

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	9 th January 2025
REPORT OF	Carolina Borgstrom – Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Public Space Protection Orders
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

This report contributes to the Council's strategic aims; in particular three outcomes which benefit the people in North East Lincolnshire, namely to

- Enjoy good health and wellbeing.
- Benefit from a strong local economy.
- Live in a safe environment, and have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities

The Council as a responsible authority has duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to take an active role in reducing crime and disorder in the local area as part of the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) arrangements.

Having effective and robust arrangements in place to tackle all aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) is paramount to creating an environment where residents feel safe and enjoy good health and well-being.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide an update on the current operating model of the Public Space Protection Orders within North East Lincolnshire and provide information and evidence of the proactive effect that the powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 have had to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve community safety.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Communities Scrutiny Panel members are asked to:

1. Note the report and approve the next steps as outlined.
2. The Panel are invited to make any recommendations that can be forwarded to the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities for consideration.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 What is a PSPO?

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are intended to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour in a local area that is detrimental to the community's quality of life. They do so by imposing conditions on the use of that area to ensure everyone can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing nuisance and annoyance.

Given the wide-ranging scope of a PSPO, they are used sparingly and only after every other option has been exhausted. Breach of a PSPO without a reasonable excuse is a criminal offence subject to a fine on conviction of up to £1,000 or a fixed penalty notice (FPN) as an alternative to prosecution at £100. Payment of the FPN discharges liability to conviction of the offence.

The council works in partnership with the Police and other partners to ensure the effective enforcement of PSPOs across the borough.

1.2 How Many PSPO'S are in Place Across North East Lincolnshire?

There are a range of PSPO's in Place across North East Lincolnshire as follows:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour PSPOs
- Environmental PSPOs
- Highways PSPOs (public rights of way)

1.2.1 ASB PSPO's

There are seven ASB PSPOs in place across North East Lincolnshire.

Public consultation in 2023 identified anti-social behaviour as the public's number one concern and as having the largest negative impact on a community or neighbourhood if left unaddressed, and there was overwhelming support for the existing and amended PSPOs to continue.

The areas covered by the seven ASB PSPOs are as follows:-

- Peoples Park (includes alcohol)
- Cleethorpes Town Centre and Seafront (includes alcohol)
- Cleethorpes Seafront to North Sea Lane incorporating Boating Lake & Meridian Point
- Haverstoe Park
- Sidney Sussex Recreation Ground
- Cleethorpes Country Park
- Grimsby Town Centre (includes alcohol)

These PSPOs are intended to support a wider intelligence-led place-based problem-solving approach to address ASB in defined geographical locations.

1.2.2 Prohibitions/Controls in place

Each of the seven existing PSPO's has a variety of conditions to control location specific ASB issues, utilising conditions as set out in Section 63 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.

The individual order conditions for the seven areas can be found by accessing the following web link. [Anti-social behaviour PSPO | NELC](#)

In summary, orders state that if a Police Constable or authorised person witnesses somebody behaving or displaying any behaviour that is prohibited, then they can ask them to leave that area and not return within 24 hours. The details of the incident will be recorded and sent to the appropriate department within the council. They will then investigate the evidence provided and, if appropriate, a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100 will be issued. Failure to make payment could result in a fine of up to £1,000 at the Magistrates Court.

1.2.3 Inclusion of Alcohol Prohibitions – Grimsby Town Centre, Cleethorpes Town Centre and Seafront, and Peoples Park also have alcohol prohibitions included. The scope of the PSPO states that whilst it is not an offence to consume alcohol within a “designated” area, a Police Constable or authorised person does have powers to control the consumption of alcohol within that place where they reasonably believe that a person:-

- Is or has been consuming alcohol in breach of the prohibition in a Public Spaces Protection Order, or
- Intends to consume alcohol in circumstances in which doing so would be a breach of such a prohibition where anti-social behaviour is likely to occur.

The constable or authorised person may require a person: -

- Not to consume alcohol in breach of the Order, or anything which the constable, or authorised person, reasonably believes to be alcohol. This means that there must be associated anti-social behaviour or a reasonable apprehension of such anti-social behaviour.
- To surrender anything which is, or which the constable, or authorised person, reasonably believes to be, alcohol, or a container for alcohol and may require that person to leave the area for up to 24 hours.

1.2.4 Duration of the Order

These PSPO's were renewed on the 14 July 2022 for a period of 3 years, and the three areas where alcohol prohibition was introduced were varied on the 30 January 2024. If not renewed, or discharged, they would be due to expire on the 13 July 2025.

The anti-social behaviour that these PSPO's are intended to address is persistent, long term and recurrent and these PSPO's are intended to improve the lives of residents and visitors to North East Lincolnshire. There are no plans to discharge early, and it is anticipated that an application will be made

during 2025 to extend these PSPO's following consultation for a further 3 years due to their effectiveness.

1.3 Environmental PSPO's

There are also two PSPO's covering:

- Dog Control PSPO
This order came into effect in 14th July 2022 for 3 years.
- Resort, Parks and Open Spaces PSPO
This order came into effect on 3rd April 2023 for 3 years.

It is anticipated that an application will be made during 2025 and 2026 to extend these PSPO's for a further 3 years following consultation due to their effectiveness.

1.3.1 Dog Control PSPO

A summary of the Dog Control provisions in the PSPO are shown below and can be accessed on the following weblink. [Dog mess and dog control | NELC](#)

Borough wide prohibitions when in charge of a dog:

- Failure to pick up dog mess
- Failure to carry the means to pick up dog mess
- Leads by order - Where an authorised officer has directed that a dog should be kept on a lead.

Restrictions in a certain area when in charge of a dog:

- Dogs on leads in certain areas with clear signage:
- Cemeteries and burial areas during opening hours
- Sports grounds, fields and open spaces, play areas and pitches during organised and authorised events.

Exclusions when in charge of a dog:

- Excluded from certain areas with clear signage:
- Children's play areas
- Cleethorpes beach between Good Friday and 30 Sept each year.
(Wonderland Rock Groyne to Cleethorpes Leisure Centre)
- Bowling greens
- Cemeteries and burial areas outside of opening hours

1.3.2 Resort, Parks and Open Spaces PSPO

This Order imposes the following prohibitions on certain areas. These locations are shown in the full PSPO order that is published on the councils website on the following weblink. [Resort, parks and open spaces PSPO | NELC](#)

- The lighting of fires and the use of any barbecues or disposable barbecues on council-owned land, parks and open spaces (annex 1), beaches (annex 3), the protected Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) area (annex 2), and the seafront (annex 3).
- The deliberate or intentional release of any sky lanterns, Chinese lanterns, helium balloons, or anything carrying an open flame, (except for organised firework displays held by or with formal consent of the Council), on council-owned land, parks and open spaces, beaches, the protected SSSI area, and the seafront.
- Paragliders, paramotors or hang gliders landing on or taking off from council land, council-owned parks and open spaces, beaches, the protected SSSI area, and the seafront, other than in an emergency.
- The use of any device designed or adapted for detecting or locating of any metal or mineral on council land, including council-owned parks and open spaces, beaches, the protected SSSI area, and the seafront, without prior approval.
- Any overnight camping, or the erection of any structure, (including but not exclusively limited to: vehicles, tents, yurts, and any other temporary building), being used to occupy land on beaches, the protected SSSI area, promenades, council-owned land, parks and open spaces, footpaths, car parks, and surrounding areas of the public realm, (with the exception of sunshades), without prior consent of the Council.

1.3.3 Sea Prohibitions:

- The irresponsible use of Personal Water Craft (PWC), (including jet skis), on and around the seafront, which causes alarm, distress, and harassment to others.
- This may include, but is not limited to, the use of a PWC in a manner that:
- Poses a risk to the safety of people
- Poses a risk of disturbance to wildlife
- Has the potential to cause harassment, alarm, and distress to any other beach/coast users, or residents, (e.g., in the dedicated swim lanes that are clearly marked out by buoys).

1.3.4 Fishing/Bait Digging Prohibitions:

- Fishing is only at permitted at the Boating Lake, Cleethorpes Country Park, and Sidney Park, and is subject to the following conditions:
- All anglers must have a valid permit, purchased from the Tourist Information Centre at the Resort Hub.
- All anglers must have the appropriate rod licence issued by the Environment Agency.
- All anglers must produce on demand: a) permit, and b) rod licence.
- Failure to comply with the above will breach this PSPO.
- Fishing at any other council managed or maintained lake or pond is prohibited and will breach this PSPO.
- Bait digging is only permitted in the following locations, and is subject to the following conditions:
- From North Promenade, between wonderland Terminal Groyne (Rock Groyne) and the Pier (annex 4).

- From Humberston, between the northern end of the Fitties and the dune stabilisation zone, at the end of 5th Avenue pedestrian access (annex 5).
- All bait diggers must have a valid permit, purchased from the Tourist Information Centre at the Resort Hub, and produce this on demand.
- Failure to comply with the above will breach this PSPO.
- Bait digging in any other location is prohibited and will breach this PSPO.

1.3.5 Slipway Prohibitions:

- Any vehicle is prohibited from parking on the Pier Slipway and Brighton Slipway (annex 3) outside of the resorts permitted slipway rules. Slipway Permits and additional information can be found at the Resort Hub.
- Anyone wilfully obstructing or disturbing any authorised officer of the Council during his duties in the proper execution of this Public Space Protection Order will be deemed to be in breach of this Order.

1.4 Highways PSPOs

Seven PSPOs are also in place to restrict public access/public rights of way to assist in reducing the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in specific geographical areas and improve the quality of life for the residents in specific areas.

Details of these orders can be found here:- [Highways Public Spaces Protection Orders | NELC](#)

1.5 OUTCOMES

1.5.1 WISE Fixed Penalty Notice PSPO Issuance data

1.5.2 This table shows the total number of FPNs issued by WISE/LA Support for PSPO breaches in each ward since September 2023. This does not include littering offences as these do not form part of the PSPO and are covered as part of the Environmental Protection Act.

PSPO issuance	Se p- 23	Oc t- 23	No v- 23	De c- 23	Ja n- 24	Fe b- 24	Ma r- 24	Ap r- 24	Ma y- 24	Ju n- 24	Ju l- 24	Au g- 24	Tot al
Croft Baker	13	3		5	13	1	13	42	85	44	58	83	360
East Marsh		1	1			1							3
Freshney													0
Haverstoe		8	1			1	1	1					12
Heneage	7		1	2	2								12
Humberston and New Waltham		3							1	1			5

Immingham													0
Park		1											1
Scartho					1								1
Sidney Sussex		1	1			3							5
South	23												23
Waltham													0
West Marsh		7	18	8	1	3	9	8	31	27	91	69	272
Wolds	4										1		5
Yarborough													0
Totals	47	24	22	15	17	9	23	51	117	72	150	152	699

1.5.3 This table shows the number of FPNs issued by WISE/LA Support under each PSPO between September 2023 and August 2024. It also shows those paid, withdrawn, referred to NELC for prosecution, those successfully appealed and those still ongoing.

Type of PSPO	Issued	Paid	Withdrawn / Not pursued (includes accepted appeals)	Referred to Prosecution	Open / Ongoing	Total	Appealed (total number of appeals received)	Appeals Accepted
Dog Control PSPO	284	162	94	10	18	284	129	55
Resort, Parks and Open Spaces PSPO	117	74	31	4	8	117	52	16
Grimsby Town Centre PSPO	299	114	112	21	52	299	50	13

1.5.4 WISE Patrol Frequency

This table shows the breakdown of patrols time per ward between September 2023 and August 2024. These are shown in officer hours.

Ward	Total Patrol time (in hours) hh:mm
Croft Baker	694:31
East Marsh	501:50
Freshney	29:33
Haverstoe	517:40
Heneage	142:22
Humberston and New Waltham	122:44
Immingham	54:22
Park	101:48
Scartho	39:03
Sidney Sussex	706:08
South	18:24
Waltham	16:42
West Marsh	1057:29
Wolds	67:53
Yarborough	27:01

1.5.5 Enforcement Costs:

1.5.6 Doncaster Framework agreement

North East Lincolnshire Council contract with City of Doncaster Council to provide patrols and processing under a framework agreement. This is a profit share agreement in which North East Lincolnshire Council receive a percentage of the income generated after operating costs have been considered.

City of Doncaster Council 's provider currently Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement (WISE) recruits and manages enforcement staff to undertake the patrols and enforcement activity, with City of Doncaster Council staff processing the enforcement action and where needed the processing litter prosecutions through the court system. All PSPO prosecutions are referred for advocacy by North East Lincolnshire Council Legal Services at Grimsby Magistrates Court.

North East Lincolnshire Council is responsible to provide a working location for the WISE officers, currently Municipal Offices and provide identification badges, which are considered minimal. There is also some contract management time undertaken, therefore, under the Doncaster framework there are no direct costs.

1.5.7 WISE stand-alone contract to enforce PSPOs in the Town Centre.

Starting in October 2024, North East Lincolnshire Council have engaged with WISE (Waste, Investigation, Support and Enforcement) and have entered into a separate / stand-alone contract to employ 2 uniformed officers permanently within Grimsby Town Centre operating 5 hours per day between the hours of 8am to 8pm covering 5 days in a rolling 7-day period. This has been funded through the *High Street Accelerator* initiative provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is a 12-month pilot contract.

Main Duties include:-

- Engage and encourage residents of the North-East Lincolnshire area in relation to Cycling PSPO restrictions.
- To deliver a professional, smart and high visibility patrolling presence; to ensure the safety of residents.
- To issue Fixed Penalty Notices to residents who fail to comply with the Public Spaces Protection Orders.

1.5.8 Resources

WISE provides the Council with the following resources to ensure the service is delivered at the required standards.

- Staffing and Uniform
- Case Management System
- Payment Systems to collect FPN payments
- GEO Fencing Mapping Technology
- Equipment (Handheld Device, Body Worn Cameras)
- Correspondence relating to none-payment
- Witness statements and the provision of evidence
- Call handling and complaint management
- Collecting and reconciling FPN payments
- Prosecution files compilation and management
- FOI requests concerning FPNs figures and revenue generated
- Performance report management

1.5.9 Revenue from Fixed Penalty Notices

The profit share amount returned to North East Lincolnshire Council is deemed commercially sensitive, however the Council does receive a profit share from revenue collected by Doncaster Council.

This offsets wider 'Environment' costs in relation to litter clearance and wider investigation time, it is also used to fund signage across the borough around the geographical areas enforced.

1.6 Alcohol-related ASB Impact:

1.6.1 Grimsby Town Centre between Jan-Sep 2023 and Jan-Sep 2024

- 1.6.2** Compared to Jan-Sep 2023, reported incidents have fallen by 35% from 23 to 15 (-8). The hotspot areas were along Victoria Street, St James Square and Bethlehem Street. St James Square specifically has historically suffered with aggressive street drinking. The chart below shows a reduction in this area of 88% from 8 calls in 2023 to just 1 in 2024.

Grimsby Town Centre ASB with Alcohol Qualifiers between January-September 2023 and January-September 2024																			
Sum of Count	Year		MonthName																
	2023																	2024	
Street_Name	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	2023 Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	2024 Total	Grand Total	
Bethlehem St	1				1	2		4	1	1		1		1			4	8	
Frederick Ward Way					1			1										1	
Freshney PI					1			1										1	
Friargate							1	1										1	
Old Market PI					2			2				1					1	3	
Osborne St													1				1	1	
St James Sq				3	4	1		8							1		1	9	
Station Appr			1				1	2										2	
Victoria St	2			1			1	4	1	1	1		2		2	1	8	12	
Grand Total	3		1	1	4	8	5	23	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	15	38	

Alcohol related Anti Social Behaviour in Grimsby Town Centre			
Geographical area	23/24	24/25	Difference
Grimsby Town Centre	23	15	-35%
St James Square	8	1	-88%

1.6.3 Cleethorpes Resort between Jan-Sep 2023 and Jan-Sep 2024

Compared to Jan-Sep 2023, reported incidents have fallen by 24% from 21 to 16 (-5). The hotspot areas were along Grant Street and Market Street.

Cleethorpes Resort with Alcohol Qualifiers between January-September 2023 and January-September 2024																			
Sum of Count	Year		MonthName																
	2023																	2024	
Street_Name	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2023 Total	Jan	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	2024 Total	Grand Total	
Alexandra Rd				1					1			1			2		3	4	
Barkhouse Ln								1	1									1	
Cambridge St	1								1							1	1	2	
Central Prom						1		1	2									2	
College St										1							1	1	
Grant St	1		1	2	2				6	1					1		2	8	
Grimsby Rd													1				1	1	
High St				1		1			2									2	
Humberston Fitties						1			1									1	
Isaacs Hill														1			1	1	
Kings Rd													2	1			3	3	
Kingsway			1				1		2									2	
Market St			1			1			2		1			1		1	3	5	
Rowston St			1						1									1	
St Heliers Rd							1		1									1	
St Peters Ave					1				1									1	
Station Appr											1						1	1	
Grand Total	2		2	2	4	3	4	2	21	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	16	37	

1.6.4 Peoples Park

Only one ASB incident with an alcohol qualifier was reported in May 2023 for the above period

1.6.5 Collaboration with Humberside Police

Humberside Police are the enforcers of the ASB PSPO's, with the prosecutors being North East Lincolnshire Councils ASB / Legal team. It states earlier in the document that "Given the wide-ranging scope of a PSPO, they are used sparingly and only after every other option has been exhausted". This means that substantive criminal arrests will always be considered before a breach of the PSPO. Due to the nature of ASB this will include arrests for offences under the Criminal Damage Act 1971, Public Order Act 1986, Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and the Criminal Justice Act 1967 (as amended) in relation to drunk and disorderly conduct.

1.6.6 Grimsby East Policing Area

The top priority PSPO area for Grimsby East is Cleethorpes Sea front area, which historically sees large amounts of vehicles causing nuisance and ASB around the Boating Lake area. This is an historical ASB issue and one that partner agencies have attempted to design out by developing structural changes to car park barriers and working with the local business community.

This has proven to be successful however we still receive several calls for service regarding nuisance vehicles. Due to this the Local Policing Team and the Councils ASB team / CCTV service have joined forces to deliver a weekly operation under *Operation SNAP*. This operation actively seeks to identify vehicle offending through dedicated CCTV surveillance and investigation. .

The operation deploys uniformed community and roads Policing Officers to the area and relies on CCTV operatives calling in any criminal activity. To date (25-09-2024) 256 hours of officer time has been deployed to the area. Which equates to 21 shift patrols.

This has resulted in

- 6 words of advice
- 6 Traffic Offence reports
- 9 section 59 Police Reform Act 2002 warnings (a further warning will result in a car seizure)
- 1 car seizure under section 59
- 1 vehicle seizure under section 165 Road Traffic Act 1998 for no insurance
- 6 PSPO breaches evidenced
- 5 fixed penalty tickets issued (4 paid and one going to file due to non-payment).

1.6.7 Grimsby West Policing Area – Operation Mastery

The top priority for the Grimsby West Policing team is crime and anti-social behaviour within the Town Centre. This area is covered with enhanced ASB / alcohol prohibitions as part of the PSPO. *Operation Mastery* is the Police

operation working to support the Safer Streets 5 initiative which is coordinated via a 4P plan as follows:-.

- **Prepare** - Engagement with public and key stakeholders. Building trust and confidence within the business community
- **Prevent** - Hot spot patrolling and problem solving within the Grimsby Town centre area. Using police data and retail engagement to identify locations of high risk. Crime ownership given to local officers to own, ensuring resources are visible to prevent crime and reassure retailers.
- **Protect** - Using all resources available to protect and deter offenders from our town centre. Such as plain-clothes proactive policing and passive drug dog use. Working with NELC CCTV operators, town centre ambassadors and GRIP (Grimsby retailers in partnership) to do this.
- **Pursue** - Where a suspect is identified ensuring the victim/ retailers have a voice and offenders are held to account, preventing re-offending in the future. Where the offender is a prolific and a repeat offender, targeted enforcement; this includes arrest, charges, remand and criminal behaviour orders. Where offenders are eligible for an Out of Court Resolution such as community resolution, community protection warning or conditional caution, police will work with partners- such as we are with you to ensure we divert offenders away from criminality where substance misuse is identified.

This is coordinated through place-based meetings which are conducted to ensure a multi-agency response is used.

1.6.8 Delivery - As well as daily patrols by dedicated town centre officers, the Local Policing Team are committed to passive drug dog operations in the town centre. In addition, a multi-agency day of action takes place every month. These have been in operation since March 2024 and will run indefinitely. This brings together agencies and retailers in the area, to combat concerns and build trust and confidence between agencies, businesses and the local community.

These actions have seen many arrests in the area, utilising wider Police Powers negating the requirement to utilise PSPO legislation. The results of this approach have seen 19 full day Police deployments in the 6 months, this has resulted in the following:

- 18 Arrests
- 128 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Stop & Searches
- 18 Positive Outcomes
- 48 fixed penalty tickets for breach of PSPO (illegal cycling)
- 11 Uniformed Traffic Offence reports
- 16 parking tickets issued.

Op Mastery Results									
Date	Activity	Staffing	Summary	Arrests	Stop & Searches	Positive Outcomes	FPN's	TOR's	Parking
Running Totals				18	128	18	48	11	16

1.7 Town Centre Case Study and Feedback

1.7.1 It is acknowledged that the introduction of PSPOs alone cannot be an all-encompassing panacea, and that wider wrap around activity to support the PSPOs is required to truly make a difference that is felt by local communities and businesses. The current work in the Town Centre set out above and below serves to emphasise the ongoing resource requirement and commitment that is needed to make that sustainable and long-lasting difference.

1.7.2 CCTV enhancements

The Council's Public facing CCTV system has recently been upgraded and now has the facility of a portable Tannoy system, containing 3 separate Tannoy's. This now has a voice recording facility informing members of the public that cycling is prohibited in Victoria Street and under the powers of the PSPO a £100 fine can be issued. This Tannoy system is used on all days of action and when the WISE enforcement staff are on patrol in the town centre, this is currently on a 30-minute loop. Feedback from the public is very positive and when on Days of Action, partnership staff have been spoken to by members of the public expressing thanks for the system.

1.7.3 2025 Group Feedback

The 2025 Group is a project set up by Grimsby Retailers in Partnership (GRIP) CIC and supports the ambitious vision laid out by North East Lincolnshire Council for our town's forthcoming transformation and revitalisation. With the anticipated completion of some of the regeneration projects by the end of 2025, this group is dedicated to being an active pillar of support and advocacy for the town centre's evolution. The groups aim not just to witness the change, but to champion and elevate every phase of the town's development journey.

Since the introduction of the refreshed ASB/ Alcohol Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in the Grimsby Town Centre the 2025 group have observed measurable improvements in both community well-being and the reduction of anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the town centre. From daily observations the group reported that the overall atmosphere has visibly improved, and that the area feels safer, more relaxed, and less tense than in previous years, particularly during peak shopping times and in the evenings.

These improvements are highlighted through feedback from local businesses, community members and the day-to-day experiences of the Town Centre Ambassador.

1.7.4 Positive Impact on Local Businesses

Many local business owners and staff members have noted a reduction in tension and a greater sense of security. Employees, especially those leaving work late, feel reassured by the visible presence of Safer Street Ambassadors and uniformed Police Officers. Their presence, along with regular days of action and passive drugs dog patrols has boosted the confidence of the workforce, who now feel the measures in place are actively protecting their well-being.

The Manager of St James Hotel reported a particularly successful summer due to the enforcement of PSPOs, noting they had experienced no disturbances from street drinkers, who had previously caused issues with their outdoor dining area. This has significantly enhanced the guest experience, promoting a more welcoming atmosphere for both locals and visitors alike.

1.7.5 Building Relationships with Challenging Groups

Further feedback from the 2025 Group Town Centre Ambassador around some of the more challenging groups in the town centre, including the homeless, street drinkers, and young people who have historically caused issues, indicates that through forming relationships and taking the time to educate them about the impact of their behaviour, improvements have been noticed in how they conduct themselves in public spaces. Although there are still ongoing issues, this engagement has led to better overall behaviour and a more respectful use of the town centre, and a step forward in fostering understanding and encouraging positive change.

1.7.6 Community Sentiment

Members of the public have also expressed feeling more secure while shopping and visiting the town centre. They report that their fear and concerns about ASB have decreased significantly, with noticeable improvements in the overall environment over the last six months.

In conclusion, the implementation of the refreshed ASB/ alcohol PSPOs, coupled with relationship-building efforts and visible enforcement, has had a tangible, positive effect on both the local business community and the general public. These initiatives are contributing to a safer, more enjoyable town centre experience for all.

1.8 Next Steps

As part of a wider revision to the Town Centre PSPO, the Council is currently considering extending the geographical footprint around no cycling. The current PSPO enforceable pedestrianised zone is from the entrance to Victoria Street to the entrance to the Old Market Place. Due to the opening of Riverhead Square and the issues with the underpass in St James Square there is an intention to expand the pedestrianised area of the PSPO to include these areas, this will make the area safer and reduce the risk to the public.

This procedure to enhance the geographical footprint will be reviewed in a timely manner, ensuring full consultation is completed of both key stakeholders and the public in readiness for the July 2025 review deadline date.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is an opportunity to create additional PSPO's or extend or vary current prohibitions or controls in place providing there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate problems exist.
- 2.2 There is also an opportunity, subject to funding streams, to expand the use of the Tannoy system currently only deployed in Victoria Street in other locations such as Cleethorpes Seafront, Freeman Street or Immingham Town Centre.
- 2.3 There is a risk to long term sustainable funding to continue the stand-alone WISE contract if the income does not match the expected expenditure.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Using PSPO's as with any enforcement tool does create a risk of reputational damage to the Council and the North East Lincolnshire area as PSPOs can attract negative publicity and therefore likely to attract media interest.
- 3.2 Therefore the positive impact of PSPO enforcement on the area and the environment needs to be highlighted to mitigate any negative publicity.
- 3.3 The communications team support the delivery of PSPO enforcement, ensuring that the public understand the context of introducing PSPOs and the subsequent conditions attached and any successful outcomes as a result.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The funding for the stand-alone WISE contract is supported through the High Street Accelerator fund.
- 4.2 If an individual fails to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice fine and the matter proceeds to the court, the legal action will incur legal costs to North East Lincolnshire Council to advocate at Magistrates Court. These costs are requested from the offender as part of the formal action; however, these costs are often not fully awarded by the court in every case.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report will have no impact on children and young people as children under the 18 cannot be breached under this power and cannot receive a fixed penalty notice.
- 5.2 However, any offending identified will always be referred to the Youth Justice Services to allow a trauma informed intervention to be developed to support the child.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no perceived implications on climate change relating from this report. Environmental implications are detailed in the main body of the report.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

- 7.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 PSPO orders are published in full on the Council website.

9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

- 9.1 Paul Caswell – Safer Towns & Communities Service Manager
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10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 PSPOs can be introduced in all wards providing the evidence thresholds around crime/ASB data and community consultation requirements are met.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Full information on PSPOs are published in full on the Councils website.
[Public Space Protection Orders \(PSPO\) | NELC](#)