REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

Review of Redditch Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Ashley Monk, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Assistant Director		Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
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Wards Affected		(Batchley & Brockhill Ward); (Central Ward);
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Yes
Relevant Council Priority		Green, Clean & Safe;
Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee RECOMMEND that: -

1) **The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict antisocial behaviour (ASB) related to Alcohol, Offensive Behaviour and Language and the Misuse of Psychoactive Substances in Redditch town centre, as outlined in the map at Appendix 1 is extended for a further three-year period from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029.**

The Executive Committee is also asked to consider whether to RESOLVE that: -

2) **Officers be instructed to engage with the police and re-visit the levels of reported incidents of ASB in Redditch town centre where face coverings are involved. A report summarising the outcomes of this engagement should be presented to the Executive Committee within three months to enable consideration to be given as to whether it would be appropriate to extend the measures contained in the PSPO for Redditch to include a restriction on the wearing of face coverings.**

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Under Sections 59-75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 local councils are responsible for making, amending, extending or revoking PSPOs, provided certain conditions are met and a series of statutory processes are followed.

2.2 The current PSPO in Redditch town centre will have been in place for the maximum period of three years on 31 December 2026 and as such must be reviewed and a decision made on the continued status of the order before this date. A copy of the current PSPO as implemented on 1 January 2024, including a map of the restricted area, is attached at Appendix 1.

2.3 As part of any review Members have to be satisfied that the required legal conditions for the PSPO continue to be met. Firstly, that the PSPO is still necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or reoccurring. Also, if there is evidence of new issues in the area that meet the legal test for a PSPO, the council can vary the terms of the order at any time. This could change the size of the restricted area or add/amend the specific requirements and restrictions within. Finally, subject to evidence provided, the council could also seek to discharge the PSPO at any time, for instance when the issue that justified the order originally has ceased i.e. where the behaviour has stopped or if the land ceases to be classified as a public space.

2.4 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 does not specify what constitutes appropriate consultation; however statutory guidance makes clear that the local authority must consult with the following:

- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Chief Officer of Police for the local area
- Any community representatives the Council feels appropriate
- Owners or occupiers of land within the restricted area, such as local businesses.

2.5 The Community Safety Manager provides co-ordination, guidance and management of the corporate delivery of the Council's statutory duties and responsibilities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In line with statutory guidance and in recognition of the timescales required for the Council to review and update or revoke the current PSPO, the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services was asked to open the consultation process for a review of the order, under their delegated authority.

2.6 Initial consultation discussions were held with West Mercia Police and local community safety partners in the sub-group of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) known as 'Safer Redditch Group'. Safer Neighbourhood Police Officers and relevant partners were asked for their initial thoughts on the current PSPO and if there were any issues or concerns that might need to be considered as part of a review process.

2.7 This report details the processes followed to date in respect of a review of the current order and presents evidence to support a recommendation to extend the current PSPO for a further three-year period.

3. OPERATIONAL DETAILS

3.1 Data and evidence of need – to review the effectiveness of the current PSPO, a data report of ASB incidents and Public Order offences in the town centre has been commissioned. The report was produced by West Mercia Police's Partnership Analyst Team and is attached at Appendix 2.

3.2 The report provides details of ASB and Public Order crime reports from the period of 1 January 2022 to 30 September 2026. This provides an opportunity to compare data from a two-year period before the PSPO was introduced against reports received after the introduction of the order on 1 January 2024. The report also details enforcement action taken by West Mercia Police officers under PSPO legislation.

3.3 In summary, the crime and ASB data report provides evidence that the current PSPO area continues to experience issues of ASB and Public Order offending. The report details enforcement action that has been taken in the area under the PSPO, however; due to its central location, the wide variety of services provided and its high footfall of visitors, it is noted that the town centre area is more likely to experience higher levels of ASB in comparison to purely residential areas. Due to this it is felt that the town centre PSPO is still required.

3.4 Consultation Process – Consultation surveys were sent to all statutory consultees, residents, local stakeholders and other parties with an interest in the town centre. A list of consultees is included at Appendix 3, alongside a full report of the consultation findings. In summary, there were a total of 196 responses to the online and paper survey. 187 respondents were in support of extending the PSPO for a further 3 years and 8 respondents were against.

3.5 The wording of the survey deliberately avoided the detailed legal terminology and technical information contained in the formal PSPO document in order to promote accessibility and ease of participation for all residents and stakeholders who wished to take part in the consultation. However, it was acknowledged that the online survey materials did not include a link to the current formal order so that survey participants could review and compare both documents as required. To address this, in response to feedback received, this was corrected and a link to the current formal order was added at all entry points to the online survey on the council's website.

3.6 Consideration of new and emerging issues

3.7 At a Council meeting held on 21st September 2026 the following Motion on Notice was considered and agreed by Council.

"Council is asked to resolve

That Executive Committee be requested to instruct officers to engage with the police and re-visit the levels of reported incidents of ASB in Redditch town centre where face coverings such as face masks or balaclavas were involved. That a report summarising the outcome of that engagement with the police be presented to the Executive Committee of the Council within three months to enable consideration to be given as to whether it would be appropriate to extend the measures contained in the PSPO for Redditch to include a restriction on the wearing of face coverings."

3.8 It should be noted that prior to consideration of this Motion at Council during the initiation of the PSPO review process, the issue of use of face coverings was raised with police teams and partners. In discussions with West Mercia Police officers, it was advised that there is currently insufficient data available around ASB and face coverings for a specific recommendation to be included in this review. Further investigation into the prevalence of the issue is required and full consideration of the wording of any restriction or requirement relating to face coverings is essential to ensure all statutory requirements are met.

3.9 In considering this matter, it should also be noted that there can be legitimate reasons for wearing a face covering. For example, face coverings may be worn for religious purposes or for medical reasons. The concerns raised at the Council meeting in respect of face coverings related to the potential for ASB to occur when face coverings, such as balaclavas, are worn.

3.10 It is reiterated that if there is evidence of new issues in the PSPO area that meet the legal tests required, the council can vary the terms of an existing order or implement a new order at any time subject to further statutory consultation.

3.11 In this context, the Executive Committee is asked to consider whether to request that officers engage with the police regarding the implications of face coverings for ASB. The outcomes of this could be reported to the Executive Committee in three months' time, in line with the timescales proposed in the Motion.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Costs associated with any extension or amendment of the PSPO will be met from existing Community Safety budgets. Costs are largely associated with advertising and promoting the PSPO, for example statutory publication of any new Order made. Nominal changes or replacement may be required to the existing PSPO signage.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Sections 59 – 75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allow Redditch Borough Council to issue a PSPO provided certain conditions are met and statutory processes have been followed. Amended statutory guidance was issued by the Home Office in October 2026.

5.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent amendments place a duty on Redditch Borough Council to work in partnership with other agencies to reduce crime, disorder, ASB and fear of crime. It also places a duty on the Council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of those functions on crime, disorder, ASB and re-offending and do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime, disorder ASB and re-offending in its area.

5.3 Use of the power to implement a PSPO must be compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 (specifically, the Public Sector Equality Duty pursuant to Section 149) along with all other relevant legislation. When making a PSPO the Council must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 There are potential implications arising in respect of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Based on practice in newly merged unitary authorities, following LGR, PSPOs created by predecessor or legacy borough/district councils would automatically expire or require replacement to maintain continuity across the new council's area of administration.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 PSPOs are integral to the council's Green, Clean and Safe priority as they are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific public area. Orders apply restrictions, requirements or conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The aim of a PSPO is to help ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from ASB, nuisance and harassment.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 There are no specific climate change implications.

Community Impact Implications

6.4 Use of public spaces can have a significant impact on the quality of life of local communities. Managing and improving behaviour within public spaces can allay fears of crime and ASB and help everyone to make best use of the spaces available to them.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.5 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken in relation to the proposed extension of the PSPO. The EQIA does not identify any groups with protected characteristics covered by the Equalities Act, that would be adversely affected by the extension of the PSPO. However, it was identified that some of those who might be affected by the restrictions may also have mental health concerns that impact on their behaviour such as those participating in street drinking or people who are homeless.

6.6 The wording of the PSPO restrictions and the actions that can be taken on breaches aim to balance the needs of the individual, with the needs of the wider public to have an effective response to ASB in public areas.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 If the statutory process to amend or extend a PSPO is not followed correctly this could lead to challenge, which would mean the Council could face legal costs and reputational damage. Officers have followed the process as laid out in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Statutory Guidance for Frontline Professionals (last revised in October 2026) to ensure that all of the requirements have been met.

7.2 There is a risk identified in the consultation that the agencies involved in managing the Order, have not be able to meet the expectations of the public. West Mercia Police SNT are the primary agency carrying out enforcement of the Order and the impact and effectiveness of the PSPO is continually monitored via the Town Centre Operational Group and the Safer Redditch CSP group. A multi-agency problem solving approach continues to be taken with regard to persistent issues in the Town Centre area and in line with the recent Motion on Notice submitted to Council, officers will work closely with West Mercia Police to investigate whether further restrictions, requirements or enforcement options are required in the future, subject to available data and evidence.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Wording of current PSPO and map of restricted area

Appendix 2 – Data Report on Public Order and ASB Offences in Redditch Town Centre (January 2022 - September 2026) and enforcement action to date

Appendix 3 – Results of the 2026 PSPO Consultation Survey

Background Papers

ASB Provisions Report to Executive Committee – 11 September 2018

PSPO in Redditch Town Centre: Report to Executive Committee – 5 December 2023

Statutory Guidance for the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (revised October 2026)

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Ashley Monk Community & Housing Portfolio Holder.	10/11/2026
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community & Housing	20/10/2026
Financial Services	Oluwakemi Rafua, Finance Business Partner	29/10/2026
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor (Governance) Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer	26/10/2026
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Helen Mole, Business Improvement Manager	23/10/2026
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	
Community Safety Team (if community impact implications apply)	Bev Houghton, Community Safety Manager and report author	20/10/2026