

If you have any other comments you would like to provide to provide to help the Council reaching a decision on a replacement Livestock Facility in Louth, please use the box below

1) Animal Welfare - Keep local markets; reducing stress via transport. 2) Jobs - Keep rural employment, shepherds etc. 3) Livestock are a valuable asset on an arable farm. Increasing soil organic matter via temporary grass leys and muck.

This is not just about animal health and welfare, but must also take into consideration human health and welfare. It provides a place for farmers to meet regularly, socialise and link up with services such as the district nurse and vets.

It is well known that farming can be a very lonely workplace; many farmers rely on the local market for socialising and a place to talk about many issues with people in similar positions which can help relieve some stresses of day to day life. With there being no other markets in Lincolnshire the removal of Louth Market would mean many of the farmers would no longer have this opportunity. There are little to no alternatives in the area that could replace what the market offers for farmers; not just for buying and selling livestock but also in terms of bringing farmers together which cannot be underestimated what affect this could have on the local farming community. Other options which should be considered would be to look to develop the area which is currently home to sheep penning and with the redevelopment of the old market swap some cattle penning for sheep penning.

As a proud Lincolnshire farmer I would be absolutely devastated to see the end of Louth cattle market. How is it right that Lincolnshire (the best agricultural county) is potentially going to lose its last livestock market? People should be promoting local agriculture and offer help to the market to help it grow rather than thinking about closing it. British agriculture needs certainty with Brexit and the political climate at the moment. The thought of losing Lincolnshire's only livestock market will not help!

Why could the present building not be adapted to take the sheep as well, so that the sheep area can be released? You are forcing the Livestock farmers to market their stock, to sell their stock to large organisations and lose the transparency as in 2001, when the abattoirs and supermarkets nearly brought the livestock industry to its knees and ruined many family farms. Some of my stock does not go to slaughter but is moved as breeding stock to other farms, I therefore need a market to do this.

I've been going to Louth since I was 8 years old, my dad used to sell his cows, mum her sheep, we used to buy stores from Louth as farming community like now. It's a gathering; a social point. More could be done with it but also for the time its shut who is going to take cattle sheep etc. as lots of old farmers have tractors and a ruling stating they can only drive so many miles?

Our charity outreach drop in advice point and health screening facility relies on being accessible to the agricultural and rural community, therefore the facility would cease if the market closed. We deliver approx. 250 health screening interventions each year and employ 2 nurses funded by a contract with NHS. In our opinion the site could be refurbished in such a way that part of the site could be partitioned for development thus offsetting the building costs and offering potentially an option which would be less risky and of a similar cost to that of changing the town charter. Developing the tourist potential of the site on other days could also bring added revenue to the area and be

linked to Louth's characteristics as a traditional market town, attracting visitors to local county crafts, food. Closing the site would bring hardship to many coastal livestock farmers as well as encourage investment to areas outside ELDC and indeed the county since Louth is Lincolnshire's last remaining livestock market.

As a small producer a local and accessible market is essential.....an improved facility well marketed would aid many.

I appreciate that I don't use the market enough and I understand your economic quandary. However you are wishing to "sell the family silver" and once sold the money will soon disappear and you won't have this asset any longer. Louth is a Market Town and hasn't suffered like all its neighbours; don't put it in the same position as them. Sometimes the right decision appears to be the wrong one but you are custodians of 400 years of history and as such should look beyond a short term financial gain.

I do not use the market as much as I used to. I only farm approximately 4 miles from the market but I have found I can get a better price for my livestock going further afield. However I don't want to see the livestock market removed. If I could get better prices there I would start using it again. To do this there would need to be more buyers which in return needs more livestock entered. In my opinion the buyers pay what they want not what they have to because the competition isn't there, sometimes it isn't a proper auction. Louth Livestock market was once a thriving place and with the right support/management it could be again.

There must be a livestock market in Louth

The Council had promised to either keep open this market or build a new one - why is an option included which would break that agreement? It's outrageous that you can go back on your word.

Louth needs to keep the market as it is part of Louth, modernisation is only good in moderation, don't spoil the old market town with fancy ideas....

I would prefer the Market to stay as it is but the site needs to be run differently, as a full time business bringing in other specialist events to bring people into the town. Perhaps as at Melton Market Antiques Markets, Craft Markets, food fairs, fur and feather Markets etc. lots of options on other days to bring people into Louth.

Sell the sheep pens off for building and move the sheep pens into the cattle building. The money from the sale of the sheep pens would help towards paying for the modernisation of the market. If the market can't be kept, a new market should be built on the industrial estate

A lot more could be made of a new market and its TB4 status. Buying outside a TB4 brings the risk of bringing TB into a clean county. I'm half way between Louth and Newark and would favour Louth for these reasons and sell more there if the facilities and positioning of the market was more accessible.

People who work in offices etc. do not realise how important it is for farmers to meet up at a local market. Most farmers work on their own and coming to the market is the only chance they get to see anyone. Profit margins are very slim and having to transport animals to/from markets further away could be the difference between making a profit

or a loss. People won't realise how much they need farmers until there are none left and as an island we can't produce our own food.

Can the sheep pens be moved into the cattle shed, and part of the site be sold off.

Keep the existing cattle shed move sheep pens across to the main building. Sell the land where the present sheep market is for building etc. Farmers have not got time to waste a full day going to Newark, Selby market. We farmers work long hours - not like you Councillors who are 9am to 5pm, weekends off. We need our market to stay where it is.

Move the livestock market on the industrial estate and the farmers and their wives will not go into the town, nowhere to park a vehicle and trailer.

Why is there not another option - reduce the area of the market, but keep it where it is and sell say 2 acres.

Option 3 is preferable but could be amended as the size of the market does not require the whole site, therefore, sheep penning and sales could be in the mains shed with cattle, freeing up land where sheep pens are situated at the moment, possibly for residential development (town houses).

My business would survive without Louth market, but there are several small farmers who sell a small number of animals every week and would find it too time consuming and cost prohibitive to travel elsewhere. The coastal farmers would be worst hit; it is a long way to Newark or Melton Mowbray with a few animals.

It doesn't cost £700 thousand to put a new roof on a shed! I go to most markets around the UK and they all have the backing of their Councils! They all have either extra sales or machinery sales/car boots going on; East Lindsey is not backing the market in any form!

It would drastically affect small farmers such as me as travelling to Newark and Melton isn't viable. There would be a very early start and more stress for the animals with a long journey. More risk of infection as people travel long distances to get to these markets whereas Louth is used by local farmers mostly. It would affect the local economy; the lady who sells food each sale day, the small retail outlets at each sale, local hauliers who will transport locally, local garages for fuel. Moral, many rural farmers rely on the market day to communicate with other people; it's a social event for retired farmers. Mental health and suicide rates - many small farmers struggle to survive and by losing an important facility such as the market will drive more farmers in to depression or worse. Selling stock for a sustainable price may be jeopardized as at markets such as Newark and Melton there will be a larger quantity of stock for sale which can drive down any remaining profit. Stress of travelling for already hard worked and tired farmers, with extra early starts, long journeys, long days, farmers will suffer from fatigue which could result in an accident or fatality. Louth is a market town and there should be the facility for farmers to sell their produce. Reducing employment of the market staff, assistants, cleaners etc. Heritage! Lincolnshire is proud of its farming heritage but it will be denied to future generations.

I feel that should the market close it will seriously affect all farmers within East Lindsey, more especially the coastal region not only for the disruption to their livelihood but also

increased costs and animal welfare issues. It will change forever both their lives and that of the town of Louth.

A replacement is not necessary. The facilities are adequate; move the sheep market inside your outside areas for housing and open the market up more days in the week for other functions. A new market on the industrial estate is not even an option neither is closing it. Our business has supported Louth Market for over 70 years

The current site is larger than is required. Why can't the sheep pens and frontage be sold for redevelopment, housing for example and the sheep area be relocated under main shed, sheep one end and cattle the other. In wet weather the sheep would be dry, the buyers and sellers would be dry, and the Council would gain revenue from sale of some of the site to refurbish current site and probably some left over for other projects then everybody is happy!

As far as we can see, there has been no effort made to look at other options for the site. Keep Louth Local - put forward some very good suggestions years ago which were ignored? A named officer (who is no longer at the Council) looked at the potential of the site to raise ELDC money, and keep the market viable. You have been obsessed with selling to a supermarket from the very start, and have ignored the wishes of the local community.

Lincolnshire needs a local livestock market. The current site is perfectly suitable; the main upgrade would be proper seating in the sale rings.

The options set out earlier do not give a balanced picture of the implications of adopting Option 3. We believe these points are relevant. 1) There is ample room to operate Louth Market using the existing 'shed'. If this proved insufficient special sales or twice weekly markets could easily be organised. 2) A good half of the existing site would become available for development with an excellent frontage onto London Road. 3) The site earmarked as a potential market site on the Fairfield Estate could be sold/put to economic use in order to meet the Council's objectives

It would be more difficult to keep a small sheep flock or cattle herd going if the market ceases to be. Presence of grazing livestock in the landscape is attractive to tourists as promoted by the Lindsey Grazing Marsh project. For small livestock units the market functions as a centre where buyers can build up useful numbers of purchases where individual sellers do not have many animals each week. There is currently some revival of livestock farming in the area, in the face of problems, with resistant weeds in arable farming.

The site should remain a livestock market. If it was to become a big supermarket or shopping centre it would seriously damage the many small independent shops in Louth town centre.

A new market off-site would cost less to build than you've suggested. If it had been different uses the income would be greater. Why don't you seek half the sundry from the auctioneers and the farming community, like bonds? If you stayed in situ, moved the sheep into the inside area, and sold half the site for development, and did a bit of refurbishment this would be the optimum option.

Fix roof only and carry on

I live near Skegness so it would be a disaster if Louth Cattle Market was to close. I would need to take the long distance license to take my cattle to the next market which is a long way off. I don't know whether I would carry on.

Absolutely essential to retain a Livestock Centre. Not only for the farming community but for Louth town and East Lindsey especially the marshes that require a thriving cattle grazing regime. Sheep farmer must have a local competitive outlet.

Do not close the market.

Make it a Monday market, so buyers need to buy stock not like a Thursday as it seems it's a top up on orders day! If all livestock farmers in the area want Louth market to survive and succeed they should all support the market! More stock, more buyers - better trade and more of an atmosphere! Instead of going past Louth to go to Newark!! Take Louth fat stock show at Christmas, a lot of farmers' support it with exceptional stock, so why can't they support the market most weeks through the year? If the market was to keep open why not re- open the market café instead of it being outside! Make it open 6 days a week so lorry drivers at public use it!

Louth town centre would lose out, I'm sad to say.

It is essential to mine and many other local producers that the market remains. It is the only Livestock Market in Lincolnshire. It is also the only local market in a 4 year TBC testing area. Again vital to farmers.

Louth market is vital to me and the rest of the local farming community. Its locality gives obvious animal welfare benefits, I only travel 4 miles with livestock reducing stress and saving energy and time. Live auction is the fairest way to sell and achieve price discovery thus giving a local price benchmark. It is an important hub for the farming community for both business and social aspects. I visit nearby retail outlets on my visits as do plenty of others. Lastly, there is plenty of media attention focussing on the needs of supermarkets and retail. Some appreciation of the need for facilities to the farming part of the food chain would be nice as without that you have no food for your supermarket shelves

Animal welfare is a major factor in my marketing decisions, I do not agree with livestock being moved long distances to slaughter; taking cattle to Louth (10miles) and then knowing they are likely to be killed within Lincolnshire, on the same day, is good practise, it also ensures top quality meat being produced. Loss of Louth market would mean we are totally dependent on selling cattle deadweight, with all the problems that that entails as it would be uneconomic to take cattle from East Lincolnshire to another Livestock Market given the distances involved.

We don't need another replacement livestock facility, refurbish the existing site.

Don't do anything until after Brexit. There might not be the Livestock Industry left to access to company's except this good market, don't exit.

To have no livestock market left in the county would be a travesty and one that I do not want to see. I have completed this questionnaire to the best of my ability but I have never completed one before with such biased wording and one that clearly does not want

the viewpoints of those who want to keep such a service. Consultation is not what comes to mind.

District Councils are not businesses that have to make profits, they are there to provide services to the community they serve. How much revenue do parks, allotments and playing fields produce? - Not much and that is not the reason for their provision in the town. Louth Market is an inherited asset and so its sale and replacement with a new one would be a zero sum option. This consultation does not seem to recognise the immense contribution to both the economy of, and quality of life in East Lindsey that its mixed farming industry makes. As a large scale user of local service industries, a producer of enviably high quality local food, and a maintainer of a beautiful and varied countryside rich in wildlife, livestock farming should be supported to the full by our District Council.

In farming many hours are spent alone, A named Councillor is wrong to think the market is a "Farmers drinking club". It is a place where we can meet and compare notes on all aspects of farming, going most weeks as we do.

I believe the present site is adequate, but could do with updating

I help my wife with her sheep. I could not do this if it moved as I have my own job locally to go to before and after helping her.

Louth Livestock Market is the only one left in the County of Lincolnshire, a reduction in commission charges would increase its competitiveness with out of county livestock markets and act as a catalyst to higher market throughout and subsequently greater return to the Council.

Please keep the Livestock Market where it is, refurbish where necessary, and provide possibilities for more agricultural businesses to have space on market days & other days. Also use other parts of the site on other days, wasn't a Climbing Wall or other similar possibilities suggested. Lifestyle/Leisure and Countryside pursuits perhaps.

Currently the market is underused as the facilities at it are outdated and generally poor. Especially the catering facilities, the car park surface and the vehicle wash down areas. The special sale days in the autumn and spring show that there is still plenty of interest in the market but the facilities need improving so that the management team at the market can expand and take the market forward.

Cattle section needs no expenditure, sheep section could benefit from a roof

Go to Worcester; they are refurbishing the market there at a fraction of what you seem to think it will cost to refurbish Louth and it is very similar.

The Saturday Auction on the site provides an invaluable recycling facility, putting tonnes of used items that would otherwise end up in landfill into the hands of people able and willing to restore them to usefulness.

I have used Louth for many years and decisions were taken on a commercial build and sold cattle and sheep. Currently with no cattle - but vital to keep options open for future commercial opportunities.

This is a useful evaluation but some common sense needs to be shown. Re-design the current market place, make it more compact and flexible, and develop a better traffic

flow into market for unloading. Utilise the cow hall better and add sheep pens in the building. Simplify car parking areas and arrangements. As part of the traffic flow develop an exit scheme to minimise traffic disruption. Option 3 but draw on the suggestions of the current auctioneers, they do know what they are doing.

Louth livestock market supplies good quality stock at competitive prices. It is run by good honest people and needs support from the Council. If their market closes, Louth is no longer a market town and would lose a lot of money.

A new market would be better proximity for my business; however a new build or the existing market should be retained for local businesses. The next nearest market is a 120 mile round trip and I feel I cannot make long journeys.

Please think long and hard about this decision to close; a lot of load farmers would be severely impacted if it was to close. Also a lot of retired farmers go each week to the market to communicate with old friends and think it may be hard for them too.

We have been trading with Louth cattle market for the last 50 years plus it's a place where farmers meet to socialise and share their workers. Farmers need this market; surely spending £200,000ish to remove a Royal Charter would be better spent on the current market and lease the charter in place. This would make Louth's history unique too. Very short sighted of the Council. They should promote history.

The market auctioneers are doing a great job for the farming community and also Louth, and its shops and businesses. Keep the cattle market where it is.

I spend £30-£50 a week in Louth shops every week when I come to market.

Livestock farming in Lincolnshire is a way of life not a way to a big fat pension. Louth market supports farmers to make a living. Leave it alone

I believe that the refurbish could be done for less and there is also enough land at the front of the market to sell for dwellings/shops. Louth market brings character to Louth.

Very few small/ medium farmers would survive. Look what happened when Burgh, Horncastle, Spilsby, Sleaford and others closed. Cattle/sheep numbers decreased badly. Grass was ploughed up, etc. Very few small/medium farmers use deadweight centres. The only choice for most of them would be to sell to dealers (honest Joe?)

I would like to add that I am the 3rd generation to sell cattle at this market. I would truly miss the market. It's local to me so logistically it profits my business.

Farmers do a lot of voluntary work to roads, etc., communities when Councils can't or simply won't say they have no funds. The more money spent on tourists cause more spending on hospitals, emergency support. Back farming we are here 24/7.

Is it true that notice has already been given to the Livestock Market to vacate the premises on 31st December 2017? If this is the case, it suggests the decision has already been made to close the Livestock Market and makes the whole consultation process a waste of everyone's time. Louth has a Royal Charter to provide a livestock market and the Council should be doing everything in its powers to continue to respect this part of our heritage while there are livestock farmers wishing to use it.

Supermarkets are no longer interested due to the economic downturn. More than enough new houses are being built in and around the town to meet current demand.

I struggle to accept the cost estimates for the options set out in the consultation. The current market appears to generally be in reasonable order except the roof which requires maintenance.

Closing Louth livestock market would impact massively on the local livestock farmers and buyers alike. This is not just a place that people take their stock to sell or buy it's a place for people to meet and do business in other ways i.e. vets, animal welfare, animal feeds, tractor specialists are all there and many of us have done business with these companies for years. The market is the last market left and is a great asset to the market town of Louth and to ELDC and the people of Louth.

The present cattle market is a large site which is used once a week. The Linden Road side could be sold off to create revenue for the repairs and function on the London Road side only. Otley Cattle Market is a big buzzing market that works well with half the amount of land that Louth currently is spread over.

To close the market would have a detrimental effect on the town centre as many of the vendors at the market use the facilities in the town; e.g. banks/ shops.

I think that the figures provided are totally inaccurate as having spent many years in the agricultural building industry I cannot see how it would cost anything like £308k to refurbish the roof. All the rest of the work indicated is unnecessary.

I am a young farmer (25) and I'm passionate about my sheep, I have only just started to farm sheep part-time and I'm an agricultural engineer the rest of the time. I want to expand my sheep but if the market closed I would not have a local market and therefore it would not be viable for me to expand or possibly even keep the stock I have.

Farming is a huge part of the East Lindsey economy and the last remaining livestock market should be kept either as a refurbished market on the existing site (in our opinion the costs seem vastly inflated) or new market build on proposed site.

Some of your figures in options 1 and 3 are debatable, for instance, income is nearer £16,000 not £3,000. Cost of refurbishing the existing facility would cost less using local tradesmen. Also amendment to option 3 which has been put forward needs full support from all concession. Option 2 must be strongly opposed. The Council should support the local farming community as a supermarket would cause job losses, destroy Louth High Street, and money would flow out of the local economy and not into the local community. Also remember your obligation to the Louth area.

Ludicrous not to have a market in Louth.

To keep the market open and stay in its existing place is best for animal welfare

The increased cost of transport to alternate far distant locations plus the impact on roads, environment, etc. in transporting animals and their welfare should be carefully evaluated. Making a one off capital gain is not in the best interest of the rural community who vote generally for many members on the Council.

We definitely need a livestock market in Louth either a new market or a refurbished one. I prefer refurbished, good parking and good access. We are well known in the market, our cattle always sell well usually to the same buyers.

Whilst we don't use Louth regularly, it is good to have some competition relatively locally e.g. Newark and Selby. Livestock markets are relevant to rural areas and they have a huge role. Socially in terms of opportunities to meet, exchange information, etc. Farming is essentially a lonely business, statistics re health and care and suicide are dire! Closing the market would not help. LRSN probably have good statistics. There may be work done relating to the closure of other livestock markets in the county. I think the biggest danger to the future of the market is probably the age profile of the users, if this can be disproved then it should be allowed a future.

Complete closure and non-replacement of a livestock market would have a devastating impact on local farms (which are local businesses too!) and farmers/ buyers from across the county. Louth Livestock Market is currently on the rise in popularity due to its status as being in a 4 year TB testing area, Newark is now in a 1 yr. testing area, buyers are coming in from miles away due to this. We believe that a minimal refurbishment (to meet health and safety standards) would be the best option. Having to take livestock further distances would be detrimental to their animal welfare and use more fuel also having a detrimental effect on the environment and business costs. ELDC if you truly care about local business, the environment and animal welfare you won't even consider passing option 2.

Louth is in an advantageous position to cope with bovine TB problems and purchases not having to be post purchase tested.

Lincolnshire needs a livestock facility in Louth.

Make the existing market more compact which would free up some of the existing site to sell for development (i.e. sheep etc.). Spend a bit of the income generated to improve overall facilities at the livestock market. To take option 2 would be extremely detrimental to the towns existing shops and the agricultural industry. I strongly oppose this idea.

No market would not alter my trading now but I do not want to see a supermarket in place of it.

If the market were to close it would be another nail in the coffin for livestock farming in the area. Farming is the most important industry in Lincolnshire; it makes the surrounding countryside what it is today, not caravans for holidaymakers.

Has ELDC money to burn? Repairing the current market is the cheapest option. If ELDC wants another supermarket build it on the Fairfield Ind. Est. instead.

Update the current site, put in a manager and utilise the site for other events on a daily/ weekly/ monthly basis e.g. furs & feather, antiques fair, crafts, car boots etc. Farmer's food & gift market.

Why close a good market? It's the only one left in the county. Brings people into the town which would not happen if moved or closed. Who needs a supermarket?

Closing the market would have the following impact: 1) Reduce animal welfare due to travelling. 2) Increase risk of disease - with the outbreak of foot and mouth in 2001 the presence of Louth Market reduced the risk of contact with the disease before restrictions were in place. Lincolnshire remained free of foot and mouth and this was partly due to the Livestock Market. 3) Large farms will be able to deal with the economic impact being able to take full lorry loads to markets further afield. Small farmers won't so their number in the county will reduce further having a significant effect on the general environment and landscape/ tourism. 4) Increase food miles - will have effect on local butcher/ local produce

Having read the information provided by the Louth market auctioneers, it appears to me that ELDC are not telling the whole truth about the market. ELDC need to be aware that Louth market is one of the few markets in the country that is in a bovine TB free area that only needs 4 yearly testing and buyers come from other areas to buy the TB free animals. If the market is declining and only making under £3,000 p.a. for the last 9 years and you have been paid £16,929 in 2016, you are not giving the general public the truth, in fact you are lying.

The market is essential for the agricultural community as a trading point. It had significant social implications on an industry, which is by its nature, solitary. There are animal welfare implications associated with the transportation of stock out of the county. In addition the knock on effect to the town of shutting the market would be massive. The town would no longer be the focus for tourists as it would be its character and charm as a supermarket took the trade from this local shops forcing them to shut.

This is a good facility that needs modernising and when it's gone it's gone.

Would a new Livestock Market have to increase Commission rather in relative terms to new expenditure on new site? At the present time Lincolnshire is in a TBI area, with easy access to Louth Market without increase time, health and safety and any increase in additional overheads e.g. veterinary bills, new equipment for regular testing and safety equipment, to ensure work safety in handling cattle.

The market is not just about selling and buying animals. It is a support hub for increasingly aged farmers who often work alone in trying circumstances. They gain many things whilst visiting the market such as healthcare from us but also the chance to buy products for the farm, clothing, shoes, equipment and veterinary advice. They can seek, and give, help and support and advice from colleagues and neighbours and encouragement in tough times. Attending the market at Louth on Thursdays is a very important part of the farming community for many reasons.

It is sad that ELDC has been left holding the baby. There used to be 14 Livestock Markets in Lincolnshire; all but one has closed. I think the market should be a county problem not a district one. This would help to share the burden and make it more vibrant

Stay open

If the intention of the proposed sale is to a retailing organisation or organisations, it would not create more employment after the build, only re-shuffle present employment. Remember one retailers gain is another's loss in the same locality. Also in a few years' time you would neither have the cash or the asset.

I would be interested in supporting the building of a new market facility including but not limited to the provision of funding in real terms. We would also be able to provide professional work; which I am certain would provide the Council with greater income in the future. For the avoidance of doubt, we as a company have 52 years' experience in the sector.

It is important to maintain local livestock markets to facilitate a choice for local farmers to buy and sell in a transparent public market as being forced to use opaque price taking alternatives. As Lincolnshire's only market it is vital that Louth remains. If a new build is not viable in the short term then Option 3 of a refurbishment with security could also work. Here at Melton Mowbray Market, we have benefitted from Council investment in the town centre market and have a vibrant facility at the heart of the town servicing the rural and urban markets both economically and socially.

Yet again it looks like another market is going to be lost. Farmers need livestock markets to set the price for stock; without them some people won't know the value of their stock and buyers will try to pay very little for their stock. It's a sad state of affairs all these markets shutting.

We question the costings in this questionnaire and think they are inaccurate

Leave the market exactly where it is!

Closing and not replacing Louth Livestock Market will remove the heart of the livestock sector within Lincolnshire while simultaneously removing financial contributions the livestock sector makes to local Louth businesses on market days and throughout the year. Without a Livestock Market the number of livestock farmers will reduce, the number of animals farmed in Lincolnshire will also reduce and the rural monetary contribution to Louth businesses from livestock farmers will reduce. If farmers switch out of livestock production into arable cropping it is known that arable farmers generally have a greater percentage of their business spend with larger businesses outside the county whereas livestock farmers generally have a greater percentage of their business spend retained within the county. In summary, the livestock market will retain rural money within the county.

The Council should look to see where the meat from Morrison's comes from. There is more Lincs beef and pork sold in there than any butchers shop in Louth. Local butcher's meat mainly comes from Newark or Selby. The Council should use their brains and pull the Cattle Market down and build houses on high ground not flood area on Legbourne Road.

1) Why is our local MP not helping? 2) The proposal to move to a new site is not viable 3) All new markets are having a job to manage 4) The entire Council should resign in disgrace.

I think a new market would be great. I'm sure the auctioneers would love it but let's face it, it's very difficult to justify. All the people at last Wednesday's public meeting voted for Option 3 in a show of hands. I would say a fair percentage of them were residents and shopkeepers, some of whom, like the market, are pleased it's there. Perhaps pop up now and then. Its closure would have very little effect on their lives. What appears on the current site in its place would. Farmers and the auctioneers want a market whether it's a new one or the current one but for the other parties a new one on the industrial

estate may as well be at Timbuctoo. Clearly, Option 3 is what most people want. You need to deliver it with security though; the uncertainty has hung over this market for the entire working life of most farmers under the age of 40. Don't just go with option 3 with the auctioneers on an annual contract and leave it falling apart.

I have been trading in Louth market for 65 years. I used to sell in Wragby market, it closed, I used to sell in Market Rasen market, it closed, and I used to sell in Horncastle, Spilsby, Alford, Lincoln, Gainsborough and Brigg. All now supermarkets (except Horncastle) How many of these terrible things do we need? They ruin towns, make society faceless, use big brother type methods that monitor peoples movement and manners to make them buy certain things, they have ruined most food producing industries. Do you want to sell out to these faceless demons? Killing your main town in the process. Hopefully the wider public of East Lindsey will see a broader picture and not just a loaf of bread 2p cheaper!

There has always been Louth Cattle Market and long may it continue. The Council must spend money on it. They always cutback on something that is needed and waste money on something else and it seems to be the cattle market. Save the cattle market. The Council should be proud to have a well-known cattle market. You do not need supermarkets.

Louth market is a historical part of Lincolnshire's history and of value to the whole community and other businesses as well as the farmers. It is the only cattle market left in Lincolnshire now. The next generation of farmers need the cattle market to help sustain farming in Lincolnshire.

The closure of the current facility would mean more expense incurred whatever the options were and in an industry of marginal viability for small producers, many would find it difficult to continue. People use market day to use other businesses within the town and personally I would come into Louth very infrequently so other businesses would suffer.

Sell local cattle to local finishers all from Lincolnshire.

The current livestock market needs to remain and be refurbished, it's part of Louth's history.

As well as the loss of the market, out of town development will destroy Louth as it has other towns, and anyone not able to see this has cannot see the wood for the trees.

We agree with current suggestions locally that the area of and around the sheep market should be sold for development whilst the sheep auction be moved (with modifications) to the existing building.

If the Council puts commercial greed before local high quality food production and the destruction of Louth shopping experience. Anyway my views will not be heard so no point going on?

Livestock and industry are best kept separate.

The east of England is increasingly becoming large-scale intensive arable farming. The mix of arable and livestock farming around Louth is a real asset to the local area and countryside. A livestock market is the heart of the livestock community. A place where

farmers buy and sell stock, do lots of related business and meet socially. It is a vital part of the agricultural heritage of the area. We farm in the south of the county and value hugely to be able to go and buy good quality stock that all come from local farms and are TB free. The TB free status of Louth is a huge and rare asset in the Livestock industry in England. If Louth was to close, the cattle would be mixing with cattle from non-TB area in other markets. I believe it would be a sad loss if Louth market was forced to close.

I would like to see it open more days of the week. No need to build a new market, just look after the one we have.

Please do not underestimate the social benefits the market has. Farming can/ is a very lonely business. Let's try and keep some traditional aspects of farming. Yes progress is good but not always the best way. Many of the banks are shutting in the small market towns - is this progress? No.

Try to support whenever we can - however, it is 50 miles from us so a bit out of the question for regular visits. Shame to see it closed. Part of the local community.

The existing market facility appears 'fit for purpose' with only limited updating and refurbishment required to extend its life for well into the future. Option 3 appears the most practicable and economic solution which will allow the market to continue whilst still releasing part of the site for sale and development.

We are a family based some 25 miles from Louth, but since the closure of Brigg Market, Louth is now our most local market. For about 20 years we bought and sold through Louth market, but due to a farm diversification project we no longer have time to visit the market personally, but instead buy and sell our cattle through a local cattle dealer. The dealer uses Louth market and so the provision of such a facility in Lincolnshire is vital to both livestock farmers and to butchers in our county. Market day in a market town brings farmers, dealers, and associated business to the town - and usually their wives and families, so as well as supporting the livestock market, they support Louth. The current site is convenient for a walk into town. The auctioneers who run the market are happy with the current site which only needs a relatively small amount spending on it. Surely it makes economic sense for ELDC to improve the current livestock market - the cost of a new facility at £4m+ does not stack up. As the centre for livestock in Lincolnshire, we support Option 3 - to refurbish the current site and give Lincolnshire farmers and butchers the facility their businesses require.

We don't need a replacement market the present market should be refurbished and made better use of.

Louth is a market town set within a large farming county. It would be a tragic loss to the town and all it stands for if there was to be no market. This is a progressive time for livestock farming when the consumer wants better quality and reduced food miles with provenance. This would all be lost if there was no market in Louth for the Livestock surrounding it.

It is the only auction market in Lincolnshire, a great farmer's county, and it serves the livestock sector very well. I feel that the Council replacement estimate is pitched far too high.

After attending up to 6 markets per week 30-40 years ago this is the only one left for met. I have attended Louth every week since 1955 and have many friends who I would probably never see again as I live 40 miles away.

Need to use market on more days. Other sales etc.

Originally from Doncaster we are more than aware how closing the Doncaster Cattle Market devastated the town centre and the town centre market beyond recovery to this day. Louth being a unique country market town will be closed for business in a very short time. If any supermarket chain is allowed to establish despite what they may say or what bribes they may offer - the evidence across the country shows otherwise.

My family have been keen supporters of Louth market buying and selling for many years. We feel the existing market has good access and is perfectly suitable for a good market. We feel it is crazy to contemplate scrapping a perfectly good market to build a supermarket that would be detrimental to Louth which is largely unique in the fact that it has managed to keep its private independent businesses. This is something to be cherished! We feel a new market is totally unnecessary and a big effort must be made to make the existing site as suitable as it could be for a market and more thought should be given to how the space could be better used. This would create more confidence which is greatly needed.

It is important for business and the wellbeing of the farming community.

This is not merely an agricultural issue but one which impacts on the town of Louth. I would be adamantly opposed to any retail development on the present site. The town of Louth, its culture of traditional English market town must be preserved. This is ELDC, responsibility! Have someone present at the meeting on August 9th at Louth Town Hall. I am totally committed to the views expressed from the floor; those of the market auctioneers.

It would be a shame if Lincolnshire lost its only livestock market. I think if the market was upgraded, the sheep market brought undercover and generally tidied up, there would be no need to spend the £700,000 as suggested. As a business we are on the border of Nottinghamshire and find Newark market more convenient, but still use Louth sometimes.

The cattle market is vital to Lincolnshire.

If the market was closed, than farmers will be affected. It would be a shame to lose Livestock Market as it's the only place for farmers go.

In my opinion the Council do not want a livestock market in Louth. They do not understand the consequences of closing the market and the effect it would have on the farming community and local community especially the small livestock farmer, who like me would most probably not financially find it viable.

The Council needs to consider more about the local farmers and animal welfare than the fact that they are greedy. For the money! Should they consider allowing a retail corporation to acquire the land then they will only be signing the death warrant for Louth town centre!

If you close the market it is one more nail in the environmental coffin.

Relocate sheep pens into (or onto) the main building and re-roof the whole structure (£198,000 - quotation) and general refurbishment i.e. total cost say £350,000 (half your estimate). Sell the 'outside' areas of the existing site (and the proposed site on the industrial estate) to raise some funds. Council would: 1) still own a viable 4 acre site off Newmarket. 2) Be proud to facilitate the only remaining livestock market in the county. 3) Not jeopardise the fragile trading economy of Louth (by introducing another large retailer). 4) Allow a limited amount of development around the existing site.

Louth Livestock Market is the only market within the 4yr TB testing area, and it is vital it remains for animal wealth fare. Louth is known and valued for clean TB free stock. The viability of transporting stock many miles is questionable especially when it is only 2 or 3 animals a week. It gives local access to buying and selling stock to many traditional less intensive producers, as well as smaller farms, and gives younger farmers a foothold to starting a business. LRSN provides a much needed service to the local rural community through the market, giving help to many who would not otherwise access it, which in turn helps the overstretched local NHS. Many customers want local traceable food and the Market is a crucial link within the chain. Louth is a well-known "food town" and many tourists come for the experience to see the cattle/sheep market and the "niche" shops. If the Market is replaced by another supermarket the town will lose its individual character for ever, which will affect tourism and local businesses alike. The figures released by ELDC for income generated etc. and costings are extremely questionable and misleading, and with more creative ideas the existing market could be improved and still retain the much needed car parking for Louth. Parts could be redeveloped, creating income and the Fairfield Industrial Site earmarked for a new market could be sold off, again creating income. We feel ELDC are being extremely short-sighted, and need to look at the long term picture and not just the short term quick financial gain.

Please listen to the farmers and also consider the businesses that use the market facilities on market day. A named Councillor told the public at the consultation meeting that the site belonged to everyone. So please ensure that the 55 councillors, who will make the final decision on the future of our market, listen to the public and act in accordance with their wishes.

Take note from your public meeting on 9th August at 6:30pm. How many of the ELDC councillors were present? There were approx. 350 people at the meeting. All those present voted for Option 3 except for one person. Why have you given the auctioneers notice to quit? Have you already made your decision before the public meeting?

We consider Louth livestock market an integral part of our family business. If it does close we would have to sell our sheep, because transporting them to Newark is not financially viable for us. We are a family farm and our farm supports 4 households, ours and ours sons, and the loss of Louth livestock market would have significant impact on our profits and we would have to seriously review our farming policy.

The market has been in Louth for many years, why now is it suddenly a problem? Lincolnshire is already such a vast county with little amenities for farmers. Closing Louth market would mean more expensive haulage having to go out of county to other markets. Also farming is such a lonely job some times and farmers have been going to weekly markets for centuries, to keep in touch with friends, chat and boost their own mental wellbeing; a weekly treat!! Yet as always with the Council it boils down to money

and it's the farmers that suffer...I wonder how you would act when you have no food to eat because there are no farmers left to produce it!!

I have come to Louth for 58 years. My father before me. The market wants to be in Louth Town. Repair if need be.

The existing site does not need the level of expenditure you predict to refurbish it. Get quotes from local contractors such as Rase Construction; J. B. Taylor Construction or Rick Howell; the entire site does not need re-roofing; nor do all floors require replacement. The market is fit for purpose; it simply needs auctioneers of the calibre that Newark has; to promote and attract business and create a higher throughput of animals to generate the revenues the market used to do in the time before foot and mouth. This is an essential hub for the farming community of the Lincolnshire wolds and the surrounding areas.

Don't waste money; do option 3 whilst seriously considering proposals put forward by professionals. Use common-sense; remember Louth market adds value to the area. Louth doesn't want another supermarket.

It is unnecessary to move market; we are very content with it in its present position. Sell Fairfield site off, if you must. Your costings are far too much - take advice from farmers and Louth market professionals. The market is valuable to the area in many ways. Don't waste taxpayers money on "trying to move charter" listen to the locals. Look to investors (appears to be plenty of private people in Skegness) but don't ruin Skegness seafront any further - it is an eyesore. Help agriculture for a change - more to life than tourism (they all want feeding) use common sense!

I am well aware of where the alternative livestock markets are. Louth market is in the position of being in a t.b. 4 year testing area which is very important to the majority of cattle keepers.

I use Louth market 3-4 times a year because of the excellent market for my livestock and its unique position within Louth that enables networking and business opportunities to other businesses in the town.

Animal welfare is one of the reasons for maintaining Louth market especially for store cattle with this being a TB4 area, If the market closes and local breeders have to go outside the area into a TB1 area it will increase the disease risk to in our herds.

Louth is the only remaining market in Lincolnshire; refurbish the market is the only option for us. Louth is used by farmers and business people from a wide area. Our local bank closed in Market Rasen 2 years ago, the town is dying as its shop close. If the market closes I would take my banking and shopping to Brigg or Gainsborough - both thriving tourist towns.

We need Louth market to keep Lincolnshire t.b. stage 4 status i.e. t.b testing every 4 years. The sensible option is to refurbish the site we have now. At the moment it takes 15 minutes from loading stock at home to unloading at Louth. It would take 1 hour 15 minutes to get to Newark market. Newark is such a big market therefore on arrival you join a queue and then on average it takes a further 1 hour to unload. Instead of 15 minutes in a trailer, the stock would be 2 hours 15 minutes in a trailer. There is no need for this with Louth market.

Louth is a wonderful market town with many small traditional businesses and a market. Livestock market is in keeping with tradition. The only one in Lincs - lets be proud to keep one. We need to reduce mileage after market not increase it by closing it.

Future farm funding proposals will lead to more livestock farming and increase the need for a market especially in an increasingly important TB4 Area.

There is other income which you receive from the site which should be included in the figures; from Bowler Auctions and car park fees. The Auctioneers have made suggestions of ways to increase your income from the site and these would not be detrimental to the function of the Market. An additional supermarket will not attract the diverse visitor, shopper base which reaches you on the back of the Livestock market.

How can you call Louth a market town if you close its Livestock market?

Lincolnshire should have a livestock market. In an era when animal welfare is meant to be a priority it is a backwards step to expect livestock to be transported further to reach other markets.

There is no need for a replacement livestock facility in Louth, it would be perfectly adequate to downsize and put the sheep market inside. The market is hugely important. We are new, young farmers, our families did not have sheep before us, and we have made friends with other sheep farmers and learnt a lot from their experience. It is a chance for young and old to meet, to sell and buy stock. It's not just a market, it's a meeting place. Agriculture is not just a job, it's a way of life, losing the market would blow through the heart of it.

I believe the existing market should be refurbished including moving the sheep nearer to the cattle and then the redundant space could be sold off to pay for the refurbishments. The market should also have dual purposes i.e. a welcoming meeting place for farmers, conference facilities and agricultural based shops and NFU office, etc.

Livestock farmers I know from Norfolk/ Suffolk come to Melton Mowbray and Newark as they do not have a decent market; we have a market! Let's keep it going so we do not have to travel greater distances like them. I am 57 years old and have attended the market for the last 15+ years and I have noticed that in the last 3 to 5 years a healthy increase in the younger people (under 40 years) selling livestock at the market

Having worked for the last 8 years to build our flock up from scratch, closure of the market would have a huge impact on our business. We work 13+ hours a day, 365 days a year, not only do we have sheep, but we both have full time jobs too. There is little encouragement for young people to enter agriculture without the need to be willing to work long hours, we are trying to expand, and closure of the market will have a significant impact. We hope you take this into consideration.

Talking to livestock breeders from as far apart as Stranraer and Cornwall they say from experience it is essential to keep livestock market in the town or the town will die. It is very pleasing to see the strong support the Young Farmers Federation is giving to save the Livestock Market. You must support their views they are the future of Livestock farming in Lincolnshire.

We need a local market, with good local facilities, all of which is available at the present site. Louth market has existed for the last few years with an axe hanging over it. We were told by you, the Council, that there would continue to be a market in Louth, whatever. Has this been forgotten, or were we just being lied to?

To consider disposing of a market that has been ongoing for hundreds of years, and having the gall to challenge ancient charters is astonishing. Must Louth go the same way as other historic market towns like Alford and Spilsby? Many visitors bring revenue to the area, just to enjoy the ambience of this lovely place. Now this iconoclastic Council, probably the worst in the whole country, is taking one step more towards its destruction. You will not be happy until all the quaint shops have gone and Louth looks like any town, anywhere. Shame on you!

Louth is the envy of every other market town in the county for good reason and I can say that with confidence because I'm not from there. On market day we always pop in to town to do chores whether it is going to the bank, shops or butchers. If we're selling stock and don't have any to load we usually grab a sit down lunch too. All that will be lost if there isn't a market to go to. It isn't just somewhere to sell livestock for many it is what keeps them going in this very isolated industry. You may be aware of the work that LRSN does every week at the market, they have saved countless lives. Louth market town is a very fragile infrastructure and should not be messed with, it is a lovely place. So many old market towns have gone into decline and ruin and the market is always the first thing to go. Such a fragile infrastructure should not be messed with for the sake of a short gain with funds that could be raised elsewhere. In 30 year's time there will be no loss from the developer not building in Louth but there will be scars for many years to come if Lincolnshire the premier agricultural county in the country loses its last market. It would be shameful. I am a young farmer who started out with sheep as it is the only farm business people can start up without huge capital. I am being approached by many arable farmers asking me to graze sheep on their fields for the goodness it does for the soil. Many farms are going back to having livestock as they realise the benefits and the price of artificial inputs increases. I am one of many young farmers in this area who are jumping on this opportunity as a way to start a living from farming. If the market goes it will stop that in its tracks as it will not be viable for someone with a few sheep, or even many more sheep, to trail them many miles away. I like many farmers throughout the county, hold Louth Market very dear not just for the financial benefits it brings to our business and that of the local area but because it is part of our county's culture and for many it is their lifeline. Losing the market would be catastrophic and it saddens me that I believe there will be suicides as a result because it means so much and for many it is the lifeline for their business and soul. I urge in the strongest possible terms do not leave Louth without a livestock market.