

APPENDIX A
PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)
Link Officer/s:	Marc Stephenson
Action Plan Agreed:	March 2022

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	SBC and Cleveland Police use their available media platforms (e.g. websites, social media, Stockton News) to reinforce existing mechanisms for reporting ASB and, as a means of countering any negative perceptions around a lack of response to the notification of incidents, communicates operational successes in identifying and addressing ASB within the Borough.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services
Date:	1 st October 2022
Agreed Action:	Organisations responsible for tackling ASB in Stockton on Tees will work together to develop a complimentary communication strategy that provides reassurance to residents. This will be done by highlighting the ways residents can report ASB in an easy way but also highlights the work being done amongst partners to tackle ASB including successes.
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Develop a simple and clear communication strategy amongst partners responsible for tackling ASB that is complimentary of each other.</p> <p>Clear examples of a wide range of communication strands being used to promote ways of reporting ASB in Stockton on Tees.</p> <p>Clear evidence of proactive communications across various platforms to promote successes in dealing with ASB aimed at reducing the fear of ASB in our communities.</p>
Evidence of Progress (November 2022):	Since the review, a shared approach for partnership communications has been developed further. This has been built on the back of existing arrangements but strengthened following the recommendation of both this review and a task and finish item. A renewed focus has seen an increase in media releases across all platforms with the aim of highlighting the work that goes on across Stockton on Tees to tackle ASB and crime in communities.

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	<p>Examples of the type of media releases developed, can be found at appendix 1.</p> <p>Further literature has been developed to increase the awareness of residents in the ways that ASB can be reported to authorities. New leaflets have been developed and made available across Stockton on Tees. To supplement this, a new approach to increasing awareness of how to report ASB in our hotspot areas is now also in place which includes leaflets being posted to households and supplemented by in person visits by Civic Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>A copy of the new literature can be found at appendix 2.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>1 (Fully Achieved)</p> <p>Assessed as fully achieved for the purpose of the recommendation as additional mechanisms of reporting and communicating with the public have been put in place and can be evidenced. It is acknowledged that this work will need to continue moving forward and be developed further.</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (November 2022):</p>	<p>No assessment of impact possible at this stage but will be assessed from both the community safety public survey and total number of reported ASB incidents.</p>

<p>Recommendation 2:</p>	<p>Consideration be given to an increased dedicated and visible multi-agency presence (including the use of recently enhanced SBC Civic Enforcement resources) within the Borough’s town centres to support local businesses and reassure residents / visitors in identifying and responding to ASB.</p>
<p>Responsibility:</p>	<p>Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services</p>
<p>Date:</p>	<p>1st October 2022</p>
<p>Agreed Action:</p>	<p>A review of the deployment of operational teams into the town centre environments across Stockton on Tees is undertaken to ensure they are having maximum impact and meeting the needs of residents and businesses.</p> <p>A review of joint working amongst responsible partners be undertaken including further consideration to be given to a co-located model in Stockton Town Centre.</p>
<p>Agreed Success Measure:</p>	<p>An increase in the level of visible resources within town centre environments.</p> <p>Clear evidence of a strategy being in place to ensure effective multi-agency working to tackle ASB in town centres.</p> <p>Evidence of further support being offered to local businesses to reassure and improve reporting of ASB.</p>
<p>Evidence of Progress (November 2022):</p>	<p>A review of the available operational resource deployed to our town centre environments has been undertaken. As a result, a dedicated team of 12 Civic Enforcement Officers which are led by a supervising officer have been ring</p>

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	<p>fenced to town centres across Stockton on Tees. This has been made possible through the provision of an additional 2 year’s worth of funding to support town centres and economic growth post pandemic by ensuring they are safe and welcoming.</p> <p>The 12 dedicated Enforcement Officers are further supplemented, when needed, by resources from the core-service who are supported by dedicated CCTV operators focusing on town centre related issues and intelligence in support of frontline services such as Enforcement and Police.</p> <p>Further work around multi-agency working to tackle ASB in the town centres has also continued to develop. Additional resources at key times (i.e. market days) is also in place from Cleveland Police with joint patrols and improved information sharing in place, via the Joint Agency Group. This work is underpinned by a new Community Safety Strategy that all partners have committed to.</p> <p>Engagement with local businesses has continued undertaken by a range of partners including Stockton BC and Cleveland Police. Further work is ongoing to secure additional support and resources to support key priorities, such as safety in the night-time economy and crime prevention support and advice on a regular basis.</p>
	
<p>Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>2 (On-Track)</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (November 2022):</p>	<p>Assessment of impact will be undertaken through a consultation of relevant stakeholders and ongoing assessment of the total number of reports and interventions taken within the town centre environments.</p>

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Recommendation 3:	As part of any future formal PSPO consultation, an easy-read flowchart (such as the draft version in Appendix 3) of the existing PSPO consultation, implementation and review procedures be included.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services
Date:	1 st May 2022
Agreed Action:	An easy-read flowchart will be developed which will outline the entire PSPO process in clear stages, including the arrangements for reviews. This flow chart will be shared with key stakeholders.
Agreed Success Measure:	An easy-to-read flow chart will illustrate to key stakeholders in a simple way the agreed process involved in considering a PSPO in Stockton-on-Tees.
Evidence of Progress (November 2022):	An easy-read flowchart has been finalised and circulated to all relevant stakeholders who may be responsible for instigating a PSPO or indeed be responsible for the potential implementation of future orders in Stockton on Tees. A copy of the flowchart can be found within the final committee report at page 52.
Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (November 2022):	A further assessment of the process map (flowchart) will take place after each request to ensure the process is current and fit for purpose.

Recommendation 4:	<p>Reassurance be provided that the following key principles and processes of PSPO planning and implementation (as referenced within paragraph j) of this report’s conclusion) have been undertaken as part of any future formal consideration around the introduction of a PSPO in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) all other avenues of support and / or use of existing powers have been demonstrably exhausted; b) appropriate evidence is in place to justify the introduction of this additional tool in the fight against ASB; c) any proposal is clear, targeted, proportional and easily defined to a specific geographical area; d) a robust and timely plan to inform the public of any future PSPO implementation is outlined; e) sufficient, visible and sustainable enforcement resources are dedicated to the PSPO area.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services

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Date:	1 st October 2022
Agreed Action:	Demonstratable assurance is provided to the committee that robust management mechanisms are in place to ensure that the key principles under the recommendation (4) are implemented and followed when dealing with any requests for a future PSPO in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Clear and demonstratable evidence is provided that a process around dealing with requests for PSPO's, regardless of the purpose, is in place and gives full effect to the recommendation specifically a) to e).</p> <p>A clear process is in place to ensure that evidence can be provided of this process being followed and where met, clear evidence can be provided for sections a) to e) of recommendation (4).</p>
Evidence of Progress (November 2022):	Full assurance can be provided to the committee that a robust management process is in place to ensure the key principles identified through the review are always implemented and adhered to. Checks and balances will be provided via the councils legal department who provides the appropriate impartiality, checks and balances.
Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (November 2022):	No assessment of impact undertaken due to the nature of the recommendation.

Recommendation 5:	Adhering to the approach that problem-behaviour is targeted, not a person's status, the implementation of any PSPO does not target homeless individuals for being homeless.
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services
Date:	1 st October 2022
Agreed Action:	Demonstratable and clear assurance is provided to the committee that the approach of regulatory services responsible for responding to reports of begging do so from a problem-solving perspective and not simply due to a person's housing status.
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Clear evidence is provided to the committee that robust checks and balances are in place to ensure PSPO's do not target individuals for being homeless.</p> <p>Clear evidence is provided to the committee that SBC adopt a problem-solving approach that looks to help and support an individual to address the root causes of ASB before other forms of enforcement are considered.</p>
Evidence of Progress (November 2022):	Full assurance can be provided to the committee that any potential PSPO in the future will be problem behaviour orientated and not focused on a person's status. All potential future activity will be taken in line with the recommendations of this review, the guidance provided by the Home Office and the law.

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Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)
Evidence of Impact (November 2022):	No assessment of impact undertaken due to the nature of the recommendation.

Recommendation 6:	<p>SBC adopts a formal definition of ‘aggressive begging’ as follows:</p> <p><i>The action of begging for money or other items in a manner considered to be unreasonably threatening or intimidating, especially when targeting a person due to a perceived vulnerability or in a location such as in the vicinity of ATMs / cashpoints. This includes, but is not limited to, behaviour such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Repeated requests for money or items whilst approaching or following the person from whom the request is made;</i> • <i>Continuing to make requests for money or items from a person, after the person has refused or implied reluctance to give money or items;</i> • <i>Using false or misleading information in order to request money or other items;</i> • <i>Providing or delivering, or attempting to provide, unsolicited services or products with a demand or exertion of pressure for payment in return.</i>
Responsibility:	Assistant Director – Community Safety and Regulated Services
Date:	1 st May 2022
Agreed Action:	Demonstrable assurance be provided that the agreed definition for begging is adopted by all regulatory areas within Stockton Borough Council and more importantly given full affect in how services respond to reports of begging.
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>A clear change in the procedure and process of dealing with reports of begging to give full affect to the definition and requirements of the recommendation (6).</p> <p>A change in the way that SBC records its reports of begging to clearly differentiate between reports of passive begging and reports of aggressive begging in Stockton-on-Tees.</p>
Evidence of Progress (November 2022):	Full assurance can be provided to the committee that the agreed definition for begging has been adopted by Stockton on Tees Borough Council. The way in which begging is recorded by the council now reflects the type of begging taking place, either passive or aggressive as defined by this recommendation. This also informs how officers tackle the reported issues, taking a supportive approach for those engaged in passive begging and a more robust enforcement approach to those engaged in aggressive begging especially when targeting vulnerable members of the community.
Assessment of Progress (November 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved)

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Evidence of Impact (November 2022):	No evidence of impact currently available.
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Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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