



Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	St George's Market Traders Enforcement of Rules and Regulations
Date:	17 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	All Market Traders renting a pitch from Belfast City Council at St George's Market are given a set of rules and regulations that includes their Traders Permit, Market Bye laws and a Code of Conduct that they must adhere to in order to trade at the market. Their continued trading is conditional on compliance with these regulations.
1.2	While some enforcement does take place, a number of the traders continue to breach regulations on an ongoing basis. This makes it difficult for management to maintain the integrity of the market and ensure compliance with issues such as Health and Safety, while also ensuring that the market is presented properly for customers and that those visiting have a positive experience.
1.3	In order to manage this more effectively, it is proposed to introduce a "penalty point" system whereby traders would incur penalties for breaches of the regulations.

2	Key Issues
2.1	In line with market management in other locations, it is proposed that if a trader breaches any section of their trader permit, Market Bye-Laws or Code of Conduct, a penalty point will go on their file and will remain on it for 3 years. If they have accrued 4 penalty points on their file at any one time they will automatically lose their stall in the market. They then will have to wait 12 months before they can reapply for another pitch at the market and will have to go through the application process in place currently. Should a breach occur, management will undertake an investigation to establish whether the imposition of the penalty points is valid. If It is considered that the penalty point is justified, the trader will be advised in writing, confirming the reason for applying the point.
2.2	Some of the most specific areas that we propose to manage through the penalty

	<p>point system include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absenteeism - Late opening/early closing/general time-keeping - Non-compliance with storage policy - Encroaching beyond designated area without authorisation - Abusive behaviour towards staff, other traders and customers - Sale of goods other than those set out on their trading permit - Plagiarism - Theft – specifically electrical leads - Late payment - Moving stalls when market is still open to the public.
2.3	All St Georges traders have copies of the rules and regulations for trading at the market. This will not be an additional document but will be a system to ensure compliance.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	The system will be managed by the Markets team.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve the introduction of a ‘Penalty Point’ system for St George’s Market Traders in order to support more effective market management.

6	Decision Tracking
There is no decision tracking attached to this report.	