

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker:

Date: 27 April 2015

Decision in the matter of: Regulating Paid Fundraisers in Cheshire East

Decision:

1. That approval be given to adopt the Site Management Agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. The Town Councils be thanked for their input into to Site Management Agreement, and for their future involvement.

Background: As a Residents First and Enforcing Council, Cheshire East Council is spearheading a move to tackle the problem of 'nuisance' street fundraisers - or 'chuggers'; shoppers have complained about aggressive 'hard sells' and constant pestering to provide direct debit details by some fundraisers in the street.

The problem for all towns across the country is that there is no statutory legislation that covers in detail the activities of "chuggers" and as Enforcing Council we have, therefore, looked for other ways to address this. We have had very positive meetings with our Town Councils, and with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association who can provide a voluntary code with sanctions for aggressive behaviour.

As a result it is proposed that a site management agreement be introduced; this aims to protect and support local residents from unacceptable conduct and harassment by some street fundraisers. At the same time it will be ensured that the reputable and considerate charity collectors are protected and supported as these are the lifeblood of our communities and they do great work. This initiative also aims to assist retailers who are concerned that shoppers are being put off coming by the activities of 'chuggers' on our high streets.

Background Documents: Regulating Paid Fundraisers in the High Street - report (final)
Regulating Paid Fundraisers in the High Street - Appendix

Approved: Signed.....
Councillor Les Gilbert, Cabinet Member for Localism and Enforcement

Date: 27 April 2015

Advising Officer: Signed.....
Richard Christopherson , Partnership Manager (North)