

Extract from the draft minutes of the Joint Strategic Committee - 5 April 2016

JSC/109/15-16 Strengthening our work on Anti-Social Behaviour: A proposal to consider Public Space Protection Orders

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for Communities, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 7.

The report outlined the results of a community consultation about the use of new powers to tackle some key, anti-social behaviours, in designated public places. At the February 2016 meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee, Members agreed to undertake public consultation on a proposal to implement new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Three Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were proposed in Worthing and one in Adur.

A consultation process with the public ran from 15 February until 21 March 2016. The findings from the consultation were presented to the Committee, along with details of a petition that had taken place at the same time. Members were asked to consider the collated results and recommend approval of the proposed powers.

The Committee was advised that Officers had been made aware, towards the end of the consultation period, of a petition in objection to the proposals on the grounds of them criminalising homelessness and begging.

Officers advised the Committee that the purpose of PSPOs was to reduce anti-social behaviour, not to target particular groups. As evidenced in the Report to Committee on Services provided to the Street Community in July 2015, the Council sought to support communities and these proposals sought to address behaviour that was of concern to the community. Officers confirmed that they worked closely with the Worthing Churches Homeless Project and that the powers proposed had been thought through very carefully.

It was noted that a number of complaints had been received regarding the behaviour of a small minority and that enforcement would be closely monitored and managed. This would include the production of an Enforcement Protocol to ensure fair and proportionate use of the powers.

A number of Members expressed their support for the proposals, the need to tackle anti-social behaviour and that prevention was better than cure. It was stated that 'residents had been calling out for the Council to do something on this issue'. The problem of anti-social behaviour was getting worse and powers were needed to address it.

A Member suggested that PSPO 2 needed amending to specifically target persistent / aggressive beggars. The current wording appeared to seek to criminalise begging and

would not be enacted by the Police. The Council also needed to be careful that powers regarding overnight camping did not deter tourists from visiting Worthing and suggested that the associated time period be extended.

A Member suggested that there was not a significant problem in Buckingham Park with overnight camping and that there was a byelaw in place. Therefore, it was proposed and seconded that the Committee recommended to Adur Council that PSPO 3.1 was not pursued at present.

Decision,

The Joint Strategic Committee

- i) considered and noted the purpose of the proposals and reasons for seeking these powers;
- ii) considered and noted the results of the consultation and the Equality Impact Assessment;
- iii) recommended the PSPOs relating to Worthing Borough to the next Full Council Meeting (Tuesday 19 April 2016) for further debate and potential adoption;**
- iv) recommended to the next Full Council Meeting of Adur District Council (Thursday 21 April 2016) that the PSPO relating to Adur District, is not pursued at present.