

Licensing Sub-Committee 1 – 25th November 2014

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Application for House to House Collections Licence

Action for Blind People/National Deaf Children's Society/Action for Hearing Loss – Personal Fundraising Services

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the application for the grant of a House to House Collection Licence made by Mr Thomas Vaughan, of Personal Fundraising Services on behalf of the charities known as Action for Blind People/National Deaf Children's Society/Action for Hearing Loss.

Background

2. On the 20th June 2014, and the 19th August 2014, Mr Thomas Vaughan of Personal Fundraising Services made application for the grant of a House to House Collection Licence in respect of the charities known as Action for Blind People/National Deaf Children's Society/Action for Hearing Loss. Copies of those applications along with the relevant accounts from the various charities have been forwarded to Committee Members and interested parties.
3. In January 1999, the Licensing Section in accordance with the Neighbouring Authorities Working Group introduced a policy requiring all House to House Collection applicants to submit income and expenditure accounts for the previous financial year.
4. In recent years applications for House to House Collections have been received from independent commercial companies undertaking collections on behalf of specific charities. Therefore in November 2009, the Council introduced a further policy that all applicants for House to House Collection Licences be required to submit with the application income and expenditure accounts for the previous financial year of the charity for which the collection is being made and also for the company or organisation making the collection. This is to ensure that a substantial amount of the monies collected are used for charitable purposes.
5. Personal Fundraising Services Limited confirmed that they have only been trading since the 28th February 2014, and therefore do not have the requisite accounts. These applications were delay due to the Licensing Team awaiting the accounts from the various charitable organisations.

6. Both applications were also circulated to the Directorate of the Urban Environment and the West Midlands Police, no objections were received from either of the agencies.
7. This application falls within the Council's recent responsibility for licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

8. There are no financial implications.

Law

9. House to house collection permits are governed by Section 2 of the House-to-House Collections Act 1939.
10. The Council may refuse to grant a licence or where a licence has been granted may revoke it if it appears to the Authority:-
 - (a) that the total amount likely to be applied for charitable purposes as the result of the collection (including any amount already so applied) is inadequate in proportion to the value of the proceeds likely to be received (including any proceeds already received).
 - (b) that remuneration which is excessive in relation to the total amount aforesaid is likely to be, or has been, retained or received out of the proceeds of the collection by any person.
 - (c) that the grant of a licence would be likely to facilitate the commission of any offence under section three of the Vagrancy Act 1824, or that an offence under that section has been committed in connection with the collection.
 - (d) that the applicant or the holder of the licence is not a fit and proper person to hold a licence by reason of the fact that he has been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offences specified in the Schedule to this Act, or has been convicted in any part of His Majesty's dominions of any offence conviction for which necessarily involved a finding that he acted fraudulently or dishonestly, or of any offence of a kind the commission of which would be likely to be facilitated by the grant of a licence.
 - (e) that the applicant or the holder of the licence, in promoting a collection in respect of which a licence has been granted to him, has failed to exercise due diligence to secure that persons authorised by him to act as collectors for the purposes of the collection were fit and proper persons, to secure compliance on the part of persons so authorised with the provisions of regulations made under this Act, or to prevent prescribed badges or prescribed certificate of authority being obtained by persons other than persons so authorised.

- (f) that the applicant or holder of the licence has refused or neglected by furnish to the authority such information as they may have reasonably required for the purpose of informing themselves as to any of the matters specified in the fore-going paragraphs.
11. If the Committee refuse to grant a licence or revoke a licence which has been granted. There is a right of appeal within 14 days to the Secretary of State against the refusal or revocation of licence.

Equality Impact

12. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
13. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

14. That the Committee consider the applications for House to House Collection Licences in respect of Personal Fundraising Services.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers