



Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Time and Date

9.00 am on Thursday, 10th April, 2025

Place

Meeting Rooms, Council House, Earl Street, Coventry, CV1 5RR

Public Business

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)

(a) To agree the minutes of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) meeting held on 27th February 2025.

(b) Matters arising

4. **Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and Surrounding Area** (Pages 9 - 36)

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

5. **Response to Petitions to Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour within Hillfields** (Pages 37 - 48)

Report of the Director of Law and Governance

To consider the following two petitions:

Petition 17-24 – St Michael’s Ward: Petition to Improve the Quality of the Environment and Life in the Swan Lane Catchment Area

To consider the above petition bearing 52 signatures. The petition has been sponsored by Councillor N Akhtar, a St Michael’s Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the petition organiser.

Petition e10/24 – Anti Social Behaviour in Hillfields

To consider the above petition bearing 84 signatures. The petition has been sponsored by Councillor S Jobbar, a St Michael's Ward Councillor, who has been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with the petition organiser.

6. Outstanding Issues

There are no outstanding issues

7. Any Other Business

To consider any other items of business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Lara Knight Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member), AS Khan (Cabinet Member) and J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Public Access

Any member of the public who would like to attend the meeting in person is encouraged to contact the officer below in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meeting can be found here: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

Lara Knight

Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at 9.00 am on Thursday, 27 February 2025

Present:

Members: Councillor AS Khan (Cabinet Member)
Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member)
Councillor J Lepoidevin (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Service):

Law and Governance J Adams, D Blackburn, N Castledine, L Knight, L Nagle, A Wright

Public Business

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

25. Regulation, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy - Review

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance, which sought approval to adopt the updated Regulation, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy.

The Cabinet Member noted that the report had also been considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at its meeting held on 18th February 2025 (their minute 19/24 refers) and had made no comments or recommendations.

The report indicated that the Regulators Code ('the Code') was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 23 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 ('the Act'). Regulators whose functions were specified under the Act, must have regard to the Code when developing policies and operational procedures that guide their regulatory activity. Functions specified by order under the provisions of the Act, include those functions carried out by Regulation, Communities and Environmental Teams.

The Code provides a set of principles for regulators to consider:

- a. Regulators should carry out their activities in a way that supports those they regulate to comply and grow.

- b. Regulators should provide simple and straightforward ways to engage with those they regulate and hear their views.
- c. Regulators should base their regulatory activity on risk.
- d. Regulators should share information about compliance and risk.
- e. Regulators should ensure clear information, guidance and advice is available to help those they regulate meet their responsibilities to comply.
- f. Regulators should ensure that their approach to regulatory activities is transparent.

Section 6 of the Code sets out the expectation that Local Authorities will ensure their approach to enforcement is transparent. The Regulation, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy helps to fulfil this expectation.

The current Enforcement Policy is published on the Council's web site. however, it needs to be reviewed. This review has now been completed and a copy of the proposed Policy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The proposed Policy is an overarching document written to set out the Regulation, Communities and Environmental teams' general approach to good enforcement. Several teams within the wider service area have specific team Enforcement Policies which sit underneath this one and should be referred to in addition to the overarching Policy. Where a team specific Enforcement Policy is not in place, the overarching Policy is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Code.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

1. **Considered the revised Regulation, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy and any comments received from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.**
2. **Approves the adoption of the Regulatory, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.**
3. **Delegates authority to the Strategic Lead Regulation and Communities to conduct a three yearly review of the Policy or a review at such times as guidance or legislation requires.**

26. Extension of Existing Public Spaces Protection Order for Edgwick Park

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which set out proposals to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Edgwick Park.

The Cabinet Member noted that there is currently a PSPO in place for Edgwick Park and the bordering streets. The Order, that prohibits the congregation of groups of 2 or more persons in the designated areas, was initially put in place in 2019 and then extended for further three years is due to expire in April 2025.

It is proposed to extend the PSOP with the same conditions for a further 3 years to allow park users and the local community to benefit from the facilities of the park, without suffering the issues that blighted the park previously.

The report contained at Appendix 2, impact statements from key partner agencies supporting the extension of the existing PSOP, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- 1. Notes the impact statements from key agencies and their rationale for extending the existing Order, set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**
- 2. Approves that the Order be extended for a period of three years from the date of the current Order is due to expire.**
- 3. Requests that all partner agencies continue their current actions, patrol plans and monitor the surrounding areas for any potential displacement of the issue.**

27. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

28. Any Other Business

There were other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 9.13 am)

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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

10th April 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels, Radford, Foleshill, Sherbourne, Lower Stoke

Title: Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas

Is this a key decision?

No – Although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive Summary:

In 2019 a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was created for St Michaels ward and surrounding areas. The Order was granted following public consultation that was overwhelmingly in favour of the Order being granted. The matter was also discussed by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the 11th June 2019. It was subsequently renewed in 2022.

The original reason for the Order being sought was in response to the serious instances of public place violence witnessed in the city and criminal exploitation of young people.

Tackling public place and serious youth violence is still a key priority for the Council and partners and it is felt that this Order plays an important part in trying to address this and make people feel safer in their communities

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Note the attached impact statements and crime statistics from key agencies and their rationale for extending the existing Order.
2. Approve that the Order be extended for a period of three years from the date the current order is due to expire.

3. Request that all partners continue with their current actions, patrol plans and monitor the surrounding areas for any potential displacement of the issue.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Draft PSPO for St Michaels and surrounding areas

Appendix 2 – Map outlining the area covered by the PSPO

Appendix 3 – Partner Impact Statements

Appendix 4 – St Michaels Crime Statistics

Appendix 5 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 6 – Police and Crime Commissioner Response

Background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No. However, PSPO's generally are being reviewed by the Scrutiny Coordination Committee.

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In recent years Coventry has seen serious incidents of public place violence and criminal exploitation of young people. This Order was specifically created to help address aspects of that.
- 1.2 Significant resources have been allocated to address matters, both regionally and locally. Whilst there appears to be a reduction in visible “postcode gangs” we believe many young people are still vulnerable to criminal exploitation, particularly around the drugs trade and rather than be in street gangs they are more likely to be involved with Organised Crime Groups. These groups often use violent methods to protect areas they operate in and to deter others.
- 1.3 In recent times we have seen an increase in violent incidents for the areas the Order is applicable to. Whilst a PSPO is not going to tackle these issues on its own, it is a tool for Police officers to use. PSPO’s are useful in that they can be used proactively for situations where officers have concern that matters might get out of hand, people can be directed to disperse from an area rather than having to wait for an actual criminal offence to occur which would involve additional resources and public expenditure.
- 1.4 Appendix 4 of the report provides details of crime statistics for St Michaels ward. It should be noted that all potential criminal acts addressed or deterred by use of the Order will not only occur solely in St Michaels ward. Gangs also carry out criminal acts elsewhere in the city and outside the city boundaries.
- 1.5 The Order is an “informed order” this means that someone will be informed that there is an order in place and that their behaviour is unacceptable. Should they accept an officer’s instruction, and disperse and leave the area, there is no further action taken. Should they refuse then that will be a breach of the Order.
- 1.6 Police colleagues are now recording their use of PSPO’s and their interactions with the public. All encounters will be recorded on body worn cameras and as such if people have a complaint regarding the use of the powers, this can be assessed.
- 1.7 There is currently an IT issue that means current information regarding the usage of the Order is unavailable. Officers will look to either provide a verbal update at the meeting or provide the information to Scrutiny Coordination Committee as all PSPO’s are currently being monitored via Scrutiny.
- 1.8 The Police regularly meet with faith and community groups to discuss community relations and the use of their enforcement powers. No concerns regarding the use of this power have been formally raised, through community groups, or any other route.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 **Do nothing (not recommended).** The Police and local authority, in some cases, already have powers to deal with certain adverse behaviours covered in the proposed PSPO. However, these current powers are viewed as being overly bureaucratic and could quickly result in offenders obtaining criminal records, which may adversely affect their future employment prospects. It is believed that the new additional powers will assist the Police in efficiently addressing the relevant issues.

2.2 **Approve the Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas (recommended).** The renewal of a specific PSPO for the designated area would provide useful powers for Police officers, to address adverse behaviours in the designated area. It is quick and easy to use, which is an important consideration when organisations are facing reductions in resources.

2.3 The PSPO can be enforced by simply informing someone that their behaviour is unacceptable and advising them to move on. An offence and further action only applies if they refuse. It also has the added benefit of enabling the offender to accept a fixed penalty notice rather than appear in court and receive a criminal record if enforcement is necessary. The wording of the proposed PSPO can be seen in Appendix 1. The operation of the PSPO will be in line with Home Office guidelines.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Formal public consultation was carried out when the Order was initially created, and the results saw over 90% of respondents in favour of the creation of the PSPO. As this is a renewal of an existing Order and no changes have been made to the original Order we are only required to consult with key partners, including the Police and Crime Commissioner. The impact statements from local partners can be found in Appendix 3 and the Police and Crime Commissioner in Appendix 6 of the report.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Should the Order be approved by the Cabinet Member it will be implemented one day prior to the expiry of the previous Order, as indicated in the draft Order in Appendix 1.

5 Comments from Chief Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer)

5.1 Financial implications

No additional resource will be required to implement the proposed PSPO. Any additional income generated by the introduction of a PSPO will contribute towards Council resources.

5.2 Legal implications

Under sections 59-75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2104, local authorities have powers to make PSPO's for a period of up to three years.

The Council can only make a PSPO when it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out in a public place have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area and are persistent, continuing and unreasonable. The Council would also need to be satisfied that the restrictions imposed were justified

PSPO's can only apply to public places. This means any place to which the public, and / or sections of the public, on payment or otherwise, have access to as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

In line with other PSPO's in Coventry, any Fixed Penalty Notice for non-compliance with a PSPO will be set at £100 reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days. If the Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid, it is the Council's policy to prosecute the offender in the Magistrates' Court, where the maximum fine is currently £1000 (level 3 on the standard scale)

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

Crime and Disorder

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour through partnership working is central to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Police and City Council Officers continue to incorporate the area in their patrol strategies/ work schedules, and they will monitor the behaviour of individuals in these specific locations.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

An Equality Impact Statement has been completed and can be found in Appendix 5.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The purpose of taking action is to address adverse behaviours in the City Centre and surrounding areas, in an attempt to protect and improve the environment and wellbeing of the community.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The renew of the order will ensure that police will retain their powers associated with the current PSPO. This will enable them to take early intervention against Anti-Social Behaviour within St Michaels and the surrounding area.

Report author(s):

Liam Nagle

Name and job title:

Community Safety Officer

Directorate:

Place Directorate

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead – Regulation and Communities	Regulatory Services	13/03/2025	13/03/2025
Adrian Chowns	Head of Safer Housing and Communities	Regulatory Services	30/01/25	30/01/25
Joy Adams	CCTV and Com Safety Manager	Regulatory Services	30/01/25	30/01/25
Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	30/01/25	30/01/25
Faye Cartwright	Solicitor	Regulatory Team	30/01/25	11/02/25
Joanne Pay	HR Business Partner	Human resources	30/01/25	30/01/25
Lara Knight	Governance Services officer	Governance Services	11/02/25	12/02/25
Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)				
Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	Law and Governance	18/03/25	18/03/25
Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities		21/03/25	25/03/25

This report is published on the Council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER
ST MICHAELS AREA ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

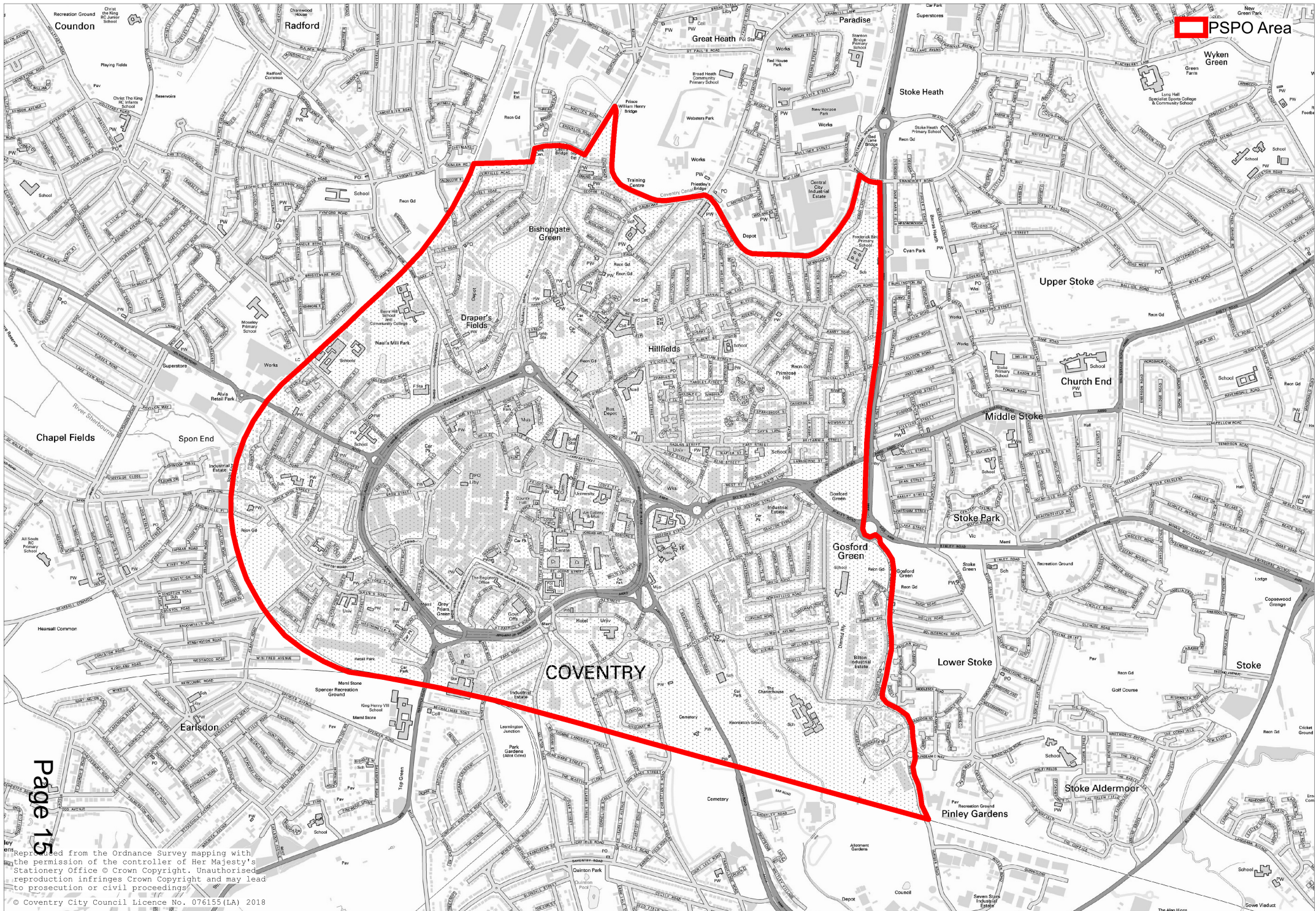
The Council of the City of Coventry (“the Council”) hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order (St Michaels Area Park Anti-Social Behaviour) under Sections 59 to 75 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

1. This Order shall come into operation on 9th June 2025 and shall have effect for a period of 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further orders under the Council’s statutory powers.
2. This Order relates to St Michael Ward and connected areas (see map).
3. The purpose of this order is to prevent any activities associated with Child Exploitation, both sexual and criminal and any other type of anti-social behaviour in the Designated Area including but not limited to violence, including the use of weapons such as knives, alcohol misuse, drug taking and dealing, and abusive and intimidating behaviour and language.

The Council makes this Order because it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that groups of people within the Designated Area are and have carried out anti-social activities including the procurement of young people for criminal and sexual activities. These activities are persistent and continuing and have resulted in members of the community feeling intimidated and unsafe.

4. The effect of this Order is to prohibit the congregation of groups of 2 or more persons in the Designated Area where the behaviour of some or all members of the group has or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community.
5. This order was agreed by Cabinet on (date)

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PSPO Area

COVENTRY

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Impact Statement – West Midlands Police

My Name is Hamir Godhania, I am employed as a Chief Inspector for West Midlands Police, with responsibility for neighbourhood policing. We work closely with partners, as part of the Community Safety Partnership committed to addressing serious public place violence amongst other matters.

In recent years Coventry has had significant issues with public place violence. As I understand the history of this Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) it was introduced in direct response to these concerns.

Whilst some very good work across the partnership has seen a historical downwards trend in serious incidents in the City, recently we have seen a slight increase in public place violence incidents and as such we need to pursue all available methods to tackle this. A Good example of this is the approach and usage also of Community Protection Warnings / Notice and Criminal Behaviour Order by officers too.

Coventry is part of a Home Office funded initiative to address gangs and exploitation called Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) we offer diversionary and mentoring services to young people we believe to be involved in, or at risk of being involved in gang and organised crime activities. Early indications show some great work and results arising from this.

Whilst we know no tool on its own will address all matters, we are supportive of the renewal of this PSPO. It will greatly assist officers to be able to use these powers, when proportionate and necessary, to address matters within the City to reduce issues with gangs and public place violence. These powers are one which Local Authority officers such as CV1 / Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers can enforce too.

The power is there as a potential tool to help keep and maintain order in public spaces. As with any power conferred on the police there must a clear and legitimate need to use that power. We will only deploy it when circumstances dictate that it is lawful, necessary and proportionate pursuant to a legitimate policing objective. Any use of force will also be subject to scrutiny and will be recorded on body worn video apparatus

Impact Statement – Business Improvement District (BID)

My name is Joanne Glover and I am Chief Executive of Coventry Business Improvement District (BID)

Coventry BID is committed to supporting local businesses, encouraging people to visit the City and ensuring all visitors and employees of those businesses are kept safe.

Any incidents that cause bad publicity for the City or that can be described as making the City Centre a less attractive place to visit can be harmful to the reputation and economic well-being of the City.

Any perception of the City Centre being a less safe place to visit will cause great concern amongst City Centre businesses. This may put some people off visiting the City when they otherwise may have, therefore causing financial loss to the businesses within the City Centre.

Equally from time to time in certain locations in the City Centre we have issues reported to us about congregations of people drinking or acting in a manner detrimental to others trying to enjoy the City Centre, such as in Broadgate, Priory Gardens, Millennium Place or Lady Herbert's Garden.

We are supportive of the renewal of this order as we feel it will give Police an improved ability to deal with matters that are of a concern to businesses and visitors to the City Centre, and also ourselves as an organisation.

Impact Statement – Parks and Streetscene

My name is Dan Powell, I am employed by Coventry City Council and part of my responsibilities relates to the cleaning and maintenance of the streets and green spaces within the City Centre.

We often see incidents of anti social behaviour in key City Centre locations such as Millenium Place, Lady Herberts Garden and Broadgate.

As a Council we have spent a large sum of money on re-stocking the planting in the garden to enhance it and encourage more use, also supporting Historic Coventry Trust with their activities.

Streetpride operatives often see congregations of groups that are behaving in a manner likely to be detrimental to the general public and the City as a whole. This can range from large groups intimidating others, street drinking, public urination and similar.

Whilst there is a Citywide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) that addresses street drinking, this particular PSPO gives officers the powers to disperse those groups acting in an antisocial manner and spoiling many people's experience of visiting the City Centre. This enables matters to be dealt with in a far quicker manner than alternative resolutions.

As such I would like to support the application to renew this order.

30th January 2025

Dear Mr Nagle,

We refer to Coventry City Council's proposed renewal of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), in the St Michaels area, the contents of which I have noted. I am grateful to you for consulting me about the proposed renewal and note the prohibited behaviours remain unamended as: violence, including the use of weapons, alcohol misuse, drug taking and dealing, and abusive and intimidating behaviour and language.

My response below is, as Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands and as a statutory consultee, pursuant to Section 72 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. I acknowledge the nuisance and harm, and pathways to more serious criminal activity, that can be caused as a consequence of the matters the PSPO seeks to address. I draw the attention of Coventry City Council to the matters set out in this letter, that I believe require careful and further consideration before the PSPO is renewed.

I welcome a constructive and informed dialogue, and the opportunity to work in partnership in order to develop effective long-term solutions to address the issues that are the subject of the proposed PSPO. As a consequence of this, I am writing to provide a level of oversight and scrutiny to ensure that, if Coventry City Council renews the PSPO as proposed, it will be lawful and effective.

I want to make it clear that no-one should ever have to experience or be subjected to harassment, alarm, danger, distress, nuisance or annoyance, including the prohibited behaviour set out in the proposed PSPO. I welcome appropriate and effective action to prevent, tackle, and reduce these behaviours.

I request that you please kindly have regard to the matters set out below:

1. If the PSPO is to be renewed, then it should be possible to evidence positive outcomes from previous enforcement. I note from the intelligence documents that 159 incidents of knife crime and 422 incidents of u25 violence were recorded since 2023. I would be interested to know to what extent incidents of the other prohibited behaviours occurred and to understand which offences, prohibited by the PSPO, were most commonly breached. What action was taken as a result of said breaches and how did the existence of the PSPO contribute to the action that was taken? What was the result of the action taken and what level of enforcement was applied to the different offences covered by the current PSPO? How effective has the PSPO been in preventing the prohibited behaviours happening in the first place?
2. There appears to be no reference to positive requirements within this proposal or the accompanying documents. Why is this? Has Coventry City Council considered how it can utilise drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for those found in breach of the PSPO? Similarly, has Coventry City Council considered how it can provide the support services mentioned above to vulnerable individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour, prior to them breaching a PSPO? Equally, the PSPO does not address adequately, or at all, the mental ill health, that is so often an underlying cause of much of the behaviour set out in the prohibitions. Has Coventry City Council considered how it might utilise the use of mental health diversion and/or intervention? If not, why not? It would be

helpful to have an explanation as to how the proposed PSPO will address prevention, early intervention, diversion and the underlying causes in practice.

3. The proposed prohibitions, might disproportionately impact people who have complex needs and vulnerabilities and are disabled within the meaning of s.6 Equality Act 2010. I welcome that Coventry City Council has considered the implications the proposed renewal of the PSPO may have on issues of equality and disproportionality and note the inclusion of the equality impact assessment. However, the proposed prohibitions, may, nevertheless, disproportionately impact people who have complex needs and vulnerabilities and are unconsidered in the assessment. One group in particular might be the street homeless community, particularly in reference to Prohibition Four, regarding abusive or intimidating behaviour as their behaviour might be more likely to be considered to be causing harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance. To what extent has Coventry City Council considered whether any action might amount to disability discrimination. As per the Home Office guidance, a PSPO should not be used to target people based solely on the fact that they are homeless or rough sleeping or people that beg, because they might have no alternative. A PSPO might have the unintended effect of criminalising poverty, street homelessness, rough sleeping, chronic drug and alcohol addiction or mental ill health.
4. As per the express reference in the statutory guidance for frontline professionals, what consideration has been given by Coventry City Council to the possibility that renewing the PSPO may lead to displacing the prohibited behaviour/activities to other geographical locations?
5. Is Coventry City Council aware that a number of the proposed prohibitions in the draft PSPO, as well as the mention of child exploitation in the introductory paragraph, appear to be criminal offences in any event. For example, Prohibition One, referencing violence and the use of weapons, is a criminal offence pursuant to multiple pieces of legislation including, but not limited to, the Prevention of Crime Act 1953, the Criminal Justice Act 1988, and Offensive Weapons Act 2019. It is, therefore, not immediately clear what the proposed PSPO will add to the prevention and tackling of these matters that is not already available via the criminal law. In these circumstances, what will the renewal of the proposed PSPO add to police powers and the prevention or tackling of the prohibited activities that are not already addressed via the criminal law?
6. It is not clear how Anti-Social Behaviour, will be defined by the PSPO. The PSPO should define precisely the specific activity or behaviour that is having the detrimental impact on the community. As the term is both broad and vague, the PSPO has the potential to be applied and enforced inconsistently and/or result in action to tackle or target issues outside of their initial purpose. Has Coventry City Council, therefore, considered imposing a stricter definition of the particular acts, crimes and behaviours contributing to Anti-Social Behaviour that the PSPO is explicitly targeting? If not, why not?
7. If the PSPO is to be renewed, then it must be capable of being effectively enforced. Has the existing PSPO been capable of effective enforcement? The penalty for breach of a prohibition in a PSPO is a fixed penalty notice or on summary conviction, a fine not exceeding level three on the standard scale. The effect of this might be to impose a financial penalty on people least able to afford to pay. Since Coventry City Council has utilised PSPO's: What has been the level of Fixed Penalty that has been imposed? How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been imposed? How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been paid? If they were not paid, how many have resulted in criminal prosecution? If any have resulted in criminal prosecution, what was the outcome? How many Fixed Penalty Notices related to repeat offenders?

If you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As previously stated, I am committed to working in partnership, to effectively prevent, tackle and reduce harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance, including the prohibited behaviours set out in the proposed PSPO.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Foster'. The signature is stylized with a large 'S' and 'F'.

Simon Foster

Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands

Appendix 4 – Crime Stats for St Michaels Ward (year to date)

These statistics cover the last two years, with the current year's stats being YTD (January 25). Additional context can be found in the impact statement from West Midlands Police in Appendix 3

<u>Crime</u>	<u>23/24</u>	<u>24/25</u>	<u>%</u>	
Burglary	191	173	-9.42%	
Knife Crime	66	93	+40.91%	
Robbery	253	225	-11.7%	
Vehicle Crime		363	309	-14.88%
Violence (U25 non Domestic abuse)	205	217	+5.85	

Members should note that Police officers now also record their interactions with the public where PSPO powers are used but are complied with, and as such no offence occurs. At the time of writing this report these statistics are unavailable but we will provide the figures when available either as an additional paper or a verbal update.

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Equality Impact Assessment

EIA-680072957 - Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas

Details

Title	Renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order for St Michaels and surrounding areas
Author	Liam Nagle (Community Safety Officer)
Head of Service	Adrian Chowns (Head of Safer Housing and Community)
Cabinet Member	Cllr Abdul Khan (Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities)

Context and background

EIA carried out on	Review of policy or strategy
Background	This is a renewal of an existing order created to tackle this issue in the City regarding the exploitation of young people in relation to Street gangs and organised crime predominantly in the St Michaels ward. It is intended to be able to disrupt the activities of people acting in a manner detrimental to the local community.
Stakeholders	Community Safety (CCC) Liam Nagle. West Midlands Police Insp Maria Perrin.
Responsibility	The findings of this EIA will be implemented via the Coventry Community Safety Partnership, comprising of all key partner agencies, statutory and non statutory.

Consideration of impact

Baseline data and information

St Michaels Ward is in the centre of the City, the City Centre itself sits within the ward. Hillfields is the main population centre within the ward, sited approximately half a mile from the City Centre. Hillfields is one of the most deprived areas of the City. It has a large, young, diverse population and many new communities are located within Hillfields.

Historically, Hillfields has seen a lot of criminal activity related to drugs and sex working. For this reason it sees many people head to the area to buy drugs and engage in criminal behaviour. In recent history we saw an emergence of "postcode gangs" in the City whose existence primarily was to protect areas for the purpose of selling drugs. This led to serious public violence and a number of high profile murders.

Those murders prompted the creation of this order as part of the toolkit to address the risk, both to young people from being involved in organised crime but also the local community generally and to make the city safer.

Protected groups

Age 0-18

Both positive and negative impacts - The order is intended to keep young people safe but as the order relies on the Police officer involved to interpret people's behaviour it could have the unintended consequence where people may be ordered to disperse when they were not engaging in any risky behaviours. Since the order's introduction we have not had any significant pushback from local youth groups and similar raising concerns but we regularly engage with the Coventry Youth Partnership and we believe if there were wide ranging concerns about the orders impact on young people we would be informed.

Age 19-64

Both positive and negative impacts - Whilst we believe the impact on this age group will be overwhelmingly positive, making local areas safer and reducing any intimidation from groups, like young people there is the risk that groups of people acting lawfully may be asked to disperse when they were doing nothing wrong. Since the orders introduction we have had no representations about the improper use of the order and Police regularly consult with minority and faith based groups throughout Coventry and specifically the Hillfields area.

Age 65+

Positive impact - Positive impact, likely to feel safer in public areas than before the introduction of the order, very unlikely to be asked to disperse if in groups.

Disability	Positive impact - Positive impact, will feel safer in public areas without groups gathered
Gender reassignment	Positive impact - Positive impact, will feel safer in public areas without groups gathered.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive impact - Positive impact, will feel safer in public areas without groups gathered
Race	Both positive and negative impacts - More likely to feel safer, but officers could misinterpret cultural norms for behaviours that are seen as anti social. As the order has been operational for some time now we are confident this is unlikely but Police regularly consult with minority and community groups.
Religion and belief	Both positive and negative impacts - As above
Sex	No impact -
Sexual orientation	Positive impact - Should feel safer as less likely to receive possible negative comments from groups gathered in public.
Care experienced	Positive impact -

Health inequalities (HI)

How HI will be reduced

The main Marmot principles this order addresses are ;

Give every child the best start in life - this order should improve the quality of life in Hillfields generally but should mean that young people are less likely to be exploited by groups in their community.

Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives - making the area better and safer will mean people are less likely to be disadvantaged by locational issues in Hillfields as it was before the creation of the order.

Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities - by reducing public place Anti Social Behaviour and criminal behaviours generally the order increases the sustainability of the area and increases the likely use of community assets and spaces.

Evidence showing how HI will be reduced

The order has already been in place for some time. Specific information isn't available but issues such as public drinking of alcohol and drug taking, whilst not eliminated are much reduced compared to before the order was created. This in turn means those likely to engage in these behaviours may do them slightly less if it is not convenient to do so, as it was previous to the creation of the order.

Groups of people who face HI

There is a risk that if people go to less visible locations to drink or take drugs, if they then get into difficulty they may be at risk of not receiving support. Police officers, Citizen Housing staff and others regular monitor less visible but known problematic locations to minimise this risk. Resources such as Naloxone are distributed to known users and key officers in the event of a drugs overdose.

It is known that care leavers are at risk from exploitation, criminally and may be more likely to have drugs or alcohol issues. This order is intended to make it less likely they will be able to access drink and drugs easily or engage with groups that may otherwise look to exploit them.

Mentoring schemes are in operation in the area to give positive role models for young people that otherwise might not have them. It is intended to encourage them to make the best of themselves, educationally and personally.

How to improve HI for groups identified

There is continued work in the City generally, and also specific to St Michaels ward to better support those vulnerable to drink and drug abuse, to encourage them to access services. There are local drop in sessions and key resources are relatively close by in the City Centre. Local Police and Housing staff are aware of action to take for anyone found to be in distress or danger from their substance or alcohol excesses.

Digital inequalities (DI)

Impact to DI N/A

Opportunities to reduce DI N/A

Next steps

Inequality

Action

Owner Timescale

Monitor and evaluation

St Michaels ward is an impact area for the City, this means it receives a lot of attention and support from all agencies to address the various issues and inequalities that the area suffers from. As a result there are many different groups monitoring aspects of St Michaels and Hillfields and any immediate or emerging issues are identified and addressed.

Impact on Council staff

Will there be an impact? No

Completion statement

Potential equality impact Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups

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Response from Simon Foster, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands	Action
<p>1. If the PSPO is to be renewed, then it should be possible to evidence positive outcomes from previous enforcement. I note from the intelligence documents that 159 incidents of knife crime and 422 incidents of u25 violence were recorded since 2023. I would be interested to know to what extent incidents of the other prohibited behaviours occurred and to understand which offences, prohibited by the PSPO, were most commonly breached. What action was taken as a result of said breaches and how did the existence of the PSPO contribute to the action that was taken? What was the result of the action taken and what level of enforcement was applied to the different offences covered by the current PSPO? How effective has the PSPO been in preventing the prohibited behaviours happening in the first place?</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in Section 1.3, 1.7, and 1.8 and Partnership Statements in Appendix 3 of the report.</p> <p>The Order is a proactive Order which enables officers to take early intervention before a criminal offence occurs. This makes it difficult to determine the number of incidents. New recording methods have been put into place to record proactive engagement through the PSPO.</p>
<p>2. There appears to be no reference to positive requirements within this proposal or the accompanying documents. Why is this? Has Coventry City Council considered how it can utilise drug and alcohol rehabilitation services for those found in breach of the PSPO? Similarly, has Coventry City Council considered how it can provide the support services mentioned above to vulnerable individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour, prior to them breaching a PSPO? Equally, the PSPO does not address adequately, or at all, the mental ill health, that is so often an underlying cause of much of the behaviour set out in the prohibitions. Has Coventry City Council considered how it might utilise the use of mental health diversion and/or intervention? If not, why not? It would be helpful to have an explanation as to how the proposed PSPO will address</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in section 1.6 and the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 5 of the report.</p> <p>CCC have considered positive requirements and have appropriate case management forums to enable offenders to be referred to appropriate support services.</p>

<p>prevention, early intervention, diversion and the underlying causes in practice.</p>	
<p>3. The proposed prohibitions, might disproportionately impact people who have complex needs and vulnerabilities and are disabled within the meaning of s.6 Equality Act 2010. I welcome that Coventry City Council has considered the implications the proposed renewal of the PSPO may have on issues of equality and disproportionality and note the inclusion of the equality impact assessment. However, the proposed prohibitions, may, nevertheless, disproportionately impact people who have complex needs and vulnerabilities and are unconsidered in the assessment. One group in particular might be the street homeless community, particularly in reference to Prohibition Four, regarding abusive or intimidating behaviour as their behaviour might be more likely to be considered to be causing harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance. To what extent has Coventry City Council considered whether any action might amount to disability discrimination. As per the Home Office guidance, a PSPO should not be used to target people based solely on the fact that they are homeless or rough sleeping or people that beg, because they might have no alternative. A PSPO might have the unintended effect of criminalising poverty, street homelessness, rough sleeping, chronic drug and alcohol addiction or mental ill health.</p>	<p>Noted, this is covered in section 1.6 and the Equality Impact Assessment in Appendix 5 of the report.</p> <p>CCC have considered positive requirements and have appropriate case management forums to enable offenders to be referred to appropriate support services.</p> <p>Under Coventry City Council Regulation, Communities and Environmental Enforcement Policy, the Council follows the Crown Prosecutions Code of Practice and applies a public Interest test to any enforcement action carried out by their officers.</p>
<p>4. As per the express reference in the statutory guidance for frontline professionals, what consideration has been given by Coventry City Council to the possibility that renewing the PSPO may lead to displacing the prohibited behaviour/activities to other geographical locations?</p>	<p>Noted. As detail in Section 1.8 of the report the PSPO will be monitored by a Scrutiny Committee and issues of displacement will be regularly scrutinised.</p>

<p>5. Is Coventry City Council aware that a number of the proposed prohibitions in the draft PSPO, as well as the mention of child exploitation in the introductory paragraph, appear to be criminal offences in any event. For example, Prohibition One, referencing violence and the use of weapons, is a criminal offence pursuant to multiple pieces of legislation including, but not limited to, the Prevention of Crime Act 1953, the Criminal Justice Act 1988, and Offensive Weapons Act 2019. It is, therefore, not immediately clear what the proposed PSPO will add to the prevention and tackling of these matters that is not already available via the criminal law. In these circumstances, what will the renewal of the proposed PSPO add to police powers and the prevention or tackling of the prohibited activities that are not already addressed via the criminal law?</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in Section 1.3, 1.6, and 1.7 of the report.</p> <p>The Order is a proactive order which enables officers to take early invention before a criminal offence is committed.</p>
<p>6. It is not clear how Anti-Social Behaviour, will be defined by the PSPO. The PSPO should define precisely the specific activity or behaviour that is having the detrimental impact on the community. As the term is both broad and vague, the PSPO has the potential to be applied and enforced inconsistently and/or result in action to tackle or target issues outside of their initial purpose. Has Coventry City Council, therefore, considered imposing a stricter definition of the particular acts, crimes and behaviours contributing to Anti-Social Behaviour that the PSPO is explicitly targeting? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in Appendix 1 of the report. The PSPO uses the broader term ASB to allow police and the Local Authority to respond flexibly to emerging issues. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with West Midlands Police, along with a clear enforcement policy to ensure consistent enforcement of the PSPO.</p>
<p>7. If the PSPO is to be renewed, then it must be capable of being effectively enforced. Has the existing PSPO been capable of effective enforcement? The penalty for breach of a prohibition in a PSPO is a fixed penalty notice or on summary conviction, a fine not exceeding level three on the standard scale. The effect of this might be to impose a financial penalty on people least able to</p>	<p>Noted. This is covered in Section 1.6 and 1.8 of the report. The Order is a proactive order which enables officers to take early intervention before a criminal offence. This makes it difficult to determine the number of incidents. New recording methods have been put into</p>

<p>afford to pay. Since Coventry City Council has utilised PSPO's: What has been the level of Fixed Penalty that has been imposed? How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been imposed? How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been paid? If they were not paid, how many have resulted in criminal prosecution? If any have resulted in criminal prosecution, what was the outcome? How many Fixed Penalty Notices related to repeat offenders?</p>	<p>place to record proactive engagement through the PSPO.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities_

10th April 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Policing and Equalities - Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:

St Michaels Ward

Title:

Response to petitions to tackle crime and Anti-Social Behaviour within Hillfields.

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

Two petitions have been received in regard to the crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Hillfields.

The first is a petition of 84 signatures, and the second petition was of 52 signatures, both petitions were sponsored by Councillor N Akhtar, St Michael's Ward Councillor, regarding concerns over crime, ASB, drug taking, environmental issues, public space drinking, neighbourhood policing and youth services provisions in Hillfields.

The petitions call for West Midlands Police, the Council and housing providers to work together to help resolve these issues.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

- (1) Request that West Midlands Police and Council officers continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requesting assistance.

- (2) Encourage residents to report crime, ASB and environmental issues to the Police and the Council.
- (3) Request that the Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan identify key initiatives for reducing crime and ASB in Hillfields.
- (4) Request that the City Tasking subgroup of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership continue to monitor the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Hillfields and monitor the progress of the key initiatives to reduce crime and ASB in Hillfields.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Petition letters
Appendix 2 – Determination Letters

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Response to petitions to tackle crime and Anti-Social Behaviour within Hillfields

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. On 30th September 2024, a petition signed by 84 individuals was submitted to the Council. The petition outlined residents' concerns regarding with drug-taking and selling in public. They felt that kerb-crawling had dramatically increased in the area. They raised concerns that criminal gangs and sex workers were using public spaces to carry out criminal activities.
- 1.2. The petitioners highlighted the need for the Community to have a space and peaceful environment. They specifically requested that West Midlands Police, Residential Social Landlords, and the Salvation Army collaborate to address these issues and develop an action plan.
- 1.3. On the 20th November 2024, a further petition signed by 52 people was received by the Council. The petition outlined residents' concerns regarding ASB, public space drinking, environmental issues, and the lack of youth services in the area. Additionally, the petition mentions concerns about the perceived lack of action by the Council and Police in addressing these issues.
- 1.4. The petition on the 20th November 2024, acknowledged the use of CCTV to address fly tipping but questioned its applicability to other ASB in the area. Additionally, residents requested more frequent street cleaning and weed removal.
- 1.5. There were concerns raised on public space drinking and people loitering in the area until the early hours of the morning. Questions were asked on whether more signage could be erected about the prohibition of public space drinking.
- 1.6. The petition on the 20th November 2024 highlighted several concerns regarding youth activities in the area. Residents observed that children were engaging in street play, using inappropriate language, and playing loud music, thereby disturbing the peace. Additionally, concerns were raised about young people staying out late during the evening. The petition called for prohibitions on ball games in Craners Road and Harnell Lane East. It also questioned parental responsibility and advocated for schools to conduct workshops for parents on their responsibilities in supporting their children.
- 1.7. Residents expect a more proactive approach from the Council, including visible Community Police officers, more frequent street cleansing, higher fines for noise offences, and strategically placed notices about penalties for drinking. The petition also concluded that Coventry City Council spends very little money on improving their area and sought more practical steps to address the issues raised in the petition.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 In response to both petitions, officers from the Council have reviewed the action taken by the Council and the Police to address the issues raised.

2.2 Partnership Working to tackle crime and ASB in Hillfields.

Over the past 4 years a number of initiatives have been run using a partnership approach to tackle issues of crime and ASB in Hillfields. Most recently Citizen and Coventry City Council partnered to improve outcomes and the physical environment for residents in the St. Michael's ward, with a specific focus on the Hillfields area.

Taking a partnership approach with the local Police team, social landlords and other agencies worked together to address a number of issues. This included work to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation for women and a coordinated and sustained disruption approach to known criminal offenders within the area. The partners shared local intelligence and utilised tools such as Community Protection Notices, PSPOs and Stop and Search to reduce ASB activity.

Redeployable cameras have been installed in fly-tipping hotspots, including Hillfields. These cameras have helped reduce fly-tipping by capturing evidence for legal action. While their main purpose is to monitor fly-tipping, they also record other crimes. Residents are encouraged to report crime issues to 101 or 999 in emergencies. The Police can request relevant footage from the Council's control room based on these reports.

Regarding street cleaning, there are scheduled programs for street cleansing. Hillfields receives more frequent cleaning than other areas of the city. There is also a contracted weed removal service scheduled twice a year. Residents can also report specific issues in areas affected by weeds and litter.

2.3 Drinking and Loitering

The Council acknowledges public space drinking impacts safety perceptions but cannot prohibit street alcohol consumption or fine individuals for it. Therefore, no signage can indicate otherwise.

Excessive alcohol consumption leads to crime and ASB. To tackle this, the Council has introduced PSPOs.

The City-Wide PSPO empowers Police to confiscate alcohol from street drinkers in certain circumstances, allowing early intervention to prevent intoxication-related ASB. Additionally, specific powers enable Police action against groups involved in crime and ASB in Hillfields.

If individuals breach the PSPO, they shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. A fixed penalty notice of £100.00 can also be issued to offenders who breach the PSPO which if paid would discharge their liability to conviction.

To determine the effectiveness in Hillfields, the use of these powers is currently being monitored by the City Tasking Group on behalf of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership.

2.4 Ban on Ball Games

Although playing ball games on the highway is illegal, the Council adopts a balanced approach regarding ball games in the street. It encourages residents to communicate with their neighbours to reach a compromise. Should deliberate nuisance occur, this may be classified as ASB, and as such residents should report such incidents to the Police by reporting online or by calling 101.

2.5 Lack of Activities for Children.

The Council acknowledges the importance of providing comprehensive activities during school holidays. In Coventry, the Council offers the Coventry Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, a national initiative by the Department for Education. This programme allows eligible children and young people to participate in free activities and experiences, with complimentary meals included. The scheme operates in the Hillfields area and is promoted to children and parents through communications with local schools.

The Coventry Community Safety Partnership also supports the delivery of the Steps Together Programme in Hillfields, an after-school chaperone programme, to ensure children have a safe route home from secondary school. This scheme was also extended to provide provisions in the school holiday periods.

Within Hillfields, a regular programme of activities is also provided by the Positive Youth Foundation through the Hillfields Young Peoples Centre. These services target older children and aim not only to divert them from crime and exploitation but also to help develop positive opportunities for their future.

2.6 Parental Responsibility

There is a Parent Support programme that is delivered by the Positive Parenting team. This team offers a range of parenting support for all families, covering courses from antenatal programmes to early years and teenagers. The programme can be accessed face-to-face at various venues or delivered remotely.

2.7 Community Policing and Enforcement.

The St Michaels Policing Team covers the Hillfields area. There are a number of police officers and PSPOs assigned to this area, addressing various crimes and incidents of ASB. Rebuilding community policing is a primary objective of the West Midlands Police Crime Commissioner, aiming to increase the visibility of officers within communities. Although new plans will be published in April 2025, initiatives are already in progress. These are being implemented through Operation Advance, an intelligence-led operation that allocates significant police resources to the area.

2.8 Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan/Hillfields initiatives

The Coventry Community Safety Partnership, including the Police, Council, Health Service, Fire Service, and Probation Service, has launched the Community Safety Partnership Plan. This plan prioritises reducing crime and ASB and commits to key initiatives in Hillfields to enhance community engagement and safety. The Hillfields focused initiative aims to improve residents' quality of life and prevent crime and ASB through partnership efforts.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 None taken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The Coventry Community Safety Partnership Plan was presented to Cabinet on the 18th of March 2025 and was approved by Council on the 25th of March 2025. The Hillfields initiatives will commence in early April 2025 and continue throughout the year. The City Tasking Board will oversee the progress related to the levels of PSPO enforcement in Hillfields and will also monitor the advancement of the Hillfields initiatives on behalf of the partnership throughout the year.

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

5.1. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report, all costs will be met from core budgets

5.2. Legal Implications

The Council has powers to try to address ASB through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 dependant on the type of behaviour and the available evidence.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

Tackling crime and ASB in Hillfields will support the one Coventry Plan in aiming to Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities in our communities.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

Identify potential risks associated with the options and the proposed course of action to mitigate them. Including health and safety issues, business continuity issues etc. Do these need to be recorded on the corporate risk register? Please keep to one paragraph.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

No Impact

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

None

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

None

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Adrian Chowns	Head of Safer Housing and Communities.	Regulatory Services	07/03/25	07/3/25
Davina Blackburn	Strategic Lead – Reg and Communities	Regulatory Services	13/03/25	18/3/25
Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	07/03/25	07/3/25

Faye Cartwright	Solicitor	Regulatory Team	10/3/25	10/3/25
Joanne Pay	HR Business Partner	Human resources	10/3/25	13/3/25
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Governance Services	11/3/25	12/3/25
Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	Law and Governance	18/3/25	20/3/25
Members: Councillor A S Khan	Cabinet Member for Policies and Equalities		21/3/25	25/3/25

This report is published on the Council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

Appendix 1

Petition 1

Anti Social Behaviour in Hillfields

Amended wording

We the undersigned petition the Council to work with the West Midland Police, registered Housing providers, Citizen Housing, Midland Heart, Orbit and the Salvation Army to take concrete steps to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminal activities in Hillfields and the surrounding areas. In recent months drug-taking and selling in public and kerb-crawling have dramatically increased in the area. Criminal gangs/sex workers and their clients use people's garages, alleyways, and porches, for their criminal and illegal activities. Our communities deserve a peaceful and safe environment to go about their daily lives. All authorities must work together and draw up an action plan to tackle the above-mentioned issues.

Justification:

Number of my constituents have reported a huge increase in ASB in the area and asked me to raise this with relevant authorities.

Petition 2

After many years of seeking help to curb anti-social behaviour in the Harnell Lane East area we were very pleased when, a few months ago, a camera was installed on a lamp post outside 286 Harnell Lane East. The location would, we felt, give a good view of the road between Hillfields' Service Station and the junction with Swan Lane. The effect of the installation in Craners Road was immediate. We saw a significant decline in the fly tipping of large items such as divans, carpets, dining tables, etc. However, smaller items are still being dumped in the street often very late at night when visibility is lower.

CCTV has helped to deter fly tipping but is it recording the anti-social behaviour in the area? During the summer months, particularly, groups of men congregate outside the off-licence at the bottom of Craners Road. They hang around drinking (under the sign that says it is a punishable offence) until the early hours of the morning. Residents in the Swan Lane area find the presence of these drinkers intimidating and do not want them loitering.

Aside from the drinkers we have a problem with the large number of quite young children who play in the streets often shouting, swearing and playing very loud music. Many people in this area work long shifts and want to relax in the evening but this is made impossible by the behaviour of these young people. Sometimes they can be very menacing, as when they kick a ball against a door and then run off, making detection very difficult.

When the local schools (Frederick Bird/Sydney Stringer) break up for the holidays there are large numbers of children on the streets with nothing to do and nowhere to go. Although there is a city-wide programme of activities, we wonder how many from this area take part even in those organised locally. Such activities would give them something useful to do and help them develop important life skills.

During the summer months, the year-round problem with littering is particularly acute. There is litter everywhere, plastic bags stuffed with rotting rubbish, discarded furniture left outside properties, entries and alleyways are full of rubbish that should have been taken to the tip. There are two street cleaners who try very hard (and are always exceptionally helpful) but the task is monumental. By contrast the city centre is swept clean by numerous street cleaners.

The new Labour Government has pledged to reduce anti-social behaviour, promising increased numbers of community police officers and tough new measures to deal with the problem. St Michael's ward would be an interesting test case of these election promises.

We residents expect a far more proactive approach from the Council now it has the backing of the national government. In this regard, we would like:

- A community police officer who is visible and directly contactable to mediate with families that persistently litter, play loud music and fail to exercise any control over their children
- More frequent street cleaning and weed removal

- Higher fines for noise offences. We think the noise officers do an excellent job but they need more powers to deal with repeat offenders.
- Strategically placed notices stating in words and pictures that drinking in the street is prohibited and punishable by fixed penalty charges in excess of £100. Merely confiscating alcohol is not enough of a disincentive. There should be no reduction for fast payment of fines since the object is to discourage anti-social behaviour not raise taxes.
- Fixed penalty charges for drinkers to be administered by police who do not wait to be called to disperse drinkers but are empowered to take action when they see the abuse occurring.
- A ban on ball games in Craners Road and Harnell Lane East. Ball games pose a significant threat to property and greatly increase noise levels and anti-social behaviour in residential areas. Parks were created for the playing of ball games. Sometimes older youths play football on Harnell Lane East late at night which poses a significant risk of accidents.
- A more proactive approach to giving youngsters something useful to do with their time during the long summer break and frequent holidays that punctuate the academic calendar. Every child should have a learning action plan for the holidays that (ideally) includes activities provided by schools or organisations that provide a safe environment.
- More incentives for parents to supervise and exercise control over young children. We are appalled at the numbers of very young children who careen around this area often late at night. Aside from the risks this poses, it is hard to see how these children can ever succeed academically. We think schools should be providing workshops for parents on the latter's responsibility for helping their children succeed at their studies, i.e. keeping them off the streets and providing a stable home environment.

Coventry Council spends very little money improving the area in which we live. Enclosed is a petition signed by residents who want to know what practicable steps you will take to address the issues raised in this letter.

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