

Report of the Chief Executive

PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to consult on the introduction a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in order to control nuisance from gatherings of motor vehicles at and around Tinsley Road Bridge, Eastwood.

2. Background

Public Spaces Protection Orders are designed to deal with a particular nuisance in a particular area by imposing reasonable restrictions/requirements on the use of public space within that area. They were introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and came into effect in October 2014. Councils are responsible for making PSPOs and can do so on any public space. Before making a PSPO, a Council must be satisfied, on “reasonable grounds”, that the behaviour to be restricted:

- is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature;
- is, or is likely to be, unreasonable; and
- justifies the restrictions imposed.

A number of complaints have been received by both the Council and the police about gatherings of motor vehicles at and around Tinsley Road Bridge, Eastwood. While the simple act of parking vehicles is not in itself illegal at this location, and if undertaken considerately, could not be construed as anti-social, the “meets” involve engines being revved loudly and music playing loudly. This results in disturbance to residents in dwellings in the area, particularly as it often occurs late at night. There is also evidence that there is some degree of organisation about the events in that comments about forthcoming meets appear on social media.

Various methods to try and control the behaviour have been considered, and it is felt that the introduction of a PSPO would be the most suitable. This view is also supported by the police who would have responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the PSPO if it were introduced. A draft PSPO and map showing the Restricted Area are attached as appendices 1 and 2.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to APPROVE the undertaking of consultation on the making of a PSPO at Tinsley Road Bridge to control nuisance from motor vehicles in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Background papers

Nil