

DECISION NOTICE

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

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Communities

Date: 18 January 2016

Decision in the matter of: Site Management Agreement to Control the Activity of Face to Face Public Fundraisers

Decision:

1. That the operation of the Site Management Agreement across the borough continue to be used to enhance the working relationship with the retail and local businesses communities.
2. That a closer working relationship between the Council and Town and Parish Councils, and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority, continue to be enhanced.

Background: Cheshire East Council received a number of complaints regarding the large number of face to face public fundraisers, otherwise known as chuggers, operating in towns within Cheshire East Council and it was having a detrimental effect on both shoppers and retailers.

A working group was established to consider how best to respond to these issues and a Town Councils and Town Centre Managers in Cheshire East were invited to join the group; Crewe, Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich and Wilmslow agreed to join.

Following full consultation the Council signed a Site Management Agreement (SMA) with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) on 24 April 2015 and this placed the responsibility on Chuggers to adhere to agreed visiting schedules and working practices.

Following an implementation period of 6 months the SMA a review has shown that it has positively addressed the activities of the chuggers. Significant improvements have resulted including improved communication with local businesses and retailers, who are given advance notice of the scheduled visits, the PFRA has provided swift and satisfactory response to issues reported to it, and the visits have been restricted to those days of the week acceptable to the individual

town. There has been a marked reduction in the number of complaints received which has provided reassurance to both visitors to the towns and to the local business communities.

Background Documents:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

Approved:

Signed.....
Councillor Les Gilbert (Cabinet Member for Communities)

Date:

18 January 2016

Advising Officer:

Signed
Steph Cordon (Head of Service Partnerships and Communities)