

26. Renewal of Public Spaces Protection Order Allowing for the Gating of St Peters Passage

Ben Jackson, Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (PPASB) and Licensing Manager presented a report that sought approval from Executive to renew the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which allowed for the gating of St Peter's Passage. The passage ran from the High Street, next to House of Fraser, through to Mint Lane in the upper High Street area of Lincoln city centre.

Following an increasing number of complaints of drug use, drug paraphernalia, urination, defecation and criminal activity, the original PSPO was approved in 2018, and the passage was gated in July 2019 which restricted access to the public.

PSPOs, enforced under the Crime and Policing Act 2014, could be in place for a maximum of three years, and the PSPO was renewed in 2021 following a review. The report proposed that the passage be gated for a further three years and details of the public and partner consultation carried out from 13th September to 11th October 2024 were considered.

It was noted that Appendix B in the report was incorrect and should have been a copy of the current St Peters Passage PSPO. This would be rectified before the report was submitted to Executive.

In response to questions from Members, it was confirmed that:

- The consultation had received 180 responses with 87.8% in favour of continuing the PSPO to gate the passage.
- Following recent repairs to the gate, a request had been submitted for more intensive cleaning to the passage area which had been subjected to litter and other waste being left around the gate.
- The PSPO could not be extended to include the passageway down to Lincoln Snooker Club on the opposite side of the High Street due to health and safety reasons, but more CCTV cameras had been installed to help improve the area.
- In addition to CCTV, some of the Council's anti-social behaviour officers were involved with Hot Spot Policing patrols in the area with Lincolnshire Police.
- Due to the Government's Safer Streets funding coming to an end at the close of the financial year, it was important that deterrents and preventative measures were in place beforehand to ensure the funding was maximised.

- It had previously been highlighted that some of the individuals presenting as rough sleepers or engaging in anti-social behaviour in the area were City of Lincoln Council tenants. The Housing Team was working with PPASB Officers to support individuals out of the area or enforce against anti-social behaviour.
- Some of the issues surrounding the passage resulted from the active night-time economy in that area of Lincoln.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Policy Scrutiny Committee note the Renewal of Public Spaces Protection Order Allowing for the Gating of St Peter's Passage report and appendices.
2. Any comments be referred to Executive.