

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Kevin Guy, Leader	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 10 th July 2021	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E
TITLE:	Rule 15: Bath Christmas Market 2021 Change of Dates	
WARD:	Kingsmead Ward	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A - Bath Christmas Market Budget (7 Day Extension) Appendix B – Financial Overview (7 Day Extension)		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Bath Christmas Market provides an economic lift not just to the stall holders but also to retail, accommodation, hospitality and tourism sectors across Bath and North East Somerset. For 2021 the Council wishes to trial an extension for 7 days and deliver the event closer to the run up to Christmas.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Leader is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve a 7-day extension to Bath Christmas Market, to run from 25 November to 19 December 2021, launching with a Residents Evening on 24 November.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Bath Christmas Market is ranked in the top 10 in Europe. It attracts 400,000 visitors per year, with an estimated spend in the City of £32.5 million (2019). As well as supporting accommodation, retail and hospitality sectors the Market provides an economic uplift to visitor attractions in the winter months.

- 3.2 The Bath Christmas Market provides the gateway to an annual economic uplift for multiple commercial sectors such as accommodation, retail, hospitality and

tourism in the B&NES region. The market gives a platform to local charities and supports community groups through a wide range of projects and local initiatives.

3.3 Extending the Christmas Market for an additional week, as part of the Council's commitment to support stall holders, retailers, the accommodation sector and hospitality industry as they recover from the impact of Covid-19.

3.4 This will be the first time in the Market's 20-year history it will run for 25 days, with a launch event for B&NES residents on 24 November, ending on Sunday 19 December.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Regulation 4 amends Class BA of Part 4 of Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order to allow for the additional temporary use of land from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

4.2 This decision is to be made under Rule 15 of the Council's Constitution as an urgent decision. This matter is urgent due to July deadline, to finalise arrangements for the market to complete all necessary administrative tasks to permit the market to open on the 25 November 2021.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The financial impact of running the Market for an extra 7 days will be cost neutral and will not impact the net budget presented in the previous Report to Cabinet. Use of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund to the value of £48,570 will continue to bring the budget to a breakeven position. All additional expenditure resulting from the 7-day extension will be offset by increased income and this is reflected in a revised budgeted detailed in Appendix A.

5.2 The Risk Profile, identified in the Financial Overview at Appendix B, demonstrates the key dates, alongside Public Health principles, and the decision-making process to limit the financial exposure of the Council. This has been updated to reflect the 7-day extension. In line with the June Cabinet decision if the event is cancelled due to COVID and outside of the Council's control the mitigations would be to access the non-ringfenced Covid Grant Funding to minimise the financial impact on the Council.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

6.2 The Risk Assessment appended to the Cabinet Report E3280 remains.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and formed part of the Cabinet Report E3280.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The Market's commitment to embedding sustainability into the planning and delivery of Bath Christmas Market, and how it can improve efficiency as well as minimise the impact on the environment, is addressed in its Sustainability Policy released in Cabinet Report E3280

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Not extending the Market for 7 days.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Council's senior responsible officers, including the Chief Executive, S151 and Monitoring Officers, the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Place Management.

10.2 This decision is taken pursuant to rule 15 General Exception at part 4B - ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES of the Council Constitution. A decision taken under this rule cannot be called in.

Contact person	Lynda Deane – 01225 396428
Background papers	Bath Christmas Market: Thursday 25 th November to Sunday 12 th December 2021 – E3280
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	