
Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Leader (incorporating Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods)
Date	20 June 2016
Present	Councillor Carr (Executive Leader)
In Attendance	Councillor Hunter

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting the Executive Leader was asked to declare if he had any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests in the business on the agenda. He declared that he had none.

2. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 23 May 2016 be approved and then signed by the Executive Leader as a correct record.

3. Public Participation

It was reported that one Member of Council had registered to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Councillor Hunter spoke in respect of Agenda Item 4 (Acomb Green-Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation Outcome). She spoke about how the green had attracted forms of anti social behaviour over the years and felt that if a PSPO was granted that it should be temporary and reviewed in six months. This was because a PSPO might discourage people from visiting Acomb entirely. She also asked for determined action on enforcing the issuing of fines for dog fouling.

4. Acomb Green - Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation Outcome

The Executive Leader considered a report which provided him with responses from a recent consultation process and determine whether to introduce a Public Space Protection Order(PSPO). It also requested that he determine whether to introduce a PSPO for Acomb Green.

Officers introduced the report and informed the Executive Leader that in a survey of local residents, there was overwhelming support for a PSPO on Acomb Green. In response to the points raised under Public Participation by the Member of Council Officers stated that;

- Tolerance of unacceptable behaviour had changed over the years. A PSPO was a positive response to modify and change behaviour levels.
- There were no temporary PSPOs. They could have a time limit set on them.
- Although they might work on a temporary basis, Council Officers did not have the power to move on offenders.

The Executive Leader read out a letter from another Member of Council, Councillor Waller, who was in support for granting a PSPO at Acomb Green.

Resolved: That Option 1 be approved and that a PSPO for Acomb Green be introduced to include:

- Banning the drinking of alcohol
- The ability to remove large groups of 3 or more people who are causing anti social behaviour (ASB)
- Banning under 16's from the possession of lighters in the play area
- Setting the amount of any Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) at £100, which would be reduced to £75 if paid within the first 14 days.

Reason: To ensure that the council actively addresses the issue of anti-social behaviour in our communities.

5. West Bank Park - Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation Outcome

The Executive Leader considered a report which provided him with responses from a recent consultation process and determine whether to introduce a Public Space Protection Order(PSPO). It also requested that he determine whether to introduce a PSPO for West Bank Park.

The Executive Leader reported that he had received two letters in support of the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the park. These suggested;

- Employing park keepers and permanent gardeners
- Closing the park at dusk
- Segregating part of the park for dog users

Officers confirmed that the issue of segregating the park had not been considered, the other suggestions of park keepers / gardeners and closing the parks at dusk had previously been considered by the council as part of a previous service wide review which had resulted in the current service levels. The Executive Leader requested that all PSPOs should be reviewed when they expired.

Resolved: That Option 1 be approved and the introduction of a PSPO within West Bank be authorised to cover:

- Banning motorised bikes
- Banning drinking alcohol in the park
- The ability to remove large groups of 3 or more people who are causing anti social behaviour (ASB)
- A requirement that dogs are kept on a lead between 8.00am and 6.00pm
- Setting the amount of any Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) at £100, which would be reduced to £75 if paid within the first 14 days.

Reason: To ensure that the council actively addresses the issue of anti-social behaviour in our communities.

6. Proposed Changes to the Traveller Pitch Agreement

The Executive Leader received a report which asked him to approve consultation to the proposed changes to the existing Traveller Pitch agreement.

Resolved: That Option 1 be approved, to consult on the following changes:

- The introduction of flexible tenancy start dates.
- Insert a section regarding Non payment of rent.
- To add a paragraph with regards to the keeping of dogs on the travellers pitch in particular naming the Dangerous Dogs act 1991 and the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- To add several minor changes to strengthen the Travellers Pitch agreement, these are listed on Annex 1 numbers 3.18 to 6.

Reason: To ensure consistency, as far as is practicable, across the different agreements that are issued in housing services.

7. Granting of additional powers for the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team and changes to existing Fixed Penalty Notice Charges

The Executive Leader considered a report which asked him to grant additional enforcement powers to the Neighbourhood Enforcement team and also to consider changes to two existing Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) charges issued by the Neighbourhood Enforcement team. These are the FPNs issued for dog fouling and for breach of Community Protection Notice (CPN).

Resolved: That Option 1 be approved to:

- Grant the power for issue of an FPN for low level fly-tipping with a penalty of £400, reduced to £240 for early repayment.
- Grant the power to issue an FPN for advertising for sale two or more vehicles within 500m of each other or repairing vehicles on the public highway, with a penalty of £100, reduced to £75 for early repayment.

- Grant the power to enforce the Micro-chipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 when related to incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Raise the FPN charge for dog fouling to £75.
- Introduce an early repayment charge of £75 for breach of Community Protection Notice.

Reason: Additional powers have been requested as a result of a review of offences commonly reported to the team against the enforcement powers available to address them. This is to ensure the team have all the necessary enforcement powers at their disposal. The FPN for small scale flytipping is a new power, made available to local authorities from May 2016.

Councillor Carr, Executive Leader (incorporating Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods)

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.25 pm].

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