



## Policy and Resources Committee - 13 September 2010

### House to House Collections Policy

#### Summary

This report seeks approval of a new House to House Collections Policy.

#### Attachment(s)

House to House Collections Policy

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 A house to house collection is a collection for charity either of money or goods. The number of house to house collections has increased significantly over the past two years. In addition to this there are increasing numbers of bogus collectors and illegal collections. There is a need for a policy to support decisions around house to house collections.

#### 2.0 House to House Collections

2.1 As the number of house to house collections has increased significantly, the number of decisions being referred to a Licensing Panel has also increased as officers are minded to refuse many of the applications coming in front of them. This is mainly due to the lack of information being provided by applicants to assist in making decisions and the proportion of money being given to charity compared to the value of the goods or money collected. Many of those collecting goods are commercial companies who are using the charity name to increase their collection income.

2.2 There are also concerns about the public giving goods and money with the understanding that the majority of this will be given to the charity, when this is not currently the case with many house to house collections.

2.3 The legislation concerning the refusal of applications for House to House Collections is very specific and only allows certain matters to be taken into account. This policy aims to give both officers and members more guidance on making decisions about house to house collections.

2.4 The Policy has been subject to a full 12 week consultation, however, at the time of producing this report only Councillors and Officers had given any feedback. The Trade wanted to provide some feedback but to date this has not been received, if this is received a verbal update will be given at the meeting. The Cabinet Office has provided some verbal feedback which it has said it would confirm in writing but to date this has not happened. The verbal advice was to consider carefully the impact of including a percentage donation in the policy as this could reduce the number of applications granted. This would then have a negative effect on the amount of money given to charity.

2.5 All of the comments given have been considered and applied to the policy. A working group of officers and Councillors from the Licensing Committee have also considered the policy in detail.

2.6 It is also worth noting that the policy has been produced by East Northamptonshire Council and is currently going through the process of being adopted as a County Policy. This is one of the first house to house policies produced across the UK.

### 3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the House to House Collections Policy as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

Implications:					
<b>Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy</b>					
Good Quality of Life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Good Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Effective Partnership Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours			<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Other:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval			<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications at this stage			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	There is provision within existing budget			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date			<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Decisions may have potential for income generation			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Management</b>	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Staff</b>	There are no additional staffing implications			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Equalities and Human Rights</b>	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph			<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Legal</b>	Power: House to House Collections Act 1939 and the House to house Collections Regulations 1947 & 1963				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b> None					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Julia Smith Commerical Health Manager 01832 742066 jsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
<b>Date:</b> 19 August 2010					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b>	

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 21)