

## APPENDIX 3

### Impact Statement – West Midlands Police

My Name is Daryl Lyon, I am employed as a Chief Inspector for West Midlands Police, working in Coventry with responsibility for addressing gang issues and serious public place violence and prior to that I was the Neighbourhood Policing Chief Inspector for the City.

In recent years Coventry has had significant issues with public place violence, most of it related to gangs, criminal exploitation and drug dealing. As I understand the history of this Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) it was introduced in direct response to these concerns.

Whilst some very good work across the partnership has seen a downwards trend in serious incidents in the City we cannot get complacent, particularly as it's hard to assess how the pandemic and lockdowns have affected the picture.

Last summer we successfully obtained approximately 25 injunctions against known gang nominals. This indicates the size of the issue and that we could satisfy a judge to place restrictions on who they can associate with and where. What it will not do is address the behaviours of those not enjoined but still problematic and posing a risk to the community and others, whereas the PSPO can help.

Whilst we know no tool on its own will address all matters, we are supportive of the renewal of this PSPO. It will greatly assist my officers to be able to use these powers, when proportionate and necessary, to address matters within the City to reduce issues with gangs and public place violence.

I would conclude by saying that the power is there as a potential tool to help keep and maintain order in public spaces. As with any power conferred on the police there must a clear and legitimate need to use that power. That being the case, elected members can always be assured that just because the power is there, we will only deploy it when circumstances dictate that it is lawful, necessary and proportionate pursuant to a legitimate policing objective. Any use of force will also be subject to scrutiny and will be recorded on body worn video apparatus.

## **Impact Statement – Parks and Streetscene**

My name is Tim Fox, I am employed by Coventry City Council and part of my responsibilities relates to the cleaning and maintenance of the streets and green spaces within the City Centre.

Certain parts of the City Centre can experience issues different to others, and many of these issues may be seasonal and weather related, but it is fair to say that an area that consistently causes some concern relates to the area containing Millennium Place, Lady Herbert's gardens and the surrounding area.

We are spending a large sum of money on re-stocking the planting in the garden to enhance it and encourage more use, also supporting Historic Coventry Trust with their events in the garden this coming year.

Streetpride operatives often see congregations of groups that are behaving in a manner likely to be detrimental to the general public and the City as a whole. This can range from large groups intimidating others, street drinking, public urination and similar.

Whilst there is a Citywide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) that addresses street drinking, this particular PSPO gives officers the powers to disperse those groups acting in an antisocial manner and spoiling many people's experience of visiting the City Centre. This enables matters to be dealt with in a far quicker manner than alternative resolutions.

As such I would like to support the application to renew this order.

## **Impact Statement – Business Improvement District (BID)**

My name is Adrian Woolford and I am employed by Coventry Business Improvement District (BID) Limited as Operations Manager.

Coventry BID is committed to supporting local businesses, encouraging people to visit the City and ensuring all visitors and employees of those businesses are kept safe.

Any incidents that cause bad publicity for the City or that can be described as making the City Centre a less attractive place to visit can be harmful to the reputation and economic well being of the City.

There was great concern amongst City Centre businesses a few years ago when Coventry was in the news for murders and serious incidents. We feel this would have put some people off visiting the City when they otherwise may have therefore causing financial loss to the businesses within the City Centre.

Equally from time to time in certain locations in the City Centre we have issues reported to us about congregations of people drinking or acting in a manner detrimental to others trying to enjoy the City Centre, such as in Priory Gardens, Millennium Place or Lady Herbert's Garden.

We are supportive of the renewal of this order as we feel it will give Police an improved ability to deal with matters that are of a concern to businesses and visitors to the City Centre, and also ourselves as an organisation.