

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**Decision report – Blyth Market**

**Recommendation that the Committee resolve:**

**That Officers undertake an investigation into the feasibility of Blyth Town Council assuming responsibility for the management and strategic development of future markets.**

**Proposed:** B Elliott

**Seconded:** M Peart

**Ward(s)**

Croft

**Risk Management**

No costs involved in the investigation into feasibility. Options and their associated costs to be presented back to the Council.

**Objective**

Promoting the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community, by assessing whether a locally managed market could contribute positively to the town centre, local businesses, traders, residents and visitors.

**Crime & Disorder Prevention**

None at this stage.

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

Equality and accessibility implications will be considered as part of the feasibility investigation.

**Report**

Markets can make an important contribution to the vitality of town centres by providing opportunities for local and visiting traders, attracting residents and visitors, supporting surrounding businesses and contributing to the social and economic life of the town.

The market is currently managed by Northumberland County Council (NCC). The Town Council is considering whether there may be advantages in taking a greater role in the future management and strategic development of markets within the town.

At this stage, the Town Council is not being asked to commit to taking over market management. The purpose of this report is to commence a structured feasibility investigation so that Members can subsequently consider the available options on the basis of sufficient financial, legal, operational and stakeholder information.

A market is defined in law as 'a concourse of buyers and sellers' and can be either indoors or outdoors. The Town Council has the power to operate markets<sup>1</sup>.

An investigation into feasibility would be conducted by Officers, it would involve commencing discussions with Northumberland County Council and the report would include information and options on:

- locations
- event administration, in conjunction with NCC
- event management
- event costs to BTC and potential income
- vehicular access and restrictions and parking
- safety, risk assessments and traffic management
- requirement for physical assets (tables, marquees, barriers etc)
- applicable trading standards and how these might be maintained
- initial indication of interest from licensed traders
- collaboration/distinction from existing events in the calendar
- procedures for public communication, feedback and complaints
- other relevant information to aid decision-making

Subject to Committee approval, Officers will commence discussions with NCC and undertake the feasibility investigation.

A subsequent report will be presented to Members setting out the findings and, where appropriate, a range of options for consideration.

That report should include sufficient information for Members to determine whether the Town Council should proceed with any change to the existing management arrangements.

No transfer of market management responsibilities will take place solely as a result of this resolution.

**Hannah Jenner**  
**Principal Officer**  
**17 September 2026**

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<sup>1</sup> Part III of the Food Act 1984