

**Public
Key Decision – No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
19th March 2025

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

Report by: Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Ramsey

Executive Summary:

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

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

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

This report will be a second review of the imposed PSPO in Ramsey, for January and February 2025.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 On 16th October 2024 the Licencing and Protection Committee agreed with the recommendation for a proposed Public Space Protection Order for Ramsey, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour linked to street drinking. Committee Members also requested that an update be provided, on enforcement outcomes following the implementation of the PSPO.
- 1.2 On 7th November 2024, the PSPO was introduced in Ramsey where signage was installed to notify local residents/visitors to the area of the conditions and location covered by the PSPO. This was completed jointly between HDC's Community Action Team and St Ives Neighbourhood Policing Team. Social media coverage was also released on both organisations' accounts, as well as local news outlets.
- 1.3 In January and February 2025, there has been 1 reported breach of the PSPO on the 20/02/2025, where there were reports of 2 individuals with open vessels of alcohol in the PSPO area. HDC and Police are in the process of obtaining witness statements for this breach, and issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- 1.4 HDC have received no other reports of breaches of the PSPO, other than stated above.
- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for Ramsey provided the following update:

“We have been patrolling the area most days when the team are on shift, and noted a dramatic reduction in the presence of the street drinkers, and there has been a reduction in calls for service. We have worked with the Town Council and local businesses to identify unreported incidents, and reviewed calls for service to capture those that have occurred whilst on rest days. Where possible, we have reviewed CCTV and obtained witness statements to gather evidence for breaches (listed above).”
- 1.6 HDC have received positive feedback on the PSPO from the town council and councillors, and will continue to monitor the street drinking issues as we approach the warmer months.
- 1.7 HDC's CCTV department have a camera located along the Great Whyte that was pre-existing to the PSPO and will continue to be monitored.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

2.2 **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 Ramsey will utilise resource from Cambridgeshire Constabulary and HDC's Community Action Team.

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

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

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

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

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