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CABINET

15 MAY 2017

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Fitzgerald, Poole, Beaney, Lee and Patmore

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cartwright

89. REVIEW OF CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, presented a report which summarised the consultation feedback on draft Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), relating to anti-social behaviour and dog controls. The report sought agreement for proposed changes to the draft PSPOs, as a result of the consultation feedback, and approval for the Chief Legal Officer to make the Orders in accordance with the regulations published by the Secretary of State.

At its meeting on 6 March 2017, Cabinet had approved the rationale for making 2 PSPOs. The report had recommended a 4 week public consultation on the draft PSPOs between 24 March 2017 and 21 April 2017. The consultation process had engaged with statutory agencies, representatives of the local business and voluntary sector, animal welfare groups and the general public.

Concerns had been raised during the consultation process that the dogs on lead requirements of the draft PSPO's were too restrictive. Consequently, the dogs on lead restriction for St Leonards Gardens and Linton Gardens would be in force between 9.00am and 5.00pm, rather than 8.00am to 6.00pm as originally proposed. The existing dogs on leads restrictions between groynes 1 and 3 on the beach at Rock-a-Nore had also been removed. The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, commented that a key aim of the new PSPO's was to encourage enjoyment of the town's parks and open spaces by the whole community.

Cabinet noted that the draft PSPO for anti-social had been broadly supported. Following comments made during the consultation period, the scope of this PSPO had been extended to address incidents of anti-social behaviour in the council's parks and gardens. The Police had also recommended simplifying the scope of some restrictions, to promote a clearer understanding amongst the public and assist with enforcement activities.

The Assistant Director, Environment and Place, added that it was possible to amend and adapt the PSPOs in future. Following Cabinet approval, it was proposed to make the PSPOs on 16 May 2017; however, the new restrictions would not come into effect until 12 June 2017 to allow for appropriate signage to be installed and further awareness raising through media releases and social media channels. The council would continue to take a proportionate effect to enforcement activities, to maintain and improve the local street scene and drive behavioural changes amongst the anti-social minority.

Councillor Fitzgerald proposed approval of the recommendations to the Assistant Director, Environment and Place's report, which was seconded by Councillor Beaney.

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RESOLVED (unanimously) that the proposed amendments to the draft Dog Control and Anti-Social Behaviour PSPOs to reflect the feedback received during the consultation, and authorise the Chief Legal Officer to make the Orders on 16 May to take effect on 12 June, in accordance with regulations published by the Secretary of State.

Authorise the Chief Legal Officer to correct any minor drafting errors that may be identified, and make minor amendments including deletions and insertions that may be necessary to ensure the PSPOs are accurate.

The reason for this decision was:

PSPOs replace existing controls such as those relating to dog fouling, under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The existing provisions are superseded in October 2017.

They also enable local authorities and their partners such as the Police to address serious anti-social behaviour in public places.

The deterrent effect of PSPOs and enforcement where appropriate, will contribute to the council's vision for a safer cleaner town.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 6.30 pm)