

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Street Collection Permits 2018 23rd November 2017

Report of the Commercial Protection Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to enable Members to set quotas for street collection permits for 2018 and to consider minor amendments to the policy and procedure relating to the same.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the new quota for street collection permits for the forthcoming year and minor amendments to the regulations relating to processing of applications be agreed.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The report is concerned with setting the quota of permits to be made available to charities wishing to conduct street collections within the district and to consider minor changes proposed to the rules and regulations governing the allocation of street collectors.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that each calendar year there are a set number of permits available for charities wishing to conduct street collections. The purpose of the regulations is to help manage the demand for street collection permits and provide a framework that is fair to charities and minimises potential disruption to the public. There is no charge for the permits and no requirement for consultation with other agencies as part of the permit application process.
- 1.3 The existing Lancaster City Council local regulations controlling street collection permits is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 1.4 Each year the quota for street collection permits is set by this committee based on an allocation for Lancaster, Morecambe and the Rural parts of the Borough, with a further 50/50 split between Local and National charities. There is no delegated flexibility built into the system to allow for relaxing the rules or switching the allocation between the National/Local Charities or between geographical areas within the Borough. Appendix B shows the current distribution of permits for 2017
- 1.5 The table below offers a comparison over the last three years for street collection permits allocated.

Street collection permits	2015	2016	2017
Lancaster Local	17	13	21
Lancaster National	16	7	9
Morecambe Local	4	3	4
Morecambe National	2	0	2
Rural	0	2	0

2.0 Proposed minor changes to local regulations

2.1 The regulations set out a clear framework for managing the demand for street collection permits and seek to offer a fair balance between requests to carry out collections from different organisations and minimising potential disruption to the public. However, there is no scope built into the current system for flexibility to reflect local demand.

2.2 There is far greater demand for street collection permits in Lancaster and the majority are from local charities. This demand for permits also varies throughout the year, with peak times around the Christmas and holiday periods.

2.3 During recent months a number of permit applications have been received which would not normally have been granted within the current framework due to:-

- The application has been received without the one month minimum notice period
- The charity has already had a permit in the same year
- The permit quota for Local Permits has been reached for the year

2.4 To address the issues highlighted above it is proposed to make the following minor alterations to the local regulations:-

- Reduce the desired notice period to 14 days and include the caveat that applications received without the 14 days' notice will be processed but cannot be guaranteed to be authorised by the date of the event.
- Allow a charity to arrange up to a maximum of 3 collections each year, but **only one** in each of the three designated areas – Lancaster, Morecambe or Rural.
- To remove the split between National and Local Charities.

3.0 Proposed quota for street collection permits for 2018

3.1 It is proposed that the allocation for street collection permits for 2018 should be:-

Lancaster – 40
Morecambe – 30
Rural - 10

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members are recommended to approve the minor changes to the local regulations applying to street collection permits and to agree the proposed quota for 2018.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated in the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Steve Sylvester

Telephone: 01524 582717

E-mail: ssylvester@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: