

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

26 January 2026

The meeting commenced at 2pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Owen Riddle (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Martin Dunbar, Sue Little, Michael Jorgeson, Amanda Napper

Also Present:

Parish Council Representatives:

Lynn Noble (Dalton Piercy Parish Council)

Officers: Kieran Bostock, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)
Phillip Hepburn, Head of Community Safety
Gemma Jones, Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer

19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Christopher Wallace and Stephen Smith (Greatham Parish Council).

20. Declarations of Interest

None.

21. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2025

Received.

22. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO'S) - Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)

Type of decision

Key NRS 107/26

Purpose of report

To provide an update on a recent public consultation that has been undertaken and to seek Member approval in relation to the introduction of two new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) covering the Town Centre and back lanes.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) was in attendance to present the report on PSPO's and the recent public consultation on this matter.

Approval was being sought for the proposal to establish:

- a) A Hartlepool Town Centre PSPO and;
- b) A PSPO to cover the specific issues in designated back lanes of Hartlepool.

Members were informed that PSPO's were introduced to give local authorities additional powers to deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB). Councils can use PSPO's to prohibit specific activity or require certain things to be done to stop or prevent ASB where it is reasonable or justifiable to do so. Councils may only introduce PSPO's where there is, or likely to be persistent ASB in a particular location and it would have or likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

PSPO's have a maximum duration of 3 years and can be renewed for a further 3-year period.

It was explained that certain conditions must be met before a PSPO can be introduced and these were outlined in the report and noted to the Committee as follows –

The first condition is that –

- (a) Activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area must have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.*
- (b) It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.*

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect of the activities.

- (a) Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature.*
- (b) Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable and*
- (c) Justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.*

Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence and subject to a fine on conviction of up to £1000. PSPO's are limited to enforcement by police officers or designated local authority officers. In Hartlepool this role would be carried out by Civil Enforcement Officers or ASB officers.

Recent ASB issues in the Town Centre have given cause to examine if more could be done to support actions already identified. It was noted that Safer Hartlepool Partners including Cleveland Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner indicated they would be in support of creating a town centre PSPO.

The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) raised a factor for Members to consider in that most actions are dealt with by a Fixed Penalty Fine. Further consideration would need to be given about the effectiveness of this type of enforcement where offenders had complex and chaotic lifestyles.

In relation to the public consultation, Members were advised that this had taken place between November 2025 and had closed in early January 2026. Views were sought on a number of suggested issues of ASB concern and areas that might be included in a PSPO. Members attentions were drawn to two letters, appended to the report, provided by Cleveland Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner in response to the consultation. Section 5.4 of the report detailed a summary of the responses to questions asked in the consultation.

Members were advised that the PSPO in its own right will not solve all the issues that designated areas are experiencing but should complement the powers already available from existing legislation at their disposal.

Other considerations noted were the extra duties, additional areas and more frequent patrols that may impact on staff workload. There may be insufficient resource for the Enforcement Team to take on this additional duty without impacting on other areas of service delivery. Members were advised that care needed to be taken to ensure additional work would not have a detrimental impact on other working practices. Consequently, additional resources may be required. There is, however, no additional funding available, and delivery will need to be provided from existing staffing levels within the Community Safety Team.

In the discussion that followed a query was raised regarding section 5.4 (g) of the report, notably the use of riding skateboards and scooters. The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) emphasised that the use of this equipment would only be problematic if it was in a manner to cause damage to property, nuisance or annoyance.

A Member asked if there had been prosecutions in relation to waste/ bin issues in back alleys. The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) confirmed that there had been action taken on this matter that had resulted in prosecutions.

A Member thanked the Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) for the comprehensive report and added that they were in support of the PSPO.

A question was raised regarding the use of CCTV and it was confirmed that this was in use in a number of locations in the town including areas where there was presence of ASB issues.

The discussion returned to section 5.4 (h) of the report noted as 'begging or busking'. The Chair moved to remove busking from the list of prohibition controls suggested for inclusion. This was seconded, with the majority of Members supporting this amendment.

Decision

- (i) That busking be removed from the list of prohibition controls suggested for inclusion.
- (ii) Members approved a Hartlepool Town Centre PSPO.
- (iii) Members approved a PSPO to cover the specific issues in designated back lanes of Hartlepool

23. Any other business which the chair considers urgent

A Member raised the issue of traffic monitoring that was taking place on Rossmere Way and welcomed a new road traffic regime. A discussion was held regarding some of the issues on this road and it was noted that an update would be provided on this matter as soon as possible.

Decision

- (i) That an update be provided on the traffic monitoring of Rossmere Way.

The meeting concluded at 2.25pm

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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