

Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Permission to Consult: LBH Borough Wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
Decision Maker:	Helen Oakerbee, Director of Planning and Public Protection
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Terry Brown, Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
ELT Lead:	Neil Stubbings, Strategic Director of Place
Report Author and contact details:	Jenny Shiels Community Safety Officer Jenny.Shiels@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	This decision supports the Council's statutory duties under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which provides local authorities with powers to address anti-social behaviour in public spaces through Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). It aligns with the Council's corporate objectives relating to community safety, environmental quality, and resident wellbeing, and contributes to the People and Place priorities. The proposal is also consistent with the strengthened national focus on tackling anti-social behaviour reflected in the Crime and Policing Act 2026, which enhances the overall legislative framework supporting enforcement and prevention.
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this decision. Consultation

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	will be delivered using existing resources. Future costs and funding requirements may arise if a PSPO is implemented, and these will be assessed at the Key Decision stage; failure to proceed may result in loss of enforcement powers and increased indirect costs from unmanaged anti-social behaviour.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	Places Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	<i>The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non Key Decision</i>

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People: Supporting our residents to stay safe and well

Place: A great place to live, work and enjoy **X**

Resources: Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

Part A – Report seeking decision

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DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To approve the undertaking of a statutory public consultation on the introduction of a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under Sections 59-68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

This decision is made under delegated authority to Strategic Directors as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. Onwards delegation has been made to the Director of Planning and Public Protection.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The current Romford Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order is due to expire in October 2026. If statutory consultation is not undertaken in advance of this date, the Council will be unable to progress either a borough-wide PSPO or a further three-year extension, resulting in a loss of these enforcement powers.

Evidence from the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment (2026), Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment (2023-2027), Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and Community Safety Survey (2026) demonstrates that:

- Anti-social behaviour is persistent and borough-wide
- Fear of crime is disproportionate to recorded incidents
- Residents are avoiding public spaces due to nuisance and intimidation

A PSPO provides a proportionate, preventative tool to address behaviour that falls below criminal thresholds but cumulatively impacts quality of life.

The statutory test set out in Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 must be satisfied prior to implementation, and consultation is a required step in this process.

With the above in mind, approval is sought to undertake a statutory public consultation to determine whether a borough-wide PSPO is required and appropriate. The proposed PSPO conditions that will be consulted upon are attached to this decision as an appendix.

The consultation will be undertaken for a period of eight weeks and will be promoted through the Council's website, consultation platform, social media channels and partner networks. Targeted engagement will also be undertaken with key stakeholders, including the Metropolitan Police, businesses, community groups, elected Members and other interested parties. This approach will ensure that those affected by the proposals have a reasonable opportunity to consider and respond before any final decision is made.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Do nothing

Rejected as it would fail to address identified, persistent anti-social behaviour and ongoing harm to community wellbeing.

Rely solely on existing enforcement powers

Rejected as existing powers are reactive, time-limited, and focused on individuals rather than behaviours, and do not address cumulative low-level harm.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The consultation is expected to seek views on a range of proposed conditions, which may include behaviours such as alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, public nuisance, and environmental offences, with final conditions to be informed by the outcome of the consultation.

The proposal has been informed by:

- Partner agencies (including Police)
- Council services
- Community Safety Survey 2026
- Strategic assessments and needs analysis

A full statutory public consultation will be undertaken following approval of this decision in accordance with legislative requirements.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Jenny Shiels

Designation: Community Safety Officer

Signature: JENNY SHIELS

Date: 11/08/2026

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Public Spaces Protection Orders are made under Sections 59-68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which remain the primary legislative framework governing PSPOs.

The Council must:

- Be satisfied that the statutory test is met
- Undertake appropriate consultation
- Ensure any restrictions are reasonable and proportionate

Failure to comply may result in legal challenge.

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 introduces wider reforms to anti-social behaviour powers but does not replace the statutory basis for PSPOs. It provides broader context for strengthened enforcement and prevention activity.

This decision relates only to consultation, which supports compliance with statutory requirements and reduces legal risk.

This report has been developed in consultation with Legal Services, who are satisfied that the proposed approach is in accordance with the Council's statutory powers, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no direct financial implications associated with this decision, as the consultation will be delivered within existing resources

The decision does not commit the Council to implementation; however, any future PSPO may require additional resources for enforcement and administration, alongside potential income from Fixed Penalty Notices. These costs and funding arrangements will be fully assessed at the Key Decision stage.

The financial position at this stage is considered low risk, with the main uncertainties relating to the scale and cost of any future implementation. Not proceeding with the consultation may result in the loss of PSPO powers and increased indirect costs associated with unmanaged anti-social behaviour.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this decision.

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EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this stage as this decision relates only to consultation. An EIA will be completed following consultation and included in the subsequent Key Decision report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

No direct environmental risks identified.

The proposed PSPO may have a positive impact on environmental quality by addressing behaviours such as littering, street drinking, and public urination, contributing to cleaner and safer public spaces.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing by:

- Improving perceptions of safety
- Encouraging use of public spaces
- Reducing exposure to anti-social behaviour

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- HCSP Strategic Assessment 2026
- Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment 2023–2027
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Community Safety Survey 2026

APPENDICES

Appendix: Draft List of Proposed PSPO Conditions for Consultation (attached).

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker



Helen Oakerbee

Director of Planning and Public Protection

Date: 25 August 2026

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____