

Cabinet Meeting	
Meeting Date	Wednesday 6 December 2017
Report Title	Street Markets Contract Extension
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson
Lead Officer	Lyn Newton
Key Decision	Yes
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To approve the extension of the existing contract with Sheerness Market Co-operative (for Sittingbourne and Sheerness markets) and Faversham Market Co-operative (for Faversham only) for a period of two years from 1 February 2018 to 31 st January 2020 as allowed for under the current contract

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Cabinet to extend the existing Street Markets contract with Sheerness Market Co-operative (for Sittingbourne and Sheerness Markets) and Faversham Market Co-operative (for Faversham only) for a period of two years from 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2020.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council currently has three 'street markets' operations – Sittingbourne (Fridays only), Sheerness (Tuesday and Saturdays only) and Faversham (Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays only). Faversham and Sittingbourne also have start-up specialist or themed markets from March to December – Faversham (monthly Saturdays and Sundays) and Sittingbourne (twice monthly Saturdays) which are in addition to the traditional street markets operations.
- 2.2 The current Street Markets contract expires on 31 January 2018. As defined within the contract, a provision is made to enable an extension of two years from the expiry date to 31 January 2020 subject to Cabinet approval.

- 2.3 The street markets have previously been tendered on two separate occasions and attracted interest from the two local co-operatives. Officer time continues to be invested into capacity building at the local level through the market managers. During the current contract period there have been management changes within both co-operatives. This has not stopped new growth and development in Faversham and Sittingbourne through specialist/themed markets some of which are combined with events which are adding value to both the regular and traditional street markets as well as increasing the wider retail offer. The three town markets are at different stages of development and partnership working and there would be no merit in re-tendering given current added-value, gains in customer confidence, spend and reputational risk to the Council.
- 2.4 The local co-operatives have both indicated a desire to continue to provide services under contract and have committed to continued development of services throughout any extended contract period.
- 2.5 Re-tendering the Street Markets contract will potentially disrupt the provision of service and based on previous procurement exercises would be costly in officer time for the Council and there would be little benefit in testing the market again at this stage. A two-year contract extension will therefore support the continuation of markets development until 2020 when the contract will be subject to an open tender again.
- 2.6 New documentation will need to be prepared to commence a tender exercise in 2018/19 for award from 1st February 2020.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To approve the extension of the existing contract with Sheerness Market Co-operative (for Sittingbourne and Sheerness markets) and Faversham Market Co-operative (for Faversham only) for a period of two years from 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2020 as allowed for under the current contract..

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Council could decide to go directly to re-tender the Street Markets contract. This is not recommended as this is not likely to result in significant gains to the Council and may jeopardise the growth and development work already underway.
- 4.2 The Council could decide to manage the service in-house. This is not recommended as this is not likely to result in any gains and may jeopardise the growth and development work already underway including building trader and retailer confidence in the respective town centres.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The existing market co-operatives have been consulted by the Council through the respective managers.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	A Borough to be Proud of A Community to be Proud of
Financial, Resource and Property	The weekly street markets generate the following annual income to the Council under the current contract: Sittingbourne - £9,570 (operates Fridays only) Sheerness - £12,996 (operates Tuesdays and Saturdays only) Faversham - £19,800 (operates Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays)
Legal and Statutory	The current contract allows an option to extend for a maximum of two years. With a two year extension the contract must then be re-rendered prior to February 2020.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environmental Sustainability	The specialist/themed street markets in particular encourage locally sourced products, produced and made produce/products which minimises food miles and carbon footprint. Traders are encouraged to promote 'field to plate' principles (food and drink sector). Traders are drawn from Produced in Kent or local business start-ups.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The risk level within this proposal is unchanged from the current contract arrangement.
Equality and Diversity	There are no changes within this proposal from the current arrangements.
Privacy and Data Protection	The Council holds or processes no data in respect of street market operations

7 Appendices

- 7.1 None

8 Background Papers

None