

Suggested City Executive Board response to Scrutiny Committee recommendations on Oxford Waterways Public Spaces Protection Order consultation

Provided by the Board Member for Housing and the Board Member for Crime, Community Safety and Licensing

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Recommendation	Agreed? (Y / N / In part)	Comments
<p>That the Council should revise the documentation, draft Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and consultation proposals in collaboration with interested parties before consulting on an improved proposal for an Oxford Waterways PSPO.</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Comment from the Board Member and Director</p> <p>This report to the Board is intended to be the first stage in our consideration of the potential scope and effectiveness of a PSPO in respect of anti-social behaviours affecting Oxford’s waterways.</p> <p>The recommendations from Scrutiny are helpful, and reflect the lengthy discussions that have taken place with local residents and other interested parties over the past months. In drafting the report, it was felt to be appropriate to adopt a two-stage approach due to the complexity of the issues involved, and this first stage involves an additional non-statutory consultation on whether a PSPO is the appropriate way of managing the behaviours that have been creating harm and concern, and, if so, the form it might take.</p> <p>This consultation stage effectively corresponds to the wish expressed by the Scrutiny Committee for an early and meaningful engagement with all those who have an interest in the use and management of the city’s waterways.</p> <p>The draft Order provides an outline of the potential scope of the regulations and it will provide a means of obtaining views, guidance and evidence as to their appropriateness and likely effectiveness. In response to the Scrutiny Committee’s recommendation, I am making two proposals to the Board.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council’s Public Engagement Board should consider all the points raised by Scrutiny and provide professional advice on the details of the proposed consultation process, and specifically, that it will ensure effective engagement with all interested parties 2. That the Head of Law and Governance, and other relevant officers, should review

		<p>the current drafting of the Order before it is published for consultation and agree an amended form with me before it is used in that process.</p> <p>Comment from the Head of Law and Governance</p> <p>I have reviewed the draft Order proposed for consultation and would recommend that the following changes be made to it –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the draft prohibition at (d) be amended to read ‘No person shall create smoke, noise or fumes in such a manner as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person.’2. That the draft prohibition at (e) be amended to read ‘No person shall damage waterways habitats, signage, lifebelts, fencing or other waterways infrastructure.’ <p>I will, of course, review all of the terms of any Order proposed following the consideration of all the consultation responses.</p>
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