

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2008

EXECUTIVE
18 MARCH 2008

USE OF BEDFORD SQUARE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek support from Members for new Bedford Square usage and booking arrangements.

2.0 INFORMATION

- 2.1 Bedford Square has fulfilled an important community role over a number of years, with the space having been booked by a wide range of community groups and charities.
- 2.2 Whilst construction work on Princesshay was on-going, use of Bedford Square for events and community activities was suspended. Following the successful Princesshay opening, use is again being made of the Square, but current use is on an ad-hoc basis without formal guidelines/booking arrangements.
- 2.3 The dynamics of Bedford Square have fundamentally changed from the pre-Princesshay position and it is therefore appropriate that new guidelines on use of the space should be introduced. Draft guidelines are attached at *Appendix 1*.
- 2.4 The objective of the framework provided by the draft guidelines is to facilitate events and activities that provide a focus for the community and that enliven Bedford Square. It is proposed, however, that events will only be authorized if they:
- a) Create more interest for city centre users;
 - b) Do not raise any health and safety concerns;
 - c) Ensure adequate provision for pedestrian movement through and around the space being used;
 - d) Have a satisfactory relationship with individual retail frontages;
 - e) Are unlikely to cause offence to city centre users, residents and businesses;
 - f) Do not raise public order concerns.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **It is recommended that** Members note and support the proposed guidelines for use of Bedford Square.

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**JOHN HARVEY
CITY CENTRE MANAGER**

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:
None**