

Public Consultation (until 5 October 2015)

Proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for Newport's city centre

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 of those in the locality and is persistent and unreasonable (or likely to be).

Why do this now – and why in the city centre?

The Council already has some specific powers that it currently enforces in the city centre. For example, there is a city centre designated public place order, known as an alcohol exclusion zone order, which restricts the consumption of alcohol only to licenced premises covered by the Licensing Act.

Under the new 2014 Act, the powers of the alcohol exclusion zone order have automatically become a PSPO, but the Council needs to review this order by September 2017 or this power will lapse.

We therefore consider it timely to review it now, with a view to introducing a new and updated PSPO in time for the opening of the Friars Walk retail development in November 2015.

We could simply keep the PSPO just to enforce the current alcohol prohibition order, but we see this as a good opportunity to consider what other policies might be introduced to combat additional forms of anti-social behaviour in the city centre.

How is a Protection Order put in place?

The exact details of a local Protection Order can be defined by a local council. They can be blanket restrictions, or they can just be targeted towards certain groups or types of behaviour at certain times of the day.

They can restrict access to public spaces (including some highways) where that route is being used to commit anti-social behaviour.

Orders can be enforced by a police officer, police community support officer and delegated council officers. A breach of the Order is a criminal offence and can be dealt with through the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, or a fine of up to £1,000 on prosecution.

What could be included in a city centre PSPO?

The question of what could be included in a city centre PSPO was explored at recent meetings of key bodies that serve the residents of Newport. These meetings included council councillors and officers, Gwent Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

When considering what could be included in a PSPO, we know that we need to balance things that people want in order to feel safer and happier in the city centre, whilst at the same time not being seen to be stopping people enjoying themselves, or introducing rules and regulations that can't be enforced.

Possible new Protection Orders	Why is this being suggested?
No outside alcohol consumption	In the city centre alcohol consumption would be contained within the boundaries of licensed premises. People under the influence of alcohol on streets and pavements may be anti-social.
No rough sleeping	Some rough sleeping in the city centre has led to fires, criminal damage and a proliferation of abandoned drugs paraphernalia. Rough sleepers really need proper help and support.
No begging	This can be intimidating to the public and beggars often need long term help and support rather than short term donations.
No dogs not on leads	Loose dogs can be out of control.
No fly-posting	Detrimental to the city centre environment and often unsightly
No free printed leaflet distribution	Such leaflets are often dropped leading to an increase in littering which is detrimental to the city centre environment
No canvassing of services or charities wanting direct debit payments (unless covered by a street collection permit)	This can be intimidating to members the public, including the more vulnerable members of our community.
No pavement advertising boards ("A boards")	Disabled people, those in wheels chairs or pushing buggies find these obstacles difficult to negotiate around. Their proliferation is detrimental to the city centre environment and can be unsightly.

What is already controlled by other laws?

Of course, many of the day-to-day behaviours of people in the city centre are already covered by a number of established laws and regulations. The things we are looking at for the new city centre PSPO are in addition to existing legislation that already covers:

- Littering
- Cycling on pavements
- Dog fouling
- Pedlars - provided they have a licence, pedlars may sell their goods, provided they do not stay in the same place for more than 40 minutes.

What is the area to be covered by the PSPO?

The current boundary of the current city centre Alcohol Designated Public Place Order is roughly bordered by these streets: Queensway, Old Green roundabout, the river, Kingsway, Gilligan’s Island, Park Square and Bridge St (map on the Council’s web site).

We would welcome your thoughts on whether we should use the same boundary for the new PSPO, make it more compact or go even wider?

Public Space Protection Order Consultation

What do you think - we want to know

We would like to see any proposed city centre PSPO have the support of those affected by it, and who will benefit from it. That is why we are asking for views, suggestions and feedback on this initiative.

Consultation questions

1. What do you think of the first set of potential Protection Orders?

Possible new Protection Orders	I support this option because	I don't support this option because
No outside alcohol consumption		
No rough sleeping		
No begging		
No dogs not on leads		
No fly-posting		
No free printed leaflet distribution		
No canvassing of services or charities wanting direct debits (unless covered by a street collection permit)		
No pavement advertising boards ("A boards")		

2. Are there any other things you would like to see included in a PSPO that you feel are detrimental to the quality of life in Newport's city centre?

My suggestion is	I support this suggestion because...

3. We are considering extending the boundary that is covered by the PSPO so that it is larger than the current alcohol exclusion zone.
What do you think we should do?

Zone size	Tick preference (and give details if bigger/smaller)
Keep the same	
Make bigger	
Make smaller	

4. Any other comments?

This consultation runs until **5 October 2015** –
Please let us know your views on this important subject.

How to make your comments

1. In writing - by letter or email

Email: environmental.health@newport.gov.uk

Mail: Public Protection, Newport City Council, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR

2. Via the Council website. www.newport.gov.uk See City Centre Public Space Protection Order consultation questionnaire on www.newport.gov.uk/haveyoursay or directly at <http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Democracy/Consultations/Public-space-protection-order.aspx>

What happens next?

Your feedback will be considered by an official part of the Council, a Scrutiny Group of councillors and officers who will make recommendations on the agreed suggestions that will be put into a PSPO to be considered by a meeting of the full Council.