

CAR CRUISING PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Report Author:

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Purpose of Report:

To present a summary of the results of the recent consultation on implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles associated with car cruising.

FOR AGREEMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2019, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing agreed that a consultation should be held on whether Milton Keynes Council should introduce a Borough wide Public Space Protection Order to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles, also known as car cruising.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the results of the consultation and the impact of the activity on residents and businesses, the Safer MK partnership is asked to agree a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing that a PSPO should be introduced.

3. Background

- 3.1 Car Cruising is where car enthusiasts gather to exhibit and drive their cars. There have been regular, large scale car cruising events in Milton Keynes. These unregulated events have given rise to an increase of complaints related to associated anti-social behaviour including excessive noise, racing, burn outs, drifting and donuts.
- 3.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Space Protection Orders which are intended to provide the means of preventing individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. The power to make the order rests with Local Authorities in consultation with the police and other relevant bodies who may be affected.

4. Summary of Consultation Findings

- 4.1 A consultation ran from 5 June 2019 and closed on 11 September 2019. A large number of responses were received (2647) to the online survey. The consultation was widely publicised throughout Milton Keynes, and attracted attention from car cruising groups. Although the majority of respondents stated that they were resident or working in Milton Keynes, responses were received from across the country.
- 4.2 The consultation revealed a significant level of support for the proposed PSPO. Overall, 42 per cent of respondents support the implementation of a PSPO to ban the anti-social use of the vehicles in Milton Keynes. The level of support was higher when considering only the responses from MK residents/businesses, and higher still amongst Central MK residents.
- 4.3 More than 1000 respondents reported that they have experienced or been affected by anti-social use of vehicles in Milton Keynes in the last 12 months. More than half of the respondents from Central Milton Keynes have been affected. Respondents who had been impacted highlighted noise and safety concerns.
- 4.4 58% of all of respondents were against the implementation of the PSPO. A quarter of all objections were received from respondents who were not resident in Milton Keynes. A large number of comments were received by those who are against the PSPO, largely downplaying the impact of car cruising.

	For	Against
All respondents	42%	58%
MK residents and businesses	49%	51%
Central MK residents only	56%	44%

5. Other Considerations

- 5.1 During the consultation period, a number of people were seriously injured as a result of a 'racing' incident in Stevenage. In central Milton Keynes a 5 year old was hit by a driver participating in a car cruise and taken to hospital.
- 5.2 Work has taken place in partnership between Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Development Partnership and Thames Valley Police to fit a gate to the South Second Street car park which was the centre of some of the more serious and persistent ASB. The gate, which is managed by TVP has had an impact to on antisocial behaviour levels, however, it has not prevented it altogether.

- 5.3 A PSPO for the whole of Milton Keynes is considered the most effective approach to further reducing this activity. Although car cruising activity is more noticeable in the centre, the impact is more widespread as grid roads and dual carriageways are used to race, display and drive dangerously. Evidence suggests that applying the PSPO only to Central Milton Keynes would displace activity to another part of the city.
- 5.4 The PSPO would be enforced by Thames Valley Police, supported by the Council.

6. Attachments / Background Papers

- 6.1 Please refer to the following background papers:

Analysis of the PSPO for car cruising public consultation

February 2019 Cabinet Paper