


Decision Report Cover Sheet: Council 17 July 2024	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: (Cover report of Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services) Main Report of Simon Baxter, Corporate Director, Communities	Classification: Unrestricted
Cover report of: Market Designation (Columbia Road, Watney, Whitechapel)	

Wards affected	Shadwell, Spitalfields & Banglatown, Weavers Wards
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 10 July 2024 the Cabinet considered the report of the Corporate Director, Communities proposing changes to the market designations for Columbia Road, Watney and Whitechapel Markets.
- 1.2 Following discussion the Mayor in Cabinet agreed to forward the report to Council recommending that the changes be approved.

Special Circumstances Justifying Urgent Consideration

- 1.3 Council are asked to note that the reports were published late for the Council agenda due to the timing of the Cabinet meeting but that the reports were available for public view as part of the Cabinet pack (as notified in the Council agenda frontsheet). However, Council are asked to consider the reports at this meeting to ensure that the improvements can be progressed as soon as possible to support traders at those markets.

Recommendations:

The Council is recommended to agree the following market improvements:

1. **Columbia Road Market** – to make permanent the temporary measures put in post-Covid:
 - Officially increase the pitch size to 3mx3m from something that traders have been using for more than six years.
 - Make permanent the layout that has been used since reopening after Covid. This means all pitches on the north side and extended from Ravenscroft to Barnet Grove, with market parking on both side of Barnet Grove and one side of Chambord.

2. **Watney Market**
 - To carry out further engagement with market traders around the use of the gazebos at a later date.
 - To delegate the adoption of the new pitch size of 3m x 3.81m decision on gazebos to the Corporate Director depending on the results of engagement exercise.

3. **Whitechapel Market**
 - Officially designate the area that traders have been using for many years to make the official designated pitch size the one currently marked by red line, 2.57m width x 4.5m depth.