

## Agenda Item

### Crime and Disorder Select Committee

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs)

### Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) is scheduled to receive contributions from several Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council departments regarding anti-social behaviour (ASB) which impacts upon their service area.

### Detail

1. Members are reminded of the Local Government Association *Public Spaces Protection Orders – Guidance for councils* (February 2018) document which has been highlighted at previous Committee meetings:

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance\\_06\\_1.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf)

2. The Committee will receive information from the following Council departments:

- Adult Safeguarding (report and appendices attached)
- Early Help, Partnership & Planning (report attached)
- Environmental Health (presentation attached)
- Homelessness & Housing Solutions (report attached)

Reflecting on their own service areas, representatives from the above departments have been asked to respond to the following:

- What measures already exist across the Borough to identify and address anti-social behaviour (including support given to those deemed vulnerable)?
- How do Council departments work with partners to address concerns?
- Why is this not working in some cases?
- Any awareness of / information on the use of PSPOs elsewhere that may have impacted upon work your service is involved in?

3. In preparation for this evidence-gathering session, the following comments were also received from the Council's Private Sector Housing team:

*'Some of the ASB experienced can be linked to privately rented housing. Despite the common belief that landlords are liable / responsible for such behaviour, this isn't necessarily the case, as the [link below] highlights, see section 1.1 (although we would expect responsible landlords to deal with such issues).'*

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01012/SN01012.pdf>

*Ultimately, the responsibility to deal with ASB lies with the Civic Enforcement team, although we sometimes end up being the first people contacted or brought in to an individual case, usually because of our willingness to help and because we are 'associated' with private landlords via the Landlord Accreditation Scheme and PLuSS, both of which under the terms of reference expect landlords to deal with ASB when it is brought to their attention.'*

4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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