

# Project Harmony and Public Spaces Protection Order Leicester City Centre

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Managing anti-social behaviour in Leicester

Scrutiny Commission

February 2025



# Purpose

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- To provide the Scrutiny Commission with an overview of the Public Space Protection Order and the work undertaken in the City Centre
- Provide detail of the interventions undertaken
- Provide detail on what the difference is between street lifestyle and homeless individuals
- Set out the work planned for the next period (March to April)



# What is the difference between Street Lifestyles and Homeless individuals?

## Street Lifestyles

- People who spend much of their time on the streets, engaging in various activities (e.g., street vending, busking, street art, or informal work).
- Housing Status: Some may have a place to stay, such as temporary accommodations, shelters, or unstable housing situations.
- Choice vs. Circumstance: Sometimes chosen as a lifestyle or means of survival, but not always indicative of homelessness.
- Community & Culture: There can be a sense of identity or community tied to being part of a street culture.
- Broader Range: This group includes people who might not be homeless but are still heavily associated with the streets for work, social life, or personal preference.

## Homeless Individuals

- Individuals without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.
- Housing Status: Rely on shelters, temporary accommodations, or are living rough (on the streets, in parks, or other public spaces).
- Circumstantial: Often the result of factors such as unemployment, poverty, addiction, mental illness, or domestic violence.
- More Vulnerable: Homelessness can exacerbate issues related to health, safety, and access to essential services.
- Not by Choice: Homelessness is rarely voluntary and typically stems from systemic issues or personal crises.

### Key Distinction:

While all homeless individuals may interact with street environments, not everyone living or working in street lifestyles is homeless.

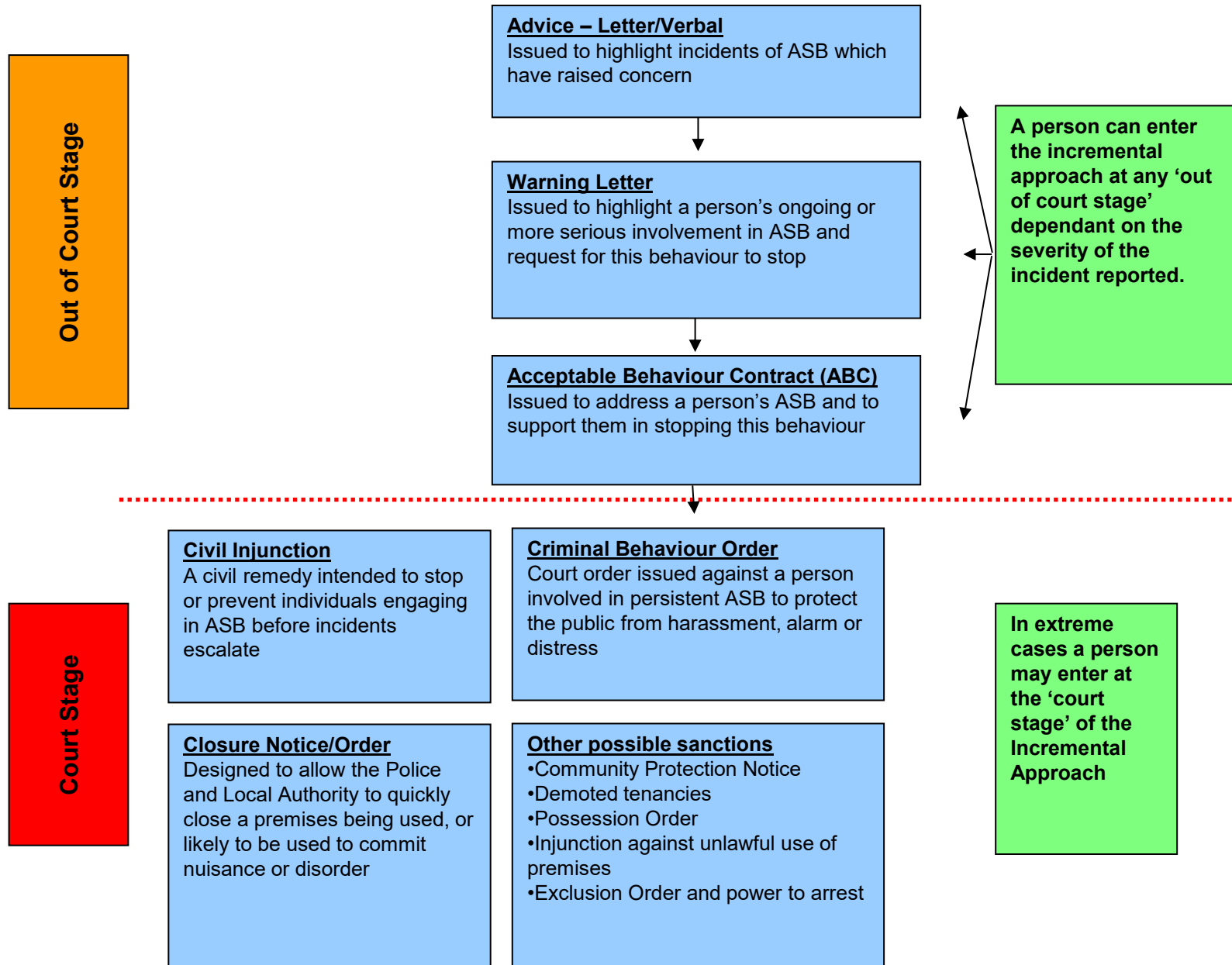


# The partnership approach

Patch walks and Disruption

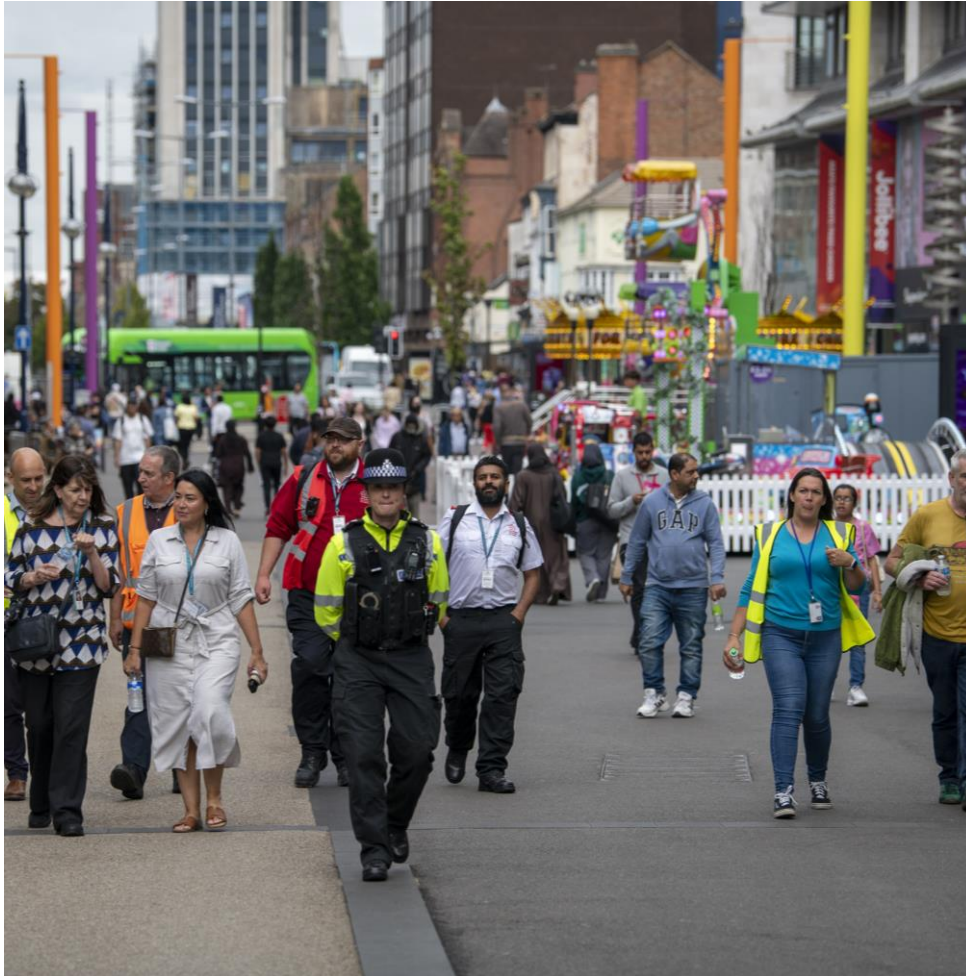


## Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incremental Approach



# What action have we taken using the incremental approach?

Conducted 15 x patch walks of the City Centre with multiple partners



## Street Lifestyles

2 x Community Protection Notice Warnings issued for sleeping in a public place

1 x Advice letter given for shouting and swearing

1 x Verbal advice for begging

4 x Verbal warnings issued to street lifestyle individuals for blocking fire exits

2 x Community Protection Notice Warnings issued for begging

2 x Advice letters given for begging

2 x Written warning letters given for aggressive begging

## Encampments

7 x Formal written notices given to vacate

2 x Verbal advice given to vacate

## Businesses

4 x Community protection notice warnings issued to business

1 x Closure warning issued to a City Centre car park

1 x Cease and desist letter issued

1 x Community protection notice issued to the land owner to secure site and remove detritus

1 x Community protection notice warning issued to the land owner to secure site and remove graffiti and detritus

## Amplified Noise

4 x Advice letters were given to religious groups

1 x Advice letter was given to busker



# Community Safety Partnership Bus

The primary goal of this initiative is to engage with the public effectively and to bring and promote services directly in the heart of the city centre.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

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POINT**  
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# What is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)?

A PSPO is an official measure that is an enforceable part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs can be used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and is persistent and unreasonable (or likely to be).



# PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER



CONSUMING ALCOHOL IN  
THIS AREA IS PROHIBITED.



THE USE OF SPEAKERS OR  
AMPLIFIERS IS PROHIBITED.

**MAXIMUM FINE £1000**

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER COULD LEAD TO A  
£100 FIXED PENALTY NOTICE OR PROSECUTION AND A  
FINE OF UP TO £1000 ON CONVICTION.

This area is subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 1 of the  
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.


Pubs, restaurants, and all licensed premises do not form part of the PSPO. Areas covered by a Temporary Event  
Notice or a local authority premises licence are only exempted from the PSPO whilst speakers or  
amplifiers are being used.

## What does a PSPO do?

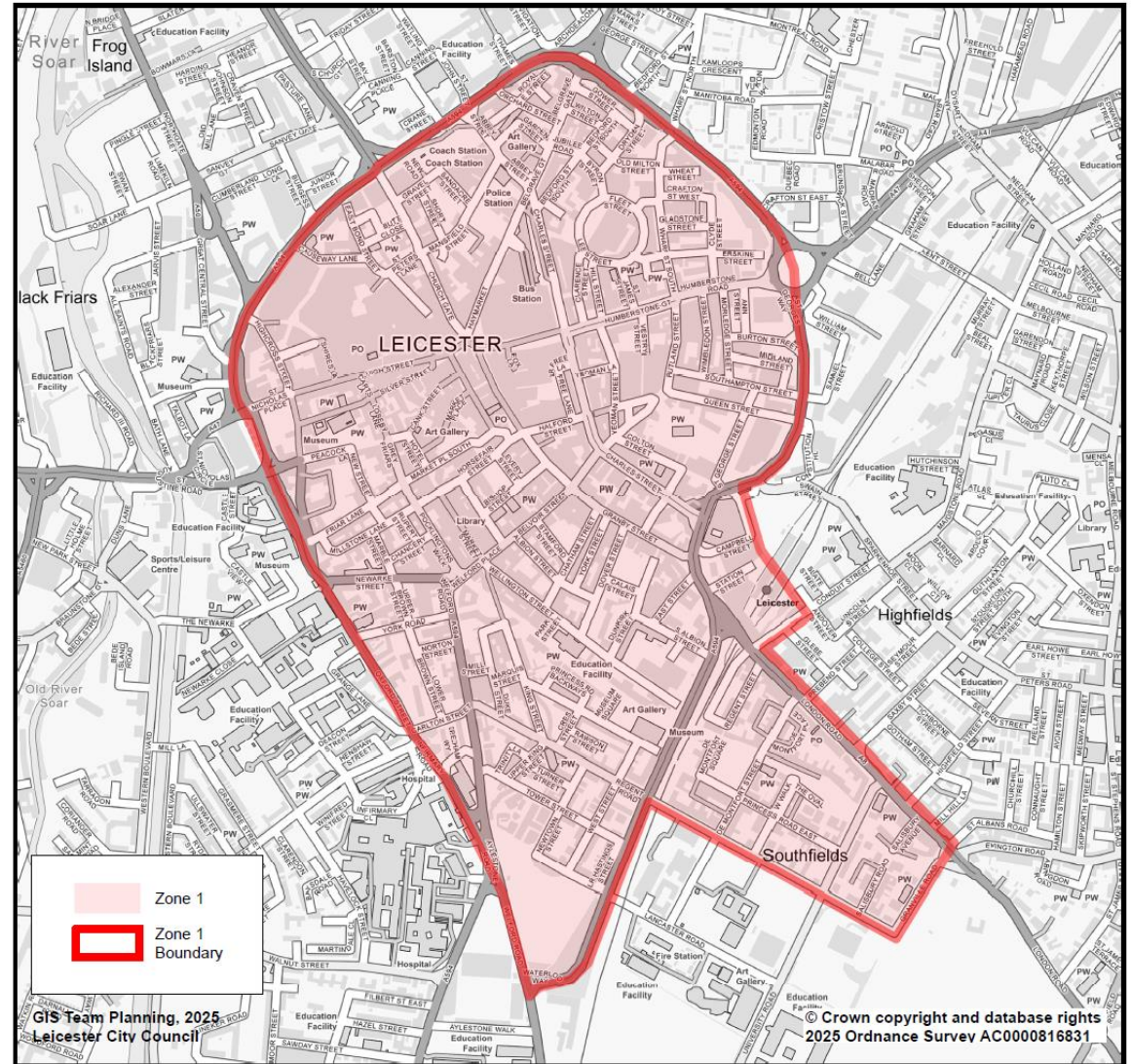
The PSPO can restrict activities in a certain area, e.g. stop access along a footpath, restrict certain behaviour or allow alcohol to be confiscated. A breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and can be enforced by a police officer, police community support officer and authorised Council officers. A Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 can be issued or a fine of up to £1,000 on prosecution.

# What areas will the Public Space Protection Order cover?

To manage the anti-social behaviour in the city centre and by way of discerning the public's attitude towards wider implementation this consultation focusses on the introduction of measures within the city centre only, or Zone 1 as can be seen on the map.



# Public Spaces Protection Order Enforcement Area



What we are  
consulting on  
for Zone 1  
(City Centre  
only)

*Loitering or Begging; A person is prohibited from loitering or begging, in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the Restricted Area.*

*Charity or commercial subscription collectors; A person is prohibited from, soliciting for the completion of subscription charity collections.*

*Pedal cycles, e-bikes, skateboarding and manual scooters Any person riding a pedal cycle, e-bike, skateboard or riding a manual scooter must do so in a manner that does not cause harassment, alarm, or distress to any person in the designated area and*

*Alcohol; A person shall not within the Restricted Area: (i) continue to consume alcohol when asked to stop by an Authorised Officer, or (ii) fail to surrender any alcohol in their possession when asked to do so by an Authorised Officer.*

*Microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones, loudhailers or any other equipment used to amplify the volume of speech, music. A person shall not within the Restricted Area: (i) Use microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones, loud hailers or any other equipment which are designed to amplify the volume of speech, music or instruments*

*Temporary structures; A person shall not within the Restricted Area: (i) Erect a temporary structure such as a gazebo, tent, marquee, table temporary stall, promotional flag / banner. Exemptions*

# Timeline Proposals



November  
December

January  
February

March  
April

May

June

- November 2024 - Consulted stakeholders in plans for PSPO
- December 2024 - Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) completed
- December 2024 – Prepared and finalised the consultation questions
- January 2025 – Consultation went live on the Council’s website
- February 2025 - Collation and analysis of consultation results
- February 2025 - Present final decision report to Lead Member
- February 2025 - Present final decision report to City Mayor and Executive
- March 2025 – Establish internal focus group and internal processes
- March 2025 – New signage agreed and rolled out
- March/April 2025 training and updates delivered to frontline staff internal / external and business engagement
- April/May 2025 PSPO goes live and Press Release
- June 2025 - update the City Mayor and Executive on initial implementation period.

# Next Steps

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- Continue to gather evidence to disrupt activities.
- Encourage businesses to continue reporting issues.
- Work in partnership with other agencies to reduce the issues and provide support.
- Regular patch walks.
- Community safety Partnership Bus.
- Launch Street Lifestyle Operational Group (SLOG)
- Analyse the results of the Public Space Protection order.
- Implement the Public Spaces Protection Order to give powers to make it easier to deal with the problems.



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# Thank You

Any question? 