

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Councillor Tom Usher

KEY DECISION : Yes

PORTFOLIO AREA: Children, Families and Education

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: Children, Families and Education

WARDS AFFECTED: New Brighton, Wallasey, Hoylake and Meols, West Kirby and Thurstaston

SUBJECT: Public Spaces Protection Orders in New Brighton and West Kirby

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

1.1 That approval be given to the implementation, for the period of 2 years, of:

- a) a Public Spaces Protection Order in the New Brighton area; and
- b) a Public Spaces Protection Order in the West Kirby area

as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The Orders, as drafted, are proposed as a direct response to increased reports of anti-social behaviour to Wirral Council and Merseyside Police.
- 2.2 Both areas often experience high levels of anti-social behaviour during the summer months. Since the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown measures both areas have attracted a significant increase in the amount of people visiting the areas which in turn has resulted in a further increase in anti-social behaviour and/or violence.
- 2.3 The evidence obtained shows that there have been large gatherings, intimidation, alcohol misuse, littering, urination, and defecation, use of nitrous oxide and alcohol related disorder including criminal damage and violence offences. This anti-social behaviour is causing a nuisance, annoyance, and distress to members of the public who visit and live in both areas.
- 2.4 Witness statements have been taken from various members of the public, Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Merseyside Police relating to both areas which provided the evidence base to individually tailor an Order specific to the behaviour identified and to support the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order "PSPO."

- 2.5 The proposed PSPOs have been out to a public consultation for a period of 2 weeks. The consultation received 724 responses overall with 97% of responses being positive and in favour of the implementation of the proposed Orders.
- 2.6 There has been the necessary consultation with the statutory consultees as well as with those parts of Merseyside Police who will assist in the enforcement of the Orders should they be made.
- 2.7 Currently there are no permanent orders or restrictions in place to address this anti-social behaviour. Merseyside Police have implemented several Dispersal Zones in the area over the past number of months, however the number of complaints to the Police has not fallen despite the Dispersal notices being issued.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Section 151 Officer has confirmed that the recommendations will not lead to the incurring of unlawful expenditure. The recommendations are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council’s Code of Corporate Governance.
- 3.2 Although the matter has not appeared on the Council’s Forward Plan, Councillor Tom Anderson, Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, has agreed to this matter being treated as a case of special urgency, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 4.1 None

<p>Signed:</p>  <p>Executive Member: Tom Usher, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Date: 24/08/20 Also present:</p>	<p>Signed:</p>  <p>Chief Officer: Nicki Butterworth Director of Neighbourhood Services Date: 24/08/20</p>
<p>Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):</p>	

The background papers on this issue are held with: Carolyn Hooper, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager

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Date: 24 August, 2020

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