

APPENDIX C – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FROM LOVE HASTINGS LTD.

To Hastings Borough Council

The introduction of Public Space Protection Orders in Hastings is fully supported by the Board of Directors of Love Hastings Ltd, the company established to manage the Hastings Town Centre Business Improvement District. (BID).

Town Centre stakeholders first commented on the impact of a lack of policy on anti social behaviour and street drinking as far back as June 2015. In a substantial report of 2016, initiated by our predecessor organisation, Hastings Town Centre Management, businesses overwhelmingly agreed that a combination of anti-social behaviour, street drinking, squatting and aggressive begging was impacting on their business prospects and the perception of the town centre to visitors and tourists. Landlords and commercial agents have similarly offered evidence that potential inward investors have been deterred from investing in the town centre as a direct result of the behaviour they had witnessed.

There has been a direct correlation between the increase in reported anti social behaviours over a two-year period. Recent reports indicate that footfall in the town centre has reduced every quarter between April 2016 and March 17 compared to the previous year. It is the worst footfall related performance in the town centre since 2009.

Businesses generally support reintegration schemes as a longer term aim but believe short term positive action is required to protect the public space and offer assurances to both the organisations within it and the visitors to Hastings Town Centre.

The Directors of Love Hastings Ltd represent 450 businesses in the Hastings Town Centre area and an estimated 3000 employees in retail, catering, hospitality, education and service sectors.

Colin Dormer

Chairman – Love Hastings Ltd (Hastings Business Improvement District)