

Appendix 4

Consultation on City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Coventry City Council has powers under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to create Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's)

Statutory agencies in the City, mainly the Council and Police, receive complaints from members of the public, businesses and other organisations regarding a wide range of issues in the City Centre. PSPO's allow for agencies to have better control over issues that currently are not provided for in legislation, or existing measures are not considered effective.

Failure to comply with the PSPO would result in an individual being issued with a fixed penalty notice (FPN). In the event of the FPN not being paid, it is the Council's policy to prosecute. Breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence.

Coventry City Council is proposing the introduction of a number of measures within a PSPO;

We are keen to receive your views on the proposed introduction of this new PSPO in the City Centre. To share your views please complete the attached survey.

Should you wish to speak to someone about this survey or anything related to the content of the survey please contact: liam.nagle@coventry.gov.uk

Are you responding to this survey as a:

resident of the city centre

resident elsewhere in the city

non-resident that works in the city centre

visitor to the city

Business owner in the City Centre

Other (please specify).....

Section 1 – begging:

The proposed Public space protection order would make it illegal to beg in the city centre and at Friargate. The act of begging is deemed as either approaching people for money or being stationary and directly asking for money, or positioned on the floor to invite the offer of money or goods.

We receive regular complaints and comments from our partners about people begging in the city centre, particularly near pay stations in car parks and at cashpoints. Begging, where money is not directly requested is also an issue.

We are keen to do what we can to support people with addictions into rehabilitation too. As a last resort, if they will not accept offers of help these new powers will enable us to exclude these people from the city centre.

The process would be:

- 1 – Issue a fixed penalty notice for anyone caught begging
- 2 – If the fine is unpaid – take the person to court for non- payment
- 3 – At court seek a criminal behaviour order to enforce treatment for addiction
- 4 – If the breach the order – do not volunteer for treatment – Police use their powers of arrest.

Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce a Public Space Protection Order to tackle begging in the city centre?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Not sure -

Any other comments

Section 2 – street trading:

Introduction of a PSPO would mean any person is prohibited from peddling/trading goods within the permitted area without an appropriate street trading consent issued by the Council, at any time,.

We are aware of people or groups that operate in the city centre that sell goods, such as wristbands or similar goods and claim to support a charity.

Traders that operate in the city centre with the Council's consent from street barrows pay to trade. This means unauthorised traders have a cost advantage over those operating correctly and this creates unfair competition.

Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce measures to control the activities of pedlars and street traders in the city centre with a PSPO?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Any other comments:

Section 3 - distribution of publicity materials

Introduction of this element of the PSPO would mean any one who distributes materials for commercial gain needs to have prior permission from the Business Improvement District or City Council. Registered charities and religious organisations are exempt are exempt from this provision.

Unauthorised distribution of materials is often unwanted and results in significant littering. We wish to manage this situation better.

Do you believe that Coventry City Council should introduce measures through a PSPO to better control those that distribute leaflets and other publicity in the city centre?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Any other comments:

Section 4 - Charity or Commercial Subscription Collectors:

Anyone collecting cash in the city centre, including subscriptions to charity, should have permission from the City Council in advance and have a street collection licence.

Exemptions are granted on land within the area marked in blue detailed on the plan of Coventry City Centre. Coventry City Council recognises that charities benefit from charity subscription collections but wish to limit any potential nuisance. The Council has previously agreed with the body that negotiates on behalf of the charity subscription collections, to restrict collections to the Burges and Trinity Street and that, there should be no more than three days a week where collecting is permitted.

Do you agree that Coventry City Council should introduce measures as part of a PSPO to control the activities of Charity or Commercial Subscription collectors?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Any comments:

Section 5:

Busking and Street Performers:

Coventry City Council recognises that buskers are part of a vibrant city centre. However, on occasion buskers may cause nuisance or annoyance by playing at locations that are inappropriate for loud or amplified performers, or by staying too long in the same location. For many years, the city has had a 'code of conduct' (see **Appendix 2**) for buskers, but we cannot compel buskers to keep to these rules. A PSPO will allow us to do this and ensure buskers comply with the code of conduct.

Do you believe Coventry City Council should use powers in the PSPO to enforce the condition contained in the Code of Practice for Buskers?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Any comments:

Section 6:

Skateboarding/Cycling:

With a PSPO, any person would be prohibited from skateboarding and cycling in Cathedral Square (the area edged in green on the plan of Coventry City Centre). Skateboarding or cycling would only be permitted in other paved areas before 9.30am-or after 3.30pm. Cyclists can use the roads and designated cycle lanes at all times.

We recognise that skateboarding and cycling are healthy activities but can cause problems in inappropriate locations or for some groups in the city. Cathedral Square is a key tourism location, surrounded by the Cathedral and Herbert Art Gallery. Concerns have also been raised by older people in the city that people are being put at risk of harm by the activities of cyclists and skateboarders. We are proposing that these activities are prohibited, during busy retail hours and when older people are most likely to be in the city centre, whilst recognising that that the city centre needs to be shared by all of our citizens.

Do you believe Coventry City Council should introduce measures to control the activities of Skateboarders and Cyclists in the City Centre with a PSPO?

Yes – I agree

No – I do not agree

Any comments:

Proposed Consultation List :

Coventry Uni

Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Older Voices

Coventry Youth Group (Brian Mason)

BID

VAC

Centro

West Mids Police

CENTRO – Railway station

Sustrans

Cyclic