

To: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 27 March 2017

Report of: Head of Community Services

Title of Report: Update on the City Centre and Foresters Tower PSPOs

Summary

Purpose of report: To update the Scrutiny Committee on the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders in Oxford.

Key Decision: No

Executive lead member: Cllr Dee Sinclair, Board Member for Community Safety

Report author: Richard Adams, Community Safety Manager

Corporate Priority: Strong, Active Communities

Background

1. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They specify an area in which activities that are, or may likely to be, detrimental to the local community's quality of life are restricted. The maximum term of an Order is three years, unless they are amended or extended.
2. Oxford City Council have implemented two PSPOs in the city centre and Foresters Tower.
3. A breach of a PSPO can result in a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution at court.

Foresters Tower PSPO

4. The Order came into effect on 20 February 2015 to restrict young people who were not legally resident in the block from entering unless visiting a resident, or have a reasonable excuse.

5. The Order was in response to complaints of anti-social behaviour by a group of young people in the block. During the implementation of the Order the young people were referred to the City Council's Youth Ambition Programme and most successfully engaged in activities.
6. The young people did not access the block following the Order and their involvement with youth programmes, hence there have been no breaches of the Order since its inception.

City Centre PSPO

7. The Order came into effect on 1 February 2016. It contains eight restrictions:
 - Aggressive begging including sitting near cash point machines
 - Inappropriate use of public toilets
 - Urination and defecation in public spaces
 - Cycling restrictions in Queen Street and Cornmarket Street
 - Loud noise and obstruction of the highway by street entertainers
 - Illegal street trading
 - Alcohol consumption in a public place linked to anti-social behaviour
 - The control of dogs
8. The area of the Order includes all public space within the area of Folly Bridge, the Botley Road railway bridge, the northern end of St Giles and The Plain.
9. People found to be breaching the Order are spoken to and receive a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) factsheet with the full Order on the reverse.
10. 284 FAQs have been issued since the Order was introduced for the following reasons:

Aggressive begging	15
Inappropriate use of public toilets	0
Urination and defecation in public spaces	0
Cycling restrictions in Queen Street and Cornmarket Street	234
Loud noise and obstruction of the highway by street entertainers	7
Illegal street trading	22
Alcohol consumption in a public place linked to anti-social behaviour	3
The control of dogs	3

11. 4 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for further breaches. These were all in regards to trading as a pedlar.
12. Joint patrols of the city centre were introduced at the beginning of March. Police officers, PCSOs, City Centre Ambassadors and the Community Response Team patrol in pairs to engage with people and address issues they come across.

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Background papers: None

Version: 1.0

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