

**WALSALL COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION TO**

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2006**

**STREET TRADING - WALSALL TOWN CENTRE -  
ALLOCATION OF VACANT SITE**

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the Committee's guidance on the outstanding issue of the allocation of the remaining vacant street trading site in Walsall Town Centre.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 In the light of the information given in Paragraphs 9 and 10 of this report, Committee is recommended to take no action regarding the allocation of the site at the present time.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Continued delay in allocating the vacant site will obviously result in a loss of income for the Council. At current rates, the reduction in anticipated income would equate to £2,560 for the 2006/07 financial year.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 5.1 The Council currently maintains a list of traders who have expressed an interest in a street trading site in Walsall Town Centre. The list comprises names of interested persons in chronological order of the date the requests were received.
- 5.2 Legal opinion has been sought which indicates that the facility of applying for a permit should be a right of all persons, not just those on the list.

## 6.0 Environmental Impact

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the condition imposed regarding the appearance of new units in the Town Centre will enhance the street scene.

## 7.0 Other Policy Implications

- 7.1 None.

## 8.0 Background

- 8.1 Members will recall that a report on this issue was submitted to your Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2004 seeking guidance regarding the allocation of the one remaining vacant street trading site in Darwall Street, Walsall.

- 8.2 Committee resolved as follows:-

“(1) .....

- (2) That with regard to the Darwall Street site, allocation of this site be deferred pending completion of the Quality Streets Scheme.”

## 9.0 Current Position

- 9.1 The Darwall Street site identified on the plan attached as an Appendix to this report, has not been allocated due to the fact that it is located in the Civic Quarter, an area for development under the Quality Streets Initiative. Works on the Civic Quarter have been ongoing for several months and completion is imminent. The Executive Director for Regeneration has been consulted on the future use of the site and he is of the view that it would be impractical for the site to be brought into use for street trading from the traffic management point of view, there being a prohibition of driving in Darwall Street between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. In addition, the accommodation of a street trading site at this location would require the design of the improvements to the Civic Quarter to be changed to incorporate removable bollards . This may not be possible at this late stage.

## 10.0 Conclusion

- 10.1 In the light of the comments in Paragraph 9.1 above, it would appear impractical for the site to be brought into use for street trading purposes.

J. SUNLEY,  
Head of Public Protection.

## Background papers

### Contact Officer

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