

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee
22nd October 2025

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

Report by: Community Safety Partnership Delivery Officer

Ward(s) affected: Eynesbury

Executive Summary:

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

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

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

In January 2025, the second review of the imposed PSPO was completed and there were 5 identified breaches from October-December 2024.

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

In June 2025, there was the first yearly review of the PSPO, which saw 1 reported breach and 0 proven breaches in the months March-May 2025. Across the whole year, there were a total of 8 breaches.

This report will cover June, July, August and September 2025.

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 On 17th July 2024, the PSPO was introduced in Eynesbury where signage was installed to notify local residents/visitors to the area of the conditions and location covered by the PSPO.
- 1.3 In terms of reports of breaches of the PSPO to Huntingdonshire District Council, there have been 0 in the months of June, July, August and September 2025.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire Constabulary received 0 reports of breaches of the PSPO during the months of June-September 2025.
- 1.5 CCTV is no longer operating in the location due to a review of budgets. We will continue to monitor this.

2. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 **Section 59** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes Public Spaces Protection Orders a statutory provision of Huntingdonshire District Council. To make a PSPO, HDC must be satisfied that on reasonable grounds two conditions are met:
- 2.2
 - 1. *Activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.*
 - 2. *The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities –*
 - a) *is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,*
 - b) *is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable,*
 - and*
 - c) *justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.*
- 2.3 **Section 60** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets the duration of a PSPO for no more than 3 years, unless extended under this section.
- 2.4 **Section 66** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an interested party the right to apply to the High Court to question the validity of a PSPO, or variation of a PSPO within 6 weeks from when the order or variation was made.
- 2.5 **Section 67** of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to do anything that they are prohibited from by the PSPO or fail to comply with a

requirement of the PSPO. Conviction may result in up to six months imprisonment, or a fine of up to £1000.

3. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

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

3.3 This order will remain in place until July 2027. In this time, HDC and Cambridgeshire Constabulary will continue to ensure the conditions of the PSPO will remain enforced proactively and reactively. The Community Action Team will provide Licensing and Protection Committee Members with an annual progress report to notify 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 July 2027 the Community Action Team will begin a process of consulting with members of the public and Elected Members to determine whether there is necessity to extend the duration of the PSPO for Eynesbury. The results of this consultation will be shared with Licensing and Protection Committee members.

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