
RECORD OF DECISION BY CABINET MEMBER

Decision taken by:

Lead Member for Housing and Communities

Date of Decision:

28 February 2024

Date of publication of decision:

28 February 2024

Decision:

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) FOR RHYL TOWN CENTRE

To approve the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Rhyl Town Centre for the duration of three years as the draft order attached (Appendix 1).

Purpose of Decision:

The decision is about making a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Rhyl Town Centre for the duration of three years. The effect of the PSPO will be to prevent and deal with individuals and groups of people consuming alcohol and/or causing anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre.

Reasons for Decision:

A PSPO bans certain activities or behaviours which may be considered antisocial from taking place within a geographical area. The order itself is made by the Local County Council, and it is enforced by the local Police Authority.

Rhyl Town Centre has higher levels of anti-social behaviour than other areas of Rhyl. This anti-social behaviour is unfair and harmful to residents, businesses, and visitors to the High Street Area. Rhyl Town Centre has previously had two PSPOs for anti-social behaviour in place, the first PSPO was introduced in 2016. Since 2016, Denbighshire County Council has worked hard with North Wales Police (NWP) and other partners to ensure there is a range of measures in place alongside the PSPO to support people and discourage them from committing anti-social behaviour.

The consequence of this PSPO will be that North Wales Police (NWP) will have additional powers to deal with issues with respect of anti-social behaviour and street drinking for three years, up until 2027.

Interests Declared:

No interest to declare.

Consultation:

A full public consultation was undertaken, which began on the 24th of November 2023 and ran until Sunday the 21st of January 2024. Additionally, the Head of Service and Lead Member for Housing and Communities attended the Rhyl Member Area Group Meeting (18th of December 2023) and Rhyl Town Council (17th of January 2024), as part of the direct engagement and notification of the consultation.

As a result of this public consultation exercise, a total of 100 respondents accessed the survey. The outcome presented an overwhelming support for the introduction of this PSPO with 92% of the respondents in favour. A further (93%) agreed that the order should include anti-social behaviour, and (90%) agreed that the order should also include street drinking. Additionally, (76%) were in agreement with the boundaries for the restricted area of the PSPO (Appendix 4).

It is noted that a small number of respondents raised comments on Street Begging, drug use, and an expansion to the boundary area of the PSPO. NWP have advised, that based on evidence covering the past two years, they cannot legally justify the inclusion of street begging in this PSPO. Should Street begging occur, referrals and encouragement to engage with support will be provided. Police already have the power to tackle those, taking, carrying or selling drugs. There has also been no Police evidence to legally justify the extension of the boundary area to Marina Quay.

Authority for delegation of the decision to the Cabinet Member:

See Scheme of Delegation.