
To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 20 November 20205

Subject: Update on City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the action taken in relation to the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) further to the Order being amended on the 21st November 2023 to include restrictions to e-bikes and e-scooters in the city centre.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
 - 1) Consider the briefing note and appendix
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member or partners organisations.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 Cabinet approved the renewal of the City Centre PSPO on 13th June 2023. Cabinet also approved the submission of a progress report to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to allow them to monitor the impact of the Order.
- 3.2 At their meeting on 7th November 2023 Cabinet considered a report on the amendment of the City Centre PSPO which included the requirement for e-bikes and e-scooter riders to dismount when entering the designated area in the city centre.
- 3.3 At that meeting, Cabinet noted Scrutiny Coordination Committee's concerns regarding enforcement of the amendments to the PSPO in terms of police capacity and priority within the city centre.
- 3.4 A briefing note was provided to Scrutiny Coordination Committee in August 2024 outlining the actions taken to engage and educate e-bike and e-scooter riders as well as the general public about the order and to ensure it could be adequately managed and enforced.
- 3.5 Actions proposed, and implemented included an education campaign, signage, training for officers, joint patrols and larger multi agency operations to bring in regional resources as needed.

4 Progress Update – Enforcement

- 4.1 Members expressed concerns regarding the availability of sufficient officers within the city centre to adequately manage the PSPO. This was applicable to both council enforcement officers as well as questioning whether the Police would be able to dedicate officers to managing the PSPO if demand was high elsewhere.
- 4.2 A new role of Community Warden has been created as part of the Community Safety Team restructure. There is currently one Community Warden post filled, and we will shortly be appointing another. The Community Warden role appointed to is predominantly city centre based, and the shift pattern provides much needed availability at weekends and early evening. Their primary duties are to provide a reassuring presence by engaging, educating and enforcing all aspects of the PSPO's that are live in the city centre.
- 4.3 Police now have a dedicated officer that acts as a point of contact for partners and helps to coordinate ongoing joint patrols and operations at a local level.
- 4.4 We have established a City Centre Case management meeting where problematic individuals and issues are discussed in more detail and it also enables greater joint working between partners.
- 4.5 We have held many joint operations in the city centre with the Police, that has included local agencies as well as regional and national resources. This has included West Midlands Police force wide resources including traffic support, pursuit riders, drones and similar.
- 4.6 We look to engage with community groups and similar wherever possible. We are in regular contact with The Disability Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) and attend meetings as appropriate.
- 4.7 Elected members have been invited and have attended/observed some of the multi-agency operations that have taken place in the city centre. Should any member wish to attend specific operations or similar we will always look to accommodate them.
- 4.8 We have been engaging with the Council's Migration Team and key third sector partners to reach out to the asylum-seeking population of the city to warn them about the dangers of being exploited by working illegally for food delivery firms.
- 4.9 Alongside the Business Improvement District (BID) we seek feedback from businesses and stakeholders in the city centre with regards to their opinions on matters affecting them and their customers
- 4.10 We continue to monitor signage around the City Centre, renewing signs as needed should they become damaged or defaced. It should be noted that we have not had a single case where a Fixed Penalty Notice has been appealed on the basis that the rider was unaware or hadn't seen any signage.

5 Results

- 5.1 Detailed results can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.2 We have issued 25 Fixed Penalty Notices to e-bike and e-scooter riders in the three months between August-October 2025. The practical difficulties with officers on foot compelling riders on bikes to stop are considerable, but equally were officers to be on bikes also any pursuit would also potentially pose increased risks to pedestrians, so it felt our current approach is the most appropriate.

- 5.3 It should be noted that current methods of recording enforcement interactions has improved because of a Home Office initiative targeting city centres over the summer. It is our intention to carry on with this recording process as we can recognise the improvements it brings in better expressing the current situation in the city centre.
- 5.4 In addition to the PSPO powers, policing partners have seized 35 illegal e-bikes between August-October 2025 as the e-bikes have been modified to increase their speed, which then means they are a motor vehicle and require appropriate insurance. This emphasises the importance of getting regional support and a multi-agency approach to dealing with the issues we see in the city.
- 5.5 Overall, it is felt that we are seeing an improved picture with regards to how we are addressing the issue of e-bikes and e-scooters in the city centre through effective engagement, education and enforcement.
- 5.6 We must be pragmatic and also recognise that pedal cycles are permitted in the restricted areas. Whilst we can act against pedal cycles riding in a reckless manner, the practicalities of getting them to stop is still an issue. Equally some people cannot tell the difference between pedal and electric cycles and as such some reports of "E-bikes" in the restricted areas may in fact be pedal cycles, which are permitted.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 The following next steps that will be taken to improve the compliance of the City Centre PSPO as follows:
 - a) We will continue to use action days with our partners in West Midlands Police and the Business Improvement District (BID). This will also include partners from Immigration Services to check the work status of riders wherever possible.
 - b) Community Wardens will link in with Council and partner agencies to concentrate on PSPO enforcement in the city centre

7 Health Inequalities Impact

- 7.1 A full Health Inequalities Impact assessment was completed as part of the implementation of the City Centre PSPO.

8 Community Engagement

- 8.1 As a result of the restructure of the Community Safety Team we have appointed a communities lead who will play a key role in developing our approach to promoting safety and engagement throughout the city. This will seek to align with policing colleagues as well as build on the ongoing dialogue that we already have in place which includes Disability and Equalities Action Panel, faith partnership meeting and Police briefings to Councillors.

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