

Committee(s): Police Authority Board – For Information Policy and Resources – For decision	Dated: 12/12/2022 15/12/2022
Subject: Renewal of the London Marathon Public Spaces Protection Order	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Report author: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety Manager, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

This report seeks the support of Members to renew the current London Marathon Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which expires in March 2023. It has effectively mitigated anti-social behaviour and violent disorder previously experienced with certain sections of the race route through the City of London.

Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides local authorities with the power to make Public Spaces Protection Orders. PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community’s quality of life, by imposing certain conditions or prohibitions.

The current PSPO has been active since March 2020. It has been pivotal in preventing and reducing crime and disorder during the London Marathon. It has been so effective that we haven’t experienced any problems of the nature we had to endure before March 2020. It is proposed that the City of London Corporation renew the PSPO for another 3 years before its expiration.

If Members support the renewal, the formal order will be drafted and put to the Court of Common Council for final agreement.

Recommendation(s)

Members of Policy and Resources are asked:

- to support the renewal of the PSPO – extending it for three further years - so a formal order can be drafted and presented to the Court for approval

Main Report

Background

1. The London Marathon is part of the World Marathon Majors. The event takes place in spring every year and part of the route is through the City of London. Problems with visitors during the day of the event were a serious problem for several years in the locality of the Marathon route. The primary issue was related to large groups of young adults consuming alcohol and drugs, particularly nitrous oxide, while the London Marathon was taking place. This contributed to considerable Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and violent disorder.
2. Despite the preparation and work of the City police and the City Corporation in 2019 as the day progressed, the atmosphere at the London Marathon became increasingly hostile and eventually resulted in arrests for violent disorder, grievous bodily harm and possession of class A drugs. While assisting in an arrest one of the Police horses fell, trapping the mounted officer under the horse, and resulting in the officer receiving a broken ankle.
3. Public Order Officers assigned to the event, who are used to dealing with high levels of disorder, were taken aback with the level of disorder and how quickly the situation escalated. Despite having 20 Public Order Officers available in the area, another 40 officers were required to deal with the problems. In total over 100 City of London Police Officers were deployed to this relatively small geographical area to contain the situation.
4. In response to the recurrent issues of anti-social behaviour and serious violent public disorder in 2019 and previous years on the 5 March 2020, the City of London Court of Common Council ratified the City of London Marathon PSPO¹.
5. The PSPO granted the City of London Police additional powers to prevent public drinking in specific areas, by refusing entry to designated areas to those carrying alcohol or nitrous oxide, or by confiscation of these by those within the area. Those persons contravening the PSPO could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100.

Current Position

6. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the PSPO was not deployed until the October 2021, when the London Marathon returned to its usual route through the City of London.

¹ See Appendix 1

7. During the October 2021 and October 2022 races, no FPNs were issued, and no arrests were made by the City of London Police during both events in comparison to the seven arrests made in 2019.
8. The PSPO has proved invaluable in reducing antisocial behaviour and public disorder during the London Marathon. The PSPO is advertised on the City Corporation's website and social media ahead of the Marathon race to raise public awareness of the prohibitions during the day. Businesses and licensed premises are also informed of the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption and the extended police powers on the day of the Marathon. This has translated in no further serious issues during the day.
9. Section 60 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, stipulates that a PSPO is valid for up to 3 years. Therefore, the current London Marathon PSPO will remain valid until March 2023. However, the PSPO will not cover the next race which is due to occur on the 23 April 2023.
10. There are serious concerns held by partners, that without extending the London Marathon PSPO and the powers associated with the order, the ASB and disorder previously experienced before its implementation will return, causing significant reputational and corporate damage.
11. Before the time when a PSPO is due to expire, the Corporation (i.e. the local authority) may extend the order period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent the occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the original order.

Consultation

12. The current proposal for the extension of the PSPO beyond March 2023 is supported by the Corporation's Highways and Public Protection teams, the City of London Police, Bronze Group for the London Marathon and the Safer City Partnership (the Community Safety Partnership for the City of London)
13. A public consultation for feedback on the proposed renewal of the PSPO was open in the City of London Corporation Website for 4 weeks between October and November 2022, through which there were no objections expressed.

Proposal

14. It is proposed that the PSPOS is renewed for a further three years. If Policy and Resources Committee support this approach the formal order will be placed before the Court of Common Council for approval.

Conclusion

15. An extension of the current London Marathon PSPO for a further 3 years would demonstrate that the Corporation continues to work in partnership and take steps to safeguard the public from antisocial behaviour and public

disorder, protect this important global event and make the most effective use of Police resources.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Public Space Protection Order
- Appendix 2 – Statement by City of London Police Bronze commander
- Appendix 3 – City of London Police debrief London Marathon 2022

Background Papers

16. Seeking a Public Space Protection Order – London Marathon Related Disorder. Policy and Resources Committee on 21 November 2019.

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