

REPORT TO: PLACE SCRUTINY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Date of Meeting: (Place Scrutiny Committee) and (Executive Committee) 14 June and 10 July 2018

Report of: Director of Place

Title: Exeter City Clear Streets Charter

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

1. What is the report about?

The report introduces the Clear Street Charter for Exeter. The Charter sets out how Exeter City Council and Devon County Council propose to work together to ensure that the built environment of the City, is as safe and obstacle free as possible.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Committee Place and the Executive fully support the Charter and its aims.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 Getting around a busy City such as Exeter can prove to be a real challenge for anyone affected by sight loss or mobility problems. All pavement clutter has an adverse effect on confidence and mobility and the more difficult it is for people to get around, the less freedom and opportunity people have to participate in their local community. By working together with Devon County as the Highway Authority we can seek to ensure that our City Centre, shopping precincts and residential streets are as clear and free from obstacles as possible.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

- 4.1 There are no resource implications with supporting this proposal for the City Council, just a requirement for the issues to be considered during all planning, decision making and operational tasks such as licencing, refuse collection etc.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

- 6.1 The powers for the removal of obstacles and obstructions within the Public Highway fall to the Highway Authority. Under section 137 of the Highways Act 1980, it is an offence to wilfully obstruct the free passage along a highway (which includes footways). The Highway Authority in Exeter City is Devon County Council.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 Exeter is the Region's favourite shopping centre with a great range of stores from the well known high street chains to local independent retailers and quirky boutique style shops. The City has always been a welcoming place for shoppers with disabilities but the increasingly cluttered public areas are becoming a challenge for those with sight impairments or mobility problems.

8.3 Pavement clutter has an adverse effect as it makes getting around much harder. The more difficult it is to get around, the less freedom people have to participate in their local community which can lead to feelings of isolation.

8.4 The report sets out how Exeter City Council and Devon County Council are committed to working together on a number of issues to ensure that our streets and public areas are free from obstacles and as safe as possible for all

9. Human Resources considerations

9.1 Working together to reduce street clutter will help our staff members who are partially sighted or have mobility problems.

10. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1 The charter contributes to a safe and healthy city which increases the quality of life for all.

12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1 None.

15. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

15.1 The introduction of the Charter will help improve the built environment for all but particularly for people with mobility or sight problems.

16. Are there any other options?

16.1 There are no other options that will achieve the objectives identified in this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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