

A meeting of the **LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE** will be held in **THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOMS (CONINGSBY/BOURN ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2024** at **2:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 20)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 15th and 22nd May 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27th June 2024.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda Item. See Notes below.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

3. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (RAMSEY) (Pages 21 - 54)

To consider a report seeking approval for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in response to increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour in Ramsey Great Whyte.

Contact Officer: Georgia Patterson - (01480) 388388

4. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER EYNESBURY
(Pages 55 - 58)

To receive an update on the implementation of the Public Space Protection Order to tackle anti-social behaviour in an area of Eynesbury in St Neots.

Contact Officer: Ashley Dolling - (01480) 387067

5. DELEGATION OF PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOS) TO OFFICERS (Pages 59 - 80)

To consider a report by the Community Services Manager.

Contact Officer: Claudia Deeth - (01480) 388233

6. MONITORING REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS (Pages 81 - 90)

To consider the monitoring report on the delivery of Service Plans for Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Regulation for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2024/25.

Contact Officer: K Penn - (01480) 388362

7. SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES (Pages 91 - 94)

To consider a report on actions taken under the powers delegated by the Licensing and Protection Committee.

Contact Officer: Licensing Team - (01480) 387075

8. LICENSING AND PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEES (Pages 95 - 96)

To receive a summary of the meetings of the Licensing and Protection Sub-Committees that have taken place since the last meeting of the Committee.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

8th day of October 2024

Michelle Sacks

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests](#) is available in the Council's Constitution

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Please contact Democratic Services, Tel: 01480 388169 / email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 15 May 2024

PRESENT: Councillor B S Banks – Chair.

Councillors M L Beuttell, S Bywater, J Clarke, A E Costello, S W Ferguson, S A Howell, D Terry and C H Tevlin.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S J Criswell and P A Jordan.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair announced that he proposed to admit two items of urgent business in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act relating to St Neots Public Space Protection Order and St Neots Civil Injunction on the town centre for anti social behaviour as these items of business could not be deferred.

25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26 MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

27 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

With the assistance of a report by the Licensing Officer (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Committee considered the contents of a draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy for the Council. The Policy was first introduced in 2018 and as part of its implementation, it had been agreed to review the policy every three years.

Members were informed that the Policy had been revised to address new and statutory duties placed upon the Council and the review had also provided an opportunity to revisit a number of existing areas of the policy which had been adopted in 2021. The review had also permitted a examination of the introduction of new legislation, statutory guidance and the impact of changing economic conditions.

The Committee were advised that the changes proposed were in keeping with regulatory codes of conduct, statutory guidance and the Council's Corporate Plan and that changes would create a clearer, concise, and more consistent policy which would benefit the public, the licensed trade, and the licensing team.

All costs associated with the implementation of the policy would be financed from the receipt of licence fees.

A public consultation had taken place between 30th January and 25th March 2024 and 31 responses had received. Details of which were provided to Members of the Committee.

Members proceed to then review and discuss in detail the responses received to those conditions where changes were proposed, together with the Licensing team's responses, and the final proposal or options for inclusion within the revised policy. These were grouped by Driver Conditions (Appendix 4), Vehicle Conditions (Appendix 5) and Private Hire Operator Conditions (Appendix 6).

Driver Conditions (Appendix 4)

In discussing the proposed introduction of a further appropriate formal driving qualification to improve driver competency (Section 4 – 39.4) the Committee were of the view that the proposed condition needed to be more specific to state which qualification would be required. Officers agreed that this would be made clear both in the final documentation and on the District Council's website. The Committee then indicated their approval for the inclusion of this condition.

Vehicle Conditions (Appendix 5)

The Committee discussed the responses which had been received regarding the need to display signage on Private Hire vehicles when they were not been used for licensed purposes. Having noted that the request had been made for privacy and safety reasons, the Committee indicated their support to enable signage to be removed when licensed drivers were using their vehicles for private use. With regards to the proposal to remove the additional door signage for Hackney Carriages, the Committee confirmed that they were content with this proposal.

The Committee then discussed the proposals as outlined in Section 26.5 – 26.8 of the draft Policy such that once any vehicle currently licensed under retained grandfather rights ceased to be licensed, they could no longer transfer their plate to any other vehicle. Having reviewed the responses received on this matter and the comments of the Licensing team, Members commented on the lack of available wheelchair accessible vehicles within the district and noted that the Equalities Act had been in place since 2010. Whilst recognising the commercial constraints placed on vehicle operators, the Committee indicated their support for this change.

The Committee went on to discuss proposed emission standard requirements for new and existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licences as set out in Section 16.1 and 16.2 of the draft policy. Members were informed that this had attracted a significant response from the trade. Although a number of responses had been in support as it would remove the 5-year age restriction on the age of the vehicle, a number of negative responses had been received relating to the financial burden this may place on the trade. With this in mind and to minimise the impact on vehicle licence holders, the Committee indicated their support for the gradual approach set out in Proposals 1 and 2 within Appendix 5 to the report. This would mean that from 1 January 2025, any existing licensed Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle must meet Euro 5 emission standards,

with existing licensed Wheelchair Accessible Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicles having until June 2025. Having noted that some neighbouring authorities had already shifted to an Ultra Low Emission Vehicles or electric hybrid requirement, Members were of the opinion that it was not the right time to adopt this approach in Huntingdonshire. Officers agreed that there was insufficient infrastructure within the district at the current time and the proposed approach represented a graduated step towards cleaner emissions.

With regards to the proposal to introduce a requirement that Certificate of Compliance checks be undertaken on a six-monthly basis for those vehicles which are 8 years or older, the Committee were advised that this had generated responses from the public consultation. The responses had referred to the additional costs being placed upon the trade and had suggested that vehicles were being targeted due to their age. However, the Committee were advised that an increasing number of vehicles were failing their inspections due to safety concerns. Having noted the results of a benchmarking exercise with other District Council's within the Cambridgeshire County area and the view of officers that 8 years was an appropriate age to undertake these checks, Members of the Committee indicated their support for this change to the policy given their duty to protect public safety.

Having noted that the final wording of the Section 24.9 would be clarified to confirm that card payments must be offered as an alternative to cash payments, the Committee confirmed their support for this change so that passengers were offered a choice of payment methods. In response to a comment regarding a member's personal experience with a driver who had asked for a bank transfer in lieu of payment for a fare, the Licensing Manager suggested that the wording could be amended to specify a card payment within the vehicle and not as a bank transfer. It was also reiterated that safety concerns were one of the main reasons that the proposal had been incorporated into the revised policy.

In drawing the discussion to a close, the Committee confirmed that they were in support of the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 5 – Vehicle Conditions.

Private Hire Operator Conditions (Appendix 6)

The Committee then went on to review the proposed changes to Private Hire Operator Conditions. In doing so, Members discussed appropriate training for drivers and to assist wheelchair users in wheelchair accessible vehicles. (Sections 1.1, 1.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 26.12). The Committee discussed specifically training for those driving wheelchair accessible vehicles and acknowledged that this was important to improve the confidence of the wheelchair using community to utilise taxi services. Members agreed they would not wish to place a requirement upon all licence holders and new applicants to undergo additional wheelchair accessibility training as this would place a significant burden on the trade. However, the Committee agreed to support an amendment to the wording of Section 26.12, such that it was the Operator's responsibility to ensure that their drivers had been appropriately trained in the use of wheelchair accessible vehicles and relevant belts and other restraints.

In reviewing the remainder of the proposed changes, the Committee indicated that they had no objections to changing the wording of Condition 1.3 in accordance with the recommendations of the Licensing Officer, to ensure that

Operators complied with their obligations under the Immigration Act and to reflect the comments which had been made during the consultation regarding the difference between directly employed and self-employed drivers.

In discussing whether an Operators name and contact information must be displayed on a Private Hire vehicle, the Committee consider the feedback which had been received in support and against the proposals and noted that there was good rationale on both sides. Guidance from the Department for Transport on the matter was also noted to be contradictory. However, the Committee concluded that it was necessary and most appropriate for the district, and therefore the condition should be included for all Private Hire vehicles.

The Committee then reviewed the proposed changes to conditions relating to Operator premises which were open to the public during the nighttime economy hours (Sections 4.6 and 4.7). In doing so, the Committee agreed that it was appropriate given an Operator's responsibilities to their own employees and that as the proposal did not explicitly require security, a new condition should be included to require Private Hire Operators to conduct an ongoing risk assessment to ensure that where it was considered necessary, sufficient SIA security were present at the premises. That way should any disturbances occur, there would be greater regulatory control and any additional cost would only be incurred if it were considered necessary. The Committee were also advised that the times within these Section 4.7 relating to the provision of hot food and drink should be amended to 23.00hrs to 05:00 hrs.

The Committee discussed the inclusion of proposal not to permit overseas call centres to be used by private hire operators due to the requirement of all dispatch staff requiring a basic DBS certificate. (Section 6.7). Having noted the requirements of Department of Transport guidance on the matter and the views of the Licensing Team on a proposal put forward as part of the public consultation that the Council should permit certificates of good conduct as an alternative, the Committee outlined their support for the requirement for DBS checks for despatch staff and the inclusion of this condition. Detail was also provided to Committee members on the detail of checks undertaken by the Disclosure and Barring service and Members noted that regulation of this by the Licensing Authority would evolve as time progressed.

Finally, the Committee outlined their support for a proposal that Operators must maintain a list of current despatchers and have sight of a basic DBS disclosure. Members were advised that due to comments that had been received as part of the public consultation exercise, the list of employees that required a check would be made clearer within the final documentation.

The Committee confirmed that they were in support of the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 6 – Private Hire Operator Conditions.

Whereupon and having concluded the discussion on this item, it was.

RESOLVED

that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (as set out in Appendix 1) be approved to take effect from 3rd June 2024.

28 BUSINESS AND PLANNING ACT 2020 - PAVEMENT LICENCE

With the assistance of a report by the Licensing Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Committee were informed that new legislation came into force on 31st March 2024 which had made permanent changes to the temporary pavement licensing regime which was introduced under the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Members were advised of the main changes which had been introduced as part of the new legislation. These included the introduction of maximum standard fees for new and renewal applications, an increase in the maximum term a licence can be granted, changes to the timescales for consultation and determination and guidance regarding the minimum width of clear space. Details of mandatory and local conditions were also provided, and the Committee were also informed that enforcement powers would transfer from the Highways Authority to the District Council.

The Committee's attention was then drawn to the proposed fees which the District Council wished to charge for new and renewal applications and Members were acquainted with the rationale for the decision to split the fees between applications of 5 tables / 20 chairs and above and not to charge the maximum permitted. The Licensing Manager explained that the fees charged would be reviewed in a 12-month period.

Having welcomed the permanent implementation of the streamlined approach towards the issue of pavement licences, it was

RESOLVED

a) that changes to the temporary pavement licensing regime and proposed transitional arrangements be noted;

b) that the fees for applications be set as follows:

	Fee A – Up to a maximum of 5 Tables and/or chairs	Fee B – Over 5 tables and/or 20 chairs
New Licence for up to 2 Years	£330	£380
Renewal Licence for up to 2 Years	£240	£280

c) the length of the licence be granted for 2 years or less by exception only;

d) that any appeal following refusal of an application or revocation of a licence be referred to the Licensing and Protection Sub-Committee.

29 MONITORING REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS

With the assistance of a report by the Environmental Health Service Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee received and

noted an update on progress made against the delivery of work on the Council's Food Law and Health and Safety Service Plans during the fourth quarter of 2023/24.

With regards to the Food Law Enforcement Plan, the Committee were advised that the main focus continued to be the inspection programme. With this in mind, Members were advised that 264 food hygiene inspections had been carried out during Quarter 4, which gave a total of 768 inspections for the year 2023-24 which was in excess of the level predicted. Members also noted that there had been 78 new business registrations which was slightly less than previous quarters but reflected the continuing flux of food businesses.

Progress against the inspection of premises categorised under the Alternative Enforcement Strategy remained at Red, however the Committee were pleased to note that additional temporary resources had been secured to bring those businesses back into the inspection programme. Members were reminded that Category E businesses were those deemed the lowest risk within the District.

The Committee were informed that there had been nine compliance checks undertaken within the quarter, at those premises where food hygiene inspections had identified issues that required attention. The level of activity had been slightly higher than predicted for the year which reflected the fact that some of the businesses had not been inspected for 4 years.

Members also noted that requests for export certificates had been lower than anticipated and predicted income had been adjusted accordingly. However, requests for rescores continued to be higher than anticipated and Members suggested that this was a positive reflection on the engagement that the team were undertaking.

The Committee were also informed that the Authority had continued to take part in the sampling activities offered by the UK Health Security Agency. The topics had been 'Ready to Eat Salad and salad components from Retail and Catering' and 'Cooked Ready to Eat Sliced or Cut Meat from retail and catering premises'.

It was also reported that the level of activity with regard to infectious disease control had increased slightly due to the UK Health Security Agency restarting notifications of certain confirmed food and waterborne gastrointestinal pathogens. There had been approximately 10 cases within the current year.

With regards to Health and Safety activity within the quarter, it was noted that the majority of work undertaken was reactive. There were 16 accidents reported, of which 5 were investigated and Members were reminded that the selection of accidents for investigation was based on the risk-based criteria set out by the Health and Safety Executive. There were 26 other service requests responded to, the majority of which were licensing consultations, and 11 skin piercing registrations were processed within the quarter.

Having congratulated the Environmental Health Team for getting the delivery of work within the approved plans back on target following the difficulties experienced in Covid, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

Consideration was given to a report by the Environmental Health Service Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement for 2024-25.

The Committee were reminded that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires every local authority to outline how it will fulfil its duty to deliver food controls in the form of a Service Plan, specifying how and at what level the official controls will be delivered. It also details the resources required to deliver it, together with a review of the previous year's performance. Brief details of the regulatory controls included within the Plan were then provided for Members of the Committee.

Members were informed that on 1st April 2024 there were 1654 food businesses registered in Huntingdonshire, which was a reduction of 88 businesses compared to the previous year. The Committee noted that the main priority for the year would be the continuation of the inspection programme which was largely back on track following the suspension and catch-up period after the global pandemic. The Service would also continue with the other activities such as requests for service, giving advice to businesses, investigating infectious disease and the follow up of any food alerts for action.

Members also noted the intention to continue with the presentation of monitoring reports to the Committee on a quarterly basis and that these would include the same performance indicators as in the previous year.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2024-25 be approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution; and
- b) that quarterly monitoring reports be requested to monitor progress against the Service Plan.

31 SERVICE PLAN FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION

Consideration was given to a report by the Environmental Health Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached the 2024-25 Draft Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation.

The Committee was advised that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was the National Regulator for Health and Safety and required every Local Authority to outline how it would fulfil its duty to make adequate arrangements for the enforcement of the relevant statutory provisions within its area.

Having noted that the Authority did not have a duty to enforce Health and Safety in every type of business, the Committee were advised the Service Plans priorities were influenced by the content of the National Local Authority Enforcement Code, the Local Authority Circular 67/2 and the Corporate Plan 2023-28. Members note that the Authority would use this to select relevant incidents, accidents, diseases, dangerous occurrences and complaints for investigation to ensure that resources were targeted effectively.

The Committee were advised that the Authorities main activity for the forthcoming year would be responding to service requests as they came in. However, it was also intended to deliver a programme of targeted and regulatory interventions relating to inflatable amusement devices, electrical safety in hospitality settings, cooling towers in built up areas and safety in marina settings.

Members also noted that performance reports would continue to be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Having agreed to check the reference to the number of large market towns with the District, it was

RESOLVED

(a) that the Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation 2024-25 be approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution; and

(b) that quarterly reporting figures on progress against the Service Plan be requested for consideration by the Committee.

32 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES

With the assistance of a report by the Licensing Team (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee received and noted the details of actions which had been taken under delegated authority during the period 11th January to 1st May 2024.

In considering the contents of the report, the Committee noted the number of immediate suspensions listed at the end of April and were advised that work was ongoing within the Licensing team to look at an operator who were not considered to be taking care of their vehicles in a safe and suitable way. In response to members questions, the Licensing Manager also provided an explanation of the ways in which vehicle defects were identified.

Members were informed that there were currently no outstanding licensing decisions awaiting a court date. The last case was withdrawn the day before the applicant was due to appear in court.

33 LICENSING AND PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEES

With the assistance of a report by the Elections and Democratic Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee received and noted details of a meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee which had taken place since their last meeting.

34 ST NEOTS PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

The Committee received a verbal update on a proposal to undertake a public consultation exercise regarding the possible implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address issues being experienced with anti-social behaviour in a specific area of the Eynesbury ward in St Neots.

Having received a briefing on the background to the proposal, the Committee were provided with further details regarding the specific locations and the non-criminal behaviours which were intended to be addressed by the Order. Although these were subject to change, depending on the outcome of the public consultation.

In terms of the consultation exercise, the Committee were advised that this would include residents, local businesses and elected members and in response to their questions it was noted that the current intention was for any Order to be in place for a period of 3 years. Enforcement would be undertaken jointly by the Police and the District Council.

Having noted that the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order would need to be approved by the Licensing and Protection Committee, Members were also informed of the intention to convene a Special Meeting of the Committee in advance of the August recess, and it was hoped to circulate a date shortly.

35 ST NEOTS CIVIL INJUNCTION

The Committee received a verbal update on proposals to consult on the possible implementation of a Civil Injunction under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address ongoing problems being experienced in St Neots High Street with youths climbing onto the roofs of business premises in the area. It was intended that this would cover the whole of the high street area and include any persons yet unknown. Members would be provided with further details as part of the consultation.

Chair

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 **ON THE RISING OF THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

PRESENT: Councillors B S Banks, M L Beuttell, S Bywater, A E Costello, S J Criswell, S W Ferguson, I D Gardener, S A Howell, P A Jordan, P Kadewere and D Terry and N Wells.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

A proposal to elect Councillor M L Beuttell to the Chair of the Committee was moved and seconded. On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be LOST.

A proposal to elect Councillor N Wells to the Chair of the Committee was then moved and seconded, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor N Wells be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2 MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

A proposal to appoint Councillor S Criswell to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was moved and seconded. On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be LOST.

A proposal to appoint Councillor B S Banks to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was then moved and seconded, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor B S Banks be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Chair

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE held in the GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOMS (CONINGSBY & BOURN), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 27 June 2024

PRESENT: Councillor N Wells – Chair.

Councillors B S Banks, M L Beuttell, A E Costello, S W Ferguson, I D Gardener, P A Jordan, P Kadewere and D Terry.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bywater, S J Criswell and S A Howell.

4 MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

5 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (EYNESBURY)

With the assistance of a report by the Community Protection and Enforcement Team Leader (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee considered a proposal for the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in response to increasing concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour in the Eynesbury area of St Neots, predominantly attributed towards temporary accommodation guests staying at the Nags Head Hotel on Berkley Street, Eynesbury.

The Committee were advised of the background to the proposal, together with the types of behaviours which residents and visitors to the area were experiencing. Information on the efforts which had already been undertaken to address the issues arising within the locality was also provided. Members attention was then drawn to the enforcement options which were available to the District Council to address this anti-social behaviour under the Crime and Policing Act 2014, and which had been considered in determining the preferred option for addressing the issues in the area.

Members were informed that a public consultation had been carried out between 30th May to 14th June 2024 on the proposal which had produced 48 responses. Forty-seven of which had been in support of the proposed PSPO and the proposed conditions. Attention was then drawn to the risks associated with the PSPO should it be considered, which are outlined in detail in Section 4.2 of the report.

The Committee were informed that enforcement of the proposed PSPO for Eynesbury would utilise resources from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the District Council's Community Protection and Enforcement Team.

In discussing the proposals and the options presented to them, the Committee were informed that monthly meetings would be held between the Police and the District Council to review the enforcement and the efficacy of the conditions in reducing anti-social behaviour in the area. If it was found not to be effective, consideration could be given to utilising alternative methods of Anti-Social legislation. Confirmation was also sought as to the effectiveness of PSPOs in other areas in reducing anti-social behaviours and the Committee were advised that there were examples of other authorities, including the District Council utilising them for all sorts of issues in a successful manner.

Members commented on the likelihood of collecting any fixed penalty fines given the financial status of the majority of perpetrators and it was explained that in most cases officers would be seeking prosecutions.

Clarification was also sought on the funding which had been made available for the deployable CCTV cameras. Members were informed that funding had been secured for 6 months and it was hoped that this would be replaced by further grant funding going forward should the PSPO prove to be effective. Comment was also made regarding the potential to seek funding / support from other authorities who were placing individuals in the area. In response to which the Executive Councillor explained the process under which local authorities placed individuals in overflow temporary accommodation outside of their authority area and reiterated that such individuals remained under the control of that authority and the District Council could not influence the way in which that authority operated.

Councillor D Terry as Ward Councillor for Eynesbury reported on the concerns of local residents which related specifically to what would happen if the PSPO failed to have an impact on the anti-social behaviour being experienced. He suggested there was a need for the Committee to review the matter again in due course. In response, the Executive Councillor reported that he and Councillor S Taylor the ward councillor had met with local residents and had offered to meet with them again one month after implementation. He also reiterated that PSPOs have been successful in other areas.

The Committee were informed that should the implementation of the Order be approved; Officers could immediately commence enforcement activities against low level behaviours which breached the conditions. It was also reported that the Chief of Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner were fully supportive of the proposal, so Members could be confident that enforcement agencies would be doing whatever they could to tackle the problems within the area. The Committee were also reminded that District Councils could only operate within the parameters of their legislation powers and whilst a closure order had been considered this would only be a temporary solution to the issue. In the longer term, extensive planning for contingencies would need to be put in place to prevent behaviours reoccurring after a Closure Order expires.

In addressing the Committee on the matter, the Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Services outlined his view that the adoption and implementation of the Public Space Protection Order was a proportionate measure to address the concerns of local residents. He also drew attention to the Council's record in preventing homelessness and reducing the number of

families in temporary accommodation. Whilst the Council needed to assist people into temporary accommodation, the Council also needed to provide assistance to residents within the surrounding areas. Having indicated his support for the proposed implementation of the Order given the clear scale of the response to the consultation, Councillor Ferguson outlined his opinion that to pursue a closure order at this stage would be premature and the proposal represented the best option at this stage given the current circumstances. He also reiterated his intention to review its implementation on a monthly basis with residents and thanked the District Council's enforcement team for bringing the option forward.

Whereupon given the significance of the issue and having agreed that Members would like to receive an update at their next meeting to enable them to review the effectiveness of the operation of the Order since its implementation, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that the proposed Public Space Protection Order for Eynesbury be approved;
- b) that the proposed Public Space Protection Order location (as outlined in Appendix A to the report now submitted) is suitable;
- c) that the proposed Public Space Protection Order conditions (as outlined in Appendix B to the report now submitted) are suitable;
- d) that the proposed Public Space Protection Order should be put in place for 3 years, with annual review; and
- e) that authority be delegated to the Chief Operating Officer after consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Services to make minor amendments or variations to the conditions and scope of the Order; and
- f) that a further update on the situation be presented to the Committee's next meeting in October 2024.

Chair

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Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee -
16 October 2024

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

Report by: Georgia Patterson – Community Safety
Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Ramsey

Executive Summary:

In response to reports of anti-social behaviour in Ramsey, specifically in the area of the Great Whyte as well as some surrounding areas, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire Constabulary are considering applying a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

The behaviours that are causing alarm, harassment and distress and are in the form of:

- public intoxication
- substance misuse
- public urination/ defecation
- intimidating behaviour to residents and businesses in the area.

Within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Local Authorities have the power to issue a PSPO, which are designed to stop individuals and groups from committing anti-social behaviour in a public place. Breaches of a PSPO is a criminal offence and offenders are at risk of a fixed penalty notice (currently set at £100), or prosecution in a criminal court.

Extensive consultation in relation to the proposed PSPO was conducted with residents, businesses, Town Councillors and Ward Members and the results suggest that they are supportive of the implementation of the PSPO, with 318 of 328 respondents strongly agreeing/agreeing with the proposed conditions. Appendix C outlines full consultation results with comments made by respondents.

The proposed PSPO is in response to the anti-social behaviour which is having a negative impact on the community and will be used by Police and HDC as a tool to respond to stop the behaviour and take appropriate action in relation to those that are responsible.

Measures to tackle the Anti-Social Behaviour in Ramsey Great Whyte prior to the consideration of the proposed PSPO include direct enforcement by HDC/Police, however the issue has not resolved, and members of the public have reiterated in the consultation that they feel the PSPO is required. This will allow the Police additional powers to enforce the behaviour occurring in the location. Alternatives have been considered to the PSPO, such as 'designing out crime' in the location by removal/repositioning of the street furniture to avoid congregation areas for street drinking. However, to remove such areas could have a negative impact on the community who rely on the areas for its intended purpose.

The Licensing and Protection Committee are asked to note that there are limitations to a PSPO but if applied correctly, could help discourage the behaviours that are occurring. Following discussion, both the Police and HDC believe that a PSPO is the most appropriate enforcement tool that is available currently.

Members of the Licensing and Protection Committee are asked to review the proposed PSPO and support its implementation.

Recommendation(s):

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the proposed PSPO for Ramsey.
2. Consider and approve the proposed boundary of the Order.
3. Consider and approve the proposed prohibitions.
4. To delegate authority to the Community Services Manager, to make minor amendments or variations to the conditions and scope of this PSPO.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Licencing and Protection Committee for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as a response to increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour in Ramsey Great Whyte.
- 1.2 PSPOs are a statutory enforcement power which can be implemented by a Local Authority and enforced by District Council Officers and Police Constables. A PSPO can put in place requirements and prohibitions on anyone using a public space within the specified boundary of the order. Penalties for breaching a PSPO can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution at Court with a maximum penalty of £1000.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members of the public living and visiting the area of Ramsey Great Whyte, including the areas of Mews Close (including the car park), New Road, and Newton Green have experienced persistent and unreasonable anti-social behaviour which is having a detrimental effect on those in the locality.
- 2.2 Reported behaviours include public intoxication (drugs and alcohol), public urination/defecation and intimidating behaviour.
- 2.3 In a six-month period, from the end of February 2024 to end of August 2024, Police received 32 reports of incidents on the Great Whyte in Ramsey. Of these 32 reported incidents, 24 have been in relation to street drinking along the Great Whyte in Ramsey. Huntingdonshire District Council received 5 reports in this time period of issues related to Street drinking in the location, however these reports started in May 2024 when summer months approached. Ramsey Town Council have completed an Anti-Social Behaviour Logbook provided by Huntingdonshire District Council, and have recorded 17 incidents between May 2024 and July 2024. Of these 17 recorded incidents, 14 incidents were in relation to street drinking.
- 2.4 The proposed prohibitions intend to be used as an enforcement tool by Police and HDC against perpetrators of anti-social behaviour in the area, act as a deterrent from the behaviour, and improve the feelings of safety experienced by members of the public.
- 2.5 The District Council in partnership with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, engaged in public consultation between 09 September 2024 to 23 September 2024, collecting responses by Microsoft Forms.
- 2.6 The consultation produced 328 responses, of which 301 strongly agreed, 17 agreed, 7 responded as neutral, 1 disagreed and 2 strongly disagreed in relation to the proposed PSPO prohibitions. The consultation results have been provided as Appendix C.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 The following are enforcement powers that can be used by the District Council's Community Protection and Enforcement Team in response to anti-social behaviour, pursuant to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Options listed below are in order of the current preference, but all are valid responses to the issue and have been considered when formulating a response to the issue.
- 3.2 **Option One: PSPO** – In response to reports of anti-social behaviour occurring in the areas surrounding Ramsey Great Whyte, the proposed PSPO conditions are currently considered to be the preferred option. PSPO conditions allow for immediate enforcement action to be taken against identified offenders. This can allow for effective response against transient offenders, committing anti-social behaviour which could otherwise go unenforced. Potential drawbacks for this option have been presented in section 4 of this report.
- 3.3 **Option Two: - Designing Out Crime (Removal/repositioning of Street Furniture)** – Consideration of the removal or repositioning of the street furniture (benches in raised flower beds) has been made, in order to prevent the congregation of individuals in the Great Whyte area. However, this was not considered a viable option as this may result in the issues being moved elsewhere.
- 3.4 **Option Three: Direct Enforcement (Community Protection Notice)** – Local Authorities and Police have powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to issue offenders of anti-social behaviour with a Community Protection Notice (CPN). Breach of a CPN is a criminal offence and can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice, a £2500 court fine, or a remedial, forfeiture or seizure order. Prior to serving a known person with a CPN, the enforcement agency must first warn the person; this is often referred to as a Community Protection Warning (CPW). This effectively creates a three-stage process to issuing an offender with a fixed penalty notice, or conviction. However, implementation of these sanctions has not been sufficient in preventing the behaviours and therefore alternatives have been considered.

4. RISKS

- 4.1 The anticipated impacts have been discussed in this report. In the interest of transparency, it should be noted that there are risks associated with the PSPO which should be considered.
- 4.2 There is a risk that the PSPO could be unsuccessful in influencing lasting change in the area for various hypothetical reasons; for example, lack of available resource from enforcement agencies, lack of judicial support resulting in ineffective penalties, or inability to positively identify perpetrators. An unsuccessful PSPO could cause negative public confidence in enforcement agencies, continued victimisation of those

experiencing anti-social behaviour, or the need to escalate action at the location.

- 4.3 A PSPO must be publicised and signposted, clearly outlining the conditions and boundaries. This is to ensure members of the public are fully aware of any conditions which might affect them. This could have the positive effect of demonstrating that there is action taking place to protect the community; conversely, there may be some risk that doing so might highlight the location as a problematic area for anti-social behaviour. This could have further implications.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The following dates are expected for the implementation of the PSPO:
1. 09/09/2024: Public consultation begins.
 2. 23/09/2024: Public consultation ends.
 3. 03/10/2024: Report submission to Licensing and Protection Committee.
 4. 16/10/2024: Licensing and Protection Committee meet to decide on whether to authorise the PSPO.
 5. 16/10/2024: Publish PSPO consultation results.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Between 09/09/2024 and 23/09/2024 public consultation received 328 responses, of which 301 strongly agreed, 17 agreed, 7 responded as neutral, 1 disagreed and 2 strongly disagreed in relation to the proposed PSPO conditions. Consultation results have been enclosed as Appendix C, including comments from respondents.
- 6.2 Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have also been consulted. Support is also presented in Appendix C.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7.2 **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.

7.3 **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.

7.4 **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.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

8.2 There will be resource required for Police patrolling for this PSPO to be effective. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have committed to this through their request for a PSPO and support in consultation.

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

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

8.5 Regular meetings between Police and HDC will be held to review enforcement of the proposed PSPO and the efficacy of the conditions in reducing anti-social behaviour in the area.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

9.1 The recommendations have been presented to the Licensing and Protection Committee to enable there to be an effective response to issues of anti-social behaviour in the area of Ramsey Great Whyte.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A - Proposed location for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

Appendix B - Proposed conditions for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

Appendix C - Consultation results for the proposed 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

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Appendix A

Proposed location for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

a. The conditions of this Public Spaces Protection Order apply to the land within Ramsey Town centre and immediate areas which encompasses all public highways, footpaths, bridleways, and public access which are part of Great Whyte, Newton Green & New Road, Mews Close & Car Park and, all connecting public footpaths and Public accessible property frontage linked to the footpaths.

- i. B1040 – Great Whyte, north-west and south-east between the roundabout connecting to Stocking Fen Rd, to the Junction High Street.
- ii. New Road from Great Whyte including Newton Green.
- iii. Mews Close and any linking routes through from Great Whyte.
- iv. Mews Close Car Park.

b. The conditions also apply to all publicly accessible land (e.g. green spaces, recreational land, and chapels/churchyards/ graveyards within the boundary of the surrounding public roads and footpaths within this order.

Location Map:

Fig 1: Whole area to be covered

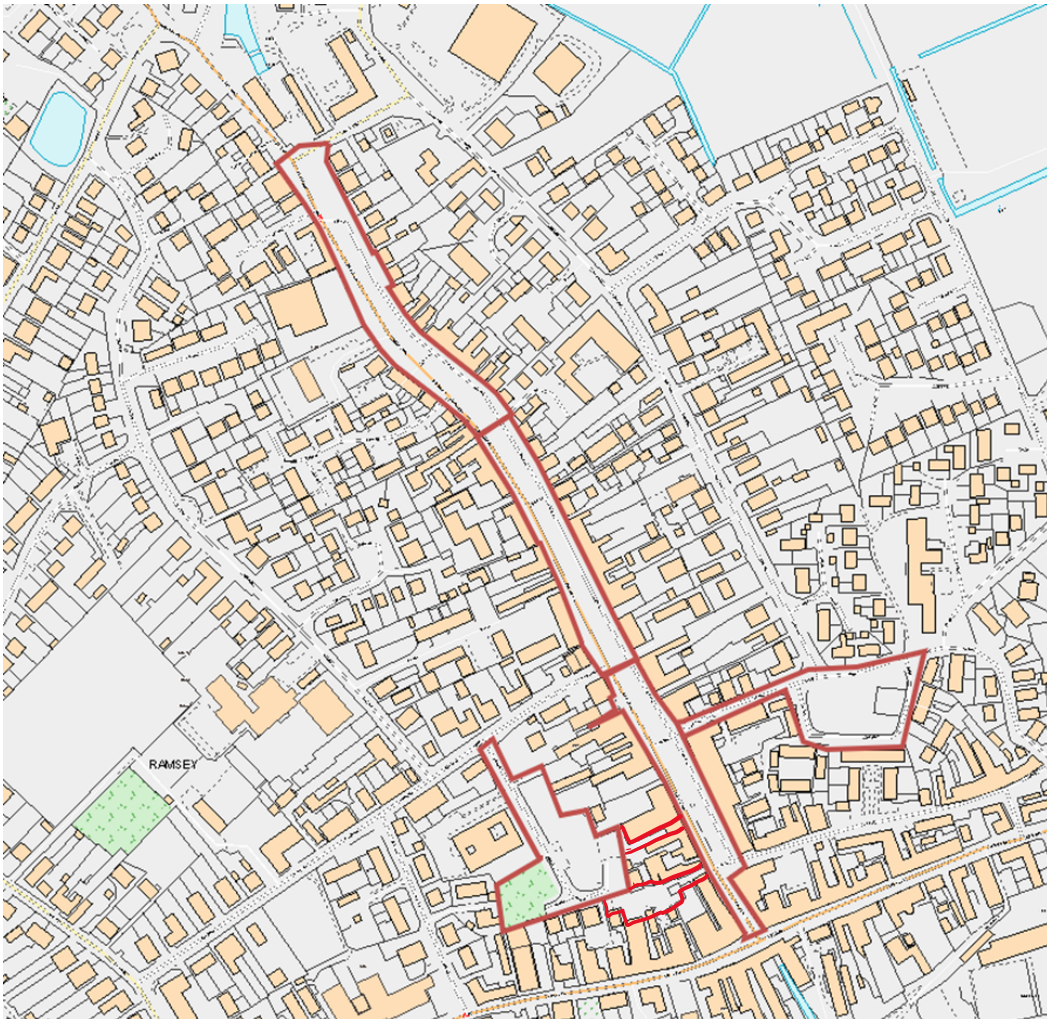


Fig 2. Nth West of Great Whyte

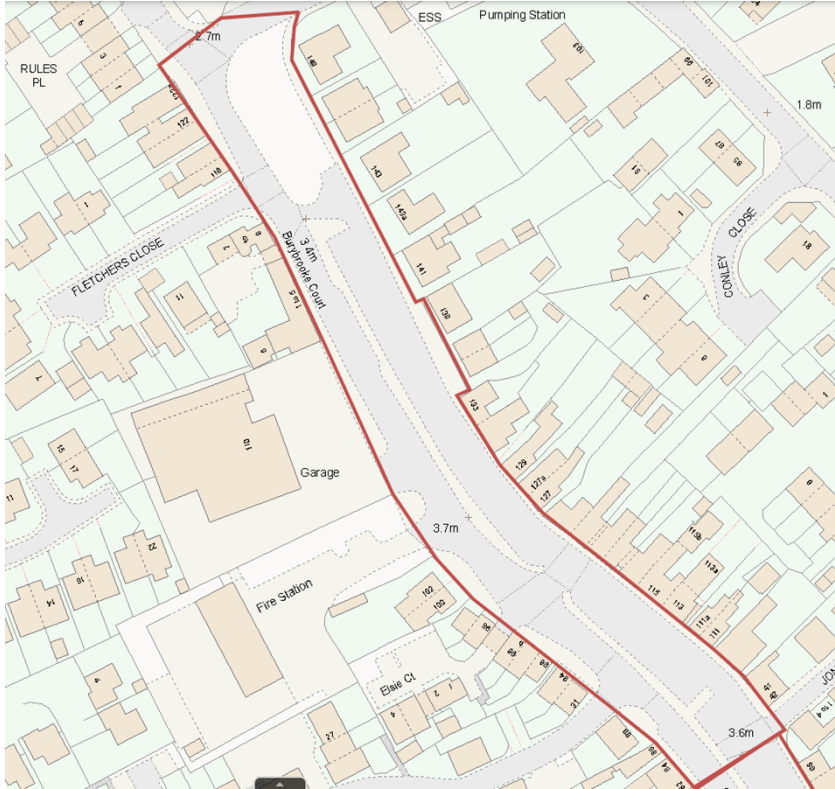


Fig 3: Middle section of Great Whyte:



Fig 4: Sth East of Great Whyte



Fig 5: Mews Close Car park



Fig 6: New Road and Newton Green



Appendix B

Proposed conditions for the 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

- a. No open vessels: On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they have on their person an open vessel of alcoholic/intoxicating substance, unless: i. Prior permission has been granted by a Local Authority (Parish, Town, District or County Council) for the purpose of an arranged public event.
- b. No personal use of narcotic substances: On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if a Constable believes that on the balance of probabilities they are consuming illegal narcotic substances for personal recreational use, unless: ii. Substances being consumed are for medicinal purposes and are prescribed to the person by a medical professional.
- c. Public defecation/urination: On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they defecate or urinate in any public place described by this PSPO, unless: iii. They do so in a dedicated public toilet facility, or a private toilet facility with the property owner's permission.
- d. Intimidating behaviour: On all land described by this PSPO, a person commits an offence if they act in a way that is considered to be harassing, alarming or distressing to others within the vicinity of the PSPO area; behaviours include, but not limited to:
 - iv. Aggressive shouting at any person
 - v. Any offensive language
 - vi. Physical altercation
 - vii. Street harassment (Heckling or cat-calling passersby).
 - viii. Excessive noise (including music played from a device or instrument)
 - ix. Behaviours that causes alarm and distress to residents, business owners and visitors.

Appendix C

Consultation results for the proposed 2024 Public Spaces Protection Order: Ramsey

1.Are you responding as:	
A Ramsey Resident	277
Business owner in Ramsey	8
Work in Ramsey	7
Representing a community/volunteer group	7
Other	29

2. (If representing a voluntary/community organisation) Please specify the type of stakeholders or residents your community group or voluntary organisation represents:

19 Responses:

Public
Children and Young people
Ramsey Community Bus Association
Community Bus Organiser
SEN Children
All, but particularly church goers
NA
None
Ramsey Town Council
Transporting elderly and infirm residents to appointments and social functions
Education and resident
All residents
No
N/A
Resident, also member of Ramsey Baptist church (community group and voluntary)
N/A
NA

3. To what extent do you agree with the Proposed PSPO conditions?

Strongly Agree	301
Agree	17
Neutral	7
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	2

4. If you disagree with any of the PSPO conditions, please say why below:

19 Responses in total, however, responses including “N/A” or “Don’t disagree” have not been included in this summary:

“The area should be extended to include the park in Mill Lane. It is a known area where drugs are being dealt!”

“The new estate by Tesco needs to be considered. I live in the estate and there is a lot of anti-social behaviour here including criminal damage and drug dealing. It’s great that there is going to be a bigger presence but it still needs more”

“I don’t want the drunks and druggies being pushed into residential areas causing problems there.”

"Public Spaces should be protected, and the activities quoted in the proposal don't sound pleasant, so I'd welcome their "prevention", however I question how they will actually be prevented (by who, and when?), and feel they appear to include if for example a small child was to "wet themselves" in for example a pushchair whilst in the town. What happens if, for example, an elderly/infirm person was to do so too? There's also a complete lack of public toilets since the Grand Theatre redevelopment made way for the new Library, which does have toilets but is very restricted in opening hours. Ramsey needs dedicated toilet facilities if the issues being reported by the proposal are an issue in the town centre. I feel that the PSPO should actually cover the entire boundary of "Ramsey", not just some selected roads. What prevents the problem just being shifted outside of the proposed boundary? I hope it also includes from the balcony above the public Library, as there's often "interactions" to/from people using those balconies down to/from the people in the street, it's not a nice atmosphere."

"Open vessel clause needs to allow businesses to have ability to authorise outside their licences premises if complying with conditions of the licence. Not just for town events"

"I would like the scheme to cover a wider area during times children would be expected to walk to / from school and to seep deeper into the estates during these times."

"Needs to cover the whole town when kids are walking to and from school"

"You have to be very careful putting a PSPO in place in certain areas to deal with a minority, whose behaviour should be dealt with by the police under current anti-social behaviour laws, already in place, so why is there a need to define this. It could have a negative effect on the town and move those it is targeting to other areas like parks and play grounds frequented by families and children, which is far more worrying, as it becomes out of sight out of mind. Whilst I agree that this is not what we want in our town centre current laws are enough to deal with this if police choose to act, a police presence in an ever increasingly populated town is far bigger requirement than designating a zone for bureaucratic purposes and somewhat of a paper excise, with no significance if it not back by a police presence. Why define something that is already there in law anyway?"

"Ramsey residents and commercials should be protected from anti social behaviour but not restricted by not letting use their cars."

"should also include out of control dogs, does public drinking mean that you couldn't still do the great dine out? or will there be exceptions?"

"I completely understand that there is an issue around this however moving the problem out of town is only going to cause other residents problems. Mill house now has recovering alcoholics living there causing problems for local residents shouting and approaching people in the area which is very intimidating. Surely it is better for them to be in an area where they are monitored on CCTV rather than moving them the other areas. Let's be honest they will end up residing in children's play areas, where they have benches to sit on etc. I completely respect that something needs to be done but you are always going to have people complaining and shop owners complaining about these people, but these people are human and they have an illness, I am sure they are not in this situation through choice and people need to try and remember this. There are only a couple of them that get out of hand but as a whole they are polite. I would have to say that the problem has escalated since the new houses have been built as there are a lot more louder people there now and if Mill house is going to allow people to stay there will drug and alcohol problems then things will not improve."

"Should be extended to include mill lane public spaces/park, abbey green and church green"

"The law is surely strong enough now the order being proposed can and has been used to varying degrees to stop public protest and gathering. Why do we need this order if the laws we currently have are sufficient. It seems as though it's just an easy way to enforce what we already have."

5. To what extent do you agree with the proposed location for the Public Space Protection Order in Ramsey? Please refer to the maps located in the proposal document within HDC's website.

Strongly Agree	259
Agree	43
Neutral	8
Disagree	14
Strongly Disagree	4

6. If you disagree with the PSPO location, please say why you disagree below:

39 Responses in total, however, responses including "N/A" or "Don't disagree" have not been included in this summary:

"I agree that you have targeted the problem spots, but feel this could be extended to Mill Fields Park and also the seating area by the Rivermill Apartments as people will just congregate there instead."

"Please extend to include the Park in Mill Lane and surrounding area."

"The Area shown on the plan covers two private walk ways ! (The Darling Mews and the alley way by 34 Great Whyte) but not the Public Footpath between the GreatUnless Whyte and Palmers Close a long side Spring Court,"

"I would not like to see the tables outside by the Jolly Sailor impacted by this order, but otherwise agree 100%."

"Needs to include new estate"

"I don't disagree, although I do feel the walk way between Spar and The Mews should be covered. This is where discarded drugs have recently been found. When Mews gates are locked this is the route used rather than walking via Whytefield Road."

"I agree yo the areas listed but think they should be extended to include other areas, such as near the river near Rivermill flats, the public footpath along Slade dyke as lots of beer cans"

"I have concerns that with the order in place it may push the issues and reasons for the order further out to other parts of Ramsey and surrounds, what confidence can you give us this will not happen and what will you put in place to mitigate that possible issue and ongoing."

"I feel you are pushing the problem into residential streets, my daughter has experienced issues with a few of the people at Mill House, due to being drunk and this is possibly where they will now hang out. I feel that as this is just off new road it should be incorporated into the area concerned."

"Need to add church green on there as at times antisocial groups can gather there"

"This will merely push bad behaviors out a small way from the town center. it should also include the high street and areas around the schools."

"Wider area"

"Agree but wish the area would extend to all public surfaces in Ramsey"

"Removal from Ramsey totally would be better."

"I feel it should cover the entirety of Ramsey publicly accessible spaces, the issues being reported aren't acceptable anywhere if they aren't acceptable in the proposed locations, so to not include the other areas seems at odds with that. I hope it also includes from the balcony above the public Library, as there's often "interactions" to/from people using those balconies down to/from the people in the street, it's not a nice atmosphere."

"Extend to cover benches by factory bank - a well-known alcohol/drug spot"

"Living on Little Whyte I witness regular visits from people buying drugs. One regular has a dog in his van, and shouts and swears loudly at him. I have witnessed a man get into a works van, snort a white, powdery substance, vomit out of the window onto the road and drive away. I have witnessed fights and arguments between a drug dealer and others, as well as intoxicated people walking to/from The Kickers and The Angel. There is a betting shop on Little Whyte, which has been robbed at knife point. Little Whyte is used by many school children, from ages 4 to 18, as their route to and from school, and should not be subjected to such behaviour. I strongly feel Little Whyte should also be included."

"This should include a much wider area inclusive of the pond area and benches near to the church and the children's park on park road."

"I don't disagree, but please please add the Millfields play park. This area has been used by the local as a drinking area as well."

"Should cover any area with benches. These people are lazy, if there's a bench, they'll drunk there."

"If a PSPO is going to be instated it should cover the whole town, not specific areas."

"Can drive for emergencies situations like taking my youngest kids or taking my elderly parents to the centre by car. You disable people. Shame on you."

"I think it should be extended to include Field Road and the new estate opposite Tesco"

"I would suggested included the Abbey Green, the area around and behind the Abbey Rooms near the golf course."

"I actually feel it would benefit residents of surrounding streets as well as the areas marked out in the proposed locations as a resident who is regularly bothered by noise etc from local drink/drug users when passing by my property"

"Include the high street"

"Need to include around mill/factory bank"

"These ladies and gentlemen will not be covered on CCTV and the consequences are they end up in play park and can't be monitored"

"Should be extended to cover all of the High Street from Blenheim Road to Wood Lane too"

"Should be extended. I live in Newtown Rd and am frequently disturbed by intoxicated men walking cycling in the street shouting at each other and disturbing the peace"

"Just want to make sure the people who do this won't be spread to go to another area instead. Happy for the people not to urinate, take drugs or drink in centre of town."

"There are pubs in the centre of town with outdoor seating. Would these be impacted? and the dine out Fridays which have been hugely popular also have an outdoor bar in the centre of town. These are key features of the town centre that would be a shame to remove."

"Should be extended to include mill lane public spaces/park, abbey green and church green"

"For the same reason as before the proposal is floored use what you have."

"Would like to see a larger area covered, especially the green by abbey school and the church. It has been witnessed that a intoxicated man was being given a "sexual favour" by a drugged, intoxicated female. This was seen by school children plus adults, leaving school. Also include the B and M area Newtown road."

"I strongly agree with the areas already proposed, however I do feel the areas should cover Bankers Walk and Willow Way. I live in a home on New Road, opposite the park, next to Bankers Walk; I know there have been significant disturbances in Bankers Walk, including at least one occasion attended by the police, where the wall at the top of Bankers Walk was damaged during a fight, and remains broken. My own back garden was also entered via Willow Way at around 3am by one of the men involved in the disturbances. He was throwing items in our garden around, banging and kicking our back door extremely violently in an attempt to enter our property, shouting, swearing, fighting with someone who was not there, trying to get in one of our households cars as well as my neighbours, and displaying other concerning behaviours. This resulted in him being removed by the police, although we chose not to have him arrested. As he entered our garden via Willow Way, and there have been disturbances in Bankers Walk, I feel it's fair to include these areas. Local residents, including ourselves, have been scared by the behaviour in these areas."

7. Overall, do you think that the introduction of a PSPO will have a positive or negative impact in Ramsey?

Positive Impact	263
No Impact	25
Negative Impact	9
Don't know/Not sure	31

8. If you feel the PSPO would have a negative impact, please state why below:

23 Responses in total, however, responses including "N/A" or "Don't disagree" have not been included in this summary:

"Unless it covers the Main area of Ramsey - All that will happen is the issue will move onto the High Street and Church Green, but at least it won't be outside the council office !!"

"Because nothing ever gets done"

"Because it will leave the residential areas open to abusive behaviour"

"It will just move the behaviors elsewhere - and who will police it - I can't remember the last time I saw police officers on patrol in Ramsey"

"See above"

"Concerned it won't make a difference since there isn't any local police presence"

"I think it's making Ramsey sound an awful place, and indeed it does appear to have become worse in recent years. That said, if the issues that are being proposed to be prevented are happening (and I've experienced as a passer-by, or whilst waiting for the bus, the shouting across the Great Whyte from people, and people hanging about on the Great Whyte near the bus stop who aren't using the bus stop, and with large dogs, and the shouting to/from the balconies above the Public Library, then yes that would be positive to prevent those"

"I don't feel it will improve behaviour, I believe it will continue to happen outwith the zones."

"There is never a police presence in the town either to enforce the proposals nor the speed limits."

"Having the order is one thing but I suspect those it aims to tackle are extremely unlikely to ever read any publication for any such order. The only medication for this is rigid enforcement by the police though this will only serve to push them a little further out of town. These subjects should be prevented from buying alcohol in the first instance and then possessing it in public."

"The PSPO in the area defined will shift the problem to more areas where families and children use, you are just shifting the problem not dealing with it."

"You create more stress in rush times. More traffic"

"There is nobody who will police this PSPO. It's a great idea in principle, but will need to be policed. There is no longer a police presence in Ramsey sadly."

"Will only have a positive impact if it is enforced. No good having one if police and council officials are still no existent in ramsey"

"I worry about the Great Whyte Dine Out in 2025 and how the open vessel stipulation will affect those events?"

"We need a stronger police presence. Without police, Ramsey has become lawless in some areas."

"It's a great idea I just wonder if it will push them further into the community. Possibly add the local car park for the mews"

"Just hope it's adhered too"

"As before your questions are typical repeat repeat the proposal is flooded I don't need to repeat it."

"I doubt that the longterm resources will be funded that will be required to enforce the new procedures."

"My only concern is that it may drive the behaviour in to another area of Ramsey."

9. Please share any other thoughts in regard to the PSPO here:

Many people especially children on their way home from school avoid the area of the clock tower and bus station. This can only be a positive to stop anti social and intimidating behaviour. I do not let my oldest child along the Great Whyte by herself due to these individuals.

This will be fantastic for Ramsey as the antisocial behaviour is ruining the Town. Footfall has dropped due to people feeling intimidated by drunks and drug users. Fantastic news. It must be policed properly to be effective though

It is a good idea as nothing has worked so far. The area needs to be policed regularly not just when an incident happens.

It's hugely important for the whole community to feel safe coming into the Town Centre of Ramsey. The anti social behaviour is having an impact on the community wanting to use local shops, they would rather go elsewhere. It's important that school children are not witness to the abusive language and behaviour that the individuals display on a daily basis and that parents feel comfortable for their teenage children to walk through the town on their way to school without being verbally abused. It's equally important for people to be able to use the benches to wait for buses, especially the elderly.

Very much needed along with many other things including speeding

I would fully support this but think it will only have a positive impact if there is sufficient man power available to enforce it. My only concern would be that the issues may just move to another part of the town.

It's success will be dependent on how it is enforced. People currently ignore double yellow lines, zig zag lines and the 20mph speed limit. Not to mention drug dealing.

Very very good idea I agree whole heartedly I'm really glad this matter is being taken seriously. Myself a lots of others actively avoid the centre of Ramsey due to the regular drunks sitting there. They also are very rough with their dogs which I feel also needs to be addressed

Definitely needed to stop people making Ramsey an awful place to live.

I agree that PSPO needs to be introduced to provide Police officers more tools to do their job and keep the streets safe and free of drugs and alcohol. I do have reservations however, the main concern is that the root cause of the problem must be fixed. It is well known that certain individuals residing mostly in social housing are the main perpetrators and while ever these individuals reside in the town centre, there will always be problems.

By implementing a PSPO in the areas of the high street - yes it will clear the streets of filth and it may well be hailed a success, but I fear it will only move the problem on elsewhere to nearby parks and other areas where good law abiding citizens go about their business that will be affected by this implementation. I also feel that this is one of two actions. You need to rid the streets of filth before the new ideas of installing small business units in the high street can truly take off. Ramsey requires more pulling power. It's a town of just over 5000 residents, yet sits on the outskirts of Peterborough a city of 220k residents, it should be a haven for small business to thrive. We need quality service based businesses to open and not just fronts for criminal activity which has been proven to be true in the past - this includes putting in additional mechanisms in place to further protect workers ensuring they aren't working against their will and are earning a fair wage, it's sad to have to write this but the recent restaurant incident doesn't fill one with confidence. I truly believe Ramsey is cracking little town with so much potential. This is unfortunately let down with many residents being of a negative mindset having never lived anywhere else. I do have concerns over the amount of parking, having not seen the artist impression I cant pass judgement but it is something that needs to be factored in, if you are to want Ramsey to be a thriving town.

about time ;-)

Should extend to Little Whyte or at least Whyte Court which is located on Little Whyte. There is a bench located just off of Whyte Court where people in question like to congregate often

This will only work if the rules/laws are enforced

No other thoughts, other than thank you to everyone for the time and effort taken to get this put in place. It is intimidating having to walk through town with the group of drunks sat on benches shouting and swearing.

Needs to be policed!

Something needs to be done

It's really needed. The street drinkers are intimidating and put people off of using the Town centre.

Need more police around New estates have caused this

Ramsey used to be a safe town where your kids could play out safely now there are drunks and drug users on every road !!

We know that young people have been affected by the anti-social behaviour. Some are scared to walk home from school through the town centre.

The anti-social drinking in the main part of the town is a blight for residents, businesses and visitors. Older people, children and vulnerable people feel unsafe and intimidated, and often avoid this part of the town

We have passengers who wait at the bus stop opposite the library, particularly on a Friday who are troubled by some of these antisocial behaviour

This consultation and proposal has been to long coming, our town has been taken over with disgusting behaviour - I wholeheartly comend all methods of removing these types of people they do not help or encourage anyone to come to our town either as visitors or customers- people find it vile and intimidating.

We have way to many drunks and druggies, also I hope mill house in silver street will be covered. We have had the police here sometimes twice a day due to the fact they moved a drunk in here and as a consequence all the town drunks meet in her flat. Plus she holds drugs for glen hayden who recently got arrested here. Mill house is for the elderly and subjecting them to all this noise and harassment does no good. The police have been brilliant and we got one trouble maker banned from the building. But I fear if you move them on they will come here. If you cover Mill House in your restrictions this would be perfect.

I think the only way this will have any impact is if there are actually police officers in Ramsey to enforce it. It will do no good to put it in place if there's no enforcement. The PSPO is absolutely necessary if businesses and shops are to thrive in Ramsey the town centre.

As a Ramsey resident who has been adversely affected by the antisocial behaviour, this can only be a positive consultation. At times the gathering of people is very intimidating and is not good for the economy of the town either due to the behaviours and large gatherings in limited space.

Something is needed as any other resolutions have only been adhered to for a short time. The street drinkers have several dogs and they have been seen to l'll treat the animals and on occasion they too can be aggressive. Many people are scared to walk past and frequently cross the road. They are spoiling the planters, littering the parked and vomiting in the street, especially around the benches. They are high profile and do not reflect well on the town as far as visitors are concerned. There is no point in doing any work to increase footfall, improve the town with this behavior.

How will it be enforced?

This just needs to be properly policed. The town is going down hill quickly, not helped by shipping in horrible people from other locations

How will the PSPO be enforced to make a difference or will this allow more action to then be taken when trying to enforce it - for example those drinking on the high street now shouldn't but it doesn't change it. Changes have to start somewhere, but I do also worry that restrictions to the high street will lead to an increase to issues elsewhere and how will these also be managed? I have already seen an increase in drug abuse on public fields and in children playparks. (King George Park -Park road, Ramsey)

Exactly how is going to be policed? The town isn't policed now, so what difference will this make. Double yellow lines are totally ignored. The 20 mph is a joke and greatly ignored.

Think it's a great idea and will make Ramsey a better place

There are so many weird people hanging around high street drinking alcohol, I have seen people using the toilet on the streets. You get harassed when you are out it's not a pleasure place to live.

With regard to the drunks sitting near the clock I feel very vulnerable when passing near them and try to avoid them but it's not easy when access to the pelican crossing is needed particularly for people like me who have mobility issues.

It's a shame it's got to this stage. But I hope it will help make us feel safer in our home town. And give the confidence that we can walk the streets alone. When I was a teen I would feel safe to walk the streets but not in even in daylight hours now as it's unnerving of how or who and in what state you will meet people in the town centre. I like to support local businesses but it's a same as it's putting such a bad reputation on the high street of Ramsey. I avoid it as much as possible if I'm perfectly honest.

The threatening disturbances will re locate to other areas in Ramsey. The cause is not being addressed.

Can it not include all play ground areas (King George and Mill Lane too).

No one wishes to live, visit or work in an area with increasing public nuisances which are increasingly intimidating and unsanitary. I hope this order will significantly decrease and/or remove the problems. Hopefully this will include ongoing monitoring and a review period. It's been going on for too long, I have reported an incident once. Over the summer holidays we used the bus stop a lot for our day trips. It is really intimidating when a group of intoxicated people are right next to you when getting off the bus with lots of vulnerable children. Please do something about it

What will be done when the people this PPSO is aimed at inevitably move to another part of Ramsey?

I think this is a waste of time unless it is properly policed. It will only work if it is policed and people are arrested. We have speed limits that need enforcing, people parking on double yellow lines and pavements - people driving on pavements - just today i witnessed a car nearly it some school children as it went up on the path - to make this work you will need a constant police presence in the town and they will have to do their job across the aboard, including parking nd illegal driving.

Please can this include animals been left in properties to bark all day long or escaping and frightening people.

I my self an other's that I know actively avoid the Ramsey town centre. You feel intimidated as they shout obscenities at you. Also when going into the chemist I do not agree that the heroine addicts should stand in full view of others taking their methadone . They come out of there and then sit in the centre drinking and taking drugs for all to see and hear. I absolutely think a PSPO should be in place . It should have been done long ago .

I feel that this is a wonderfully positive step towards making Ramsey feel like a welcoming and community minded place again. The anti-social behaviour that happens in the town centre currently on an almost daily basis has made me feel like I don't like where I live and that I'm not proud of where I live. I am so glad that something is being put in place to acknowledge and address this issue. Thank you.

I'm not entirely sure it'll have any impact, but we can only try as it can't continue as it is.

An excellent and long overdue proposal to address the unacceptable antisocial behaviour but concern about the practicalities of effective implementation and more clarity needed about the consequences of breaching the PSPO.

Fully support as long as it's enforced and monitored. Town needs regular police patrols as a standard.

Removal for good from Ramsey would be best but this is such a good start. Even young children can feel the unease at school times while walking through the town which is so sad. Fingers crossed this works

I don't understand who or how will enforce the PSPO, is it HDC officers, the police, or just the wishful hope that if there's a rule in place those causing trouble will disperse/stop? How are you (whoever enforces it) going to check if an "open vessel" contains "alcoholic/intoxicating substance"? The proposed PSPO also doesn't list what the "penalty" is for breaching it? Does someone just get a telling off, or a fine, or what? Is there any leniency/common sense, to except certain cases, or is it a hard and fixed rule that applies in each and every case no matter what? Does the PSPO prevent potential future "spill out seating" in the refreshed/updated Great Whyte that HDC, Ramsey Town Council, and CPCA are proposing? The following must also apply to the windows/balconies of properties in the immediate vicinity of the proposed zone: --- iv. Aggressive shouting at any person vii. Street harassment (Heckling or cat-calling passersby). viii. Excessive noise (including music played from a device or instrument) ix. Behaviours that causes alarm and distress to residents, business owners and visitors. --- Otherwise what good is preventing the issue at street level, if it still happens from a property out to the street?

Anytime of day in Ramsey currently, it feels unsafe to walk in the central area outside the library. A group of drunks are always there shouting and making people feel uncomfortable. Even at the great Whyte dine out the other week, the one drunk approached me when I was with my children. Additionally there is a very strong smell of drugs in the same area which is such a shame. This puts everyone off going to the library and using the public toilets round the corner.

I think there is genuine good intention behind this proposal. However, without a Police presence in Ramsey, I believe this will have little impact. Those individuals known to cause unsociable behaviour will relocate and potentially cause issues elsewhere.

I would include the High Street in Ramsey too as that is where my son and other children were chased by a man a few months ago. I believe this to be Sean Thurling, who is well known in Ramsey for drinking in public and intimidating residents. The police were aware and investigated but the children could have run into the road and been injured. I also think more of a police presence in Ramsey town centre would be a good thing.

It would be great to have some police presence in the town to get a grip on the drug issues we are currently experiencing

Visiting with my 13yr old daughter to the hairdresser,late appointment the local drunks were fighting each other in the street, obscene language and behaviour was disgusting. More to than obvious it's not the first time I've witnessed this behaviour.Didn't feel safe at all with my daughter witnessing the behaviour.

There is up to 6 drunk people on benches across the road from b&m and around Nationwide bank during most days. My children and myself do not go into the area anymore unless there dad is with us, as we did once and there were drunk people shouting, arguing and throwing things my 6 year old was scared so we left.

Whilst I strongly agree with the PSPO and approve strongly. My fear is the individuals it's targeting will simply move to another area. Eg the Mill Lane park!

As there is rarely Police presence in Ramsey (which could be seen as a good thing) My concern is how will it actually be Policed? Will there be a community support officer allocated to the Town? I think police presence would also be a good visual deterrence. Every day there are the regular drinkers sitting in the nice seated area in Ramsey- no one else can sit there and the language isn't what I want to expose to my child either. Recently an awful incident happened to us in Ramsey and we don't feel safe as it is. We moved here 4years ago and loved the place. Unfortunately it has a very dark side not everyone

is aware of. Please help us feel safe and comfortable in our town with police presence-or there's no point in the new orders. Thank you.

Hopefully ramsey can get back to the lovely place it once was, its horrible when you can't go into town due to the drunks either at the park behind the library or on the benches in town

Areas of concern: Town centre River mill flats by the river embankment Millfields park These have all become areas of people taking drugs openly and drinking. People have been causing nuisance and risks to others.

Taking my daughters through the town they drunkenly walk in front of your car and stop you. We have to walk a long way around to avoid them when going to hair dresser apps. The poor dog is out in all conditions and shouted and screamed at. I'm a confident individual and they intimidate me I can't imagine what an elderly person feels like. I no longer allow my youngest daughter to meet friends in town because of them ,

A good idea as lots of noise in the Summer nights and early hours of the morning especially at weekends where the new Mooring homes are. Hopefully this could prove a useful deterrent.

Overall it's a positive step but by no means will it resolve the issue.

I think this is an amazing idea. As a transwoman, I get heckled by these individuals who sit at the bus station on Great Whyte and haven't ever felt safe. They scare my young kids and I've heard them screaming abuse at others for fun. Please can you add the protection of Millfields Park, as they sometimes go there and will use that area all the time if they are banned from the other area. Thank you so much for keeping our community safe.

It would be good to cover all the areas!

There is a lady who lives in Mill House, Silver Street, Ramsey who is friends with the men who are causing some of the problems. I believe that she has been given an eviction order but as of today 11 September she is still in residence there. I believe Mill House should also be included in your proposed area for the PSPO. Also damage that has been sustained to the wall by these undesirables at the beginning of Bankers Walk (New Road) has not been repaired and loose bricks are on the grass near the wall that could be used to cause damage to people and property by them.

The people don't care about letters on lampposts, which is what this is. If they don't care about swearing and chasing children in the street, why would they care about you putting a sign up stating they can't do something that they already are and that common sense would suggest is wrong??? Lock them up!

Anti-social behaviour laws already cover what is in the proposed PSPO, but police do not enforce these, so what is going to change with a PSPO. Unless there is a daily police presence in town, nothing will change. Council are only getting involved as they see it as away of getting hold of increased funding and once this has been allocated, they will initially seem to act and then forget about the town again. The money would be better on employing a dedicated police officer covering Ramsey and the surrounding areas. Local Bobby on the beat!

If need to restrict, just restrict the centre of great Whyte around the market area and nothing else. If you want unto social behaviour reduced, first stop building new buildings and overcrowded the area. Let's it as rural. There is no school, no dentist, no surgery etc.. because of these new builds. Since the overcrowding, people are not happier than before. The spirit of real Ramsey has gone. People are rude, no matters. 5 years ago, everyone

was saying hi, smiling, happy, no stress, no traffic, more local commerces. Please understand happiness is more important than money. You can buy happiness. There is other ways to earn money. Don't impact our residents and commerce futures.

It would ne nice to sit in town and not feel intimidated by men who are shouting at each other and often drinking. They have a dog which may scare small children Litter sometimes thrown on the floor too. I would cross the road to avoid walking past.

Between the school / council/ Cambs police .. we live in warboys . However , it's important to maintain good community relations; so people can feel safe inside their homes and whilst using their community.

Without the pspo in place I currently feel very uncomfortable and intimidating walking round town .

Long overdue, but how is this going to be enforced in reality? Surely with properly resourced and visible policing the undesirable behaviours would already have been dealt with. Without proper enforcement (also by the police, I guess) what is this but a meaningless paper tiger?

This has been a long time coming.

A greater police presence is required in Ramsey full stop. There are far too many aggressive 'under the influence' people who are blatant in both use and distribution. The smell of people smoking cannabis needs addressing, it not a pleasant walk with the kids through the town past the library.

This is a positive move. The amount of antisocial behaviour is rising in our town and it is unacceptable. It makes residents nervous to use public spaces. I reported to the police that I was flashed at by an intoxicated man.

Great idea - we need to rid Ramsey of exactly what this PSPO is trying to achieve. But as I've said about - who is going to enforce it? I don't support the 20 mph limit - and that doesn't matter either because it is not enforced. Without any enforcement these are purely wish lists that we hope people will change their behaviors and support.

This is very much needed, please also consider extending as far as Tesco and also along the High Street.

Need to ensure it is strongly enforced at the earliest convinience otherwise it is just another pointless paper exercise. Enforcement will be the only thing to let this down. I think the pspo needs to be followed through . I just wonder how it will be maintained . I feel they will still continue to try their luck.

This is a fantastic plan... we've just moved into Ramsey & we look forward to the future plans for the safety of our children & our community.

You can implement the PSPO if you like, but nobody will bother to enforce it (much like double yellow lines and previous dispersal orders etc). The police are never here and if they do eventually arrive, whatever situation has prompted them to be called is over. Ramsey Town and surrounding areas in recent years hasn't been a nice place to enter and is run by groups of people drinking by the clock tower. It isn't nice walking through with young children and hearing swearing, arguments, and other anti-social behaviour. I now actively avoid town because of it. You can often also smell cannabis from the flats above the library.

Clear the Town Centre of Drunks, Druggies and lowlife characters

There was one beforebut the drunks returned! The dogs they have need to be removed too

Only concern is where they then move to I.e parks with small children etc but agree that something needs to be done.

I would like to understand how the PSPO is enforced in the evenings when we don't have a local police force in Ramsey anymore

There is often a feeling of intimidation in Ramsey due to anti-social behaviour by persons who are drunk or drug-taking in public spaces. It would be welcome if action was taken to make Ramsey a safer place to live and work.

These issues have escalated over recent years, the behaviour of the people in question has also escalated and it prevents me from going to the area if I know they are there and have been drinking. My daughter is developing her independence as a 12yr old and I am not able to let her be out in Ramsey due to the risk a select few pose, she has previously been shouted at and approached by one of the regulars causing the issue when she was litter picking with her guide unit leaving her frightened. I would welcome this order to make Ramsey safer

I do not agree with CCTV monitoring or AI facial recognition. I would prefer to have people on the ground monitoring this. ie an actual police presence! I do not agree with the pedestrianization of Great Whyte as it will discourage people from stopping by to shop for things or go to a cafe, and where would they park?! Please do not introduce 5G in this town. It will have adverse health affects on people. Please research this. We do not want to live in a totalitarian state where people are monitored by '1984' cameras and technology. We do not have to subscribe to the WEF/ global elite vision of what the world and our neighbourhoods should be. Bring back a police station in Ramsey.

Ramsey is becoming an unsafe place and as a parent it makes me feel very unsafe my children growing up around here.

The crown in town is highly intimidating. We would be so much more comfortable with the PSPO order in place.

The town needs some sort of presence and the crime rate is getting really bad

It's about time something was done with these residents! So thank you.

It will need enforcement.

The shame of this is that it will move the 'problem' to another area or behind doors. Will it offer a solution to the reasons these issues exist? Will whatever action HDC and CC take go hand in hand with offers of rehabilitation from substance abuse? And support into work? Or will it just look to marginalise an already sidelined group of people (allbeit intimidating to the general public) further. I would be interested in knowing what support will be offered and hope this is made public after the consultation period.

Will it be extended further?

I am concerned that limiting the order to just these areas would force known offenders to move elsewhere. Additional areas that would be a concern for me are routes that school children make their way home through the town. I would suggested including the Abbey Green, the area around and behind the Abbey Rooms near the golf course, and the High Street.

These offences should be considered such in all areas, not just those highlighted however, I appreciate that stronger policing in this particular area will have a positive impact on the prosperity of the town centre

Care will need to be taken to ensure that the problem isn't allowed to just move elsewhere in Ramsey and cause the same problems

I live next to Newtown green and have often avoided going out when there are people drinking and under the influence of drugs on the green. When I do go out I then need to try to avoid them in Great Whyte, or on the green if they have gathered there while I've been out. My life has been hell for the past couple of years trying to avoid these people. Navigating Ramsey has been like living in a video game with zombies popping up relentlessly. You never know when trouble is going to kick off. So I think this is what Ramsey needs. I hope it is enough and doesn't just shift the problem elsewhere.

In order to uphold this, there will need to be a more regulate police/PCSO presence locally to enforce any rules

Some of these people walk from bury into Ramsey multiple times a day, shouting abuse and swearing, drunk, walking into the road holding up traffic, possibly on drugs. They have a dog with them that needs to be removed from their care.

I find it odd that we need an order in place to allow/make the police, police our streets and deal with dangerous, anti social behaviour

My two year old son has been shouted at by one of the perpetual troublemakers in this area and was quite scared to walk past the group. They have also attempted to shout out to my autistic older son and upset him. I think this is a brilliant step to making the town centre feel safer

These are commonplace laws to begin with in society - what my spouse and I are wondering is who is going to enforce them? It's as if this is a reminder to "behave" like decent humans not raised in a barn, but if there is no law enforcement, how will this play out? Will it help or not?

It needs something, but just this along with a council who are otherwise ruining the town won't be of great benefit, and will allow the demise of Ramsey to continue.

It won't work because with out a police presence people will take no notice of it. Ramsey is now becoming a society. Lawless

I recently moved to Ramsey. Big mistake. The town is awful with drunks and drug users hanging around. Wish we never moved here and will move out as soon as we can
Public intoxication in Ramsey town centre needs to be controlled/eradicated, along with control of the large dogs the group of intoxicants own.

We need police presence. Such a shame the police station was shut down - that is what we need. Can you ensure that if antisocial people are caught, they won't just return a week later?

Have five so above

Greater police presence required in general around Ramsey town, Station Road, Little Whyte Blenheim Road etc. and surrounding roads, especially after dark. Speeding cars and aggressive behaviour happens often.

What about parking on double yellow lines? The area around the junction of Great Whyte and High Street is a nightmare, and will get worse now that Dominos have received Planning Permission to open in the old Barclays Bank building on the corner of Great Whyte and Little Whyte. It is only a matter of time until someone is killed there - it won't be the first person either, as one of my school friends was killed there some years ago. All you can do to help us feel safer in our town is welcome. I've lived here all my life and to see all the drunks and drug users abusing our town and surrounding areas is awful. People need to respect our lovely town. There are so many young people who don't need to see inappropriate behaviour.

It's a good idea. We've felt intimidated and unable to challenge the street drinkers and drug users in case they are aggressive. I've seen one offering 13 year old drinks of beer from his open bottle (I did talk to these children, who thankfully refused) as well as offering to teach young girls how to make poppy tea. So, they really do need to be moved on. I would worry that this may move the problem elsewhere - but I guess another order could be applied if this did happen. I hope this can happen quickly, so we can start to attract people to our town again.

I fully support this much needed course of action. It's pretty much the same group of people spoiling the town centre and the green space off New Road with their drinking, foul language and intimidating behaviour. The sooner this happens the better.

It won't stop them.

They'll only move somewhere else. What's wrong is the amount of housing being built and social tenants being moved to Ramsey and the lack of corresponding infrastructure. There's no public transport options and no change to schools, doctors, support services or shops. You're allowing more people to live here but not providing a quality of life for them or other residents. And pop up wooden market stalls is not going to change that either.

It would be helpful for the Ramsey community to be advised of the actions that are taken to deal with breaches of the order if it is put in place. To provide confidence and restore the feeling that Ramsey is a safe place to live and work, can we be advised if offending individuals are supported to overcome their addiction, or deal with their own behaviour better, or whatever support they need? Or they arrested, kept in a cell for a few hours and then released? What is the long term plan?

Address the law breaking in the town centre. Cars parked illegally outside Nationwide and the George, drunks verbally abusing people by the clock tower, drug addicts using the back green behind the library. It's quite simple, make some arrests and tow and crush some cars!

I think a PSPO is what is so desperately needed in Ramsey. The PSPO should also include Little Whyte, the intoxicated individuals tend to congregate on the public bench set in an alcove adjacent to Whyte Court at various times day and night when they are moved on from the benches in the Great Whyte. A rough sleeper spasmodically uses this bench and this also attracts alcohol fuelled individuals and anti social behaviour, defecating and urinating in the bushes next to this bench.

Why has it taken so long for this to even be proposed ? Those involved have been causing ASB for a number of years. More importantly a PSPO is OK on paperwork and signs but needs to be robustly enforced by both H.D.C and the Police. Not just there for a photo opportunity

You also need to have police presence in the town. The people that sit in the town drinking and swearing and intimidating and it is disgusting to have around children. Ramsey is just

left totally on its own with a high population that is increasing constantly but with no police to keep people safe.

It should ensure visiting Ramsey is a nice experience.

There are larger issues here. 1. There are clearly drug users and dealers in the flats above the library. It stinks of cannabis when you walk past. The individuals causing issues in town are regularly seen at these flats. The residents are often very loud, using foul language (one flat in particular) but seemingly the police never to make arrests? (Ironically, the drug dealer was robbed earlier this year and I believe the police attended - but again no arrests made? I find it odd that a drug dealer would call the police when their drugs had been robbed! 2. The parking outside Wake & Bake to Nationwide has become dangerous. Again, seemingly nothing is done. 3. Dogs in town and public play parks should be on leads. They cause huge distress. 4. We now have a huge amount of young males with fundamental cultural differences towards women & girls which also cause huge anxiety. The vape shop and increasing Turkish Barbers do not seem like viable businesses. Are they legitimate? I would question this.

I think this PSPO is the correct, and overdue, change for Ramsey Town Centre. It makes the area safer and more welcoming by tackling issues like public drinking, drug use, noise, and intimidating behavior. No one wants to deal with that when they're out and about. Having these rules helps keep public spaces clean and calm, which benefits residents, businesses, and visitors. Plus, the exceptions for events show it's not about restricting community life but enhancing it. It also gives the police clear guidelines to handle problems. Overall, it's about creating a safe, pleasant environment for everyone.

Only thing that I disagree with is that you have to put a PSPO in place?? Why should we have to do this to stop people pissing in the streets, shouting and physically abusing/intimating people isn't this just the law? This is all already enforceable IF there is a police presence in Ramsey. This is pointless if there will be no more officers allocated to Ramsey.

See previous answer Something needs to be done the people who do this are scaring residents in the area who are scare to walk past them without being abused or hounded for money

It would be nice to feel safe when I am waiting for public buses. I am a woman, and always feel vulnerable in my own town and I dont feel safe waiting for public transport with the local drunks. Very upsetting and intimidating.

Long overdue

Winter coming! there will basically relocate themselves Also is not to difficult to cross the red line and do it in the place where the order doesn't exist. Second who is going to enforce the order? Third the system is wrong , how unemployed people can afford to drink all day long and not working. They are supported by government unfortunately and they are able to not work and leave high lifestyle. If you thinking you helping them by offering first dose of meds handed over first thing in the morning in the chemist you wrong ! You basically supporting bad habits!

After my 5 year old granddaughter witnessing drunken behaviour by the males that congregate on the benches fighting (one hitting one with a shoe) asking unnecessary questions at that age re concerns if we go to town again will they be there? I can't welcome this enough. I have witnessed abuse being shouted at pedestrians in the area and elderly people unable to take a seat.

Good plan, but it MUST be enforced.

The number of drinkers and drug users that congregate on the green near the play area at the the the top of New Road / Whyte court is unreal and needs stopping.

Thank you appreciate this going ahead. I hope it will stop people aa weve had people sit drink, smoke, take drugs, wave weapon around in town near library and clock tower opposite b and m. Is there any way the police can also check drug users at library (above library) and houses near the parks in Ramsey (mill lane and near Newtown road) as often smell of weed and not nice with children going in and out of parks and library. thank you very much

I have personally been the victim of abusive language from a group who were drinking alcohol in the middle of the day.

This problem has been going on for three years at least. If you are visiting Ramsey and arrive by bus, you are often greeted by this bunch of drunken loud mouth jobs as you leave the vehicle. They take over the seating provided in and around the town clock and bus stop directly opposite the library entrance. Shoppers in the town cannot use this seating area as they are made to feel intimidated and uncomfortable by the behaviour of the regular half dozen drunken idiots who gather there. It's not a good situation for any town to have. As they have been spoken to countless times about their behaviour when gathering there no no avail, I think a PSPO is the only solution.

The sooner the better

I am hoping this is the first of a range of measures to tackle a range of anti-social issues that are impacting Ramsey, residents and businesses

As above on question 6. The effects on fine out Fridays and the jolly sailor outdoor seating This will only work if it is implemented with vigour and purpose. The individuals and groups associated with the anti social behaviour have no regard for the law or common decency. They know that there are no police close by to challenge their actions. Similarly this is also why certain spots in Ramsey stink of weed. Drug deals happen openly on the street, this has been witnessed by many local residents. Please ensure the support and presence is provided to the town, over the last couple of years there has been a definite shift in the atmosphere around the town centre.

Unfortunately as many will say, is there enough police presence to be able to enforce these proposals? Businesses need a way to contact authorities without being pressured to fill in forms as many of us do not have the time. Calling 101 means being told to fill a form to report anything. And nothing ever gets done! Perhaps if there will be changes to the system then perhaps it would work. I would also like to add, if we can include going through waste bins. I come to work and have to frequently close the heavy bin lid and remove rubbish from the ground that has already bin placed in the bin once. There are people who get our crates and place them in front of the bin to access it. So have to not leave any crates around. They also broke the lock for the bin! One person came in recently to complain that we need to separate our food waste so they can access it better! The audacity! Our bins are located in the proposed area. Thanks

This is excellent thank you. Me and my young daughters love walking to town but have recently stopped as they find these people really scary. I don't feel safe either. The people watch us and make me feel really uncomfortable. This is really reassuring that this is being looked at.

Need a higher police presence where possible

It is a real shame that Ramsey has at various times become a no go area. You should be able to walk the streets anytime of the day and not feel threatened.

The following is an email from Chief Inspector Mike Jackman, supporting the proposed PSPO, as part of statutory consultation:

Hi Georgia,

I have had sight of the PSPO proposal that has been presented and can confirm that I had had the opportunity to review the report and consult with internal stakeholders from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

On behalf of Cambridgeshire Police, I am supportive of the proposal, and offer no suggested amendments or adjustments to either the conditions, or the geographical location.

It is my view that this PSPO will assist in combatting anti-social behaviour in the area.

Kindest Regards,

Mike Jackman

Chief Inspector | Neighbourhood Policing



The following is a letter from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, providing support for the proposed PSPO in Ramsey:



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PO Box 688
PE29 9LA

Tel 0300 333 3456

Georgia Patterson
Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer
Huntingdon District Council
Email: Georgia.Patterson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

18th September 2024

Dear Georgia,

I refer to your email sent on 6th September 2024, regarding Huntingdonshire District Council's proposal for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to be introduced within the Great Whyte, Mews Close Car Park, New Road and Newton Green areas of Ramsey. This is in response to an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour in these areas.

Firstly, I both welcome and thank Huntingdon District Council for undertaking the consultation to seek the views of the public and myself, as Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This letter is my formal response to the PSPO consultation.

I fully appreciate the effects that anti-social behaviour can have on individuals and communities. Partnership working such as that between the Constabulary and Huntingdon District Council is key to co-ordinating an effective response to tackling issues and problems within the district.

Having contacted the Constabulary, I am aware that they support your proposal. I see this is a positive step for the community and the Police, therefore, I would have no objections and fully support Huntingdon District Councils proposal for the PSPO outlined in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. H.', written on a light grey rectangular background.

Police and Crime Commissioner

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Public

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Review of the Public Spaces Protection Order: Eynesbury
Meeting/Date:	Licensing and Protection Committee 16 October 2024
Executive Portfolio:	Executive Councillor for Residents Services and Corporate Performance, Councillor S W Ferguson
Report by:	Community Action Team Leader
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.

On 17th July 2024, the PSPO came into effect, with public notices erected and offenders warned. The District Council's Community Action Team (previously Community Protection and Enforcement Team) have worked in partnership with the St Neots Neighbourhood Policing Team since then to facilitate a swift response to the issues. Following implementation of the Order, an overt CCTV camera was put in place on the corner of Berkely Street, Montagu Street and St Mary's Street to identify offenders breaching the PSPO prohibitions and to act as a deterrent.

Following a targeted response from HDC and Police, reports of anti-social behaviour in the area have reduced. Patrols in and around the location have continued as well as engagement with members of the public regarding the PSPO conditions.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the impact that the Order has had since implementation.

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 for Eynesbury, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking and public camping in the churchyard. Committee Members also requested that an update be provided, on enforcement outcomes following the implementation of the PSPO.
- 1.2 The PSPO for Eynesbury came into effect on 17th July 2024. On this date, Officers from the Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Action Team (CAT) and the St Neots Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) patrolled the area, engaged with the community, warned people of the consequences of a PSPO breach and erected signage in the areas affected by the PSPO. Since then, the PSPO has been enforced effectively with excellent results.
- 1.3 On the day of implementation, a person who had been camping in the churchyard on Berkley Street since late 2023 was warned by HDC's CAT Officers and St Neots NPT Officers that they were now in breach of the new PSPO. On 22/07/2024 the person still had not moved on, so HDC CAT Officers and St Neots NPT Officers provided a 1-hour window to remove camping equipment from the area to avoid enforcement action. There have been no reports of camping at the location since.
- 1.4 It is believed that many of the incidents of anti-social behaviour occurring at the location were exacerbated by this individual and the prompt resolution of this issue through PSPO enforcement has resulted in a reduction of incidents occurring.
- 1.5 Following the implementation of the PSPO, an overt CCTV camera was erected on the corner of Berkely Street, Montagu Street and St Mary's Street to identify offenders breaching the PSPO conditions and to act as a reinforced deterrent from offending behaviour.
- 1.6 On 20th August 2024, representatives from HDC's Community and Housing Teams, Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Taylor joined the St Neots Neighbourhood Policing Team in engaging with a group of Eynesbury residents to receive feedback and provide updates on the PSPO and Nags Head. Residents were reassured on actions taken so far and reminded how to report concerns.
- 1.7 The following is a list of incidents reported to the Police in the vicinity of the PSPO area. Not all these incidents are directly related to the PSPO:
 - 12/07/2024: Reports of drug dealing in the area
 - 05/08/2024: Male seen acting suspiciously on Buckley Road
 - 12/08/2024: Group drinking outside the Nags Head this incident was resolved
 - 16/08/2024: Vehicle Nuisance people playing loud music from a vehicle

- 24/09/2024: Non dwelling burglary Montagu St Neots
 -
- 1.8 St Neots NPT have conducted regular patrols of the area along with Police Operation DANTE Officers. No breaches of the PSPO conditions have been witnessed. One male is currently under police investigation for criminal damage, after being witnessed on CCTV damaging one of the PSPO signs.

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 the Local Authority. To make a PSPO, the authority must be satisfied that on reasonable grounds two conditions are met:

- 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.
- The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities –
 - is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
 - is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
 - justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2.2 **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.

2.3 **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.

2.4 **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 of incidents at the location via HDC's CCTV Control Room.
- 4.0 This order will remain in place until July 2028. 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 Eynesbury. From January 2028 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 Eynesbury. The results of this consultation will be shared with Licensing and Protection Committee members.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Ashley Dolling, Community Action Team Leader
Tel No: 01480 387067
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Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Delegation of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to Officers

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee –
Wednesday 16th October 2024

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

Report by: Claudia Deeth, Community Services Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

A report was presented to the Licensing and Protection Committee at their meeting held on 25th January 2024 requesting approval of the updated delegations. The report detailed the enforcement legislation that is available for Local Authorities to utilise and the proposed process for implementing it including delegating permissions to identified District Council officers.

The recommendations within the report were approved and enables the Licensing, Community Action and Environmental Health Teams to utilise legislation to deliver their services. Within the report, the use of the tools and powers available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 were delegated to the Community Services Manager except where they related to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). To enable PSPOs to be used efficiently and effectively, it is recommended that consideration be given to delegating the decision to approve a PSPO to the Community Services Manager.

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the request to delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to, following consultation, support or reject applications for Public Space Protection Orders.
2. Delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to, following consultation, vary the prohibitions contained within a PSPO.

3. Delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to, following consultation, have the option to approve the extension of a PSPO after the initial 3-year period and where evidence suggests that it is necessary.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Licensing and Protection Committee delegates authority to the Community Services Manager to approve or reject the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) following public consultation.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Provisions within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allow for Local Authorities to make Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) where incidents of anti-social behaviour are persistent in nature and having a detrimental effect on those in the local area.
- 2.2 The District Council has utilised the legislation on several occasions and implemented Orders that have successfully addressed behaviours such as anti-social use of vehicles, street drinking and dog fouling. A PSPO remains in place for 3 years and naturally expires unless it is renewed following a request along with supporting evidence. Orders apply to the district as a whole or specific areas.
- 2.3 Consideration to implement a PSPO can be given following a request from the Police or recommendation from the Local Authority. After which, the legislation requires that a full and inclusive consultation is carried out that seeks the views of any person/s and or businesses that may be affected by the order, as well as partner agencies, Town, Parish and Ward Councillors. After which, the evidence, the results of the consultation as well as the proposed prohibitions are presented to the Licensing and Protection Committee to determine whether they support or reject the PSPO.
- 2.4 This report seeks approval to amend the current process and delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to determine whether following consultation, the threshold for a PSPO has been met.

3. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 3.1 By amending the current process, PSPOs will be implemented in a timelier manner relieving more quickly, the impact that incidents of anti-social behaviour are having on our communities.

4. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If approved, the process will be amended with immediate effect and will be as follows:
1. Request along with justification, received by the District Council to implement a PSPO.
 2. Consultation with residents and or businesses who may be affected by the order as well as relevant Town or Parish Council, Ward Members,

Portfolio Holder, County Councillors, partner agencies and members of the Licensing and Protection Committee.

3. The results of the consultation along with supporting evidence presented to the Community Services Manager for determination.
4. Decision published and consultees notified.
5. A standing agenda item on the meeting of the Licensing and Protection Committee to report on requests for PSPOs, approvals and rejections, monitoring and review of active orders,

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The current delegations as approved by the Committee at their meeting on 25th January 2024, states that:

‘After consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development and Legal, the Community Services Manager has delegated authority to create and maintain policies and procedures arising from the Public Space Protection Orders under the 2014 Act’.

- 5.2 To align authority within the delegations, it is recommended that the wording be amended to:

‘After consultation with the Executive Councillor, the Licensing and Protection Committee and interested parties, the Community Services Manager has delegated authority to create, implement and maintain policies, procedures and orders arising from the Public Space Protection Orders under the 2014 Act’.

- 5.3 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations.

6. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 6.1 Should the authority to implement PSPOs be delegated to the Community Services Manager it will result in:

- All delegations being aligned.
- PSPOs will be implemented more quickly, bringing swifter relief to those impacted by the anti-social behaviour.
- A thorough review on a regular basis, of the benefits of the orders resulting in the ability to utilise best practise.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 of the delegations report that went to Licensing and Protection Committee on 25th January 2024.

The Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/legislation/2014/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-act)

CONTACT OFFICER

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Appendix 1

POWERS DELEGATED BY OR ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Environmental Health and Community Protection and Enforcement (Approved on 25th January 2024)

Source	The Power Delegated	Delegated to	Date of Delegation	Remarks
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	To enter on to land or premises for the purposes of inspection etc	Community Services Manager, Environmental Health Officers, Environmental Health Service Manager, Community Protection and Enforcement Officers, Technical Officers, Pest Control Officers	29.01.74	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949	To enter on to land or premises for the purposes of the Act	Community Services Manager, Environmental Health Officers, Environmental Health Service Manager, Community Protection and Enforcement Officers, Technical Officers, Pest Control Officers	29.01.74	
Public Health Act 1936	To deal with licensing of movable dwellings and camping sites	Community Services Manager	17.06.75	
Highways Act 1980 (S.179)	To issue consent or to serve such notices as may be considered appropriate in relation to construction under streets in accordance with S.179 of the Act	Operations General Manager	12.10.82	After consultation with the Chair of the Committee.
Food Safety Act 1990	(a) To institute legal proceedings for contraventions of the Act and any re-enactment, amendment or modification thereof or any regulations made thereunder	Community Services Manager	18.09.90	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
	(b) To authorise, in writing, Environmental Health Officers and any other persons he/she may determine to act as	Community Services Manager		

authorised officers either generally or specifically in matters arising under the Act

Environmental Protection Act 1990	To undertake duties, serve Notices and institute legal proceedings for non-compliance with Statutory Notices under Part III of the Act	Community Services Manager, Environmental Health Officers, Environmental Health Service Manager, Technical Officers	15.01.91	
Food Safety Act 1990: Quick Frozen Foodstuffs Regulations 1990	To undertake prosecutions for contravention	Community Services Manager	17.09.91	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 (as amended by Animal Welfare Act 1984)	To appoint suitably qualified persons to act as Welfare Supervisory Officers	Community Services Manager	03.12.91	
Slaughter of Poultry (Licences and specified qualifications) Regulations 1991	To grant, renew, modify, refuse, suspend or revoke a licence for the slaughter of poultry	Community Services Manager	03.12.91	
Slaughter of Poultry (Licences and specified qualifications) Regulations 1991	To institute legal proceedings for alleged contraventions	Community Services Manager	03.12.91	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 (Section 8 & Schedule 2)	To determine applications in respect of loud-speakers in streets between 9 pm and 8 am	Community Services Manager	01.03.94	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 (Section 8 & Schedule 2)	To appoint contractors to act as agents for the Council in towing away vehicles and equipment causing a nuisance and impounding them until reclaimed	Community Services Manager	01.03.94	
Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 (Section 8 & Schedule 2)	To sign noise abatement notices on behalf of the Council	All officers authorised under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to take action in respect of statutory nuisances	01.03.94	

Environmental Protection Act 1990	To appoint authorised persons under the Act	Community Services Manager	17.09.96	
Environment Act 1995	To institute legal proceedings for offences under the Act	Community Services Manager	17.09.96	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Food Safety Act 1990: Quick Frozen Foodstuffs Regulations 1990	To appoint, in writing, an Environmental Health Officer and any other person as he may determine to act as authorised Officers either generally or specifically in matters arising under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	17.09.91	
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 11A) and Environment Act 1995	To exercise the powers of entry, inspection and investigation and to serve notices	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 11A) and Environment Act 1995	To exercise powers and duties under the Act	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 11A)	To maintain a public register of the Council's regulatory activity	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 11A) and Environment Act 1995	To institute legal proceedings under the Acts	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 11A) and Environment Act 1995	To carry out urgent remedial action under the Acts where there is an imminent danger of serious harm in that circumstances exist which are likely to endanger life or harm or cause pollution of controlled waters	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999	To carry out the following functions under the Act -	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	

- (i) the determination of applications for the grant, variation and transfer of permits and accompanying conditions;
- (ii) the collection of fees as determined by the DETR;
- (iii) the suspension and revocation of permits and service of notices; and
- (iv) the variation and enforcement of permit conditions, taking of samples and the taking of remedial action at the expense of the permit holder

Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999	To appoint suitably qualified persons to exercise the powers and duties conferred by the Act	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	
Environment Act 1995	To exercise powers of entry under Section 108(4) of the Act	Appointed Officers	20.09.00	
Pollution, Prevention and Control Act 1999	To institute legal proceedings under the Act and Regulations	Community Services Manager	20.09.00	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee
Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) Regulations 1996 as amended by the Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) (Amendment) Regulations 2001	To appoint suitably qualified Officers to carry out the duties specified under the legislation	Community Services Manager	20.03.02	
Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) Regulations 1996 as amended by the Products	To institute legal proceedings for contravention of the Regulations	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair)

of Animal Origin (Import and Export) (Amendment) Regulations 2001				of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Meat (Enhanced Enforcement Powers) Regulations 2000	To appoint suitably qualified Officers to carry out the duties specified under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	20.03.02	
Deer Act 1991	To appoint suitably qualified Officers to undertake the duties specified under the legislation	Community Services Manager	20.03.02	
Deer Act 1991	To institute legal proceedings for contravention of the Regulations	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair) of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 (S19 and 20)	To appoint suitably qualified Officers as Inspectors to carry out the duties specified under Section 19 of the Act	Community Services Manager	20.03.02	
Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 (S19 and 20)	To exercise discretion as to the extent of the powers granted to individual inspectors under Section 20 in accordance with the statutory guidance issued by the Health and Safety Commission	Community Services Manager		
Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 (S19 and 20)	To authorise other persons to accompany duly authorised Officers appointed under Section 19 and Section 20 (2)(c)(1) of the Act, where necessary, on inspections for the purposes of the Act	Officers appointed under Section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974		
Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 (S19 and 20)	To institute legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court under any of the relevant statutory provisions defined in the Act	Inspectors appointed under Section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 following the approval of the Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair)

				of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 (S19 and 20)	To institute legal proceedings in the Crown Court for contraventions of the Health and Safety at Work (etc) Act 1974 and any re-enactment, amendment or modification thereof and any Regulations made thereunder	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair) of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)	To designate appropriate Officers to discharge the powers and duties of the Council as set out in the Act and any Codes of Practice and Regulations made thereunder	Community Services Manager or, his absence, the Legal Services Manager	17.09.02	
Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2002	To designate appropriate Officers to discharge the duties and powers of the Council as set out in the Regulations	Community Services Manager	24.06.03	
Pollution and Prevention Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000	To respond to statutory consultation under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	01.08.03	After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
European Communities Act 1972	To appoint suitably qualified Officers to carry out the duties conferred upon the Council in the Act and Regulations	Community Services Manager	15.10.03	
European Communities Act 1972	To institute legal proceedings for offences arising from the Act and Regulation	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2011	To appoint appropriate Officers to discharge the powers and duties under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	15.10.03	

Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2011	To institute legal proceedings under the Regulations	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
The Imported Regulations 1997	Food To appoint appropriate Officers to carry out duties and powers under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	15.10.03	
The Imported Regulations 1997	Food To institute legal proceedings under the Regulations	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
The Product of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended by The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Amendment Regulations 2004 and any further amendment thereafter	To appoint appropriate Officers to carry out the duties and other matters conferred upon the Council by the Regulations	Community Services Manager	17.02.04	
The Product of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended by The Products of Animal Origin (Third Country Imports) (England) Amendment Regulations 2004 and any further amendment thereafter	To institute legal proceedings under the Regulations and any further amendments thereto	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chair, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee

The Noise Act 1996 as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	To appoint Officers to investigate complaints of night time noise and to issue warnings or fixed penalty notices	Community Services Manager	12.05.04	
The Noise Act 1996 as amended by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003	To institute legal proceedings under the Act for failure to comply	Community Services Manager	12.05.04	After consultation with the Chair, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Health Act 2006	To appoint suitably qualified, experienced and trained Officers to carry out the duties and other matters arising under Part 1 of the Health Act 2006 and associated Regulations	Community Services Manager	13.06.07	
Health Act 2006	To institute legal proceedings under the Act and associated Regulations	Community Services Manager	13.06.07	After consultation with the Chair (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair) of the Committee
Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006	To appoint suitably qualified officers	Community Services Manager	19.01.06	
Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006	To institute legal proceedings for contravention of the Regulations	Community Services Manager	19.01.06	After consultation with Chair (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair) of the Committee
Official Food and Feeds Controls (England) Regulations 2006	To appoint suitably qualified, experienced and trained officers to carry out duties under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	19.01.06	
Official Food and Feeds Controls (England) Regulations 2006	To institute legal proceedings under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	19.01.06	After consultation with Chair (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair) of the Committee

Environmental (Prevention and Remediation) 2009	Damage and Regulations	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers to enforce the provisions of the Regulations	Community Services Manager	19.03.09	
Environmental (Prevention and Remediation) 2009	Damage and Regulations	To initiate prosecutions under the Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009	Community Services Manager	19.03.09	After consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee (or in his absence, the Vice-Chair)
Ozone Substances (Qualifications) 2009	Depleting	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions of the Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2009	Community Services Manager	27.10.09	
Ozone Substances (Qualifications) 2009	Depleting	To initiate prosecutions under the Ozone Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations 2009	Community Services Manager	27.10.09	With prior agreement of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Fluorinated Gases Regulations 2009	Greenhouse	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers to enforce the provisions of the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009	Community Services Manager	27.10.09	
Fluorinated Gases Regulations 2009	Greenhouse	To initiate prosecutions under the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009	Community Services Manager	27.10.09	With prior agreement of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Regulatory Sanctions Act 2008	Enforcement	To review the Food Safety Enforcement Policy and Health and Safety Enforcement Policy as appropriate	Community Services Manager	27.10.09	After consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee

Regulatory Enforcement Sanctions Act 2008	To review enforcement policies with regard to the Act and to introduce necessary changes to policies as appropriate	Relevant Heads of Service	27.10.10	After consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor
Health and Social Care Act 2008	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions of the Regulations and to make applications to the Magistrates Court as appropriate	Community Services Manager	16.06.10	
Health and Social Care Act 2008	To initiate prosecutions for offences under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	16.06.10	After consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions of the Act	Community Services Manager	16.06.10	
The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016	To initiate prosecutions under the Act	Community Services Manager	16.06.10	After consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee
Sunbeds (Regulations) Act 2010	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Health Protection Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions of the Act	Community Services Manager	09.06.11	
Sunbeds (Regulations) Act 2010	To initiate prosecutions under the Act	Community Services Manager	09.06.11	After consultation with the Chair of the Committee
Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Protection Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions	Community Services Manager	26.10.11	

Depleting Substances) of the Environmental Protection (Controls on
Regulations 2011 Ozone Depleting Substances) Regulations
2011

Environmental Protection To initiate prosecutions under the Community Services Manager
(Controls on Ozone Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone
Depleting Substances) Depleting Substances) Regulations 2011
Regulations 2011

After consultation with
the Chair and Vice-Chair
of the Licensing and
Protection Committee

Animal By Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (England) Regulations 2006	To appoint Environmental Health Officers and Environmental Health Protection Officers as authorised persons to enforce the provisions of the Regulations 2006	Community Services Manager	25.01.12	
Animal By Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011 Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) (England) Regulations 2006	To initiate prosecutions under the Regulations	Community Services Manager	25.01.12	After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing and Protection Panel
Local Government Act 1972	To convene meetings of the Applications Sub-Group comprising four Members of the Panel to determine such matters in the case of an individual licence or application which have not been delegated to Officers	Elections and Democratic Services Manager	13.06.07	

Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013	To appoint suitably qualified and competent persons to act as authorised persons to enforce the provisions of the Regulations	Community Services Manager	28.01.14	
Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013	To initiate prosecutions under the Regulations	Community Services Manager		After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel
Food Information Regulations 2014	To create and maintain policies and procedures under the Regulations.	Community Services Manager	6.11.14	After consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development and Legal.
Food Information Regulations 2014	For the purposes of enforcement of the Food Information Regulations 2014, to appoint such other officers as considered appropriate to initiate legal proceedings for offences under the Regulations.	Community Services Manager	6.11.14	After consultation with the Legal Services Manager.
Energy Act 2003, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015	For the purposes of enforcement of the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015	Community Services Manager	21.6.2016	
Energy Act 2003, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015	For the publishing and review of a statement of principles governing the application of the penalty charge regime	Community Services Manager	21.6.2016	After consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor
Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, Redress Scheme for Lettering Agency Work and property Management Work (Requirements to Belong to a Scheme) (England) Order 2014	For the purposes of enforcement of the Redress Scheme for Lettering Agency Work and property Management Work (Requirements to Belong to a Scheme) (England) Order 2014	Community Services Manager	21.6.2016	

Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, Redress Scheme for Letting Agency Work and property Management Work (Requirements to Belong to a Scheme) (England) Order 2014	For the purposes of determining the value of the penalty charge for failure of a business to be a member of an approved scheme	Community Services Manager	21.6.2016	After consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor
Mobile Homes Act 2013	To appoint suitably qualified and competent persons to act as authorised persons to determine and issue licences and enforce the provisions of the Act	Community Services Manager	28.01.14	
Mobile Homes Act 2013	To initiate prosecutions under the Act	Community Services Manager	28.01.14	After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel
Mobile Homes Act 2013	To publish a fees policy, determine fees and undertake an annual review	Community Services Manager	28.01.14	After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960	To appoint suitably qualified and competent persons to act as authorised persons to determine and issue licences and enforce the provisions of the Act	Community Services Manager		
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960	To initiate prosecutions under the Act	Community Services Manager		
Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014	To appoint Community Protection and Enforcement Officers and Environmental Health Officers as 'authorised persons' to enforce the provisions of the Act	Community Services Manager	6.11.14	

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime
and Policing Act 2014

To create and maintain policies and
procedures arising from the Public Space
Protection Orders under the 2014 Act

Community Services Manager

6.11.14

After consultation with
the Executive Councillor
for Strategic Economic
Development and Legal

Refuse Disposal (Amenity)
Act 1978

To appoint suitably qualified officers to
implement the provisions under the Act

Community Services Manager

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Monitoring Report on the delivery of the Service Plans for Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Regulation

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee – 16 October 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Resident Services & Corporate Performance – Cllr S Ferguson

Report by: Kate Penn – Environmental Health Service Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Service Plans for Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Regulation 2024-25 were approved by committee on 15 May 2024.

The report provides information about the delivery of the two Service Plans for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

For both service areas programmed work such as food hygiene inspections is delivered alongside reactive work, the volume of which by definition is impossible to predict. This work is carried out according to risk. Complaints and accident investigations are prioritised using risk-based selection criteria, and the volume of work is reported here to attempt to identify any emerging risks in terms of resource provision.

Appendices 1 and 2 contain detailed information about the delivery of Service Plans for Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Regulation 2024-25.

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is asked to review progress and provide any comments considered appropriate on the delivery of the two Service Plans for Q1 and Q2.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides information about the delivery of the Service Plans for Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Regulation for Quarters 1 and 2 2024-25.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have asked to be kept informed about the delivery of the work in the approved plans.

3. SERVICE AREAS COVERED BY THE REPORT

- 3.1 The overall aim of the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement is to ensure that food placed or intended to be placed on the market for human consumption which is produced, stored, distributed, handled or purchased within Huntingdonshire is without risk to public health or the safety of the consumer. This is fulfilling our statutory duty under the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Food Hygiene and Safety (England) Regulations 2013. There are several key objectives which contribute to the delivery of the overall aim.

- The delivery of a programme of inspections and other interventions in accordance with the FSA's Code of Practice
- To respond to complaints and requests for service in accordance with any internal service standards
- To respond to any FSA Food Alerts for Action (FAFA) subject to available resources

- 3.2 The overall aim of the Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation is to work with businesses and employees to protect all people, including members of the public, from unsafe working conditions by fulfilling the council's statutory role as a 'Health and Safety Enforcing Authority'

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The main risk of not carrying out the work on these plans would be to the health, wellbeing and safety of those who live, work or visit the Huntingdonshire area. They could be exposed to unsafe food or unsafe working conditions.
- 4.2 The failure to monitor the delivery of the approved Service Plans could invite criticism from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in their capacities as the national regulators.
- 4.3 Members have asked to be kept informed about the delivery of the approved Service Plans in order that they can comment on the way in which the service is provided as well as the available resources.

5. PROGRESS AGAINST APPROVED SERVICE PLANS

5.1 Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement

5.1.1 The main focus of this service plan is the planned routine inspections of food businesses. All food businesses are risk rated category A to E with A being the highest risk. The risk rating mechanism is provided in the Food Law Code of Practice (England) and considers the consumers at risk; the level of current compliance with statutory obligations and any relevant industry codes of recommended practice in relation to the hygiene and structure of the premises; and the confidence in management/control processes in place. For example, a care home or nursery may be Category A due to their consumers being in a vulnerable group and inspected every six months. Most restaurants, pubs and catering businesses are Category C or D and will be inspected every 18 or 24 months. Category E are the lowest risk premises and will include small retailers selling pre-packed food and home caterers making cakes only.

The table below shows the categorisation of food businesses in Huntingdonshire on 31 March 2024, with the data from 31 March 2023 as a comparison:

Category	Number of Premises 31 March 2023	Number of Premises 31 March 2024
A	6	3
B	63	79
C	290	340
D	542	460
E	720	645
Unrated	53	58

There are 67 food business outside the rating programme (66 in 2023/24)

5.1.2 In Quarter 1 there were 186 food hygiene inspections carried out and in Quarter 2 there were 207 food hygiene inspections carried out which gives a total of 393 for the first half of the year. This exceeds the level of activity predicted.

5.1.3 In Quarters 1 and 2 there were 141 new food business registrations received, this shows the continuing flux of food businesses. A new business registration can occur when an existing business changes hands and a new food business operator takes over or an entirely new business starts up. The service is still finding that some businesses are registering a long time before they intend to open and this has been fed back to the Food Standards Agency.

5.1.4 In Quarters 1 and 2 there were 16 compliance checks undertaken, these are revisits to check compliance where the food hygiene inspection has uncovered issues that need attention. This is in line with the expected activity.

5.1.5 Work has been continuing to go through the list of Category E businesses that remain overdue for inspection and confirm whether they are still

operating and then create an inspection for the relevant officer to undertake in person. So far 167 premises records have been reviewed.

The process for sending out questionnaires to Category E premises routinely due for inspection under the Alternative Enforcement Strategy has been reviewed and digitised with businesses receiving emails with a link to a webform to complete. The first 23 of these were sent out in Q2 and this is the figure shown in Appendix 1.

- 5.1.6 There was a prosecution in Quarter 2 where a business in the district had failed to maintain appropriate standards of hygiene and cleanliness. Shezan Gul Nawaz, sole director of Somersham Curry & Kebab Ltd, pleaded guilty to 15 food hygiene offences and was fined £2,500.00, and was also asked to pay £2,718.00 costs and a £1000 victim surcharge.
- 5.1.7 Appendix 1 also shows that requests for export certificates was slightly lower than anticipated based on previous years data, this is something that as a service we cannot influence and is determined by what manufactures are exporting where.
- 5.1.8 Requests for rescores continue to be slightly higher than anticipated in Quarters 1 and 2 showing businesses are striving to get the highest food hygiene rating of 5. When a business scores lower than 5 they can request a rescoring inspection by providing details of how they have addressed any matters outstanding at their programmed inspection.
- 5.1.9 Officers have continued to take part in UK Health Security Agency's sampling study, the topic for Q1 and Q2 was 'Unpasteurised and pasteurised milk cheeses (UK and non-UK)'. Where samples were unsatisfactory notification was provided to the Food Standards Agency and additional visits have been undertaken to provide advice and guidance to businesses and further samples carried out to check for improvement to the required standard.
- 5.1.10 The level of activity with regard to infectious disease control has been as anticipated now notifications of certain confirmed food and waterborne gastrointestinal pathogens from the UK Health Security Agency have restarted.

5.2 **Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation**

- 5.2.1 The majority of health and safety work in Quarters 1 and 2 was reactive, there were 21 accidents reported of which 9 investigations commenced. The selection of accidents for investigation is founded upon the risk-based criteria in Local Authority Circular (LAC) 22/13. There were 72 other service requests responded to and the majority of these were licensing consultations where a new premises, street trading or pavement licence had been applied for by a business in the district.
- 5.2.2 In Quarter 4 there were 18 skin piercing registrations issued for premises and practitioners within the district. In April 2022, the Health and Care Act gave the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care the power to

introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures in England. We are still waiting to see if this will be taken forward by the new government and in what format as this will have resource implications.

- 5.2.3 Following the incident at Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull the previous Government wrote written to all local authorities requesting that every funeral director in the country is visited to check on the care of the deceased and provide reassurance to the public. Officers from the Environmental Health team undertook visits to 14 funeral directors during June and July 2024 following the guidance from DLUHC, SAIF (Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors) and NAFD (National Association of Funeral Directors).

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The work covered by the two Service Plans largely sits under Priority 3 – Doing our core work well - Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The failure to report the delivery of the approved Service Plans may prejudice the Council's ability to provide the necessary resources.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - Food Activity 2024-25

Appendix 2 - Health and Safety Activity 2024-25

CONTACT OFFICER

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Appendix 1 Food Activity 2024-2025

Activity	Predicted Activity 2024-25	Recorded Activity Q1 2024-25	Recorded Activity Q2 2024-25	Total Activity 2024-25	RAG Status
Programmed food hygiene inspections A breakdown will be reported for: 1) Programmed inspections 2) Initial inspection (new business or new FBO) 3) Aborted/no access or closed premises inspections (aim to minimise)	606	Total: 186 1) 118 2) 48 3) 20	Total: 207 1) 111 2) 68 3) 28	Total: 393 1) 229 2) 116 3) 48	Green
Alternative Enforcement Strategy (AES) (e.g. cake makers and childminders)	150	0	23	23	Red
Revisits to check compliance following a food hygiene inspection	30	5	11	16	Green
Mentoring / business support visits (previously included in other proactive visits)	15	2	2	4	Green
Sampling visits (previously included in other proactive visits)	20	5	3	8	Green
Food, water and environmental samples taken	100	12	9	21	Green
Prosecutions and cautions	2	0	1	1	Green
Formal action (service of notices, closures)	10	0	0	0	Green
Complaints and service requests about food and about/from food businesses	300	69	65	134	Green
Requests for export certificates	90	20	11	31	Green
FHRS re-score requests (low is good)	20	5	9	14	Green
Infectious disease control - notifications of food-borne/food poisoning illnesses (low is good)	30	10	7	17	Green
FSA food alerts for action	10	1	0	1	Green

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Appendix 2 Health and Safety Activity 2024-25

Activity	Predicted activity 2024-25	Recorded Activity Q1 2024-25	Recorded Activity Q2 2024-25	Total Activity 2024-24
Premises inspections and interventions (including activities identified in Work Plan)	40	8	7	15
Health and safety complaints and requests for service (including advice to business/enquiries) *	100	Total: 32 18 licensing consultations 4 relating to work premises 8 skin piercing enquiries 2 lifting equipment notifications 0 other	Total: 40 25 licensing consultations 3 relating to work premises 6 skin piercing enquiries 4 lifting equipment notifications 2 other	Total: 72
Skin piercing registrations	50	11	7	18
Accident and dangerous occurrence reports received	70	8	13	21
Accident and dangerous occurrence investigations commenced **	30	3	6	9
Specific smoke free enforcement visits***	0	0	0	0
Matters of Evident Concern (MEC)****	35	24	11	35

* This figure includes statutory notifications about working with asbestos, Adverse Insurance Reports (AIR) about unsafe work equipment and requests for advice and information. The diversity of work illustrates the importance of maintaining resources in order that effective investigations can be carried out. A breakdown of service request areas will be given.

**The selection of accidents for investigation is founded upon the risk-based criteria in Local Authority Circular (LAC) 22/13.

*** This figure is driven by the number of relevant complaints received by the service.

**** Matters of Evident Concern are significant health and safety problems that officers have noted during non-health and safety activities. (The fewer the better)

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**Public
Key Decision - No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title: Suspension & Revocation of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licences.

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee – 16 October 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance – Councillor SW Ferguson

Report by: Licensing Manager – Michelle Bishop

Ward(s) affected: All.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Community Services & Licensing Manager has delegated authority to refuse, suspend or revoke Private Hire and Hackney Carriage driver and vehicle licences under the powers delegated by the Licensing and Protection Committee.

Below is a summary of the actions that have taken place over the last 4 months.

2. REPORT

2.1 01.05.2024 to 30.09.2024

Date	Licence type	Decision	Reason	Comments
10.05.2024	Private Hire vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Accident	
23.05.2024	Hackney Carriage Vehicle	Refusal - Renewal	Out of Area HCV	
06.06.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Dangerous defects - following complaint	
16.07.2024	Private Hire Driver	Suspended	No DBS	

12.08.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Failed at approved garage due to dangerous defects	
14.08.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Suspended	Accident	
15.08.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Failed at approved garage due to dangerous defects	
29.08.2024	Hackney Carriage Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Failed at approved garage due to dangerous defects	
02.09.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Accident	
02.09.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	No Insurance	
09.09.2024	Hackney Carriage Driver	Immediate Suspension	Incorrect Insurance	
09.09.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Failed at approved garage due to dangerous defects	
17.09.2024	Private Hire Vehicle	Immediate Suspension	Accident	

3. PENALTY POINTS ISSUED

- 3.1 As per the updated Taxi policy in May 2024, we can now issue Penalty Points as a way of disposing with incidents but still allows us to build a picture of driver behaviour.

Below is a summary of what has been issues from May – September 2024

Date	Licence Type	Points Issued	Reason
02/07/2024	Dual Driver	6	Failing to declare x2 motoring convictions (SP30 and SP50)
04/09/2024	Dual Driver	6	Insurance incidents
26/09/2024	Private Hire Vehicle	3	Fail to return plate within 7 days

4. MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

- 4.1 We currently have no outstanding licensing decisions that are awaiting a court date.

Date of original HDC decision	Licence type	Result

January 2025	New Driver - Refused	
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5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are requested to note and consider the above information.

Contact Officer: Michelle Bishop – Licensing Manager
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