

Public Spaces Protection Orders

Summary:

To approve a 3 year extension to the Surrey Heath Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) introduced in 2017.

Portfolio: Support & Safeguarding

Date Signed Off: 11th August 2020

Wards Affected: All

Recommendation

The Executive is asked to RESOLVE that

- (i) the Public Space Protection Order be extended for a further 3 year period; and**
- (ii) the Executive Head of Transformation be authorised to introduce operational amendments from the recommendations outlined within Annex B to this report, in consultation with the Support and Safeguarding Portfolio Holder and Surrey Heath Police Commander.**

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 The funding for this project was met by the Surrey Heath Partnership previously in the form of signage across Surrey Heath in October 2016, for implementation in October 2017. The existing signage will require no further change if the proposal to extend the orders is agreed. The Surrey Heath Partnership agreed a further £2,000 to meet any consultation, new signage or training costs associated with this work stream at their meeting on the 15th July 2020.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was designed to simplify the overarching antisocial behaviour legislation with the PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Orders) replacing the former Designated Public Place Orders in 2014. The DPPO legislation ceased to have effect from the 14th October 2017, and at that time Surrey Heath introduced a new range of low level orders based upon the outcome of an extensive consultation exercise.
- 2.2 The new Public Spaces Protection Orders enable both Surrey Police and the Council to deal with low level anti-social behaviour in a public place.

- 2.3 Councils are the Responsible Authority for implementing the new PSPO's which must be reviewed at least every three years.
- 2.4 The existing Surrey Heath PSPO is attached as annex A and takes a broad approach in using the framework of this legislation to good effect when needed, but otherwise remains in the background to allow unencumbered freedoms.
- 2.5 The Council has sought responses from the public and partners including Surrey Police, community representatives and organisations which may be affected by the proposals. Although during the past 3 years no formal prosecutions have been made, key partners which include Surrey Police, advise that the orders enable continuous prevention through engagement and the physical presence of the signage across Surrey Heath is a clear indicator of the enforcement for those who behave irresponsibly or cause anti-social behaviour.
- 2.6 The Executive is asked to approve an extension of Public Spaces Protection Orders for a further 3 years, on the basis that the review consultation undertaken in July- August broadly supports this proposal, as attached in Annex B.
- 2.7 The Order will be jointly managed by the Council's Corporate Enforcement Team, Environmental Services, Community Safety, Greenspace team, and Surrey Police.

3. Additional Information

- 3.1 An open consultation was promoted from the 7th July - 7th August, with all social media channels being utilised. Letters were sent to all known community groups, and local partners inviting participation, and a presentation was given to all partners at the Surrey Heath Partnership meeting on the 15th July.
- 3.2 A total of 41 responses were received, from which all but one supported the proposed 3 year extension, with given locations from: Bisley, Windlesham, Lightwater, Bagshot, Camberley and Frimley. Other Borough wide organisations that include the Hope Hub, Citizens Advice Surrey Heath, Accent Housing positively responded to the extension, together will full support of Surrey Police.
- 3.3 The questionnaire adopted a simple approach where it asked if respondents were broadly supportive of the PSPO seeking a yes or no response, and invited them to share ideas around any changes to the existing orders, from which easy access was provided with links to the orders, maps and locations that are affected. All feedback suggestions have been carefully considered by the partnership team.
- 3.4 The Covid-19 impact has been considered with both the Council and Police who are the enforcement agencies following the latest Government guidance.

4. Options

4.1 The Executive has the option to:

- i) Agree the existing Public Spaces Protection Order 3 year extension
- ii) Amend the Public Space Protection Order either in its scope or period of time
- iii) Not agree the Public Space Protection Order extension and for the orders to be discharged from the 14th October 2020

5. Proposal

5.1 The Executive is asked to;

- i) Approve the Public Space Protection Order extension for a further 3 year period
- ii) To authorise that the Executive Head of Transformation to introduce operational amendments from the recommendations outlined within annex b in consultation with the Support and Safeguarding Portfolio holder and Surrey Heath Police Commander Alick James.

6. Corporate Objectives and Key Priorities

6.1 We will build and encourage communities where people can live happily and healthily.

- Using the green space we have to its best possible advantage by creating sporting and leisure opportunities for all.
- Helping older and vulnerable people to live independently and remain in their homes for as long as possible.
- Protecting the general health and wellbeing of the community through our services, our health promotion and community development work.
- Engaging with young people to help improve and sustain their leisure opportunities whilst encouraging them to take responsibility.
- Delivering with partners the Sustainability Community Strategy Priority action plans to improve: community safety, transport, health, children and young people and economic wellbeing.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed.

Annexes	A – Draft Public Space Protection Order B – Scope and outcome of the review consultation C- Joint Enforcement Strategy Surrey Police- Surrey Heath Borough Council
Background Papers	Proposed PSPO location maps hard copies available within the Members’ Room
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Consultations, Implications and Issues Addressed

Resources	Required	Consulted
Revenue	N/A	
Capital	N/A	
Human Resources	N/A	
Asset Management	N/A	
IT	N/A	
Surrey Heath Partnership Budget	Approved July 20	

Other Issues	Required	Consulted
Corporate Objectives & Key Priorities	✓	✓
Policy Framework		
Legal	<u>X</u>	<u>x</u>
Governance		
Sustainability		
Risk Management		
Equalities Impact Assessment		
Community Safety	<u>X</u>	<u>x</u>
Human Rights		
Consultation	<u>X</u>	<u>x</u>
P R & Marketing	✓	✓