

Report to:

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Lee Petrak, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager

Date of Meeting

3 November 2020

STREET COLLECTION PERMITS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider permits already granted for collections in December 2019 and the issue of further street collection permits in view of the COVID19 restrictions in force in the area.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Suspend the issuing of Street Collection permits while Blackpool remains under Covid-19 restrictions.

2.2 To authorise the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager to revoke permits already issued to BETEL and Salvation Army if Blackpool remains in Tier 3 and he is satisfied that requirements under the Covid-19 restrictions cannot be met.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To consider whether collections can take place during COVID 19 restrictions/

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Sub-Committee can take no actions and allow suitable applications to be granted.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At its meeting held on 17 March 2020, the Public Protection Sub-Committee considered the allocation of street collection permits for the year running from 01.04.20 – 31.03.21. Applications were considered and the Sub-Committee delegated to the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager the authority to grant further permits to suitable applicants.

5.2 The permits currently in existence are as follows:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 24.10.20 – 07.11.20

BETEL of Britain 07.12.20 – 12.12.20

Collection to take place in town centre - 6 to 8 carol singers in costumes with charity buckets 10.00-18.00.

Salvation Army various dates between 28.11.20 -25.12.20

The vicinity of Marks and Spencer's - Salvation Army band plus one collector every Saturday before Christmas from 28.11.20 11.00 – 13.00 and Christmas Day 12.00-13.00

The Sub-Committee also issued a permit to allow collections to support the illuminations to be made from booths sited at both ends of the Illuminations.

5.3 There is no suggestion that the permit for the Poppy Appeal should be suspended because the format of the collection is well known, can be achieved with social distancing and will not encourage crowds to gather. Similarly the collection for the Illuminations is done by gathering donations from people in vehicles. Social distancing can be maintained and there is no suggestion of crowds gathering.

5.4 There is some concern, however whether the collections by BETEL and the Salvation Army should take place under the current COVID restrictions. Blackpool is currently under Tier 3 Very High. Both collections include performances of music whether live or recorded and this could encourage members of the public to stop and listen. Whilst the need for these restrictions will be reviewed every four weeks, the next Sub-Committee meeting is not until 8 December 2020 when collections under these permits will already have taken effect.

5.5 BETEL have produced COVID procedures and risk assessment - see Appendix 3(a) and 3(b). Officers will make contact with the Salvation Army prior to the meeting to ascertain whether they still intend to proceed with these collections, and if so what measures they have in place concerning COVID19.

5.6 The Sub-Committee are asked to suspend future applications for street collections

initially to the end of the current street collection year 31.03.21 in view of the COVID 19 restrictions in place to minimise the spread of the virus and in view of the Government guidance that residents should “*still travel to venues or amenities that are open, for work or to access education but aim to reduce the number of journeys you make*”. The need for this suspension can be kept under review and could be lifted earlier if the restrictions are significantly relaxed.

5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a) – BETEL COVID Document and
Appendix 3(b) - BETEL Risk Assessment

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None