



**Cabinet**

**Tuesday, 9 December 2025**

**Renewal of Public Space Protection Order**

## **Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods**

### **Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor R Inglis**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

This report seeks approval to amend and renew the Council's Public Space Protection Order (General ASB).

#### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approve the amended Public Space Protection Order (General ASB) as set out in Appendix 1 to take effect from 9 December 2025.

#### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. The Council initially approved a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on 2 February 2017, which controlled the activities of street drinking and outdoor sleeping in key areas of West Bridgford, Edwalton and Gamston. It is a requirement of the enabling legislation, namely the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, that the Order be reviewed before the expiry of three years. The PSPO was renewed in 2019 and again in 2022 coming into effect on the 2 December 2022. It is proposed that this revised PSPO will take effect immediately on 9 December 2025.
- 3.2. Owing to changes in the law and the latest crime trends, it is considered necessary to remove the restrictions on persons refusing to remove items left on land, also on restrictions relating to begging and spitting which are covered by other legislation.

#### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides powers for local authorities to introduce measures to address anti-social behaviour in public places. PSPOs are flexible enforcement tools, which apply to a broad range of issues and are designed to control individuals or groups from committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. To utilise the powers the Council must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that activities carried out in a public space will have or are likely to have:

- A detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- Are persistent or continuing in nature.
- Are unreasonable.
- And justify the restrictions imposed.

4.2. The Police have authorised two dispersal orders in the last two years in respect of ASB incidents in the West Bridgford Park/town centre area. However, in most instances officer presence, and conversation is sufficient to disperse groups rather than resorting to formal action. In regard to the confiscations of alcohol in PSPO areas, it is estimated 20 confiscations have taken place in this period. The precise use is not a recorded statistic and is mostly a dynamic response in relation to begging and street drinking in West Bridgford town centre.

4.3. The current PSPO approved in 2022 controls a range of behaviours. Having assessed crime data and in consultation with the local Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Rushcliffe it is proposed to focus this PSPO on the most prevalent behaviours in the area and to make the following changes:

- **Refusal to cease drinking alcohol in a designated area.** No change is proposed as it assists in tackling ASB, youth and adult alcohol related problems, and could assist officers tackling alcohol related issues which arise from the football and cricket events.
- **Refusal to stop drinking alcohol or hand over containers.** No change is proposed for the reasons stated above.
- **Refusal to remove any items left or believed to be left on land when required to do so by an authorised officer.** It is proposed to remove this restriction on the basis that it is geared towards targeting homeless people with a fine, which they will never be in a position to pay, and removal of their property, which is not something that ethically is an effective use of police resource. This is something which may be addressed via other changes in legislation.
- **Refusal to leave the location specified when given a direction to do so by an authorised officer.** No change is proposed as it may be a useful tool to disperse groups without having to call for Police assistance. Police have alternative powers if needed.
- **Prohibition on begging for money or for any other item whether expressly or impliedly in a manner that causes or is likely to cause nuisance, annoyance, fear or distress to any other person.** It is proposed to remove this restriction owing to changes to the vagrancy act, which will make it obsolete.
- **Prohibition on spitting, urinating or defecating on land or street furniture.** It is proposed to remove this restriction on the basis that there is no evidence or justification for it to remain.

- It is also proposed to maintain the areas as provided in schedule including open spaces around Lyme Park Pond and Broadstone Close Pond in Compton Acres.
- 4.4. Appendix 3 provides the full list of designated areas to which the PSPO will apply, including the two sites at namely Lyme Park Pond and Broadstone Close Pond in Compton Acres.
- 4.5. Failure to abide by the Order may result in the issue of a fixed penalty of £100 with an early repayment reduction to £75, which if not paid in 14 days may result in prosecution (maximum fine £1000 for most offences). It should be noted that revised statutory guidance was issued in 2018 which specifically states that:
- “PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community’s quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour”.*
- 4.6. The Council undertook a consultation exercise from 8 August 2025 to 5 September 2025, which resulted in 110 responses and 50 written comments. A summary of the responses can be found in Appendix 2 but in essence the findings were overwhelmingly supportive of the renewal of the PSPO as proposed.

#### ***Enforcement***

- 4.7. There have been no fixed penalty notices issued since the original PSPO was brought into force in 2017. However, the presence of a PSPO has been considered as a useful deterrent to anti-social behaviours during this time, most notably during the pandemic within and around Bridgford Park.
- 4.8. In line with the Council’s corporate policies, enforcement of the proposed and amended PSPO will be intelligence-led and proportionate and only undertaken as a last resort.
- 4.9. The Police and duly delegated officers of the Council will be authorised to issue fixed penalty notices should the need arise.

### **5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection**

The Council could decide not to renew the PSPO thereby reducing the tools available to both the Council and the Police in tackling anti-social behaviour.

### **6. Risks and Uncertainties**

The risk of proceeding with powers, which are beyond those which the public and key stakeholders consider are required, is that those powers are seen to be unfair or unreasonable, which could be to the detriment of the reputation and effectiveness of the Council.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Financial Implications**

Implementation costs will be negligible and will be contained within existing budgets.

### **7.2. Legal Implications**

This report supports the use of statutory powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. If approved, the order will need to be reviewed every three years and a duty to consult thereafter where an extension is proposed.

### **7.3. Equalities Implications**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken, which identified no major or adverse impact.

### **7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

The implications of the Crime and Disorder Act have been considered and the PSPO actively promotes the interests of community safety.

### **7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications**

No impact.

## **8. Link to Corporate Priorities**

The Environment	Tackling the behaviours that the PSPO will seek to control will have a positive impact on levels of public realm cleanliness
Quality of Life	Ensuring that appropriate controls are in place to control anti-social behaviour in the prescribed areas will have a beneficial impact on local residents and visitors quality of life
Efficient Services	The recommendation in this report does not impact on or contribute to the Council's Efficient Services priority
Sustainable Growth	The recommendation in this report does not impact on or contribute to the Council's Sustainable Growth priority

## **9. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approve the amended Public Space Protection Order (General ASB) as set out in Appendix 1 to take effect from 9 December 2025.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Geoff Carpenter Head of Public Protection 0115 914 8229 gcarpenter@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Draft PSPO Order 2025 Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation responses Appendix 3 – Draft schedules to the Order Appendix 4 – Equality impact Assessment