

Subject:	Stop Public Space Protection Orders from being enforced in Brighton and across the UK – Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	6 April 2017		
Report of:	The Monitoring Officer		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 2,080 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 4th May 2017.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition****Stop Public Space Protection Orders from being enforced in Brighton and across the UK**

"We, the undersigned, do not want PSPOs enforced in our local community or anywhere in the UK because they stop people from being able to engage in public spaces in a positive way and criminalise outdoor activities. Brighton and Hove are surrounded by natural beauty with the Downs on one side and the seafront on the other. These areas should be respected and the public should be able to engage with them. Public spaces should be for the use of all members of the public and people should have freedom of movement. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are broad powers which allow councils to criminalise particular, non-criminal, activities taking place within a specified area. Therefore, PSPOs could easily be misused with people using them to harass other park users for activities they consider anti-social. There is huge potential for PSPOs to infringe on civil liberties, and ultimately be too punitive.

By their very nature, they discriminate against gypsies, travellers and homeless people.”

<https://www.change.org/p/peter-castleton-stop-public-space-protection-orders-from-being-enforced-in-brighton-and-across-the-uk>

Lead Petitioner – Victoria Grantham

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;
- (iii) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
- (v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
(b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).