

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Cabinet	
<b>DATE:</b>		13 November 2019	
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>		Cllr Miles Parkinson, Leader	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Susan Hedges, Legal Services Manager	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		Political Canvassing on Broadway Accrington and the Town Square Great Harwood	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To request Cabinet to remove any restrictions relating to political canvassing (the systematic initiation of direct contact with individuals commonly used during political campaigns) on (i) Broadway Accrington (“Broadway”) and (ii) the Town Square Great Harwood (“the Town Square”) both shown outlined in red on the attached plans; and
- 1.2 To approve the use of Broadway and the Town Square for political canvassing.
- 1.3 To authorise the Executive Director (Environment) to agree the operation and management of political canvassing on Broadway and the Town Square

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to the removal of the current restrictions prohibiting political canvassing on Broadway and the Town Square; and
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the use of Broadway and the Town Square for political canvassing;
- 2.3 That Cabinet delegates to the Executive Director (Environment) authority to finalise the detail of how political canvassing will be managed and operated on Broadway and the Town Square including agreeing the process with the Company that the Council has appointed to manage Broadway.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 Broadway and the Town Square are popular spaces and the Council wants to make the best use that it can of these areas to benefit the residents of Hyndburn.
- 3.2 The Council is keen to encourage activities, events and entertainment on areas such as Broadway and the Town Square and now intends to widen the approved uses of both these areas. Currently charitable and leisure activities are generally permitted in these areas, subject to having been given the appropriate permissions and licences.
- 3.3 Political canvassing on Broadway and the Town Square has been prohibited for a number of years. At the time that this decision was taken by the Council it was considered to be a proportionate and reasonable approach. However as there are have been significant changes in the political climate over recent years it is not considered that the previous prohibition is still required.
- 3.4 The Council has approached the Company that manages the letting of space on Broadway. The detail as to how requests for political canvassing on Broadway will be processed and managed has not yet been agreed with the Company. The Council's Executive Director (Environment) will finalise this process in respect of both Broadway and the Town Square.

### **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The Council could continue to prohibit political canvassing on Broadway and the Town Square but this may mean not using these public spaces to their full potential.

### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 None

### **6. Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	There are no direct financial implications for the Council
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	Political Canvassing on Broadway and the Town Square will be subject to approval/permission from the Council or its contractor
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	The risks will be minimal provided that the process of obtaining permission is properly managed throughout
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy</i>	

<i>decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	
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7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**  
**List of Background Papers**

7.1 Not applicable