15th April 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Kirklees Planning Committee

May I introduce myself; I am , the Chief Executive of NMTF Ltd (National Market Traders Federation). My sole purpose for writing and indeed asking you to speak at your next meeting, is to try to encourage you to make the decision to approve the plans to regenerate the Huddersfield Market.
My personal experience of markets extends beyond 50 years twenty of which is in my current role at NMTF
I realise that the proposition of the plans to do so has been made at a previous meeting However, I am glad to hear that you as a committee are taking the time to reconsider the plans. Therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to urge you to approve them for the benefit of everyone that lives in, shops and regularly visits your lovely historic town. My reasoning is contained in the following paragraphs of this letter to you.

The regeneration of Kirklees Council's current market represents a crucial opportunity to revitalize not only the market itself but also the surrounding high street and town center, which have faced significant challenges in recent years. With many high streets across the UK struggling due to changing consumer habits and the impact of online shopping, a revitalized market could serve as a focal point for community engagement and economic activity. By investing in the market, Kirklees Council can create a vibrant space that attracts both residents and visitors, fostering a sense of community and enhancing the overall appeal of the town.

One of the primary advantages of regenerating the market is its potential to boost local businesses. Markets have historically been hubs of entrepreneurship, providing small-scale vendors with the opportunity to showcase their goods and services. In a time when many independent retailers are closing due to economic pressures, a well-planned market can offer affordable retail spaces and a platform for local artisans, food producers, and craftspeople. This not only supports the local economy but also encourages a diverse range of offerings that can draw shoppers back to the high street.

Moreover, a regenerated market can enhance the town's aesthetic and social environment. By incorporating green spaces, seating areas, and facilities for events, the market can become a gathering place for community activities, cultural events, and seasonal festivities. This transformation can lead to increased footfall in this area of the town, benefiting nearby shops and restaurants, and creating a more inviting atmosphere.

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Additionally, such developments can improve the perception of the town center, making it a more attractive destination for shoppers and tourists alike.

Finally, an investment in the market aligns with broader initiatives aimed at sustainable development and environmental responsibility. Incorporating eco-friendly practices, such as waste reduction strategies and the promotion of local produce, can position the market as a model for sustainability. This not only addresses current environmental concerns but also appeals to a growing demographic that values ethical consumption and local sourcing.

Given, like yourselves, every other town in West Yorkshire, fall under the shadow of Leeds, I believe that is the reason for them all either to have regenerated their Markets or are in the throes of doing so. It surely would be a retrograde step for you at Kirklees to do otherwise. Surely Kirklees would not want to become the ghost town where their residents decide to shop anywhere else than in their hometown.

In summary, approving the regeneration plans for Huddersfield Market is not just about improving a single space; it is about taking a vital step toward revitalizing the town center, supporting local businesses, enhancing community engagement, and promoting sustainability. These factors are essential for building a resilient local economy and a vibrant community that can thrive in the face of changing retail landscapes, for years and future generations to come.

Yours Sincerely

Chief Executive
NMTF Ltd