

Simon Lane
Service Lead - Environmental Health and Community Safety
Exeter City Council

Via email: simon.lane@exeter.gov.uk

Monday 1st February 2021

Re: Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Exeter City Centre

Dear Simon,

I am writing to confirm my support for the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Exeter City Centre and the surrounding area.

I am assured by both the report that you enclose, and through contact that I have had with Devon and Cornwall Police, that there is good reason to warrant the renewal of the order. In 2020, 1867 anti-social behaviour logs were recorded by the Police in the PSPO areas. Whilst this is a slight decrease (10%) on 2017 levels, I am conscious of the negative impact this behaviour has on the community and it is important that steps are taken to send a clear message that it will not be tolerated.

Last summer Exeter City Centre was one of 20 areas chosen by the Police to receive street marshals, as funded by my office, in a bid to address anti-social behaviour as lockdown restrictions eased. Marshals responded to a number of incidents over the course of their duty including aggressive begging, graffiti and drug related issues.

I had also visited the City Centre in July of last year and spoke with councillors and police officers about some of the behaviour that occurs and the impact that this can have on the local business community.

I further recognise that anti-social conduct can affect the public's enjoyment of the area and I therefore welcome the renewal of the PSPO so that problems can be addressed swiftly.

I also welcome the proposal that Exeter City Council Officers are able to enforce the conditions of the PSPO, should it benefit the experience of local residents and visitors. Similar approaches have been adopted in Plymouth, as under the marshalling scheme that is already in place which uses CSAS powers and to which was further enhanced last summer. The police have found they prove extremely useful in the City's response to anti-social behaviour.

I entrust that a similar approach in Exeter may be helpful and could strengthen the partnership response to crime and disorder that is already well established.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Hernandez
Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isle of Scilly