



URGENT DELEGATED DECISION

Date: 12 November 2020

Request to the Head of Paid Service to exercise delegated authority as per Responsibility of Functions in Part IV, page 28 of the Constitution.

“to determine any matter within the referred or delegated powers and duties of a committee / sub committee / board / working which is so urgent that a decision must be made before the next meeting of that committee / sub-committee / board / working group is due to be held.”

Limits on delegation: -

- Before making a decision using this delegated power, The Head of Paid Service shall consult with and take cognisance of the views of the Chairman (or in his absence the VC) of the relevant Committee / Sub-Committee etc; and
- Any decision taken by the Head of Paid Service under this delegated power shall be reported to Members within five working days of the decision taken.
- During the COVID-19 Pandemic we have also committed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such

Usual Decision Maker: -

This decision would have been taken by Prosperous Communities Committee / Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

This decision needs to be made and implementation commence, before these Committees are due to meet.

The decision is in response to changing Governance guidance and announcements relating to the second national lockdown which currently is in place until 2 December 2020

Call-in does not apply.

Background

The background to this decision is as detailed in the report titled **“Gainsborough Christmas Market 2020.”** which is appended to this decision.

Reason for Urgency and Rationale for use of urgent Delegated Decision

Following the Government's announcement on 31st October 2020 introducing new national restrictions from 5th November to 2nd December 2020, certain businesses and venues are required to close or restrict how they provide goods and services for this period.

Gainsborough Christmas Market is due to be held on 5/6 December

Given the uncertainty around Covid restrictions in the near future, it is appropriate to consider options for the delivery of this year's Christmas Market. As the communication and promotion of the Christmas Market are important elements in the success of the event and these need to be issued imminently, an urgent decision is needed.

In making this decision three options have been considered. The full options appraisal, and rationale for the decision are contained with the report which is appended.

Financial Detail and Implications

DD/9/21

Full financial details and implications are contained within the appended report.

Notes of Consultation Relevant to the Decision

All acknowledged this was a difficult decision, and not one they wished had to be taken.

It was acknowledged and accepted that the uncertainty post lock down was a factor that made this decision even more difficult. It was unclear what would and would not be permitted post 2 December and with the planned event being so close to this date it left the Authority very little time to plan for any necessary additional measures which may be stipulated.

There was some discussion around the rationale for, not at this stage, cancelling the planned Farmers Market the week after. This was shared with Members and understood.

Whilst all were in agreement the only sensible option at this time, all points considered, was to cancel the Market, Councillors did place on record the unfairness of some of the national rules, particularly with supermarkets being free to operate.

Members felt it was important future markets were supported and considered, given the layout of the market place and limited number of traders, this should be feasible once there was clearer guidance from the Government.

Members felt it would also be worthwhile investigating holding an Easter/ summer event in replacement.

Decision

That the Gainsborough Christmas Market 2020 be cancelled.



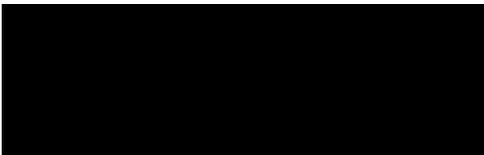
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Ian Knowles
Head of Paid Service

As the Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



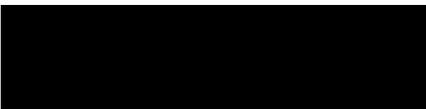
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Anne Welburn
Chairman of Corporate Policy and Resources

As the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee and Leader of the Council I have been fully consulted on this matter



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Owen Bierley
Leader of the Council / Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee

As the Leader of the Opposition I have been fully consulted on this matter



.....
Leader of the Opposition.

Date all Members were notified of the decision: 18 November 2020



Urgent Delegated Decision

**Thursday 12 November
2020**

Subject: Gainsborough Christmas Market 2020

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Ady Selby
Assistant Director of Operational and Commercial
Services

ady.selby@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

For decision - Cancellation of Gainsborough
Christmas Market 2020

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That Option 3 - to cancel Gainsborough Christmas Market 2020 be agreed.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: N/A

Financial: DD/9/21

Members made the decision earlier in 2020 to allow traders to attend Gainsborough Market free of charge until the end of March 2021, therefore there are no new income implications resulting from this decision. Depending on the decision taken, officers will negotiate a reduction in the contract price with Marshalls Yard, who currently undertake arrangements and promotion of events in the Market Place.

Any agreed reduction in the contract price will be reported as a budget underspend through monthly budget monitoring and contribute towards the forecast contribution to/from reserves at year-end 2020/21.

Staffing : N/A

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : N/A

Data Protection Implications : N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: N/A

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: N/A

Health Implications: N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: N/A

Risk Assessment : N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Background

- 1.1 Gainsborough Christmas Market is due to be held over two days, December 5th and 6th 2020.
- 1.2 England entered second lockdown on 5th November, these restrictions are due to end on 2nd December, after which the country is expected to re-enter the previous area-based tier system.
- 1.3 Given the uncertainty around Covid restrictions in the near future, it is appropriate to consider options for the delivery of this year's Christmas Market. As the communication and promotion of the Christmas Market are important elements in the success of the event and these need to be issued imminently, an urgent decision is needed.

2. Options

- 2.1 Available options are to proceed with the Christmas Market as planned, postpone the Christmas Market to a later date in December or to cancel the event.

Option 1. Proceed with the event as planned – This could help the town, its retailers and market traders start to make an early recovery from the second lockdown. However, there remains a high level of uncertainty around the level of restrictions, which will be in place in early December. It is unlikely that the Government will be encouraging events which could heighten the chance of spreading Coronavirus.

Option 2. Postpone the event and rearrange closer to Christmas – This would make arrangements and promotion of the event more challenging, it is unlikely traders would commit to attending without certainty of the date of the event.

Option 3. Cancel the event – This could result in a level of disappointment for residents, visitors and traders. However, having certainty around the decision would allow communication to be managed explaining the reasons for the decision. There are no income implications as traders are currently able to trade on the Market for free, however officers would attempt to negotiate a reduction in the cost of the contract with Marshalls Yard.

- 2.2 In order to comply with Covid related legislation, only traders selling goods deemed to be essential are currently allowed to stand on the Market. This will continue until regulations change.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Considering the commentary in this report, Officers recommend Option 3 - Cancel the 2020 Christmas Market event.