

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....27th June 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton on Tees Market Regulations and  
Quality Standards

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that detailed the Market Regulations and Quality Standards that had been produced following the successful regeneration of Stockton Town Centre and the subsequent relocation of Stockton Market to the South of the High Street.

A significant effort had been made to work with traders to cement their location in the newly developed High Street which had seen the addition of new blue and white canopies for all those who trade on the market, as well as a range of local events and initiatives aimed at increasing the profile of the market. Similarly, staff had worked closely with traders from Billingham and Thornaby markets and it was positive to note that there had been an increase in stall allocations on both sites; Thornaby now had double the amount of stalls that it had three years ago and Billingham was also operating at full capacity.

Following the completion of Stockton High Street regeneration, it was felt that it was timely to review the previous 'Open Market Regulations 2009' as it was clear that the guidance for traders was lacking in detail, specifically in relation to the standards that we would expect to see in relation to the size, location and appearance of stalls, specific reference to the quality and type of items that should be traded from our markets as well as basic expectations placed on traders on acceptable conduct when communicating with customers.

Prior to any review, it was felt that a 'health-check' by an independent professional body to ensure that any revisions were in line with and considered national best practice. Therefore, the Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) had been appointed in 2012 to undertake a thorough assessment of the regulations; and it was NABMA's review and recommendation report completed in May 2013, which led to the creation of revised Market Regulations and Quality Standards.

The revised Market Regulations and Quality Standards had been produced to ensure that the Council had appropriate, clear and transparent standards in place which all traders were expected to adhere to, which also included a Scoring Matrix which was reviewed on an annual basis which ensured that traders were adhering to those standards contained within the Regulations.

The Regulations were drafted and a 28 day consultation exercise with all traders was held in February 2014 with 3 drop in sessions held at the Rediscover Stockton shop in the High Street, as well as a Market Traders Meeting where the consultation process was discussed.

Following final revisions, all traders were presented with the newly agreed Market Regulations and Quality Standards document across Billingham, Thornaby and Stockton Markets. It was proposed that officers had delegated authority to deal with any transitional arrangements associated with transfer of pitches following the adoption of the new regulations and quality standards. To date all traders had now signed their new Market Traders licence.

RESOLVED that the Market Regulations and Quality Standards be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

In approving the Market Regulations and Quality standard the Council was able to ensure the layout and appearance of the Market was managed in line with the Council's expectations for the overall management of the High Street, and, in cases where the Markets were operating in privately owned areas at Billingham and Thornaby, that the Council was able to provide a consistent management approach across the Borough.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 5th July 2016

Proper Officer  
29 June 2016