

To Full Council – 18th July 2024

Notice of Motion

Ban face coverings on Southend High Street and Seafront

For Southend to prosper, we must do more to ensure that our High Street and Seafront remain safe and welcoming destinations for our residents and the millions of visitors who come to our city each year.

As a Council, we are responsible for ensuring that everyone who spends time and money in our city has the best possible experience without having to experience criminal activity or anti-social behaviour. Whilst most people enjoy our city without issue, the actions of a small minority can be intimidating and make others feel unsafe.

By updating the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Southend, made under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to prohibit face coverings (except for medical, safety, or religious reasons), we can ensure that our City remains a welcoming place for the law-abiding majority and deter those who seek to commit crime and antisocial behaviour.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To amend the Southend-on-Sea PSPO covering Southend city centre, seafront, and adjoining areas to include banning face coverings, with necessary exceptions for health, safety, and religious reasons.

Proposed By: Cllr J Warren

Seconded By: Cllr C Campbell