



To: West/Central Area Committee  
Report by: The Director of Community Services  
Wards affected: Market ward

## **1. Executive summary**

1.1 This report seeks to gauge opinion from the West/Central Area Committee on the possible implementation of a Dispersal Order under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 to cover the centre of the City and the Grafton Area.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee debates the proposal having considered the attached report from Cambridgeshire Constabulary as to the merits of implementing such an Order given the current levels of disorder in the City Centre caused by members of the streetlife community.
- 2.2 That the views of the Committee are used to inform the decision of the Executive Councillor for Community Safety, prior to a formal submission from the Constabulary to the Council and any decision being taken.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 A Dispersal Order is implemented under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. A Dispersal Order provides the police with powers, in a designated area, to disperse groups of two or more where their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in members of the public being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed.
- 3.2 The Executive Councillor for Community Safety can give approval to an Order but any approval must be reported to the next available meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. However, prior to this the Executive Councillor is keen that the views of Members, and others with an interest are taken into account.

- 3.3 Dispersal Orders have been put in place in the past, as short term measures, primarily to address the issues of behaviour of the streetlife community, and have been successful.
- 3.4 The proposal to implement a further Dispersal Order in City Centre is still at an early stage, the full package of analysis to determine whether or not sufficient evidence exists to satisfy the legal requirements for an Order to be made, is still taking place. However, a recent consultation with residents and traders shows considerable support for such a measure to be introduced. Once the analysis is completed it will be made available. However, an early indication as to the proposed area for the Order is included as part of the attached Police report. If an Order is subsequently approved, notification of its terms will be circulated quickly to interested parties via email and the police e-cops system.
- 3.6 Views from the West/Central Area Committee are requested to help identify whether there is support for a Dispersal Order prior to a formal decision being made by the Executive Councillor.
- 3.7 Views made subsequent to the West Central Committee meeting can be sent to the author. Please see details below.

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