

62427 Community Payback Orders

I have received information following a request to my MSP Ben Macpherson.

It explains the principles behind CPO which I already understood but raises more detailed questions which have not been answered. As it states that these are the responsibility of the Council, I would like the following information as I am extremely concerned regarding the level of crime and ASB in the city.

It states the local authority must consult annually about the nature of unpaid work:

Who is consulted and where can I see reports?

The City of Edinburgh Council publishes a consultation and invites the public to respond. A link to the 2026 consultation is at:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/cf/cpo26/>

The latest available Community Payback Order annual report from 2024/25 which provides examples of Community Payback interventions and unpaid work projects is published at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/39987/community-payback-orders-annual-report-2024-25>

The public can submit suggestions for unpaid work projects/tasks they would like the team to perform using the online form on the Council's website at:

https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/unpaid_work

"Focus should be on reparation and be visible to the local area " - I am in the city and around Newhaven every day but have never seen any evidence of work being done as CPO.

Does this mean that participants are not wearing clothing which identifies that they are working on Community Payback.

If not, how are we to know?

Unpaid work participants may wear high visibility clothing depending on the nature and location of work undertaken (in line with Health and Safety Requirements). The clothing worn does not specify that participants are performing unpaid work.

A snapshot of unpaid work projects is included in the latest available Community Payback Order annual report 2024/25 published at:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/39987/community-payback-orders-annual-report-2024-25>

More information on the Community Garden Project mentioned in the report is available at:

<https://www.allforgardening.com/1356974/digging-in-to-develop-a-community-garden-in-morningside-the-nen-north-edinburgh-news/>

Projects included work at the Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, Community Garden in Morningside, and the Water of Leith. The 2025/26 report due to be published in Spring 2027, will include further examples of unpaid work projects including clearing and making safe the outdoor space at Leith Theatre, rubbish and fly-tipping clearances at Ferry Road, repainting

work and graffiti removal at Gyle Park Pavilion, and garden maintenance/rubbish clearance at Castlegreen Care Home and Coillesdene Sheltered Housing complex.

Are offenders given multiple opportunities to do Community Payback or is there a next step for repeat offenders?

The decision to impose Community Payback is made by the Sheriff. More information on sentencing is available at the Scottish Sentencing Council's website at:

<https://www.scottishsentencingcouncil.org.uk/sentencing-guidelines>

Has consideration been given to removing "free" bus passes for example to act as a deterrent?

No.

If so, how many have had this withdrawn?

Not applicable.

Why is there so much graffiti everywhere or is this not one of the tasks covered by CPOs?

There is no specific recorded information held which sets out why there is "so much graffiti".

The Unpaid Work team will consider requests/suggestions for unpaid work including graffiti removal received via the online request form at:

https://webforms.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/portal/request/unpaid_work

Each request is assessed for suitability which includes ascertaining ownership of the site on which the graffiti appears.

If CPOs are so successful why is there so much vandalism, graffiti and ASB.

There is no specific recorded information held which sets out why there is "so much vandalism, graffiti and ASB."