

REPORT TO CABINET

12th MARCH 2026

**MAKING NEW PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS FOR
STOCKTON TOWN CENTRE AND NORTON TOWN CENTRE (2026-
2029)**

Evidence

PACK 1 - Representations From Statutory Consultees



Postal Reply to: CLEVELAND POLICE CENTRAL HQ

St Marks House
St Marks Court
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 6QW

Telephone: 101

3 December 2025

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to confirm that the statutory obligation to consult regarding the proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Stockton and Norton Town Centres has been fulfilled. This consultation was delegated to the Stockton District Commander, Superintendent Alan O'Donoghue (2127), who has undertaken a thorough review in partnership with Stockton Borough Council.

Having considered the evidence and recommendations provided, I am fully supportive of the proposed PSPO conditions. These measures are necessary and proportionate to address persistent crime and anti-social behaviour, and will significantly enhance the safety, wellbeing, and confidence of residents, businesses and visitors in our town centres.

Cleveland Police remains committed to working collaboratively with local authorities and partners to ensure the effective implementation and ongoing review of these Orders.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely

David Sutherland
Temporary Assistant Chief Constable



Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
C/o St Marks House
St Marks Court
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 6QW

Email: pcc.office@cleveland.police.uk
Website: <http://www.cleveland.police.uk>

Police and Crime Commissioner:
Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer:

Matt Storey
Lisa Oldroyd

Tel: 01642 301861
Tel: 01642 301861

28 November 2025

Dear Adam,

Stockton PSPO Consultation

When first elected as Police and Crime Commissioner, I wanted to empower Cleveland's communities by ensuring their voices were at the centre of my Police and Crime Plan. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features prominently throughout this document in recognition that this is something communities are deeply concerned about and is an item which is regularly raised with me as part of my engagement work with members of the public. Furthermore, I am aware of the volume of ASB related issues that are reported to the COPA app each day.

The strength of our partnership working on these matters is evident, including with the Summer and Winter initiatives of Safer Streets.

I write to you today to convey my gratitude for the invitation to meaningfully consult with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council [on 25th November 2025] and communicate the concerns and the opinions of the communities I serve as part of the local authority's development of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Stockton town centre and Norton.

Previously, I have heard anecdotal concerns from local partners that PSPOs disproportionately criminalise people who are homeless on a broader point of their use, and nothing specific to one local authority area.

As you are aware, the homeless agenda is something I am deeply passionate about. I was pleased this consultation gave me an opportunity to communicate that the use of PSPOs with homeless people – particularly in relation to begging, temporary structures, and directions to leave – are a distant second to ensuring that every opportunity to get people into support are being maximised.

I was pleased to learn more about your plans to ensure this support is being adopted as part of the PSPO proposals. I was further assured that my concerns regarding a person's inability to pay fixed penalty notices for any breaches would result in further harm and criminality is being approached with care.

The prohibitions in relation to anti-social use of vehicles is a notable and welcome inclusion, which I believe will have the full support of the people of Stockton-on-Tees. I know this is an issue which is a cause of great concern and frustration with the public, as this is something which is regularly raised with me, and reported via the COPA app.

Through my previous engagement work – including the Transport Safety Consultation between February and March 2025 – the public reported their concerns around alcohol consumption at the fountains whilst waiting at the nearby bus stop, which is one of the town's arterial bus routes. The public have also highlighted the highly visible nuisance behaviour relating to substance misuse in this area, which I know is a matter of great concern and importance to them.

I believe references to curbing ASB through alcohol consumption will be welcomed by the public and support a wider approach to tackling broader issues in the area.

In concluding, I would like to note that my recommendations to include further information and signposting were acknowledged and that the draft document will be updated following this feedback. Particularly in relation to ensuring that people are provided with more information on how to make appeals/ complaints in respect of being dealt with through the PSPO, and how people can apply for necessary licences to ensure that they are in compliance with local requirements - for example, face-to-face fundraising.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the "t".

Matt Storey
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council,
Municipal Buildings,
Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees,
TS18 1LB.

3rd December 2025.

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for consulting me on the proposed revisions to the Public Space Protection Orders for Stockton Town Centre and Norton Town Centre. As the Member of Parliament for Stockton North, and as a partner working closely with Cleveland Police and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council through Operation Shield, I welcome the opportunity to provide this formal response in support.

Residents, businesses and community groups across the constituency regularly raise concerns about antisocial behaviour, visible disorder and the impact these issues have on safety and public confidence. These concerns have been persistent, detrimental to the quality of life in both towns, and unreasonable in their continued impact. The proposed PSPOs respond to problems that have developed over time and which require coordinated and proportionate intervention.

In Stockton Town Centre, the most frequent and longstanding issue brought to my office is street drinking and the disorder associated with it. I hear from businesses whose customers are deterred from entering their premises, from staff who feel unsafe when opening or closing, and from residents who avoid parts of the town centre because of the atmosphere created by groups drinking in public. Even with the Council's successful "Reducing the Strength" scheme, which has made a meaningful difference, unmanaged street drinking continues to undermine efforts to regenerate the High Street and attract visitors. Given the scale and duration of these problems, and their clear impact on the community and local businesses, I support the introduction of a strengthened PSPO in Stockton Town Centre prohibiting the drinking or carrying of open containers of alcohol in public places.

In Norton Town Centre, residents and traders frequently report concerns about intimidating behaviour in and around the Green, the High Street and local transport points. Reports of nuisance behaviour, verbal aggression, alcohol-related disorder and environmental issues such as littering and urination have all been brought to my attention. These problems disrupt the welcoming environment that Norton is known for and have persisted long enough to warrant action. Families tell me they sometimes avoid parts of the town centre, and businesses describe feeling the consequences of repeated incidents. For these reasons, I

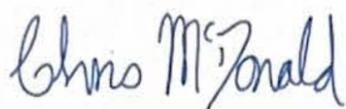
Chris McDonald MP
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support the proposed PSPO provision which would allow officers to act where behaviour is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Norton Town Centre.

Based on the evidence provided, the concerns expressed by the public, and my own engagement with residents, businesses, Cleveland Police and local partners, I confirm my support for the proposed PSPO conditions for both Stockton Town Centre and Norton Town Centre. These measures will reinforce wider partnership work already underway and will help ensure that our town centres are safe, welcoming and able to thrive as part of the ongoing regeneration of the borough.

Please let me know if any further information is required.

Yours sincerely,



Chris McDonald MP

Member of Parliament for Stockton North