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Author: Lynda Powell, Town Clerk  
Committee: Full Council: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Agenda Item: FC49 Street Marshal  
Date: 2.8.2024

1 **Purpose.** To consider options for the Street Marshal position for the remainder of the summer season 2024.

2 **Decision Required.** To consider options at 5.

### 3 **Background**

3.1 Looe Town Council has been employing a Street Marshal to direct the traffic since 2020. COVID funding was initially used to finance this position but in recent years this post has been funded by the Town Council.

3.2 The post has been well received by businesses and the local community.

3.3 The post does reduce traffic in the town. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 60 cars and 44 vans/lorries had a right of access and proceeded through the town. 39 cars were redirected.

3.4 The Street Marshals operate between mid-June and the end of September (Thursday-Sunday).

3.5 This position is currently vacant after the resignation of the Street Marshal.

### 4 **Limitations**

4.1 The Street Marshal can only act in an advisory capacity. They can request traffic stops but they have no power to stop traffic.

4.2 It can be difficult to recruit to this role and no one has held this position for more than one season.

4.3 Training is available which would give this position the power to stop traffic. However, the shortness of the contract and retention issues means that this is not a cost-effective option.

4.4 The Street Marshal has been subject to abuse and aggressive behaviour. Other Town and Parish Councils have withdrawn this role due to the risks associated with this position.

## 5 Options

- a) It is late in the season to recruit to this role, but Council may wish to explore if this position could be readvertised and filled.
- b) Alternatively, Council may wish to wait until 2025 to recruit.
- c) The successful contracting of security patrols for the town offers an alternative model for fulfilling the requirement to manage traffic in the town. The Clerk has discussed this option with our current contractor and while they do not have capacity at present, they would be able to offer this service in future years. Council may wish to explore if a company could provide this service in 2025.
- d) One of the Council's current priorities is pedestrian's and traffic in town. A suitable, cost-effective scheme that emphasises that this is an access only area for residents and deliveries may negate the need for a street marshal in future years.