

**STREET COLLECTION POLICY**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rita Dent
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To ask Members to approve the attached draft Street Collection Policy for the purpose of consultation and to consider whether the Council should seek to enter into discussions with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) about establishing an agreement to regulate face to face fundraising in Bromsgrove Town Centre.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to RESOLVE;**

**(a) To approve the attached draft Street Collection Policy for the purpose of consultation.**

**(b) To authorise the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services to enter into discussions with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) about establishing an agreement to regulate face to face fundraising in Bromsgrove Town Centre.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no fees payable in respect of applications for street collection permits.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Section 5 of the Police, Factories, etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916 enables authorities to make regulations to control street collections in their area.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 The Council regulates charitable collections taking place in any street or public place under the Police, Factories, etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916. The Council can regulate collections where there is a collection of money or the selling of articles for the benefit of charitable purposes (cash collections).
- 3.4 The legislation does not cover face to face fundraisers who ask people in the street or other public place to sign up to donating to charitable causes by direct debit. The Council therefore cannot regulate this type of collection. The Council could however engage with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) to try and establish a site management agreement to control this type of collection.
- 3.5 Street collections are an important method of fund raising for charitable causes; however they can cause annoyance to the public if not suitably controlled and managed. This can lead to the public avoiding certain areas where they believe they will be asked to donate money every time they visit.
- 3.6 It is also important that those that are authorised to carry out street collections represent genuine charitable causes and are not seeking to defraud the public by pretending to collect for a charitable cause and actually using the money collected for other purposes.
- 3.7 In order to ensure that street collections are suitably controlled and managed, and that applicants for permits represent genuine charitable causes, a draft policy has been produced for dealing with street collection permit applications. This draft policy can be seen at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.8 Members will note that within the draft policy it is proposed that street collection permits will not normally be issued for collections in Bromsgrove town centre on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- 3.9 This has been done with a view to approaching the PFRA to implement a site management agreement to restrict face to face direct debit fundraising to only take place on Mondays (except bank holidays) and Wednesdays. This would help avoid clashes between cash and direct debit collections and also ensure that direct debit collections did not take place on days when the market is running on the High Street.
- 3.10 Typically applicants for street collection permits will wish to carry out their collection on a Saturday, when there is a higher footfall in the

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

---

Town Centre and therefore a better chance of raising more money for the charitable purpose concerned.

- 3.11 Members are asked to approve the draft policy for the purpose of consultation. The draft policy will be sent to the Charities Commission, Parish Councils and any person who has applied for a street collection permit in the past 12 months and comments will be invited.
- 3.12 Any responses received during the consultation will be brought back to the Licensing Committee for consideration before a decision is taken about whether to implement the draft policy.
- 3.13 Likewise if Worcestershire Regulatory Services did engage in dialogue with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) to try and establish a site management agreement to control face to face fundraising by way of direct debit collection, any draft agreement would be brought to Licensing Committee for comment and discussion before being signed off and implemented.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 If street collections are not appropriately controlled this could cause annoyance to the public and increase the risk that the public could be defrauded by people who are not collecting for genuine charitable causes.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Draft Street Collection Policy

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Dave Etheridge – Senior Practitioner (Licensing)  
Worcestershire Regulatory Services  
E Mail: [d.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk](mailto:d.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01527) 534121