

Report for Resolution

Report to Executive
25 June, 2008
Report of Head of Asset and City Management
Subject Charity Stall, Hay Hill

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Purpose

To confirm the letting policy for the Charity Stall, Hay Hill

Recommendations

That the Hay Hill Charity Stall is let solely for charitable purposes as defined in the Charity Act 2006

Financial Consequences

There are no financial consequences as a result of this report

Strategic Objective/Service Priorities

The report helps to achieve the corporate objective to make Norwich safe and secure, building strong and proud local communities and the service plan priority is to create opportunities for communities

Executive Member: Resources and Governance

Ward: Mancroft

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

None

Report

Charity Stall, Hay Hill

1. Background

- The City Council operates a 'Charity Stall' on Hay Hill, available to let at an administration fee only of £15.
- The Stall has proved popular and has regular users.
- The letting policy has not been clarified, and this has led to confusion about whether the stall can be used by all groups whether registered charities or otherwise, and for what purpose, such as fund raising or campaigning.
- The council has in Brigg Street in close proximity to Hay Hill an exhibitions / campaign space that has its own established lettings policy.

2. Current users and applicants

- Current Charity users include Farthing trust, Norwich Carers group and Age Concern – in all about 18 charity and church groups.
- Regular users who are not registered charities include Tibetan Refugee Children, Drayton Women's Fellowship and Macmillan Cancer Support, in all about 13 groups.
- All recent applications for running campaigns from the stall have been refused.
- Where applications have been turned down, these individuals and organisations have been directed to making an application for the Brigg Street site

3. Proposal

- We propose that a letting policy is introduced for this stall to clarify the future letting policy.
- The policy will be for lettings for 'charitable purposes' as defined by the Charities Act 2006
- All other campaign, commercial and other activities will be directed to making an application for the Council's Brigg Street space.
- A new online application form with detailed policy and guidance will be placed on the Council website

- The team responsible for letting of the stall will operate this lettings policy
- The location of the stall shall remain as Hay Hill, however we will retain the right to relocate it within that space from time to time

4. The Charities Act definition of charitable purposes

The Charities Act sets out the following descriptions of charitable purposes:

- a) the prevention or relief of poverty;
- b) the advancement of education;
- c) the advancement of religion;
- d) the advancement of health or the saving of lives;
- e) the advancement of citizenship or community development;
- f) the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science;
- g) the advancement of amateur sport;
- h) the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity;
- i) the advancement of environmental protection or improvement;
- j) the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage;
- k) the advancement of animal welfare;
- l) the promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown or of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance services;
- m) other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes which are similar to another charitable purpose.

5. Consultation

- Existing users groups have been consulted and asked for their views on this proposal in time for the Executive meeting, and all comments received will be circulated to the meeting.