



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- SC/10

Committee:-	Staffing Committee
Date:-	13 th April 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Experimental Market Superintendent Role
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the job description, terms and conditions for an experimental role of market superintendent

2. Recommendations

1. That the proposed job description and person specification for a market superintendent role be approved and
2. That the two existing agency staff be offered this role for the experimental period, and subject to experience, more permanently thereafter

3. Information

- 3.1. At the last meeting of the Market and Events Committee on 22nd March 2023, members considered the merits of creating a market superintendent role to help manage the markets and to deal with complaints received about how pitches were laid out and the leaving of vehicles in the pedestrian area.
- 3.2. It was agreed to try out for three months, a temporary superintendent role, whereby someone would be on hand when traders arrived and set up and also back again at the end of the day to manage how traders laid out their stalls, to mind the stalls whilst traders took their vehicles out of the zone and to resolve any issues that arose.

- 3.3. The arrangement would be in place just for the Friday and Saturday markets (the Wednesday market does not attract these complaints, partly because it is too small).
- 3.4. Market and Events Committee agreed a cost envelope for a full year of £3000, and for the experimental period therefore, of £750.
- 3.5. The proposal is that one of the existing staff employed to erect stalls would stay on for the first hour of trading to ensure compliance with market rules and then come back for half an hour in the late afternoon to be ready for when the market was being taken down. They could be employed through the agency of CDR, who supply these staff now, or they could be employed direct, but for the purposes of the experiment it would be easier to pay them through CDR.
- 3.6. The experiment would test if their presence visibly improved the appearance and layout of the market, addressed the complaints received and modified trader behaviour. Clearly if it did not, it could be discontinued, or it might be subject to some modification in the light of experience before being made permanent. There would be some challenges for the staff when there was a specialist market the same day as the general market, so it would remain an unknown quantity for some weeks.
- 3.7. A proposed job description and person specification is attached

4. Consultation and Engagement

The proposal is in response to complaints received by adjacent premises owners.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1. The current rates of pay for the two staff employed on erecting stalls would be extended for the purpose of this experiment and would also be subject to review at the end of the period depending on experience.
- 5.2. There is more budget headroom in the markets cost centre than expected as a result of a reduction in costs and some projected growth in income from new traders.

6. Climate change implications

None directly; the market is seen as a sustainable means of providing local services which minimises food miles, warehousing and packaging.

7. Policy Implications

The Council wishes to grow the market and as it grows it will put more pressure on the available space, which will need more management as a result.

Background Papers

Report to M&E Cttee 22 March 2023