

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

To commence a public consultation to seek views on the proposal to renew, for a period of three years, the current Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).
This PSPO was put in place to tackle street drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour within a defined area in Bedford town centre.
The current order is due to expire in December 2023.

2. Date of decision

30th August 2023

3. Reasons for decision

The current PSPO expires on the 15th December 2023. Any decision to extend the term of the PSPO requires Local Authorities to consult with the local chief officer of police; the police and crime commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area where reasonably practicable, and appropriate community representatives.

The proposal is to meet this obligation by way of consultation with relevant stakeholders and a public consultation.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

To not carry out consultation.
This has been rejected, as failure to carry out consultation would result in the Authority being unable to consider extending the term of the PSPO.

5. How decision is to be funded

There are no costs implications, as the proposed consultation will be delivered through existing resources within the Bedford Community Safety Partnership.

[Empty box]

6. Conflicts of interest

Name of all Executivemembers who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).
None			

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Yes

Signed P.A. Martin-Moran-Bryant Date 30/8/23 Name of Decision Taker PHILIPPA MARTIN-MORAN-BRYANT

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer for Legal, Performance and Democratic Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published: ...1 September 2023.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ...11 September 2023.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....NO.....)

Agenda Item *

For publication

Bedford Borough Council – Executive

Date of Meeting: - August 23

Report by: Sarah Stevens, Manager for Community Safety and Resilience

Subject: Public Consultation exercise to support the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order for Street Drinking and Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour in Bedford Town Centre for a further three years

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that is currently in place to tackle street drinking and related anti-social behaviour within Bedford town centre is due to expire in December 2023.

In response to residents' concerns regarding Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour, we introduced a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in December 2020, which over the past few years has helped to reduce the number of complaints received in the Borough. However, we recognise that this behaviour is still a concern to our residents, visitors and businesses. The Community Safety Partnership consultation conducted in the summer of 2022 identifies that there are still high levels of concern about the negative impacts of alcohol in the town centre. We are therefore seeking to renew the PSPO for a further three years.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 **To conduct a public consultation for a one month period to assess levels of support for the proposal to renew the PSPO for Street Drinking and Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The current PSPO expires in December 2023. Any decision to extend the term of the PSPO requires Local Authorities to consult with the local chief officer of police; the police and crime commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area where reasonably practicable, and appropriate community representatives. The proposal is to meet this obligation by way of consultation with relevant stakeholders and a public consultation

4. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Issues

- 4.1 None

Policy Issues

- 4.2 None.

Resource Implications

- 4.3 The proposed consultation will be delivered online through the Borough's website make use of existing resource of council staff. The consultation will be promoted through community safety partnership channels again within the existing resource of each organisation. It is proposed that a small number of paper copies will be made available at Bedford Library for those persons who are to access the survey online but these can be provided by our in house print unit for a small cost.

Risk Implications

- 4.4 None as this decision relates to a public consultation that will be used to inform future decisions.

Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

4.5 None as this decision relates to a public consultation.

Equalities Impact

4.6 When the Town Centre PSPO was established in 2020, due consideration was given to the Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. An Equality Analysis was undertaken; in summary the result was that, the PSPO had no overall adverse effect on equality.

5. DETAILS

5.1 We currently have a PSPO in place to tackle street drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour within a defined area of Bedford Town Centre, which was established in 2020. Following extensive consultation at that time, evidence suggested that the consumption of alcohol in public places was having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the locality.

5.2 In the period since the PSPO was established there has been a reduction in the number of complaints received in the Borough. However, we recognise that this behaviour is still a concern to our residents, visitors and businesses. The Community Safety Partnership consultation conducted in the summer of 2022 identifies that there are still high levels of concern about the negative impacts of alcohol in the town centre.

5.2 The current PSPO expires in December 2023. Any decision to renew the term of the of a PSPO requires the Local Authority to consult with the local chief officer of police; the police and crime commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area where reasonably practicable, and appropriate community representatives.

6. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6.1 To not carry out consultation.
This has been rejected, as failure to carry out consultation would result in the Authority being able to consider extending the term of the PSPO.

7. **SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME**

7.1 The following Council services or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Cllr Phillippa Martin Bryant - Portfolio Holder

Finance - Agreed that there were no financial implications

Legal – Agree with the recommendation

8. **WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS**

8.1 Ward Councillor views will be sought as part of the consultation on approval of this process

Report Contact Officer: *

File Reference: *

Previous Relevant Minutes: *

Background Papers: *

Appendices: