

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 21/160

Committee:-	COUNCIL
Date:-	20 th April 2022
Author:-	John Kinloch, North Northamptonshire Council
Report Title:-	Renewal of Public Spaces Protection Order, Kettering
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb, All Saints and Northfield

1. Purpose of Report

To seek members' views on the proposed renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a period of three years – until July 2025.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to respond to the consultation below.

3. Information

- 3.1. The current PSPO, made under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, expires in July 2022 and NNC is proposing to renew it with the same restrictions applying as are currently in force.
- 3.2. The 2014 Act allows local authorities to create a PSPO where they are satisfied that activities carried on in a public place:
 - have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
 - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature;
 - is, or is likely to be, unreasonable; and
 - Justifies the restrictions imposed
- 3.3. The relevant area of the PSPO is shown at Appendix 1.

3.4. In 2016, after wide consultation with partner stakeholders (principally the Police and the wider public), ten restrictions were included in the Town Centre PSPO. The restrictions have remained in the PSPO after consultation in 2019 and are summarised below:

1. Consumption of Alcohol in the street
2. Begging on the street
3. Charity Collection without the council's permission
4. Use of skateboards and misuse of bikes/ scooters in the specified areas
(shaded on the attached map)
5. Foul and abusive language when causing offence
6. Under 18's staying after a request to go by an authorised officer
7. Loitering/ obstructing the highway
8. Using a car in an anti-social manner
9. Unauthorised distribution of leaflets
10. Anti-social parking

3.5. Offences can be dealt with through a number of possible interventions, one of which is the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Alternatively, and in cases of non-payment, the matter can then be taken to Court, where a fine of up to £500 may be imposed on summary conviction. A Community Behaviour Order (CBO) may also be applied by the Court at this stage.

4. Experience from previous reviews

4.1. The Town centre PSPO is enforced by Council wardens and PCSOs. Both services have worked closely together to jointly patrol the area and deal with situations as appropriate.

4.2. Whilst the PSPO has been in force, a number of the issues previously identified in the Town Centre as being of concern (notably skateboarding and charity collectors) have reduced. Issues arising in these cases have generally been resolved informally; however, it has been found that in cases of begging and alcohol consumption more sustained intervention is necessary.

4.3 In cases where compliance has not been achieved through an informal warning, Council officers have followed a process of support and enforcement. The first significant intervention with any person persistently committing an offence under the PSPO is to seek support for that individual to ensure that they do not continue to offend.

4.4 Wardens have worked jointly with Housing Options and the voluntary sector to ensure that, where possible, long-term solutions to genuine homelessness have been addressed. This approach has enabled the warden team and Police to then isolate and focus on those who are repeatedly engaged in behaviour, which is anti-

social. There have been a number of successes where repeat offenders have been supported and are no longer offending against the PSPO.

- 4.5. The warden role is now predominately concentrating on parking and less emphasis is being put on environmental issues which will have an effect on the enforcement of the order. The police will still patrol and charge individuals who are contravening the PSPO, but this will be more limited

5. **Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.1. KTC is the consultee. NNC is planning a wide consultation across the whole of the Kettering area this will be completed using social media platforms, online survey, direct face to face meetings with the local shops in the town centre and hard copies will be available in all of the community centres and leisure facilities in the town. Businesses will be contacted with a link to also participate in the consultation.

6. **Finance, legal and resource implications**

- 6.1. None for KTC

7. **Policy implications**

- 7.1. The Corporate Plan policy framework includes:-

a) as objective 2:- “The Council will support the town centre – through encouraging and delivering facilities, through putting on events and markets, and will help to make the town centre safe, attractive, interesting and varied, with local businesses thriving alongside national retailers and service providers”.

b) as objective 4:- “The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering”

Background Papers

None
