

Crime and Disorder Select Committee
Review of Public Space Protection Orders
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2021-2024 key objectives (and associated 2021-2022 priorities):</p> <p><i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the options around the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in the Borough. <p><i>A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement our vision for town centres... 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>Community safety in Stockton-on-Tees is of paramount concern to the Council, hence the continued prioritisation of resources in this service area. The Council is proud to have a team of Enforcement Officers, who exercise a wide range of powers in the execution of their duties, with the overall objective of ensuring a safe place for residents to live and businesses to flourish. Councils also know the issues that affect their localities the most and are well-placed to identify how best to respond. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), introduced in 2014, sit amongst a broad range of powers and tools to help tackle anti-social behaviour locally, and are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed, free from anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 created several new tools and powers for use by Councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local areas. These tools, which replaced and streamlined a number of previous measures, were brought in as part of a Government commitment to put victims at the centre of approaches to tackling ASB, focusing on the impact behaviour can have on both communities and individuals, particularly on the most vulnerable. PSPOs, one of the tools available under the 2014 Act, are wide-ranging and flexible powers for Local Authorities which recognise that Councils are often best placed to identify the broad and cumulative impact that ASB can have.</p> <p>The Act gives Councils the authority to draft and implement PSPOs in response to the issues affecting their communities, provided certain criteria and legal tests are met. Councils can use</p>	

PSPOs to prohibit specified activities, and / or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, within a defined public area. PSPOs differ from other tools introduced under the Act as they are Council-led, and rather than targeting specific individuals or properties, they focus on the identified problem behaviour in a specific location.

Used proportionately and in the right circumstances, PSPOs allow local areas to counter unreasonable and persistent behaviour that affects the quality of life of its residents. They can send a clear message that certain behaviours will not be tolerated and help reassure residents that unreasonable conduct is being addressed. However, PSPOs will not be suitable or effective in all circumstances, and it is important to carefully consider the right approach for identifying and addressing problem behaviour. The introduction of PSPOs in some other Local Authority areas around the country has attracted significant criticism – it is therefore important that any future use of PSPOs in Stockton-on-Tees is carefully framed, considered and scrutinised as to whether or not this is a viable option to consider.

The main aims of this review will therefore be to:

- Understand the requirements of introducing a PSPO and the process which needs to be followed.
- Explore further what a PSPO can be used for and whether the introduction of a PSPO in Stockton-on-Tees would have a benefit in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime in the Borough.
- Ascertain the benefits and potential challenges of introducing a PSPO within the boundary of Stockton-on-Tees, including benefits to the Council's wider partners (i.e. Police, Fire).
- Investigate any new and innovative ways of using a PSPO to improve community safety and address key issues in our communities.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

What measures already exist across the Borough to identify and address anti-social behaviour (inc. support given to those deemed vulnerable)? Why are these not sufficient?

What is envisaged in terms of a potential PSPO – which geographical area will it cover and what issues will it seek to address?

What is the process for implementing a PSPO? Who needs to be involved and what conditions must be met?

How will a PSPO be enforced – can this be achieved with existing resources?

What will be the expected impact of using a PSPO – how will this be measured / reviewed?

How do the Council's local partners feel about a potential PSPO – how will this impact on them?

What are the implications if the Council does not implement a PSPO?

What can be learned from the experiences of other Local Authorities who have used a PSPO? Why have some attracted criticism for implementing such a measure?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Council, Cabinet, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, public.

<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>7 months (reporting to Cabinet in February 2022)</p>	
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 • LGA Public Space Protection Orders – Guidance for councils (February 2018) 	
<p>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</p> <p>Local Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Services - Public Health - Adult Safeguarding - Early Help, Partnership & Planning - Housing Services - Legal Services <p>Cleveland Police</p> <p>Cleveland Fire Brigade</p> <p>Specific interest groups (depending on the issues identified)</p> <p>Other Local Authorities</p>	<p>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Existing ASB challenges across the Borough (and where these are most prevalent) ➤ Current measures in place to tackle ASB ➤ Reasons for using a PSPO and expected benefits / challenges ➤ Process for implementation of PSPO ➤ Legal viability of using a PSPO ➤ Views on potential PSPO in the Borough ➤ Benefits / challenges this may bring to own service and the wider Borough ➤ Views on potential PSPO in the Borough ➤ Rationale for introducing a PSPO and the impact of implementing this
<p>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, background research, community safety public consultation (TBC).</p>	
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, community safety public consultation (TBC).</p>	
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.</p>	

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: *All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities* (We know that a range of factors including... anti-social behaviour and crime are all linked to physical, mental health and wellbeing outcomes).

Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): *Crime* (Crime and the fear of crime are key factors that affect people's quality of life and sense of well-being).

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

Whilst Stockton-on-Tees has both the lowest crime and ASB rate in the Tees Valley, there is still more work to do to support communities to live and thrive without the fear of crime and ASB. Further improvements and scrutiny in this area is in the interest of every resident across the Borough in order to continue to drive high standards of community safety.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	May 2021	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	03.06.21	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	17.06.21	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Community Services Legal Services TBC TBC TBC	22.07.21 09.09.21 07.10.21 11.11.21	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	16.12.21	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	December 2021	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	27.01.22	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[22.03.22]	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	24.02.22	Cabinet / Approving Body