

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**30 JUNE 2026**

**Decision report – Community Market**

**Recommendation that the Committee resolve:**

- **to explore the feasibility of introducing a monthly car boot sale and local trader market in Blyth Market Place.**
- **to work with Northumberland County Council to explore how this could be delivered for the benefit of residents and local businesses in Blyth.**

**Proposed:** Cllr B Erskine

**Seconded:** Cllr D Carr

**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. Currently there is no financial or staffing resourcing available for the option models.

**Objective**

Promoting the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community.

**Crime & Disorder Prevention**

None at this stage.

**Public Sector Equality Duty**

No considerations.

**Report**

See appendix 1 for the proposal.

A market is defined in law as 'a concourse of buyers and sellers', and can be either indoors or outdoors. The definition also therefore applies to a 'car boot sale', which primarily involves the sale of personal second-hand items.

An investigation into feasibility would be conducted by Officers, 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

The proposal suggests a trial of monthly markets. A set of measurable evaluation points will also be proposed to understand how well the market is performing so a decision can be made at the end of the trial.

**Hannah Jenner**  
**Principal Officer**  
**19 June 2026**

## **Appendix 1**

### Proposed Motion

That Blyth Town Council explores the feasibility of introducing a monthly car boot sale and local trader market in Blyth Market Place, and that the Council works with Northumberland County Council to explore how this could be delivered for the benefit of residents and local businesses in Blyth.

I would like Blyth Town Council to look at the possibility of introducing a once-a-month car boot sale in Blyth, starting in Blyth Market Place in the town centre.

This idea was recently put out to residents on Facebook to see what people thought about it, and the response was extremely positive. The post reached well over 30,000 people, with over 400 likes and more than 300 positive comments from residents saying they would support something like this happening in the town.

That tells me there is clearly a real appetite in Blyth for something like this.

The idea is simple. A monthly event where residents can come along, sell unwanted items, pick up a bargain, and bring more people into the town centre. But I also think we should look at making this more than just a standard car boot sale.

We should also allow local businesses to take part, things like local butchers, food stalls, bakers, craft traders and small independent businesses from around Blyth. That way we are not just creating a car boot sale, we are creating something that helps support our local businesses as well.

It could become a proper community market-style event, something that brings people into the town centre and creates a good atmosphere once a month.

Both the Market Place and surrounding areas are owned by Northumberland County Council, so this would obviously need to be something we work on hand in hand with them. My proposal would be that Blyth Town Council formally approaches Northumberland County Council and looks at working together to see how this could be delivered.

My suggestion would be that we start small and run it once a month in the Market Place as a trial.

If it proves to be a big success, which I believe it could be, then we could look at expanding it in the future, possibly into a larger space such as the Keel Row car park area, which would allow for more stalls and more visitors.

But the key thing is to start it, see how it goes, and build it from there.

This could become a really positive long-term project for Blyth, something that helps bring life into the town centre, supports local businesses and gives residents something to look forward to every month.