

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 11 October 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Cabinet Member (Cultural Services)
Councillor Mrs P Jones

SUBJECT: **EVENTS MANAGEMENT – NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE**

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

FORWARD PLAN REF: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the Council meeting on 19 July 2007, Councillor Bill Houtt proposed the following Notice of Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Christine Willoughby:

This Council views with concern the introduction of charges by North Yorkshire Police in connection with the policing of charitable non-profit making events within our local communities.

These charges appear to have been introduced without consultation under the powers contained in Section 25 of the Police Act 1996.

This Council believes that the Police withdrawal from active assistance to local communities in respect of organisational advice, provision of road signs, barriers, etc, will have a detrimental effect on both community relations and social cohesion.

This Council believes that this action will also place an additional burden on both Harrogate Borough Council and the North Yorkshire County Council and therefore calls upon the North Yorkshire Police to provide 100% abatement of such charges for charitable and non-commercial events.

- 1.2 The Notice of Motion was referred to the Cabinet Member (Cultural Services) who subsequently met with Councillors Houtt and Willoughby on 17 September 2007.

2.0 RESPONSE TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION

2.1 At the meeting with Councillors Hoult and Willoughby the main issues discussed were: -

1. The issue for charity organisers who are organising events to raise money for good causes and some of that money having to be used to pay for policing of the event.
2. Who has the powers to deal with traffic management.
3. What the effect of the police's charging policy would have on charitable events particularly the smaller ones.
4. What options were open to the Council with regards to this matter.
5. The very real concern over event organisers trying to avoid the charge by doing it themselves and possibly inadvertently acting outside the law or putting themselves or the public at risk.

2.2 It is clear that the new charging regime introduced by the police for the policing of events will have an effect on charitable or non-commercial events and may in some cases result in them either being reduced or not taking place at all. A good example of this was the Starbeck Gala where the carnival procession did not take place this year due to the issues of policing and traffic management.

2.3 There is also a real issue with regards to event organisers who in an attempt to minimise costs try to deal with policing or traffic management themselves and run foul of the law or due to their lack of experience put themselves and/or the public at potential risk. It was confirmed at the meeting that the only authority that has the powers for traffic management was the police.

2.3 It was accepted in the discussion with the local Members that the introduction of this charge particularly for charitable and non-commercial events was of high concern and one that should be reviewed. As such I agreed to support the notice of motion and will be writing to the Chief Constable asking him to reconsider this decision to see if he would be prepared to provide a 100% abatement of such charges for charitable and non-commercial events.

Background Papers – None

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Mr P.Kilburn, Head of Parks & Open Spaces if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Department of Community Services, Brandreth House, St Luke's Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 2AA or by telephone on 01423 556704 or Email Patrick.Kilburn@harrogate.gov.uk.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		✓	
B	Environment		✓	
C	Social Equity			
i)	General		✓	
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities		✓	
iii)	Health Implications		✓	
D	Crime and Disorder Implications		✓	

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.