



THE DIGITAL BEAT

The Canterbury Beat – Edition #21: STRONGER TOGETHER: Joint Initiatives with Canterbury City Council

Neighbourhood policing is entirely built on partnership. The complex challenges facing our city centre cannot be solved by one agency alone, which is why our daily, close collaboration with Canterbury City Council (CCC) is so vital.

This week, we are looking at two major joint initiatives currently underway to protect our community: a balanced approach to city centre homelessness and a proactive crackdown on illegal vape sales.

Homelessness: Support First, Enforcement Where Necessary

The issue of homelessness and rough sleeping on our streets is complex and requires a careful, compassionate, yet firm approach. We work hand-in-hand with the council's outreach teams to address it.

Getting Help to the Vulnerable: Our primary focus is always on welfare and support. Together with council officers and local charities, we carry out joint outreach patrols to engage directly with individuals. The goal is to connect them with housing support, addiction services, and mental health resources to help them find a sustainable path off the streets.

Enforcement Action: While support is always the first step, we must also protect the wider community from associated anti-social behaviour. Where individuals repeatedly refuse help and engage in aggressive begging, open drug use, or persistent disruption in spaces like the High Street or the Dane John, we take decisive enforcement action. This includes utilising Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) to keep our public spaces safe and welcoming for everyone.

Cracking Down on Illegal Vape Sales

Over the last few weeks, a major focus for our joint teams has been tackling the rising issue of illegal, non-compliant, and counterfeit vape sales targeting young people in the city centre.

Joint Operations: Alongside Canterbury City Council and Kent Trading Standards, the NPT has been conducting targeted inspections of retail premises across the city.

These operations target shops selling vapes that exceed legal nicotine limits, lack proper safety labelling, or are suspected of selling directly to minors. By combining police presence with the council's regulatory powers, we are successfully seizing thousands of pounds worth of illicit stock, protecting our young people, and ensuring a level playing field for our law-abiding local businesses.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

How a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Actually Works

Question: I see signs for a PSPO around the city centre and parks. What powers does that actually give you?

The Answer: A PSPO is a flexible tool created by Canterbury City Council in consultation with the police to tackle specific anti-social behaviours in a designated area. It gives both police officers and council enforcement officers the power to combat specific behaviours. It bridges the gap between a gentle warning and a full arrest, allowing us to maintain order in the city's shared spaces instantly.

OVER TO YOU

As we look to improve our joint work across Canterbury:

Have you noticed a positive difference in the atmosphere around the High Street or our green spaces recently?

Are there any specific retail areas where you have concerns about underage sales or illicit products?