

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Public Spaces Protection Orders - Renewals

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Meeting date: 16th September 2020

Implications of report: (Please tick relevant item)

Delivery of the Corporate Strategy		Impact on more than one directorate	
Delivery of the MTFS		Policy or strategy change	
Delivery of the Transformation Strategy <i>(Must include Transformation Focus Group comment)</i>		Business planning / Performance improvement	
Significant staffing impact		Corporate governance	X
Equality and diversity		Significant change to service delivery	
Strategic risk		Financial implications not previously agreed	

Issues for discussion:

Chorley Council current Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) will have been in place for three years and for them to continue to be used they need to be renewed every three years. This report outlines the process that will be followed by the Public Protection Team.

Recommended decision

To note what is planned and to agree that support is provided.

Background

Following the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Public Spaces Protection Order's were introduced to replace the Dog Control Orders (DCO's) and Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO's), Chorley Council replaced these order with the PSPO's in November 2017.

PSPO's run for up to three years and prior to them ending, the Council can choose to extend them for up to a further three years. Chorley Council currently has six PSPO's and the report establishes the process that will be completed to extend five of the Orders and vary one Order.

Extending the current Public Spaces Protection Orders

Anti-Social Behaviour related PSPO:

- Coppull

Dog Control related PSPO's:

- Dogs on Lead
- Dogs on Lead by Direction

- Fouling of land by dogs & requirement to produce device or other suitable means for removing dog faeces
- Dogs Exclusion

In terms of extending the current PSPO's the Council is to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent -

- (a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or
- (b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

The Coppull PSPO is in place to address anti-social behaviour within the designated area including the refusal to stop drinking or hand over any containers which are believed to contain alcohol and to stop shouting, swearing or acting in a manner to cause annoyance, harassment, alarm or distress. Within the specific area the concerns and behaviours have reduced whilst the PSPO has been in place and it is proportionate and appropriate to consider that the problems would reoccur if the PSPO was not extended.

It is proposed that each dog related PSPO is extended as they are all still appropriate and proportionate to be used within Chorley. Each PSPO allows authorised officers to enforce the Orders when necessary. The PSPO's where appropriate, allow for days of action to be undertaken in areas of concern, this allows awareness raising of the PSPO's and enforcement where necessary. It is proportionate and appropriate to consider the problems with dog control would rise if the PSPO's were not to be extended.

Variation - Town Centre PSPO

The current Town Centre PSPO is in place with the same restrictions as the Coppull PSPO, however begging is also covered within this PSPO due to the problem with begging within the town centre. The current order covers a specific area, as highlighted in the attached map. It is proposed to extend the map to include the Asda Store on Bolton St. During the past 12 months there has been an increase in problems with beggars within the town centre and when these individuals have been approached and removed from within the PSPO area, they have moved to the Asda Store. We have worked with the Supermarket, however the onus has been on themselves to remove the individuals which they have had difficulty with. However, if the PSPO covered the store there would be an additional enforcement option that could be used to address the problem.

Process

For the Orders to be extended and varied it is necessary for consultation to be completed with Lancashire Constabulary, community representatives the Council think appropriate to consult and owners of any specific land it relates to. Publicity of the proposed extension and variation is necessary and to notify Parish Council's and Lancashire County Council

Public Protection Officers will provide Councillor Beverly Murray with the information regarding the process and consultations on Thursday 1st October. Following approval, the necessary consultations, publication and notifications will be conducted.

Following consultation, publication and notifications, results will be produced with necessary next steps and the aim for the Executive Cabinet meeting on Thursday 12th November.

Future PSPO's

It should be noted that there is currently some work being completed with Blackburn with Darwen and Bolton Councils to look at introducing a cross boundary PSPO for the

restrictions of BBQ's and Fire equipment within the Rivington Area. This is ongoing work and when progressed further will be brought back to CLT and Members for further consideration.

Conclusion

The report has been brought to CLT to make you aware of the progress and to ensure that the support that is required, for example: legal and communications etc. is provided.

