

**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND POLICE AND  
CRIME PANEL – 23 JUNE 2026**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**The following question has been put to the Police and Crime Commissioner:**

**Question by Mr Jonathan Smith:**

*Why wasn't any town/city from across Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland included in the Home Office's Winter of Action initiative, as per the list of involved locations listed on the Home Office website, despite being included in the similar Safer Streets Summer initiative earlier in 2025? According to the website this was led by Police and Crime Commissioners/Deputy Mayors to focus on anti-social behaviour, street crime and retail crime as well as night-time economy safety and violence against women and girls, many of which are issues highlighted in the Police and Crime Commissioners' Police and Crime Plan as areas of focus. It would seem that most, if not all, other Force areas were involved in this work.*

**Response by the Police and Crime Commissioner:**

*Thank you for your question. I take my responsibility to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the safest place it can be very seriously.*

*Last year I ensured that Leicestershire fully implemented a plan to take part in the Governments Safer Summer Streets, despite there being no additional funding to do so. I was incredibly grateful to the good will of partners across the policing area for their participation. When the Home Secretary asked for feedback on that campaign, I returned comments on the frustration around the lack of additional support when there was a request to deliver additional activity. The administrative burden of the planning process and reporting requirements put on us by the Home Officer were also significant to my staff, Leicestershire Police and partners.*

*As such when the Home Secretary wrote to me asking me to coordinate a similar approach for their Winter of Action campaign, again whilst offering no additional funding, I declined. That is however, not to say that there was not already significant activity planned by both my office and Leicestershire Police, to ensure safety on the streets of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland throughout the winter period.*

*I wrote to the Home Secretary at the time outlining my rationale for the decision not to formally take part in Winter of Action but also outlining the significant level of activity already planned to keep the people of our region safe. I have attached that letter for your reassurance.*



**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**  
for Leicester,  
Leicestershire & Rutland  
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP  
Home Secretary

[shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:shabana.mahmood.mp@parliament.uk)

*Sent by email.*

27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Home Secretary

Thank you for your letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 outlining your request for us to participate in 'Winter of Action'.

Ensuring that that streets of Leicestershire, Leicestershire and Rutland are safe all year is already something that is very important to both myself and the Temporary Chief Constable. Neighbourhood Policing, Violence and Vulnerability and Business Crime are important to my Police and Crime Plan that I will be delivering over the next two and half years, regardless of season.

In Leicestershire, we have the first Joint Crime Prevention Strategy between both my Office and Leicestershire Police to ensure that we are joined up in our approach to reduce demand and prevent people and businesses from becoming victims in the first place.

I welcomed your approach to the Safer Summer Streets campaign but was disappointed when there was no further resource allocation from the Home Office to expand activity. The Neighbourhood Policing Grant is acknowledged, but this must be used in a way to benefit all the communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and not just activity within our urban areas.

When you asked for feedback on that campaign, we returned comments about the lack of ability to deliver additional activity and the fact that the planning process and reporting requirements to your office put an unnecessary burden on my staff, Leicestershire Police and partners. This is feedback that, as I understand it, you have had from many regions.



Despite that you have launched Winter of Action in the same vein.

I write to you today to let you know that we will not be returning a partnership wide plan, nor will we be providing any additional monitoring activity.

That is not to say that we will not be taking action. Planning for ensuring that the streets of LLR are safe over the winter period were already in progress by myself, the Chief Constable and partners long before you wrote to us.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be launching a Community Action Programme initiative aimed at reducing violence. It will provide community organisations and businesses across the region with crime prevention advice. In areas where crime of this type is the highest, I will enable grassroots organisation to receive funding for projects to support prevention and diversion activity.

Through my support of Community Safety Partnerships, the list below covers just a few of the initiatives being delivered by partners across LLR:

- A medical night-time economy first aid provision provided by St John Ambulance, including a static treatment centre (usually located at Jubilee Square), a double crewed ambulance, an advanced life support provider and first aid teams.
- The replacement of obsolete cameras with digital technology that will aid in the NTE and general safety, ASB.
- A Premier League Kicks Roadshow using newly refurbished ball courts and city centre spaces to engage young people through free football and sports sessions. The initiative aims to reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB), promote positive community involvement, and provide safe recreational opportunities.
- An evening service for Homeless and Street-Lifestyle Individuals
- A Community Support Officer that will work with those identified as having a substance misuse issue and/or offending, including ASB and street begging.
- Support for the Amber team who have recognised the need for sexual violence recovery work and education in NWL due to the number of sexual assaults. They will deliver a minimum of twenty school assemblies, increasing awareness of



sexual violence and the support available; these sessions will start in November 2025

- Additional patrols by street wardens, supporting the police.
- The Street Whyze knife crime project that works with young people to deliver Knife Crime talks in schools to educate and inform young people about life choices and the dangers of carrying knives.
- The provision of video doorbells for high risk ASB cases or victims of domestic abuse.
- Continued support for the DISC and retail radio scheme. There are now 146 users registered on Hinckley BID's DISC scheme for retail watch and sixty-five for Pubwatch.

Leicestershire Police are already planning for a busy winter period. On top of their regular activity, amongst other initiatives they will be delivering:

- Bespoke retail crime operations to include high visibility patrols and plain clothes patrol – in both established retail premises and seasons markets/fayres etc.
- High visibility patrolling around ASB problem areas and use of ASB incremental approach for those involved.
- Persistent retail offender focus within operations to include problem solving of repeat offenders, use of IOM, drug testing, civil orders.
- Pedal fast operation will take place at three NPA's targeting the anti-social use of e-scooters.
- Targeted activity around substance misuse and drug crime utilising 'Clear, Hold, Build' methodology (South Leicester)
- Dedicated nighttime economy patrols to include 'Operation Vigilant' to target predatory sexualised behaviour and utilising 'Pub Watch.'
- Test purchase operations and licencing spot checks within licences premises and on taxi drivers.



- Support of the 'Ask for Angela' campaign within nighttime economy establishments as a protective measure for those meeting new partners for the first time or at risk from a current partner.
- Meet the Inspector engagement events will continue as they have been well received.
- Daily feedback social media posts demonstrating activities will be completed by the teams.
- Use of targeted communication messages around spiking prevention and violence using the 'walk away' and 'you're right that's wrong' campaign.
- Business engagement events offering crime prevention and target hardening.

Lastly, our Violence Reduction Network will continue to provide Live Safe, a 24/7 accessible website providing information, resources and advice for young people and parents/carers around keeping young people safe across LLR. This covers topics including Knife Crime, Healthy Relationships, Exploitation, Online Safety and Substance Use. The website will continually be promoted throughout the key period, supported by the partnership and networks.

These activities had already been planned and would have already taken place without the launch of a Winter of Action. I know that much more is already planned by partners.

I will continue to do all in my power from my office, and to support the Chief Constable, to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland the safest place it can be, for as long as I am in post.

Yours sincerely

**Rupert Matthews**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**