

Statement of Reasons

The Portsmouth City Council (Various Roads)
(Rental E-Scooter and E-Bike Parking Bays) Order 2026

Portsmouth City Council proposes to introduce designated parking places for rental e-scooters and rental e-bikes at locations listed in the Notice of Intent (NOI). Each bay is 6 metres in length and is intended to provide safe, clear, and compliant places for users to park shared micromobility vehicles.

Reasons for Proposing the Order:

1. Support for Sustainable and Low-Emission Transport

The rental e-scooter and e-bike scheme forms part of the national micromobility trial, supporting the Council's strategy to promote cleaner, low-emission travel. These shared vehicles are increasingly used for short local journeys that may otherwise be made by car. Providing additional, well-located parking bays helps facilitate this mode shift, contributing to improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion, and a more efficient sustainable transport network across Portsmouth.

Demand for micromobility has grown significantly, and additional dedicated parking spaces are now required in several areas to meet operational need.

2. Improve Parking Compliance and Reduce Obstruction

Insufficient micromobility parking to meet the growing demand could increase the likelihood of e-scooters and e-bikes being parked inappropriately, including on narrow footways or at pinch points. This could hinder pedestrian movement and create avoidable safety concerns.

Introducing clearly marked parking bays will:

- ensure safety and accessibility for pedestrians;
- maintain high levels of compliance with agreed parking rules;
- make clear to users where rental vehicles should be parked.

Formal provision also helps ensure that the scheme remains safe and usable in high-demand areas.

3. Improve Accessibility and Protect Footways

Where footways are too narrow to safely accommodate micromobility parking without causing obstruction, carriageway bays have been selected. This approach protects footways for pedestrians, including people with visual impairments and those using mobility aids.

Dedicated bays also help to:

- prevent damage to grass verges and transition kerbs;
- protect tactile paving;

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- ensure clear and direct pedestrian routes are maintained.

4. Fit with Local Transport and Safety Objectives

Locations have been selected following assessment of:

- safety and visibility;
- footway width and pedestrian demand;
- proximity to local destinations, services, and bus routes;
- spacing between existing micromobility bays;
- previous feedback from councillors, residents, and users;
- operational performance and site-specific learnings from the scheme to date.

The proposals support Portsmouth's transport and climate objectives by improving the availability, quality, and distribution of micromobility parking, enabling safer, more accessible, and more sustainable travel choices.