

**Cabinet**  
**Wednesday 30 September 2020**

**Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**at its meeting on Monday 28 September 2020**  
**OSC/289**

**1. Cabinet Agenda Item 6 – Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – Alcohol Consumption**

**Comments and Recommendations**

The Commission considered report HCS/23 of the Head of Community Services.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council and Deputy Chief Executive, Councillors made the following comments:

- Confirmation that the new PSPO would replace the current alcohol PSPO.
- Acknowledgement that the proposed PSPO would relate to the consumption of alcohol where it contributed to, was linked to or was associated with nuisance or annoyance to members of the public.
- It was noted that the proposed PSPO did not restrict the consumption of alcohol in a public place, but would be used to address anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol consumption which had a detrimental effect on the town and community.
- Acknowledgement that the area covered by the PSPO was borough wide, excluding Gatwick due to restrictions covering that vicinity.
- Explanations sought and obtained with reference to consultation and consumption of alcohol where the land and premises were council owned and/or operated.
- Confirmation that it was anticipated the issuing of fixed penalty notices would be limited in relation to the street community. Previously when asked to stop drinking and hand over a vessel believed to contain alcohol there had usually been compliance. Whilst fixed penalty notices can be escalated the PSPOs were within a suite of powers available.
- It was noted that following lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour.
- With reference to the antisocial behaviour data, it was felt it may be beneficial to understand the correlation between the number of instances and the time at which they occurred (for example if these were attributed to pubs' closing time).

**RESOLVED**

That the Commission notes the report and requests that the views expressed during the debate, are fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

**2. Cabinet Agenda Item 7 – 2020/21 Budget Monitoring – Quarter 1**

**Comments and Recommendations**

The Commission considered report FIN/505 of the Head of Corporate Finance.

During the discussion with the Leader of the Council, Head of Corporate Finance and Chief Accountant, Councillors made the following comments:

- Acknowledgement that the report documented the financial viability of the council, particularly as a result of Covid19.
- Recognition that work had continued during lockdown to support the homelessness and street community. Diverted giving was still the preferred option of support.
- Confirmation that the delays in the handover of new housing developments had impacted on the housing register. Although the register had also been subject to an increase of those who had seen a change in circumstances due to employment status resulting from the pandemic.
- Recognition that the free parking provided at Orchard Street, together with Crawley Hospital choosing to suspend pay and display parking until the end of June had decreased car parking income.
- Acknowledgement that the pay award had been higher than budgeted.

- Explanations sought and obtained on the various schemes provided within the capital programme.
- Confirmation that the increase in cancelled garage accounts, together with the inability to return garage keys safely to the town hall had resulted in a shortfall of rental income.
- Officers confirmed that the favourable and unfavourable variation indications would be reinstated for future reports.

**RESOLVED**

That the Commission notes the report and requests that the views expressed during the debate, are fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

**Councillor T Belben**  
**Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission**  
**28 September 2020**