
Public Spaces Protection Order Zone 1 and Zone 2

Culture & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 3rd September 2026

Lead director/officer: Sean Atterbury / Nicola Odom

Useful information

■ Ward(s) affected: Westcotes, Belgrave, Fosse, Abbey, Castle, Rushey Mead, Stoneygate, Wycliffe, Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Spinney Hills, Western, North Evington and Saffron

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1. Summary

- To provide the Scrutiny Commission with updates and an overview on the work of the Public Space Protection Order Zone 1
- To provide the Scrutiny Commission with a detailed overview of proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for Zone 2 and plans to implement.

2. Recommendation(s):

- Scrutiny Commission are invited to:

Comment, on the work that is being carried out within the City Centre in relation to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO Zone 1) and the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for (PSPO Zone 2).

3. Detailed report

- 3.1 A Public Space Protection Order as defined in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is an Order which can be made by a Local Authority (Council), to set restrictive prohibitions or specified conditions to manage out behaviours that are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and that those behaviours are unreasonable. PSPOs provide a flexible tool to address persistent anti-social behaviour and support safer, cleaner public spaces.
- 3.2 Since its implementation, Zone 1 has provided the Council and its enforcement partners with additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and support wider community safety objectives. The Order forms part of a broader partnership approach to creating a safer and more welcoming city centre and is subject to ongoing monitoring and review to assess its effectiveness and identify emerging issues
- 3.3 A dedicated team Public Spaces Officers patrol the PSPO Zone 1 area to support the delivery of the Order and provide a visible reassurance presence in the city centre. Public Spaces Officers are easily identifiable by their blue vests and undertake regular patrols, engaging with residents, businesses and visitors, responding to concerns and using the powers available under the PSPO where appropriate. Their high visibility presence contributes to improved perceptions of

safety and supports wider efforts to address anti-social behaviour within the city centre.

- 3.4 During Quarter 1, officers managed 180 incidents across the area, demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns. Of these incidents, 51 resulted in a breach of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), while 129 (72%) were resolved through early intervention and lower-level enforcement measures, preventing escalation and reducing the impact on residents, visitors and businesses. The team also undertook significant engagement activity, with 166 businesses visited and engaged, of which 56% reported being satisfied following the initial contact and required no additional support. Supporting vulnerable individuals remained a key priority, with 24 vulnerable people receiving assistance and signposting to appropriate services. In addition, officers provided immediate support to individuals in crisis on seven occasions, including the life-saving administration of naloxone, highlighting the team's important role in safeguarding vulnerable people and responding to wider community safety concerns.
- 3.5 PSPO Zone One activity has continued to focus on transport hubs, key routes into the city, and areas with the highest levels of footfall. A problem-solving approach has been embedded throughout all activity, with the aim of delivering sustainable, long-term improvements to identified locations. Ongoing partnership working with Leicestershire Police has helped identify areas where there may be duplication of resources, creating opportunities to improve efficiency and better target interventions. During Quarter two, the focus will be on expanding this work further within the collaborative partnership space to maximise impact and strengthen joint problem-solving approaches.

Data Led Projects

- 3.6 The team are carrying out data-led project work to identify and address locations experiencing persistent anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns.
- 3.7 **Cank Street** - Engagement has taken place with all businesses in the area, helping to build strong support for the initiative and identify key concerns. A CCTV camera has been installed to enhance surveillance and deter anti-social behaviour, while work with the arcades has focused on securing vulnerable areas to reduce opportunities for crime and disorder. Plans are also progressing to gate doorways that have been frequently used for drug-related activity and rough sleeping. Regular patrols have continued throughout the project, with support offered to vulnerable individuals and appropriate action taken to move people on where necessary. The project has received positive feedback from both local businesses and the wider community, reflecting the improvements made to safety, confidence and the local environment.
- 3.8 **New Walk / Upper Nelson Street** - involved extensive engagement with local businesses, ensuring that all premises within the affected area have been visited and supported. Reporting mechanisms have been promoted to businesses and the wider community to improve intelligence gathering and encourage the reporting of incidents. Officers have also provided proactive crime prevention advice and worked closely with building owners to improve site security and reduce opportunities for

crime and disorder. Regular engagement and enforcement activity has resulted in support being provided to vulnerable individuals and appropriate action being taken to move people on from locations where issues have arisen, including the management of an encampment on The Oval. The project has generated positive feedback from both businesses and local communities, demonstrating increased confidence in the partnership response and improvements to the local environment.

- 3.9 **Encampments and Rough Sleeping-** Targeted engagement with landowners, businesses and property managers has supported the implementation of measures to secure identified areas of vulnerability, including doorways, car parks and other secluded locations. This proactive approach has helped reduce opportunities for rough sleeping in problematic locations, while supporting longer-term environmental solutions and improving the safety and accessibility of public spaces.
- 3.10 **Town Hall Square** - has been the focus of targeted activity following reports from local businesses and visitors of significant drug-related activity. The location was also identified as a priority hotspot by Leicestershire Police. Through dedicated patrols, high-visibility reassurance activity, intelligence gathering and information sharing with partner agencies, a reduction in visible offending and anti-social behaviour has been achieved.

Next Steps

- 3.11 During Quarter 2, the team will further develop its collaborative approach with partner agencies to ensure resources are targeted effectively and to reduce any duplication of activity. Data-led problem-solving projects will continue to be expanded, with a focus on locations identified through intelligence, community feedback and demand analysis. Work will progress on implementing longer-term environmental improvements, including securing vulnerable locations, supporting the Design Out Crime agenda and preventing opportunities for anti-social behaviour and rough sleeping. Ongoing engagement with businesses, residents and partner organisations will remain a key priority to sustain improvements and support safer, cleaner and a more welcoming city centre.

4. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Zone 2

- 4.1 The PSPO covering Zone 1 has provided valuable learning regarding the effective use of PSPO powers, partnership working, intelligence-led deployment and engagement with communities and businesses. The experience gained through Zone 1 has informed the development of the proposed Zone 2 PSPO, ensuring that implementation is evidence-based, proportionate and responsive to local needs.
- 4.2 The proposed Zone 2 area (Appendix A) was identified through analysis of intelligence, reported incidents and community concerns, which demonstrate the need for targeted measures to address anti-social behaviour and prevent the displacement of issues into neighbouring locations.
- 4.3 Leicester City Council undertook a public consultation on the proposed implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Zone 2, commencing on 1 May 2026. The consultation was initially scheduled to run for six weeks but was extended by a further two weeks at the request of ward members to

maximise opportunities for public engagement. The feedback received through this process will help inform the final scope and implementation of the Order.

4.4 The implementation of a PSPO in Zone 2 will complement the existing city centre arrangements and support a consistent approach to managing anti-social behaviour across affected areas of the city. The Order will continue to be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders, with legal oversight maintained throughout the process to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and to support effective implementation, monitoring and review.

4.5 The delivery of PSPO Zone 2 will adopt a project-based and data-led approach, ensuring that activity is targeted where it is needed most and resources are deployed effectively. Decisions relating to enforcement, engagement and preventative interventions will be informed by analysis of reported incidents, community intelligence, partner agency information and emerging trends. Regular monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken to assess impact, identify areas of concern and enable activity to be adapted in response to changing patterns of anti-social behaviour. This approach will support evidence-based decision making, maximise the effectiveness of interventions and ensure that the PSPO continues to respond to the needs of local communities.

Next steps

4.6 Present PSPO Zone 2 proposal for an Executive decision

If approved:

- Finalise the draft Order (Appendix B), seal the Order and publish on the council's website and agree implementation date.
- Design the signage and install it on / in the Zone 2 boundary
- Develop an enforcement and communications plan

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial Implications

This report references a proposal to expand the current PSPO zone with an associated growth in staffing numbers. Additional budget will need to be identified to fund the growth in the team, which will require an Executive Decision to add the necessary budget.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.2 Legal Implications

No legal implications identified

Signed: Jenis Taylor - Lawyer

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.3 Equalities Implications

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 by paying due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between individuals who share a protected characteristic age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation and those who do not.

Decision-makers must be clear regarding the likely impacts on these groups when considering the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for a three-year period. While PSPOs are designed to maintain public order, they must be executed fairly to ensure they do not disproportionately impact specific communities.

Anti-social behaviour, open drug use, and street drinking disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including women, young children, elderly residents, and disabled individuals. By tackling intimidating loitering, nuisance, spitting, and firework misuse, the PSPO delivers substantial benefits for local communities and visitors by creating safer, cleaner, and more welcoming public spaces.

This enhances both actual and perceived safety, empowering residents and visitors to freely enjoy local parks, high streets, and transport hubs without fear of distress, thereby fostering community cohesion and supporting the local economy.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has identified several mitigating actions that can be put in place, such as providing additional support and signposting for individuals who may need it, to support them through the process.

Additionally, to deliver the recommended workforce growth from six to ten FTE positions, any recruitment for additional Public Space Officers must be carried out in line with the Council's recruitment and selection policies to guarantee fair, transparent, and equal opportunity practices. Operational enforcement and complaint data across protected groups should be monitored to identify and address any emerging concerns, ensuring the PSPO operates equitably throughout its three-year term.

Signed: Surinder Singh - Equalities Officer

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.4 Climate Emergency Implications

The proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Zone 2 has limited direct climate emergency implications. The measure is primarily focused on reducing anti-social behaviour and improving the quality, safety and accessibility of public spaces. By creating cleaner, safer and more welcoming neighbourhoods, parks and public areas, the PSPO may indirectly support climate objectives by encouraging greater use of local outdoor spaces and active travel routes. The installation of signage and any increase in enforcement staffing will have a minor associated carbon impact; however, these are unlikely to have a significant impact on the Council's Climate Emergency objectives.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency).

Dated: 21st August 2026

5.5 Other Implications

Signed:
Dated:

Signed:
Dated:

7. Summary of appendices:

APPENDIX B – PSPO Draft Order

Legend

- Zone 1
- Zone 2 Proposed Boundary

Appendix B – DRAFT Order

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER LEICESTER CITY CENTRE ZONE 2 (LEICS-Z2)

Notice is hereby given that Leicester City Council ('the Council') has made the following Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') as follows.

This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Leicester City Centre Zone 2) and comes into force on **XXXX**. This Order will have effect for a period of 3 years, until **xxxx**. The order relates to all public places within Leicester City Centre, the boundaries of which are edged **blue** on the plan attached to this order at Schedule 1 ("the Restricted Area").

The Council is satisfied that the two conditions below have been met, in that:-

- a. activities carried on in the restricted area as described below have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that these activities will be carried on in the public place and they will have such an effect;
- b. the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.

These activities include:

- individuals or groups causing anti-social behaviour
- being under the influence of psychoactive substances and/or alcohol whilst being in a public place
- disposal of drug paraphernalia
- spitting substances onto public land
- loitering
- inappropriate use of fireworks in public places

The effect of the Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements in the Restricted Area at all times, unless specifically stated:-

DEFINITIONS

"Council" – is Leicester City Council

“Authorised Officer” – means a Police Officer, Police Community Support office, or an officer duly authorised by the Council.

“Restricted Area” – is the area edged in blue which is attached to this order

“Psychoactive Substances” has the same meaning as defined in s59 Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (FH to check) [Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#)

“Paan or Pan”, is used to describe the use of the Betel plant leaves for chewing.

Prohibitions

1) Drugs and Psychoactive Substances:

- a) A person is prohibited from possessing, using or consuming in any manner an illegal drug or psychoactive substance
- b) A person is prohibited from disposing of hypodermic needles within the restricted area anywhere other than in a medical sharp’s container
- c) A person is prohibited from disposing of all other drug paraphernalia within the restricted area anywhere other than a bin

2) Alcohol:

- a) If an authorised person reasonably suspects that a person who is or has been drinking alcohol in the open air within the restricted area is causing or likely to cause a nuisance or disorder, they may request the person to:
 - I. Stop drinking within the restricted area; and/or
 - II. Hand to the authorised person any container of alcohol in their possession, whether or not it has been opened, and even if it is empty
- b) A person who has been requested to do either or both of the things referred to at paragraph 4(a) above is required to comply with such a request immediately

Exemptions:

The Restricted Area does not include frontages covered by a current authority to sell or supply alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003, or an area covered by a pavement licence.

Or where there is an authorised and licensed event, and a clear, defined area has been given as part of the permission.

3) Spitting Substances:

A person is prohibited from spitting any substance including but not limited to:

- i. Chewing gum
- ii. Chewed betel leaf or Paan
- iii. Chewing tobacco

4) Fireworks:

A person shall not discharge, let off or throw any firework in any public place within the Restricted Area to which the public have access

Exemption

Any event organised, licenced or permitted by Leicester City Council

5) Loitering:

You shall not, within the designated area, remain in a location and behave in a manner that persistently causes harassment, alarm, or distress to others, this includes but is not limited to,

- a) on any structure, such as benches, steps, or street furniture including in any publicly accessible building ie: Bus stations, shopping centres, car parks or stairwells
- b) in, near or adjacent to doorways/fire exits where you are not the tenant or owner of the premises
- c) near cash machines, pay stations or bank entrances

RIGHT OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal against the making of this order to the High Court by an interested person with 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the order was made. An interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in or visits the Restricted area. This means only those who are directly affected by the restrictions can appeal. The grounds for appeal are set out in section 66(2) of the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES AND OFFENCES

1. It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse to engage in any activity that is prohibited by this Order.

2. In accordance with Section 63 of the Act, a person found to be in breach of this Order by consuming alcohol or by refusing to surrender alcohol to an Authorised Person is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500) or to a Fixed Penalty Notice up to £100.

3. In accordance with Section 67 of the Act, a person found to be in breach of this Order, other than by consuming alcohol or by refusing to surrender alcohol to an authorised person, is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000) or to a Fixed Penalty Notice up to £100.

**THE COMMON SEAL OF THE
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL
WAS HEREUNTO AFFIXED
IN THE PRESENCE OF**

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

DATED