

BOSTON MARKET – DEVELOPMENT/ACTION PLAN



APPENDIX 1

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Boston Borough Council (BBC) has responsibility for two markets in the borough. Markets run on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the historic Market place, from 8am – 3.30pm.
- 1.2 Markets are an important and historic part of Boston. Across the country, markets have faced many challenges over the years, including the rise of online and out of town shopping retailers, competition from unregulated car boot sales, as well as the recent COVID pandemic which has changed the way many people shop.
- 1.3 The current stalls are at the end of their life cycle and need replacing. The service also needs to make savings to achieve a breakeven position and support corporate savings required by the Council. The service is therefore reviewing its operation.

2.0 The Focus of the Action Plan

This action plan is being developed through engagement with the Portfolio Holder, Cabinet, Scrutiny, Boston Town Area Committee, Traders and Lead Officers. The plan seeks to focus on: -

- Delivering modern traditional markets that are cost efficient delivering the best value for money
- Delivering vibrant attractive markets that appeal to visitors and residents alike
- Attracting new young traders
- Increasing marketing activity
- Working with the Council's Events Team and local partners to add value to markets with entertainment and events

3.0 Approach to the Action Plan

The following four themes have been developed, each supporting key strategic objectives and actions.

Objective 1 – To deliver a sustainable Markets Service and become financially resilient

Objective 1 strategic actions under the, Sustainable & Financially Resilient theme, include:-

- To review delivery models
- To achieve efficiency savings
- To look for funding opportunities
- To review the Markets commissioning mechanism

Objective 2 – To deliver Modern Markets, improving both Infrastructure & Delivery

Objective 2 strategic actions under, A Modern Market – Infrastructure & Delivery theme, include:-

- Wednesday market restructure
- Review market stalls and Workforce requirements
- Introduce online/card payment systems

Objective 3 – The Boston Markets Service becoming known for its Specialist Markets and Events

Objective 3 strategic objectives within the theme, Known for Specialist Markets and Events, include:-

- To increase the number of specialist markets each year
- To work with partners to bring new activities and events to the markets
- To develop and improve the teenage markets

Objective 4 – The Markets Service is successfully Promoted and Well Marketed

Objective 4 strategic objectives within the theme, adept at Promotion and Well Marketed, include:-

- To maximise promotion of the markets
- To continue to increase social media presence
- To develop the Boston Market UK brand

Actions with timescales have been developed to seek to deliver against the strategic objectives.

3.1 Resources

The Markets team consists of one full time Markets Manager shared across South Holland and Boston and one Markets Officer dedicated to Boston.

Markets delivery forms part of a full Leisure & Culture Service Review which is scheduled to progress in the first half of 2024.

3.2 Monitoring and Governance

Monitoring of the actions will be reported on at Portfolio Holder Briefings, Cabinet and Scrutiny meetings as appropriate.

The current lead officers are:-

- Markets Manager
- Interim Cultural Services Manager
- Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture

4.0 Objective 1 - Sustainable and Financially Resilient

<u>Reference Number</u>	<u>Strategic Actions</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Current / Proposed Action</u>	<u>Detail including comments to support delivery (e.g. resources required etc.)</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale for Delivery</u>	<u>How will success be measured</u>
1	To review delivery options	Leisure & Culture	Short Term Action: Market Policy review along with severe weather policy.	Policy to be reviewed again for 2024 (following a review in 2023), including a consultation exercise for a reduced budget a different Markets delivery model and development of a new payment system (see below actions).	Market Manager	June 2024	New policy adopted, consultation completed and new Markets payment system in place.
2	To achieve efficiency savings	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Service review underway for the Leisure and Culture service to seek efficiency savings, across the Partnership.	Work with HR and Finance colleagues on service review implications and benefits.	Market Manager / AD Leisure & Culture	June 2024	Service review completed, and long term budget savings determined.
3	To look for funding opportunities	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Submit a bid to access Department for Levelling up Communities and Housing – £20m Endowment funding. This funding bid is to replace the market stalls and vehicle.	The Markets qualify for this funding stream. Work is ongoing with Growth Team to prepare a bid to this funding stream. This funding would support the delivery of Actions 2 and No 6.	Market Manager/ Growth Team	Bid Submission April 2024, for 2024/25 delivery	Funding is accessed and the markets service redeveloped.

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			<u>Long Term Proposed Action:</u> Potential for UKSPF funding in 2025 as well, to bid for additional equipment needs at that time as necessary.	This is to be looked at to help support the market offer.	Market Manager/ Program Manager UKSPF	April 2025	A successful UKSPF bid.
4	To review the mechanisms for commissioning the Markets Service	Leisure & Culture	<u>Longer Term Proposed Action:</u> To review the current method of commissioning the Boston Markets.	The Markets are currently delivered in house, a review will be undertaken to determine if a more efficient and effective model is feasible.	Assistant Director – Leisure & Culture	December 2024	The most efficient and effective delivery model identified.

5.0 Objective 2 - A Modern Market - Infrastructure & Delivery

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5	Wednesday Market Restructure	Leisure & Culture	Short Term Proposed Action: Consider and if appropriate seek to relocate traders including the auction, to the main market in the Market Place	By relocating the small number of traders that remain on Bargate Green, it will open up the car park there on Wednesdays and increase income to the Council. Support from the Council's Assets to facilitate this will be followed up/required.	Market Manager	April 2024	A successful relocation of most/all traders from the Green to the Market place.
6	Review Market Stalls & workforce requirements	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: To restructure and update Markets operation and delivery.	This will be integrated into the wider Leisure & Culture service review (Action 2). This approach aims to support the markets team work in a more efficient way.	Market Manager/ Assistant Director Leisure & Culture	September 2024	A modern market offering, with equipment and service structure in place.
7	Introduce Online Payment System	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Consider and report on the viability of alternative online payment options that could possibly be better than the current method.	To deliver a more efficient payment system for both the Council and the Traders. Better options for traders may encourage new traders to the service.	PSPS ICT/ Market Manager	September 2024	A new payment system in place, that is beneficial to the service and traders alike.

6.0 Objective 3 – Known for Specialist Markets and Events

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8	To Increase the Number of Specialist Markets each year	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Explore options and availability of niche/artisan markets to help increase footfall and bring new traders to the markets.	Farmers and Teenage Markets in place, with an aim to start new niche craft and antique markets by June 2024.	Market Manager	June 2024	An artisan/niche market each Saturday to compliment the current Market offer.
9	To work with partners to bring new activities and events to the markets.	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Continue to work with the events team to host events on market days in Boston.	Look to expand events/entertainment to more market days where funding permits from 3 to 6 events. Work with Econ Growth Team on monitoring HUQ data.	Market Manager/Event Team	March 2025	Increase the number of events on market days from 3 to 6 per annum. An increase in footfall verified through HUQ data.
10	To continue to develop & improve the teenage markets	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Continue to promote the teenage market opportunities.	Host 11 teenage markets per annum. Encourage more young people onto Boston markets and events. 2023/24 saw 7 new teenage markets added to the programme from June 23.	Market Manager	March 25	Add an additional 4 Teenage markets into the programme.

7.0 Objective 4 – Adept at Promotion and well Marketed

<u>Reference Number</u>	<u>Strategic Actions</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Current / Proposed Action</u>	<u>Detail including comments to support delivery (e.g. resources required etc.)</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Timescale for Delivery</u>	<u>How will success be measured</u>
11	To Maximize promotion of the markets	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Continue social media presence and promotion of teenage and niche markets.	The addition of new niche markets and continued growth of the teenage markets should help increase the presence of Boston Markets on social media. 2023/24 saw 2 additional niche markets added to the programme per month.	Markets Manager/ Executive PA	August 24	Monitoring of Social Media Impressions and recording trends in activity.
12	To continue to increase the social media presence	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Continue to develop the social media presence for the markets.	Facebook page has been set up and continues to grow.	Markets Manager/ Executive PA/Communications Team	March 25	The social media presence continues to grow with the existing 2,300 followers growing to 3,000.
13	To develop the Boston Markets UK brand	Leisure & Culture	Current Proposed Action: Work with print and design to create branding (banners and promotional material) to add to the identity of the markets and seek	There is a small budget within print and design that can be used to print new banners and material. There will also be money within the budget to help support this.	Markets Manager	June 2024	Trader feedback and public perception online and within the market via a 6 monthly survey.

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			feedback from traders and public.	Surveys to be undertaken in order to seek to continually improve the service.			

DRAFT