

PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2023

INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) – LLANELLI TOWN CENTRE

Purpose:

To outline the proposed new PSPO to address alcohol and drug related crime, disorder and nuisance in the area identified in Llanelli.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in the report relating to the making of a new PSPO for Llanelli Town Centre and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet for consideration

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Ann Davies, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Community Cohesion and Planning Policy

Directorate

Chief Executive

Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones

Report Author:

Kate Harrop &
Gwyneth Ayers

Designations:

Head of Regeneration, Policy and
Digital

Partnership and Complaints Manager
Corporate Policy, Performance &
Partnership Manager

Tel Nos.

E Mail Addresses:

JaJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

khharrop@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

GAyers@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 NOVEMBER 2023

**INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
(PSPO) – LLANELLI TOWN CENTRE**

In 2020, Carmarthenshire County Council made a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address the alcohol-related nuisance and disorder in parts of Llanelli Town Centre. The Order came in to force on 1 October 2020 and expired on 30 September 2023.

Carmarthenshire County Council believes that the PSPO has been effective in reducing alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. However, the anti-social consumption of alcohol, controlled drugs and psychoactive substances in Llanelli Town Centre has had, and is likely to continue to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people within the locality.

There are ongoing concerns amongst the community and the police regarding this issue, and in addition, drug-related concerns have been raised. These concerns are supported by crime and disorder data and evidence the need for a new PSPO to be implemented to give identified officers additional powers to deal with these issues.

The Council is proposing to introduce a new Order (Appendix 2) for a further period of three years once the Order is formally approved and it will be enforced as soon as new signage confirming the arrangements of the new Order can be put in place. This Order, in addition to the current powers dealing with alcohol-related nuisance and disorder, will also give the police an additional power to reduce alcohol and drug-related anti-social behaviour caused by controlled drugs or psychoactive substances. This additional power will enable the police to require individuals to surrender drug paraphernalia.

Consideration was given to introducing a requirement for a person to disperse from an area if they are loitering if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and causing or are likely to cause anti-social behaviour. However, following seeking independent legal advice it is not clear whether local authorities can give the police additional dispersal powers within a PSPO. There is an ongoing case where this issue is being considered by the courts. Therefore, it has been decided not to include a dispersal power in the proposed Order at this stage, but this will be reviewed in future once the outcome of the court case is known.

The process of collating evidence to inform the advice sought on the proposed Order, then awaiting that advice and agreeing adjustments to the Order and supporting documentation based on the advice received has unfortunately resulted in a delay. This has resulted in a period from 30 September 2023 when no Order has been in place.

<p>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES</p> <p>Appendix 1 – PSPO report Appendix 2 – Draft Order Appendix 3a – Proposed new Order boundary & 3b - Previous Order boundary (for reference to view changes to area covered by Order) Appendix 4 – Equalities Impact Assessment Appendix 5 – Summary of consultation responses Appendix 6 – Human Rights and Equalities legislation Appendix 7 – Options Appraisal Appendix 8 – Map of Alcohol & Drug Related Crime, ASB & Public Safety Incidents Appendix 9 – Alcohol related Crime, ASB and Public Safety Incidents Appendix 10 – Drug related Crime, ASB and Public Safety Incidents</p>
---	---

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration, Policy and Digital

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities YES	Legal YES	Finance YES	ICT NONE	Risk Management Issues NONE	Staffing Implications NONE	Physical Assets YES
---	---------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Alcohol and drug-related crime and disorder is a concern in the identified area of Llanelli and through the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the introduction of a new PSPO to cover this geographic area will give police additional powers to deal with these issues.

Consideration has been given to making certain Council officers 'authorised officers' who would be able to have the power relating to the confiscation of alcohol. It has been decided that this is not to be progressed at this time, but this can be undertaken at any time after the Order is established.

An Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the proposal is attached (Appendix 4).

2. Legal

Public Spaces Protection Orders can be challenged if they are not supported by sufficient evidence, or if the restrictions and requirements that they impose are considered to be a disproportionate response to the problems which are occurring.

Orders which can be used to require a person to surrender their possessions or stop drinking, are a significant interference with people's human rights. Information on Human Rights and Equalities legislation is attached as Appendix 6. Orders should not be introduced lightly, and orders of this type can only be justified where the requirements are necessary and proportionate.

The draft PSPO has been shared with Dyfed Powys Police's legal section and they are satisfied with the wording on the Order.

3. Finance

Approximate costs for the 65 signs are £3,135 including the installation.

4. Physical Assets

New signs will be installed in multiple locations across the designated area to raise awareness of the Order and to indicate the boundary covered by the Order.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES	Cllr Ann Davies supports the proposed Order	
Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW		
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Public Spaces Protection Orders – Guidance for Councils 2018		Public Spaces Protection Orders: Guidance for councils Local Government Association