

**Joint Culture and Leisure and
Regeneration and Transport Task Groups**

The Future of Leicester Markets

24th August 2009

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following draft recommendations are based on previous discussions with members of the Joint Task Group and based on the evidence provided during the course of the Review.
- 1.2 The recommendations can be divided into two broad categories.
- 1.3 The first relates to the extensive investment which is considered necessary to improve the infrastructure in and around the market.
- 1.4 This is necessarily part of a long term vision for the market, the city centre and the city as a whole, and is reflected in the One Leicester and other strategic documents.
- 1.5 The second relates to the functions of the market – its place within the culture, retail and wider economy of the city and the people who work and live there.
- 1.6 While these recommendations appear to focus on change and development for tomorrow, members would also like to strongly underline that these recommendations could only be considered because of what exists today - the vibrant, popular and vital part of the life of the city which makes up Leicester Market.

2 Strategic vision – draft proposals

- 2.1 Significant investment to secure the future prosperity is needed - as set out by the CACI report and the One Leicester vision
- 2.2 This should include the closure and demolition of the current indoor market facility
- 2.3 Investment is needed to improve the access to the market itself. This should include a re-engineering of the road around the market and creative use of pavement engineering to encourage pedestrian flow to and through the market
- 2.4 The environment of Market Square should be improved as part of a strategy to make the city centre customer-friendly throughout the day and into the evening. This could include investment in

improving shop frontages and re-designing or replacement of the existing canopy.

3 The market at work

- 3.1 The market must strengthen its relationships with health agencies within the city. It should sign up as a partner for the Change4Life strategy and implement the steps set out in the draft report to OSMB (par 6.7 in the accompanying draft)
- 3.2 The market must strengthen its relationship with local schools, allotments and voluntary and other agencies to promote the local production, sale and cooking of healthy local produce.
- 3.3 Organisations as set out in pars 3.1 and 3.2 should have access to market stalls to highlight the healthy food and local production agenda, including demonstrations of healthy meal production using market produce.
- 3.4 Fish, meat and other food offerings should be integrated with the fruit, vegetable and other fresh food offerings on the outdoor market to help sustain and strengthen the whole range of food offerings on the market.
- 3.5 Access to and within the market needs to be reviewed. Older customers have experienced difficulties because the bus stops have been removed from High Street. Customers with disabilities, or pushing prams, for example, can experience difficulties in getting around the market.
- 3.6 The layout of the market needs to be reviewed in the light of 3.5 – but also to debate about how the market can be used more flexibly both within and outside working hours.
- 3.7 The existing waste disposal system must be replaced. The preferred option involves the use of a compactor as demonstrated at Borough Market.
- 3.8 Traders should take advantage of the offer from Leicester City Council to provide NVQ training in customer care. This could be considered as mandatory for new stall-holders, subject to consultation with the appropriate groups.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 This is a draft set of recommendations, some of whose full meaning need to be expanded in the context of the report which is being prepared for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. Members are invited to comment on, amend, add to or delete any of the recommendations set out above.
- 4.2 A late draft of the report is available with this

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