



# City of Doncaster Council

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## ***City Centre PSPO Renewal Consultation***

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

We wish to obtain your views on the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) powers, which is designed to help make Doncaster's City Centre a safe and attractive place to visit, shop, work and live.

The current PSPO provides the Council and South Yorkshire Police with designated powers to deal with and reduce anti-social behaviour.

It is aimed at addressing various forms of anti-social behaviour and to support vulnerable people with complex lives who have issues such as homelessness, rough sleeping, drug and alcohol misuse, mental ill-health and begging.

The current PSPO was renewed in November 2020 and is due to expire on the 6 November 2023. As part of the three-year renewal process we have started a public consultation and this will include the views of businesses.

We feel that the City of Doncaster benefits from a strong and thriving centre, which is easily accessible for all communities.

In order to provide your views, we ask that residents complete an online survey, this can be accessed by visiting [www.doncaster.gov.uk/pspo](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/pspo) or scan the QR code below. The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete and the deadline for submissions is Tuesday 27 June 2023.

I enclose a document below (Prohibition Comparison Table) that gives full details of the prohibitions within the current PSPO, the proposed changes and the reasons for those changes. There is also a map of the area covered by the existing PSPO. It is helpful to read these documents before completing the survey.



Following the end of the consultation the Council will carefully consider all feedback received and make final recommendations to the Council's Cabinet. We anticipate this will take place in September and details of the cabinet meeting, report and minutes from the meeting will be posted on the Council's website.

Yours sincerely

**Bill Hotchkiss**

Head of Service – Community Safety

### PROHIBITION COMPARISON TABLE

1. BEGGING				
CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to support vulnerable people to break the cycle of begging and to reduce the impact this has on the City Centre offer. People who make requests for money or donations in the City Centre are less likely to access support services whilst they receive income from this to sustain their current Lifestyles. This also impacts on the vibrancy and attractiveness of the environment of the City Centre to visitors, shoppers and businesses. Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support and services.</p>	<p>No person shall make any verbal, non-verbal or written request for money, donations or goods, including the placing of hats, clothing or containers so as to cause or is likely to cause nuisance, annoyance or distress.</p>	<p>At all times (not including restriction on people who busk)</p>	<p>Un-changed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police demonstrates there are still a number of incidents of begging in an anti-social manner. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition.</p>

## 2. LOITERING

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to stop people loitering around ATMS and pay machines, which has a detrimental effect on people's feelings of safety and on the vibrancy of the City Centre.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall loiter, sit or lay on the floor or on temporary structures in or adjacent to doorways or around pay machines (including banks, supermarkets) in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the City Centre.</p>	<p>At all times</p>	<p>No person shall loiter, sit or lay on the floor or on temporary structures in or adjacent to doorways or around pay machines (including banks, supermarkets and car parking payment machines) in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the City Centre.</p>	<p>Although on the face of it there is a reduction of recorded incidents of loitering, we are aware that City Centre Engagement Officers have utilised the dispersal powers to move on individuals who are loitering and after being requested to leave and then behave in an anti-social manner. Therefore, the collective evidence demonstrates this still remains and issue. In addition, a number of complaints have been received regarding loitering around car parking payment machines It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition, but adding in car parking payment machines to the wording of the prohibition.</p>

### 3. NO RETURN IN 24 HOURS (DISPERSAL)

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter people from behaving in an anti-social manner which has a detrimental effect on people's feelings of safety and on the vibrancy of the City Centre.</p> <p>Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall, after being requested to leave by an authorised officer due to them behaving in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance or annoyance to any person within the City Centre without reasonable excuse, remain or return to the City Centre within a period of 24 hours.</p>	<p>At all times. In respect of those individual s who are rough sleeping this prohibition will only apply if they have access to alternative accommodation or have refused support.</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police (referred to by the police as rowdy/ inconsiderate behaviour) demonstrates such behaviour is prolific in the City Centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition.</p>

### 4. ALCOHOL

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to deter people from consuming alcohol on the streets other than at licensed premises and to prevent antisocial behaviour and impacts on the City Centre related to this. Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.</p>	<p>No person shall consume alcohol in any public place in the City Centre other than at licensed premises or shall be in possession of any opened vessel containing or purporting to contain alcohol in any public place save for those places identified by Section 62 of</p>	<p>At all times  (Street markets /events/ festivals will have obtained Temporary Event Notices, so will in effect be licensed premises for the time they are there)</p>	<p>Un-changed</p>	<p>The evidence collected by the Council together with the data from the police relating to the consumption of alcohol demonstrates such behaviour continues in the City Centre and is particularly more prolific around the time of important sporting events such as the St Leger festival,</p>

	the Act.		international football tournaments and the Christmas and New Year period. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition. To clarify the prohibition does not impact on premises with licenses to sell alcohol.
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**5. INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES**

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
The aim is to deter people from consuming drugs / intoxicating substances and to prevent antisocial behaviour and the impacts on the City Centre related to this. Enforcement action will primarily focus on helping people to change behaviour and access support services.	No person will ingest, inject, smoke or otherwise use intoxicating substances (substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system) or possess any item that can be used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances. This includes any device for smoking substances other than e-cigarettes, it also includes needles, except for those packaged and sealed by the manufacturer and stored in a hard case.	At all times	To remain unchanged	The evidence collected by the Council and the data from the police relating to the intoxicating substances demonstrates such behaviour is prolific in the City Centre. Police data suggests that discarded drugs paraphernalia remains an issue in the City Centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition in its present form.

## 6. URINATE/DEFECATE

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
The aim is to deter people from behaving in an anti-social way which can cause public and environmental health problems, as well as difficulties for City Centre businesses/ traders.	No person shall urinate or defecate in any public place; this does not include public toilets.	At all times	No change proposed	The evidence collected by the Council demonstrates there still remains an unacceptable level of such behaviour occurring in the City Centre. It is therefore proposed to keep this prohibition.

## 7. CAR PARKING EQUIPMENT

CURRENT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER			PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER	
PURPOSE	CURRENT PROHIBITION	WHEN	PROPOSED PROHIBITION	REASONS
<p>The aim is to ensure effective provision of car parking in the City Centre, which is vital to the economy and most important to vulnerable and disabled visitors.</p> <p>Vandalism and blockages of parking machines causes great frustration and expense to car park users and deters from the experience of using the Town Centre.</p>	No person shall, unless they have a parked vehicle in the location, without reasonable excuse, loiter near to, touch or interfere with any parking equipment, in the Town Centre without authorisation.	At all times	It is proposed to remove this prohibition.	The evidence collected by the Council demonstrates that with the installation of new technology (ring go parking app) the cash within parking machines has substantially reduced, therefore this prohibition can be removed as the reported issues have substantially reduced. It is proposed that the issue of loitering around car parking payment machines is covered within an amended prohibition number 2.



# City Centre PSPO Map

