

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD (OSB)
(CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE)**

**AGENDA ITEM
10**

DATE OF MEETING: 2nd March 2020

REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - PUBLIC PROTECTION

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) - TOWN CENTRE

PURPOSE

1. To consult the Crime and Disorder Committee on the proposed amendment to the Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which was enacted in July 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Crime and Disorder Committee are recommended to review and support the proposals to vary the terms of the Town Centre PSPO – specifically to amend the term relating to begging.

REPORT

3. Public Space Protection Order's (PSPO) were introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The order allows local authorities and the police to prohibit or restrict certain behaviours within an area to tackle antisocial behaviour and help people feel safer.
4. Once enacted, the Police (including Police Community Support Officers) and designated Council officers can enforce the terms of the PSPO. This is usually by way of a fixed penalty notice (locally set at £75, reduced to £50 for early payment). Individuals can also be prosecuted for breaching the terms of the order and Luton has uniquely adopted a restorative justice approach where appropriate to particular PSPO terms.
5. The existing PSPO covers the following behaviours.
 - Street drinking – it is an offence to fail to stop drinking alcohol or to fail to give up open alcohol when requested to do so.
 - Begging – it is an offence to fail to stop begging when requested to do so.

- Urinating/defecating – are offences under the PSPO.
- Spitting – is an offence under the PSPO.
- Dog fouling – is prohibited with the Town Centre PSPO area.
- Dog control – dogs must be kept on a lead/under control in the PSPO zone (with the exception of Manor Road Park).



6. The PSPO has been in place for nearly 18 months. Following a review, a public consultation has been undertaken setting out a proposal to amend the begging term within the PSPO.
7. An information pack is attached as appendix A to this report which sets out the proposal in greater detail alongside an overview of relevant information.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

8. Potential variations to the current approach:
 - It is proposed to remove the failure to stop requirement from the existing PSPO.

APPENDIX (if any)

Appendix A – Town Centre PSPO – Information Pack – Feb 2020

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS (if any)

Report to Overview and scrutiny Board - 5th June 2018
 Report to Executive – 25th June 2018