

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E2729

Public Space Protection Order Policy

Decision maker/s	Cllr David Dixon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
The Issue	<p>A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is proposed to prohibit the use of amplifiers by street entertainers: buskers, in specific areas of Bath City Centre (Abbey Church Yard, Kingston Parade and Abbey Green).</p> <p>When considering whether or not to introduce a PSPO the authority is required to consult with: the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief of Police and community representatives. In this instance, these will include the street entertainers, businesses, residents and visitors to the city. A formal decision is required to commence the public consultation.</p>
Decision Date	18 December 2014
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that a 12 week consultation period is commenced to inform the decision on whether or not to introduce a PSPO prohibiting the use of amplification during all street performances in Abbey Church Yard, Kingston Parade and Abbey Green.
Rationale for decision	Current enforcement options available to authorised officers of Bath and North East Somerset Council have proved ineffective at resolving continuing complaints, and PSPOs offer an alternative which should be considered.
Financial and budget implications	<p>The consultation is estimated to cost approximately £2k, mainly temporary project officer costs. This will be covered from an approved drawdown from the revenue budget contingency reserve.</p> <p>Any implementation as a result of the consultation will be subject to the formal decision making process and costs will be outlined in that report. However should there be a decision to implement, the cost of installing signage will be approximately £330, there will be legal costs to prepare the Order and project officer costs. There would also be revenue costs of maintaining the signage.</p> <p>It is intended to use the authority's Online Consultation tool, in addition to other accessible formats, to capture consultation responses.</p>
Issues considered	Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation)
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

How consultation was carried out	The Councils Monitoring Officer, s.151 Officer and the Strategic Director of Place have been consulted.
Other options considered	The current status quo could not continue, however, in the face of rising numbers of service requests, it is likely that this would lead to increasing dissatisfaction from complainants. The new legislation gives an alternative option to the traditional use of the EPA legislation.

Signatures of Decision Makers	
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Date of Signature	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision