

DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED
Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER

KEY DECISION Subject: Indoor Market Partial Closure

DECISION TAKER:

Name: Richard Protheroe

Job Title: Strategic Director

Signature:

Date:

REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:

This key decision was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

DECISION TAKEN:

The Government has mandated the closure of all markets with the exception of food stalls. Stevenage indoor market has 3 stalls that fall into this category.

From 25/03/20 the market was open to allow only these stalls to trade with other areas closed off by pedestrian guard rails. Notices were posted to remind customers to follow social distancing guidance. On site security has been provided to monitor compliance. It has not been possible to provide hand sanitisers at the entrance due to national shortages.

Traders that are prohibited from opening will receive a rent holiday until the end of April.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

This action is required to comply with the Coronavirus Act 2020.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Full closure has been considered. Stalls that can trade have been allowed to continue to help ensure residents can buy essential items.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The loss of income is likely to be around £12k per month.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

This action is required to comply with the Coronavirus Act 2020. No other issues identified.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

EIA screening identified no differential adverse impact as follows:

Characteristic	Differential Impact
Age	None
Disability	None
Gender	None
Gender re-assignment	None
Marriage or civil partnership	None
Pregnancy or maternity	None
Race	None
Religion	None
Sexual orientation	None

CONSULTATIONS:

SBC internal COVID Business Continuity Cell - concur
Strategic Leadership Team - concur
Council Leader (Sharon Taylor) and Portfolio Holder (Joan Lloyd) - concur

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

Signed:

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION: 25/03/20