

Licensing Sub-Committee 4 – 28th April 2012

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Application for House to House Collections Licence

Treating Children with Cancer

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the application for the grant of a House to House Collections Licence in respect of Treating Children with Cancer.

Background

2. On the 12th July 2010, Mr Feraz Mirza of Treating Children with Cancer made application for a House to House Collections Licence. A copy of that application was 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. Mr Mirza stated that Treating Children with Cancer was a relatively new charity and that the accounts would not be due until 2011.
6. Copies of the application were circulated to the West Midlands Police and the Directorate of the Urban Environment (Highways). These agencies raised no objections to the application.

7. This matter was due to be considered by the Sub-Committee on the 3rd August 2010. The Committee resolved at the request of the applicant that the matter be deferred.
8. This matter was again considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee on the 16th November 2010. The Committee resolved at the request of the applicant to defer the matter until March 2011.
9. This matter was due to be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee on the 15th March 2011. The Committee resolved at the request of the applicant by e-mail prior to the meeting that the matter be withdrawn.
10. On the 9th November 2011, a further application for the grant of a House to House Collections licence was made by Mr Balal Ahmed on behalf of Treating Children with Cancer. A copy of that application has been circulated to the Committee Members and interested parties.
11. Copies of the application were also circulated to the West Midlands Police and the Directorate of the Urban Environment (Highways). These agencies raised no objections to the application.
12. Mr Ahmed submitted accounts on behalf of Treating Children with Cancer. A copy of those accounts have also been circulated to Committee Members and interested parties.
13. This matter was considered by the Sub-Committee on the 7th February 2012. The Committee resolved that the matter be deferred in the absence of the applicant. The Committee also resolved that prior to that meeting the applicant should supply the Licensing Officer with more detailed audited accounts which show details of donations to specific charitable institutions. The Committee further resolved that should the applicant again fail to attend that hearing that the matter be heard in his absence.
14. Further accounts were received on the 18th July 2012, and have been circulated to Committee Members and interested parties.
15. This report has a direct link to the Council's policy for safety as the principal reason for submission is safeguarding the public.

Finance

16. There are no financial implications.

Law

17. House to house collection permits are governed by Section 2 of the House-to-House Collections Act 1939.
18. 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.
19. 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

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

Recommendation

22. That the Committee consider the applications for House to House Collections Licence in respect of Treating Children with Cancer.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers