

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE - 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2005
REPORT ON: STREET TRADING IN THE CITY CENTRE
REPORT BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SUPPORT SERVICES)
REPORT NO: 530-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review the position regarding the Committee's policy on street trading in the central area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That street trading with the exception of street photographers, face painters, caricaturists and balloon sellers continue to be excluded from the City Centre.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Street trading has been excluded in the central area for a number of years. Prior to the introduction of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, street trading was regulated by the Dundee Corporation (Consolidated Powers) Order 1969 and street trading other than street photography was excluded from the City Centre. In 1986, this prohibition was replaced by a byelaw under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and once again street trading was excluded with the exception of street photography.
- 6.2 Following the full implementation of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the byelaws were repealed and a condition again excluding street trading from the central area, with the exception of street photographers, was included in Street Traders' Licences. The exclusion zone was defined as the area bounded by the ring road. In the last few years, the policy has been relaxed to allow caricaturists, face painters and balloon sellers to trade within the City Centre.
- 6.3 The policy was introduced to prevent unfair competition to established local shops and to reduce the opportunities for individuals to sell counterfeit, faulty or stolen goods with little or no chance of being detected. To this extent, the policy has been extremely successful and is easy to police. As there is a total ban on anything other than the four exempt categories, anyone who trades in the City Centre can be easily identified by the ambassadors or the police and requested to desist.
- 6.4 A relaxation of the policy could lead to a proliferation of licensed street traders selling a range of goods in competition with the shops. It could also lead to unlicensed street traders who would be more difficult to identify and regulate.

- 6.5 Unlike markets which add some colour to the City Centre, the nature of street trading is sporadic in that traders usually arrive unannounced for short periods of time and move on making it very difficult for any checks to be carried out.
- 6.6 The City Council is striving for quality standards befitting a regional centre and it is therefore necessary to control the type of merchandise on sale in the City Centre. This is done at present through managed markets and quality stalls such as the Farmers' Market and the Continental Market which are both organised by the Economic Development Department. These are fairly easy to police as they are advertised in advance.
- 6.7 From a planning and transportation perspective, there has been considerable investment on qualitative improvements in the City Centre which has been successful and a proliferation of street traders would detract from this. There are also safety concerns as any crowds gathering could encroach on to the roadways or cause a general obstruction to pedestrians.
- 6.8 Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow City Councils all have policies restricting street trading in their cities.
- 6.9 All officers consulted were of the view that the status quo should remain.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Economic Development, the Director of Planning and Transportation, the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Signed: **Patricia McIlquham**
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

Date: **19 August 2005**