

Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Nantwich External Markets

### 1. Purpose of Report

To consider officer recommendations to amend the diary of markets for 2023/24.

### 2. Background

The Town Council currently facilitates four Artisan Markets a year, plus six Antique markets, run by external organisations. This is in addition to the twelve farmers' markets, the Christmas market and two Artisan Markets run by the town council. All the markets use town council equipment and are set up by town council staff with agency staff. The total income for the ten external events is £2,160.00. The current staffing costs to the town council for facilitating the external markets is in the region of £3,800.

### 3. Considerations

Officers are proposing to substitute the ten external markets for live children's events during half term and summer holidays which would be self-contained with no staffing requirements for the events. This will help with the ongoing staffing pressure at all our venues and would be financed from the outdoor events budget.

It is proposed to deliver live music events during term time which would be fully self-contained with no staffing requirements for the events. This will help with the ongoing staffing pressure at all our venues and would again be financed from the outdoor events budget.

The town council would continue with the traditional monthly Farmers' Markets and Christmas Markets.

Over the last twelve months, the Facilities team have combined Spring Market, Summer Market, Autumn market and Flower market with our Farmers' markets.

This strategy has maintained the impression that the Farmers' Market is vibrant and well-supported by vendors, even though we have less fresh produce available for sale to members of the public.

### 4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Town Council approve officer proposals to amend the approach for external markets for 2023/24.

## **5. Financial Implications**

The facilitating of external markets currently runs at a loss to the town council due to the staffing costs associated. To change the approach and deliver live music events or children's event, whilst there would still be a cost to hire the event it would come from the events budget of £4,000 for 2023/24.

## **6. Equalities Impact**

n/a

## **7. Personnel Implications**

Over recent months the town council has been carrying two vacancies, which has had an affect on existing staff resulting in increased hours or changed work patterns for several members of staff including the Facilities Manager, Deputy Clerk and Assistant Facilities Manager. The council is also struggling to employ weekend staff for the markets.

## **8. Environmental implications**

There will be no environmental implications as a result of this decision.

## **9. Consultation**

n/a