



Dear Councillor

LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No.**

8. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS (Pages 3 - 10)
a) St Neots Eynesbury

To receive an update on the Public Spaces Protection Order for Eynesbury which was put into place on 17th July 2024.

b) Ramsey

To receive an update on the Public Spaces Protection Order for Ramsey which was put into place on 7th November 2024.

(a) COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM UPDATE (Pages 11 - 14)
The Committee is invited to comment on the Community Action Team Update Report.

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Public
Key Decision – Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Public Spaces Protection Order (Eynesbury)

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
5th June 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Residents Services and Corporate Performance, Councillor S W Ferguson

Report by: Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Eynesbury

Executive Summary:

On 27th June 2024, the Licencing and Protection Committee supported the proposed implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle anti-social behaviour that was occurring in a localised area of Eynesbury, St Neots.

The PSPO came into place on 17th July 2024 and included the installation of a CCTV camera on the corner of Berkley Street, Montagu Street and St Mary's Street to assist in the prevention and detection of crime. Since this date, the Community Action Team and St Neots Neighbourhood Policing Team have worked in partnership to respond to reports.

On 16th October 2024, the PSPO was reviewed by the Committee, and statistics backed by the views of the public showed that the PSPO had been successful in reducing the number of incidents occurring at the location.

In January 2025, the second review of the PSPO was completed which confirmed that there had been 5 breaches between October-December 2024.

In March 2025, the third review of the PSPO was completed and there was a total of 1 identified breach for January and February 2025.

This report is the fourth, and the first annual review of the Eynesbury PSPO.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 On 27 June 2024 the Licencing and Protection Committee agreed with the recommendation for a proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Eynesbury, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking and public camping in the churchyard. Committee Members requested that an update be provided, on enforcement outcomes following the implementation of the PSPO.
- 1.2 On 17th July 2024, the PSPO was introduced in Eynesbury with signage installed to notify residents/visitors to the area of the prohibitions and the area covered by the PSPO.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for Eynesbury has provided the following update for this report:

“From a Police perspective the PSPO has been positive and has had little in the way of any complaints regarding breaches from persons within the PSPO area. PCSO’s are patrolling the areas on a regular basis when on shift, and the PC is monitoring. In terms of resourcing, the team has been reduced so our capacity to patrol the area has reduced since the PSPO was introduced. We are effectively relying on calls for service and CCTV captures to progress any breaches now until numbers improve.”
- 1.4 In terms of reports of breaches of the PSPO to Huntingdonshire District Council, there have been 0 in the months of March, April and May 2025.
- 1.5 Cambridgeshire Constabulary received 1 potential breach of the PSPO between March, April and May 2025. This was a report of a tent in the churchyard of St Mary’s Church on 24/05/2025. Upon a site visit on 27/05/2025 by HDC, there was no evidence of a tent or anyone living in the area, therefore no breach was proven at this stage. However, this will be monitored by HDC and Police.
- 1.6 CCTV is still operating in the area provided by HDC’s CCTV service.
- 1.7 As this report is the first annual review of the PSPO, below is the annual figure from July 2024 – May 2025:

Total recorded breaches for the year: **8**

The District Council Housing Team have provided the following statement on the impact of the PSPO over the last year:

‘The Housing Needs Team found the PSPO a useful tool to help manage some of the issues that had emerged in the area from rough sleeping as well as the behaviours of some residents that were placed in emergency temporary accommodation that congregated in the area. The multi-agency approach required through the implementation of the PSPO helped bring some of these nuisance issues under control and meant that swift action was taken where other issues began to emerge. The provider of emergency housing in the area was also an active participant

in helping reduce behaviours of residents that may have led to nuisance for some of the residents in the area, with swift action being taken against any perpetrators in partnership with the Housing Needs Team’.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 **Section 59** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes Public Spaces Protection Orders a statutory provision of Huntingdonshire District Council. To make a PSPO, HDC must be satisfied that on reasonable grounds two conditions are met:

2.2

1. Activities carried on in a public place within the authority’s area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.
2. The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities –
 - a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
 - b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
 - c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2.3 **Section 60** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets the duration of a PSPO for no more than 3 years, unless extended under this section.

2.4 **Section 66** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an interested party the right to apply to the High Court to question the validity of a PSPO, or variation of a PSPO within 6 weeks from when the order or variation was made.

2.5 **Section 67** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that they are prohibited from by the PSPO or fail to comply with a requirement of the PSPO. Conviction may result in up to six months imprisonment, or a fine of up to £1000.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Continued enforcement of the proposed PSPO for Eynesbury will utilise resource from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HDC’s Community Action Team.

3.2 HDC’s Community Action Team will respond to reports of anti-social behaviour, including PSPO breaches as part of their day-to-day duties.

3.3 A deployable CCTV camera has been provided by HDC’s CCTV Department, at a cost of £1800 for 6 months. Funding for this camera has been sourced and funded by HDC’s Communities Department.

3.4 HDC’s CCTV Department will continue to conduct 24-hour monitoring and review incidents at the location via HDC’s CCTV Control Room.

- 3.5 This order will remain in place until July 2027. In this time, HDC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary will continue to ensure the conditions of the PSPO will remain enforced proactively and reactively. The Community Action Team will provide Licensing and Protection Committee Members with an annual progress report to notify any amendments to the PSPO by the Public Protection Manager, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the works undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour in this area of Eynesbury. From July 2027 the Community Action Team will begin a process of consulting with members of the public and Elected Members to determine whether there is necessity to extend the duration of the PSPO. The results of this consultation will be shared with Licensing and Protection Committee members.

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**Public
Key Decision – Yes**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Public Spaces Protection Order (Ramsey)

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
5th June 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Residents Services and
Corporate Performance, Councillor S W
Ferguson

Report by: Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Ramsey

Executive Summary:

On 16th October 2024, the Licencing and Protection Committee supported the proposed implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle anti-social behaviour that was occurring in a localised area of Great Whyte, Ramsey.

The Public Spaces Protection Order came into place on 7th November 2024. Since this date, the Community Action Team and St Neots Neighbourhood Policing Team have worked in partnership to respond to reports and patrol the area of the Great Whyte (and surrounding areas). There is pre-existing CCTV in the Great Whyte area of Ramsey monitored by HDC's CCTV department.

A first review report was completed in January 2025, which reviewed the PSPO's impact from October - December. This concluded 2 breaches in which Fixed Penalty Notices were issued, and one possible breach, however Police were unable to proceed due to insufficient evidence and identification.

A second review report was completed in March 2025, which reviewed January and February. This concluded 1 breach in this timeframe, and it was noted that the PSPO was having a positive impact on the local area.

This report will be a third review of the imposed PSPO in Ramsey for March, April and May 2025.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 On 16th October 2024 the Licencing and Protection Committee agreed with the recommendation for a proposed Public Space Protection Order for Ramsey, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking. Committee Members also requested that an update be provided, on enforcement outcomes following the implementation of the PSPO.
- 1.2 On 7th November 2024, the PSPO was introduced in Ramsey where signage was installed to notify residents / visitors to the area of the conditions and location covered by the PSPO. This was completed jointly between HDC's Community Action Team and St Ives Neighbourhood Policing Team. Social media coverage was also released on both organisations' accounts, as well as local news outlets.
- 1.3 In March, April and May 2025, there has been 1 reported breach of the PSPO on 31 March 2025 to Huntingdonshire District Council. A statement was taken from the victim, and this has been dealt with jointly by Police and Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 1.4 HDC have received no other reports of breaches of the PSPO, other than stated above.
- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Policing team have received a total of 3 breaches in the March-May 2025 period, detailed below:

11/04/2025 - Reporting 3 people sitting on the benches drinking alcohol male and female at 14:42. Suspects unable to be identified.

29/04/2025 - Report 4 x males and a dog sat on the benches drinking alcohol and being very rowdy. This remains under investigation.

30/04/2025 – individuals sitting on the green of New Road also seen on the benches near the clock. This remains under investigation.
- 1.6 HDC have received positive feedback on the PSPO from the town council and councillors and will continue to monitor the street drinking issues as we progress through the summer.
- 1.7 HDC's CCTV department have a camera located along the Great Whyte that was pre-existing to the PSPO and will continue to be monitored.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 **Section 59** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes Public Spaces Protection Orders a statutory provision of Huntingdonshire District Council. To make a PSPO, HDC must be satisfied that on reasonable grounds two conditions are met:
- 2.2 Activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality or is likely

that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities –

- a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2.3 **Section 60** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets the duration of a PSPO for no more than 3 years, unless extended under this section.

2.4 **Section 66** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an interested party the right to apply to the High Court to question the validity of a PSPO, or variation of a PSPO within 6 weeks from when the order or variation was made.

2.5 **Section 67** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that they are prohibited from by the PSPO or fail to comply with a requirement of the PSPO. Conviction may result in up to six months imprisonment, or a fine of up to £1000.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Continued enforcement of the proposed PSPO for Ramsey will utilise resource from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HDC's Community Action Team.

3.2 HDC's Community Action Team will respond to reports of anti-social behaviour, including PSPO breaches as part of their day-to-day duties.

3.3 A CCTV camera is already in place along Great Whyte Ramsey, monitored by HDC's CCTV Department.

3.4 HDC's CCTV Department will continue to conduct 24-hour monitoring and review of incidents at the location via HDC's CCTV Control Room.

4.0 This order will remain in place until November 2027. In this time, HDC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary will continue to ensure the conditions of the PSPO will remain enforced proactively and reactively. The Community Action Team will provide Licensing and Protection Committee Members with an annual progress report to notify of any amendments to the PSPO by the Community Services Manager, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of the works undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour in this area of Ramsey. From November 2027 the Community Action Team will begin a process of consulting with members of the public and Elected Members to determine whether there is necessity to extend the duration of the PSPO for Ramsey. The results of this consultation will be shared with Licensing and Protection Committee members.

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Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Action Team Figures from Jan 2025
– Outcomes of Performance

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
5th June 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Residents Services and
Corporate Performance, Councillor S W
Ferguson

Report by: Community Action Team Leader

Ward(s) affected: Huntingdonshire

Executive Summary:

On the 19th of March 2025, following on from a meeting held by the Licencing and Protection Committee. It was highlighted that it may be beneficial to highlight the work that Community Action Team.

This would include a breakdown of their duties and outcomes which lead to positive impacts within the district.

This breakdown will highlight Environmental Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Dog related issues including the management of the districtwide Dog PSPO.

A further breakdown of sanctions and results from legal proceedings are also within this update report.

1. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

1.1 Data provided within this report highlights figures from the Community Action Team from 01 January 2025 to 30 April 2025.

1.2 From 01 January 2025 to 30 April 2025 the Community Action Team received a total of 844 Service Requests into the service.
The breakdown for these is as follows:

Fly Tipping – 598
Abandoned Vehicles – 176
Anti-Social Behaviour – 60
Littering – 9
Bin issues – 8
Stray Dogs – 39
Dog Fouling – 30
Dog Control – 44

1.4 Response time for Service requests within 5 working days were met at 97.34% (Required performance percentage of 90%).

1.5 Preventative Sanctions:
From 01 January 2025 to 30 April 2025, 34 preventative or intervention sanctions have been issued by the Community Action Team.
This breakdown is as follows:
10 Dog Sanctions (Community Protection Warnings /Community Protection Notices), 3 ASB (CPW), 12 waste offences (CPW), 9 vehicles seized and stored.

1.6 Fixed Penalty Notices:
From 01 January 2025 to 30 April 2025, a total of 4 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued. These were in relation to Breach of Dog PSPO (two), Not holding a valid waste carry licence (one), Duty of Care for Fly-Tipping (one).

1.7 Prosecutions:
From 01 January 2025 to 30 April 2025 the Community Action Team had two cases proceed to Court; The council received positive outcomes for both cases. The outcomes are as follows:

Case 1 – Breach of Dog PSPO - £100 Fixed Penalty Notice unpaid –
Court Summary: £440.00 Fine, £176.00 Victim Surcharge, £973.00
Costs. Total £1589.00

Case 2 – Breach of Dog PSPO - £100 Fixed Penalty Notice unpaid –
Court Summary: £500.00 Fine, £120.00 Victim Surcharge, £500.00
Costs. Total £1120.00

If the committee would like to receive any further information from this report, or would like the opportunity to discuss the daily works of the Community Action team please contact the report author.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- 2.2 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- 2.3 Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act 2005
- 2.4 Control of Dogs Order 1992
- 2.5 Dangerous Dog Act 1991
- 2.5 Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 2.6 Refuse Disposal Act 1988
- 2.7 Waste Regulations 2011 & 2012
- 2.8 Removal and Disposal of Vehicle regulations 1986&2008

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