

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
10 OCTOBER 2013**

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**FACE-TO-FACE DIRECT DEBIT COLLECTIONS – SITE AGREEMENT  
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of a revised version of the agreement held with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA) which controls face-to-face direct debit collections in the street in Bracknell Forest.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That the PFRA site agreement at Annex A is approved as the document governing face-to-face direct debit collections within the borough carried out by members of the PFRA.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 This agreement allows the Council a degree of control over these types of collections. Without the agreement, the Council would have no power to control the number or location of such collections.
- 3.2 The PFRA have submitted supporting information in respect of this matter at Annex B.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to suggest further amendments to the proposed site agreement which would be referred back to the PFRA for consideration.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The collection of direct debit mandates 'face-to-face' in the street does not require any formal authorisation from the Council as the Police, Factories etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916 only provides for the collection of money or sale of goods for charitable purposes. A direct debit mandate has no particular worth at the point of collection, as it is simply a promise to make payment by issuing an order to a bank or building society.
- 5.2 The situation is currently monitored and controlled by an agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA), a self-regulating umbrella body with which the Council has worked to ensure that there are no clashes with permitted street collections.
- 5.3 The LGA recommends voluntary site management agreements as an effective solution for those that want to have "more control over face-to-face fundraising", because they bring together PFRA's expertise in controlling fundraising and councils' knowledge of local conditions.

5.4 The following amendments are proposed to the agreement:

- (i) Removal of the restriction in number of collections to take place each year
- (ii) Change the minimum distance between fundraisers from 5 metres to 3 metres
- (iii) Clarify that only one charity will present on any one site on any one day, and
- (iv) Add provision for the Council to nominate exclusion dates where no direct debit collections may take place.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 None.

### Method of Consultation

7.2 None.

### Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

### Background Papers

LGA Publication: Making the pledge – Promoting vibrant and enjoyable town centres by improving face-to-face fundraising standards: [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10171/3778081/PUBLICATION-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10171/3778081/PUBLICATION-TEMPLATE)

### Contact for further information

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