



## Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy consultation

**Open date:** 9 May 2023

**Close date:** 20 June 2023

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### Overview

**We want to hear your views on our draft Charitable Collections Policy for Buckinghamshire Council.**

As the Licensing Authority, we regulate:

- **house to house collections** – collection of money or goods from someone's home for charity
- **street collections** – collection of money or selling articles for charity in any street or public place (such as a shop doorway or car park)

There is no fee for a house to house collection licence or street collection permit, but you could be fined if you collect without a licence or permit.

### Draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy

The draft policy sets out:

- the legal requirements
- the application process
- our approach to preventing nuisance to residents and businesses in Buckinghamshire
- our approach to enforcing unlicensed activities

The draft policy aims to ensure that:

- the interests of public donors and beneficiaries are safeguarded
- collections are carried out to high standards by bona fide, authorised charitable organisations

- proceeds of the collection are properly accounted for
- a fair proportion of the proceeds are donated to registered charities
- unacceptable nuisance to the public is prevented
- unlicensed collections are prevented from taking place
- action is taken where there is evidence of unlicensed collection activity

The policy will cover the Buckinghamshire Council area. It will replace any charitable collections policies from the previous district councils.

### **Who the policy applies to**

This policy is for anyone applying to carry out either a house to house or street collection. It provides information for anyone collecting and members of the public affected.

Licensing applications must be made:

- at least 28 days before collecting
- no more than 12 months before collecting

### **How the draft policy has been developed**

The draft policy follows legislation, including the Model Regulations, and guidance from relevant organisations.

These include The National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers, Chartered Institute of Fundraisers, and the Fundraising Regulator.

More information about its development is included in the draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy.

### **Related documents**

Before you respond to this activity, please have a look at the following document. This is available online at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)

- Draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy

## How to have your say

You can tell us your views in one of the following ways:

- complete the online survey at [yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com](https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com)
- complete, and return, a printed version of the survey below
- email us at [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- write to us at Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy consultation, Licensing Services, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

If you have any questions about this consultation, please email us at [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or phone us on 01296 585605.

**Please tell us your views by midnight on Tuesday 20 June 2023.**

## What happens next

We will use your responses to develop the final Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy.

The policy will then be presented to our Licensing Committee for approval and adoption in Summer 2023.

We will review the policy every 5 years.

## Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions about data and privacy, please email us on [dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). Or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

## Printed consultation survey

### House to house collections

A licence is required to collect money or goods from someone's home for charity.

The purpose of regulating charitable collections is to protect residents, particularly the vulnerable, from being exploited and from fraudulent requests for donations.

There is currently no reference to collecting direct debit information in house to house collection regulations. Collecting direct debit information was not an option when the legislation came into force.

House to house collections can be carried out by commercial collectors on a charity's behalf. The percentage of collections given to charitable causes is not specified in law. We can determine whether to set a minimum amount.

It is recommended that licensing authorities avoid setting minimum amounts as the costs involved can vary substantially.

Rather than setting a minimum amount, we are proposing that the charity submits a declaration confirming they are satisfied with the amount being donated to charitable causes by commercial collectors.

We are proposing to:

- require a licence for collecting direct debit information house to house
  - to protect residents, particularly the vulnerable, from being exploited and from possible fraudulent requests for donations
- restrict house to house collections to 9:00am to 7:00pm – no collections will be permitted where a “no cold calling” or similar notice is displayed
  - to reduce the potential risk of nuisance
- allow only one house to house collection in any one council ward area on any given day
  - to further prevent the risk of nuisance
- grant licences for a maximum of 14 days
  - to give all charities equal opportunity



## 2. Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the proposals for house to house collections:

If you have any other comments about house to house collections, please tell us here.

## Street collections

A permit is required to collect money or sell articles for charity in any street or public place (such as a shop doorway or car park).

We can decide whether to regulate street collections for charitable or other purposes.

We are proposing to:

- regulate street collections by adopting the Model Regulations (see draft policy appendix 3) – the industry standard for street collections
  - to ensure openness, fairness and impartiality in determining applications
  - to use industry standards for how we regulate:
    - an authorisation to collect
    - collector's behaviour
    - where collections can take place
    - correct use of collection boxes
    - collating donations
    - post collection auditing
- restrict street collections to 8:00am to 8:00pm
  - to reduce the potential risk of nuisance
- limit street collections in any one location to one charity on any given day
  - to prevent nuisance to visitors and businesses
- restrict street collections to town and village centres



	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
Subject collectors proposing to use animals to additional checks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Require charities to submit a declaration confirming that they are satisfied with the amount being donated to charitable causes by commercial collectors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Require applicants to provide evidence of public liability insurance for a minimum of £5 million	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Street collections: Site Management Agreements

A street collection permit does not cover the collection of direct debit information. Site Management Agreements (SMA) set controls on where and when this type of fundraising can take place.

SMA's are agreed between Buckinghamshire Council and the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF).

We have Site Management Agreements in place for:

- Aylesbury town centre – on Mondays and Tuesdays
- High Wycombe town centre – on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

We are proposing that street collection permits will not be issued for these locations on the same days as direct debit fundraising. As per existing SMA's, we are proposing to:

- only issue street collection permits for Aylesbury town centre on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
- only issue street collection permits for Wycombe town centre on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

SMA's are not currently considered necessary for any other town centres in Buckinghamshire.



**4. Do you agree or disagree with the proposals for street collections related to Site Management Agreements?**

Please tick (✓) one option for each proposal

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
Only issue street collection permits for Aylesbury town centre on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only issue street collection permits for Wycombe town centre on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**5. Please tell us the reasons for your answers about the proposals for street collections:**

If you have any other comments about street collections, please tell us here.

**Other comments**

**6. How easy is the draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy to understand?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- Very easy
- Somewhat easy
- Not very easy
- Not at all easy
- I don't know

**If you think we could make the Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy easier to understand, please tell us how:**

**7. If you have any other comments about the draft Buckinghamshire Council Charitable Collections Policy, please tell us here:**

## **About you**

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

**8. Which of the following describe you?**

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I live in Buckinghamshire
- I work in Buckinghamshire
- I work for a charitable organisation in Buckinghamshire
- I study in Buckinghamshire
- I represent or own a business in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Buckinghamshire
- I am an elected representative in Buckinghamshire
- I represent a Parish / Town Council or Town Committee in Buckinghamshire
- I work for Buckinghamshire Council
- I work for a neighbouring local authority
- Other (please give details below):

**9. How did you find out about this consultation?**

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Nextdoor
- Buckinghamshire Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Buckinghamshire Council newsletter
- Email from Buckinghamshire Council
- From Buckinghamshire Council staff
- Through working at Buckinghamshire Council
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board
- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council
- Other (please give details below):

**10. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?**

Please tick (✓) one option

- As an individual (go to question 13)
- On behalf of an organisation

**On behalf of an organisation**

**11. Please provide the following details:**

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

## 12. Which of the following apply to your organisation?

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- House to house collections – collect money or goods from someone's home for charity
- Street collections – collect money or sell articles for charity in any street or public place (such as a shop doorway or car park)
- Collect direct debit information
- None of the above

**End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation**

## More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Buckinghamshire. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

## 13. What is your age?

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

**14. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disabilities, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?**

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (✓) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

**15. Are you:**

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

**16. How would you describe your ethnicity?**

**Why we ask this:** We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (✓) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below
- Black - African
- Black - British

**More answer options on the next page**

- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below
- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below
- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

## **End of the survey**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Please return your completed survey by midnight on **20 June 2023**. You can:

- email it to [licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)
- post it to Charitable Collections Policy consultation, Licensing Services, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF