

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER – SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

<b>DATE</b>	30/04/2026
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Carolina Borgstrom – Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Public Space Protection Order – Immingham Town Centre
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	GENERAL EXCEPTION. Not included on the Forward Plan therefore, to be considered under the General Exception provisions of the Constitution.

**CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

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

- Stronger Economy
- Stronger Communities

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities, including councils, to consider the impact of their decisions and functions on crime and disorder in their area.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

There are recurring incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) within Immingham Town Centre, recorded data from Humberside Police has identified this area as a hotspot for ASB, crime & disorder. Following consultation with Humberside Police, other key stakeholders including members of the public, North East Lincolnshire Council are proposing the implementation of a new PSPO to address this issue.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Safer & Stronger Communities:

1. Considers the findings of this report and the consultation responses as outlined.
2. Approves the implementation of the PSPO and the conditions as defined therein for a 3-year period.
3. Approves the tariff of £100 penalty for each breach of the conditions as defined to be paid within 14 days of issue in the form of a fixed penalty notice with no early repayment discount.
4. Delegates to the Director of Environment, Economy and Infrastructure, in

consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities, authority for the approval of all future renewals, variations and extensions to this PSPO where evidence supports the application.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The implementation of a new PSPO in Immingham will empower the relevant authorities to deal effectively with the individuals engaged in ASB and public disorder. This would reduce the ASB in the affected area, thus improving the quality of life for those living or visiting this locality.

The PSPO will be implemented for a period of three years, after which it will be reviewed. This represents a reasonable and proportionate duration and is consistent with all other PSPOs currently in place within North East Lincolnshire.

## **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are governed by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Sections 59-75), which empowers local authorities in England and Wales to restrict activities in public areas to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour. They are designed to tackle persistent issues harming the local community's quality of life.
- 1.2. PSPO's typically last for a maximum of 3 years and may be extended beyond this for a further 3-year period where certain criteria are met.
- 1.3. There are recurring incidents of Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) within Immingham Town Centre, recorded data from Humberside Police has identified this area as a hotspot for ASB, crime & disorder. Following consultation with Humberside Police, North East Lincolnshire Council are proposing the implementation of a new PSPO to address this issue.
- 1.4. To seek a PSPO, North East Lincolnshire Council must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities that are being carried out or are likely to be carried out across the public spaces concerned, have or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those living in or visiting the localities. In this case, the application is supported by Humberside Police and evidenced by their recorded data for reported ASB in the area. This is further supported by testimonies of the elected members for Immingham who have been approached by their constituents reporting ASB in the area.
- 1.5. Similar PSPO's are already in effect across other areas of North East Lincolnshire where their use has been effective in addressing Anti-social behaviour. A Dispersal Order is attached to the PSPO which will allow a Police Constable or an Authorised Officer to require the person or group who may be in breach of any prohibitions contained within the Order to immediately disperse from the Restricted Area, and to not return to the Restricted Area for a period up to 24 hours, as specified by the officer. Humberside Police have reported that the Dispersal Order has been particularly effective in dealing with ASB in other areas of the Borough, especially the Grimsby Town Centre.

- 1.6. On 22/10/2026, the proposal for a new PSPO in Immingham, was presented to Cllr Ron Shepherd (Portfolio holder for Safer and Stronger Communities) and upon his approval, public consultation commenced on 15/12/2025 for an 8-week period.
- 1.7. Public consultation was promoted on various channels including North East Lincolnshire's Have Your Say Page and North East Lincolnshire Social Media page. The consultation was further promoted via The Consultation mailing list which reaches over 5,000 subscribers. Consultation was also conducted with The Immingham Town Council, Parish Councils and members. Poster promotions were completed in and around Kennedy Way, Immingham along with press releases by NELC media team.

#### 1.8. The proposed PSPO

The effect of this Order is to impose the following prohibitions under Section 59 of the Crime and Policing Act 2014:

- a. Engaging in any activity or behaviour that causes, or is likely to cause, nuisance, alarm, harassment, distress, or intimidation to any persons.
- b. Cycling or propelling a bicycle in any manner other than walking with it by any person along Kennedy Way, Immingham.
- c. Using a skateboard, scooter, rollerblades, or similar wheeled devices, in such a manner which incorporates any street fixture or street furniture.
- d. Engaging in any activity or behaviour that threatens the safety of that person or any other person.
- e. Using foul or abusive language directed at or towards any other person.
- f. Playing music or generating noise at a volume, or in a manner, likely to cause a nuisance.
- g. Climbing onto any structure or building other than for a lawful purpose.

#### 1.9. The Dispersal Order

The effect of this Order is to impose the following requirement in relation to the prohibitions in Section 4 of this Order:

Where a Police Constable or an Authorised Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person or group is engaging, or has engaged in, any activity prohibited by this Order, that officer may require the person or group to immediately disperse from the Restricted Area, and to not return to the Restricted Area for a period up to 24 hours, as specified by the officer.

Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any of the prohibitions or requirements under Section 4 of this Order, commits an offence

and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000).

#### 1.10. Alcohol prohibitions/conditions

The effect of this Order is to impose the following prohibitions under Section 63 of the Act:

Continuing to consume alcohol or anything reasonably believed to be alcohol when asked to desist by a Police Constable or Authorised Officer.

Failing to surrender alcohol or anything reasonably believed to be alcohol in their possession when asked to do so by a Police Constable or Authorised Officer.

This provision does not apply to alcohol being consumed within premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 or in accordance with a permission granted under Section 115(e) of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of this Order is to impose the following requirement in relation to the prohibitions in Section 7 of this Order:

Where a Police Constable or Authorised Officer reasonably believes that a person or group is in possession of alcohol and that its consumption is causing or is likely to cause anti-social behaviour, they may require immediate surrender of the alcohol and may dispose of it in any manner they deem appropriate.

Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with any of the prohibitions or requirements under Section 7 of this Order, commits an offence. and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500).

#### 1.11. Consultation results - ASB PSPO's

A full list of the consultation results is attached to this report, but a summary is provided below.

281 people took part in the public consultation; 90 % were residents of which 85% stated they live in Immingham.

91.3% of respondents believed that Immingham Town Centre should be protected from anti-social behaviour.

91.3% of respondents who supported the proposed PSPO and the prohibitions contained therein.

94 % of respondents supported the prohibition relating to the consumption of alcohol in the restricted area.

92 % of respondents supported the proposal relating to the surrender alcohol or anything reasonably believe to be alcohol when asked to do so by a Police Constable or Authorised Officer.

96% of respondents supported the implementation and use of the dispersal order.

These results show that most respondents support the implementation of the new PSPO as follows.

#### 1.12. Publicity and Notification

- The order will be formerly sealed and signed as a legal document to mark its implementation
- The final order, including maps of the restricted area will be published on the North East Lincolnshire Council website to ensure that it is available for inspection.
- To ensure compliance, North East Lincolnshire Council will install signs at prominent locations throughout the designated area, particularly at entry points, detailing the restrictions.
- North East Lincolnshire Council will raise awareness of the order through press releases and the use of social media channels.

## **2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES**

### **Risks**

- Reputational risk if the PSPO is seen as punitive, unfair, or targeting certain groups.
- Legal risks from weak evidence, unclear consultation, or disproportionate restrictions.
- Operational risks including inconsistent enforcement, unclear wording, or limited resources.
- Community tensions if groups feel stigmatised (e.g., youth, dog owners, people who are homeless).
- Economic risks if the PSPO creates a perception that an area is unsafe or overly controlled.

### **Opportunities**

- Improved public safety and confidence by reducing antisocial behaviour.
- Environmental benefits such as cleaner spaces, reduced pollution, and protected natural areas.
- Economic uplift through more attractive, welcoming town centres and public spaces.
- Stronger partnership working between Council, Police and community groups.
- Positive behaviour change supported through clearer expectations and better engagement.

### **Equality Issues**

- Disproportionate impacts may affect vulnerable groups (homeless individuals, young people, disabled people).
- Accessibility concerns regarding signage, communication formats and consultation reach.
- Risk of misinterpretation among cultural or faith groups unless messaging is clear.
- Need for fair, consistent enforcement with safeguarding and equality training.
- Opportunities to advance equality, especially for groups who benefit from safer, cleaner public spaces (women, older people, families, disabled residents).

### **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1. The only other option would be to do nothing, which in this case is not an option due to the crime and ASB suffered by local residents in the identified area.

### **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1. A PSPO can be viewed positively (improving safety, standards, environment) or negatively (restrictive, heavy-handed, targeting specific groups).

#### **4.2. Key considerations:**

- Risk of being perceived as punitive rather than protective – especially if restrictions are misunderstood.
- Impact on community trust if residents feel the Council is imposing controls without adequate engagement.
- Concerns about fairness and proportionality, particularly regarding enforcement.
- Potential for politicisation – PSPOs can attract strong views from councillors, businesses, advocacy groups, and the media.

#### **4.3. Mitigation:**

- Early and transparent communication.
- Clear narrative on why the PSPO is needed, backed by evidence.
- Emphasise that the PSPO targets behaviour, not specific groups.

4.4. A clear and concise Communications plan will be developed and delivered through all media portals at regular intervals within the first 6 months to reassure the public and key stakeholders that the PSPO is achieving the expected outcome of supporting the prevention and detection of crime and ASB.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1. The only cost implications for the development of the Immingham PSPO are that of signage around the geographical area and the PSPO breach booklets used for developing direct evidence needed for a punitive sanction, either Fixed Penalty Notice or Summons file. Both costs are minimal and will be picked up by Safer Towns and Communities Service budget.

## 6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Crime and ASB data researched for the development of the Immingham PSPO does identify the vast majority of ASB in the geographical area being caused by young people. All identified offences committed by a young person within North East Lincolnshire follow a strict child focused approach and will be assessed through Youth Justice / Youth Engagement pathways to ensure the right intervention is developed whereby unnecessary criminalisation of a child is minimised.

## 7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. A PSPO can restrict behaviours that directly harm local ecosystems. This helps protect green and blue spaces that act as carbon sinks and biodiversity hubs. This PSPO however is entirely developed to support the prevention and detection of crime so will have little impact on the environment.

## 8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) supports Marmot Principles, which are designed to reduce health inequalities by improving the conditions of daily life by creating safer, cleaner, and more inclusive environments that encourage healthier lifestyles. In the context of "Marmot Places" PSPOs are used as a tool to tackle social and environmental determinants of health

### **PSPO will support specific Marmot Principles by**

8.2. Create and Develop Healthy and Sustainable Places and Communities

- Encouraging Physical Activity: By restricting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) such as excessive alcohol consumption, drug use, or aggressive begging in public areas, PSPOs make parks and city centres safer and more attractive for walking, running, and playing.
- Improving Public Spaces: Cleaner, safer parks and public spaces encourage residents to spend time outdoors, which improves mental health and encourages community cohesion.
- Environmental Quality: Measures that reduce public nuisance contribute to more welcoming community spaces.

8.3. Strengthen the Role and Impact of Ill-Health Prevention

- Reducing Alcohol/Substance Misuse Harm: PSPOs can restrict drinking in specific public areas, reducing visible Anti-Social Behaviour which directly impacts public health, lowers the likelihood of injuries, and reduces exposure to harm, particularly for children.
- Improving Safety: By making pedestrians and parks / open spaces users feel more confident and secure, these orders promote active travel and use of public spaces, which helps prevent long-term health issues linked to sedentary lifestyles.

8.4. Give Every Child the Best Start in Life

- Safe Spaces to Play: By mitigating ASB in parks and open spaces, PSPOs help ensure that children have access to safe, pleasant

environments for exercise, social interaction, and play, which is critical for their physical and mental development.

8.5. Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living for All

- **Enhanced Community Spaces:** By reducing the impact of ASB on public life, PSPOs aim to improve the quality of life for all residents, particularly in areas experiencing higher rates of deprivation where public spaces are crucial, thereby narrowing the health inequality gap.

## **9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

Due to the nature of the proposal, the lack of strategic impact (covering only 1 ward) and the very low financial implications, it was not felt necessary to involve the scrutiny process.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. The costs associated with the implementation of the PSPO are expected to be minimal and will be met from within the existing Safer Towns and Communities budget provision.

10.2. Any income received as a result of enforcement activity under the PSPO will be reinvested to support ongoing service delivery.

## **11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 permits a local authority to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the areas where a particular nuisance or problem occurs which is detrimental to the local community's quality of life.

11.2. The Council is required to carry out all the necessary consultation before making a PSPO and this must include consulting with the police and local community, including parish councils and those who own or occupy the land within the restricted area.

11.3. A PSPO can be made for a maximum duration of up to 3 years, after which it must be reviewed and may be extended if certain criteria are met. The council should consider carefully what length of time would be reasonable and proportionate given the nature of behaviour in question and the impact of the restrictions posed.

11.4. Before reaching a decision in relation to the making of the PSPO the council must conscientiously consider the results of the consultation and decide if the conditions are satisfied for the making of such an order.

11.5. The council must consider Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention and carry out the necessary publicity and notification pursuant to the Act, if a decision is made to make the PSPO.

11.6. Anyone who lives in or regularly works or visits the area can appeal a PSPO

in the High Court within six weeks of issue on the grounds that the council did not have the power either to make the order or to include particular prohibitions or requirements, or that proper processes had not been followed.

11.7. Constitutionally, the initial decision for the making of a PSPO must be made by the council as an executive decision but thereafter any renewals, variations and extensions can be dealt with by way of officer delegations, as appropriate, as sought by the recommendations in this report.

## **12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1. There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **13. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

13.1. The proposed PSPO will cover the Immingham town centre only within the ward of Immingham.

## **14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1. Please see PSPO consultation document below.



PSPO Immingham  
Report.pptm

## **15. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

15.1. Paul Caswell, Head of Community Safety, 01472 313131  
[Paul.Caswell@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Caswell@nelincs.gov.uk)

15.2. Stephen Jewell, ASB Team manager, 01472 313131  
[Stephen.Jewell@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Jewell@nelincs.gov.uk)

**Portfolio Holder for Safer & Stronger Communities**