take place 12 days per year, or once per month. This licence will be on a similar basis to the existing amendment for Haxby.

Recommendations

8. The Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement is asked to consider:
 - a) Granting a licence for Acomb Market under the existing Markets Charter for York.

Reason:

To allow for the monthly Acomb Front Street Market to take place by a licence under the Charter.

Background

9. The existing Markets Charter dates back to 1316. It forbids any organisation other than the Council from holding a market of more than six stalls within six and two-thirds of a mile of York Shambles Market.
10. 'Acomb Alive!' the local traders association propose to hold a monthly market which, under the current terms of the existing Markets Charter, would not be permitted.
11. This is a popular and established community event which requires formal recognition in the Markets Charter to allow status to progress from that of trial basis to permanent feature.

Options

12. The options available to the Executive Member are:
 - a) Approve the licence under the Charter to allow the inclusion of Acomb Market on a similar basis to that made for provision of a Haxby Market.
 - b) Do not approve the licence under the Charter and seek to prohibit the Acomb Street Market as a breach of the Markets Charter.

Analysis

13. The licence under the Charter would formalise the inclusion of Acomb Market and allow for a more modern and inclusive interpretation of the original document.
14. The relevant Annexes from the Charter are appended to this report.
15. Annex B shows that Haxby Market has already been included within the document, and has its own terms and conditions. Acomb Market is requesting a similar Annex to allow them to trade 12 times per year for the benefit of traders and the local community.
16. The later addition of Haxby Market sets a precedent for other localities to come forward to ask for specific licences under the Charter.
17. Granting a licence to Acomb Market, in addition to Haxby, is not expected to have a detrimental impact on the existing Shambles Market for a number of reasons, including:
 - a. Frequency – both markets trade one day per month, whilst Shambles Market operates seven days per week
 - b. Audience – local markets are more likely to attract local residents as there is no need to travel into the City Centre. The Shambles Market attracts people from across a much wider geography, so any impact on footfall is expected to be negligible.

- c. Location – The Shambles Market is in the centre of York, making it a much more obvious hub to draw people in, on a similar note to (b) above.
 - d. Tradition and reputation – The Shambles Market has been established for centuries and is in the heart of our historic City. This makes it a tourist attraction within its own right.
 - e. Specialist events – As Shambles Market is larger and more central than Acomb and Haxby, it has the capacity to run events as well as stalls. These have included:
 - A Night Market as part of Illuminating York. Last year this event attracted 40,000 people
 - ‘Meet the Author’ events
 - ‘Street Feast’ events
 - A Vintage Easter Market including ‘sights and sounds from the 1940s to 1960s’
18. Annex 2, includes the proposed draft text for a licence under the Market Charter of Acomb Front Street.
19. This also includes the requirement to pay a fee of £100 per market in line with the current clause for Haxby Market. The terms of the additional Annex, including the fee, will be reviewed in 2026.

Council Plan

20. This proposal supports the Council Plan priority of ‘a prosperous City for all’, where local businesses are allowed to thrive.

Implications:

Financial

21. There are no implications for City of York Council. ‘Acomb Alive!’ will be required to pay a market fee of £100 per market to Make it York who operate the Markets Charter on behalf of the Council.

Human Resources (HR)

22. There are no HR implications

Equalities

23. There are no adverse equalities implications.

Legal

24. Legal Services will prepare the Licence.

Crime and Disorder

25. Not applicable

Information Technology (IT)

26. Not applicable

Property

27. Not applicable

Other

28. Not applicable

Risk Management

29. There are no known adverse risks in granting the licence under the Charter.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer's name

Neil Ferris

Title

Director of City and Environmental
Services

**Report
approved**



Date: 13th October 2016

Specialist Implications Officer (s) - Not applicable

Wards affected: Westfield and Acomb

Background Papers:

Markets Charter for City of York Council – relevant excerpt attached as Annex 1.

Proposed wording for terms and conditions on the inclusion of Acomb Market – Annex 2