CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXCESSIVE VEHICLE NOISE AND ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2026

Cheshire East Borough Council makes this Order under **Section 59 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** [hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'], having consulted as required by **Section 72** of that **Act**.

This Order takes effect on 1st December 2026 and has a duration of 3 years.

It applies to the public place, defined by section 59(4) of the Act as 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, and known as "Cheshire East Borough Council" which is shown on the plan attached to the Order. Hereinafter referred to as 'the Restricted Area'

The Council is satisfied that activities have been carried out in this Restricted Area which have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. Further, it is satisfied that the effect of these activities is or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature, is or likely to be such as to make the activities unreasonable and the effect justifies the restrictions imposed.

Introduction

(a) Cheshire East Borough Council has received complaints and evidence from residents, businesses, elected members, Members of Parliament, Cheshire Constabulary and partner agencies regarding excessive vehicle noise and associated anti-social driving behaviour occurring across the Borough.

(b) Such behaviour includes excessive engine revving, rapid acceleration, wheel spinning, excessive exhaust noise, street racing, vehicle convoys, unauthorised vehicle gatherings and the playing of amplified music from vehicles at excessive volume

(C)Spectators play a significant role in the continuation and escalation of anti-social vehicle activity. Large numbers of individuals regularly attend organised and spontaneous vehicle gatherings, often travelling specifically to watch, film and share events on social media.

(D)The presence of spectators can encourage and incentivise dangerous behaviour, including racing, drifting, wheel-spins, doughnuts and excessive engine revving. Larger gatherings also increase noise, congestion, littering and the risk to public safety, creating additional nuisance and disturbance for nearby residents and businesses.

(E) Evidence from incidents across Cheshire East indicates that anti-social vehicle activity is rarely limited to those driving the vehicles. The associated crowds contribute to the overall impact on local communities and can make enforcement activity more challenging. Addressing both participants and spectators is therefore essential to reducing the frequency and impact of vehicle-related anti-social behaviour.

(F) These activities cause nuisance, alarm and distress to residents, visitors and businesses and can adversely affect the quality of life of persons living, working and visiting the Borough.

(G) Experience demonstrates that anti-social vehicle activity frequently relocates between different locations within the Borough in response to enforcement activity. A borough-wide approach is therefore considered necessary to effectively address the problem.

(H) The Council is satisfied that the behaviour set out above has had, and is likely to continue to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people within the Borough of Cheshire East.

(I) This Order seeks to prevent or reduce the detrimental effects referred to above by imposing reasonable restrictions on anti-social vehicle use, excessive vehicle noise and associated activities occurring within public places across the Borough.

(J) A public consultation undertaken between 16 September and 14 October 2026 generated 662 responses. The consultation demonstrated significant public support for the introduction of this Order, with 87% of respondents supporting implementation and strong support for each of the proposed restrictions. The consultation also identified concerns relating to road safety, excessive noise, community wellbeing and the impact of anti-social vehicle activity on residents, businesses and visitors throughout the Borough.

The Council has received reports of activity occurring at locations including the A34 corridor, A523 Silk Road, Congleton Bypass (A54) and Jack Mills Way, Crewe (A532), together with other locations across the Borough.

These activities have given rise to nuisance and complaint to both the Council and the Police from local residents, visitors and businesses.

Cheshire East Borough Council therefore has exercised its power under section 59(4) Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to make this order to:

PROHIBIT

Part 1-Excessive Vehicle Noise

1. A person shall be guilty of an offence if they use, cause or permit a vehicle to be used in a manner which generates excessive or unnecessary vehicle noise and causes, or is likely to cause, nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.

2. For the purposes of this Part, excessive vehicle noise includes, but is not limited to:
    - Excessive engine revving.

- Repeated acceleration and deceleration.
- Deliberate generation of excessive exhaust noise.
- Repeated sounding of a vehicle horn without reasonable cause.
- Playing amplified music from a vehicle at a volume likely to cause nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.

Part 2- Anti-social driving behaviour

1. A person shall be guilty of an offence if they use, cause or permit a vehicle to be driven in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, nuisance, alarm, harassment or distress to any other person.

2. For the purposes of this Part, anti-social driving behaviour includes, but is not limited to:
   - Wheel spinning.
   - Deliberate loss of traction.
   - Rapid acceleration intended to create excessive noise.
   - Revving a vehicle whilst stationary.
   - Street racing.
   - Anti-social driving manoeuvres undertaken for exhibition, entertainment or spectacle.
   - Vehicle convoys causing nuisance, obstruction or disturbance.

Part 3- Vehicle and Spectator Gatherings

1. For the purposes of this order no person shall organise, promote, advertise, facilitate or knowingly participate in, or spectate at a vehicle gathering where the conduct of any person present causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any other person.
2. For the purposes of this Order, prohibited vehicle gatherings include, but are not limited to, gatherings associated with:
   a. Street racing, speed trials or acceleration testing.
   b. Drifting, doughnuts, wheel-spins, burnouts, handbrake turns or other vehicle stunts.
   c. Excessive engine revving, repeated rapid acceleration or the generation of excessive vehicle or exhaust noise.
   d. Convoys of vehicles causing obstruction, congestion or disruption to other highway users.
   e. The use of amplified music, public address systems or other equipment generating excessive noise.
   f. Dangerous, careless, inconsiderate or anti-social driving behaviour.
   g. The obstruction of roads, car parks, public spaces, access routes, residential areas or business premises.
   h. Conduct that attracts spectators and results in noise, intimidation, disorder, littering, criminal damage, public nuisance or risks to public safety.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, a prohibited gathering may be pre-arranged or spontaneous and may consist of any number of vehicles, occupants or spectators. A

gathering may be deemed prohibited regardless of whether any criminal offence has been committed.

REQUIRE

1. A person reasonably believed by an authorised person to be engaging in conduct prohibited by this Order must comply with any reasonable instruction given by that authorised person to:
   - Cease the prohibited activity.
   - Leave the immediate area.
   - Disperse from a gathering associated with prohibited activity.

2. A person shall be guilty of an offence if they fail to comply with a lawful direction given under this Order unless they can demonstrate a reasonable excuse for doing so.

3. An authorised person for example a Police Constable, Police Community Support Officer or authorised Council Officer must show identification when reasonably requested to do so.

Exemptions

1. Nothing in this Order shall apply where:

a) The activity is undertaken by the emergency services whilst acting in the course of their duties.
(b) The activity is undertaken by the armed forces whilst acting in the course of their duties.
(c) The vehicle is being used for highway maintenance, utility works, emergency repairs or other statutory functions.
(d) The person has a reasonable excuse for the activity.
(e) Nothing in this Order shall prohibit lawful vehicle events, exhibitions, rallies, shows, charity events or similar organised activities where such activities have been appropriately authorised by the landowner and are conducted in a manner that does not cause, and is not likely to cause, harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to others.

Other Matters

1. Where a person wishes to rely upon any exemption contained within this Order, the burden shall be upon that person to demonstrate that the exemption applies
2. The Council may deploy acoustic cameras and other appropriate monitoring technologies within the Borough to detect, record and gather evidence of activities prohibited by this Order. Evidence obtained through such technologies may be used to support enforcement action, including the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and the prosecution of offences arising from breaches of this Order.
3. Any person who fails to comply with a requirement of this Order, or engages in conduct prohibited by it, commits an offence under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. An authorised officer or constable may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 as an alternative to prosecution. Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice, or serious or repeated breaches of the Order, may result in prosecution before

a Magistrates' Court, where offenders are liable to a fine of up to Level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000).

A Constable or authorised person may under Section 68 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under Section 67 of that Act in relation to this Order.

APPEALS:

1. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order or Variation is made.

Review of the Order:

The Council will periodically review the operation and effectiveness of this Order and may vary, extend or discharge the Order in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

APPENDIX:

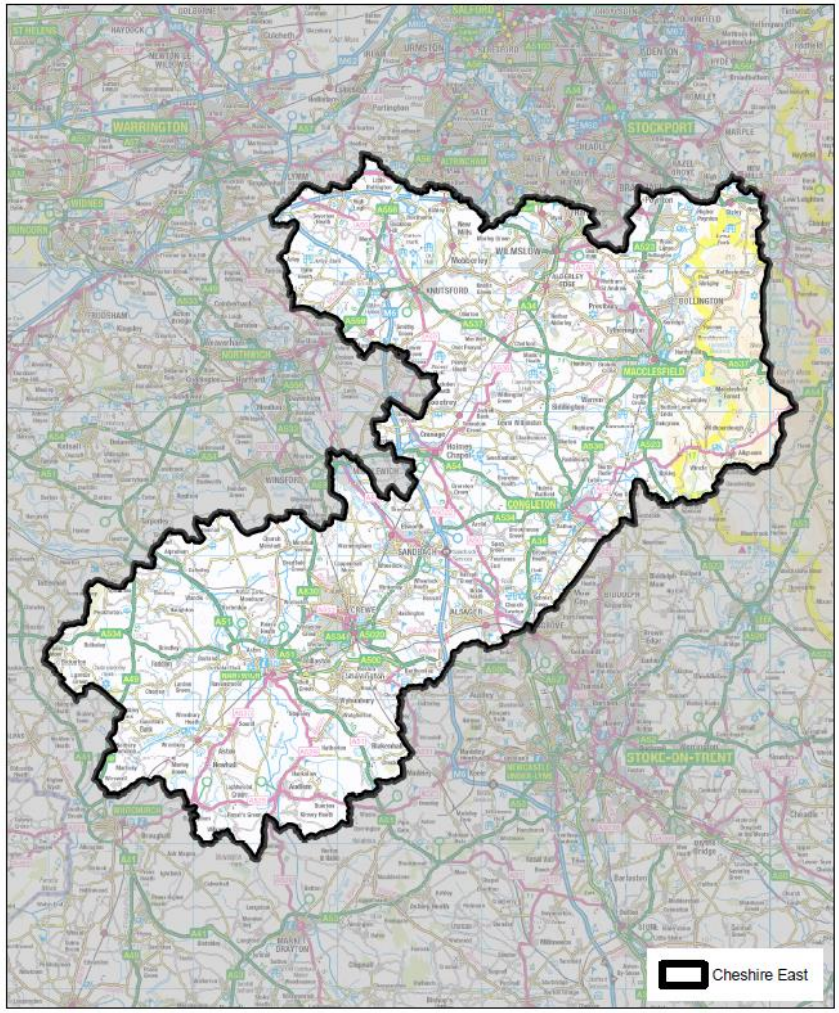
A plan of the restricted area to which this order applies.

Signed……..

By authority of the Cheshire East Borough Council under section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and under the authority of its cabinet member for Communities & Engagement.

Dated:……

Cheshire East Borough Council



Cheshire East Council

N

1:297,780

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