



Subject:	External Market Application – Banana Block
Date:	9 February 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Advise members of a request received to hold a monthly Saturday afternoon market at Portview Trade Centre, Newtownards Road, from March to December 2022Seek approval to grant the markets licence, in line with the Council's Markets Rights Policy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant a market licence to Firefox to hold monthly Saturday afternoon markets in the Banana Block, Portview Trade Centre, between March and December 2022.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that anyone wishing to operate a market or car boot sale within Belfast must apply to Belfast City Council for permission to do so. Depending on the scale and nature of the event, it may need authorisation from the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to take place.</p>
3.2	<p>An application of this scale has recently been received on behalf Firefox Events for a market to be held in Banana Block at Portview Trading Centre, Newtownards Road. The market will be held monthly from February 2022 to December 2022 and will involve up to 40 traders at each event.</p>
3.3	<p>In keeping with the current NI Executive regulations, markets are currently permitted to operate, subject to appropriate risk assessments being in place. As part of our approval process for any market, as and a condition of granting a licence, officers request evidence of support from the land owner, consider the implications on adjacent properties and activities and ensure compliance with all relevant regulations and statutory requirements. For this market, this will include consideration of guidelines and additional restrictions in place as a result of COVID-19, recognising that these are subject to change. Officers will also work closely with colleagues in our Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU) and in the Environmental Health team to ensure that the organisers and stall holders are compliant with all relevant regulations as a condition of securing and maintaining the licence.</p>
3.4	<p>The purpose of the market is to showcase the range of food and drinks produced in Northern Ireland. It is intended that the market will operate between 2-7pm, meaning that it will complement rather than compete with the offer at St George's Market.</p>
3.5	<p>All of the traders are local to Northern Ireland and are producing local and artisan products. The majority of the vendors who participate in the market are using sustainable production methods for their products. There is little to no waste produced on site and they operate a robust waste management recycling system.</p>
3.6	<p>The Banana Block is an area of approximately 15,000 sq ft and it is proposed that the space is used for a maximum of 40 traders, meaning that it would comfortably comply with social</p>

	distancing requirements and provide a healthy environment for traders and visitors. In addition to the market stalls, it is proposed that there will be local talent and performances as part of the offer.
3.7	The organisers have strong working relationships with Eastside Partnership and other local stakeholders, and the businesses and residents in the area are fully supportive of this regular market. In particular, the organisers have been working closely with the teams responsible for delivering the regular CS Lewis Square markets and the council's team at St George's Markets to ensure that there is a complementary offer.
3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Subject to final attendance numbers, it is expected that the market will generate income of around £2,000 through the application fee and stall fees.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no Equality and Good Relations considerations attached to this report. The market will be widely promoted across the city and beyond.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	None