

FOI Request – Public Consultation & Business Case for Ashton Market Redevelopment
10 August 2025

Dear FOI Officer,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information relating to the decision-making process and public consultation for the announced £10.8 million redevelopment of Ashton Market Square.

This request is made following public statements by the council, reported by the BBC, asserting that the redevelopment is "driven by public demand." This request seeks the recorded information that substantiates that claim.

Requested Information:

Public Consultation Data:

Please provide the full, unredacted report(s) and the raw, anonymised data from the consultation exercises conducted in 2022, as referenced in the "Public Realm Strategy" document. This data should include the total number of responses received.

Business Case & Options Appraisal:

Please provide a copy of the final business case and/or options appraisal document that was presented to the council's Cabinet to secure approval for the £10.8 million expenditure.

Meeting Minutes:

Please provide the minutes of the specific Cabinet or committee meeting(s) where the decision to approve the £10.8 million funding for the market redevelopment was formally made.

Public Interest Statement

The public interest in this information is exceptionally high. The council is proposing to spend a significant sum of taxpayer money on a major public asset, justifying this with claims of public demand. With the formal planning application receiving only five public responses, it is essential for transparency that the evidence supporting the "public demand" claim is released for scrutiny.

I would prefer this information in a digital format. If you determine that any part of this request is exempt, I require you to release all non-exempt information, redacting only the specific parts you believe are covered by an exemption. For each redaction, please state the specific exemption you are applying.

Kind regards,

Jason Nield Editor, Tameside Independent | Founder, FOIGUK