



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	St. George's Market – Trader Vehicle Parking
Date:	7 March 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Therese McGivern, Director of Development, ext. 3470
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Relevant Background Information

Since the refurbishment of St. George's Market in 1999, Belfast City Council Officers and Members of Council have held regular meetings with the DRD Roads Service, PSNI and Market Traders to discuss trader and customer car parking issues at the Market. At these meetings the Council and traders have consistently provided Roads Service with ideas and requests which would assist those arriving by car in using the Market.

The Markets Development Officer has at various times over the last 8 years been able to obtain the use of adjacent lands for trader vehicle parking and obtain discounted car parking offers for market shoppers.

Key Issues

The Department of Social Development, presently landlord of Plot 2 Lanyon Place, terminated the Council's Licence Agreement for this site with effect from 4 February 2008 as building work has now commenced.

The Markets Development Officer and other Council Officers are currently trying to obtain a longer term vehicle parking solution for St. George's Market traders.

As an interim solution Belfast City Council is currently able to offer St George's Market traders a temporary car parking solution in the Gasworks area, (see **Appendix 1** and **2**).

Appendix 1 offers the Friday traders parking at the northern fringe area of the Gasworks; this is vacant ground and capable of holding all the Friday traders vehicles. Currently traders parking their vehicles here have to walk via the Radisson Hotel and the Cromac Street/ Ormeau Road junction to get to the market. Facilities Management are however in the process of constructing a small gateway to let traders using the Northern Fringe enter the Raphael Street BCC Staff car park, thus cutting down the distance traders have to walk to and from St George's Market. This is especially important for those who have to replenish their stock on a regular basis.

Appendix B offers the Saturday traders use of the Raphael Street BCC Council staff car park as it is unused on Saturdays. Both of these measures are temporary and free of charge to both Friday and Saturday traders. There is a minimal cost to Council for the security staffing of the car park areas on both days.

At a recent Trader Vehicle/Customer Parking Working Group meeting held with the Markets Development Officer, Senior Markets Supervisor, N.M.T.F. representatives and DRD, Council Officers & N.M.T.F. representatives were informed by DRD that provision had been made for extra parking bays to be put into parts of Oxford Street and East Bridge Street, thus assisting customer parking. Extra parking bays planned for Vernor Street, (approx 10), will be operational within the next 12 weeks.

Resource Implications

Financial

£168.35 per week at present rate of £9.10 per hour for additional security staff.

Human Resources

2 security staff, one per day.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Development Committee:

Note the contents of this report and that on going talks between Belfast City Council officers, Belfast City Council Members, National Market Traders Federation representatives and Road Service officers will continue with their working group to hopefully work towards a solution to the parking problems around St George's Market for Traders and customers.

Key to Abbreviations

DRD – Department for Regional Development
N.M.T.F – National Market Traders Federation

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 - Temporary car parking solution options