

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	31 October 2013
DIRECTOR	Paul Fleming (Acting Director)
TITLE OF REPORT	Update - Street-begging
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/13/113

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to update the Council as instructed at its meeting of 21 August 2013 on progress or otherwise on the consultation with the Scottish Government on the potential byelaw regarding street-begging.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is recommended to note the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this update report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At the Council meeting of 21 August 2013 members considered the report by the Director of Housing and Environment on street-begging and instructed officers to commence dialogue with the Scottish Government on a potential byelaw to prohibit street begging and that officers report back to every Council meeting on the progress or otherwise on the consultation.

Legal Services have written to officers at the Scottish Government as instructed. A response has been received offering technical views mainly concerned with clearly identifying which streets are to be covered and which officers are considering. Clarification was sought and confirmation provided that Aberdeen City Council is fully aware of the views of the Scottish Government on the general policy of criminalizing non-aggressive begging. Given that discussions to date with Police Scotland and the Procurator Fiscal have been around a city wide byelaw it is proposed to revisit those discussions in the context of a byelaw restricted to the city centre.

A further update report will be provided to the next Council meeting.

6. IMPACT

Public – The report may generate public interest as the issue of a byelaw has attracted public interest.

Equalities – there are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The issues identified in the report to Council on 21 August continue to exist.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council report – 21 August 2013

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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