

Introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, PSPO's sit amongst a range of powers designed to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) locally and provide the Council with ability to address persistent issues that are detrimental to the wider community. They are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed by everybody and be free from ASB.

Current PSPO's

The Council's current PSPO's were initially adopted in April 2017 They were subject to a review that commenced in 2022 and following that review they were renewed without change in 2023.

The current PSPO's cover the following activities and areas of the district

PSPO Description	Areas Covered
Fouling of land by dogs	Boroughwide
Control of fires and barbeques	Council Land, National Trust Land, Yorkshire Water Land
Control of sky lanterns, fireworks and balloons including helium balloons	Footpaths and Castle Hill Nature Reserve
Dogs – Means of picking up dog faeces	Footpaths and Castle hill Nature Reserve
Dogs on leads by direction	Wilton, Beaumont, Greenhead, Crow Nest and Ravenknowle Parks
Dogs exclusion	Boroughwide in Play Areas, Games areas, skate parks
Public urination and defecation	Batley, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Marsden and Slaithwaite Real Ale Trail
Street drinking	Batley, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Marsden and Slaithwaite Real Ale Trail

Revising the current PSPO's was also an opportunity to look at the Council's scheme of delegation. and look to work with existing council staff, and external partners such as West Yorkshire Police and Huddersfield Bid, to gather evidence in order for fixed penalty notices to be issued. Currently powers to enforce the PSPO's sit solely with officers from the Greenspace Action Team, who have limited resources.

Proposed Changes

Following meetings with internal teams and external partners it is proposed to create a single new PSPO for Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Ravensthorpe and Batley Town Centres addressing, amongst other, the following issues –

Street Drinking

While the current Street Drinking PSPO goes some way to address the ASB issues linked with on street drinking. The current phrasing of this PSPO means an officer has to prove the drinking 'has had' or 'is likely to have' a detrimental effect on the quality of life.

The shifting nature of issues within town centres means it is not always possible for officers prove the effect of on street drinking, it is therefore proposed to reword the existing PSPO to remove the need to prove a 'detrimental effect' and move to a PSPO that covers being in possession of 'an open vessel containing, or pertaining to contain, alcohol'. Moving to this style of PSOS would provide officers with greater flexibility to address more ASB issues linked with on street drinking.

Bird Feeding

Feeding of birds, in particular pigeons, is an emerging issue with the town centres, which is leading to more calls for service to the Council's Pest Control team.

Introducing a PSPO that prevents bird feeding will, via education of the public in the first instance, enable officers to take relevant enforcement action where education proves unsuccessful.

Loitering, Nuisance Behaviour and Temporary Structures

Currently the Council does not have a PSPO to cover loitering, nuisance behaviour, or ASB associated with having structures such as tents within the town centres.

Given the housing crisis, this is an emerging issue within Kirklees and is becoming more prevalent as other local authorities across West and South Yorkshire and Greater Manchester put in place PSPO's to cover this activity.

Introducing a PSPO to address this issue, will give officers the flexibility to address this issue and bring Kirklees in line with other local authorities within the region.