

Newcastle upon Tyne: Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation document

What is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)?

A PSPO is an official measure that is an enforceable part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs can be used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life in the locality and is persistent and unreasonable.

Why bring in a PSPO for Newcastle?

The council already has some specific powers that it enforces. For example, there are Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO), known as alcohol exclusion zones, which restricts consumption of alcohol only to licenced premises covered by the Licensing Act. Under the new 2014 Act, the posters of alcohol exclusion zone orders will automatically become a PSPO, but the council needs to review this by September 2017 or the power will lapse. We could simply keep the PSPO just to enforce the current alcohol prohibition, but we see this as a good opportunity to consider what other policies might be introduced to combat additional forms of anti-social behaviour, such as begging etc.

What we propose to include in the PSPO

The question of what to include in the PSPO has been explored through talking to people, partners and looking at statistics. When considering what to include we need to balance things that people want in order to feel safer and happier, whilst at the same time not being seen to be stopping people enjoying themselves, or introducing rules and regulations that cannot be enforced. The things we propose to include in the PSPO are described in the table below:

Category	Problem	Why this is being suggested
Public nuisances	Begging on the street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beggars often need long term help and support rather than short term donations. This can be intimidating to the public. This can be detrimental to businesses by putting shoppers off entering shops where beggars congregate
	Assertive or aggressive (commercial or charity) collection or soliciting for money on the street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can be intimidating to members of the public, including the more vulnerable members of our community. This would focus on the annoyance to shoppers in the city centre.
	Busking after 8pm	The existing voluntary code of practice permits entertainment between 9am and 6pm.
Alcohol consumption and rowdy behaviour	Existing on-street alcohol ban to be continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an existing power which will expire in September 2017. People under the influence of alcohol on streets and pavements can be intimidating and often result in anti-social behaviour
Other intoxicating substances (NPS)	Taking, sale and/or provision of NPS (Legal Highs) in a public place	No current power to prohibit this behaviour in Newcastle.

We want to know what you think of our proposals

1. What do you think of the first set of potential things covered in the PSPO?

Problem	What are your views?
Begging on the street	
Assertive or aggressive (commercial or charity) collection or soliciting for money on the street	
Busking after 8pm	
Existing on-street alcohol ban to be continued	
Taking, sale and / or provision of NPS in a public place	

2. Are there other things you would like to see included in a PSPO that you feel are detrimental to the quality of life for residents or people visiting Newcastle?

My suggestion is	I support this suggestion because...

3. Do you have any other comments?

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What happens next?

This consultation will close on **8 February 2016**. Your feedback will be considered alongside other consultation we are currently undertaking with businesses, staff and visitors. This will be considered by Newcastle City Council at a meeting of the full council. The decision will be advertised in the local press, and on the Newcastle City Council website.