

Agenda

Overview Committee

Thursday

5 November 2026

at 7.00 pm

The Guildhall
St Peter's Place
Canterbury
CT1 2DB

Membership of the Overview Committee

Councillor Pat Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Beth Forrester (Vice Chair)
Councillor James Flanagan
Councillor Mike Bland
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Jean Butcher
Councillor Liz Harvey
Councillor Stuart Heaver
Councillor Tom Mellish
Councillor Peter Old
Councillor Alex Ricketts
Councillor Jeanette Stockley
Councillor David Thomas

Quorum: 7 councillors

NOTES

1. Members of the public may speak at meetings of the Committee so long as they contact Democratic Services by 12.30pm the working day before the meeting.
2. The venue for the meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.
3. Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever non-disruptive methods you think are suitable. If you are intending to do this please mention it to the Democratic Services Officer and do not use flash photograph unless you have previously asked whether you may do so. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office).

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If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then, in conjunction with this, all rights to record the meeting are removed.

4. The information contained within this agenda is available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audio cassettes and other languages.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services, 01227 862009,
democracy@canterbury.gov.uk

A G E N D A

Page (s)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLORS

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TO RECEIVE any declarations for the following in so far as they relate to the business for the meeting:-

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- b. Other Significant Interests (what were previously thought of as non-pecuniary Prejudicial interests)
- c. Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests

Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests not required to be disclosed as DPI's or OSI's, ie announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

- Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- Where a Councillor knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- Where an item would affect the well-being of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may speak on any item on the agenda, for a maximum of three minutes, provided that notification has been given to Democratic Services by 12.30pm on the working day before the meeting.

(Please note: for items on this agenda that are being recommended to Cabinet, public speaking is only permitted at the Overview Committee meeting.)

To find out more [visit this page](#).

- 5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2026** 6 - 11
- To confirm as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview Committee held on 8 October 2026.
- 6 PROPOSED CANTERBURY CITY PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)** 12 - 124
- TO CONSIDER the report of Marie Royle, Director of People and Lora McCourt, Head of Locality Services.
- 7 DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)** 125 - 174
- TO CONSIDER the report of Marie Royle, Director of People and Lora McCourt, Head of Locality Services.
- 8 REVIEW OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES** 175 - 190
- TO CONSIDER the report of Marie Royle, Director of People and Lora McCourt, Head of Locality Services.
- 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 7 pm, Thursday 21 January 2026.
- 10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC**
- 11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**
- TO RESOLVE – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.
- 12 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH**

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 8th October, 2026
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury**

Present: Coouncillor Pat Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Beth Forrester
Councillor Mike Bland
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Jean Butcher
Councillor James Flanagan
Councillor Liz Harvey
Councillor Alex Ricketts
Councillor David Thomas
Councillor Clare Turnbull (present as a substitute)

In attendance Councillor Pip Hazelton, Cabinet Member for Housing

Officers: Pippa Tritton - Democratic Services Officer
William Hicks - Director for Place
Sue Brown - Homeless Policy and Programme Manager
Tracy Chambers - Head of Housing & Community
Gary Peskett* - Strategic Housing Manager

(*present for part of the meeting)

313 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Heaver, Mellish, Old and Jeanette Stockley.

314 SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLORS

Councillor Turnbull was present as a substitute for Councillor Heaver.

315 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to Item 7, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Plan to end Homelessness, Councillor Flanagan made a voluntary announcement that he was a co-opted member of Canterbury Housing Advice Centre (CHAC).

316 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was noted that there were no public speakers registered for the meeting.

317 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2026 were agreed as a true record.

318 **TENANCY POLICY AND TENANCY STRATEGY**

The Housing Strategy Manager introduced the report which advised that approval had been granted by Management Team in May 2026 to consult on the principles of a draft Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy.

The draft documents represented a light touch refresh of the versions adopted by Council in December 2020 and had been updated to reflect changes in national housing policy, legislation, regulatory requirements and Council policy. The amendments were minor, with most of the existing content retained.

The Chair advised that comments would be considered by Cabinet when making its final decision on the Draft Housing Strategy on 7 December 2026.

Councillors debated the report and made comments, with clarification provided by the Housing Strategy Manager where required:

- Officers were thanked for the work undertaken.
- Concern was expressed that changes in the wider housing market, particularly the impact of the Renters' Rights Act and changes affecting private landlords, could reduce the availability of private rented accommodation within the district.
- It was suggested that the new council receive a report after the May elections reviewing the impact of the new tenancy policies and wider housing market changes.
- Officers advised that the effects on the private rented sector were more appropriately considered through the Housing Strategy but confirmed that a future progress report could be brought forward if requested.
- Clarification was sought on the status of the Tenancy Strategy and the extent to which Registered Providers were required to comply with it.
- Officers advised that while the Council was required to produce a Tenancy Strategy, Registered Providers were not legally required to follow it. The strategy was intended to influence good practice and reflect the legislative framework governing social housing.
- Members suggested that the Tenancy Policy should more explicitly reference the support available to tenants before enforcement action was taken, including benefit advice and tenancy sustainment services.
- Questions were raised regarding provisions allowing tenancies to be ended on change of income grounds and whether this could place some households at financial disadvantage.
- It was suggested that references to domestic abuse within the Tenancy Policy should more clearly distinguish between perpetrators and victims/survivors and better align with existing legislation and the Tenancy Strategy.
- Officers advised that much of the wording reflected statutory requirements and housing legislation and therefore could not be significantly altered. However, consultation feedback regarding tenancy sustainment and support services would be considered before finalising the documents.
- Assurance was provided that the Council's objective was to support tenants in sustaining their tenancies wherever possible.

- Concern was expressed regarding the low consultation response rate, whether consultation invitations had reached the intended recipients, and the reliance on electronic communication.
- Questions were raised regarding the use of generic email addresses, monitoring of engagement and opportunities to improve future consultation responses.
- Officers confirmed that over 600 consultation invitations had been issued across a wide range of organisations, statutory consultees, parish councils, community groups, registered providers and members of the public.
- It was acknowledged that consultation databases may require review and that future engagement should be more targeted and make better use of tenant contact information.
- Councillors welcomed the positive feedback received through the Residents' Engagement Panel and suggested that direct communication with tenants could be considered for future consultations.
- Questions were raised regarding the potential impact of flexible tenancies offered by Registered Providers and whether some tenants could be disadvantaged compared with Council tenants.
- Officers advised that most Registered Providers operating in the district offered assured tenancies and therefore tenants were unlikely to be significantly disadvantaged.
- It was confirmed that no specific assessment had been undertaken regarding potential disadvantage arising from tenancy types, although officers could seek further information from Registered Providers operating in the district.
- Clarification was sought regarding succession rights and how tenants and family members were informed about succession provisions.
- Officers advised that only one statutory succession was permitted and that relevant information was provided when a succession was formalised.
- Questions were asked about the promotion of crisis and resilience support and other forms of tenancy sustainment assistance.
- Officers advised that tenancy sustainment services were covered by supporting housing management policies which sat beneath the Tenancy Policy framework.
- Members sought clarification regarding engagement with Registered Providers, including circumstances where social housing stock was sold or transferred.
- Officers advised that Registered Providers generally consulted the Council regarding stock disposals and were expected to have arrangements in place to protect affected tenants.
- Questions were raised regarding support available to tenants affected by domestic abuse.
- Officers outlined the Council's work towards Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation and highlighted the range of support available, including tenancy sustainment services, reciprocal arrangements with neighbouring authorities, trained housing officers and homelessness assistance where required.
- Assurance was provided that the Council sought wherever possible to enable domestic abuse survivors to retain their tenancy and access appropriate support.
- Clarification was sought regarding the impact of forthcoming legislative changes on the Canterbury Lettings Agency.
- Officers advised that the agency operated as a managing agent rather than as a landlord and already worked primarily with assured tenancies, meaning legislative changes were unlikely to have a significant impact.

- Officers accepted that future consultation exercises could benefit from more targeted use of tenant contact information, including postal communications where appropriate.
- Officers emphasised that existing Council tenants were not disadvantaged by the proposed revisions and noted that the decision not to offer new flexible tenancies represented an improvement in security for future tenants.

The Chair advised that comments would be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration as part of its deliberations on the report.

The report was NOTED.

319 **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY AND PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS**

(Councillor Flanagan made a voluntary announcement that he was a co-opted member of Canterbury Housing Advice Centre (CHAC).)

The Head of Housing and Community introduced the report which set out the vision and priorities for Canterbury City Council to prevent homelessness, reduce rough sleeping, improve outcomes for vulnerable residents and meet statutory duties through the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Homeless Action Plan.

Following the introduction, Councillor Pip Hazelton, Cabinet Member for Housing addressed the committee. She highlighted the increasing pressures contributing to homelessness and rough sleeping across the district and noted that whilst the Strategy would not resolve those issues, it formed an important part of a wider partnership approach to addressing them.

Councillors debated the report and made comments, with clarification being provided by the Head of Housing and Community where required:

- Members welcomed the report and thanked officers for the clear and comprehensive strategy.
- It was noted that Members would welcome greater detail on how the strategy would be delivered, including timescales, responsibilities, funding arrangements, and performance monitoring.
- Clarification was sought regarding how delivery of the strategy would be monitored and overseen through existing Council arrangements and it was suggested that this could be explained more clearly within the document.
- It was suggested that the strategy could include a simple flowchart or supporting information setting out how homelessness cases were managed, including referral, assessment and allocation processes.
- Officers advised that the strategy provided the high-level framework required by Government and that a detailed action plan would be developed through a strategic partnership group.
- Officers confirmed that the action plan would identify responsibilities, target dates and accountability arrangements, and agreed to provide greater clarity regarding governance arrangements.
- Members welcomed the inclusion of rural housing issues within the strategy and highlighted growing housing pressures within rural communities.
- It was emphasised that engagement with parish councils would be important when developing outreach events and advice sessions within villages.

- Concern was expressed regarding the limited availability of social rented housing in some rural areas and the challenges faced by rural workers and young people seeking to remain within their communities.
- Members highlighted the decline in traditional tied and rent-free accommodation provided to agricultural workers and the impact this could have on future housing need.
- It was suggested that opportunities for affordable housing delivery through rural exception sites could be explored further.
- Members highlighted the relationship between planning policy and rural housing need and suggested closer engagement with planning services on these issues.
- Officers agreed to consider the comments raised regarding rural housing issues and to discuss relevant planning matters with colleagues.
- It was suggested that parish councils could play a greater role in identifying residents who may be at risk of homelessness and in supporting early intervention.
- Members noted that parish councils often lacked knowledge of homelessness services and referral pathways and suggested that training and guidance could be provided. Officers welcomed the suggestion and agreed that greater partnership working with parish councils could support homelessness prevention work.
- Questions were raised regarding the potential use of modular housing schemes to provide additional temporary accommodation.
- Concerns were also raised regarding the impact of development viability assessments on the delivery of affordable housing.
- Members queried whether the strategy adequately reflected the housing pressures arising from prison releases.
- Officers advised that a range of housing options, including modular housing and property acquisition, were being explored to increase accommodation provision.
- Officers confirmed that work was already taking place with local prisons to identify individuals at risk of homelessness on release and to provide support before discharge.
- It was noted that opportunities to strengthen these arrangements further were being considered, subject to available resources.
- Clarification was sought regarding the process for reporting rough sleeping, including in rural locations.
- Officers advised that concerns could be reported through StreetLink and that outreach teams would investigate reports and seek to engage with individuals requiring support. Officers would recirculate details of StreetLink to councillors.
- Concern was raised regarding an apparent increase in veterans seeking housing assistance and the importance of ensuring effective signposting and support for veterans at risk of homelessness.
- Questions were raised as to whether partner organisations had experienced an increase in approaches from veterans facing housing difficulties.
- Officers agreed to liaise with the Council's Veterans Champion and relevant partner organisations to review available information, consider whether additional support or signposting was required, and explore whether further reference to veterans should be included within the strategy.
- Members thanked officers for their comprehensive responses and welcomed the overall direction of the strategy.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote unanimously agreed:

TO RECOMMEND (to Cabinet) the approval of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Homelessness Action Plan.

Record of voting

For the proposal (10): Councillors Mike Bland, Dane Buckman, Jean Butcher, Pat Edwards, Beth Forrester, James Flanagan, Liz Harvey, Alex Ricketts, David Thomas and Clare Turnbull.

Against the proposal (0)

Abstained/absent (0)

320 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7pm, Thursday 5 November 2026.

321 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN PUBLIC

There was no business under this item.

322 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

323 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH

There was no business under this item.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Overview Committee
5 November 2026

Subject: Proposed Canterbury City PSPO

Director and Head of Service:

Marie Royle – Director, People

Lora McCourt – Head of Locality Services

Officer:

Lacy Dixon – Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager

Cabinet Member:

Cllr Connie Nolan

Key or Non-Key decision: Key**Decision Issues:**

These matters are within the authority of the Cabinet.

Is any of the information exempt from publication:

This report is open to the public.

CCC ward(s): Barton, Northgate, St Stephens, Westgate and Wincheap

The proposed City Order which can be found in Appendix 3 would apply within the mapped restricted area covering public places in the Barton, Northgate, St Stephen's, Westgate and Wincheap wards.

The restricted area is defined by the black outline on the map accompanying the Order. The existing ward boundaries and names remain in effect until 6 May 2027 and are referenced for convenience only. Changes to ward boundaries from that date will not alter the restricted area or its enforceability; the mapped black outline will remain the definitive boundary of the Canterbury City PSPO.

Summary and purpose of the report:

Canterbury City Council is reviewing its City PSPO arrangements. The current Canterbury City Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was due to expire on 7 January 2027.

Following the findings reported to Council on 22 October 2026 under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is proposed that the current PSPO is discharged as soon as possible as it is not lawful.

Delegated authority is provided to the Director of People at section C11, Part 8.1 of the

Constitution “to extend, vary or discharge PSPOs in consultation with the Cabinet Member. Where there was a public consultation on any extension, variation or discharge of PSPOs, where a Councillor makes a sustained objection, it will be referred to Cabinet for a decision.” The Director of People will therefore consult with the Cabinet member on the proposed discharge and if agreed will issue a Decision Notice or refer to Cabinet if necessary. This report proposes to make a new Canterbury City PSPO when Cabinet has made a decision.

Public and stakeholder consultation took place between 19 June and 11 September 2026 and received 187 responses. The evidence supports retaining targeted controls on public drinking associated with nuisance or disorder and behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress; public urination and defecation; graffiti, fly-posting and unauthorised notices; and anti-social behaviour by delivery riders. The report also asks Members to consider the most proportionate approach to excessive amplification and whether wildfire prevention measures should be included in this Order or addressed through other controls.

The proposed new Order would apply for three years from the date of adoption. Overview Committee is asked to consider the consultation evidence, proposed requirements, and to provide comments and recommendations before Cabinet considers whether to make the Order.

TO CONSIDER:

Whether to make a new Order and, if so, which requirements listed in Table 1 should be retained, removed or added, and the preferred approach to wildfire prevention.

Next stage in process:

Cabinet will consider the feedback and recommendations of Overview Committee and decide whether to make the new City PSPO and confirm its commencement date.

1. Introduction

1.1 Local authorities may make Public Spaces Protection Orders under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A PSPO may impose proportionate prohibitions or requirements in a defined public place where activities have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; the effect is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing; and the effect is, or is likely to be, unreasonable.

1.2 A PSPO should be evidence-led, necessary and proportionate. It should target the harmful behaviour identified rather than unnecessarily restricting the lawful use of public space. The Council must also consider enforceability, equality, human rights, safeguarding, and whether other powers or interventions would provide a more appropriate response.

1.3 A PSPO may last for up to three years. It may be varied, extended, or discharged where the statutory tests and consultation requirements are met.

1.4 The proposed Canterbury City PSPO has been developed following review of the discharged city Order, public consultation, stakeholder engagement and assessment against the statutory tests.

1.5 Member scrutiny provides an opportunity to test the evidence base, proportionality, practical enforceability and potential impacts of the proposals before Cabinet makes their

decision.

2. Detail

The proposed City Order which can be found in Appendix 3 would apply within the mapped restricted area covering public places in the current Barton, Northgate, St Stephen's, Westgate and Wincheap wards (see Appendix 3 for black line boundary).

The restricted area is defined by the black outline on the map accompanying the Order. The existing ward boundaries and names remain in effect until 6 May 2027 and are referenced for convenience only. Changes to ward boundaries from that date will not alter the restricted area or its enforceability; the mapped black outline will remain the definitive boundary of the Canterbury City PSPO.

Table 1 below summarises how the provisions that would be retained, removed, and new provisions proposed for inclusion.

TABLE 1		
Retain	Evidence	Comments and officer response
1. Shouting, swearing or otherwise acting in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person within the designated area, on adjacent land or to persons living nearby.	Shouting, swearing or otherwise acting in a manner to cause harassment, alarm or distress: 57.8% witnessed; 57.4% of witnesses reported repeated occurrence; 56.7% reported a large or very large impact. Evidence provided by Canterbury BID also confirms that 30–40% of reports recorded on its DISC system relate to anti-social behaviour, including conduct covered by this proposed clause.	Retain The consultation evidence shows that shouting, swearing and other conduct causing harassment, alarm or distress remain recurring issues with a significant impact on people using, working in and living near the city centre. The clause targets the harmful effect and context of the behaviour, rather than prohibiting shouting or swearing in isolation. Retaining it would provide a clear and proportionate means of addressing a continuing problem, with enforcement based on the circumstances of each case.
2. Urinating or defecating in a public place, including the doorway or alcove of	27.8% witnessed; 36.3% reported a large or very large impact.	Retain Although the proportion of consultation respondents

premises to which the public has direct or implied access.	Council records indicate that up to five Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for public urination or defecation during the last three years. Officer evidence indicates that a significant number of warnings have also been issued during this period. Anecdotal evidence provided by businesses during the consultation indicates that this is a recurring issue, with staff regularly required to clean affected doorways.	who reported witnessing this behaviour was relatively low, the operational evidence indicates that it is encountered more frequently than formal enforcement figures alone suggest. Public urination and defecation can leave businesses facing unpleasant cleaning tasks and additional costs, make premises less welcoming to customers, and expose residents and visitors to waste and odours. This reduces enjoyment of public spaces and detracts from the city's appearance and visitor experience.
3. Defacing by graffiti, flyposting or affixing any notice, picture or sign on any structure, object or surface, temporarily or permanently, without the owner's permission.	15.5% witnessed; 21.4% reported a large or very large impact, supplemented by operational reporting data which identifies that there are problems with this in the area. Graffiti-removal records show that 4,128 reports were marked as removed by the Council and Canenco in 2025, compared with 4,375 in 2024, 3,471 in 2023 and 2,361 in 2022. Operational reporting also identifies continuing problems in the area.	Retain Although fewer consultation respondents reported witnessing this behaviour, operational reports demonstrate a continuing issue. The Council's graffiti team responds to public reports and proactively identifies and removes graffiti while out in the district, rather than relying solely on reporting. This is supported by hotspot monitoring, prevention work and engagement with property owners to tackle repeat occurrences. Graffiti can leave businesses facing removal and repainting costs, particularly where damage is repeated or exceeds the Council's free removal offer. It detracts from the appearance of premises and public spaces and can create an impression of neglect and disorder, undermining residents' confidence and visitors'

		perceptions of the city. Removal alone addresses the damage, rather than preventing the behaviour. Retaining the provision would provide a clear deterrent and a proportionate enforcement route to complement proactive cleaning and prevention.
4. Anti-social behaviour by delivery riders, including aggressive driving or riding, dangerous manoeuvres, excessive noise, danger to other road users, damage or risk of damage to private property, and harassment from vehicles.	62.6% witnessed; 86.3% of witnesses reported frequent occurrence; 55.1% reported a large or very large impact.	Retain This is an ongoing problem in the city, the consultation evidenced that the public felt this was an issue. We have tackled this previously through joint operations with the police.
5. Stop drinking alcohol or hand over sealed or unsealed containers containing alcohol when asked by an Authorised Person who reasonably believes this is necessary to prevent or reduce public nuisance or disorder.	52.4% witnessed; 58.2% of witnesses reported repeated occurrence; 45.4% reported a large or very large impact.	Retain The consultation identifies recurring alcohol-related nuisance or disorder with a substantial reported impact on those who encounter it. Such behaviour can make residents and visitors feel intimidated, discourage use of public spaces and leave businesses managing disruption affecting staff and customers. Retaining this provision would enable authorised officers to intervene where they reasonably believe that requiring a person to stop drinking or surrender alcohol is necessary to prevent or reduce public nuisance or disorder, helping to address problems before they escalate. The provision is not a blanket ban on drinking alcohol in public: it targets the associated nuisance or disorder, rather than responsible consumption. It would complement

		engagement and support, with officers considering individual circumstances, vulnerability and any safeguarding or referral needs when deciding on proportionate action.
6. Provide a name and address when asked by an Authorised Person who reasonably believes the person has breached the Order.		Retain This is a standard requirement to enable the officer to enforce the PSPO
Remove	Evidence	Comments and officer response
7. Persistent begging, involving more than one occasion and including passive and active means to receive alms	The consultation did not ask a separate question about persistent or passive begging. Relevant comments raised concerns about aggressive begging and conduct causing harassment, alarm or distress; these behaviours are covered by the retained control 1. above and other available powers See additional note below.	Remove Passive begging should not be restricted solely because it occurs repeatedly. Conduct causing harassment, alarm or distress can be addressed through the retained control or other available powers, while outreach, safeguarding and homelessness support remain the more appropriate response.
New	Evidence	Comments and officer response
9. From 1 April to 30 September, not light any fire of any type, including barbecues, camping stoves, open fires or fire pits, or set off any firework or night sky lantern.	Wildfire consultation - 202 responses. 24.8% witnessed a wildfire, grass fire or uncontrolled outdoor fire; 45.6% considered this to have a large or very large impact on quality of life. Support was high for restrictions on smoking materials (97.1%), fireworks (92%), barbecues (92%) and open fires or fire pits	The proposed seasonal control would prohibit fires, barbecues, camping stoves, fire pits, fireworks, and sky lanterns in designated public spaces. Options 1. Include seasonal wildfire restrictions where the evidence meets the statutory tests and the controls are necessary, proportionate

	(90.6%). 69.8% considered a PSPO an appropriate mechanism to reduce wildfire risk See additional note below	and enforceable. 2. Exclude wildfire restrictions from the Order and address risk through existing byelaw where applicable, land-management controls, signage, education and temporary restrictions during elevated fire risk.
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Additional notes:

i. Amplification and street performance feedback

Feedback was mixed but broadly recognised the cultural and social value of street performance. Of the 58 respondents, 58.6% had experienced issues. The most commonly reported concerns were excessive noise (27.6%) and amplified music or speech (19.0%), together with performers remaining in one location for extended periods and the cumulative effect of general city-centre noise. The feedback did not suggest that street performance itself should be restricted. Business feedback similarly favoured practical guidance and proportionate enforcement rather than prohibition.

Respondents favoured practical management: 60.3% supported clearer amplification guidance, 51.7% supported time restrictions, 32.8% supported longer breaks, 46.6% supported greater awareness of the existing Code and 32.8% supported stronger complaint-response arrangements. Businesses similarly recognised the atmosphere and vibrancy created by performers, but reported that prolonged use of a fixed location can detract from nearby premises and affect staff. The evidence therefore supports proportionate management of sound, duration and location rather than a general restriction on performers.

The Council can investigate noise under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and, where it amounts to a statutory nuisance, serve an Abatement Notice. This established route requires sufficient evidence that the statutory threshold has been met.

The proposed PSPO would provide a complementary route only where behaviour and its impact cause harassment, alarm or distress and the wording of requirement 1 is met. It would not prohibit street performance or amplification as activities.

ii. Busking Code

The existing voluntary Busking Code sets expectations on sound levels, performance duration, breaks and locations, and supports concerns being resolved through discussion.

The Council welcomes street performance as a positive part of the city's cultural life. Musicians, singers, dancers, spoken-word artists, living-statue performers and other entertainers add character, creativity and vibrancy to public spaces and enhance the experience of residents and visitors.

This supports the Canterbury City Council Cultural Strategy by encouraging cultural activity and participation and strengthening Canterbury's profile as a destination for cultural experiences.

The Code will be revised and co-produced with the Council's Cultural team as a broader Street Performer Guide covering busking, preaching and other artistic expression. The Guide will set an appropriate maximum time in one location, with options including one hour, two hours or another limit.

The Guide will provide practical guidance on sound levels, duration, breaks, rotation between locations and responding to concerns. Signage at commonly used performance locations and wider communications will promote the Guide to performers, businesses and the public.

Residents, visitors and businesses will be encouraged to raise concerns directly with performers by reference to the Guide. If agreement cannot be reached, the Council's Enforcement Team may remind the performer of the Guide, seek voluntary compliance and, where necessary, ask them to move location.

iii. Wildfire prevention measures

The Secretary of State's letter of 14 August 2026 encouraged councils to review and use existing measures, including byelaws, alongside prevention messaging and partnership working to help prevent wildfires. It also encouraged consideration of PSPOs where justified by local evidence and the statutory tests. The letter did not require every council to introduce a PSPO or remove the need to demonstrate necessity and proportionality.

The council has an existing byelaw which covers Dane John Gardens, Norman Castle grounds, Westgate Gardens and Whitstable Castle grounds. The byelaw prohibits lighting fires in these grounds however is silent on use of barbecues, stoves, fireworks and lanterns.

In addition, our Transport and Environment team has been working with Kent Fire and Rescue service to identify ways to design out fire risk in some of our open spaces.

Given the letter and extreme heat over summer months and a number of reported fires, a separate wildfire consultation was carried out and received 202 responses. Of respondents, 24.8% had directly witnessed a wildfire, grass fire or uncontrolled outdoor fire, and 45.6% considered such incidents to have a large or very large impact on quality of life. Support was high for restrictions on smoking materials (97.1%), fireworks (92%), barbecues (92%) and open fires or fire pits (90.6%). In total, 69.8% considered a PSPO an appropriate mechanism to reduce wildfire risk.

The proposed seasonal control would apply from 1 April to 30 September and would prohibit fires, barbecues, camping stoves, fire pits, fireworks and sky lanterns in designated public spaces. Members should consider whether the evidence demonstrates that each prohibited activity meets the statutory tests within the proposed city restricted area, and whether a PSPO is necessary and proportionate compared with existing byelaws, land-management controls, signage, education and temporary restrictions during elevated fire risk.

iv. Removal of the prohibition on persistent begging

The previous Order banned persistent begging because at that time there was an issue with this. The new Order would not include this ban. Officers do not feel that this requirement is a

current or continued issue that needs addressing as it had been previously.

Behaviour linked to begging that causes harassment, alarm or distress could still be addressed through the order, or through other available powers. This change means that quietly accepting donations would not be restricted simply because it happens repeatedly. Some of the begging may relate to rough sleepers, and the council's outreach team will continue to work with individuals to ensure that they are safeguarded, supported and helped into a new home.

Enforcement and implementation

Although PSPOs are made by the council, the Canterbury City PSPO may be enforced by police constables, police community support officers, Council enforcement officers and any other person authorised by the council. The council's external enforcement contractor may also enforce the Order, including by issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).

Enforcement will focus on behaviour within the restricted area that breaches the Order, including alcohol-related nuisance or disorder; shouting, swearing or conduct causing harassment, alarm or distress; public urination or defecation; graffiti, fly-posting or unauthorised notices; anti-social behaviour by delivery riders; and any additional controls included in the final Order. The approach will progress from information and engagement, through education and behaviour change, to challenge and enforcement. Where appropriate, an FPN may be issued as an alternative to prosecution. Authorised officers will determine the most appropriate action case by case, acting lawfully, proportionately and with appropriate discretion.

The council will monitor its contractor through regular meetings, quality checks and, where complaints are received, review of body-worn camera footage. Officers and the contractor will receive detailed information about the Canterbury City PSPO, the restricted area, the evidence required to establish a breach and the council's expectations for proportionate enforcement. The implementation plan will also cover training, patrol priorities, recording, escalation and quality assurance.

The council will ensure that residents, businesses and visitors are aware of the Canterbury City PSPO and the area and activities to which it applies. The final Order and map will be published online, and clear signage and supporting information will be provided within the restricted area. Communications will explain both the prohibited behaviour and the circumstances in which authorised officers may require a person to stop drinking alcohol, surrender an alcohol container or provide their name and address.

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

We want to make residents feel safer and happier about where they live and make sure that Canterbury continues to be a great destination to visit. The use of PSPOs contributes significantly to this, and to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of making our district greener, better and stronger.

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

Public and stakeholder consultation on the proposed Canterbury City PSPO took place between 19 June and 11 September 2026. A total of 187 responses were received, predominantly from residents (72.2%). Overall, 65.8% described anti-social behaviour in Canterbury city centre as a very serious or fairly serious issue. For the individual activities reported, between 92% and 99% of respondents who identified an issue said they had witnessed it personally.

The consultation was promoted through the Council's online consultation platform, communications and social-media channels, stakeholder networks and direct engagement. In addition to the survey, officers used public and business meetings to explain the proposals, answer questions and gather qualitative evidence about the operation and enforcement of the existing Order.

Public engagement event: A Canterbury City PSPO public meeting was held on 9 July 2026. Residents discussed the scope and mapped area of the Order, reporting routes, patrol visibility, signage, anti-social riding, youth-related anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping and conduct causing harassment, and how businesses and licensed premises respond to incidents. Officers explained the Council's online reporting arrangements, links with Canterbury Tactical Group, patrol activity and the proposed communications approach.

Business and stakeholder engagement: Officers attended a Canterbury City BID meeting on 4 September 2026 with business and partner representatives. Discussion covered delivery-rider behaviour, engagement with delivery companies and businesses, reporting and response arrangements, weekend enforcement capacity, and the proposed amplification provision. Businesses also discussed the voluntary Busking Code, performance duration, amplified music and speech, evidential requirements and the need to balance effective intervention with the cultural and commercial benefits of busking.

Consultation results are not treated as a public vote.

The Council must consider the responses alongside operational evidence, complaints, partner information and legal advice, and determine whether each proposed control satisfies the statutory tests and is necessary and proportionate.

Overview Committee is being consulted as part of the process to support openness and accountability and to provide recommendations for Cabinet.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

The requirements proposed have undergone a robust check and challenge process and are all under pinned by consultation and evidence gathered. Feedback from Overview is being sought on the requirements that are being proposed.

Overview is asked to recommend to Cabinet whether to create a new Order and which of the requirements listed in Table 1 are retained, removed or newly added.

6. Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment

The recommendation of this committee will be presented to Cabinet as part of this decision-making process.

A PSPO provides the council and the police with an additional tool to deal with anti-social behaviour related issues in the area it applies to.

There is a statutory process that needs to be followed to create a new Order, and this process has been completed.

Any suggestion that fundamentally changes the proposals or introduces a new restriction not previously consulted upon may require further evidence gathering and consultation.

7. Implications

(a) Financial

The new Canterbury City PSPO will have some budgetary implications, including the provision and maintenance of appropriate signage and public-awareness communications. These costs are expected to be met from existing budgets.

Some of the enforcement and issuing of FPNs will be delivered through the council's external contract, this is at no cost to the council. Unpaid FPNs may require prosecutions, this is at an additional cost to the council.

(b) Legal

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the legal framework for implementing and reviewing Public Spaces Protection Orders.

The Local Authority must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the Anti-Social Behaviour that has taken place has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and they will have a detrimental effect and the effect or likely effect of these activities is or is likely to be persistent and is or likely to be unreasonable.

Consultation has been carried out in accordance with legislative requirements. The requirements contained in the proposed Canterbury City PSPO have been informed by legal advice.

Enforcement powers are enacted in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

(c) Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 5).

The Order is intended to benefit residents, businesses and visitors by reducing behaviour that causes nuisance, harassment, alarm, distress or disorder in the city centre. Potential negative impacts include financial penalties for people on low incomes, communication barriers for people who do not speak English as a first language, and disproportionate effects on vulnerable people. Mitigation includes removing the general prohibition on passive begging, targeting harmful conduct rather than status or circumstance, accessible information, individualised and proportionate enforcement decisions, support and safeguarding referrals, and monitoring of enforcement outcomes.

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity

A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 4).

The proposal is expected to have a broadly neutral to positive environmental effect. The core controls support responsible use of public spaces, while any wildfire measures included in the final Order would seek to reduce the risk of damage to habitats, biodiversity and public land. Enforcement journeys may create emissions; these will be mitigated through targeted

deployment, efficient scheduling and the Council's wider approach to lower-emission vehicles.

Other implications

(e) Staffing resource

The proposals will be delivered through existing staffing resources, with officers deployed to target issues and locations as appropriate. No additional staffing requirement is anticipated because some enforcement activity, including the issue of FPNs, will be delivered through the Council's external contract.

(f) Human rights issues

Regulations are applied consistently and staff operate within the framework of dignity, fairness, respect, and equality. Care will be taken to ensure that certain individuals are not unduly marginalised or disproportionately affected by the provisions.

(g) Crime and disorder

The Council must consider the effect of its decisions on community safety and ensure that they contribute to reducing crime and disorder in the district. The proposed Canterbury City PSPO is intended to support this duty by providing proportionate controls and enforcement powers in response to evidenced anti-social behaviour within the city-centre restricted area.

(h) Safeguarding children

The Council has a duty to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm when carrying out its functions. Where officers identify a risk of harm, appropriate safeguarding referrals will be made.

Contact Officer: Lacy Dixon – lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk

Background documents and appendices

Appendix 1a – Public Consultation Summary

Appendix 1b -

Appendix 2 – Busking in Canterbury City Centre: Public Consultation Evidence Report

Appendix 3 – Draft Proposed Canterbury City PSPO

Appendix 4 – Climate Change Impact Assessment;

Appendix 5 – Equality Impact Assessment

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

No

Public Space Protection Order City

Consultation report

September 2026

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1. Introduction

The council consulted on proposals to introduce a new Canterbury City Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the city centre, which would apply for three years from 2027.

The current PSPO is due to expire in January 2027.

The council proposed to renew it, including the addition of a new activity to address the use of amplification equipment at high volumes, which had resulted in a large number of complaints.

PSPOs are designed to tackle nuisance behaviour that affects the quality of other people's lives.

They allow police officers and council enforcement officers to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £100 where rules are not followed.

The survey asked for views on:

- how seriously anti-social behaviour affects life in Canterbury city centre
- whether respondents had witnessed any of the activities proposed for inclusion in the PSPO
- whether the activities listed should be included in the 2027 order
- whether the proposed area covered by the PSPO is appropriate
- whether the proposals would unfairly affect respondents or others

The consultation ran from Friday 19 June to Friday 11 September 2026.

2. Executive summary

A total of 187 responses were received.

The consultation also included a public meeting, a stakeholder workshop attended by 15 representatives and written representations.

Of the six activities included in the consultation, the proportion of respondents who said they had witnessed or experienced each activity in the previous 12 months was:

- anti-social behaviour associated with delivery riders: 117 respondents (62.6%)
- shouting, swearing or behaviour causing alarm, distress or harassment: 108 respondents (57.8%)
- drinking in public areas causing alarm, harassment or distress: 98 respondents (52.4%)
- excessive or intrusive amplified sound: 98 respondents (52.4%)
- urinating or defecating in a public space: 52 respondents (27.8%)
- graffitiing and fly-posting: 29 respondents (15.5%).

The number of respondents who reported that each activity had a large or very large effect on their quality of life was:

- shouting, swearing or behaviour causing alarm, distress or harassment: 106 respondents (56.7%)
- activities relating to delivery riders: 103 respondents (55.1%)
- drinking in public areas causing alarm, harassment or distress: 85 respondents (45.4%)
- excessive or intrusive amplified sound: 70 respondents (37.4%)
- urinating or defecating in a public space: 68 respondents (36.3%)
- graffitiing and fly-posting: 40 respondents (21.4%)

Overall, 99 respondents (53%) agreed or strongly agreed with the activities proposed for inclusion in the 2027 PSPO.

However, a recurring theme in responses relating to the proposed amplification provision was the value of busking and street performance.

59 comments referred to busking as contributing positively to Canterbury's character, culture or atmosphere.

A further 28 comments expressed a preference for controls on amplification rather than blanket restrictions.

112 respondents (59.9%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed areas of coverage, compared with 37 respondents (19.7%) who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Four written representations were included in the report from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Las Iguanas and Canterbury Business Improvement District.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner supported the proposed extension and variation, provided the findings of the public consultation being supportive of the extension and that there continues to be minimal impact on operational policing and that the order will predominately be supported through Council resources.

Canterbury BID expressed support for the proposed PSPO, alongside recommendations relating to the wording of provisions, enforcement, cycling, amplification and busking.

Las Iguanas Canterbury's representation focused on the impact of amplified performances on businesses and outdoor seating.

3. Consultation methodology

Consultation took place between Friday 19 June and Friday 11 September 2026.

The following methods were used to seek views:

- £ an online questionnaire
- £ a paper version of the questionnaire
- £ a public meeting at the Beaney Library in Canterbury
- £ a stakeholder engagement workshop was attended by 15 representatives from a range of community groups and organisations, including voluntary and charitable organisations, councillors, the police, businesses and cultural institutions
- £ written representations

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- £ an article on the council's newsroom site
- £ posts on the council's social media channels and in various Canterbury residents' groups
- £ Canterbury City Council corporate newsletters
- £ Canterbury BID newsletter
- £ Canterbury BID invitation to a stakeholder engagement workshop
- £ direct emails to a wide range of stakeholders encouraging them to respond to the consultation
- £ notifications sent to individuals who had requested to be informed about council consultations

Respondents also reported becoming aware of the consultation through a range of external sources that were not part of the council's formal promotional activity, including:

- local and regional media coverage, including the BBC, ITV, Radio Kent and local newspapers
- social media posts shared by residents in local Facebook groups and community forums
- residents' association newsletters
- online news websites

4. Findings

The survey asked respondents about their views on the seriousness of anti-social behaviour in the city centre.

Respondents were also asked whether they had witnessed or experienced each of six specific activities proposed for inclusion in the PSPO, the effect of each activity on their quality of life, their agreement with the proposed activities and area of coverage and whether the proposals would unfairly impact their activities or those of others.

For each activity, respondents were invited to provide additional comments in a free-text response.

Responses were reviewed and grouped into themes.

Where appropriate, longer responses have been broken down into separate comments to reflect multiple points raised.

The survey received 187 responses.

4.1 Respondent profile - overall

4.1.1 Respondents were asked: Which of the following best describes you?

135 respondents (72.2%) identified themselves as residents of the Canterbury district.

A smaller proportion were visitors (13.4%) or workers in the district (7%).

Eight responded on behalf of a business, organisation or community groups.

These were Cite Crepes, Happy & Glorious, Kent Council's Road Safety and Active Travel Team, McDonald's, a self-employed respondent, Westgate Punts, Canterbury BID and Siesta.

Three respondents were city, county, parish or town councillors and three selected 'Other'.

Which of the following best describes you?	Responses	%
A resident of the Canterbury district	135	72.2%
A visitor to the Canterbury district	25	13.4%
A worker in the Canterbury district	13	7.0%
A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name:	8	4.3%
A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify:	3	1.6%
An MP	-	-

Other, please specify:	3	1.6%
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4.1.2 Respondents were asked: What age are you?

The largest proportion of respondents were aged 55 to 64 (21.9%), followed by those aged 45 to 54 (16.6%).

There were also notable numbers of respondents aged 35 to 44 and 65 to 74 (15% each).

11.8% respondents were aged 26 to 34.

Response	Responses	%
Under 18	-	-
18 to 25	6	3.2%
26 to 34	22	11.8%
35 to 44	28	15.0%
45 to 54	31	16.6%
55 to 64	41	21.9%
65 to 74	28	15.0%
75 to 84	13	7.0%
85 and above	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	12	6.4%
No reply	5	2.7%

4.1.3 Respondents were asked: What gender are you?

Responses were broadly balanced between male (43.9%) and female (41.7%) respondents.

Four respondents (2.1%) preferred to self-describe and 12.3% preferred not to say or did not reply.

What gender are you?	Responses	%
Male	82	43.9%
Female	78	41.7%
Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)	4	2.1%
Prefer not to say	17	9.1%
No reply	6	3.2%

4.1.4 Respondents were asked: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

74.3% of respondents said they did not consider themselves to be disabled and there were 13.9% who said they did.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	Responses	%
Yes	26	13.9%
No	139	74.3%
Prefer not to say	17	9.1%
No reply	5	2.7%

4.1.5 Respondents were asked: What is your ethnic background?

Most respondents (73.8%) identified as White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British).

5.3% respondents identified as another White background.

Smaller numbers identified as Asian or Asian British (2.7%), mixed or multiple ethnic groups (1.6%), Irish (one respondent), and Black, African, Caribbean or Black British (one respondent).

What is your ethnic background?	Responses	%
White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British)	138	73.8%
Irish	1	0.5%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	-	-
Any other White background (please specify):	10	5.3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	3	1.6%
Asian / Asian British	5	2.7%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	1	0.5%
Other ethnic group (please specify):	-	-
Prefer not to say	24	12.8%
No reply	5	2.7%

4.2 Anti-social behaviour in Canterbury city centre

4.2.1 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you feel anti-social behaviour is an issue in Canterbury city centre?

123 respondents (65.8%) considered anti-social behaviour to be a very serious or fairly serious issue in Canterbury city centre, comprising of 27.3% of respondents who selected 'a very serious issue' and 38.5% who selected 'a fairly serious issue'.

17.6% of respondents were neutral.

14.4% of respondents considered it not a very serious issues or not an issue at all and 2.1% did not know.

Extent to which anti-social behaviour is an issue	Responses	%
A very serious issue	51	27.3%
A fairly serious issue	72	38.5%
Neither serious nor not serious	33	17.6%
Not a very serious issue	26	13.9%
Not an issue at all	1	0.5%
Don't know	4	2.1%

4.3 Drinking in public areas causing alarm, harassment or distress

This activity relates to drinking alcohol in public places where the behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to other people.

4.3.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

98 respondents (52.4%) said they had witnessed or experienced this activity, 78 (41.7%) had not and 11 (5.9%) did not know.

Have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	98	52.4%
No	78	41.7%
Don't know	11	5.9%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
High Street	35
Westgate Gardens	19
City centre	11
Across Canterbury	10
McDonald's	10
The Beaney Library	7
Public parks	6
Dane John Gardens	5
Burgate	3
Nasons	3
St George's Street and clocktower	3
Wincheap	3
Mountain Warehouse	2
Canterbury East Station	2
Three City Gardens	2
Metro Bank	2
Whitefriars	2
Marks and Spencer's	2

By the river	2
Cherry Tree Pub	1
Beverley Meadows	1
Sun Street, Palace Street and Orange Street	1
St Dunstan's churchyard	1
Pound Lane	1
Lakeland	1
The Parade	1
Broad Street	1
Sainsbury's at St Dunstan's Road	1
Bingley Court/Bingley Island	1
Canterbury Lane	1
St Thomas churchyard	1
Canterbury bus station	1
Viaducts along Rheims Way	1
Flower beds by Odeon cinema	1
The Cuban	1
Nando's	1

4.3.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 98 who had witnessed it, 34.7% said this had happened more times than they could count and 23.5% said it happened 10+ times.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	34	34.7%
10+ times	23	23.5%
Five to nine times	15	15.3%
Two to four times	21	21.4%
Once	5	5.1%

4.3.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Afternoon was the most selected time (51%), followed by nighttime (27.6%) and morning (10.2%).

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	10	10.2%
Afternoon	50	51.0%
Night time	27	27.6%

Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	11	11.2%
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Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
All times of the day	5
Afternoons	4
Weekends	3
During school holidays	1
Early evening	1
Mornings	1

4.3.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

Almost all respondents said they had witnessed the activity directly themselves.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	96	98.0%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	2	2.0%

4.3.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

85 respondents (45.5%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life.

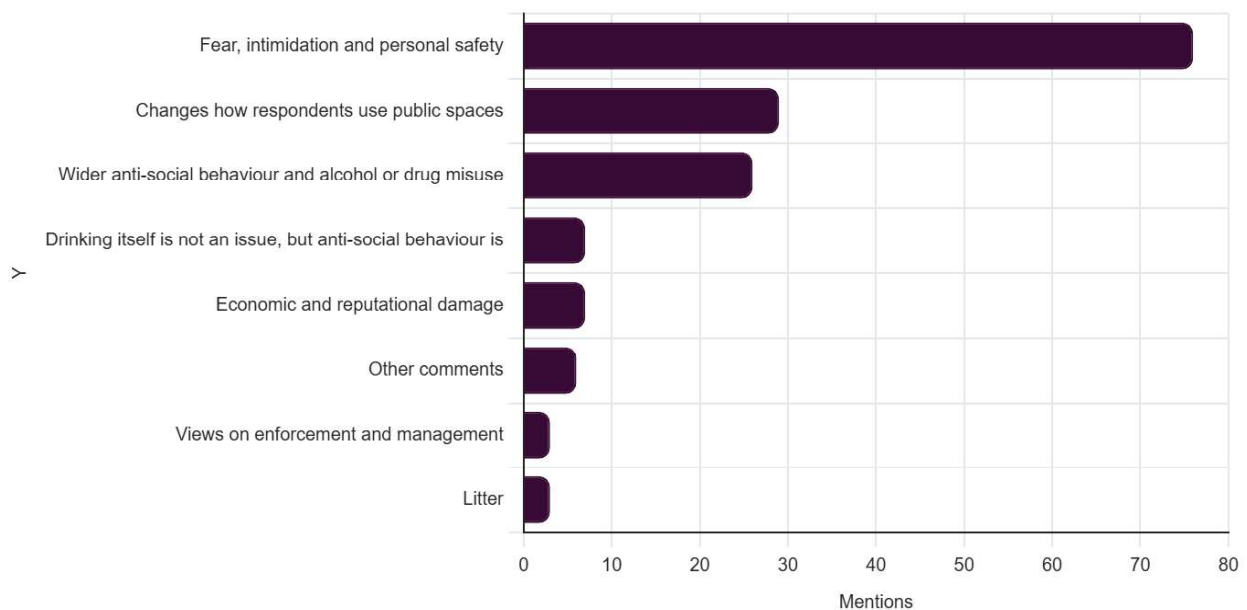
37 respondents (19.8%) said it had no effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	35	18.7%
Large effect	50	26.7%
Neither a large nor small effect	36	19.3%
Small effect	29	15.5%
No effect	37	19.8%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Themes identified from comments on public drinking



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Fear, intimidation and personal safety (76)	Negative emotional impact	39
	Intimidating and frightening behaviour	31
	Do not feel safe alone	3
	Concern for children	3
Changes how respondents use public spaces (29)	Change my behaviour	17
	Changing my route	8
	Avoid city centre	4
Wider anti-social behaviour and alcohol or drug misuse (26)	Anti-social behaviour (alcohol/drug related)	17
	Negative effect on atmosphere and people	8
	Boatman and passengers physically and verbally abused	1
Drinking itself is not an issue, but anti-social behaviour is (7)	Not a problem unless anti-social behaviour is involved	6
	Most drinkers are respectful	1
Economic and reputational damage (7)	Detrimental effect on public areas	4
	Negative impact on tourism	3
Other comments (6)	Makes me want to move	2
	Safe whilst people around	1
	Mild concern	1
	Mental health issues	1
	Annual cycle of behaviour due to students	1

Views on enforcement and management (3)	Not enough enforcement	1
	Police and enforcement officers can manage the issue	1
	Pubs allowing outside drinking without proper licences	1
Litter (3)	Increases litter and broken glass	3

4.4 Shouting, swearing or causing other alarm, distress or harassment

This activity relates to shouting, swearing or other behaviour that causes alarm, distress or harassment to people in the area, including residents, visitors and those living nearby.

4.4.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

108 respondents (57.8%) said they had witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre within the last 12 months.

Around a third (34.8%) had not witnessed the activity and 7.5% were unsure.

Have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	108	57.8%
No	65	34.8%
Don't know	14	7.5%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
High Street	30
McDonald's	18
City centre	16
St George's Street	7
St Dunstan's St and churchyard	5
Westgate Gardens	5
Wincheap	4
The Parade	3
Dane John Gardens	3
Castle Street, St Margaret's Street and Watling Street	3
Westgate Towers	2
Burgate	2
Whitefriars	2
Canterbury bus Station	2
Oxford Road and Path	2
Beaney	2
Cricketers Pub	1
Peter Street	1

Canterbury East train station	1
Lady Wootton's Green	1
St Stephen's area	1
Hawk's Lane	1
Stour Street	1
Edward Road, CT1	1
Enterprise Car Hire, Northgate	1
Weatherspoons	1
Old Dover Road	1
Mountain Warehouse	1
Greyfriars Gardens	1
St Peter's Street	1
Canterbury Lane	1
St Thomas churchyard	1
The Cuban	1
Beverley Meadow	1
Hales Place	1
The Terrace	1
Birdcage Walk	1
St Radigunds	1
Rheims Way	1
Northgate	1
Nasons	1
Northgate Sainsbury's	1
Parks	1
Palace St	1

4.4.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 108 respondents who had witnessed it, the largest group (40.7%) said they had seen it more time than they could count and only 4.6% had witnessed it once.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	44	40.7%
10+ times	18	16.7%
Five to nine times	18	16.7%
Two to four times	23	21.3%
Once	5	4.6%

4.4.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

The activity was mostly witnessed in the afternoon (39.8%), followed by night time (28.7%).

Fewer respondents reported witnessing it in the morning (12%).

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	13	12.0%
Afternoon	43	39.8%
Night time	31	28.7%
Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	21	19.4%

Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
All times	8
Various	5
Afternoon	4
Weekends	4
Daytime	3
Nighttime	2
Early evening	1
School holidays	1

4.4.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

Almost all respondents, except one, said they had witnessed the activity directly themselves.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	107	99.1%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	1	0.9%

4.4.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

106 respondents (56.7%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life, the second-highest combined figure of the six activities.

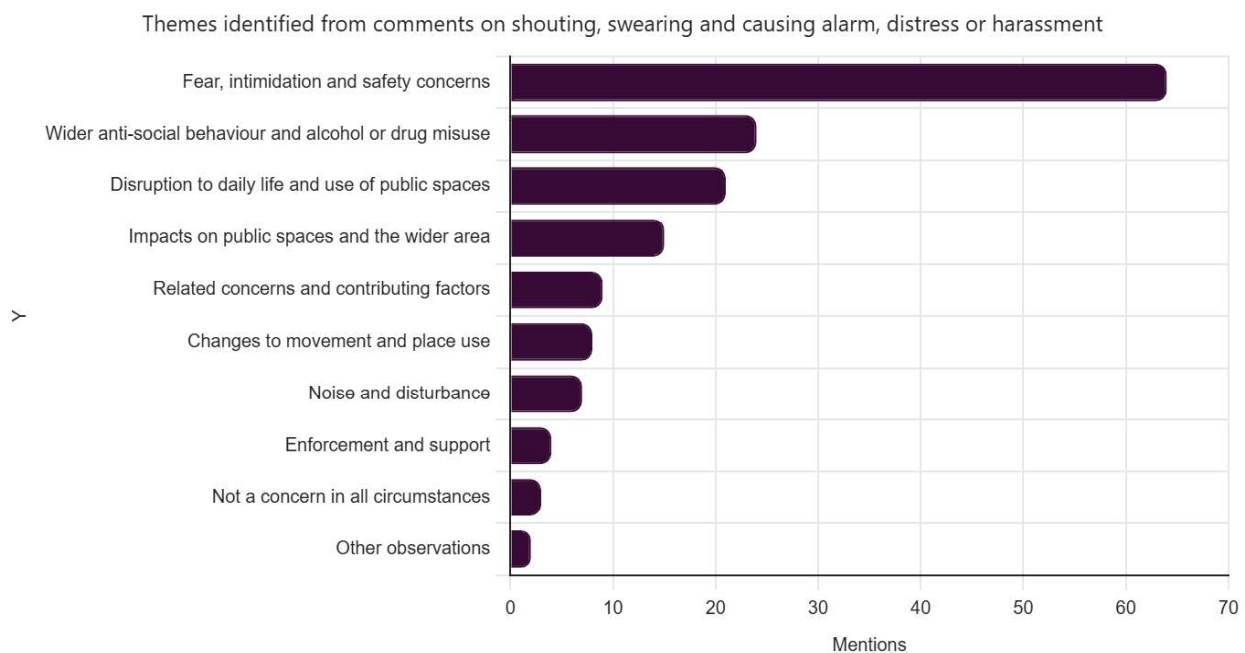
28 respondents (15%) said it had no effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
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Very large effect	37	19.8%
Large effect	69	36.9%
Neither a large nor small effect	30	16.0%
Small effect	23	12.3%
No effect	28	15.0%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Fear, intimidation and safety concerns (64)	Intimidating and frightening	26
	Negative emotional impact	24
	Negative impact on children and women	8
	Feels unsafe	6
Wider anti-social behaviour and alcohol or drug misuse (24)	Anti-social behaviour (alcohol & drug related)	13
	Anti-social behaviour by school children and young people	4
	Large groups	2
	Unpredictable behaviour	2
	Aggressive shouting	2
	Groups outside of pubs	1
Disruption to daily life and use of public spaces (21)	Causes disruption and annoyance	15
	Change my behaviour	6

Impacts on public spaces and the wider area (15)	Negative impact on tourism	8
	Detrimental impact on public spaces	7
Related concerns and contributing factors (9)	Concerns relating to begging and street preaching	3
	Mental health issues	2
	Drinking in public	2
	Racist abuse	1
Changes to movement and place use (8)	Avoid town	4
	Change routes	3
	Avoid parks	1
Noise and disturbance (7)	Impacts sleep	6
	Noise nuisance	1
Enforcement and support (4)	Unsure how to help others	1
	Community support required	1
	More police required	1
	Can be controlled by officers	1
Not a concern in all circumstances (3)	Not a problem or only an issue on occasion	3
Other observations (2)	Impossible to create swear free environment	1
	Linked to decline in civil standards	1

4.5 Amplification: Excessive or intrusive amplified sound

This activity relates to the use of amplified sound, such as microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones, loud hailer or similar equipment, at a level that is excessive or intrusive.

4.5.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

98 respondents (52.4%) said they had witnessed amplified sound used at an excessive or intrusive level in Canterbury city centre within the last 12 months.

43.9% said they had not witnessed this activity and 3.7% were unsure

Have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	98	52.4%
No	82	43.9%
Don't know	7	3.7%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
High Street	36
City centre	20
Primark	11
Westgate Gardens	10
Longmarket area	9
The Ivy restaurant	7
The Beaney Library	7
Rose Lane / square	6
Buttermarket area	5
St George's Street	5
The Parade	4
Marks and Spencer's	2
McDonald's	2
Dane John	2
Library	1
St Peter's Street	1
Burgate	1
Butchery Lane	1

Student houses	1
Lady Wootton's Green	1
Hotel Chocolat	1
Monk Pub, Stour St	1
The Cuban	1
Solly's Orchard	1
White Hart Pub	1
Across Canterbury	1
Viaducts along Rheims Way	1
From Olive Grove restaurant	1
Cafe Rouge	1
Simon Langton Girl's School	1

4.5.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 98 respondents who said they had witnessed it, the largest group (43.9%) said they had seen it more times than they could count and 27.6% had witnessed it 10 or more times.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	43	43.9%
10+ times	27	27.6%
Five to nine times	18	18.4%
Two to four times	5	5.1%
Once	5	5.1%

4.5.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

The activity was most witnessed in the afternoon, with 61.2% of respondents selecting this option.

Smaller numbers reported seeing it in the morning (16.3%) or at night (7.1%) and 15.3% selected another time.

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	16	16.3%
Afternoon	60	61.2%
Night time	7	7.1%
Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	15	15.3%

Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
Day time	6
Afternoons	5
All times	5
Weekends	2
Early evening	2
Evenings	2
Mornings	2
During the night (Boom boxes)	1

4.5.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?



Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	97	99.0%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	1	1.0%

4.5.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

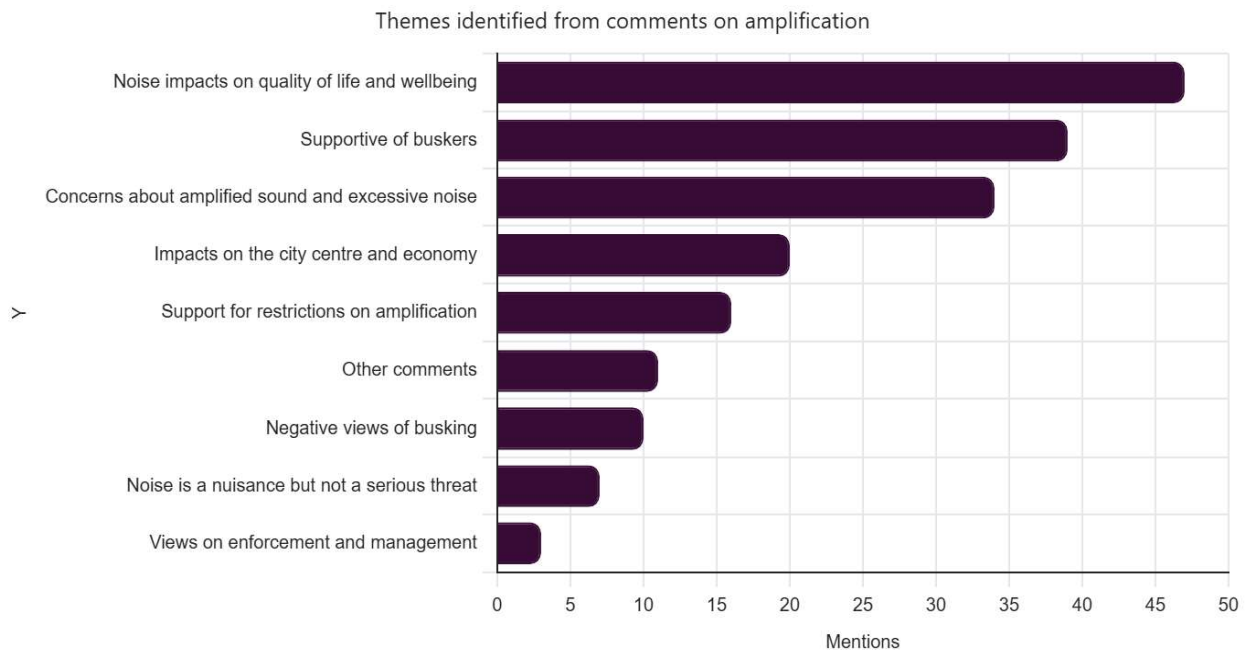
70 respondents (37.4%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life, the lowest combined figure of the six activities.

54 respondents (28.9%) said it had no effect, the highest 'no effect' figure among the six.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	33	17.6%
Large effect	37	19.8%
Neither a large nor small effect	27	14.4%
Small effect	36	19.3%
No effect	54	28.9%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Noise impacts on quality of life and wellbeing (47)	Noise detrimental to daily life	31
	Loud noise has a negative emotional impact	14
	Impacts sleep	2
Supportive of buskers (39)	Buskers welcome	33
	Busking benefits tourism and adds to atmosphere	6
Concerns about amplified sound and excessive noise (34)	Street preaching disturbance	17
	Excessive noise in public spaces day and night	16
	Concerns about loud music	1
Impacts on the city centre and economy (20)	Decline in city centre appeal	11
	Negative impact of noise on businesses	9
Support for restrictions on amplification (16)	Ban amplifiers and microphones	16
Other comments (11)	Anti-social behaviour (alcohol and drug related)	3
	Focus on anti-social behaviour and not street entertainers	2
	Noise issues from pubs and parties	2
	Noise disturbance in parks	2
	Impacts on neuro-divergent individuals	1
	Usually kids	1

Negative views of busking (10)	Busking disturbance	10
Noise is a nuisance but not a serious threat (7)	Annoying but not threatening	6
	Not large impact	1
Views on enforcement and management (3)	Little or no enforcement by council	1
	Enforce in stages	1
	Buskers would turn down if asked	1

4.6 Urinating or defecating in any public space

4.6.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

52 respondents (27.8%) said they had witnessed this activity, 61% had not and 11.2% did not know.

Have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	52	27.8%
No	114	61.0%
Don't know	21	11.2%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
City centre	8
The Friars/Blackfriars and riverside	7
Around car parks	2
Burgate	2
High Street	2
Stour Street	2
St Dunstan's church area	2
Castle quarter (White Horse Lane/ St Margaret's de Castro)	2
Solly's Orchard	2
Alleys and side streets	2
Best Lane	1
All Saints Lane	1
Sudbury Mews area	1
Greyfriars Gardens	1
Lady Wootton's Green area	1
Mercery Lane	1
New Dover Road	1
St Martin's Hill Post Office	1
St Stephen's Field	1
St Margaret's Street	1
Whitefriars Square	1
McDonald's	1
St Peter's Lane	1
Old Dover Road	1

Cossington Road	1
Pound Lane	1
Westgate Gardens	1
Dane John Gardens	1
Behind The Beaney Library	1
Postern Gate	1
St Martin's Church	1
St Radigunds	1
Roman Museum	1
Recreation field in Wincheap	1
Shop doorways	1
Iron bar Lane	1
Monastery street	1

4.6.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 52 who had witnessed it, the largest group (38.5%) had witnessed it two to four times and 19.2% had witnessed it once.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	7	13.5%
10+ times	2	3.8%
Five to nine times	13	25.0%
Two to four times	20	38.5%
Once	10	19.2%

4.6.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Night time was the most selected time (51.9%).

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	5	9.6%
Afternoon	12	23.1%
Night time	27	51.9%
Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	8	15.4%

Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
All times of the day	5
Nighttime	1
Saturday	1
Weekends	1

4.6.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

92.3% of respondents said they had witnessed the activity directly themselves.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	48	92.3%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	4	7.7%

4.6.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

68 respondents (21.4%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life.

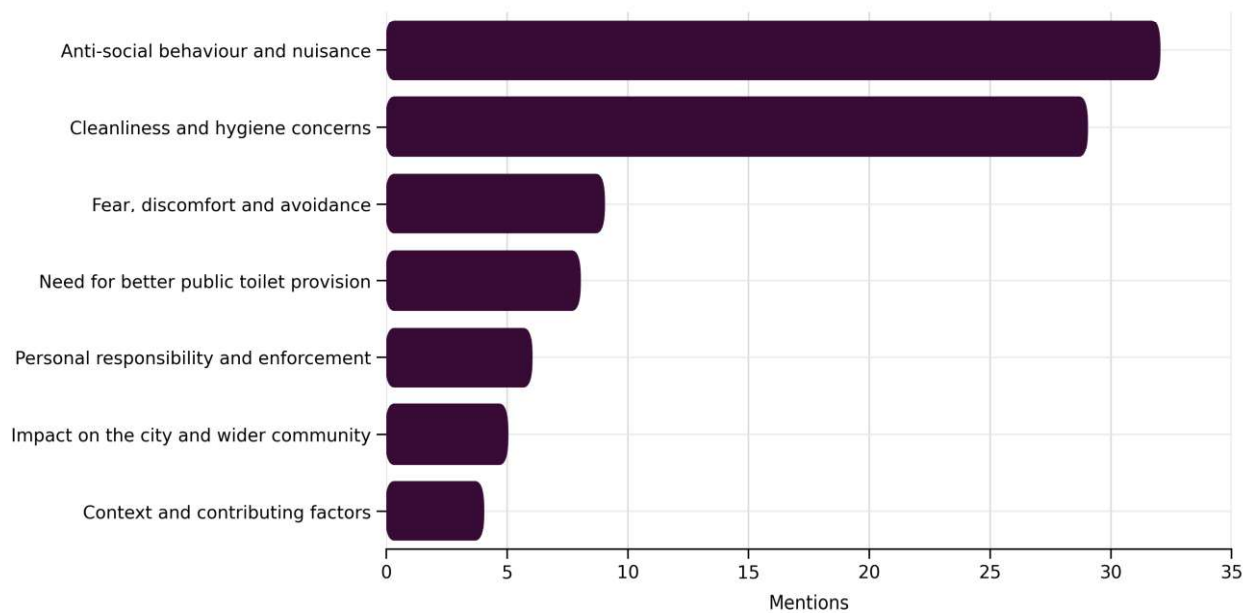
57 respondents (30.5%) said it had no effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	35	18.7%
Large effect	33	17.6%
Neither a large nor small effect	35	18.7%
Small effect	27	14.4%
No effect	57	30.5%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Themes identified from comments on public urination and defecation



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Anti-social behaviour and nuisance (32)	Anti-social behaviour	21
	Negative experience	8
	Alcohol related	3
Cleanliness and hygiene concerns (29)	Cleanliness concerns	25
	Bad smell	2
	Street hygiene concerns (dogs)	1
	Public toilets are not cleaned	1
Fear, discomfort and avoidance of public spaces (9)	Problem in underpasses	5
	Intimidating and uncomfortable	3
	Avoid area	1
Need for better public toilet provision (8)	More open public toilets are required	6
	Street cleaners are efficient	2
Personal responsibility and enforcement (6)	No basic manners	2
	Do not condone urinating in public	2
	Officers should patrol and issue fines	1
	Currently an offence	1
Impact on the city and wider community (5)	Negative impression of city	3
	Unpleasant for children to see	2
Context and contributing factors (4)	Mainly men	2
	Empathy for homeless people	1
	Sexualised behaviour in public spaces	1

4.7 Graffitiing and fly-posting

This activity relates to graffiti, fly-posting, or the placing of notices, pictures or signs on property without the permission of the owner.

4.7.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

29 respondents (15.5%) said they had witnessed or experienced this activity, the lowest of the six activities asked about.

67.9% of respondents had not and 16.6% did not know.

Witnessed or experienced in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	29	15.5%
No	127	67.9%
Don't know	31	16.6%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
City centre	10
Railway tunnel / pedestrian underpass	7
St Dunstan's churchyard and area	2
Orange Street	2
High Street	1
St Radigunds Street	1
Nasons	1
The Beaney Library	1
Beer Cart Lane	1
London Road	1
St Peter's Street	1
Friar's Street	1
Best Lane	1
Stour Street	1
Roman Museum entrance	1
Everywhere	1
Hackington Place	1
Empty shops	1

4.7.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 29 who had witnessed it, 31% said this had happened more times than they could count.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	9	31.0%
10+ times	4	13.8%
Five to nine times	6	20.7%
Two to four times	6	20.7%
Once	4	13.8%

4.7.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Night time was the most selected time (37.9%).

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	5	17.2%
Afternoon	4	13.8%
Night time	11	37.9%
Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	9	31.0%

Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
All different times	1
Constant	1
Ongoing	1
Time is irrelevant	1

4.7.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

82.8% said they had witnessed the activity directly themselves, with 17.2% reporting it based on what they had been told.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	24	82.8%

Someone else - this is based on what I was told	5	17.2%
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4.7.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

40 respondents (21.4%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life, the lowest of the six activities.

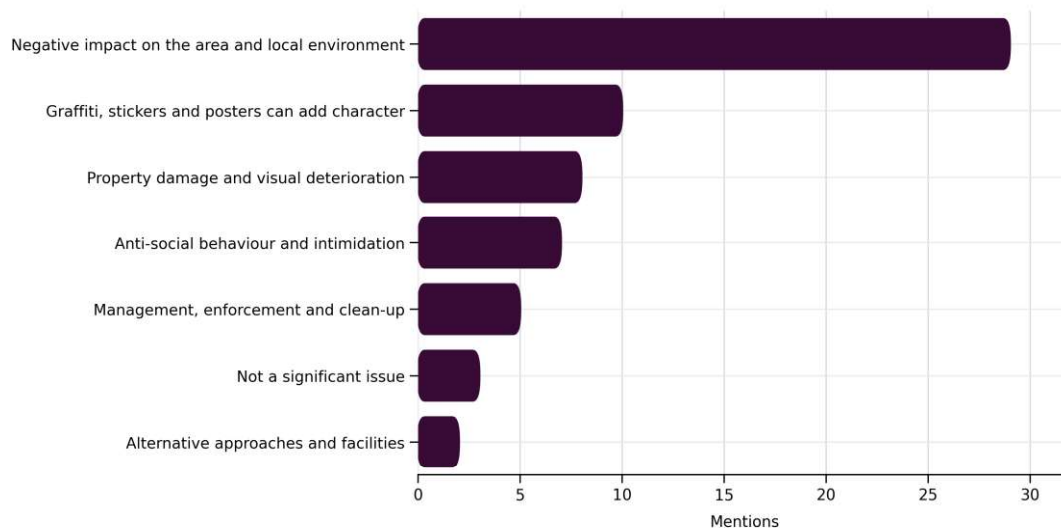
75 respondents (40.1%) said it had no effect, the highest 'no effect' figure of the six.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	14	7.5%
Large effect	26	13.9%
Neither a large nor small effect	42	22.5%
Small effect	30	16.0%
No effect	75	40.1%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Themes identified from comments on graffitiing, fly posting and affixing notices without permission



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Negative impact on the area and local environment (29)	Negative impact on the area	26
	Detrimental to expansion of the area	1
	Properties allowed to go into disrepair	1
	Street Clutter	1
	Graffiti can be considered art	6

Graffiti, stickers and posters can add character or be considered art (10)	Stickers and some graffiti can add character to the area	3
	Normal for towns and cities	1
Property damage and visual deterioration (8)	Damage to property	4
	Flyers and posters need removing including council's own	4
Anti-social behaviour and intimidation (7)	Encourages more anti-social behaviour	3
	Safety concerns (tags)	1
	Intimidating	1
	Inconsiderate behaviour	1
	Tags encourage other tags	1
Management, enforcement and clean-up (5)	Graffiti are cleaned quickly	2
	Stronger penalties needed	1
	Quicker response to clean up required	1
	Challenged graffiti artists in their own area	1
Not a significant issue (3)	Not a big problem	2
	Not much new graffiti	1
Alternative approaches and facilities (2)	Noticeboards should be available for all to use	1
	Funding needed for alternatives	1

4.8 The anti-social behaviour associated with delivery riders

This activity relates to anti-social behaviour by delivery riders, including aggressive driving or riding, dangerous manoeuvres, excessive noise, risks to road users and pedestrians, damage or the risk of damage to property, and harassment from vehicles.

4.8.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed this activity in Canterbury city centre in the last 12 months?

117 respondents (62.6%) said they had witnessed or experienced this activity, the highest of the six activities asked about.

31.6% of respondents had not and 5.9% did not know.

Witnessed or experienced in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	117	62.6%
No	59	31.6%
Don't know	11	5.9%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen this activity, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed this activity at this location	Number of written comments
High Street	45
City centre	33
St Peter's Street	7
Westgate Towers	6
St George's Street	5
Burgate	5
All across the city	4
Canterbury and surrounding towns	4
St Dunstan's area	3
Palace Street	3
Ring road	3
The Parade	2
Orange Street	2
Northgate	2
Stour Street	2
Greyfriars Gardens and bridges	2
Wincheap	2
Footbridge by Café de Soleil (Friars/riverside)	2
London Road	1

Sainsbury's	1
Cathedral Quarter/King's Mile area	1
Rose Lane	1
Tower Way	1
Black Griffin Lane	1
Mercery Lane	1
Sun Street	1
Public toilets outside of St George's Street	1
Riverside complex	1
Subways	1
Railway Tunnels	1
Westgate Gardens	1
Marlow Arcade	1
Maragret Street	1
Eastbridge	1
Whitefriars	1
North Lane	1
Beverley Meadow/Hackington Place dismount area	1
Viaducts along Rheims Way	1

4.8.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

Of the 117 who had witnessed it, 68.4% said this had happened more time than they could count, by far the highest proportion recorded for this response option across all six activities.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	80	68.4%
10+ times	21	17.9%
Five to nine times	10	8.5%
Two to four times	5	4.3%
Once	1	0.9%

4.8.3 Respondents were asked: What time have you witnessed this activity in the last 12 months?

34.2% of respondents selected 'other' for time of day, also the highest of the six activities, indicating this was frequently reported as an all-day or ongoing issue rather than confined to a single time period.

Time of day	Responses	%
Morning	11	9.4%
Afternoon	51	43.6%

Night time	15	12.8%
Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school holidays):	40	34.2%

Respondents who selected 'other' were asked to specify.

This was a free-text response.

Time of day: Other, please specify (for example: weekends, school, holidays)	Number of written comments
All the time	22
All day	12
Evening	6
Weekends	4
Afternoon	4
Morning	3
Different times of the day	2
School holidays	2
Early evening	1

4.8.4 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

Almost all respondents said they had witnessed the activity directly themselves.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	115	98.3%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	2	1.7%

4.8.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent does this activity have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

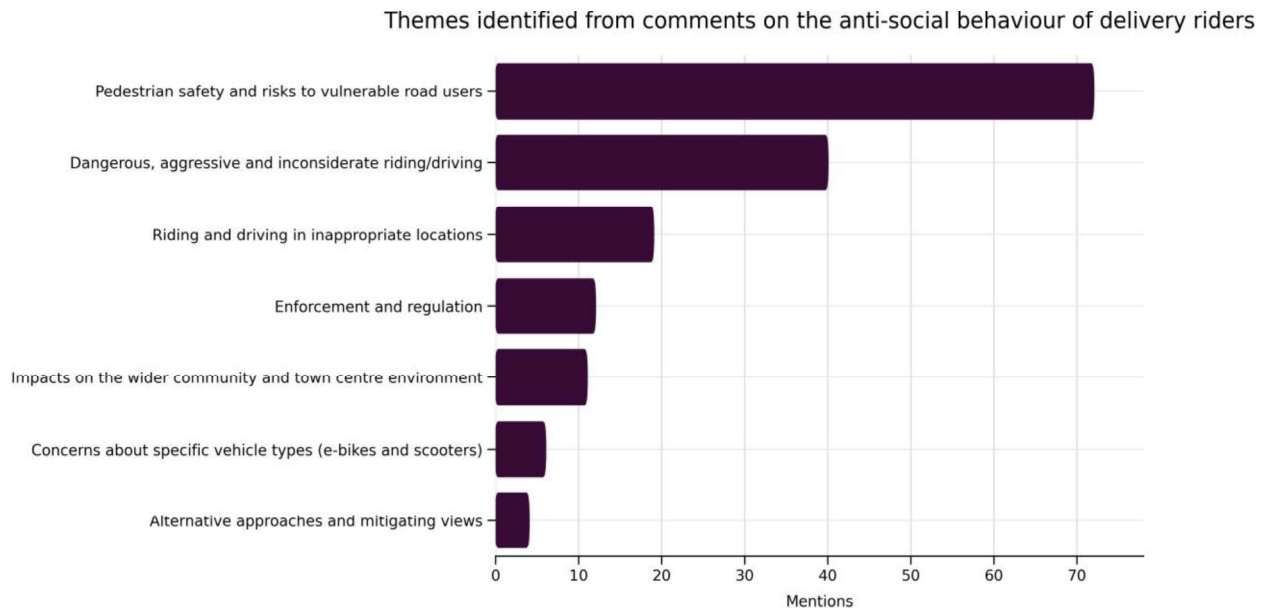
103 respondents (55.1%) rated this activity as having a very large or large effect on their quality of life, the highest combined figure of the six activities and 60 respondents (32.1%) rated it as 'very large effect' alone – the highest-single category recorded for this question.

37 respondents (19.8%) said it had no effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	60	32.1%
Large effect	43	23.0%
Neither a large nor small effect	27	14.4%
Small effect	20	10.7%
No effect	37	19.8%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Pedestrian safety and risks to vulnerable road users (72)	Pedestrian safety concerns in city	52
	Safety concerns for road users	14
	Vehicles on pavements detrimental to pedestrians and accessibility	3
	Speeding	1
	Using phone while riding	1
	Insurance concerns	1
Dangerous, aggressive and inconsiderate riding/driving (40)	Dangerous/aggressive	28
	Nuisance and bad riding	10
	Youth behaviour detrimental to pedestrians	2
Riding and driving in inappropriate locations (19)	Riding/driving in pedestrianised areas of city	16
	Ban riding on the High Street	2
	No signs for 'No cycling'	1
Enforcement and regulation (12)	Enforcement required	8
	Violations of yellow lines	2
	Designated areas for delivery drivers	1
	Lack of road safety training	
Impacts on the wider community and town centre environment (11)	Encourages crime	3
	Avoiding certain areas of town	3
	Too many	1

	Theft from buskers	1
	Excessive alcohol use	1
	Reopen youth centres	1
Concerns about specific vehicle types (e-bikes and scooters) (6)	E-bikes and scooters are an issue	6
Alternative approaches and mitigating views (4)	This is a minority	1
	Provide a service	1
	Modern life	1
	Not as bad now	1

4.9 Level of agreement with activities listed for inclusion

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the proposed activities for inclusion in the 2027 Canterbury City Centre PSPO.

In relation to amplified sound, respondents were advised that the proposed restriction could take one of two forms:

A) prohibiting the use of microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones or any equipment that amplifies sound in the city centre zone, at any time of day or night unless permission is granted by the landowner and available to officers upon request; or

B) requiring the use of microphones, loudspeakers, megaphones, loud hailer or similar equipment to cease or be turned down if requested by an authorised officer.

The survey also stated that this would apply unless the landowner had given permission in writing, available to officers on request.

4.9.1 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you agree or disagree with any of the activities listed above for inclusion in the 2027 Canterbury City Public Space Protection Order?

99 respondents (53%) strongly agreed or agreed with the activities listed for inclusion in the 2027 PSPO, comprising 77 (41.2%) who strongly agreed and 22 (11.8%) who agreed.

75 respondents (40.1%) disagreed or strongly disagreed, with strongly disagree (31%) considerably more common than disagree (9.1%).

5.9% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Level of agreement with activities listed for inclusion	Responses	%
Strongly agree	77	41.2%
Agree	22	11.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	11	5.9%
Disagree	17	9.1%
Strongly disagree	58	31.0%
Don't know	2	1.1%

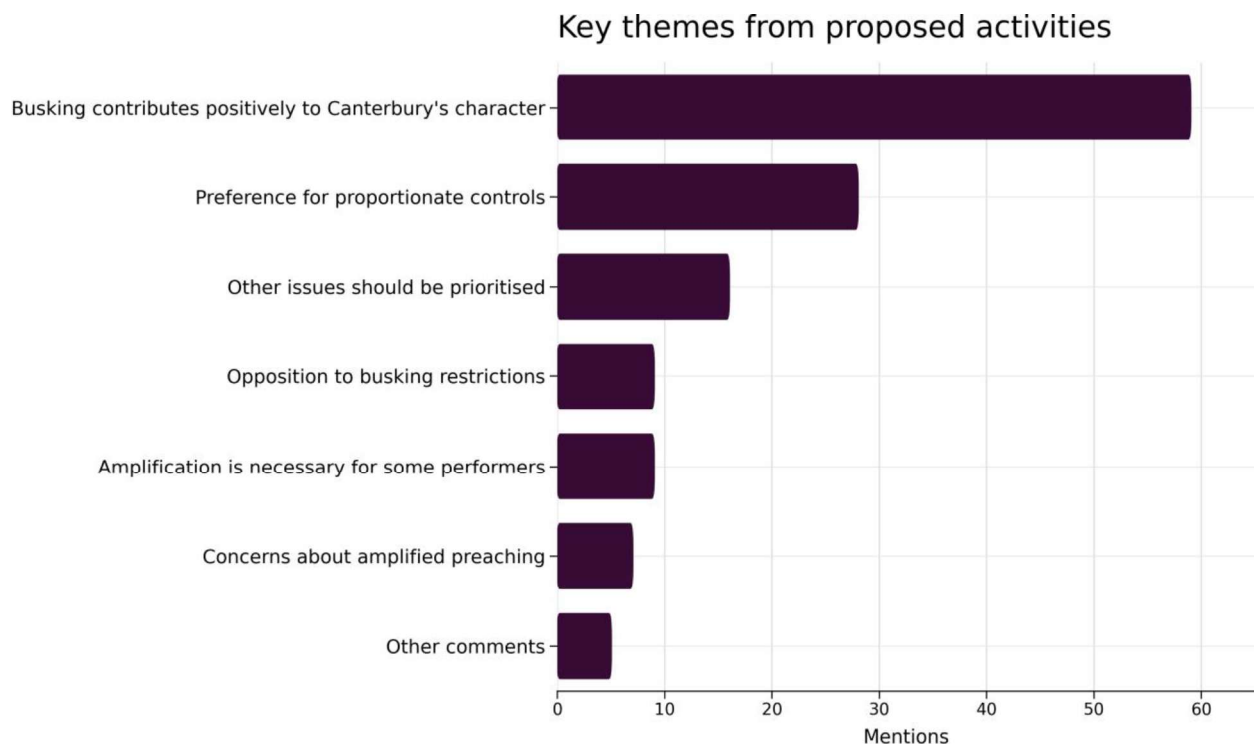
Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Of 187 respondents, 70 answered this question.

One respondent indicated they were unsure whether comments should relate to Option A, Option B, or both, and another respondent expressed they didn't like the format of the survey.

Most comments related to the proposed amplification restrictions, particularly their potential impact on buskers and street performers, rather than the broader question of whether all six activities should be included within the 2027 Canterbury City Public Space Protection Order.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Busking is valued and contributes positively to Canterbury's character, culture and atmosphere (59)	Busking adds character and is an entertainment	59
Preference for proportionate controls rather than blanket restrictions on amplification (28)	Support for volume reduction	14
	Support other busking restrictions	7
	Bans are disproportionate	4
	Support register/licence	2
	Disagree with wording of option 'A'	1
Other issues should be prioritised (16)	Anti social behaviour is a problem (alcohol and drugs)	7
	Homelessness should be prioritised over amplification issues	4
	Lack of opportunities for young people	2

	Crime is an issue	1
	Legislation exists	2
Opposition to busking restrictions and concerns about the use of PSPO powers (9)	Opposition to busking restrictions	5
	PSPOs were not intended to affect buskers	4
Amplification is necessary for some performers (9)	Amplification is needed	9
Concerns about preaching and amplified religious or political messages (7)	Politics and religion (preaching) should not be given a platform	7
Other comments (5)	Not sure what the question means / don't like the format of this survey	2
	Disagree with loud music at night	2
	Support for preachers	1

4.10 Level of agreement with proposed areas of coverage

4.10.1 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the areas proposed to be covered by the PSPO?

112 respondents (59.9%) strongly agreed or agreed with the areas proposed to be covered by the PSPO, comprising 74 (39.6%) who strongly agreed and 38 (20.3%) who agreed.

37 respondents (19.7%) disagreed or strongly disagreed.

12.3% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Level of agreement with proposed areas of coverage	Responses	%
Strongly agree	74	39.6%
Agree	38	20.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	23	12.3%
Disagree	10	5.3%
Strongly disagree	27	14.4%
Don't know	15	8.0%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
None	10
City centre	7
All	5
Residential areas	3
Cemetery	1
None for music	1

4.11 Extent of unfair impact

4.11.1 Respondents were asked: To what extent would the introduction of the proposed 2027 PSPO unfairly impact your activities, or those of other people?

Just under half, 92 respondents (49.2%), said the proposed PSPO would not at all unfairly impact their activities or those of other people.

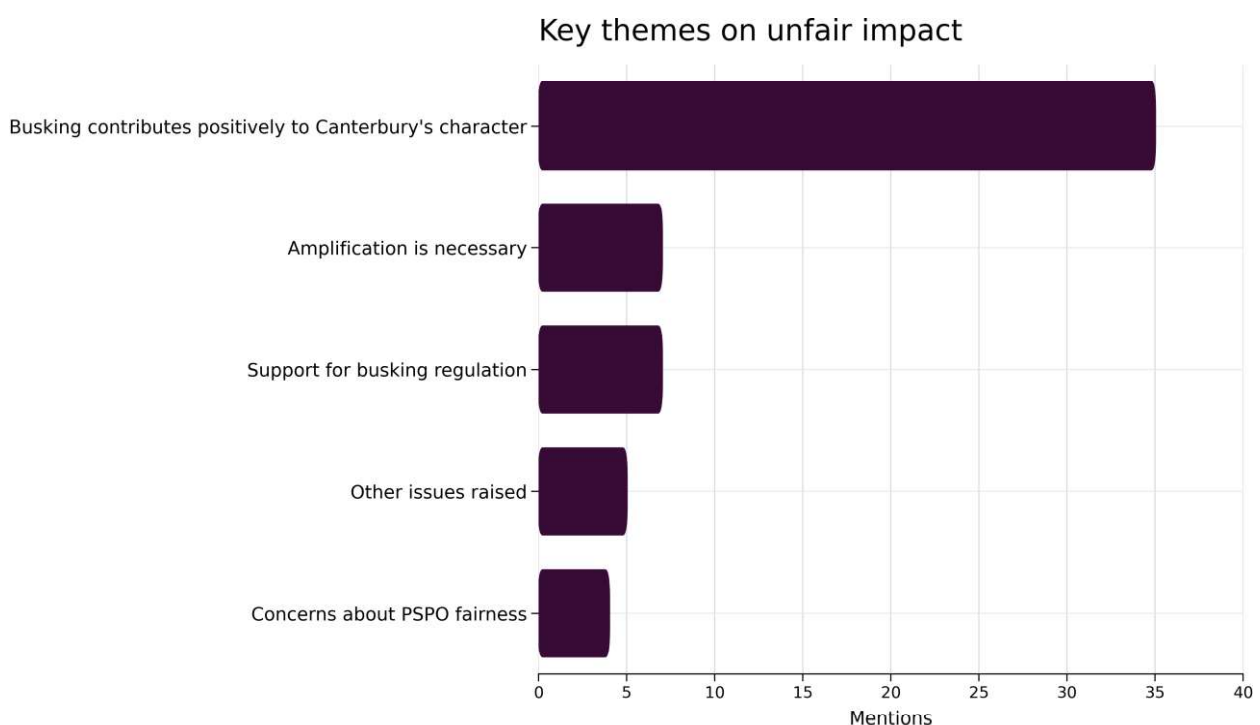
57 respondents (30.4%) said it would impact them a great deal or a fair amount.

26 respondents (13.9%) said not very much and 12 (6.4%) did not know.

Extent of unfair impact	Responses	%
A great deal	33	17.6%
A fair amount	24	12.8%
Not very much	26	13.9%
Not at all	92	49.2%
Don't know	12	6.4%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

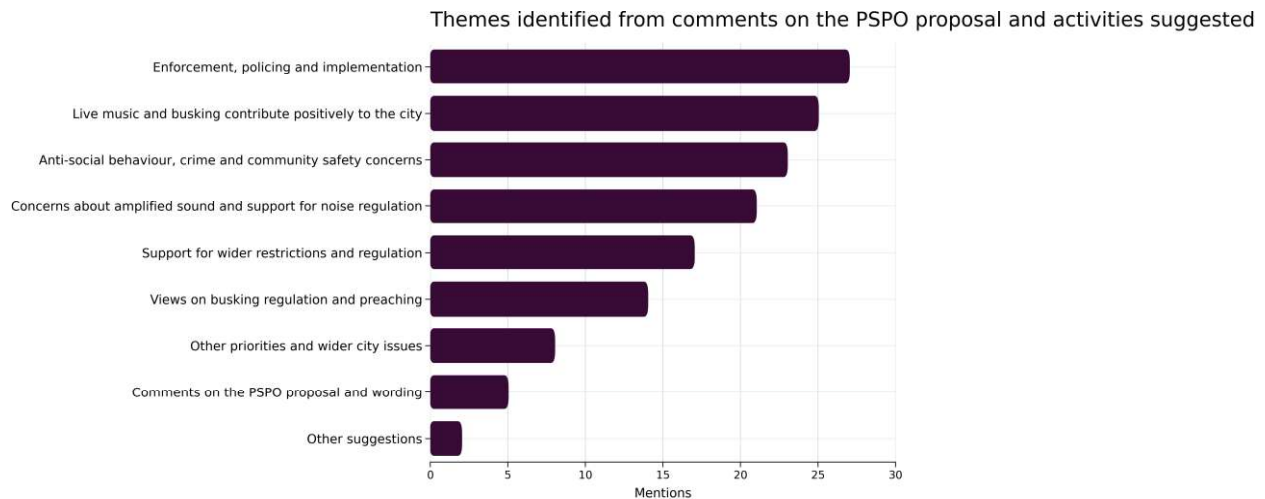
Theme		No.
Busking is valued and contributes positively to Canterbury's character and atmosphere (35)	Support for busking / would negatively impact Canterbury	31
	Busking adds to the atmosphere of the city centre	3
	Not hear music in town	1
Amplification is necessary (7)	Amplification needed for busking	7
Support for restrictions and regulation of busking activities (7)	Support busking restrictions	4
	Support volume reduction	1
	Effective guidance required	1

	More enforcement staff needed	1
Concerns about the fairness and proportionality of the PSPO (4)	Need to tackle systemic issues, not its victims	2
	PSPO is a blanket ban	1
	PSPO is a disproportionate response	1
Other issues raised (5)	Would support unskilled buskers	1
	Concern about how this will impact vulnerable people	1
	Politics, religion (preaching) should be separate from busking	1
	Unsafe in city	1
	Need for strict regulation of business and employers	1

4.12 Additional feedback

4.12.1 Respondents were asked: Is there anything else you would like to highlight related to the PSPO proposal and activities suggested?

This was an open, free-text question.



Full details on how respondents answered are below.

Theme		No.
Enforcement, policing and implementation (27)	More enforcement/police in city centre	21
	Legislation exists	2
	Better enforcement on public urination and defecation	1
	Need for multi-agency approach	1
	Powers to instantly stop unwanted behaviour	1
	Questions about enforcement costs and resources	1
Live music and busking contribute positively to the city (25)	Live music/busking important to atmosphere and character of city	21
	Busking is separate to anti-social behaviour issues	4
Anti-social behaviour, crime and community safety concerns (23)	Anti-social behaviour is a problem (alcohol, drug related and teenagers)	15
	Canterbury is scary and unpleasant	3
	Crime and business compliance concerns	2
	Anti-social behaviour in city centre deters visitors and vulnerable people	1
	Drug related crime is an issue	1
	Enforcement in city centre drives anti-social behaviour to quiet residential areas	1
Concerns about amplified sound and support for noise regulation (21)	Disagree with amplified music	12
	Noise reduction/regulation in parks/residential areas/city centre	9

Support for wider restrictions and regulation (17)	Prohibiting cycling and motorised vehicles needs extending in city	11
	Support PSPO	3
	Include all riders not just delivery riders	2
	Clutter on pavements need controlling	1
Views on busking regulation and preaching (14)	Busking legislation required	9
	Preaching should be controlled	4
	Busking is an issue to residents	1
Other priorities and wider city issues (8)	Homelessness should be prioritised over amplification issues	2
	Town centre regeneration	2
	Free/reduced parking fees	1
	Lack of toilets is an issue	1
	Use money more effectively	1
	Youth workers needed	1
Comments on the PSPO proposal and wording (5)	Wording in PSPO is ambiguous and needs to be clearer	4
	PSPO is unfair and excessive	1
Other suggestions (2)	Pedestrianise areas in city during the summer	1
	Extension to Sturry	1

5. Written representations

We have received a written representation from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Canterbury City Council -Public Spaces Protection Order Extension -
Canterbury City Centre**

Thank you for your email dated 22nd June 2026 regarding the proposed extension to the existing Public Spaces Protection Order.

It is my understanding that you are proposing that the extension will run for a further three years until January 2030. Furthermore, you are consulting on a variation to the current order which will see the inclusion of a new activity to address the use of amplification equipment at high volumes which has resulted in complaints.

I am happy to provide my support to the extension and variation of the PSPO. This support is based on the findings of the public consultation being supportive of the extension, that there continues to be minimal impact on operational policing and that the order will predominately be supported through Council resources.

Yours sincerely

A written representation was received from Las Iguanas Canterbury.

I am writing to you to raise concerns over the direct negative impact the performances outside are having on Las Iguanas as well as the other businesses in the area.

We have a large outside seating area which naturally in the warmer summer months customers and potential customers want to enjoy. However, this potential footfall is being driven away due to the overly loud, out of tune, ultimately poor performances which are being placed directly outside the above venues.

I have to question the decision making purely on the fact that the location of choice for this is outside (probably the only area in Canterbury) where three businesses have prime outdoor seating area. Is there not a better place?

I won't go into the detail of the negative impact, but to put it simply if sales are being driven away as they currently are then we require less staff, which means less jobs, less sales and businesses such as ours having to make tough decisions further down the line in what is already an industry at breaking point.

Please could you consider the above when issuing permits and public space to these groups, it is really not helping businesses which are already struggling with the ever increasing costs, businesses rates and just about everything else which is required to operate.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

A written representation was received from Canterbury Business Improvement District.

Please find attached Canterbury BID's response to the consultation on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

Our response has been developed following engagement with city centre businesses and reflects the issues, concerns and priorities being experienced on the ground across Canterbury.

We are supportive of measures that help create a safer, more welcoming and better managed city centre, while ensuring that the PSPO is practical, proportionate and capable of being effectively enforced.

The attached response provides our comments on the proposed provisions, together with areas where we believe further consideration or clarity would be beneficial. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. We look forward to continuing to work with Canterbury City Council, Kent Police and our city centre partners to support a safe and welcoming Canterbury.

Kind regards,

**Canterbury BID Response to the Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order
9 September 2026**

Canterbury BID welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Canterbury city centre. This response is submitted on behalf of Canterbury BID and reflects the experiences, concerns and reports received from businesses operating across the city centre. It is also informed by incident information recorded through Canterbury City Watch and the DISC business crime reduction platform.

Canterbury is a historic, vibrant and welcoming city. Businesses recognise that a successful city centre must accommodate residents, visitors, students, businesses, street entertainers, the nighttime economy and vulnerable members of the community. The purpose of a PSPO should therefore not be to unnecessarily restrict legitimate use of the city centre, but to provide proportionate and effective powers to address persistent behaviours which negatively affect safety, confidence, businesses and the wider visitor experience.

Overall, Canterbury BID is supportive of the proposed PSPO. However, we believe there are areas where the Order could be strengthened or clarified to ensure it addresses the harmful behaviours currently being experienced by city-centre businesses and visitors to the city.

Evidence from Canterbury Businesses and DISC

Canterbury BID operates Canterbury City Watch, bringing together businesses, Canterbury BID Street Team, Kent Police, CCTV and other city-centre partners. Businesses use DISC and the City Watch network to report and share information regarding anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, threatening behaviour, alcohol-related incidents, noise nuisance and other harmful behaviours affecting the city centre.

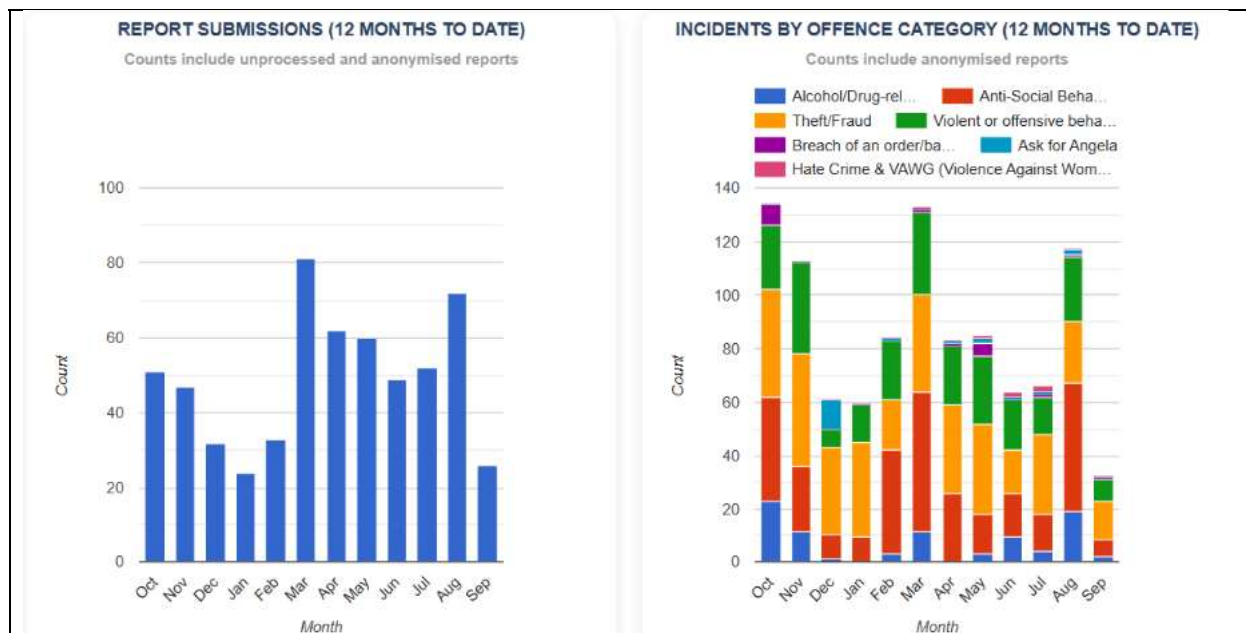


Figure 1: Relevant incidents recorded through Canterbury City Watch/DISC during LAST 12 Months

The DISC information should be considered alongside the day-to-day experiences reported directly to Canterbury BID and the Street Team.

Businesses regularly raise concerns relating to:

- intoxicated individuals and associated anti-social behaviour;
- shouting, swearing and aggressive behaviour;
- individuals congregating or sleeping within shop doorways and entrances where associated behaviour creates obstruction, nuisance, offensive waste or safety concerns;
- persistent or intimidating begging;
- public urination and defecation;
- dangerous or inconsiderate cycling through pedestrian areas;
- excessive noise and amplification; and
- a perceived lack of consistent enforcement against lower-level but persistent anti-social behaviour.

Individually, some incidents may appear relatively minor. However, repeated incidents have a cumulative effect on businesses, employees, residents and visitors and can significantly affect perceptions of safety and the quality of the city-centre environment.

Shouting, Swearing, Harassment, Alarm and Distress

Proposed provision (a)

Canterbury BID supports this provision.

Shouting, swearing, threatening and intimidating behaviour continues to be reported within the city centre. Businesses frequently experience behaviour which may not always result in a police response or meet the threshold for more significant enforcement action but nevertheless causes considerable disruption.

This can include aggressive arguments, prolonged shouting, verbal abuse towards employees or members of the public and intoxication-related disorder. The cumulative impact is particularly important. Persistent shouting and abusive behaviour can:

- *discourage customers from entering businesses;*
- *make employees feel unsafe;*
- *affect families and visitors;*
- *disrupt outdoor dining and hospitality;*
- *require staff, security or the Street Team to intervene; and*
- *negatively affect perceptions of Canterbury.*

As a historic city with a significant visitor economy, maintaining a welcoming public realm is particularly important.

BID Recommendation: *Retain provision (a), supported by clear enforcement guidance so that businesses and authorised officers understand when intervention can reasonably be expected. Implement consistent enforcement.*

Persistent Begging

Proposed provision (b)

Canterbury BID supports action against persistent and intimidating begging, but recommends careful consideration of the wording and implementation.

Begging remains highly visible within parts of Canterbury city centre and is regularly raised with the BID by businesses.

Of particular concern are occasions where begging becomes persistent, repeated, confrontational or intimidating. Businesses report individuals repeatedly approaching customers, positioning themselves immediately outside entrances or approaching people using cashpoints, seating or hospitality areas.

The BID recognises the complex circumstances that can lead to homelessness and begging. Homelessness itself should not be treated as anti-social behaviour. Enforcement should therefore be combined with appropriate outreach, housing, substance misuse and other support services.

However, vulnerability should not prevent intervention where an individual's behaviour is causing harassment, intimidation, obstruction or persistent nuisance.

BID Recommendation: *Support the provision, with enforcement focused particularly on persistent, repeated, aggressive or intimidating begging and accompanied by appropriate referral pathways for vulnerable individuals.*

Public Urination and Defecation

Proposed provision (c)

Canterbury BID strongly supports this provision, including the explicit reference to doorways and alcoves.

Businesses have reported the impact of public urination and defecation around commercial premises, and this was particularly prevalent this summer (2026). Beyond the obvious environmental impact, this creates hygiene issues, additional cleaning requirements and an unpleasant environment for staff and customers arriving at premises. This behaviour is particularly damaging to the appearance and experience of a historic city centre.

BID Recommendation: Retain the provision as drafted and ensure businesses have a clear mechanism for reporting persistent locations or offenders.

Graffiti, Fly Posting and Defacement

Proposed provision (d)

Canterbury BID supports this provision.

Unauthorised graffiti, fly posting, stickers and other defacement have both financial and environmental consequences for businesses and property owners. A clean and well-maintained public realm is particularly important within Canterbury's historic centre and conservation areas.

BID Recommendation: Retain provision (d), alongside proactive removal and appropriate enforcement where offenders can be identified.

Cycling and Riding within the City Centre

Proposed provision (e)

Canterbury BID supports the principle of this provision but recommends that it is widened beyond delivery riders.

*The current wording refers specifically to:
"anti-social behaviour of delivery riders"*

*Businesses report concerns about unsafe and aggressive cycling involving **both delivery riders and other cyclists**, including adults and young people.*

The behaviour, rather than the occupation or purpose of the rider, should determine whether the PSPO applies.

Of particular concern within busy pedestrianised areas are riders:

- travelling at inappropriate speed;*
- weaving between pedestrians;*
- failing to give pedestrians adequate space;*
- undertaking dangerous manoeuvres;*
- riding aggressively;*
- creating excessive noise;*
- deliberately intimidating pedestrians;*
- congregating or riding in a manner which obstructs the public highway; or*
- otherwise riding in a way that creates a foreseeable risk of collision or injury.*

Canterbury's pedestrianised areas can contain very high numbers of visitors, families, older people and people with disabilities. A collision or near miss can have significant consequences.

Recommended amendment

Canterbury BID recommends replacing the narrow reference to **"delivery riders"** with wording applying to **any person riding or operating a cycle, e-cycle or other relevant vehicle in an anti-social, dangerous or intimidating manner.**

*This would allow proportionate enforcement against the behaviour regardless of whether the individual is a delivery rider, commuter or recreational rider. The BID is **not seeking a blanket prohibition on cycling.** The objective should be to address dangerous, aggressive and anti-social riding while allowing responsible cycling where otherwise permitted.*

Alcohol and Street Drinking

Proposed provision 7(a)

Canterbury BID strongly supports the proposed alcohol provision.

Alcohol consumption itself should not automatically constitute anti-social behaviour. However, businesses regularly experience situations where significant intoxication contributes to shouting, aggression, disorder, harassment and other behaviour affecting the public and businesses.

Individuals who are heavily intoxicated can also remain within business entrances and doorways for prolonged periods, creating concerns for employees opening or closing premises and customers entering businesses.

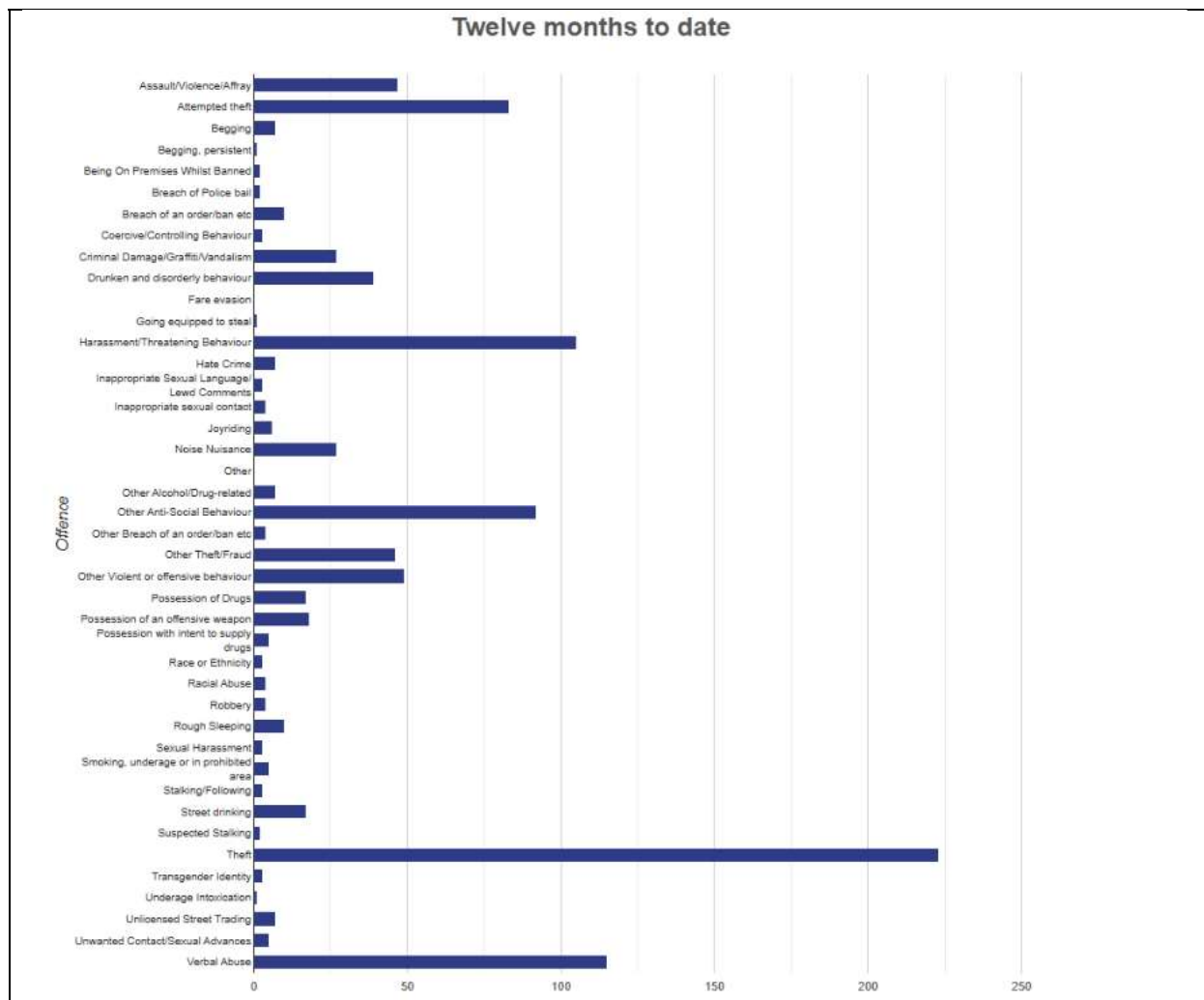


Figure 2: Relevant alcohol-related/ASB reports recorded through Canterbury City Watch/DISC.

The proposed requirement for an Authorised Person to have reasonable grounds to believe that intervention is necessary to prevent or reduce public nuisance or disorder provides an important proportionality safeguard.

BID Recommendation: *Retain the power and ensure sufficient authorised personnel are available to use it consistently.*

Busking, Amplification and Excessive Noise

Canterbury BID recognises that *busking and street entertainment make a positive contribution to Canterbury.*

We would therefore not support unnecessary restrictions on responsible street performance or a blanket prohibition on amplification. However, businesses regularly experience difficulties when amplified performances remain immediately outside the same premises for extended periods or operate at excessive volume.

This can affect:

- *businesses trying to communicate with customers;*
- *hospitality businesses with outdoor seating;*

- residents;
- employees;
- public seating areas; and
- other street users.

BID position

Reasonable amplification should continue to be permitted.

Where amplification becomes excessive, or a performer remains in one location for an unreasonable period and is causing disruption, authorised officers should have a clear ability to require the volume to be reduced or the performer to move to another location.

*Canterbury BID would also welcome consideration of **preferred or designated performance locations**.*

These should be chosen to encourage a vibrant street-performance culture while reducing conflict with outdoor dining areas, public seating, residential accommodation and particularly sensitive business locations.

*The objective should be **management rather than prohibition**, and consistent enforcement.*

Homelessness, Vulnerability and Anti-Social Behaviour

Canterbury businesses regularly report the visible presence of homelessness within the city centre. It is important that the PSPO does not inadvertently criminalise homelessness or vulnerability. Being homeless, rough sleeping or requiring support is not in itself anti-social behaviour.

However, there must equally be an effective response where an individual's behaviour – irrespective of their housing status – includes intimidation, aggressive or persistent begging, threats, abuse, obstruction, public urination or defecation, alcohol-related disorder or other behaviour prohibited by the PSPO.

Canterbury BID therefore supports a support-first but enforcement-capable approach. Where appropriate, vulnerable individuals should be offered access to support services. Where support is repeatedly declined and prohibited behaviour continues, proportionate enforcement should remain available.

Enforcement – A Key Business Concern

*One of the strongest issues for businesses is not simply what behaviours are included within the PSPO, but **how consistently the Order will be enforced**.*

Businesses currently report frustration around lower level but persistent behaviour including shouting, swearing, intoxication, aggressive cycling and intimidation. These incidents may not individually justify an emergency police response, yet collectively they have a considerable impact on the city centre.

For the renewed PSPO to make a meaningful difference, Canterbury BID believes there must be:

visible enforcement; clear reporting mechanisms; consistent application; appropriate information sharing; partnership working between the Council,

Police, BID, City Watch and other agencies; and appropriate escalation for persistent offenders.

Businesses should understand what the PSPO covers, how they can report breaches and what action they can reasonably expect following a report.

We would suggest a much stronger presence in the city centre, from a friendly welcoming perspective to encourage those potentially in breach of the PSPO, encouraging education and awareness rather than fineable enforcement in the first instance.

We would also suggest a Busking Committee run by Buskers, to include councillors and enforcement, as this is the main area of discussion, and the area which can be most benefitted from.

Impact on Canterbury

Canterbury is internationally recognised for its heritage, tourism, education, culture, hospitality and retail offer. The quality of the public realm directly influences people's perception of the city. Persistent shouting, intimidating begging, intoxication-related disorder, public urination, dangerous cycling and similar behaviours can disproportionately affect how safe and welcoming an area feels. For businesses, this is not simply an aesthetic issue.

It can affect customer confidence, employee welfare, trading conditions, outdoor hospitality and people's willingness to spend time within the city centre.

*A well-designed and properly enforced PSPO should therefore form part of the wider partnership approach to maintaining Canterbury as a **safe, welcoming, vibrant and enjoyable city for everybody**.*

Canterbury BID recommendations

- 1. Retains the prohibition on shouting, swearing and behaviour causing harassment, alarm or distress.***
- 2. Retains provisions addressing persistent begging, with particular emphasis on aggressive, intimidating and repeated behaviour and appropriate support pathways for vulnerable people.***
- 3. Retains the prohibition on public urination and defecation, including within business doorways and alcoves.***
- 4. Retains provisions relating to graffiti, fly posting and unauthorised defacement.***
- 5. Widens the proposed anti-social riding provision beyond delivery riders so that dangerous, aggressive or intimidating cycling can be addressed regardless of who is riding.***
- 6. Retains proportionate alcohol-control powers, particularly where alcohol consumption is contributing to nuisance, disorder or anti-social behaviour.***
- 7. Allows reasonable busking and amplification to continue, while providing an effective mechanism for dealing with excessive volume and prolonged occupation of one location.***
- 8. Considers preferred/designated busking locations, particularly to reduce conflict with outdoor dining, public seating and other sensitive areas.***

9. **Ensures homelessness itself is not treated as anti-social behaviour**, while maintaining the ability to address prohibited behaviour regardless of an individual's housing circumstances.
10. **Places enforcement at the centre of the renewed PSPO**, with adequate authorised personnel, clear reporting routes and consistent partnership working.

Canterbury BID supports the principle of the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order and believes it can provide an important tool in improving the city-centre environment.

Our businesses are not asking for Canterbury to become an overly controlled public space. A thriving city needs activity, entertainment, young people, visitors, residents, hospitality, cycling, street performance and a diverse community.

What businesses are asking for is a proportionate mechanism to address behaviour when it crosses the line into **intimidation, persistent nuisance, danger, harassment or anti-social behaviour**.

The DISC evidence and experiences reported through Canterbury City Watch demonstrate that these issues are not theoretical. Businesses and frontline teams are dealing with them regularly. The success of the PSPO will ultimately depend not simply upon the wording of the Order, but upon **visibility, consistency and enforcement**.

Canterbury BID therefore supports the proposed PSPO subject to the recommendations contained within this response and would welcome continued partnership working with Canterbury City Council, Kent Police and other partners to ensure that the Order delivers a measurable improvement for businesses, residents and everyone visiting Canterbury city centre.

The following representation was submitted to the Environmental Health team, which subsequently forwarded the correspondence to us for inclusion in the consultation.

Do you know the postcode for the location of the problem?

No

Tell us where the problem is:

I support the Council's consultation on noise pollution from buskers in Canterbury City Centre. The use of amplified music is intrusive and distressing. It detracts from the enjoyment of shopping in the city. I am less likely to shop at, or buy from, a business in the city centre if buskers are playing nearby.

Is it a residential or a business property?

Business

What is the problem?

I regularly shop at Waterstones book shop but my enjoyment browsing bookshelves this summer has been adversely affected by amplified music from buskers outside Marks and Spencer, and Primark. I have raised this with Waterstones staff who say there is nothing they can do about it. I urge the council to ban amplifiers and allow

only acoustic music and singing without an amplifier. This will impact upon buskers who play an instrument to a pre-recorded backing track, but that is unfortunate. As soon as amplifiers are allowed there are those who will take advantage and project their "music" onto others. It should be noted that while some buskers have some musical talent, others have none whatsoever. It is painful when the latter use amplifiers.

*Tell us how often the problem happens
Constantly. Every day or most days.*

*How does the problem affect you?
Detracts from my enjoyment of the city centre. Dissuades me from visiting certain businesses and purchasing goods and services from them. Reduces the number of visits I make to the city centre. I am a retired Professor of Environmental Policy (Open University) who is available to speak further with you on this, face-to-face or on the phone. it is essential that the rights of buskers and people who like buskers are balanced fairly with the rights of those who wish to enjoy peaceable access to the city centre, which belongs to us all.*

7. Public and stakeholder meetings

7.1 Public meeting on 9 July 2026

Council officers held a public meeting at the Beaney Library on 9 July 2026 to discuss the proposals for the new Public Space Protection Order

Attendees were given the opportunity to listen to a presentation outlining the proposals, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting was attended by four members of the public.

The following questions were raised:

Could the survey questions provide for multiple answers/ticks? Sometimes there are more than one answer to a question.

It already does this with many questions where applicable, but we will look into this however, space is provided in the freetext box.

Are PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices given to just individuals or to businesses too?

Just individuals.

In the adopted PSPO, does 'Antisocial Riders' only refer to delivery drivers?

Yes

Why doesn't 'Antisocial Riders' include non-delivery antisocial riders? There are plenty of them on scooters and bikes.

It's a conflict with report on wider restrictions; our attempts to lower air pollution and promote cycling.

We have tried to find a balance between working delivery drivers, businesses, and public safety.

We found the majority of personal riders were under 18, so PSPOs were not the appropriate enforcement measure as they only apply to adults.

As a member of public with experiences of anti-social behaviour, is there any action we can take? What can we do to enforce the rules?

On the Canterbury City Council website there is an anti-social behaviour reporting page.

Those reports will be shared with TCG, which will draw attention to that area and time if the issue can't be resolved on that same day.

There is a sign outside 'Next' about worries regarding our safety in city. Reporting on website feels like blunt instrument. How are businesses equipped to handle ASB?

BID connected to TCG, so if there are issues going into shops and licenced premises, TCG are aware.

There is also Best-Bar-None accreditation for many licenced shops, which means staff have training and procedures to follow in these events.

I'm aware of PSPOs, but some people aren't. Isn't it worth putting something out to inform residents on how much is going on behind the scenes, to give some reassurance to people?

A communications plan is underway this year to assess issues like these.

We are hoping to attend more public facing meetings.

On the consultation survey, there is a list of wards for the city centre – does this PSPO apply to everywhere in the city centre space? If yes, where do you put the signs?

Signs go in hotspot locations, and we look for people to inform us of these areas.

Sometimes signs do get damaged, defaced, torn down, and we rely on residents to inform us of these instances.

Why isn't Canterbury City Cemetery (near Westgate Court Avenue) included in this? This absolutely should be covered by the PSPO.

Could be a misalignment in mapping due to old maps. We will have a look.

If officers not specifically called in to a space for an issue, are they doing rounds? Are they making presence felt? Even if they can't give orders to kids it would be beneficial, particularly when children finish school for the day.

There are patrolling officers.

There is a split tree near Toddler's Cove. Kids climb the tree and use it as a platform to jump at, or on the boats. The tree is still alive but split down the middle. What can be done about this?

Rebecca booth in charge of parks – we can take an action back to her.

Those of age can be issued FPN, and those underage can still get an official warning.

Data driven resourcing is becoming increasingly dominant, so best practice is always to log an incident on our website.

There are rough sleepers in my churchyard – we don't mind turning a blind eye to those behaving, but there are more cases of harassment and drug-related activity. Officers aren't helping as they claim it's private land, so what can we do?

Patrolling officers won't necessarily know the local knowledge of that area, but if claims go into the office, it builds a picture, allowing for an escalation process.

You can also report it on our form on the council website.

How do I find the reporting page online?

'ASB report Canterbury City Council' on Google

Lime bikes are left everywhere; all over path on the way to the station, in the churchyard... no docking station mean's they're left lying about. I thought e-scooters were taken away for similar reasons?

Lacey's team has raised concerns over this.

What are the initiatives for those under 18? Is it still worth reporting?

We work with schools to and parents to enforce through them.

Some parents found it very helpful. We also enforce through social workers and tenancy schemes.

It's still worth reporting, as it helps to identify and break patterns, and understand why these kids are acting the way they are.

7.2 Business and stakeholder meeting on 4 September 2026

Canterbury BID held a public meeting at the Abode Hotel on 4 September 2026 to

discuss the proposals for the new Public Space Protection Order with council officers.

Attendees were given the opportunity to listen to a presentation outlining the proposals, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting was attended by 15 representatives from a range of businesses and organisations, including Siesta, Kent Police, Card Factory, Canterbury Punting, Chopstix Group, Loukoumades, Mcdonald's, Lush Cosmetics, Howdens, KP, as well as representatives from voluntary organisations and councillors.

The following questions were raised:

With antisocial behaviour – is it only delivery drivers? I've also experienced a lot of kids and adults engaging in this behaviour.

There was a motion put forward by councillors around delivery riders post covid.

It was noted there were a few near misses and incidents with pedestrians and riders.

We spoke with delivery companies and business – do we have stopping points, TRO's, etc.

The council deemed a PSPO would be best use and tried to educate and signal to people to do the right thing.

The reason it is just delivery riders is a PSPO can only be charged to adults, and there was not enough evidence to prove it was for all cyclists.

Other enforcement action to be taken against young riders.

On businesses passing comments to someone on amplification – who is that someone?

There are teams within council that have an out of hours phone.

On weekends, businesses are struggling to get responses.

Only two officers at any one time for the whole district to support PSPO.

With amplification, if there's a really loud busker but no speaker/mic, would that fall under this PSPO?

No, it must be amplified. We must apply the same rule for all, and it would be difficult to define what is 'too loud' without amplification.

At Siesta, if they're not very good, we move them on.

This PSPO is for those scenarios where there is resistance to being moved.

If a busker was too loud without amp, could it not be filed under shouting?

It needs to be more of a belligerent nature to qualify.

Over what period are the examples given?

9 months.

What about a decibel limit – would cover loud buskers without amps?

Good question – there are challenges with use of these devices.

Statutory noise limits are enforced through their use.

The challenge with the potential use for the PSPO is every police and environment officer would need this equipment on their person.

They need to be calibrated regularly and are expensive.

Can we touch base on code of practice?

Busking code of conduct is a voluntary busking code.

It highlights a number of respectable agreements – certain time limit, a promise to move on after a while, etc.

The survey is still live to ask business, residents, buskers – are you aware of it, does it need changing, does it work?

A PSPO is enforceable, whereas a code of conduct isn't.

If we've invited the busker, is there a time limit then?

There's no need to move if you've invited them and no one else wants a turn.

Buskers can have a positive impact on business.

Exactly – this is the kind of feedback we are after.

Buskers outside, might fall under temporary event category – if promoting business – at the Christmas light switch on we have to apply for licence. If amplification goes through, BID would promote – we need clarification on where that bar sits. [Unsure what the question was asking]

If you encourage someone to sit outside your shop, and they're not taking up space for people to get through, there would be no issue.

There's a common sense approach to this.

So, this wouldn't cover people playing loud music?

If something is being amplified, this will cover it.

Boomboxers, by definition, are not amplified

These are listed in the policy.

During the evening there is a crowd outside this venue with speakers

(Police) this is more antisocial – we look into this as police and the offenders get served community protection orders.

Following this, they go to court.

With the collection of evidence, is it a positive thing for business to film the volume of ASB they're experiencing?

Anybody can film in a public space, but putting yourself in danger is absolutely discouraged.

If we asked you to collate that data, heads into GDPR territory that we are not comfortable with

If you chose to do this, that's fine to do.

(Police) we can review the evidence if you file it as a concern – log it with us officially.

At that stage, how long would it take to see a response and for something to actually get done?

I would love to give you timeframe, but every case has many factors and elements that influence the time it takes to process.

This is on our agenda though, and we want to implement and make use of the PSPO to push behaviour in the right direction.

Is there an age limit to PSPO?

Adults only

Would it be outrageous to put forward a 16-year-old limit? There are more kids than adults doing these things.

Legally, we cannot

If 16-year-old Can get CPW, then they can get a telling off from council?

A CPW can't be given to 15-year-old, but their parent could be issued, to ensure a bike, say, is always home by 19:00.

One can't be issued to a parent for child, but just for specific circumstances.

(Police) shouting and swearing could become criminal, it's just a matter of the evidential burden being higher.

The PSPO applies to certain wards – with LGR and the abolition of CCC, would this be auto adjusted in case a ward disappears

At the moment, we don't know that wards would be changed, they may or not be.

I will be reviewing next PSPO policy.

(Chris Cornell) Wards will technically exist, but purpose of having maps is that that designated area will still exist, and the order will still exist.

The council can also make small variations by vote of councillors.

ASB for youths – there's not a lot for young people to do – some will inevitably do something that causes problems. The old council offices, are you doing anything with them? Why not a Total Wipeout course, or somewhere free (ideally) to blow off steam.

The building has been sold and is progressing with plan for housing.

The point on what we offer for young people I would challenge.

We've put a lot of resources and grants to lots of community and voluntary sector groups that offer a lot to young people; boxing, cooking, back to school event, play parks, green spaces, riverside.

We're very lucky for what we have on offer.

There are always gaps to fill of course, and we're constantly working on these improvements.

I'm more on about Canterbury in general – many I speak to and my opinion, I can't see much for kids. GO APE in Blean woods or something

Funding for these is a challenge

£1.5 million to do up Westgate towers, I can't see a difference.

This is to do with the heritage side of the council.

Enforcement doesn't deal with this.

A board of chairs is being created to help figure out where best to put funding.

How can CCC communicate what you've mentioned better – I wasn't aware of any of those things you've mentioned. If we were aware, we could signpost these things. Who communicates that?

Consultations are promoted via our website, social media.

We also email directly to people who requested to be notified of this consultation and our stakeholders and partners to spread the word.

We also have a meeting structure to try including all partners, school heads, university heads, etc.

Anyone with good ideas on how to communicate that, please bring them forward and we'll take to communications team.

Liked the idea of QR codes for big upcoming events on the black maps around town – would be good to have those for groups and upcoming events. Providing more facilities and getting out to people – problem with consultation that there's not enough response – CCC needs to work on making this more effective and reaching more people.

We use social media, our own stakeholder lists, contact people who requested to be notified of future consultations, work with partners who help us spread the word, but please give us your ideas on how to better reach community.

Spoke about kids earlier, is there anything else the council is doing for kids? Some adults are a problem, but majority is the kids.

(Police) kids move around, new groups pop up.

Most of what we do regarding confiscation is only temporary.

We're trying to work with parents, and we do sympathise with your concerns.

We are all tired and frustrated with dealing with same kids.

There's not enough police and it is frustrating

If we pay them more attention, they get what they're after and we chase them until they get bored.

There will always be core group.

We need a dirt track or something

Comes down to money, ultimately.

Canterbury centre is where loads of transport moves through.

(BID rep) Diversionary activities we are not short of and am keen to add more.

If we're here in 12 months, what measurable difference should residents expect to see.

Depending on two options chosen.

If we are in the same cycle of kids growing up and deciding to be a rebel, is there traction in breaking the loop. I look at Nasons being constantly invaded, but don't have any leverage on people who own the building to even help screw the windows shut. Biggest risk is someone setting fire to that – loads of businesses around there, it's only a matter of time. Public spending is well spent on creating this barrier to kids if we can't stop them from acting badly.

There are two elements to this; one is the Derelict Building group.

Kent fire and rescue attend, as do Kent Police and others – we push for actions to take place, CPW's on property owners to secure their properties.

(Police) PSPO is designed around adults, who we expect to obey law.

There is a clear central government line on how kids shouldn't be criminalised.

We can't get kids into custody because of the adverse effect on kids.

There are differences between kids that we have to be conscious of.

The police trying to address kaleidoscope of issues that could be leading a child to break the law, is much tougher than policing adults.

Need to get people involved and talking, and we need to get there before the kids get embedded in that culture.

Sometimes it's with the carrot, sometimes the stick.

The Derelict Building committee – I'd like to attend

(Police) It has helped us get better links with Nasons management, who are not local. We know it's a vulnerability, and we can use CPW's.

They are also beholden to occupiers responsibility – will be massively liable if they haven't met those responsibilities.

Our objective is to engage, educate, explain, and then enforce.

8. Conclusions

The consultation received 187 responses, alongside contributions through a public meeting, stakeholder engagement session and written representations.

The proportion of respondents who reported witnessing or experiencing the activities ranged from 15.5% for graffitiing and fly-posting to 62.6% for anti-social behaviour associated with delivery riders.

The responses on the proposed activities recorded 99 respondents (53%) agreeing or strongly agreeing with their inclusion and 75 respondents (40.1%) disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Responses on the proposed area of coverage recorded 112 respondents (59.9%) agreeing or strongly agreeing, compared with 37 respondents (19.7%) who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The free-text responses identified a range of issues relating to the proposed provisions.

These included personal safety and the use of public spaces, anti-social behaviour, cleanliness, noise, pedestrian safety, the city centre environment and enforcement.

Comments relating to amplification and busking included both support for busking and comments seeking controls on excessive or intrusive amplified sound.

Enforcement and implementation were also raised in the responses.

27 comments under the additional feedback question related to enforcement, policing and implementation, including 21 comments referring to more enforcement or police presence in the city centre.

The written representations provided additional views on the proposed order.

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner expressed support for the extension and variation of the PSPO.

Canterbury BID supported the proposed PSPO and made recommendations concerning the wording and implementation of several provisions.

A representation from Las Iguanas Canterbury specifically addressed the impact of amplified performances on business and outdoor seating.

Preventing wildfires

Consultation report

September 2026

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1. Introduction

Following a request from central government and in response to a number of wildfires across the district, the council asked for the public's views on a proposal to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) designed to reduce the risk of wildfires breaking out in the future.

Dry weather had increased the risk of fires in open spaces and was expected to continue doing so.

Wildfires can cause significant damage to wildlife habitats, public open spaces, property and infrastructure, while posing a significant risk to the public.

They also place considerable pressure on emergency services and the council.

About the proposal

The council consulted on a PSPO that could prohibit or restrict activities including:

- lighting barbecues in designated public spaces
- lighting open fires
- using portable stoves or fire pits
- discarding lit cigarettes or other smoking materials
- any activity that creates an unnecessary fire risk during periods of heightened wildfire risk

The consultation ran from Wednesday 2 September to Friday 11 September 2026.

2. Executive summary

The consultation received 202 responses, along with three written representations.

97% of respondents supported restrictions on discarding lit cigarettes or smoking materials.

Support for the other three proposed restrictions (fireworks, barbecues and open fires/fire pits ranged from 90.6% to 92%.

141 respondents (69.8%) considered a PSPO an appropriate way to reduce wildfire risk, 45 (22.3%) were not sure and 16 (7.9%) did not.

120 respondents (59.4%) identified specific locations where they believed additional measures were needed.

105 respondents (52%) did not identify any group or activity that could be unfairly affected by the proposals, 28 (13.9%) did.

3. Methodology

Consultation took place between Wednesday 2 September and Friday 11 September 2026.

The following methods were used to seek views:

- an online questionnaire
- a paper version of the questionnaire
- written representations

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- an article on the council's newsroom site
- posts on the council's social media channels
- Canterbury City Council corporate newsletters
- direct emails to a wide range of stakeholders encouraging them to respond to the consultation
- notifications sent to individuals who had requested to be informed about council consultations

4. Findings

The survey asked respondents about their views on the risk of wildfires, grass fires and uncontrolled outdoor fires across the district.

Respondents were also asked about the effect this had on their quality of life.

They were asked whether they supported restrictions on four specific activities proposed for inclusion in the PSPO.

Respondents were also invited to identify locations where they felt additional measures were needed and to comment on whether a PSPO was an appropriate way to help reduce risk.

Finally, they were asked whether the proposals could unfairly affect any groups of activities.

For most questions, respondents were invited to provide additional comments in a free-text response.

Responses were reviewed and grouped into themes.

Where appropriate, longer responses have been broken down into separate comments to reflect multiple points raised.

The survey received 202 responses.

4.1 Respondent profile - overall

4.1.1 Respondents were asked: Which of the following best describes you?

177 of the 202 respondents were residents of the Canterbury district.

Smaller numbers responded as visitors, workers, businesses/organisations, or councillors.

Seven businesses or community groups responded.

11 councillors responded, including parish and city/county councillors.

Which of the following best describes you?	Responses	%
A resident of the Canterbury district	177	87.6%
A visitor to the Canterbury district	3	1.5%
A worker in the Canterbury district	4	2.0%
A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name:	7	3.5%
A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify:	11	5.4%

An MP	-	-
Other, please specify:	-	-

4.1.2 A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name

ACRA Alliance of Canterbury Residents Associations
 Friends of Beverley Meadow
 Friends of Westgate Parks
 Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council
 Kent Fire and Rescue Service
 Love Hambrook Marshes CIC
 St Stephen's Residents' Association

4.1.3 A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify

Borough Councillor in Ashford
 City and county
 City Cllr
 city councillor
 City Councillor
 Hackington Parish Councillor
 Hoath Parish Council
 Parish
 Parish Cllr; Bridge
 Parish councillor

4.1.4 Respondents were asked: What age are you?

The largest proportion of respondents were aged 65 to 74 (25.2%), followed by those aged 75 to 84 (20.3%).

There were also notable numbers of respondents aged 55 to 64 (17.8%) and 45 to 54 (17.3%).

Around 9.9% of respondents were aged 35 to 44 and very small proportions were aged 18 to 25 (2%) and 85 and above (1.5%).

Response	Responses	%
Under 18	-	-
18 to 25	4	2.0%
26 to 34	1	0.5%
35 to 44	20	9.9%

45 to 54	35	17.3%
55 to 64	36	17.8%
65 to 74	51	25.2%
75 to 84	41	20.3%
85 and above	3	1.5%
Prefer not to say	9	4.5%
No reply	2	1.0%

4.1.5 Respondents were asked: What gender are you?

The majority of respondents were female (65.3%) and just over a quarter were male (27.7%)

What gender are you?	Responses	%
Male	56	27.7%
Female	132	65.3%
Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)	2	1.0%
Prefer not to say	9	4.5%
No reply	3	1.5%

4.1.6 Respondents were asked: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

78.2% of respondents said they did not consider themselves to be disabled and 13.4% who said they did.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	Responses	%
Yes	27	13.4%
No	158	78.2%
Prefer not to say	14	6.9%
No reply	3	1.5%

4.2 Experience of wildfires

4.2.1 Respondents were asked: Have you seen or experienced any wildfire, grass fire or uncontrolled outdoor fire within the district?

50 of the 202 respondents had seen or experienced a wildfire, grass fire or uncontrolled outdoor fire within the district and 151 had not.

Have you seen or experienced any wildfire?	Responses	%
Yes	50	24.8%
No	152	75.2%

Respondents who answered 'yes' were asked to provide details.

30 respondents described a single incident and 19 reported experiencing multiple incidents.

Yes, please provide details	Number of written comments
Describes one incident	30
Describes multiple incidents	19

4.2.2 Respondents were asked: To what extent do wildfires, grass fires or uncontrolled outdoor fires have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

92 respondents said wildfires had a large or very large effect on their quality of life.

54 respondents selected neither a large nor a small effect and 56 respondents said the effect was small or none

Extent on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large	45	22.3%
Large	47	23.3%
Neither a large nor a small	54	26.7%
Small effect	22	10.9%
No effect	34	16.8%

4.2.3 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you support restrictions on the following in the public spaces where there is a high risk of wildfire?

There were high levels of support for restrictions on the four activities proposed:

- Discarding lit cigarettes or smoking materials: 196 (97%) strongly support/support
- Setting off fireworks: 186 (92%) strongly support/support
- Barbecues: 186 (92%) strongly support/support
- Open fires and fire pits: 183 (90.6%) strongly support/support

	Strongly support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Barbecues (including disposable BBQs)	172	14	4	5	7	-
	85.1%	6.9%	2.0%	2.5%	3.5%	-
Open fires and fire pits	168	15	7	4	7	1
	83.2%	7.4%	3.5%	2.0%	3.5%	0.5%
Discarding lit cigarettes or smoking materials	186	10	2	-	3	1
	92.1%	5.0%	1.0%	-	1.5%	0.5%
Setting off fireworks	173	13	6	2	7	1
	85.6%	6.4%	3.0%	1.0%	3.5%	0.5%

4.2.4 Respondents were asked: Are there particular locations where you believe additional wildfire prevention measures are needed?

120 of the 202 respondents identified locations where they believed additional measures were needed, 82 did not.

Are there any locations where additional preventions are needed?	Responses	%
Yes	120	59.4%
No	82	40.6%

Respondents were asked to tell us which locations.

This was a free-text response.

Additional preventions are needed at this location	Number of written comments
Woodlands (general)	41
The countryside/rural areas	31
Parks	26
Grassland	19
Private gardens/residential areas	11
Blean woods	10

Conservation areas	9
All public spaces	8
Everywhere/ban fires	7
Dane John/City Walls	6
Old Park	6
Beaches	5
Beverley Meadow	4
Long Rock SSSI	4
Reculver Country Park	3
Near wildlife	2
Hambrook Marsh	2
Locations around Harbledown	2
Herne Bay Downs	2
Wincheap Orchards	2
Tankerton Slopes	2
Riverside areas around Fordwich	2
Duncan Down	1
Peatland	1
Dengrove Woods	1
Babs Hill nr. Spring Lane	1
Toddler's Cove	1
Duncan Downs	1

4.2.4 Respondents were asked: Do you think a PSPO is an appropriate way to help reduce the risk of wildfires in public spaces?

141 of the 202 respondents considered a PSPO an appropriate way to help reduce wildfire risk in public spaces.

45 respondents were not sure and 16 did not consider it appropriate.

Is a PSPO an appropriate way to reduce the risk?	Responses	%
Yes	141	69.8%
No	16	7.9%
Not sure	45	22.3%

Respondents were asked to explain their answers.

This was a free-text response.

Is a PSPO an appropriate way to reduce the risk?	Number of written comments
Needs careful enforcement	24
Need for better public education signage/communication regarding risks	22

Should carry fines/penalties	9
People ought to be given a choice/against nanny state	6
It ought to be a criminal rather than civil matter	5
The need for a reporting mechanism	4
PSPO is too harsh	4
The regulations must be clear	3
People will ignore the PSPO	3
There ought to be exceptions for gas BBQs	2
Does not know what a PSPO is	2
Too difficult to enforce the PSPO	2
There are other measures to prevent wildfires, such as better land management	2
Insufficient detail in proposal	2
Would be useful to have proper facilities for the BBQs	2
We already have laws against for example arson - so a PSPO is unnecessary	2
Problem with bonfires	1
Must be proportionate rather than blanket ban	1
Ban fireworks	1
Ought to be an exception for beach BBQs	1
Ban lit balloons	1
PSPOs have been effective in other areas	1
Restrictions needed on public BBQs	1
No need to do a consultation	1
Should ban the sale of BBQs	1

4.2.5 Respondents were asked: Are there any groups or activities that could be unfairly affected by these proposals?

105 respondents did not identify any group or activity that could be unfairly affected by the proposals.

69 respondents were not sure and 28 identified potential impacts.

Impact on groups of activities	Responses	%
Yes	28	13.9%
No	105	52.0%
Not sure	69	34.2%

Respondents were asked to explain their answers.

This was a free-text response.

Are there groups or activities that could be unfairly affected by these proposals?	Number of written comments
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People who enjoy BBQs in public places	10
Outdoor education groups (for example scouts and guides; forest school)	10
Outdoor enthusiasts/campers who use portable stoves	5
Smokers	2
The homeless who might choose to cook outdoors	2
People without a garden (who therefore couldn't have a BBQ at home)	2
Everyone - people should be free to have BBQs	2
Hindu religious people	2
Ethnic minorities	1

4.2.6 Respondents were asked: Are there any alternative measures the council should consider to reduce wildfire risk?

This was a free-text response.

Are there any alternative measures the council should consider to reduce wildfire risk?	Number of written comments
A public information campaign	27
Require/encourage land management for example fire breaks, removal of dry vegetation	12
Better signage needed	12
Ban bonfires	11
Ban fireworks	10
Should allow designated areas/facilities for BBQs	7
More facilities needed for putting out fires (eg extinguishers in public)	6
Patrol/monitoring of risk areas	6
Better equipment needed for firefighters/more firefighters	5
Ban sale of disposable BBQs	4
Penalties needed (fines, imprisonment)	4
Ban release of balloons/sky lanterns	3
Ban/restrict glass bottles in public areas	2
More bins with cigarette disposal	2
More bins and fines for littering	2
Enforcement should be targeted to high-risk areas	2
Better enforcement against motorcycles in areas of woodland/country paths	1
Prohibit BBQs in areas that are residential but nonetheless risky, like caravan parks	1
A reporting mechanism should be introduced	1
Questions number of fire hydrants in district	1
Include dangers of cigarette stubs and discarded glass,	1
Wildfire measures needed in local plan	1
PSPO must be clear	1

Not happy for schools to have fires	1
Council should be partnered with Community Safety Units	1
No restrictions on beaches	1
Ensure water companies are providing water	1
Restrict access to at-risk areas	1
Incorporate wildlife risk reduction measures into planning requirements	1
Bans should be active only in periods of high risk	1
To end use of petrol-powered tools in gardening of parks	1

4.2.7 Respondents were asked: Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

This was a free-text response.

Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?	Number of written comments
Support	34
Enforcement measures required	9
Requires clear communication/education	6
Better land management (for example cutting and watering of grass)	4
Ban fireworks	4
Restrictions need to be clarified	4
The policy is restrictive of freedom/overreach	4
Explore alternatives to blanket ban	2
Penalties required	2
Many wildfires not caused by public	2
PSPO should be seasonal	2
The policy is reactive/should have been introduced long ago	2
Restrictions on bonfires	2
Consider impact of wildfires on horse owners, especially the complexity of evacuating these animals.	1
Prioritise PSPO enforcement and signage along bridleways and other equestrian areas	1
Provide mitigation advice to farmers	1
Better waste disposal needed	1
Ban disposable BBQs	1
Ban BBQs	1
PSPO should only impact areas at risk - Council should publish evidence of recorded wildfires in the area	1
Measures should be targeted to at risk areas	1
PSPO should be enforced on the Hambrook Marshes	1
Proposal should cover whole district	1
Suggests costs of monitoring and enforcing policy will be significant	1
More resources needed for fire brigade in Canterbury	1

5. Written representations

We received a written representation from Sir Roger Gale, MP.

Dear Mr. Davies,

Wildfires - Public Spaces Protection Order

I have received your notice of consultation relating to the City Council's proposed PSPO in respect of wild fires.

I assume that discarding lighted cigarettes or other smoking materials is already an offence under littering regulations and is therefore actionable and unlawful

Turning to the other issues raised it seems to me reasonably appropriate that the use of barbecues in public spaces, the lighting of open fires, the use of portable stoves or fire pits and other activities that create an unnecessary fire risk during periods of heightened wild fire risk are entirely reasonable provided that "designated public spaces" is clearly defined

With my best wishes.

*Yours sincerely,
Sir Roger Gale, MP*

We received a written representation from a resident.

Dear Consultation Team

Having received an email from [Redacted] regarding a proposed restrictions on risk of fire during the heatwave I would like to please bring to your attention that on the 6th August 2026, late at night around 10pm on a very hot day there were fireworks which lasted for over half an hour, I thought of calling the police as I was very concerned but didn't want to trouble them.

I was extremely concerned that this could start a fire as the fireworks were very close to me, I live at [Redacted]

I would be most grateful if you would consider a ban on fireworks on such hot days too please to prevent a fire.

Yours sincerely

We received a written representation from Natural England.

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your consultation request dated and received by Natural England on 2nd September 2026.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England has no comments to make on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Preventing Wildfires in the District, for Canterbury City Council

The lack of comment from Natural England should not be interpreted as a statement that there are no impacts on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may wish to make comments that might help the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to fully take account of any environmental risks and opportunities relating to this document.

If you disagree with our assessment of this proposal as low risk, or should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment, then in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, please consult Natural England again.

Yours faithfully

6. Conclusions

The consultation on the proposed wildfire prevention PSPO received 202 responses and three written representations.

There was strong support for all four proposed restrictions.

196 respondents (97%) supported restricting the discarding of lit cigarettes or smoking materials, 186 (92%) supported restricting fireworks, 186 (92%) supported restricting barbecues and 183 (90.6%) supported restricting open fires and fire pits.

141 respondents (69.8%) considered a PSPO an appropriate way to help reduce wildfire risk in public spaces.

Where respondents explained their view, the most common points raised were the need for careful enforcement, better public education, signage or communication about the risks and a preference for fines or penalties to accompany the order.

120 respondents (59.4%) identified locations where they believed additional measures were needed, most often woodlands, the countryside or rural areas and parks

105 respondents (52%) did not identify any group or activity that could be unfairly affected by the proposals and 69 (34.2%) were not sure.

Of the 28 respondents (13.9%) who identified potential impacts, the groups most frequently named were people who enjoy barbecues in public places and outdoor education groups such as scouts, guides and forest schools.

When asked about alternative measures, the most common suggestions were a public information campaign, land management such as fire breaks or removal of dry vegetation, improved signage and outright bans on bonfires or fireworks.

In the free-text comments on the proposal overall, the largest single theme was general support, followed by calls for stronger enforcement and clearer communication or education.

Two written representations were received. Sir Roger Gale MP supported the proposed restrictions in principle, subject to "designated public spaces" being clearly defined.

A resident raised concerns about fireworks during hot weather, following an incident on 6 August 2026, and asked that a ban on fireworks in such conditions be considered.

Appendix 2 – Busking in Canterbury City Centre: Public Consultation Evidence Report

Appendix 2 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVIDENCE REPORT

Busking in Canterbury City Centre

Consideration of Additional Controls and a Potential Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Summary

Canterbury City Council undertook a public consultation to gather views regarding busking activity within Canterbury City Centre and to assess whether additional management measures, including the potential use of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), should be considered.

A total of 58 responses were received. Respondents included workers, businesses, residents and visitors. Supplementary engagement was also undertaken with local businesses.

The consultation demonstrates that public opinion regarding busking is mixed rather than overwhelmingly supportive or opposed.

Key findings include:

- 20 respondents expressed a positive or very positive view of busking.
- 24 respondents expressed a neutral view.
- 14 respondents expressed a negative or very negative view.
- 34 respondents reported experiencing issues associated with busking activity.
- Excessive noise and amplified sound were the most frequently identified concerns.
- Many respondents acknowledged benefits including support for local performers, improved atmosphere and a vibrant city centre environment.

1. Introduction

Busking is a long-established part of the cultural environment of Canterbury City Centre and contributes to the character and vitality of the city.

2. Consultation Methodology

The consultation was conducted on 13 August 2026 using an online questionnaire. A total of 58 completed responses were received. A business outreach exercise was also conducted resulting in 53 business entries representing 52 unique businesses.

3. Respondent Demographics

Workers: 31
Businesses/Organisations: 16
Residents: 8
Visitors: 2
Other: 1

4. Overall Attitudes Towards Busking

Very Positive: 6
Positive: 14
Neutral: 24
Negative: 9
Very Negative: 5

5. Frequency of Exposure

Daily: 30
Weekly: 24
Monthly: 1
Occasionally: 3

6. Benefits of Busking

Supports local performers (34), improves atmosphere (30), creates vibrancy (28), enhances visitor experience (19), and supports businesses (10).

7. Reported Issues

34 respondents reported issues. Excessive noise (16) and amplified music or speech (11) were the most common concerns.

8. Impact of Issues

Severe: 3
Significant: 11
Moderate: 19
Minor: 7

9. Assessment of the Current Busking Code

Very Effective: 3
Effective: 12
Neutral: 20
Ineffective: 8
Very Ineffective: 4
Not aware of code: 11

10. Potential Future Controls

Clearer amplification guidance (35)
Time restrictions (30)
Greater awareness of code (27)
Longer breaks between performances (19)
Stronger complaint response arrangements (19)

11. Consideration of a PSPO

The evidence demonstrates recurring concerns regarding noise, amplification, duration, repetition, and location of performances. However, overall sentiment remained predominantly neutral or positive.

12. Conclusions

The evidence suggests any future intervention should target identifiable harmful behaviours rather than prohibit busking generally.

Appendix A – Business Outreach List

Three, Typo, H. Samuels, Specsavers, Love Coffee, Bills Timpson, Metro Bank, The Ivy, Bubbleology, I-repair, Body Shop, Vision Express, Costa, Smiggles, Swalovski, Primark, Tesco, Sports Direct, Anne Summers, Sunglasses Hut, Skechers, O2 Shop, Las Iguanas, Cote Brasserie, Clarendon Fine Art, Amorino, Vodafone, Office, Fat Face, Pret A Manger, White Stuff, Superdrug, Poundland, WH Smith, Cards Direct, Starbucks, Barclays, New Look, Canterbury Pottery Shop, NatWest, Treats and Toys, Greggs, McDonalds, Chopstix, CEX, EE, Warren Jones, British Heart Foundation, Lakeland, Britannia and Hotter Shoes.

Appendix 3 – Draft Proposed Canterbury City PSPO

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PART 4, SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

THE ORDER

Notice is hereby given that with effect from X DATE Canterbury City Council (~the Council) made a Public Spaces Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act).

The Order shall be known as the Canterbury City Order XXXX ('the order').

1. The Council in making this Order is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:

a. The activities identified in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Order below (~the Activities) have been carried out in public places within the Council's area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; and

b. The effect or likely effect of the Activities:

i. Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature;

ii. Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the Activities unreasonable; and

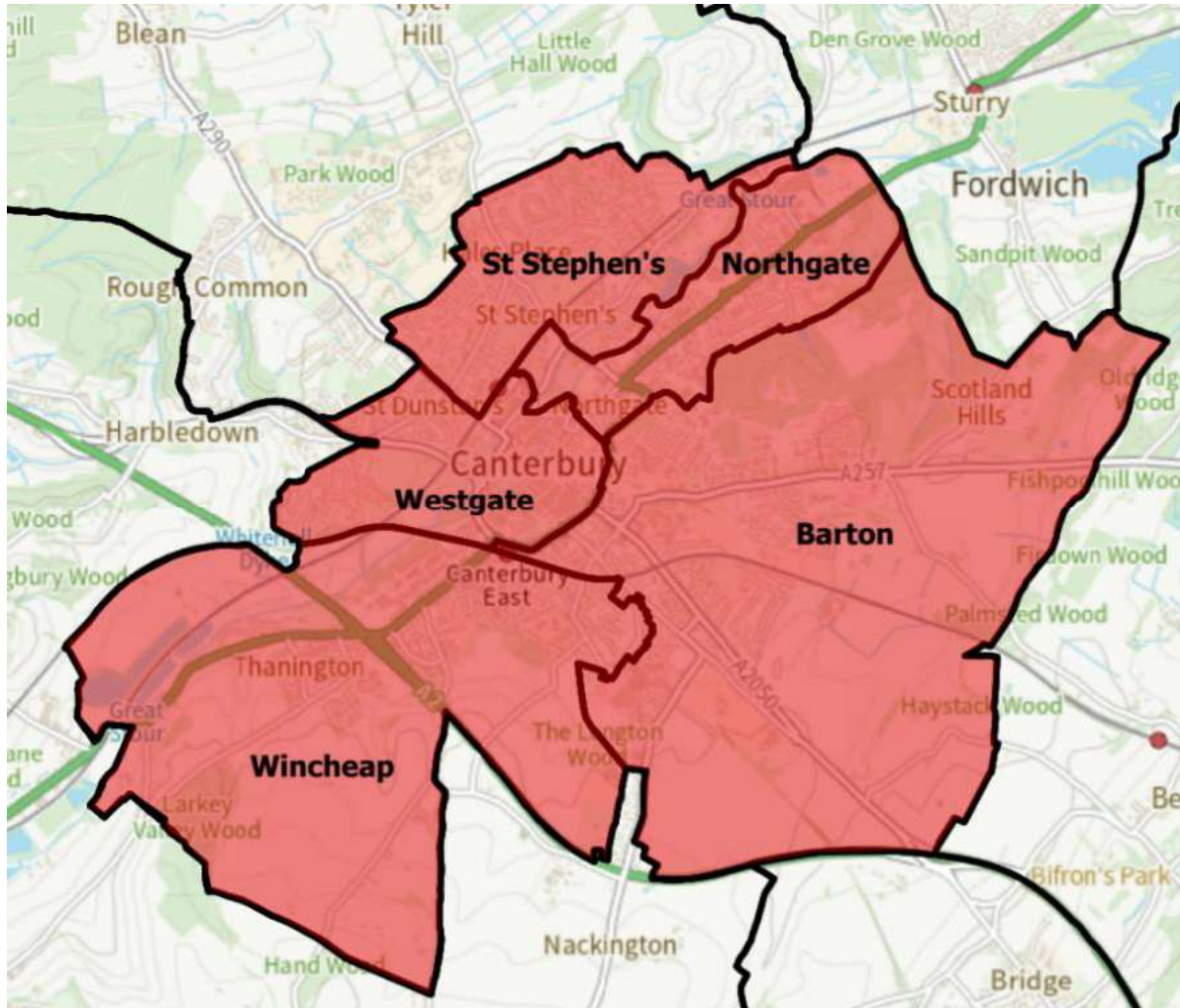
iii. Justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.

2. The Council is satisfied that the prohibitions and requirements imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of the Activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

3. In making this Order the Council has given particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

AREA IN WHICH THIS ORDER APPLIES

4. With effect from **XXX DATE** this Order shall apply within the areas listed below identified inside the areas marked by the thick black line on the below map. The restricted public area within which the Canterbury City Public Space Protection Order will be enforced lies wholly within the current boundaries of the Canterbury City Council electoral wards of Barton, Northgate, St Stephen's, Westgate and Wincheap.



DEFINITIONS

5. For the purposes of this Order:

- a. "Public places" mean any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
- b. An "Authorised Person" means police constables, police community support officers and any person authorised by the Council to enforce this Order. Any Authorised Person must be able to present their authority upon request.

PROHIBITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

6. Persons within the Restricted Area shall not without the permission of the Council (or where appropriate, the land owner)

The Order applies to the public area shown delineated by the thick black line on the plans included within this Order.

In the delineated public area a person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, he or she continues to carry out activities which, by the Order, are prohibited, namely:

a) Shouting, swearing, or otherwise acting in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person within the Designated Area, on land adjacent to the Designated Area or to any person living nearby. Where amplification equipment is used, a person must reduce the volume when required to do so by an Authorised Person.

b) Urinating or defecating in a public place. This includes the doorway or alcove of any premises to which the public has direct or implied access.

c) Defacing such as by graffiti, fly posting, affixing any notice, picture or sign on any structure, object or surface e.g. underpasses, walls, trees, pavements, bridges, street furniture, signs etc, temporarily or permanently, without permission of the owner.

d) from 1st April to 30th September, not light any fire of any type (including barbecues, camping stove, open fires or fire pit), set off any firework or night sky lantern.

e) Antisocial riding in the city: anti-social behaviour of delivery riders, this includes:

- Aggressive driving/riding
- Dangerous maneuvers
- Excessive noise
- Danger to other road users (including pedestrians)
- Damage or risk of damage to private property
- Harassment of individual from vehicles

7. Persons within the restricted area must:

a. Stop drinking alcohol or hand over sealed or unsealed containers containing alcohol to an Authorised Person if asked to do so. In order to make this request the Authorised Person must only have a reasonable belief that:

(i) the container contains alcohol and that

(ii) the request to stop drinking or to surrender the container is necessary in order to prevent or reduce public nuisance or disorder.

b. must provide their name and address if asked to do so by an Authorised Person. In order to make this request the Authorised Person must only have a reasonable belief that the person has breached paragraphs 6 or 7(a) of this Order.

(None of these provisions will apply to persons carrying out maintenance and improvement works with the permission of the Council or where appropriate, the landowner).

PERIOD FOR WHICH THIS ORDER HAS EFFECT

8. This Order was made on XXX XX and will expire at 11.59pm on XXXX XX unless extended by further orders made pursuant to the Council's statutory powers.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?

9. Under section 67 of the Act it is a criminal offence for a person without reasonable excuse to engage in any activity which the person is prohibited from doing by this Order, or to fail to comply with any requirement to which the person is subject under this Order.

10. A person found to be in breach of point 6 in this Order under section 67 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000)

11. A person found to be in breach of point 7a in this Order under section 63 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500)

12. Alternatively, in accordance with section 68 of the Act an Authorised Person may issue a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 to anyone he or she believes has committed an offence under section 67 in relation to this Order.

Made this XXXX XXX

Signed Suzi Wakeham, Joint Chief Executive, Canterbury City Council

Appendix 4 Climate Change Impact Assessment

Please provide an assessment of the impact of the proposal under each of the headings below. If none, please say so.

1. Climate Change impacts

Topic	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	Mitigation
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our own activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals	Neutral	Enforcement activity may require vehicle journeys across the district, creating a small increase in carbon dioxide emissions. Targeted deployment, efficient scheduling and the planned replacement of Council enforcement vehicles with electric models will minimise these emissions. The residual impact is therefore assessed as neutral.	Plans underway to replace vehicles used by the council's enforcement team with electric models. Effective scheduling of staff/contract resources will take place to minimise unnecessary journeys by car.
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.	None		
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide	None		

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact	Mitigation
None		

3. Further assessment work

Is a further more detailed assessment required at a later stage of this proposal? Not at this stage

Appendix 5 - Equality Impact Assessment

Date of initial assessment	30 th July 2026
Division	People
Proposal to be assessed	Proposed Canterbury City Public Spaces Protection Order 2027
New or existing policy or function?	Existing
External (i.e. public facing) or internal?	External
Statutory or non-statutory?	Statutory
Your name	Lacy Dixon
Your job title	Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager
Your contact	Lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk
Decision maker	Cabinet
Estimated proposal deadline	Proposed implementation December 2026

Please outline your proposal, including: ● Aims and objectives ● Key actions ● Expected outcomes ● Who will be affected and how ● How many people will be affected	The PSPO provides local authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in “public spaces”. It is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours, within the designated area, where evidential tests are satisfied. Those potentially affected negatively include people who live, work, and visit the area, who demonstrate anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order. Those potentially affected positively include people who live, work, and visit the area, local businesses and service providers, who are impacted by the anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order.
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	No specific number of people can be identified as being affected at this stage as there is no target group. There is a need for a consistent yet flexible approach to the application of the proposed PSPO. If the proposed PSPO is implemented, it will be important for authorised officers to consider the needs of the individual and their personal circumstances in order to make an informed decision as to the appropriate action to take (i.e. recommendation for support, advice, fine, criminal justice approach etc.). It will also be important for authorised officers to ensure that any action taken is proportionate to and balanced against any risks posed, either to the individual or the wider community.
What relevant data or information is currently available about the customers who may use this service or could be affected?	There is a requirement for a period of statutory consultation to be undertaken on the proposed PSPO, before a decision can be taken. It is important for the consultation to be both accessible and engaging with those likely to be affected by the order (positively and negatively). It must also consider the communication needs of those living within the designated area The implementation of the proposed PSPO would be applied to everyone within the designated area; however, it is likely that it will have an increased negative impact on perpetrators. Whilst the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain activities, it is also designed to enable people to feel that the district areas covered are safe and welcoming places for all. We know anecdotally, and from previous consultation/evidence provided, that there are some sections of the community who currently

	don't feel that this is the case (this includes for example some older people, disabled people). The implementation of the PSPO could therefore potentially have a positive impact on many individuals.
--	---

Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which are listed below?

Aim	Yes/No	Explanation
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	We will closely monitor the enforcement of the proposed PSPO once it is implemented, to ensure that there is no systemic discrimination and disadvantage affecting people with protected characteristics.
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes	We will take steps to meet the different needs of people with different protected characteristics to ensure there is no disadvantage
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes	We anticipate that the proposed PSPO will lead to a reduction in fear of crime both in respect of those who share a certain protected characteristic and those who do not.

Assess the relevance of the proposal to people with different protected characteristics and assess the impact of the proposal on people with different protected characteristics.

Protected characteristic	Relevance to proposal High/ Medium/ Low/None	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation
Age	High	Positive	Although the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain behaviours it also looks to make the

			areas identified safer and more welcoming places. Anecdotally, we know that some sections of the community (for example older people and children) either don't feel that this is the case at present or have been affected by some of the behaviour we are trying to tackle, and this has a negative impact on these individuals. The PSPO could have a positive impact for these individuals. A health and safety risk that this poses to young individuals is dog faeces.
Disability	High	Neutral	The PSPO will positively impact those individuals with additional support needs, protected or hidden characteristics and or disabilities to feel safer when accessing the district. It is however established that the PSPO could adversely impact those perpetrators with mental health concerns and those with alcohol dependency, or substance misuse issues. Mental health/other considerations will be taken into account by officers.
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral	
Race	None	Neutral	
Religion or belief	None	Neutral	
Sex	None	Neutral	
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral	
Low Income	Medium	Negative	Perpetrators breaching a PSPO could be issued with a FPN requiring financial payment. This could impact those on low incomes.

People Who Don't Speak English As A First Language	Medium	Negative	Efforts needed to ensure that communication caters for differing needs when required.
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Are you going to make any changes to your proposal as a result of these findings, in order to mitigate any potential negative impacts identified? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?	No changes to the proposed Order are required as a result of this assessment. However, the following measures will be implemented to mitigate the potential negative impacts identified: • consultation and public information will be accessible and designed to engage people who may be affected by the Order; • authorised officers will consider each person's needs and individual circumstances before deciding what action is appropriate and proportionate; • accessible communication support will be provided where required, including for people who do not speak English as a first language; and • enforcement outcomes will be monitored to identify and address any disproportionate impacts.
Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? (for example, on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected characteristic)	The PSPO is not targeted at any particular group; it is targeted at perpetrators of anti-social behaviour that impacts upon the quality of life of the wider community.

What additional information would increase your understanding about the potential impact of this proposal?	This could be provided by: • Monitoring the impact that the policy is having on the community to reduce the likelihood of any disproportionately negative impacts on those with protected characteristics.
--	---

	£ Monitoring ASB across the district to ensure that the PSPO doesn't displace the issue and create issues within other areas.
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Overview Committee**5Th November 2026****Subject: Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)**

Director and Head of Service:

Marie Royle – Director, People

Lora McCourt – Head of Locality Services

Officer:Lacy Dixon – Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager

Cabinet Member:Cllr Connie Nolan

Key or Non-Key decision: Key**Decision Issues:**These matters are within the authority of the Cabinet.

Is any of the information exempt from publication:This report is open to the public.

CCC ward(s): All (within specified areas)

Summary and purpose of the report:

Canterbury City Council is reviewing its district-wide dog control arrangements. The current Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) came into effect on 10 May 2024 and was due to expire in May 2027. Following the findings reported to Council on 22 October 2026 under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is proposed that the current PSPO is discharged as soon as possible it is not lawful.

Delegated authority is provided to the Director of People at section C11 “to extend, vary or discharge PSPOs in consultation with the Cabinet Member. Where there was a public consultation on any extension, variation or discharge of PSPOs, where a Councillor makes a sustained objection, it will be referred to Cabinet for a decision.” The Director of People will therefore consult with the Cabinet member on the proposed discharge and if agreed will issue a Decision Notice or refer to Cabinet if necessary.

Public and stakeholder consultation was undertaken between 9 July and 30 September 2026 and 67 responses were received. The consultation supports including requirements relating to dog fouling, dogs on leads in specified locations, directions to place dogs on leads, and dog exclusion areas. It also supports targeted changes to the locations covered by the proposed Order.

Any new Order would apply for three years from the date of adoption.

Overview Committee is asked to consider the consultation feedback and proposed

requirements and to provide comments and recommendations to Cabinet.

To Recommend [to Cabinet]:

1. The adoption of a new Dog Control PSPO 2027 as set out in Appendix 2.
 2. To apply the new Order to the sites as set out in Schedule 2 of Appendix 2.
-

Next stage in process:

Cabinet will consider the feedback and recommendations of Overview Committee and decide whether to make the new Dog Control PSPO at their meeting on 7 December 2026.

1. Introduction

1.1 Local authorities may make Public Spaces Protection Orders under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A PSPO may impose proportionate prohibitions or requirements in a defined public place where activities have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; the effect is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing; and the effect is, or is likely to be, unreasonable.

1.2 A PSPO should be evidence-led, necessary and proportionate. It should target the harmful behaviour identified rather than unnecessarily restricting the lawful use of public space. The Council must also consider enforceability, equality, human rights, safeguarding, and whether other powers or interventions would provide a more appropriate response.

1.3 A PSPO may last for up to three years. It may be varied, extended, or discharged where the statutory tests and consultation requirements are met.

1.4 The proposed Dog Control PSPO has been developed following public and stakeholder consultation.

1.5 Member scrutiny provides an opportunity to test the evidence, proportionality, practical enforceability and potential impacts of the proposals before Cabinet make the final decision as to whether to adopt the new Order.

2. Detail

2.1 Proposed controls

The proposed Order would require a person in charge of a dog to:

- remove dog faeces deposited by the dog;
- keep the dog on a lead of no more than two metres in the locations listed in Schedule 1;
- comply with a direction from an authorised officer to place the dog on a lead where restraint is necessary to prevent nuisance or behaviour likely to cause annoyance or disturbance; and
- not take or allow the dog to enter or remain on land listed in Schedule 2.

The draft Order retains exemptions for qualifying assistance dogs and the people who rely on them, as set out in Appendix 2.

2.2 Changes following consultation

Through the consultation process we have identified locations where controls should be introduced and removed or changed from what was in the previous Order which has been

discharged.

This includes:

- remove the dog exclusion at The Village Green, Barham, and instead require dogs to be kept on a lead at The Village Green, Barham rather than it being a dog exclusion area;
- not applying a dog exclusion at the former enclosed play area at Bishops Way, Canterbury

Proposed new areas to the dog exclusion schedule includes:

- New Heights play park, Whitstable;
- Birch Road/Hollow Lane play park, Canterbury;
- Memorial Park courts, Herne Bay;
- Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve multi use games area and children's play park, Whitstable;
- Rough Common/Harbledown play park, Canterbury.

The full schedule of locations forming the draft Order can be found at Appendix 2.

Officers will continue to monitor complaints and evidence relating to new play areas and other public spaces. Any future material variation would require the relevant statutory process, including consultation to be followed.

2.3 Enforcement and implementation

Although PSPOs are made by local authorities, they can be enforced by a wide range of officers including police constables, police community support officers, council enforcement officers and any other person authorised by the council. The council has appointed an external contractor to enforce PSPOs across the district.

Enforcement of the Dog Control PSPO will include targeted patrols of problem areas by the council's external contractor and its own enforcement officers, as appropriate. The approach will progress from information and engagement, through education and behaviour change, to challenge and enforcement. Where appropriate, a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) may be issued as an alternative to prosecution. The authorised officer or contractor will determine the most appropriate action on a case-by-case basis, acting lawfully, proportionately and with appropriate discretion.

The council will closely monitor its contractor through regular meetings, quality checks and, where complaints are received, review of body-worn camera footage. Officers and the contractor will receive detailed information about the new Order and the council's expectations regarding the appropriate response in different circumstances. The implementation plan will also cover training, patrol priorities, recording and quality assurance.

The council will ensure that the public is aware of the new Dog Control PSPO and where its controls apply. The final Order will be publicised, with clear signage displayed at relevant locations and supporting information and maps made available online. The discharge of the former Dog Control PSPO will also be publicised.

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

We want to make residents feel safer and happier about where they live and make sure that Canterbury continues to be a great destination to visit. The use of PSPOs contributes significantly to this, and to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of making our district greener, better and stronger.

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

Public and stakeholder consultation on the proposed new Dog Control PSPO took place between 9 July and 30 September 2026. The consultation sought views on the proposed controls, their effect on quality of life, where and how frequently dog-related issues occurred, and whether the requirements would have an unfair impact. A summary of the consultation is provided at Appendix 1.

Summary of methods used and profile of responses:

- an online survey, which received 67 responses;
- two public engagement events, held at the Beaney in Canterbury and at Swalecliffe and Chestfield Community Association in Whitstable;
- publicity through the Council's consultation and communications channels; and
- direct engagement with relevant stakeholders, including representative organisations, residents' groups and parish councils.

Some responses were submitted on behalf of residents' groups, representative societies or parish councils and therefore reflected the views of a wider community or membership.

The main findings from the consultation are:

- **Evidence of dog-related issues:** 80.6% of respondents had witnessed or experienced dog fouling in the previous 12 months, 87% had directly witnessed dog fouling, 47.8% had witnessed dogs off lead in restricted areas, and 22.4% had witnessed dogs entering exclusion areas.
- **Dog fouling controls:** 62.7% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the controls were unfair, while 9% agreed or strongly agreed that they were unfair.
- **Dogs-on-leads requirements:** 70.1% supported the existing two-metre lead requirement and 55.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the restrictions were unfair.
- **Dog exclusion areas:** 43.2% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the restrictions were unfair.
- **Coastal locations:** some respondents favoured education and enforcement over additional restrictions. The proposed Order does not add coastal restrictions; the existing restricted areas cover approximately 2% of the district's coastline.
- **Enforcement and awareness:** the strongest recurring themes were support for stronger enforcement, increased patrols, additional Fixed Penalty Notices, clearer signage and improved public awareness.

The consultation results are not treated as a public vote. In deciding whether a control should be included, the Council must consider the consultation responses alongside other evidence and determine whether the statutory tests are met and whether each requirement is necessary and proportionate.

As a result of the review and consultation, the proposed Order includes locations as set out in section 2 and Appendix 2.

Overview Committee is being consulted as part of the process to support openness and accountability and to provide recommendations for Cabinet's consideration.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

The requirements proposed have undergone a robust check and challenge process and are all under pinned by consultation and evidence gathered. Feedback from Overview Committee is being sought on the requirements that are being proposed.

There are a number of options available:

Option 1 - To recommend to Cabinet all proposed requirements - The requirements proposed have undergone a robust check and challenge process and are all underpinned by consultation and evidence gathered.

Option 2 - To recommend to Cabinet to make minor amendments to the wording or content of the proposed requirements, or to suggest not to include some of the proposed requirements. Minor amendments that do not make any significant material change are possible. The requirements proposed have undergone a robust check and challenge process and are all underpinned by consultation and evidence gathered. New requirements cannot be added without further public consultation.

Option 3 - To recommend to Cabinet to make significant changes to the proposed requirements or to suggest new ones. This is not recommended as any suggestions that fundamentally change what is proposed or add new requirements not previously consulted upon, would result in further consultation or evidence gathering.

6. Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment

Options 1 and 2 are the most appropriate choices because the proposed requirements have already been informed by consultation, evidence gathering and officer review. Option 1 carries the lowest risk. Option 2 allows minor changes, provided they do not materially alter the proposed requirements.

7. Implications

(a) Financial

The new Dog Control PSPO will have some budgetary implications, including the provision and maintenance of appropriate signage and public-awareness communications. These costs are expected to be met from existing budgets.

Some of the enforcement and issuing of FPNs will be delivered by the council's external contractor, this is at no cost to the Council. Unpaid FPNs may require prosecutions, this is at an additional cost to the council.

(b) Legal

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the legal framework for implementing and reviewing Public Spaces Protection Orders.

The Local Authority must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the Anti-Social Behaviour that has taken place has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and they will have a detrimental effect and the effect or likely effect of these activities is or is likely to be persistent and is or likely to be unreasonable.

Consultation has been carried out in accordance with legislative requirements. The requirements contained in the proposed Dog Control PSPO have been informed by legal advice.

Enforcement powers are enacted in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance.

(c) Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 4)

The Order is intended to benefit people who use public spaces, including children, older people and disabled people, by reducing dog fouling and supporting safer access. Potential negative impacts include the effect of financial penalties on people on low incomes and accessibility for people who do not speak English as a first language. Mitigation includes assistance-dog exemptions, accessible information, proportionate decision-making, consideration of individual circumstances and monitoring of enforcement outcomes.

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity

An Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 3)

The proposal is expected to have a broadly neutral to positive environmental effect by supporting responsible use of public spaces and reducing dog fouling and disturbance in sensitive areas. Enforcement journeys may create emissions; these will be mitigated through targeted deployment, efficient scheduling and the Council's wider approach to lower-emission vehicles

Other implications

(e) Staffing resource

The proposals will be delivered through existing staffing resources, with officers deployed to target issues and locations as appropriate. No additional staffing requirement is anticipated because some enforcement activity, including the issue of FPNs, will be delivered through the council's external contractor.

(f) Human rights issues

Regulations are applied consistently and staff operate within the framework of dignity, fairness, respect, and equality. Care will be taken to ensure that certain individuals are not unduly marginalised or disproportionately affected by the provisions.

(g) Crime and disorder

The council must consider the effect of its decisions on community safety and ensure that they contribute to reducing crime and disorder in the district. The proposed PSPO is intended to support this duty by providing proportionate controls and enforcement powers in response to evidenced dog-related issues.

(h) Safeguarding children

The council has a duty to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm when carrying out its functions. The proposed controls may support safer use of play areas and other public spaces by reducing dog fouling and preventing dogs from entering specified exclusion areas. Where officers identify a risk of harm, appropriate safeguarding referrals will be made.

Contact Officer: Lacy Dixon – lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk

Background documents and appendices

Appendix 1 – Public Consultation Summary

Appendix 2 – Draft Dog Control PSPO

Appendix 3 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

No

Dog Control Public Space Protection Order

Consultation report

October 2026

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1. Introduction

Canterbury City Council consulted on proposals for a new Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which would apply for three years.

The consultation considered the existing Dog Control PSPO, which had been in place since May 2024 and set out standards of behaviour for dog owners in public spaces across the district.

As part of the consultation, respondents were provided with a draft of the proposed new PSPO for consideration.

Proposed changes included bringing together maps for specific locations to provide greater clarity for dog owners and removing some areas that were no longer considered suitable for inclusion within the Order.

The PSPO is intended to help address specific dog control issues in public spaces, such as dog fouling and dogs entering children's play areas.

It also enables the council to take enforcement action where restrictions are breached.

The consultation sought views on:

- the principles of the Dog Control PSPO
- whether respondents had experienced problems in specific areas and the impact of those problems on their quality of life
- what should and should not be covered by the Order in the future

The consultation ran from Thursday 9 July to Thursday 1 October 2026.

A total of 70 responses were received.

2. Executive summary

The consultation on the proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Order received 67 survey responses, three written representations and included two public meetings.

Dog fouling

- 80.6% of respondents had witnessed or experienced dog fouling in the last 12 months.
- 53.7% said it has a large or very large effect on their quality of life.
- 62.7% disagreed that the schedule unfairly affects their own activities or other people's activities.

Dogs off lead in restricted areas

- 47.8% of respondents had witnessed this.
- 40.3% said it has a large or very large effect on their quality of life.
- 70.1% thought the two-metre lead length was appropriate.
- 55.2% disagreed that the schedule is unfair.

Dogs in exclusion zones

- 22.4% had witnessed dogs in exclusion zones.
- 25.4% said it has a large or very large effect on their quality of life.
- 43.2% disagreed that the schedule is unfair.

Other feedback

- Open comments highlighted concerns about the impact of dog-related issues on quality of life, public hygiene and responsible dog ownership.
- Respondents also frequently raised the need for stronger enforcement, clear signage and greater compliance with existing restrictions.
- Of the three written representations, one resident wanted Whitstable beach dog-free and another said the lead rule is widely ignored.
- Bridge Parish Council asked for no change to the order for its recreation ground.
- At the public meetings, people raised signage and how fines are issued and enforced.

3. Consultation methodology

Consultation took place between Thursday 9 July and Thursday 1 October 2026.

The following methods were used to seek views:

- ✧ an online questionnaire, completed by 67 respondents
- ✧ a paper version of the questionnaire
- ✧ a public meeting at the Beaney Library in Canterbury
- ✧ a public meeting at Swalecliffe and Chestfield Community Association in Whitstable
- ✧ three written representations

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- ✧ an article on the council's newsroom site
- ✧ posts on the council's social media channels
- ✧ Canterbury City Council corporate newsletters
- ✧ direct emails to a wide range of stakeholders encouraging them to respond to the consultation
- ✧ notifications sent to individuals who had requested to be informed about council consultations

The survey asked for views on three areas of dog control:

- dog fouling
- dogs off the lead in restricted areas
- dogs in exclusion zones

Respondents were asked whether they had experienced or witnessed these issues, the impact they have on their quality of life and their views on the proposed PSPO restrictions.

Respondents were also able to provide written comments, explain their views and suggest locations for inclusion in the Order.

Responses were reviewed and grouped into themes.

Where appropriate, longer responses have been broken down into separate comments to reflect multiple points raised.

Written representations are presented as submitted to ensure respondents' comments are reflected accurately, spelling, grammar and typing errors have not been corrected.

Percentages are rounded to one decimal place and may not always add up exactly due to rounding.

4. Findings

4.1 Respondent profile - overall

4.1.1 Respondents were asked: Which of the following best describes you?

59 respondents (88.1%) identified as residents of the Canterbury district.

Six identified as councillors, one as a worker in the district and one as selected 'other', specifying that they were a council officer.

Which of the following best describes you?	Responses	%
A resident of the Canterbury district	59	88.1%
A visitor to the Canterbury district	-	-
A worker in the Canterbury district	1	1.5%
A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name:	-	-
A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify:	6	9.0%
An MP	-	-
Other, please specify:	1	1.5%

4.1.2 Respondents were asked: What age are you?

The largest group was 65-74, with 17 respondents (25.4%).

11 respondents were aged 45-54 and 11 were aged 55-64.

Response	Responses	%
Under 18	-	-
18 to 25	-	-
26 to 34	4	6.0%
35 to 44	8	11.9%
45 to 54	11	16.4%
55 to 64	11	16.4%
65 to 74	17	25.4%
75 to 84	8	11.9%
85 and above	-	-
Prefer not to say	7	10.4%
No reply	1	1.5%

4.1.3 Respondents were asked: What gender are you?

32 respondents (47.8%) identified as female and 20 (29.9%) as male.

What gender are you?	Responses	%
Male	20	29.9%
Female	32	47.8%
Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)	1	1.5%
Prefer not to say	9	13.4%
No reply	5	7.5%

4.1.4 Respondents were asked: Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Nine respondents (13.4%) considered themselves to be disabled and 48 (71.6%) did not.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	Responses	%
Yes	9	13.4%
No	48	71.6%
Prefer not to say	9	13.4%
No reply	1	1.5%

4.1.5 Respondents were asked: What is your ethnic background?

Most respondents (74.6%) identified as White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British).

What is your ethnic background?	Responses	%
White (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British)	50	74.6%
Irish	-	-
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	-	-
Any other White background (please specify):	3	4.5%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1	1.5%
Asian / Asian British	-	-
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	-	-
Other ethnic group (please specify):	-	-
Prefer not to say	12	17.9%
No reply	1	1.5%

4.2 Dog fouling

4.2.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed or experienced dog fouling in the last 12 months?

54 respondents (80.6%) said they had witnessed or experienced dog fouling during the previous 12 months.

12 (17.9%) said they had not and one respondent selected 'Don't know'.

Have you witnessed dog fouling in the last 12 months?	Responses	%
Yes	54	80.6%
No	12	17.9%
Don't know	1	1.5%

Respondents who answered 'Yes' were asked to provide details of where they had witnessed or experienced dog fouling, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed dog fouling at this location	Number of written comments
Everywhere	7
Whitstable	6
Tankerton	4
Herne Bay	3
City centre	3
Dukes Meadow	3
The coast	2
Beltinge	2
Herne Area	2
The Downs in Herne Bay	2
Hollow Lane	2
Northgate	1
Bishopstone Glen	1
Brickfield Recreation Area	1
Around Greenhill Road	1
Around Reculver Drive	1
Memorial Park	1
The riverside pathway between Barton Mill and St Radigund's	1
Footpaths around Canterbury	1
Playing field in Herne	1
Specific location in Canterbury	1
Footpaths in Bossingham	1

Reculver Country Park	1
Hales Place	1
Swalecliffe	1
Railway line around Seasalter	1
Around Tyler Hill	1

4.2.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed dog fouling in the last 12 months?

Of the respondents who reported witnessing or experiencing dog fouling, 27 (50%) said this had occurred more times than they could count.

10 (18.5%) reported seeing it 10 or more times.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	27	50.0%
10+ times	10	18.5%
Five to nine times	7	13.0%
Two to four times	9	16.7%
Once	1	1.9%

4.2.3 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

47 respondents (87%) said they had witnessed the activity directly and seven (13%) said their response was based on information provided by someone else.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	47	87.0%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	7	13.0%

4.2.4 Respondents were asked: To what extent does dog fouling have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

36 respondents (53.7%) selected either 'Very large effect' or 'Large effect'.

14 (20.9%) selected 'Neither a large nor small effect' and 17 selected either 'Small effect' or 'No effect'.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	14	20.9%
Large effect	22	32.8%
Neither a large nor small effect	14	20.9%

Small effect	13	19.4%
No effect	4	6.0%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Effect on quality of life	Number of written comments
Negative impact on quality of life	30
Reduced enjoyment of public spaces	22
Hygiene and health concerns	19
Limited or no impact	11
Irresponsible dog owner behaviour	9
Contamination risk	8
Discouraged from using public spaces	4
Lack of consideration for others/community	4
Abandoned dog waste bags	3
Other dog-related issues such as dog barking are an issue	1
Dogs shouldn't be allowed in public areas	1
Issue reported to the council	1
Not enough dog waste bin provision	1
Negative human behaviour is more of an issue	1
Breaking the law	1
Impact on wildlife and the natural environment	1

4.2.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the introduction of this schedule for dog fouling unfairly impacts your activities, or those of other people?

42 respondents (62.7%) selected either 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree'.

Six selected (9%) either 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree'.

15 (22.4%) selected 'Neither agree nor disagree' and four (6%) selected 'Don't know'.

Whether the dog fouling schedule unfairly affects activities	Responses	%
Strongly agree	3	4.5%
Agree	3	4.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	15	22.4%
Disagree	15	22.4%
Strongly disagree	27	40.3%
Don't know	4	6.0%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Whether the dog fouling schedule unfairly affects activities	Number of written comments
Dog owners should take responsibility for their dogs	25
No unfair impact on responsible dog owners	7
Some dog owners ignore rules and responsibilities	5
Reduces enjoyment of public spaces	4
Necessary for public health and hygiene	3
Creates cleaner, safer and more pleasant public spaces	3
Comparison with expectations placed on people	2
Difficult to enforce	2
Additional bins and supporting infrastructure are needed	2
Greater enforcement required	2
Would help reduce dog fouling	1
Higher penalties required	1
Dogs should be restricted in the city centre	1
Signage unlikely to change behaviour	1
Other environmental issues considered more important	1
Restrictions may negatively affect residents and visitors	1
Potential impact on local businesses and tourism	1
Need for more off-lead areas	1

4.2.6 Respondents were asked: Please suggest any other locations you feel should be included in the dog control schedule which are not currently listed

This was a free-text response.

Locations suggested for inclusion	Number of written comments
Everywhere	10
Do not include other spaces	2
Herne Bay coastal path	1
Areas used for sporting or recreation	1
Areas around Barham	1
Beaches	1
Unsure	1
Officers should check dog owners are carrying waste bags	1
Grass areas	1
Memorial Park	1
Tankerton Beach	1
Grass areas around Hampton	1
City centre	1
Promenade to East of Pier Avenue	1

Reculver Country Park	1
Whitstable West beach	1
Chartham Path	1
Cherry Orchard	1

4.3 Dogs off lead in a restricted area

4.3.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed or experienced dogs off the lead (in a restricted area) in the last 12 months?

32 respondents (47.8%) said they had witnessed or experienced dogs off the lead in a restricted area during the previous 12 months.

27 (40.3%) had not and eight selected 'Don't know'.

Experience of dogs off lead	Responses	%
Yes	32	47.8%
No	27	40.3%
Don't know	8	11.9%

Respondents who answered 'Yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen dogs off the lead in a restricted area, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed dogs off the lead in a restricted area at this location	Number of written comments
Tankerton	5
Westgate Gardens/Toddler's Cove	3
Reculver	3
Around Swalecliffe	2
Chartham Path	2
Tyler Hill Playing fields	2
Along the River Stour	1
Around Westgate Towers	1
The attention given to dog walking is disproportionate versus other activities	1
Many dogs off leads	1
Around the King's Hall Herne Bay	1
St Stephens	1
Canterbury Cemetery	1
Island Wall	1
Owners not aware of restrictions	1
Dukes Meadow	1

Whitstable	1
Kingsfield Road, Herne Bay	1
Castle Street, Canterbury	1
Canterbury	1
Cherry Orchard Herne	1
Lane End/The Pier, Herne Bay	1
Around Hollow Lane	1

4.3.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed dogs off the lead in a restricted area in the last 12 months?

21 respondents (65.6%) who had witnessed dogs off lead in restricted areas said this had happened more times than they could count.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	21	65.6%
10+ times	4	12.5%
Five to nine times	4	12.5%
Two to four times	3	9.4%
Once	-	-

4.3.3 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

All 32 respondents who reported witnessing dogs off lead in restricted areas said they had witnessed this directly.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	32	100.0%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	-	-

4.3.4 Respondents were asked: The current schedule states, 'A person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two metres.' Do you think that two metres is an appropriate lead length?

47 respondents (70.1%) considered two metres to be an appropriate lead length.

15 (22.4%) did not and five (7.5%) selected 'Don't know'.

Experience of dogs off lead	Responses	%
Yes	47	70.1%
No	15	22.4%
Don't know	5	7.5%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer and make alternative suggestions.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Agree	10
Longer/extendable leads can be dangerous	6
Dependent on the training of the dog	4
Long leads reducing effective control	4
Doubts over enforcement	4
Length of the lead is not the issue	3
Dangerous to cyclists, runners and other users	3
3/4 metres is reasonable	3
Clarification needed	2
Short leads allow more control	2
One metre or less is acceptable	2
Reasonable distance needed	2
Common sense approach needed	1
Off-lead dogs making fouling difficult to monitor	1
Dependent on location	1
Two metres fixed or five metres retractable	1
Support for exemptions for assistance dogs only	1

4.3.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent do dogs off the lead in a restricted area have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

27 respondents (40.3%) reported either a large or very large effect on their quality of life.

15 (22.4%) reported neither a large nor small effect and 25 (37.3%) reported either a small effect or no effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	12	17.9%
Large effect	15	22.4%
Neither a large nor small effect	15	22.4%
Small effect	9	13.4%
No effect	16	23.9%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Dogs off lead can be dangerous	9
Dogs off lead create nuisance	5
Harmful to other dogs	5
Fear of dogs	5
Scary for children	4
Dogs off lead can be intimidating	4
Concerns about dog owners ignoring rules	4
Large dogs cause nervousness	3
Leaves mess	3
Off lead dogs disturb wildlife	3
Little impact on quality of life	3
The questions in this survey are biased against dogs/dog owners	2
Concerns about untrained off-lead dogs	1

4.3.6 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the introduction of this schedule for dogs on the lead in a restricted area unfairly impacts your activities, or those of other people?

37 respondents (55.2%) selected either 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' and 14 (20.9%) selected either 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree'.

Whether the dogs-on-lead schedule unfairly affects activities	Responses	%
Strongly agree	11	16.4%
Agree	3	4.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	17.9%
Disagree	9	13.4%
Strongly disagree	28	41.8%
Don't know	4	6.0%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Agree	11
Dog owners must take responsibility and control their dogs	8
Agree with restrictions on free roaming dogs	7
Dogs should not interfere with others	5
Depends on the location and time	2

Disagree with restrictions proposed at Long Rock and Reculver	2
Majority should not be penalised for actions of minority	2
Support for clear signage and targeted enforcement	2
Council overreach	1
Doesn't impact me	1
Too many dogs on the beach	1
Clarification required on restrictions at Long Rock	1
Reduction in locations available for off-lead exercise	1
Other activities that disturb wildlife should also be targeted	1
Education needed	1
Support for exemptions for assistance dogs only	1
Unfair to responsible owners of well-behaved dogs	1
Canterbury would be safer	1

4.3.7 Respondents were asked: Please suggest any other locations you feel should be included in Schedule 1?

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Everywhere	8
No other locations	7
Tankerton	3
Unsure	2
Around Whitstable	2
Beaches	1
The village green at Barham	1
Dukes Meadow	1
Canterbury Cemetery	1
Whitstable beach in the summer	1
Chartham path	1
Path around Beltinge and Reculver	1
City centre	1

4.3.8 Respondents were asked: Having considered the current schedule for dogs off the lead in a restricted area, do you have any other comments about the PSPO, or any suggestions on other ways we could deal with the activities listed above?

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
PSPO requires better enforcement	7
Needs better signage	5

Against the PSPO	3
There should be designated parks for off lead dogs	3
PSPO signage should include QR codes	1
Restrictions might be ignored	1
More education needed on dog fouling	1
Parks could have scheduled off-lead times	1
Should consult Dogs Trust	1
More bins needed	1
There should be fewer restrictions on dogs	1
There should be a way to report violations	1
Concerns about dog fouling	1
Large dogs should be muzzled	1
Limit dog walkers to two dogs per person	1
Human faeces are a greater concern than dog fouling	1

4.4 Dogs in exclusion zones

4.4.1 Respondents were asked: Have you witnessed or experienced dogs in exclusion zones in the last 12 months?

15 respondents (22.4%) said they had witnessed or experienced dogs in exclusion zones during the previous 12 months.

37 (55.2%) had not and 15 (22.4%) selected 'Don't know'.

Experience of dogs in exclusion zones	Responses	%
Yes	15	22.4%
No	37	55.2%
Don't know	15	22.4%

Respondents who answered 'Yes' were asked to provide details of where they had seen dogs in exclusion zones, or if they did not know the exact name of the location, to describe it as accurately as possible.

This was a free-text response.

Yes, witnessed dogs in exclusion zones	Number of written comments
Herne Bay Memorial Park courts	3
Cemetery Canterbury	2
Play areas in Reculver	2
Hollow Lane play areas	2
Beach level with Pier Ave west to The Street, Tankerton	1
Bishops Play Area	1
Barham Village Green	1
Confined spaces	1
Off Castle Street, Canterbury	1

4.4.2 Respondents were asked: How often have you witnessed dogs in exclusion zones in the last 12 months?

Seven respondents (46.7%) said they had witnessed dogs in exclusion zones more times than they can count.

Frequency	Responses	%
More times than I can count	7	46.7%
10+ times	3	20.0%
Five to nine times	3	20.0%
Two to four times	2	13.3%

Once	-	-
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4.4.3 Respondents were asked: Who witnessed this activity?

13 respondents (86.7%) said they had witnessed the activity directly and two (13.3%) were responding based on what they had been told.

Who witnessed this activity?	Responses	%
Me - I witnessed this directly	13	86.7%
Someone else - this is based on what I was told	2	13.3%

4.4.4 Respondents were asked: To what extent do dogs within exclusion zones have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?

24 respondents (35.8%) reported no effect on their quality of life.

A further 23 (34.3%) reported neither a large nor small effect.

17 respondents (25.4%) reported a large or very large effect.

Effect on quality of life	Responses	%
Very large effect	9	13.4%
Large effect	8	11.9%
Neither a large nor small effect	23	34.3%
Small effect	3	4.5%
No effect	24	35.8%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Not applicable/don't use exclusion zones	7
Dog owners should be responsible and maintain control	6
Children feel nervous and unsafe around dogs	4
Dogs running at or approaching other users	2
Dogs should not be permitted in exclusion zones	2
Most dog owners comply with restrictions	2
Play areas should remain clean and dog free	2
Dukes Meadow and Neals Place	1
Impact depends on dog behaviour and numbers present	1
Dogs off lead can pose a risk to other users	1
Exclusion zones are an overreach	1

More accessible signage needed	1
No detrimental effect/disagree	1
Negative perceptions of dogs	1
People cause more problems than dogs	1

4.4.5 Respondents were asked: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the introduction of this schedule for dogs in exclusion zones unfairly impacts your activities, or those of other people?

29 respondents (43.2%) selected either 'Disagree' or 'Strongly disagree', compared with 14 respondents (20.9%) who selected either 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree'.

A further 14 respondents (20.9%) neither agreed nor disagreed and 10 respondents (14.9%) selected 'Don't know'.

Whether the exclusion zone schedule unfairly affects activities	Responses	%
Strongly agree	8	11.9%
Agree	6	9.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	14	20.9%
Disagree	7	10.4%
Strongly disagree	22	32.8%
Don't know	10	14.9%

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer.

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
The schedule is fair	5
Issues with enforcement	3
Do not use exclusion zones	2
May be unfair for well-trained dogs	2
Question unclear or perceived as biased/leading	2
May impact children	1
Dogs should not be permitted in play areas	1
Need for safe spaces for dogs	1
Dogs should be under control/responsible ownership	1
Canterbury Cemetery should be in schedule 1	1
Dogs and owners should not have more rights to open space	1
Dogs should not be excluded from anywhere	1
Dogs should not be banned from cemeteries	1
No dogs in city centre	1

4.4.6 Respondents were asked: Please suggest any other locations you feel should be included in Schedule 2?

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
No/Not sure	9
Long Rock	2
Beaches	1
Beach level with Pier Ave west to The Street - extended to Tankerton Bay Sailing Club	1
Brickfield Recreation Area	1
Play Parks and Parks	1
All public spaces	1
Cemeteries should be excluded	1
Rough Common playing field	1
Cornwallis Circle recreational green	1
Ramsar coastal site	1
All should be removed	1
Whitstable West beach	1
Tankerton Beach	1
Reculver	1
Bishopstone Glen	1
Beach towards Herne Bay	1
Cliff top behind the Miramar	1
Bushy area beside the seafront	1
Behind Herne Bay Yacht Club	1
King's Hall	1
Within the city walls of Canterbury	1

4.4.7 Respondents were asked: Having considered the current schedule for dogs in exclusion zones, do you have any other comments about the PSPO, or any suggestions on other ways we could deal with the activities listed above?

This was a free-text response.

Theme	Number of written comments
Need for enforcement action	4
Need of clear signage	2
Support for excluding dogs from play areas	1
Would like Dukes Meadow to be included	1
Opposition to restrictions requiring dogs to be on a lead	1
Should seek advice from the Dogs Trust	1

Support for including Long Rock reserve in Schedule 1	1
Preference for lead requirements rather than exclusion zones	1
Opposition to the PSPO	1
Concerns about human fouling in parks	1
Councils should take a common-sense approach	1

5. Written representations

We have received three written representations.

A written representation was received from a resident.

It is with great interest that I read that dogs should be on a lead no longer than 2m. The breaking of this very sensible rule is so widespread that I did not realise it was a rule at all. Long, suddenly extending leads are very dangerous in closed busy shopping areas like Canterbury city centre so much so that health and safety warnings about them are given to visitors on guided tours. There have been tripping accidents. Basically, the rules that exist are not robustly applied and this generation of dog owners seem to think that the rules (if they know them) don't apply.

A written representation was received from a resident.

Dear Sir,

The beach at Whitstable should be dog- free and not used as a convenient dropping zone.

A written representation was received from Bridge Parish Council

Dear Consultations,

Bridge Parish Council would like to respond to the above consultation as follows. Bridge Parish Council is happy for the Order to remain the same as the current Order for the Recreation Ground here in Bridge.

Kind regards,

6. Public and stakeholder meetings

6.1 Public meeting on 27 August 2026

Council officers held a public meeting at the Beaney Library on 27 August 2026 to discuss the proposals for the new Public Space Protection Order.

Attendees were given the opportunity to listen to a presentation outlining the proposals, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting was attended by three members of the public.

The following questions were raised:

Long Rock: would this location fall within Category A, B or C?

Footpath cutting through the middle requires dogs on leads because of nature and nesting birds that aren't to be disturbed.

If there was an increase in disregard of the need for leads, it could become a dog exclusion zone.

This depends on feedback and then will be decided by councillors.

Currently it's categorised as a B, and if it passed for exclusion, it would be an A.

At the Victoria Recreation ground, is there any issue with dogs being walked off lead? I heard someone raised a complaint that they wanted dogs to be on leads there now. I'm an owner of small dogs.

Not at the moment outside of the play area, but if requested we will hold an in-person consultation to gather further information.

Sometimes people don't behave appropriately along the walk through Toddlers Cove out to Chartham (kids, bikes, not just dogs).

The enforcement officer in Westgate gardens has also reported issues involving cyclists in the area.

People are urinating on the Victoria Recreation ground and not hiding themselves. There is also football being played recklessly and endangering others. These young men are not listening to police cautions, and not even willing to have conversations.

Please report incidents such as these so that appropriate action can be taken.

Some have been reporting, but nothing has been done. The big problem is trying to report the offenders but have no evidence of their anti-social behaviour. Does this affect reporting?

No. Times, dates, and descriptions of individuals are all helpful, as they can help community safety officers identify where and when issues are occurring.

Their presence alone may encourage people to think twice before behaving in this way.

6.2 Public meeting on 10 September 2026

Council officers held a public meeting at Chestfield and Swalecliffe Community Association in Whitstable on 10 September to discuss the proposals for the new Public Space Protection Order.

Attendees were given the opportunity to listen to a presentation outlining the proposals, followed by a question-and-answer session.

The meeting was attended by six members of the public.

The following questions were raised:

Are these signs displayed as signs?

Yes.

How many signs would be posted for one area? Would there be one on each entrance?

There would be at least four signs for a given area and the signs would notify everyone when they have entered or exited a controlled area.

There may also be signs inside the area, for example along the sea wall and on lamp posts.

Are these signs in place now? I never see them.

Yes, they should be up now.

They are susceptible to damage, though.

Everyone says 'online' but not everyone goes online and sees the order.

Indeed – signage is required for enforcement, and so it is a priority of ours to ensure adequate signage online and outside.

In this area there are a lot of holiday parks – you need to advertise in all these places what the rules are and hotels too.

Noted - We should offer communication out to holiday parks where they can educate their residents.

We will look into this.

What size are the signs?

They vary depending on location.

Entry signs are A3, repeaters are A4 and A5 to fit on lampposts.

There's never enough signage, so we do adjust what we offer to cater to all.

If you have feedback on needing more or less signage, get in touch with us.

If an officer sees a dog not on the lead when it should be, is the first response to tell them to put a lead on, or do they hand out a fine on the spot?

A common-sense approach is taken.

Officers should lead with priorities of engagement and education, and then if they are met with belligerence, an officer will set a fine.

What if an individual refuses to give their details?

The offender will be reported to police colleagues and charged with a second offence.

All officers are required to record bodycam footage, so it's likely to be someone local, they could otherwise be identified from that footage.

Is this financially viable to do all that searching through databases for offenders?

Yes, because of our contract with NES.

We run it through a system of council tax records.

The result gives them a percentage chance of how likely it is that individual is the offender.

For £100 fine, I wouldn't have thought that was necessary.

It's more about a behaviour change and stopping low-level incidents.

A few years ago, I fell prey in an unrestricted area, my dog was not out of control. A man in all black followed me from his path, across this wasteland and said my dog should be on a lead – mine wasn't, and there were no signs. I gave him my details, he never gave me his and never said that my dog had to be on lead, but that it should. I received a £100 fine (later scrapped). This guy did the same to multiple people. Could officers not be trying to increase their commission by issuing more fines?

We did have a contractor prior to this one, who is no longer employed.

This new contractor is salaried - it is illegal for officers to benefit financially through number of FPNs.

Where does a dog warden, if one exists, fit within your organisation?

Canterbury City Council does not employ a dog warden.

Canenco have kennels, so if strays are found they can still be housed.

Do you have any leaflets rather than everything online? The world is moving away from the elderly, we can't forget them – they're the ones with dogs, the time to walk them, and the ones least likely to find the rules online and thus fall foul.

We work closely with the Communications Team to explore as many ways as possible to improve accessibility.

What about leaflets? We'd happily hand them out.

We will consider this.

How many people actually read the signs, purposefully or not?

Ignorance unfortunately is not a defence – officers will do the educating for those who may have innocently missed the rules.

This is also why we monitor the data - it helps us to make sure we're not targeting people, such as the elderly.

Visibility is an issue. The yellow lines in Tankerton; they're visible at the start of the season, but halfway through no one would know they're there. Could the signs be more eye-catching, like a dog-shaped, or bone-shaped sign?

There are strict legal specifications to be adhered to for signage and they all have to be uniform.

In that case, could you make the word 'dog' bigger, bolder to catch attention?

We can definitely feed that back to the Design Team.

How big of a problem is this actually?

There are considerable numbers with dog fouling and considerable numbers with dogs in restricted areas.

Personally, only this summer I witnessed a dog attack on a man in the middle of the road.

Protections are needed of children's playgrounds and dogs on leads in populated areas.

Are there any restrictions on how many dogs a walker can walk? I have seen people walking as many as 10 at one time. Maybe people don't realise it's a problem.

It was decided to not be put in for a number of reasons.

My 81-year-old husband was knocked off his bike by a dog off the lead and the owner found it humorous. This rocked his confidence and put him in danger. We're nervous about raising the issue as we're worried about people with dogs not being very nice about people raising issues against them.

That's a horrible experience, I'm glad he's back on his bike – these experiences are important for us to hear about.

Problem of bikes now committing anti-social behaviour, putting dogs in danger. No number plates, electric bikes.

Any descriptions of individuals, the bikes, dates, times, areas all help to make officers aware of what is going on.

8. Conclusions

The consultation received 67 survey responses and three written representations, alongside contributions received at two public meetings.

Dog fouling was the issue most respondents had direct experience of.

Four in five respondents witnessed it in the last 12 months and half of those had seen it more times than they could count.

Most said it affects their quality of life and most did not think the proposed restrictions unfairly affect them or others.

Most respondents supported the lead requirements.

A majority considered the two-metre lead length appropriate and did not think the schedule is unfair.

Open comments suggest the main concern is owners not following the rules rather than the rules themselves.

Fewer respondents had seen dogs in exclusion areas and fewer said it affected them.

Enforcement and signage were the most common themes in comments.

Respondents and participants at public meetings said the order depends on visible enforcement and clear and well-maintained signs.

Most location suggestions related to coastal areas.

Tankerton, Whitstable, Herne Bay, Reculver and Long Rock were mentioned most often.

Appendix 2 – Draft Dog Control PSPO

Appendix 2 – Draft Proposed Dog Control PSPO

**CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING
ACT 2014**

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (Control of Dogs)

Canterbury City Council ('The Council') in exercise of the power under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('The Act'), being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met, hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order

- 1) This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) 2027.
- 2) This Order comes into effect on **XX XX** and has effect for a period of three years.
- 3) This Order applies to all land within the administrative area of the council to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

Excepted from the description in 3 above is -

(i) land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39 (1) of the Forestry Act 1967

(ii) Agricultural land

- 4) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies a person who is in charge of the dog at the time shall remove the faeces from the land forthwith.
- 5) A person in charge of a dog on the land listed in Schedule 1 (being land to which this Order applies) shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two metres in length.
- 6) A person in charge of a dog on land to which this Order applies shall comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer to put that dog on a lead.
- 7) The direction referred to in paragraph 6 of this Order may only be given by an authorised officer if that officer has reasonable grounds for considering that such restraint is necessary to prevent
 - a) nuisance, or
 - b) behaviour of the dog which is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person.

- 8) A person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on, the land listed in Schedule 2 (being land to which this Order applies).

9) 'Authorised officer' means an officer authorised by the Council to give directions or make requests under this Order.

10) This Order does not apply to a person who

a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948,

b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf people (registered charity 293358), and upon which he relies for assistance,

c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog upon which he relies for assistance, which dog has been trained by any of the following charities –

i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)

ii) Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281)

iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

11) It is an offence under section 67 of the Act for a person, without reasonable excuse,

– i) to do anything that that person is prohibited from doing under this Order, or

ii) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under this Order.

12) A person guilty of an offence under section 67 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale.

13) A person does not commit an offence under section 67 by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that a local authority did not have power to include in a Public Spaces Protection Order.

Made this XX day of XX,

Signed

Suzi Wakeham, Joint Chief Executive, Canterbury City Council

Schedule 1

This Schedule hereby lists the land where a person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead.

Schedule 2

This Schedule hereby lists the land where a person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on.

Schedule 1

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) Paragraph 5.

A person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two meters in length in the areas outlined below,

Tyler Hill playing field, Summer Lane Tyler Hill
Westgate Gardens, Canterbury
Toddlers Cove, Canterbury
Whitstable Castle Gardens & Bowling Green Whitstable
Memorial Park Bowling Green, Herne Bay
Waltrop Gardens Central Parade, Herne Bay
Reculver Towers Heritage Area, Reculver
St Augustine's Abbey Gardens, Canterbury
Sturry Green, Mill Road, Sturry
Promenade Herne Bay Pier to Lane End, Herne Bay (1st May - 30th Sept inc)
Promenade from Neptune Jetty westwards to Herne Bay Herne Bay Pier, Herne Bay
Promenade level with Pier Ave west to The Street, Tankerton
Dane John Gardens, Canterbury
High Street, Canterbury
St Peters Street, Canterbury
The Parade, Canterbury
St Georges Street, Canterbury
Greyfriars Gardens, Canterbury

St Paul's Church Yard, Canterbury
Martyrs Field, Canterbury
St Mary De Castro Gardens, Canterbury
Best Lane Gardens, Canterbury
Adisham Recreation Ground, Adisham
The Green opposite Manor Court, Oxford Road, Canterbury
Known locally as Long Rock, Nature Reserve (SSSI and SPA), Swalecliffe
Reculver Country Park Picnic areas, Reculver
Ickham Village Green and Churchyard, Ickham
The Village Green, Barham

Schedule 2

**CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING
ACT 2014**

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) Paragraph 8.

A person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on, the land listed below

Children's play area Park View Playing Fields (part), Sturry
Children's play area at The Red House, Derringstone
Play area Franklyn Road Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area St Stephens Church Field, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Burton Downs Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Hampton Pleasure Grounds, Herne Bay
Play area Cornwallis Circle, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Westmeads Rec, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Edgar Road Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Manor Court Enclosed, Canterbury

Play area Querns Road Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Suffolk Road, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Tennyson Avenue, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Victoria Rec, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Wincheap, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Military Road Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area The Elders, Enclosed, Littlebourne
Play area Ince Road, Enclosed, Sturry
Play area Collins Road, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Memorial Park, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Columbia Ave, Partly Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Seeshill Close, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Victoria Street, Enclosed, Whitstable
Beach Herne Bay Pier to Lane End, Herne Bay (1st May – 30th Sept inc)
Beach level with Pier Ave west to The Street, Tankerton (1st May – 30th Sept inc)
Play area Cherry Orchard Rec, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Chestfield Rec, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Chineham Way Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Dane John, Canterbury
Play area Hawe Close, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Honeysuckle Way, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Long Meadow Way, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Lucerne Drive, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Plough Lane, Enclosed, Whitstable
Spring Lane Play Area, Russett Road, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Thanington Rec, Partly Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Tillard Close, Enclosed, Petham
Play area Toddlers Cove, Canterbury
Play area Tower & Waltrop Garden, Enclosed, Herne Bay

Play area Vauxhall Ave, Enclosed, Canterbury
Adisham Recreation Ground Play Area, Adisham
Herne Bay Cemetery (the burial regulations already exclude dogs), Herne Bay
Canterbury Cemetery (the burial regulations already exclude dogs), Canterbury
Whitstable Cemetery (except for the public footpath running from Millstrood Road to the junction with public footpath at the North East boundary of the cemetery), Whitstable
Bridge Recreation Ground and Play Area, Bridge
Littlebourne Recreation Ground Play Area, Littlebourne
Hersden BMX Track and Play Area, Hersden
Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate
Play area Kingsbrooke Park Westwood Drive, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Kingsmead Playing Field Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Reculver Country Park Reculver Lane, Reculver
New Ickham Village Green, Ickham
New Whitstable Heights play park, Whitstable
Birch Rd Hallow Lane play park, Canterbury
Memorial Park courts, Herne Bay
Gorrell Valley Nature Reserve multi use games area and children's play park, Whitstable
Rough Common Harbledown play park, Canterbury

Appendix 3 Climate Change Impact Assessment

1. Climate Change impacts

Topic	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	Mitigation
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our own activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals	Neutral	Enforcement activity may require vehicle journeys across the district, creating a small increase in carbon dioxide emissions. The residual impact is therefore assessed as neutral.	Targeted deployment, efficient scheduling and the planned replacement of Council enforcement vehicles with electric models will minimise these emissions.
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.	None		
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide	None		

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact	Mitigation
None		

3. Further assessment work

Is a further more detailed assessment required at a later stage of this proposal? Not at this stage

Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

Date of initial assessment	30 th July 2026
Division	People
Proposal to be assessed	Proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Order
New or existing policy or function?	Existing
External (i.e. public facing) or internal?	External
Statutory or non-statutory?	Statutory
Your name	Lacy Dixon
Your job title	Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager
Your contact	Lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk
Decision maker	Cabinet
Estimated proposal deadline	Proposed implementation December 2026

Please outline your proposal, including: ● Aims and objectives ● Key actions ● Expected outcomes ● Who will be affected and how ● How many people will be affected	The PSPO provides local authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in “public spaces”. It is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours, within the designated area, where evidential tests are satisfied. Those potentially affected negatively include people who live, work, and visit the area, who demonstrate anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order. Those potentially affected positively include people who live, work, and visit the area, local businesses and service providers, who are impacted by the anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order. No specific number of people can be identified as being affected at this stage as there is no target group.
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	There is a need for a consistent yet flexible approach to the application of the proposed PSPO. If the proposed PSPO is implemented, it will be important for authorised officers to consider the needs of the individual and their personal circumstances in order to make an informed decision as to the appropriate action to take (i.e. recommendation for support, advice, fine, criminal justice approach etc.). It will also be important for authorised officers to ensure that any action taken is proportionate to and balanced against any risks posed, either to the individual or the wider community.
What relevant data or information is currently available about the customers who may use this service or could be affected?	There is a requirement for a period of statutory consultation to be undertaken on the proposed PSPO, before a decision can be taken. It is important for the consultation to be both accessible and engaging with those likely to be affected by the order (positively and negatively). It must also consider the communication needs of those living within the designated area The implementation of the proposed PSPO would be applied to everyone within the designated area; however, it is likely that it will have an increased negative impact on perpetrators. Whilst the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain activities, it is also designed to enable people to feel that the district areas covered are safe and welcoming places for all. We know anecdotally, and from previous consultation/evidence provided, that there are some sections of the community who currently don't feel that this is the case (this includes for example some older people, disabled people). The implementation of the PSPO could therefore potentially have a positive impact on many individuals.

Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which are listed below?		
Aim	Yes/No	Explanation
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	We will closely monitor the enforcement of the proposed PSPO once it is implemented, to ensure that there is no systemic discrimination and disadvantage affecting people with protected characteristics.
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes	We will take steps to meet the different needs of people with different protected characteristics to ensure there is no disadvantage
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	Yes	We anticipate that the proposed PSPO will lead to a reduction in fear of crime both in respect of those who share a certain protected characteristic and those who do not.

Assess the relevance of the proposal to people with different protected characteristics and assess the impact of the proposal on people with different protected characteristics.			
Protected characteristic	Relevance to proposal High/ Medium/ Low/None	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation
Age	High	Positive	Although the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain behaviours it also looks to make the areas identified safer and more welcoming places. Anecdotally, we know that some sections of the community (for example older people and children) either don't feel that this is the case at present or have been affected by some of the behaviour we are trying to tackle, and this has a negative impact on these individuals. The PSPO could have a positive impact for these individuals. A health and safety risk that this poses to young individuals is dog faeces.

Disability	High	Neutral	The PSPO will positively impact those individuals with additional support needs, protected or hidden characteristics and or disabilities to feel safer when accessing the district. It is however established that the PSPO could adversely impact those perpetrators with mental health concerns and those with alcohol dependency, or substance misuse issues. Mental health/other considerations will be taken into account by officers.
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral	
Race	None	Neutral	
Religion or belief	None	Neutral	
Sex	None	Neutral	
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral	
Low Income	Medium	Negative	Perpetrators breaching a PSPO could be issued with a FPN requiring financial payment. This could impact those on low incomes.
People Who Don't Speak English As A First Language	Medium	Negative	Efforts needed to ensure that communication caters for differing needs when required.

Are you going to make any changes to your proposal as a result of these findings, in order to mitigate any potential negative impacts identified? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?	No changes to the proposed Order are required as a result of this assessment. However, the following measures will be implemented to mitigate the potential negative impacts identified:
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	• consultation and public information will be accessible and designed to engage people who may be affected by the Order; • authorised officers will consider each person's needs and individual circumstances before deciding what action is appropriate and proportionate; • accessible communication support will be provided where required, including for people who do not speak English as a first language; and • enforcement outcomes will be monitored to identify and address any disproportionate impacts.
Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? (for example, on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected characteristic)	The PSPO is not targeted at any particular group; it is targeted at perpetrators of anti-social behaviour that impacts upon the quality of life of the wider community.
What additional information would increase your understanding about the potential impact of this proposal?	This could be provided by: £ Monitoring the impact that the policy is having on the community to reduce the likelihood of any disproportionately negative impacts on those with protected characteristics. £ Monitoring ASB across the district to ensure that the PSPO doesn't displace the issue and create issues within other areas.

Overview Committee**5 November 2026****Subject: Review of Fixed Penalty Notice Levels for Environmental Crimes**

Director and Head of Service:

Marie Royle – Director, People

Lora McCourt – Head of Locality Services

Officer:Lacy Dixon – Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager

Cabinet Member:Cllr Connie Nolan

Key or Non-Key decision: Key**Decision Issues:**These matters are within the authority of the Cabinet.

Is any of the information exempt from publication:This report is open to the public.

CCC ward(s): All

Summary and purpose of the report:

Canterbury City Council is reviewing the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) levels used for environmental offences following changes to the national enforcement framework. Statutory guidance on litter enforcement was issued in February 2026, and the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 increased the range of penalties available to local authorities from 1 September 2026. The review provides an opportunity to ensure that Canterbury's FPN levels remain proportionate, effective, and aligned with the revised framework.

Overview Committee is asked to consider the proposed FPN levels for littering and graffiti, fly-tipping and breaches of the household waste duty of care, together with the benchmarking, payment and enforcement implications, and to provide comments and recommendations to Cabinet.

To Recommend [to Cabinet]:

1. Adoption of the proposed FPN levels and early-payment amounts in section 2.1.
 2. That the impact of the revised levels be reviewed by Cabinet after 12 months, including issue volumes, payment rates, representations, cancellations, prosecutions, income and any evidence of disproportionate impact.
-

Next stage in process:

Cabinet will consider Overview Committee's comments and recommendations and decide whether to approve the revised environmental FPN levels, associated early-payment arrangements and fly-tipping severity criteria, and confirm the implementation date.

1. Introduction

1.1 Fixed Penalty Notices provide an alternative to prosecution for specified environmental offences. Payment within the permitted period discharges liability to prosecution for that offence. An FPN is not a finding of guilt, and there is no obligation on the Council to offer one where prosecution is considered more appropriate.

1.2 From 1 September 2026, the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 increased the maximum fixed penalty for littering from £500 to £750 and for fly-tipping from £1,000 to £5,000. The maximum penalties for graffiti and flyposting remain £500, and for breaches of the household waste duty of care £600.

1.3 The review considers whether Canterbury's current FPN levels remain effective, proportionate and financially sustainable. The revised national framework provides the opportunity to review local amounts; it does not, by itself, demonstrate that higher penalties are necessary locally. The proposed levels therefore need to be considered alongside local payment and enforcement outcomes, the benchmarking and the safeguards set out in this report.

2. Detail

2.1 Current and proposed FPN levels and enforcement arrangements

The table below sets out the Council's current FPN levels alongside the proposed changes:

Offence	Current FPN	Current Early Payment Levels	Proposed FPN	Proposed Early Payment Levels
Littering and graffiti	£200	£100	£300	£200
Fly Tipping	£1000	No Reduction	Level 1 Offence - £500 Level 2 Offence - £1000	No Reduction
Household waste duty of care	£500	£300	£600	£400

National Enforcement Solutions currently provides littering and PSPO enforcement under a contract that contains two potential one-year extensions to May 2028. The Council receives 35% of income from paid FPNs, and the contractor receives 65%. Officers are salaried and are

not paid commission based on the number of notices issued.

The contract is monitored monthly, including the number, reason, and location of notices issued. Body-worn video is subject to spot checks to support quality assurance. A person receiving an FPN may make representations and provide mitigating information. Depending on the circumstances, this may result in cancellation, an extension of time, or other payment arrangements. These safeguards remain important if the level of penalties increases.

Enforcement of fly-tipping and household waste duty-of-care offences is undertaken by the Enviro Crime Team within Locality Services. The two-tier fly-tipping penalties would be applied using the criteria in Appendix 5.

Level 1 (£500) would ordinarily apply to small-scale deposits of non-hazardous waste with limited environmental or community impact, straightforward clearance and normally no relevant recent offending history. Indicative operational guides are up to approximately 1 cubic metre of waste and direct clearance and disposal costs below £250.

Level 2 (£1,000) will automatically apply where the person has previously received a Level 1 FPN for fly-tipping. It would also ordinarily apply where one or more other factors make the offence materially more serious, including larger deposits, clearance and disposal costs of £250 or more, higher-risk waste, sensitive locations or pollution risks, obstruction or safety hazards, commercial activity, persistent offending or appreciable environmental or community harm.

Except for the automatic escalation following a previous Level 1 FPN, these are indicative criteria rather than automatic thresholds, with each case assessed on its individual circumstances.

Prosecution would be considered for serious cases, including hazardous waste, substantial pollution, very large-scale or organised dumping, repeated offending, serious safety risks or deliberate dumping into a watercourse.

2.2 Benchmarking

Authority	Littering	Fly-tipping	Household duty of care
Thanet	£100	£1,000 / £400	£600 / £400
Gravesham	£500	£1,000	£600
Maidstone	£250 / £200 lower tier; £500 higher tier	£600 / £520 lower tier; £1,000 higher tier	£400 or £500, depending on offence
Medway	£150 / £90	£750 / £500	£300
Canterbury proposed	£300 / £200	£500 or £1,000	£600 / £400

Other local authorities are also reviewing their environmental FPN levels following the introduction of the new guidance and changes to the statutory penalty limits. The benchmarking

above therefore provides a snapshot of published amounts, which may change as those reviews progress. Canterbury's proposed levels remain a local decision, informed by proportionality, enforcement arrangements and the impact on those receiving notices.

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

The review of environmental Fixed Penalty Notice levels supports the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of making the district greener, better and stronger. Proportionate penalties for littering, graffiti, fly-tipping and breaches of the household waste duty of care support cleaner, more welcoming neighbourhoods and public spaces for residents, businesses and visitors.

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

No public consultation is required to amend the locally determined FPN amounts. Overview Committee's feedback will inform Cabinet's decision. Before implementation, the approved amounts, early-payment periods, payment arrangements, representations process and fly-tipping criteria would be published and relevant officers and the contractor briefed. Targeted communications would reinforce lawful waste disposal and the use of authorised waste carriers, alongside the consequences of environmental offending.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

Overview Committee is asked to consider whether the proposed environmental FPN levels provide a proportionate and effective response to offending, taking account of the revised statutory limits, local payment rates, benchmarking and financial implications, and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

There are several options available:

Option 1 - Retain current FPN levels and monitor offences for 12 months

This option would make no immediate change to the current FPN amounts or early-payment arrangements. Offence levels would be monitored for 12 months, alongside payment rates and enforcement outcomes, to assess trends and inform a further review of whether changes to the amounts are appropriate. Existing enforcement, education and prevention activity would continue during this period.

Option 2 - Approve the proposed FPN levels (recommended)

Recommend the proposed amounts in section 2.1, retaining early-payment reductions for selected offences and introducing £500 and £1,000 fly-tipping levels. Review offence levels, payment and enforcement outcomes, financial effects and any disproportionate impacts 12 months after implementation.

Proportionate penalties, backed by consistent enforcement and education, can deter offending and support the Community Safety Plan's objectives of reducing environmental crime and anti-social behaviour and strengthening public confidence. The review would assess their effectiveness.

The revised statutory framework for FPN levels has been issued to tackle the growing problem, the environmental impact of, and the increasing cost to councils of environmental crime.

This option takes this into account whilst having a local focus.

Option 3 - Adopt the statutory maximum for all relevant offences

This would maximise the financial impact on those committing environmental crime but may increase non-payment, representations, and prosecution activity. It is not recommended without stronger local evidence that maximum amounts are necessary and proportionate for each offence category.

6. Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment

Option 2 balances stronger deterrence with proportionate penalties, rather than applying statutory maximums across all offences. Published fly-tipping criteria and individual consideration of representations would support consistent, fair enforcement, with effectiveness assessed through the 12-month review.

Risk	Mitigation
Higher non-payment and prosecution workload	Monitor payment and prosecution rates; retain appropriate payment arrangements; assess resource impacts at the 12-month review.
Inconsistent selection of £500 or £1,000 for fly-tipping	Approve and publish objective severity criteria; require supervisory review and auditable decision records.
Disproportionate impact on people on low incomes or with additional needs	Consider representations and vulnerability; provide accessible information, extensions or payment arrangements where appropriate; monitor outcomes.
Perverse incentives arising from income sharing	Maintain salaried officers, monthly monitoring, body-worn video quality checks, and independent review of representations.
Benchmarking becomes outdated or is not directly comparable	Verify comparator figures before the Cabinet report and focus the decision on Canterbury evidence and statutory limits.
Higher income assumed but not realised	Base budgets on prudent payment-rate assumptions and report gross receipts, contractual payments, recovery costs and net income separately.

7. Implications

(a) Financial

The proposal may increase gross FPN receipts, but the net effect will depend on issue volumes, payment rates, cancellations, the 65/35 contractor income split, prosecution costs and administration. No additional income should be assumed until these factors have been modeled and monitored.

(b) Legal

FPN amounts must remain within the statutory ranges in force at the implementation date. The final Cabinet report should obtain legal confirmation of the relevant amounts, discount requirements, payment periods, and the proposed two-tier fly-tipping criteria. An FPN is an alternative to prosecution and must be issued and reviewed in accordance with the Council's enforcement policy.

(c) Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 2). The proposed FPN levels are intended to support cleaner neighbourhoods and public spaces for residents, businesses and visitors. Higher penalties may place greater financial pressure on people on low incomes, while communication barriers and individual support needs may affect understanding of notices and access to representations. Mitigation includes accessible information, individualised and proportionate enforcement decisions, appropriate payment arrangements, support and safeguarding referrals, and monitoring of enforcement outcomes.

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity

A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 1). The proposed FPN levels may strengthen deterrence against littering, fly-tipping and unlawful waste disposal, supporting cleaner public spaces and protecting local habitats and wildlife. Any emissions associated with enforcement travel will be mitigated through targeted deployment, efficient scheduling and the use of electric vehicles where available.

Other implications

(e) Staffing resource

The proposals will be delivered through existing staffing resources. Higher non-payment or challenge rates could, however, increase administrative, legal and management workload and should be included in the 12-month review.

(f) Human rights issues

Regulations are applied consistently and staff operate within the framework of dignity, fairness, respect, and equality. Care will be taken to ensure that certain individuals are not unduly marginalised or disproportionately affected by the provisions.

(g) Crime and disorder

The Council must consider how its decisions contribute to reducing crime and disorder. The proposed FPN levels support a proportionate response to environmental offending and associated anti-social behaviour, alongside education and prevention. Serious or repeat cases may be more appropriately prosecuted.

(h) Safeguarding children

The Council has a duty to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm when carrying out its functions. Where officers identify a risk of harm, appropriate safeguarding referrals will be made.

Contact Officer: Lacy Dixon – lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk

Background documents and appendices

Appendix 1 – Climate Change Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3- Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026

Appendix 4 - Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, updated March 2026

Appendix 5 – Proposed fly tipping enforcement criteria

Appendix 1 - Climate Change Impact Assessment

1. Climate Change impacts

Topic	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	Mitigation
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our own activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals	Neutral	Enforcement activity may require vehicle journeys across the district, creating a small increase in carbon dioxide emissions. The residual impact is therefore assessed as neutral.	Targeted deployment, efficient scheduling, and the planned replacement of Council enforcement vehicles with electric models will minimise these emissions.
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.	None		
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide	None		

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact	Mitigation
Positive	Reduction in fly tipped waste in the natural environments will have a positive impact on landscapes and wildfire	

3. Further assessment work

Is a further more detailed assessment required at a later stage of this proposal? Not at this stage

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

Date of initial assessment	30 th July 2026
Division	People
Proposal to be assessed	Review of FPN Levels
New or existing policy or function?	Existing
External (i.e. public facing) or internal?	External
Statutory or non-statutory?	Statutory
Your name	Lacy Dixon
Your job title	Senior Enforcement and Community Safety Manager
Your contact	Lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk
Decision maker	Cabinet
Estimated proposal deadline	Proposed implementation December 2026

Please outline your proposal, including: ● Aims and objectives ● Key actions ● Expected outcomes ● Who will be affected and how ● How many people will be affected	To increase FPN fine levels for environmental crimes in line with the community and environmental impact due to gov increasing the fine levels. Those who breach the law will be impacted by this change in fine level to deter them from acting in such a way and reduce risk to the environment and cost to the council and private landowners in removal of fly tipped waste.
What relevant data or information is currently available about the customers who may use this service or could be affected?	A monthly report monitors issuance and ensures there are no concerns. Majority of offenders are Male and middle aged.

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Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which are listed below?

Aim	Yes/No	Explanation
Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	No	
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	No	

Assess the relevance of the proposal to people with different protected characteristics and assess the impact of the proposal on people with different protected characteristics.

Protected characteristic	Relevance to proposal High/ Medium/ Low/None	Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation
Age	None	Neutral	
Disability	None	Neutral	.
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral	
Race	None	Neutral	
Religion or belief	None	Neutral	
Sex	None	Neutral	

Sexual orientation	None	Neutral	
Low Income	Medium	Negative	Perpetrators breaching a PSPO could be issued with a FPN requiring financial payment. This could impact those on low incomes.
People Who Don't Speak English As A First Language	Medium	Negative	Efforts needed to ensure that communication caters for differing needs when required.

Are you going to make any changes to your proposal as a result of these findings, in order to mitigate any potential negative impacts identified? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?	No
Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? (for example, on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected characteristic)	No

What additional information would increase your understanding about the potential impact of this proposal?	This could be provided by: £ Monitoring the impact that the policy is having on the community to reduce the likelihood of any disproportionately negative impacts on those with protected characteristics.
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**Appendix 3 Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment)
(England) Regulations 2026**

[The Environmental Offences \(Fixed Penalties\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations
2026](#)

Appendix 4 – Code Of Practice On Litter and Refuse

[Code of practice on litter and refuse](#)

Appendix 5 - Proposed Fly Tipping Enforcement Criteria

1. Introduction

The proposed two-tier approach recognises that fly-tipping incidents vary in scale and impact. A previous Level 1 FPN for fly-tipping will automatically result in a Level 2 FPN for a subsequent offence, unless prosecution is considered more appropriate. The remaining criteria support consistent and transparent decisions while allowing each case to be considered on its individual circumstances. Serious cases may be prosecuted rather than dealt with through an FPN.

2. Level 1 fly-tipping offence: £500

A Level 1 FPN would ordinarily be appropriate where the offence is relatively small-scale and the overall environmental, community and financial impact is limited.

Factor	Indicative criteria
Volume	A small deposit, generally capable of being transported in a car or small van. As an operational guide, this may be up to approximately 1 cubic metre or a few individual items or sacks.
Type of waste	Ordinary non-hazardous household-type waste, furniture, small electrical items, garden waste or a limited quantity of non-hazardous building material.
Clearance and disposal cost	Straightforward collection without specialist equipment or treatment. As an operational guide, estimated direct clearance and disposal cost is below £250.
Location	An accessible location with limited environmental sensitivity or disruption.
Water and environmental risk	No waste deposited in water and no material likelihood of pollution of a watercourse, drain, groundwater, coastal environment or sensitive habitat.
Highway and community impact	The deposit does not materially obstruct a highway, footway, access, public amenity or create a material safety risk.
Commerciality	No evidence that the deposit forms part of systematic or organised commercial waste offending.
Previous offending	A Level 1 FPN is available only where the person has not previously received a Level 1 FPN for fly-tipping. Where a previous Level 1 FPN has been issued, Level 2 automatically applies, unless prosecution is considered more appropriate.
Other factors	No aggravating factor sufficient to move the matter to Level 2 or prosecution.

3. Level 2 fly-tipping offence: £1,000

A Level 2 FPN will automatically apply where the person has previously received a Level 1 FPN for fly-tipping. It would also ordinarily apply where one or more other features make the offence materially more serious.

Factor	Indicative criteria
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Volume	Larger deposit, ordinarily over approximately 1 cubic metre, multiple bulky items or bags, or a load consistent with van or trailer disposal.
Type of waste	Larger quantities of construction or demolition waste, commercial waste, mixed waste, tyres, significant electrical waste, or material creating an enhanced environmental or public-health risk.
Clearance and disposal cost	A material clearance burden for the Council or landowner. As an operational guide, estimated direct clearance and disposal costs are £250 or more, even where the physical volume is relatively modest.
Location	Woodland, countryside, beach or coastal location, park, open space, verge, heritage or sensitive site, or another location where the deposit causes greater harm or clearance difficulty.
Water and environmental risk	Waste placed in, immediately adjacent to, or creating a credible pollution risk to a watercourse, surface-water drain, pond, lake, wetland, groundwater or coastal or marine environment.
Highway and community impact	The deposit obstructs or creates a material hazard to a road, pavement, cycleway, access point or public space.
Commerciality	Evidence suggests that the waste arose from commercial activity or paid waste collection or disposal, particularly where avoidance of legitimate disposal costs appears relevant.
Persistence	A previous Level 1 FPN for fly-tipping automatically triggers Level 2. Other relevant previous enforcement, repeated deposits, or evidence of deliberate or persistent offending may also justify Level 2 or prosecution, depending on seriousness.
Additional harm	Significant visual blight, impact on wildlife or habitats, contamination potential, or other appreciable community or environmental impact.

4. Cases where prosecution will be considered

An FPN should not be treated as the automatic or maximum response. Prosecution will be considered where the circumstances include:

- hazardous or potentially hazardous waste;
- substantial pollution or serious environmental harm;
- very large-scale dumping;
- organised or systematic commercial waste crime;
- repeated offending;
- significant risk to people, wildlife or the environment;
- an obstruction creating a serious highway or public-safety risk;
- deliberate dumping into a watercourse;
- any other circumstance where an FPN would inadequately reflect the seriousness of the offence.