

**SUNDERLAND CITY CENTRE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION
ORDER (PSPO) FEEDBACK**

Report of Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the operational delivery of the Sunderland City Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This order went live on 3rd April 2017.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014 introduced a range of new tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, including the provision for Councils to introduce Public Space Protection Orders. The orders are geographically defined and can contain locally agreed prohibitions.
- 2.2 On 11th October 2016 the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee received an information report on the development of the order and requested interim feedback on its effectiveness once implemented.
- 2.2 On 8th February 2017 Cabinet agreed implementation of a 3 year order covering the City Centre.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 The PSPO went live on 3rd April 2017 and covers a specific area of Sunderland City Centre (see appendix 1) and covers the following prohibitions:

Alcohol control – consuming alcohol or anything which an authorised officer believes to be alcohol and failing to surrender anything which is or is to be believed to be alcohol

Begging – engaging in anti-social or aggressive begging

Bin Raking – engaging in bin raking activity

Street Trading and Peddling – engaging in anti-social/unauthorised street trading

Dog Control – prohibit dog fouling, exclusion of dogs to play areas and dogs on lead by direction.

Skateboard and Cycles – engaging in the anti-social use of skateboards, cycles or stunt cycles

Psychoactive Substances – engaging in eating/drinking/inhaling/injecting/smoking of a psychoactive substance

4. Analysis

4.1 Between the period 3rd April to 30th September 2017 the following warnings and fixed penalty notices have been issued:

4.1.1 Twenty six verbal warnings (breakdown as follows):

- 15 anti-social begging
- 6 consuming alcohol
- 1 failure to surrender alcohol
- 3 bin raking
- 1 anti-social/unauthorised street trading

4.1.2 Twenty five of the verbal warnings were effective and did not escalate to the issuing of a fixed penalty notice. There was one fixed penalty notice issued for anti-social begging.

5. Impact

5.1 A number of the prohibitions included in the order are recorded under incidents of anti-social behaviour which has reduced overall in the PSPO area by 7% when comparing the period April- September 2016 with April to September 2017.

5.2 Place management staff have reported that the weekly clean-up cost in some geographical areas in the city centre has halved since the implementation of this order. However, it should be noted other tactics to deter access to bins have been deployed alongside the order to tackle the issue of bin raking.

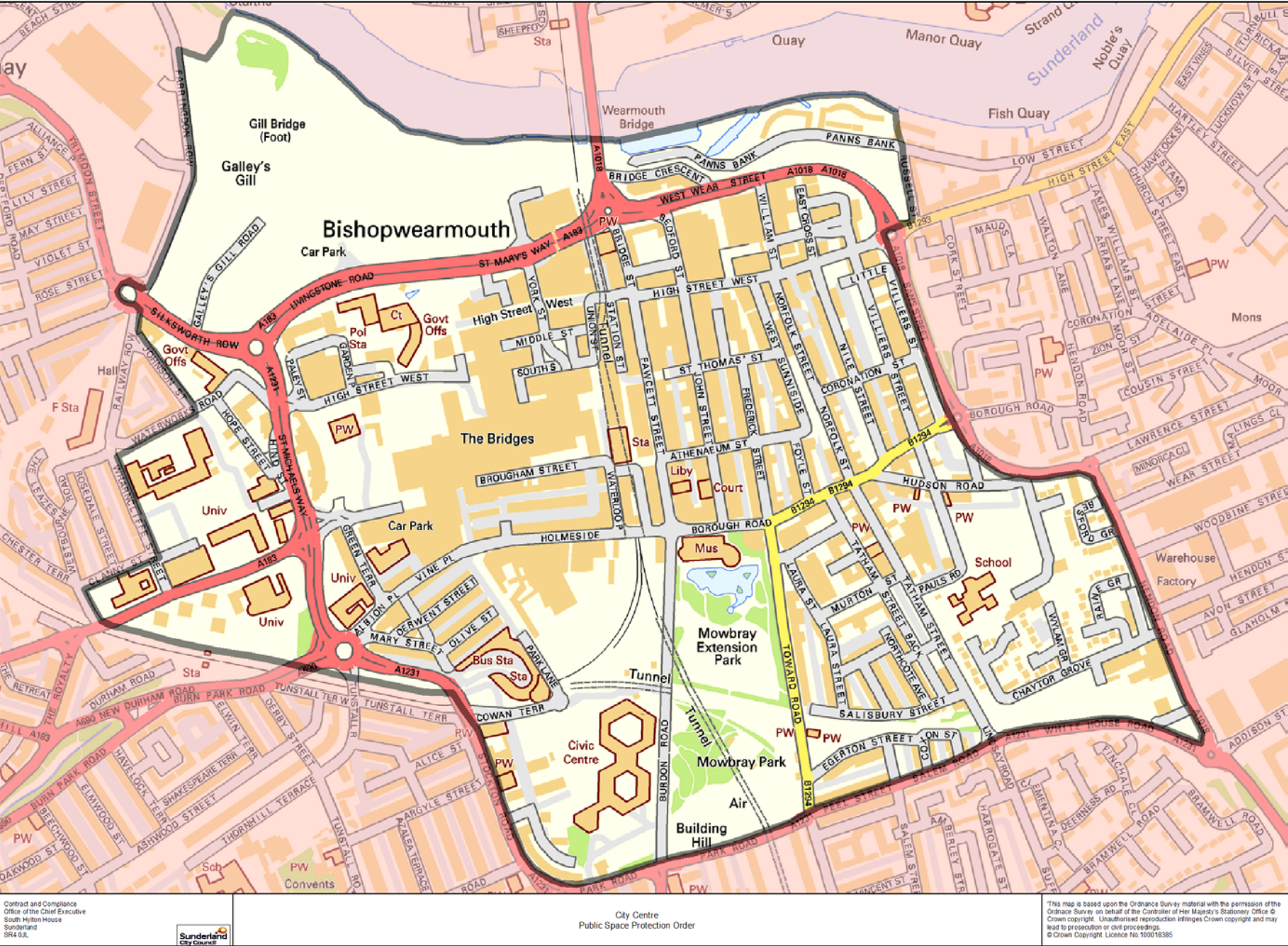
5.3 Feedback from the Business Investment District has been positive and they are working with us to help police the order going forward.

5.4 New signage has been installed at key locations within the prohibited area (see appendix 2).

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the findings of this report.

APPENDIX ONE –RESTRICTED AREA (yellow shaded area marked with black boundary)



You are in an area controlled by a Public Space Protection Order

Within this restricted area there are certain things you must or must not do and police and authorised council officers can impose certain requirements.

You must not engage in any of the following:

- Aggressive begging
- Aggressive street trading/peddling
- Anti-social use of skateboards and cycles
- Bin raking
- Drinking alcohol (except in licensed areas)
- Use of psychoactive substances (legal highs)

And you must:

- Clean up after your dog
- Keep your dog out of signed play areas
- Keep your dog on a lead in the park or when requested by an officer
- Stop drinking and surrender any alcohol when requested by an officer

If you do not comply, you may receive a £75 fixed penalty notice or face prosecution and a fine of up to £500 (for alcohol-related breaches) or up to £1,000 (in all other cases).

For a full copy of the Order visit: www.sunderland.gov.uk/pspo

