
Agenda Item: Corn Exchange Business Plan

Meeting Date: Monday, 8th June

Contact Officer: Venue & Events Officer

The purpose of this report is to present an update to the Corn Exchange Business Plan, which reflects on last year's projects and objectives and provides an update on this year's objectives and finances.

Background

The primary purpose of the Business Plan is to define clear objectives and establish the strategies and procedures required to achieve them. The Corn Exchange Business Plan is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the venue's ongoing development and operational changes.

As a community arts venue, the Corn Exchange places social value and community benefit at the core of its mission, while also recognising the importance of long-term financial stability. The Business Plan therefore seeks to balance these priorities; ensuring that the Corn Exchange continues to serve as a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable cultural hub for years to come.

Current Situation

Personnel structure has changed since the last review, with a change of Venue & Events Officer, and the introduction of a Venue & Events Co-Ordinator. Officers have been focused on maintaining high operational standards during this transitional period, as well as thoroughly inducting the new member of staff who started in August 2025.

The new Venue & Events Officer has undertaken a first review of the Business Plan (attached as a confidential Appendix), to provide an update on the plans outlined by the previous officer and outlining plans for improvement in the upcoming year.

The next review will provide an update on the objectives and plans laid out in year 2, and review and update the wider content of the Business Plan, including Marketing Strategy, Competitor Analysis, Market Appraisal, Current Charges etc.

1863 Café and Bar

The Venue and Events Officer recommends the introduction of 1863 Café and Bar within the Corn Exchange Business Plan at the next review. The operation of the Café and Bar is heavily intertwined with the wider venue, and whilst it can be useful to separate financial figures, plans included in the Corn Exchange Business Plan include processes tailored around increasing cafe and bar use and managed income through events.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report / updated business plan and

1. Consider the inclusion of 1863 Café and Bar Business plan within the Corn Exchange Business Plan at the next review.