



**Public Space Protection Order Public (PSPO) Consultation 2019**

## Background

- From 9 February to 21 March 2019 there were 161 online responses submitted, but not all respondents answered every question
  - 143 from residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme borough
  - 35 from people employed in Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough
  - 20 from visitors to Newcastle-under-Lyme
  - 14 from local business owners/managers
  - Five received from representatives of organisations
  - One from a political candidate

## Headline findings

- Clear support for all the proposals. At least 74 per cent thought that each of the proposed restrictions were justified.
  - Lowest support for the proposed restrictions in car parks and other enclosed spaces and for vandalism (74 per cent each) and begging/rough sleeping (76 per cent).
  - Highest support for the proposed restrictions on street drinking (87 per cent) and drug taking (85 per cent)
- Lowest rates of agreement were from the 31-40 age group
  - But very high levels of agreement from the 30 and under age group.
- Generally, but not completely, older age groups were more in agreement (answering 'yes').

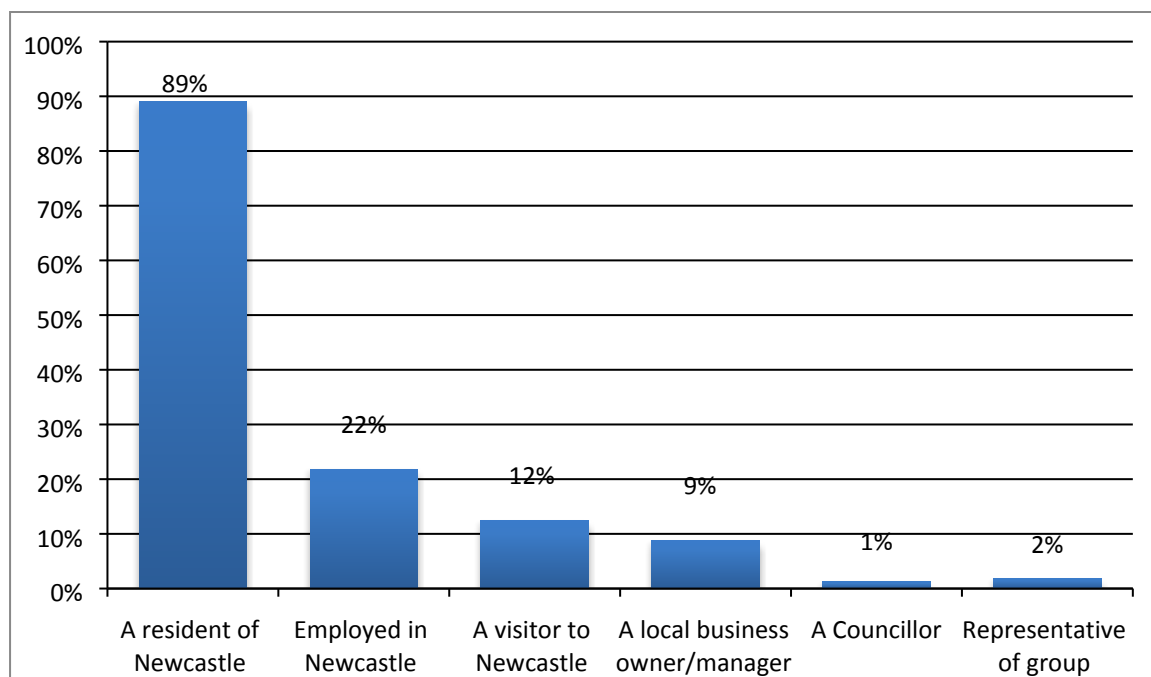


## Analysis

### Q1) Are you...?

Respondents were asked about their links to Newcastle. Note that as they could choose more than one answer, totals will add up to more than 100 per cent.

Figure 1: Are you....? 161 respondents



### Submissions were also received from representatives of the following local community/voluntary groups:

- Newcastle-under-Lyme Civic Society
- Newcastle scouts
- Liberal Democrats
- Knutton residents association
- Porthill resident
- Candidate for the Labour Party for March 21st Election in Holditch and Chesterton

A large majority (89 per cent) of the respondents said that they lived in Newcastle. 140 of them provided at least part of their home postcodes, showing that they were from the following wards/non-borough areas.

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Table 1: Location of respondents based on 140 respondents

Ward / area	Respondents
Audley	5
Bradwell	7
Clayton	8
Crackley & Red Street	1
Cross Heath	7
Holditch & Chesterton	5
Keele	3
Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	1
Knutton	2
Madeley & Betley	3
Maer & Whitmore	1
May Bank	6
Silverdale	3
Talke & Butt Lane	1
Thistleberry	10
Town	25
Westbury Park & Northwood	6
Westlands	13
Wolstanton	6
Unknown ST5	17
Biddulph	1
Stoke-on-Trent	7
Nantwich	1

**Q2) Do you feel that street drinking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Responses were very much in agreement, with between 85 per cent and 87 per cent answering yes to the four parts below, and with 87 per cent saying that the proposed restrictions are justified:

Table 2: Do you feel that street drinking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?

	Yes	No	Don’t know / no opinion
<b>Detrimental effect on people’s quality of life</b>	86%	9%	5%
<b>Persistent in nature</b>	85%	7%	8%
<b>Unreasonable</b>	85%	10%	5%
<b>Proposed restrictions are justified</b>	87%	9%	5%

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Looking at responses by different age groups shows that those aged 31-50 were less likely to be supportive than other ages. This is particularly true with the 31-40 age group, with a comparatively low 71 per cent in agreement, significantly lower than the 87 per cent overall. Generally speaking the older age groups were more likely to be supportive, though it might be of interest to note that it was the youngest age group who were actually the most supportive.

Table 3: Age profile of respondents to Q2

Age of respondents	Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)	No	Don't know or no opinion
All age groups	87%	9%	5%
30 and under	100%	0%	0%
31-40	71%	23%	7%
41-50	83%	11%	6%
51-60	97%	3%	0%
61-70	94%	0%	6%
71+	88%	0%	13%

Respondents were then given the chance to leave any comments. This was in an open text box so they were not restricted in what they said. [They are included in full in the appendix](#) as they are for all questions in this report.

### Q3) Do you feel that drug taking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?

Again, a clear majority of respondents answered 'yes' to the four parts, with rates of agreement between 85 per cent and 89 per cent

Table 4: Do you feel that drug taking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a ...?

	Yes	No	Don't know / no opinion
Detrimental effect on people's quality of life	89%	4%	7%
Persistent in nature	85%	5%	10%
Unreasonable	86%	7%	7%
Proposed restrictions are justified	85%	8%	8%

This time, there was not a clear pattern regarding age groups, but again it might be of interest to note that the youngest age group was the most supportive of the restrictions, but the second youngest age group was the least supportive.

Table 5: Broad age group of respondents to Q3

Age of respondents	Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)	No	Don't know / no opinion
Overall	85%	8%	8%
30 and under	100%	0%	0%
31-40	76%	18%	6%
41-50	87%	8%	5%

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<b>51-60</b>	92%	5%	3%
<b>61-70</b>	83%	0%	17%
<b>71+</b>	88%	0%	13%

Respondents were once more given the opportunity to add further comments, and the [comments are included in the appendix.](#)

**Q4) Do you feel that the car parks and other enclosed public spaces in and around Newcastle Town Centre are being misused, and that this is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

There was a high level of agreement here, with little variance, from 73 per cent to 75 per cent answering Yes. There was a significant proportion of respondents who answered ‘Don’t know / no opinion’, more than those who answered ‘No’.

Table 6: Do you feel that the car parks and other enclosed public spaces in and around Newcastle Town Centre are being misused, and that this is having....

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don’t know / no opinion</b>
<b>Detrimental effect on people’s quality of life</b>	73%	9%	18%
<b>Persistent in nature</b>	75%	9%	16%
<b>Unreasonable</b>	75%	11%	14%
<b>Proposed restrictions are justified</b>	74%	11%	15%

For this question, there was an age-related pattern. Generally speaking it was the older age groups who were most supportive, with 88 per cent of respondents aged 61+ answering yes, though the youngest group (aged 30 and under) were slightly more likely than average to answer ‘Yes’.

Table 7: Broad age group of respondents to Q4

<b>Age of respondents</b>	<b>Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don’t know or no opinion</b>
<b>Overall</b>	74%	11%	15%
<b>30 and under</b>	78%	11%	11%
<b>31-40</b>	63%	16%	22%
<b>41-50</b>	67%	14%	19%
<b>51-60</b>	80%	10%	10%
<b>61-70</b>	88%	0%	12%
<b>71+</b>	88%	0%	13%

[Further comments are in the appendix](#)

**Q5) Do you feel that vandalism (including defacement by aerosols) in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a**

**detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Responses to this question were very similar to the previous one. Around three-quarters of respondents were in support for each part, and once more there was a significant proportion who answered 'Don't know/no opinion'.

**Table 8: Do you feel that vandalism (including defacement by aerosols) in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a...**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>
<b>Detrimental effect on people's quality of life</b>	76%	11%	13%
<b>Persistent in nature</b>	73%	11%	16%
<b>Unreasonable</b>	76%	9%	16%
<b>Proposed restrictions are justified</b>	74%	11%	15%

Again, there was a general pattern that the older respondents were more likely to answer 'yes', but with the caveat that the youngest age group was actually the most likely to be in agreement.

**Table 9: Broad age group of respondents to Q5**

<b>Age of respondents</b>	<b>Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know or no opinion</b>
<b>Overall</b>	74%	11%	15%
<b>30 and under</b>	100%	0%	0%
<b>31-40</b>	61%	21%	18%
<b>41-50</b>	74%	10%	15%
<b>51-60</b>	76%	11%	13%
<b>61-70</b>	83%	0%	17%
<b>71+</b>	75%	0%	25%

[Further comments are in the appendix.](#)

**Q6) Do you feel that begging and/or rough sleeping in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Once more, a clear majority of respondents were in agreement, in particular saying that it were persistent in nature (90 per cent). However, virtually one-quarter (24 per cent) did not support the proposal that the proposed restrictions were justified, answering either 'No' or 'Don't know / no opinion'.

**Table 10: Do you feel that begging and/or rough sleeping in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is....?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>
<b>Detrimental effect on people's quality</b>	85%	11%	4%

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<b>of life</b>			
<b>Persistent in nature</b>	90%	9%	2%
<b>Unreasonable</b>	83%	14%	3%
<b>Proposed restrictions are justified</b>	76%	17%	7%

Here there was no real pattern in terms of age groups. Whereas the lowest rate of agreement was in the second youngest age group (31-40), the second lowest was actually in the oldest age group (71+).

Table 11: Broad age group of respondents to Q6

<b>Age of respondents</b>	<b>Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know or no opinion</b>
<b>Overall</b>	76%	17%	7%
<b>30 and under</b>	78%	22%	0%
<b>31-40</b>	59%	31%	9%
<b>41-50</b>	82%	16%	3%
<b>51-60</b>	81%	10%	10%
<b>61-70</b>	94%	0%	6%
<b>71+</b>	71%	29%	0%

[Further comments can be found in the appendix.](#)

**Q7) Do you feel that anti-social behaviour in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Once again, there was a high level of support – between 80 and 86 per cent of respondents answered 'Yes' to each part. However, it might be of interest to note that whereas 86 per cent agreed that it had a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, the proportion who agreed that the proposed restrictions were justified was six per cent lower (80 per cent)

Table 12: Do you feel that anti-social behaviour in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a...

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>
<b>Detrimental effect on people's quality of life</b>	86%	8%	6%
<b>Persistent in nature</b>	80%	9%	11%
<b>Unreasonable</b>	84%	8%	8%
<b>Proposed restrictions are justified</b>	80%	9%	11%

There was no completely consistent pattern between the age groups and their support for the proposed restrictions. But once more, respondents aged 31-40 were the most likely to answer 'no'.



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Table 13: Broad age group of respondents to Q7

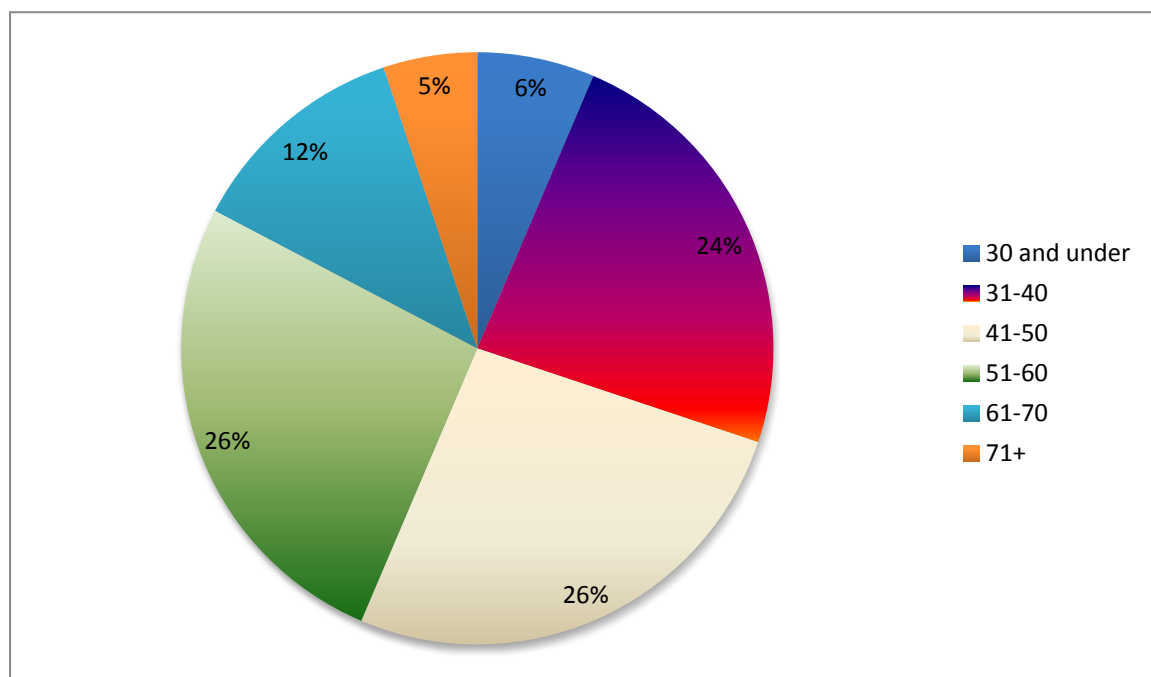
Age of respondents	Yes (proposed restrictions are justified)	No	Don't know or no opinion
Overall	80%	9%	11%
30 and under	90%	0%	10%
31-40	62%	21%	18%
41-50	85%	8%	8%
51-60	82%	5%	13%
61-70	94%	0%	6%
71+	83%	0%	17%

[Further comments are in the appendix.](#)

**Age of respondents**

Respondents were asked which broad age group they belonged to and 154 told us. This information shows that just over half (52 per cent) were aged 41-60, with only 6 per cent being aged 30 or younger and 5 per cent aged 71 or older.

Table 14: Broad age group of 154 respondents



Appendix

**Comments from Question 2) Do you feel that street drinking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people’s quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Angry beggars, and the drunk shop lifters in the sunken round about always causing a nuisance

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Especially in the town centre

Homeless people begging aggressively need to be stopped as does openly drinking and drug taking  
I agree with all the above and would add that littering from used cans and bottles is unsightly,  
and does nothing to attract people to the town centre. Plus the cost of cleaning up dangerous broken  
glass.

I am tired of seeing beggars in Town Centre it is intimidating. In the evenings they shout at you to give  
them money. I now only come into Newcastle when I have to.

I can look away if I choose when I encounter a beggar, but being verbally abused by them more than once  
interferes with my enjoyment of the Borough.

I fail to see how all of these actions can be acceptable and why the Council needs to consult anyway.  
I feel that street drinking in the town has got of hand and is having an effect on attracting visitors into the  
town centre.

I'd support any activity that will encourage those with complex needs into appropriate services for  
assistance.

It is slightly annoying. I haven't seen many incidents, nor has it stopped me coming into town  
It is threatening behaviour - I don't want to go into some shops because I am put off by the people outside.  
They leave litter everywhere which costs money to remove.

It puts client off coming to visit my business in the town due to it feeling unsafe.  
It's terrible constant aggressive begging and drunks lying about. Its intimidating and put me off coming into  
town. I hate using cash points w8th beggars watching all the time. House the genuine homeless get rid of  
the rest asap

My wife is reluctant to shop in Newcastle and is slowly and consistently using Wolstanton Shopping Mall.

Not enough being done

Not seen any street drinking

People are always drinking in parks and subways; they are a daily sight unfortunately.

Protect the genuine homeless

Please ban outdoor drinking

I don't visit the town if I can help it because of outdoor drinking

Outdoor drinkers intimidate me

Public drinking puts me off visiting the town –it's intimidating and should be banned

Street drinking can make you feel unsafe and wary that unwanted behaviour and noise may follow. There  
should be measures in place to stop this if necessary.

Subways are the main problem. Access to the town centre is, in many cases, accessible by subway.

It is very off putting to many to have to pass drinks and others of a dubious nature. I am aware of people  
who will not go through subways. I will not use them at night.

Take an example from some European cities/towns, any drinking external to the premises selling the drink  
must be consumed within the properties boundary. The objective must be to restrict the street drinking of  
alcohol-related products in areas other than those associated with the seller.

The problem does not appear to be that bad, but clearly drinking on the streets needs to be stopped and  
therefore some rules enforced are needed. It depends who you are dealing with; e.g. the homeless need  
care and attention not fines.

The proposal is a tax on the poor and disadvantaged (although when people buy alcohol they are already  
taxed). Punitive measures are not justified and do not work, just make miserable people even more  
miserable, which is not good for anybody. A positive approach, like helping those who need it may be less  
spectacular or populist, but it is much more effective on the long run.

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The sunken roundabout is an awful place to walk through

The town centre was the main reason my wife and I moved to Newcastle. Now, due to the increasing amount of anti-social behaviour we have both cancelled our Gym membership at Jubilee as walking through town or subways is intimidating. We also now tend to eat/drink elsewhere. If it continues to decline we've even thought of moving.

There are a few genuine homeless people who need protection from restrictions but also need help.

There is a lot of evidence of usage in these sites as well as in Lyme Valley Park. There is a lot of detritus.

This does not appear to be a major problem during the day, there are the occasional exceptions.

Thus should also include Grosvenor Roundabout open space as so many people have had issues around that area.

We have a lovely little town and even though we don't have the shops it is still a pleasure to visit so please keep it that way .

### **Comments to Q3) Do you feel that drug taking in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Acceptable and why the Council needs to consult in the first place.

Again for those genuinely homeless need help

Again, help people, do not punish them when they are at a low point

There are always people under the influence of drugs in the subways and shop doorways

It should be banned completely throughout ALL areas within Newcastle-

For those taking the drugs, it is detrimental and therefore rules are needed and to be enforced.

Homeless drinking and drugs and antisocial behaviour needs actions

I don't think fining persistent drug users in the street is the right answer.

I feel unsafe walking to and from work

I have found used syringes and other drugs paraphernalia in our local area, it's really horrible.

I rarely see any and go to town most days

Not sure as you haven't linked to, or summarised the proposal

Residents and visitors will avoid such public spaces

Same as above, detrimental to surrounding businesses and therefore the survival of the town

Seen multiple times drug users in Newcastle town centre and ambulances time wasted on the monkey dust

Should not be tolerated in any public area

The Council are not doing enough to clean the mess, the vagrants and drug users and visitors to our borough

The existing Misuse of Drugs Act legislation should be used and not moving the problem elsewhere

The open smoking of weed in the town centre is common and unacceptable.

The streets smell of weed and the people who are off their tits are scary to be around

Town has become so untidy with homeless leaving their space a mess & none genuine asking for money

Whenever I come across these druggies it frightens me. Spoils my enjoyment of the town and parks

Why should we tolerate such activity in our public places

Yes, justified there needs to be a way to stop drug taking in public areas

**Comments to Q4) Do you feel that the car parks and other enclosed public spaces in and around Newcastle Town Centre are being misused, and that this is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Acceptable but why does the Council need to consult in the first place?

Broken glass in council car parks. Dimly lit.

Car park charges are far too expensive

Car parks should be safe to use otherwise people won't use them, laws are needed.

Charity collecting as well as begging is a problem every time I visit the town centre.

Difficult to say as the proposal is not linked

I avoid bringing my car into Town at night so I don't have to use the Car Parks.

I feel uncomfortable walking through subways as I never know who will be begging/sleeping

I feel unsafe coming to and from work and avoid these areas, even when I am with a group of people.

I have never noticed any problem on car parks, but believe there is occasionally a problem

If a person is genuinely homeless, and wants to be helped, I feel that the authorities should help.

Illegal activity must not be tolerated.

Midway car park is a scary place even during the day.

Please include subways in any enforcement

Private parking firms need proper regulation

Seems the subways only use is drug abuse.

The main problem is in the car parks, and in the Midway in particular the amount of litter

Very unhappy about the parking situation at Lyme Valley park particularly near to the hospital.

**Comments to Q5) Do you feel that vandalism (including defacement by aerosols) in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

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Any action to get rid of this behaviour is acceptable.

Difficult to say yes or no; there is definitely a problem, but not on a large scale

Graffiti particularly in car parks is ugly and depressing and spoils the town. Yes it's justified, it should be stopped.

I can't say as I have particularly noticed this as being an issue

I have not noticed it being any worse in recent years

Large gangs of teens causing a nuisance to business in the town centre outside McDonald's and the Vue

Lowering the tone of our beautiful town.

Mainly being kept under control

Makes town look horrid

Take as a model the actions taken by the authorities in Singapore.

The multi storey carpark is awful

This does appear to be worse now that it was last year

Vandalism and littering are a constant problem in all areas and needs to be addressed.

Vandalism causes damage to property.

Vandalism includes the build-up of cast-off detritus, smashed bottles, vomit, etc

We should have more Police presence and fines issued to offenders

Yes, the "tagging" is horrible and the cleaning off of reported tagging is not done to a good standard.

**Comments to Q6) Do you feel that begging and/or rough sleeping in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Again the sight of sleeping bags, tramps etc is making people such as my wife reluctant to shop in Newcastle. She will only visit the shops if I am with her.

All rough sleepers should be removed from all areas of the town centre. It should be an offence to harass shoppers for money. We don't want to see dropouts getting drunk and being sick. Disgraceful. In addition people are getting mugged. Who wants to run the risk of being attacked. Folk would rather stay in or go elsewhere. Thank you.

Anti-social behaviour in and around the town is becoming more common as the punishment is non-existent and dispersal is a challenge for the police and PCSO's.

As stated before, genuinely homeless should be helped.

Banning rough sleeping in a predominantly commercial area will simply move it elsewhere. People have to sleep, if you as a council do not have the ability to find them somewhere to sleep, as is your responsibility, what gives you the right to ban them from trying to find somewhere safe to rest?

Couldn't we give the homeless a temporary place to sleep? Like your old council office that is derelict and standing empty! I'm sure this would remove them from the streets and they

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wouldn't have to be homeless! Sure we can feed them by donations! Stops the begging if it's good and shelter they need.

Difficult to say however I would suggest that legislating is not going to solve this issue, whereas giving people purpose and a safe space might discourage them from sitting in shop doorways all day.

Don't know what the restrictions are and more positive action to help the people begging and living on the street at night and in the day is needed. That is available to respond over 24hrs unlike the rough sleepers service who just tell you they will be out, "tomorrow between 10 and 2". The people you call about are unlikely to be in the same place the next day. It needs to be an immediate response. Services to help with the drug and alcohol problems and social exclusion are also needed. Oh wait of course the O'Connor centre was shut and sold for housing.

Every street corner there begging

Homeless need help not persecution

House the genuine homeless ban the aggressive beggars ASAP

I feel more should be done to help genuine homeless people rather than criminalising them

I feel nervous of walking through the town especially early morning due to rough sleepers but the main problem is from so called rough sleepers who beg for money in the day but are not to be seen sleep in rough early morning.

I feel really intimidated walking through the subway areas, and have to take longer routes to work. I am tired of being approached all the time.

If I hadn't got to come to work in town centre I would not go into Newcastle, its people off, swearing, not feeling safe, terrible, the town used to be a lovely market down not anymore, maybe visit leek Town centre to see how that has become again a lovely place to shop. Reduce shop rentals, no more charity shops, bring back the market, reduce parking fees,

in relation to begging restrictions should be put in place that they are not allowed to sit/beg outside banks/post offices

Including the subways

Instead of persecuting these people Newcastle council should be helping them!!!

It is detrimental on the life of those that are homeless more than others. Is a result of austerity but fining is not the solution to the real problem.

It is scary and they are very persistent. It makes uncomfortable and I try to avoid being near people who put me in this difficult position. There is a much higher degree of people sleeping rough in shop doorways and leaving rubbish as well as urinating etc. Very concerning

It's terrible and making people avoid the town it needs banning

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It's getting very tiresome seeing the commuter beggars in Newcastle town centre. Amazed the council allow it in the first place.

It's hard to tell who is genuinely homeless and who isn't. Some of them can be quite persistent, abrupt and very rude

Lumping homelessness in with vandalism and drug abuse is callous in the extreme. People rarely \*choose\* to sleep in doorways in winter. Rough sleepers are not a group to be feared, but to be helped. Cuts to services supporting homeless people (such as Arch) have increased the number of rough sleepers in Newcastle - criminalising these people just makes it harder for them to re-integrate into society.

More needs to be done to help the homeless but I've also noticed an increase in beggars that are very vocal and very off putting to walk past, these need to be moved on.

More needs to be done to help with rough sleepers - it seems ridiculous to fine somebody. There are significantly more visible rough sleepers (not sure if they've been moved on from somewhere else or were staying somewhere less prominent before). The answer isn't to fine them or move them to somewhere else though.

Most of the vagrants are drug users and the local safe houses are not doing enough to keep them off our streets

Most of these beggars are not homeless they live in flats in and around Newcastle easy money for them begging

Needs to be monitored ...as...are they all homeless

Needs to be more support for these people in Newcastle, where can homeless people go for help?

Never seen so many rough sleepers -

No one wants to see people camped out in these areas

Out of hand

Punishing those who have nothing is despicable, and any council that does it is not fit for purpose. Councils are just a means to manage the commonwealth, they are not above human rights or values, and flogging those who cannot defend themselves is abhorrent.

Restrictions on begging should be confined to aggressive begging. Any person who's begging is causing a problem should be referred to a homeless charity. The council must strike a balance between protecting the public and giving a helping hand to those in need

Rough sleepers need help by finding them a place to live and be safe

Rough Sleepers need somewhere to stay. Perhaps NULBC could do their best to either provide something or join forces with someone/group who can.

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Rough sleeping has a detrimental effect on those actually sleeping rough, help needs to be given to those people not fining, how can they be expected to pay a fine when they can't even afford a roof over their head.

Rough sleeping is not a choice for some. You cannot discern genuine from imposters. The public can CHOOSE to avoid or engage with rough sleepers and beggars.

Rough sleeping we are all sympathetic too. However, aggressive begging and open drug use is unfortunately something I see in town every single day.

Should not be allowed at all especially outside bank cash machines they target the elderly

Some of these people need help.

The beggars who I have seen and heard who then say on their phones I will be home in an hour are having a detrimental effect on Newcastle. However the genuine homeless people sleeping on the street in all weathers -Its detrimental to their quality of life and it is not acceptable they in this day and age people are ignored or beaten up when sleeping on the street. Just because others are pretending to be homeless.

The begging is a big problem and getting harassed for money when you have small children with you makes you feel unsafe

The closing of the Workhouse System was predicated on local authorities replacing them with alternative facilities. BUT NOT GIVING UP ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION AND TO ENSURE IT IS TAKEN OR THE ROUGH SLEEPER MOVES ON.

The concerns by lots of residents are that many people who claim to be homeless are not actually homeless.

The council need to do something about more social housing

The worst of all.

There has to be action taken against individuals who persistently and aggressively beg but I appreciate this is a last resort once other offers of help have been exhausted.

There is a problem with those who beg, but it is not affecting my quality of life one bit; I am concerned that they should receive the care and attention they need and understand that some organisations know who they are and given resources can do something about it. They should NOT be fined.

These people are not homeless - they come into the town each day and prey upon law abiding residents. I avoid parts of the town now as I don't want to have to walk past them. They leave litter which makes Newcastle look a dump.

They give you nothing but abuse or there always arguing or swearing.

This is an area where individual needs should be addressed. The question is who can do it & what resources they have? The voluntary sector has limited resources & money. Other



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authorities have sensible solutions including providing temporary accommodation in empty buildings. Can we learn from their experience?

This is becoming a huge problem in Newcastle - it puts me off visiting the town!

This is getting worse, the same people are begging every single day and there are no police or PCSOs to move them on despite ringing through to the non-emergency number

Town has become so untidy just lately with homeless not keeping their space tidy & the amount of none genuine beggars is becoming intimidating, i also wouldn't dare to use a subway anymore especially the queens gardens which is sad as council keep the gardens lovely

We should work with organisations like Manna House (<http://www.mannahouse-hanley.co.uk/>) and similar in the area to provide support rather than fine people for rough sleeping. Identifying those who are truly in need and giving them the support which they need. Not just fining them, the national press this would generate would bring shame to the people of Newcastle and make us a laughing stock. It happened in Stoke with that approach let's not make the same mistake that they made.

Yes please get rid of the beggars

Yes this has stopped me and my family from coming into Newcastle town

Yes, justified. For whatever reason people beg or sleep rough, other people should be able to visit the town centre in peace.

### **Comments to Q7) Do you feel that anti-social behaviour in and around Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park is having a detrimental effect on people's quality of life, is persistent in nature, is unreasonable and that the proposed restrictions are justified?**

Anti-social behaviour is making some areas of the inaccessible

Any effort to clean up the town and outskirts is an effort well-made and may encourage some people to venture back into town.

Are there orders as let's face it they're all still there? The town is not being policed it's a disgrace

As a starting point, then if persistent abuse further action needs to be taken.

Being homeless should not be treated in the same way as antisocial behaviour. I'm upset that NULBC is lumping together homeless people with vandalism

Definitely. I was actually the victim of an ASB incident not long ago, when leaving work, just after 5pm. A man, who was part of a group of 3/4 others, outside Wetherspoons. Really kicked a full box of I don't even know what, which hit me on my hand, splitting my thumb nail down the middle. If that had hit me in the face or head it would have knocked me out, or caused injury. He then proceeded to really kick it into the road, which could have hurt someone else, or damaged a car. All of those in the group looked to be under the influence of Alcohol/Drugs or both. The town centre seems to be getting worse, I feel really uneasy walking around town in day light. I dread to think how it's making elderly people feel. It also

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doesn't give a good impression to anyone coming to the town for the first time. Other than coming into town for work, I avoid it at all costs. I don't know if it's still happening, but I have previously noticed large groups of teenagers congregating on the market stalls just after 5pm onwards, causing a nuisance. Shouting, swearing, swerving around people on bikes, throwing things.

Depends if and who would patrol the town centre needs to be continuing

Entirely, particularly if people have worked hard all their lives they deserve to have peace and feel safe at home and when visiting towns and parks.

Except with respect to rough sleepers. I personally find the large groups of mannerless teenagers who roam the Town Centre and scorn Older people to be a greater nuisance.

Existing rules are fine, just need enforcement

I think it is appropriate to ensure that people do not congregate and cause upset to people. My biggest concern is where will they go next if you push them out of town, this will not resolve the underlying issue of people having nowhere to go and no money. I don't agree with fining them as this will not do anything if they don't have the money. It will create additional work and cost without any realistic chance of recovery.

I think those that are genuinely homeless need protection & help. Although those that are just acting 'the maggot' need to have restrictions placed upon them

If the beggars are aggressively harassing people by getting up close and/or following people, then that needs to stop, but if they are just lying or sitting there and quietly asking, that is not a problem to the public. They need care and help and of course then they can be persuaded to behave differently, but at the moment it has no harmful effect on me or other people whatsoever.

In certain circumstances I think it is required so will hopefully give the Council the tools to deal with some of the issues in the town centre. It's terrible to see!

Instead of banning these things. Why are we not trying to address them. Provide more homeless shelters, mental health services on the street. Place for teenagers to hang out. Etc. Banning will just move the problem somewhere else. Why not make changes to improve people's lives instead of just criticising them.

More powers to stop ASB with regards drinking and drug use across the borough needed. Please look towards Silverdale and the mineral line as well as town centre

Newcastle is a town that I now enter with trepidation. It never used to be like this, whatever the social concerns that I have for homeless persons and beggars, it is nevertheless detrimental. I go shopping in Chester or Nantwich whenever possible as these towns feel less threatening.

No (Three comments said 'no')

No more orders need to be introduced to deter antisocial behaviour in the town.

No problem with Orders to control problem Drinking and / or drugs, but I think the Borough, County Council and national Government need to address the underlying causes of rough sleeping. PSPO's are not the answer to this situation!

No. Fining people with very little money does not seem like the most sensible answer. I'm not sure what the right solution is or whether these people are open to being helped.

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However, I doubt that fining people would bring the desired outcome or that the fines would be paid.

No. I spend a lot of time in Newcastle town centre and I have never seen a big problem with any of these behaviours.

No. It's a constant threat to safety and nothing is being done.

Not at all, just their proposal is insulting to anybody who cares even a little bit about the welfare of their fellow citizens. Because even if they have addiction problems or do not have a place to sleep they are still human beings and should be treated as such. Punishing those who are vulnerable is only done by bullies, and being a bully it is socially unacceptable and illegal.

Not at all. PSPO orders to deal with such a small numbers of incident is a sledgehammer to crack a nut

Not enough us being done to tackle the long term issues

Not in the case of rough sleepers and beggars. Which should not be equated with vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Of course

Only if the Council makes sufficient budgetary allocation for the proposals to be enforced. Failure to enforce the proposed provisions is worse than making no Orders in the first place and simply brings the entire Council into disrespect. QUOTE: NEVER GIVE AN ORDER IF ONE DOES NOT EXPECT IT TO BE CARRIED OUT OR ENFORCED.

Only if they are carried out and not used as an empty threat.

Only if they are enforced. Powers without supervision are pointless.

Please help don't punish

See my comment on begging and rough sleeping. The PSPO orders should be administered with a degree of understanding of all the issues, and that is not enshrined in the current proposals

The making is reasonable however, these things need enforcement because they are useless otherwise.

The orders are proportionate however they do not solve the problem they will only move the problem elsewhere.

The orders are trying to cover too much, there are very different issues at play and it pains me to live in an area where the council are callous enough to ban rough sleeping.

The situation is not as bad as twitter etc would have us believe. People need help however often the help is from well-meaning do-gooders making the situation worse.

The survey is fundamentally flawed and biased in nature, it is clearly written a way that solicits and expects certain answers. As such it clearly implies what decision has already been taken. I object in particular to draconian actions in relation to rough sleeping, such people are a symptom and moving them on from one place to another does not tackle the issue. It is not acceptable to approach these matters in the ways you wish to go. The whole policy needs a rethink.

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The whole experience of going into town is an unpleasant one of late and I feel very intimidated and vulnerable when I go on my own. Something needs to be done

There are 2 council employees who walk around in purple t shirts!! Not actually seen them do a lot, maybe funding cud be better spent on PSPO orders,

There are similar problems in the out-lying districts also, so these should also be tackled in my opinion.

There needs to be powers to react when the public at large feel threatened or intimidated. However there needs to be sufficient funding and personnel resource available to make any initiative successful, therefore give the public confidence in the process and a sense of security

Totally Justifiable and proportionate to the problem.

Totally justified to ensure the general public feel safe when visiting the town and are able to Enjoy our wonderful town.

With regards to the Draft Legal PSPO Orders for Newcastle...

Yes (43 comments said 'Yes)

Yes - extremely so. Something must be done, and fast. I was threatened by a 'beggar' in Southampton recently which was a terrifying experience. They have not tackled the problem. If Newcastle doesn't hit this head on then it will end up the same.

Yes - there are on-going issues of ASB in both of these areas and there needs to be enforcement controls in place to manage the issues.

Yes absolutely, the town centre has gone downhill and is not a nice place to visit anymore. No one should have to be constantly asked for money when they come in to town to work or shop. The professional beggars and drinkers, drug takers need to be dealt with or the town will go the same way as stoke and Hanley.

Yes as long as the enforcement is followed up to ensure this makes a statement that the issues as been dealt with.

Yes as long as they are adhered to/the council ensures it keeps its promises

Yes as long as you back this up with actual police in the town Centre! To move them on.

Yes as we have a lot of undesirable people in the area plus some who visit to solely exploit the public.

Yes but should also be extended to other parts of town.

Yes but they need to be robustly enforced

Yes except for Rough Sleeping and unjustified begging.

Yes I live next door to Queen Elizabeth park I do not like walking through there or allow my kids to walk through.

Yes it is justified the amount of youth's hanging around the stones and their thuggish behaviour puts me off setting foot in Newcastle of an evening, more police presence and harsher deterrents are warranted especially with the escalating levels of violence shown lately.

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yes it will help it become a more pleasant environment and safer

Yes It's a very uncomfortable place to be in both during the day but even more so at night. I no longer shop or visit restaurants or the cinemas in town because of how I feel

Yes it's the same ones aggressively begging and intimidating people ban drinking in public space especially sunken Goose Street roundabout I hate walking through there

Yes lack of action to address issues has allowed the problem to go on for too long. People are giving money to the beggars which encourages them to return on a daily basis.

Yes move them in Newcastle used to be lovely to walk around now people are starting to avoid the town centre

Yes these people need to be moved on.

Yes they are-but what are you doing about the ASB in the Kiln public house - on 8 Feb the pub had to shut early due to fighting in the pub, and there is constant issues of fighting/drug taking in the pub, and unfortunately when the doormen eject people it continues outside (it doesn't help there are benches that people can sit on/congregate after being ejected