

REVIEW OF STREET COLLECTION POLICY

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Kent
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Council has adopted a policy in relation to the control of street collections. This policy was adopted around five years ago and Members are now asked to review the current policy and give consideration to carrying out a consultation exercise to obtain views on the current policy and any amendments that could be made to it.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE whether to instruct officers to conduct a consultation exercise in relation to an updated version of the Council's Street Collection Policy, which is shown at Appendix 3.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no fees payable in respect of applications for street collection permits.
- 3.2 The costs of the consultation exercise will be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 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

- 3.4 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).
- 3.5 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, the Council has adopted a policy for dealing with street collection permit applications. The current policy can be seen at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.8 The current policy was approved at the Licensing Committee on 22nd September 2014 and took effect from the 1st January 2015. It has therefore been five years since the policy was last subject to review.
- 3.9 It is important to recognise that 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.
- 3.10 The Council has however entered into a site management agreement with the Institute of Fundraising (previously the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association or PFRA) to control this type of collection. A copy of the current site management agreement can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.1 Officers have identified at least two parts of the current policy document that need to be updated. Firstly, the policy needs to be updated to reflect the fact that the Council has now entered into a site management agreement with the Institute of Fundraising to control direct debit street collections.

- 3.12 Secondly, the address for submission of applications needs to be updated as the Council no longer occupies the Council House in Burcot Lane . An updated version of the policy, can be seen at **Appendix 3**.
- 3.13 Given the length of time since the policy was last reviewed, Members are asked to review the policy and consider whether they wish to instruct officers to conduct a consultation exercise inviting comments on the updated policy and any suggestions of amendments that those responding to the consultation think should be made to it.
- 3.14 If a consultation exercise is undertaken, officers will look to contact the Charities Commission, the Institute of Fundraising, Parish Councils and any person who has applied for a street collection permit in the past 12 months and comments will be invited. The consultation exercise will also be made available via the Council's website and publicised via the local press and social media channels.
- 3.15 Any responses received during the consultation will be brought back to the Licensing Committee for consideration before a decision is taken about whether to make any amendments to the current policy.

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 – Current Street Collection Policy

Appendix 2 – Current Site Management Agreement

Appendix 3 – Updated Street Collection Policy

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