

Formal Consultation Response Supporting the Renewal of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order

Prosecure2000 Ltd welcomes the opportunity to submit this formal response to the consultation on the renewal of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Prosecure2000 Ltd delivers the Shrewsbury Town Rangers, Quarry Park Security Teams and the Shrewsbury Taxi Marshals, and works in close partnership with Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council, Shrewsbury Business Improvement District and West Mercia Police.

In our view, the Shrewsbury Town Centre PSPO remains an important and effective measure for maintaining public order, reducing anti-social behaviour and supporting community safety within the town centre. Prosecure2000 therefore strongly supports the continuation of the Order. We consider the PSPO to be an essential part of the wider partnership framework that helps reduce pressure on frontline services and sustains public confidence in Shrewsbury as a safe and welcoming destination during both daytime activity and the night-time economy.

In support of the renewal and consultation process, we set out the following comments:

Authorised Officers

Prosecure2000 personnel working within the above roles already hold authorisation, on behalf of Shropshire Council, to issue PSPO notices where appropriate. Our staff have undertaken extensive training delivered by Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council, West Mercia Police and our own internal training department. This includes training in taxi licensing and licensing legislation, contextual safeguarding, county lines awareness, ACT and SIA-CT training, SCan, VAWG and Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles. Our staff also maintain detailed operational notes for inclusion in daily and weekly reports shared through Team Shrewsbury partners.

In addition, Prosecure2000 is an approved SafeContractor company and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. All of our staff hold the appropriate Security Industry Authority licences and bring significant operational experience to their roles.

Our operational experience demonstrates that these powers are applied proportionately and only where engagement, support and other reasonable interventions have not secured compliance. Where PSPO and PCR notices have been issued, they have resulted in successful court outcomes, providing clear evidence that the enforcement action taken has been appropriate, justified and effective in practice.

Public Conveniences and Sitting on the Ground

Our teams work actively with a range of partner agencies, including the police, the ARK, the RESET team, Youth Services, Shrewsbury Town Council, Shropshire Council and the BID. Through this work they have developed strong operational relationships and a detailed understanding of the issues affecting people who regularly frequent the town centre.

At present, our teams regularly encounter anti-social behaviour, criminality and vulnerability-related issues, including:

- street drinking
- begging
- people sitting or lying in shop doorways
- urinating and defecating in public spaces
- misuse of public conveniences for alcohol or drug consumption

While many incidents can be resolved through engagement, reassurance and de-escalation, there are occasions when a more immediate and formal enforcement response is necessary. The continued availability of PSPO powers to authorised Prosecure2000 personnel enables prompt, proportionate and effective intervention, particularly at times when partner agencies are managing wider operational pressures.

Amplified Busking

More recently, the Town Rangers have undertaken an initial triage role in relation to reports of busking and have passed relevant concerns to Shropshire Council Public Protection. This has allowed Public Protection Officers to focus on higher-priority matters. We believe that including clearer provisions in relation to amplified busking would help to create a more balanced and harmonious town centre environment and reduce prolonged disruption for nearby businesses, employees and visitors.

Conclusion

In our assessment, the resources of West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council, as the principal agencies responsible for the PSPO, remain under considerable pressure. The ability of authorised Prosecure2000 personnel to issue PSPO notices as part of the wider partnership response helps ensure that enforcement can continue to be delivered promptly and proportionately when required, notwithstanding competing operational priorities and wider service demand.

For those reasons, we consider renewal of the PSPO to be both necessary and proportionate in order to support partners in addressing persistent issues at the earliest possible stage. In practical terms, the value of the PSPO lies not only in the authority it gives officers to require relevant behaviour to cease, but also in the ability to escalate to formal enforcement where non-compliance persists. The successful court outcomes arising from PSPO and PCR notices further demonstrate the legitimacy, effectiveness and continuing relevance of the current arrangements.

In summary

Prosecure2000 strongly supports the continuation of the Shrewsbury Town Centre PSPO through the present renewal and consultation process. In our view, the Order continues to provide a necessary, proportionate and effective framework for addressing anti-social behaviour and associated nuisance within the town centre. We would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing as an active delivery partner in its implementation and enforcement, in order to maximise the benefit, it provides to the town, local businesses and the wider public.

Kind Regards

Jon Frroku

Jon Frroku
MD

Prosecure2000 Ltd

Suites 6 & 7

High Street Chambers,

10-11 High Street,

Shrewsbury,

England,

SY1 1SP