

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Cabinet Member for Localism and Enforcement
held on Monday, 27th April, 2015 at Room G2, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach, CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillors L Gilbert, Cabinet Member for Localism and Enforcement

Officers

Steph Cordon, Head of Communities
Richard Christopherson, Area Partnership Manager (North)
Rachel Graves, Democratic Services

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

15 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

16 REGULATING PAID FUNDRAISERS IN CHESHIRE EAST

The Cabinet Member considered a report on a proposal to adopt a Site Management Agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association to deal with face to face street fundraisers.

The Council was unable to formally deal with complaints from members of the public and/or local businesses relating to face to face fundraisers - commonly known as 'Chuggers', who approach members of the public with a request to make a regular donation to a particular charity by way of a monthly direct debit. Face to face fundraising was currently unrestricted in terms of where they could fundraise and which towns to visit in Cheshire East.

A Council led working group had been established to look at ways to control face to face fundraisers. All towns across Cheshire East were invited to send representatives to join the group and responses were received from 6 towns – Crewe, Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich and Wilmslow, where face to face fundraising issues had been identified. The working group recommended that a Site Management

Agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association be drawn up.

The Public Fundraising Regulatory Association was a charity led, self-regulatory membership body for all types of face to face fundraising. It currently had 90% of the organisations, both charity and fundraising agency members, involved in all types of face to face fundraising activities signed up to the self-regulatory scheme.

Although the Council was unable to restrict face to face fundraisers from visiting towns within Cheshire East, it could seek to exert some influence over the access, location, times and numbers through an agreed Site Management Agreement.

The Site Management Agreement would:

- specify which days of the week fundraisers could attend
- specify how many fundraisers may attend
- specify the times fundraisers may operate
- specify the locations fundraisers could operate

Approval was sought for the Site Management Agreement drawn up by the Council and the Town Council representatives. A copy of the Agreement was attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED:

- 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 the Site Management Agreement, and for their future involvement.

The meeting commenced at 10.35 am and concluded at 10.40 am

Councillor L Gilbert