

REPORT TO CABINET

12th MARCH 2026

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

Evidence

PACK 2 - Evidence From Relevant Council Services

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Public Spaces Protection Order (No.2) 2026 – Stockton Town Centre

Evidence Report – **Restricted**

This document has been prepared to evidence incidents recorded within land identified in the proposed revised extended “Restricted Area” of the Public Spaces Protection Order (No.2) 2026 – Stockton Town Centre. Consequently, the document also evaluates the PSPO 2023 in Stockton Town Centre.

Evaluation period: April 2022 – November 2025

Please note types of incidents within the document are recorded as perceived by the member of the public, council officer, authorised officer or via CCTV at the time of the event. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council’s (SBC) Community Safety team believe that the activities listed in this document have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature; and is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions imposed.

General Summary

The current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was sealed on 23rd February 2023, following a Cabinet decision and introduced into Norton Town Centre, to tackle problem street drinking and aggressive begging, which were two aspects of anti-social behaviour that were contributing to high levels of reports across the town centre.

(i) Definition of the PSPO – Aggressive Begging

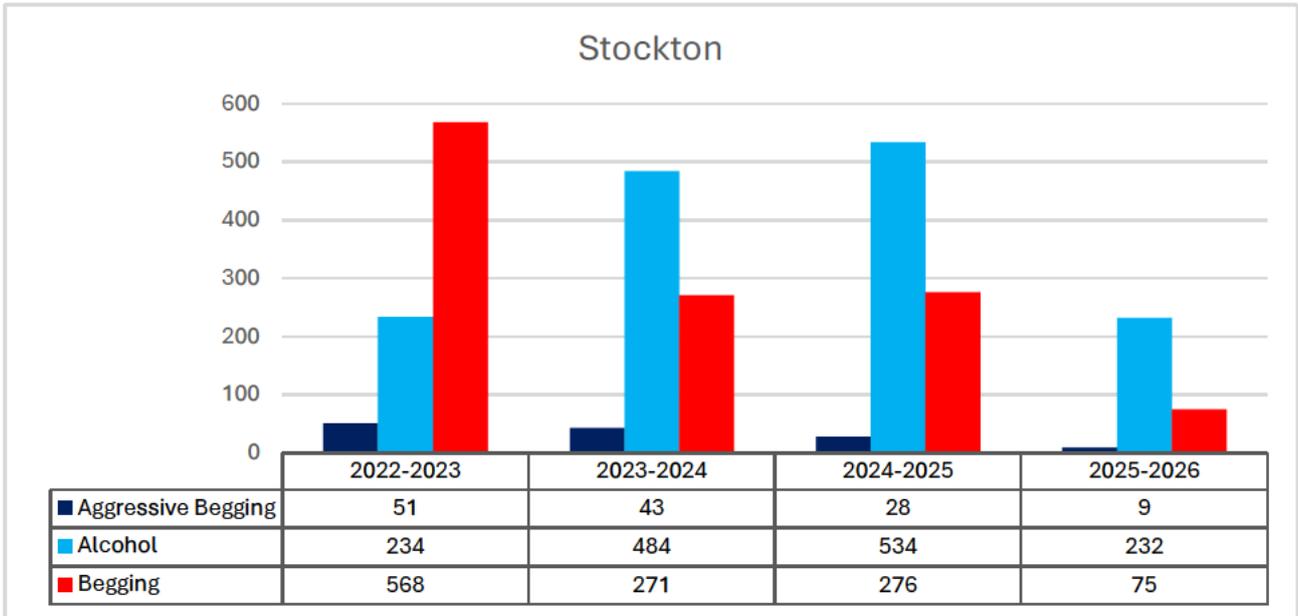
No person shall aggressively beg within the designated areas. Aggressive begging includes, but is not limited to, begging in a manner which a reasonable person would perceive to be threatening, intimidating or aggressive, or following a member of the public.

(ii) Definition of the PSPO – Street Drinking

No person shall consume alcohol within the Designated Areas in circumstances where an Authorised Person has directed them not to do so in the reasonable belief that such a direction is necessary

*If an Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person:- is, or has been, consuming alcohol in breach of the prohibition, or intends to consume alcohol in circumstances in which doing so would be a **breach of such prohibition, he or she may impose a requirement upon that person.** In practice, the street drinking prohibition was only enforced when there was an added element of associated anti-social behaviour (e.g. spitting, swearing, littering, etc.).*

Table 1 overleaf identifies the total number of incidents occurring during the reporting period relevant to the current order occurring within the Restricted Area.



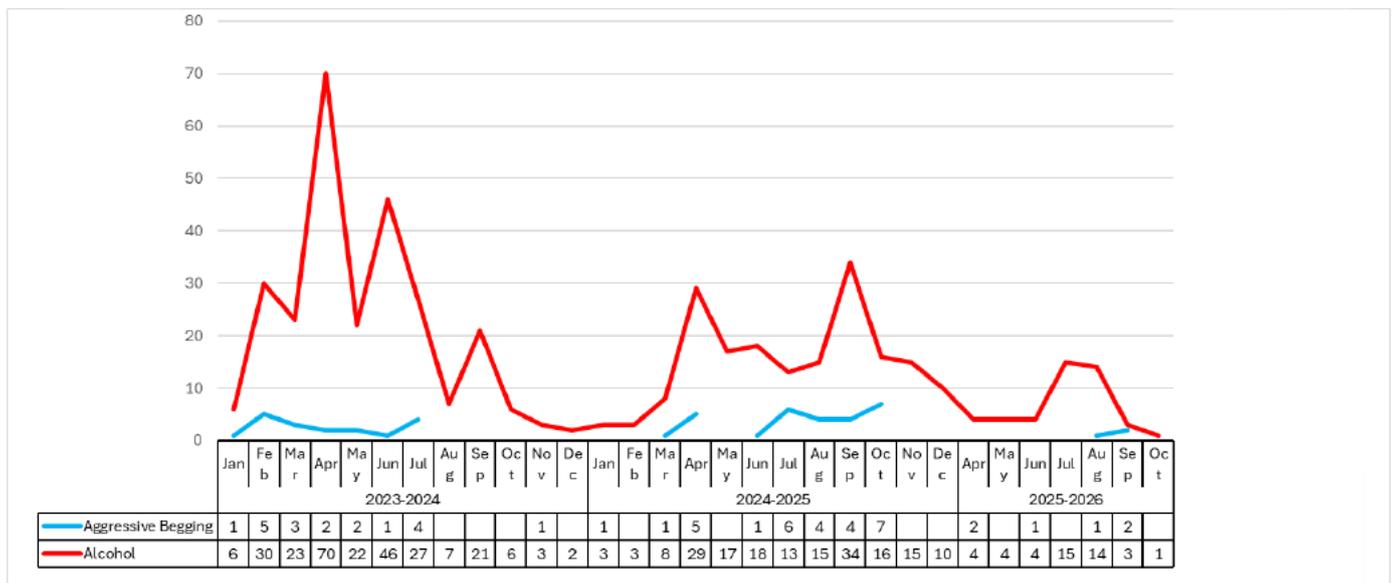
Totals following the introduction of the PSPO:

- **Begging** decreased by **52%** in 2023-2024, however increased by **2%** in 2024-2025. To date, begging within the Restricted Area is showing a **73%** decrease on the rolling year.
- **Aggressive Begging** decreased by **16%** in 2023-2024, and by **35%** in 2024-2025. To date, aggressive begging within the Restricted Area is showing a **68%** decrease on the rolling year.
- **Alcohol** increased by **107%** in 2023-2024 and by **10%** in 2024-2025. To date, alcohol within the Restricted Area is showing a **57%** decrease on the rolling year.

Continuous reporting of these events deemed a positive due to proactive monitoring by officers and confidence of members of the public/local business in reporting issues.

PSPO Actions 2023 - 2025

The graph overleaf illustrates the pattern of PSPO incidents recorded by month within Stockton Town Centre. Due to the nature of the incident, officers have deemed a breach of the PSPO has occurred and PSPO action being taken against the individual/individuals;

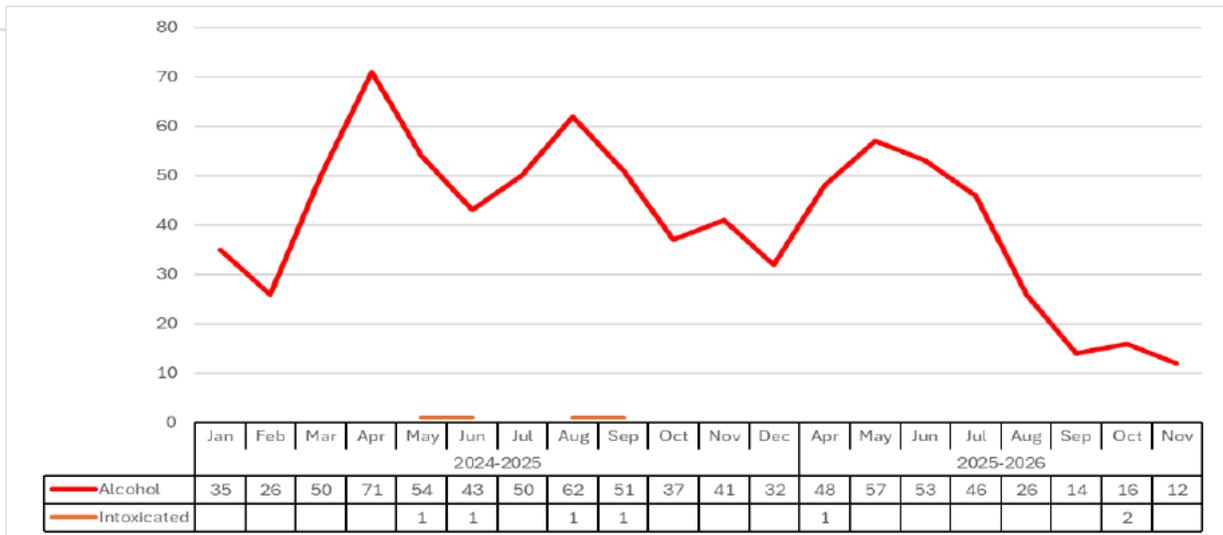
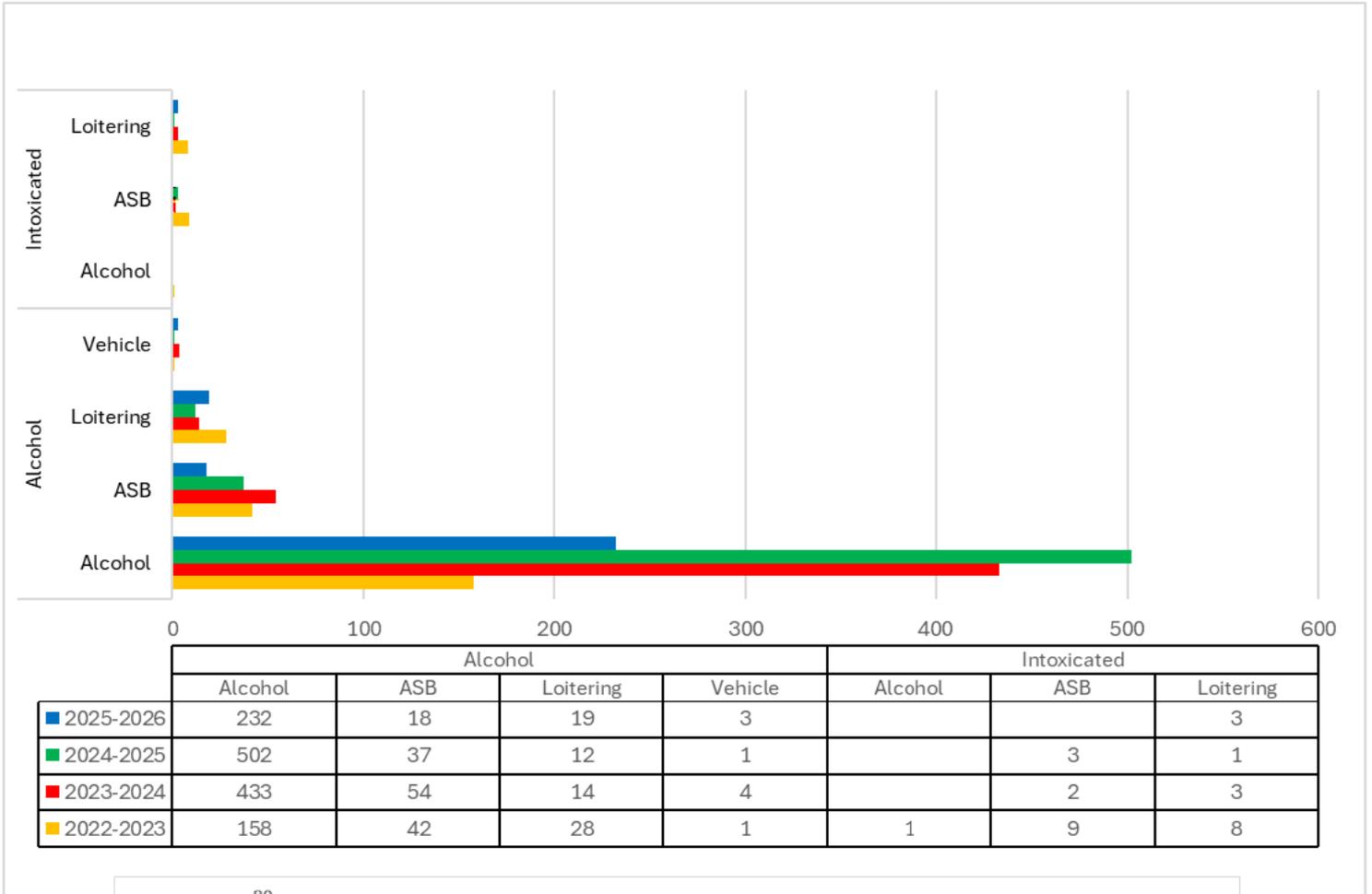


Evidence – the prohibition in relation to alcohol consumption

Alcohol consumption within the Restricted Area continues to impact on those working/visiting or residing in the area across the reporting period.

The table below documents the levels of incidents identified where ‘alcohol’ has been perceived as being the major category type of the occurrence or the consumption of alcohol is a factor in the behaviour of those involved, i.e. ASB incident occurring however the person committing the incident is perceived by the reporting person to be conducting themselves in a manner linked to alcohol consumption.

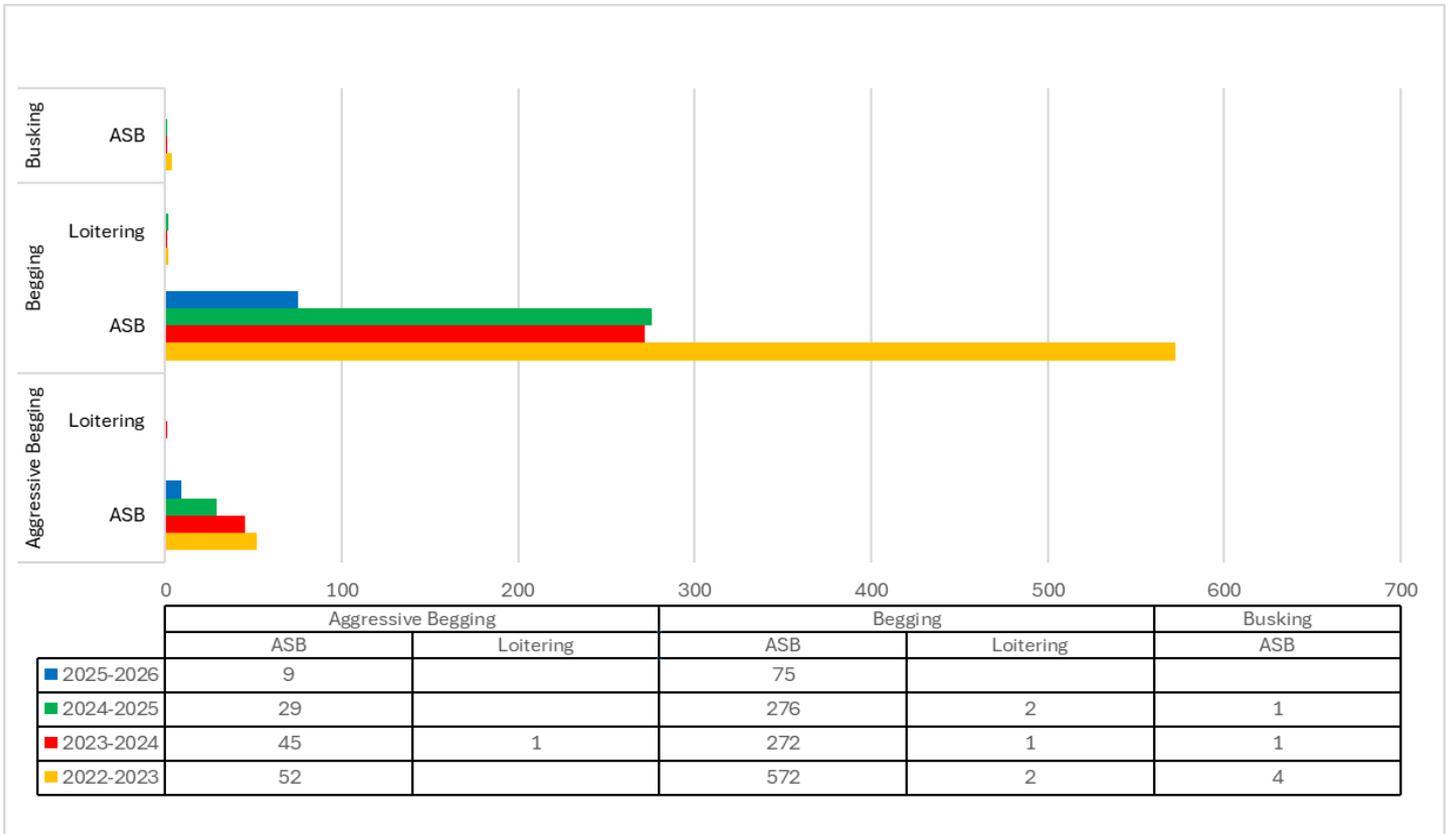
The graph below shows the monthly timeline of alcohol incidents recorded over the periods April 2024 to March 2025 and April 2025 to November 2026.



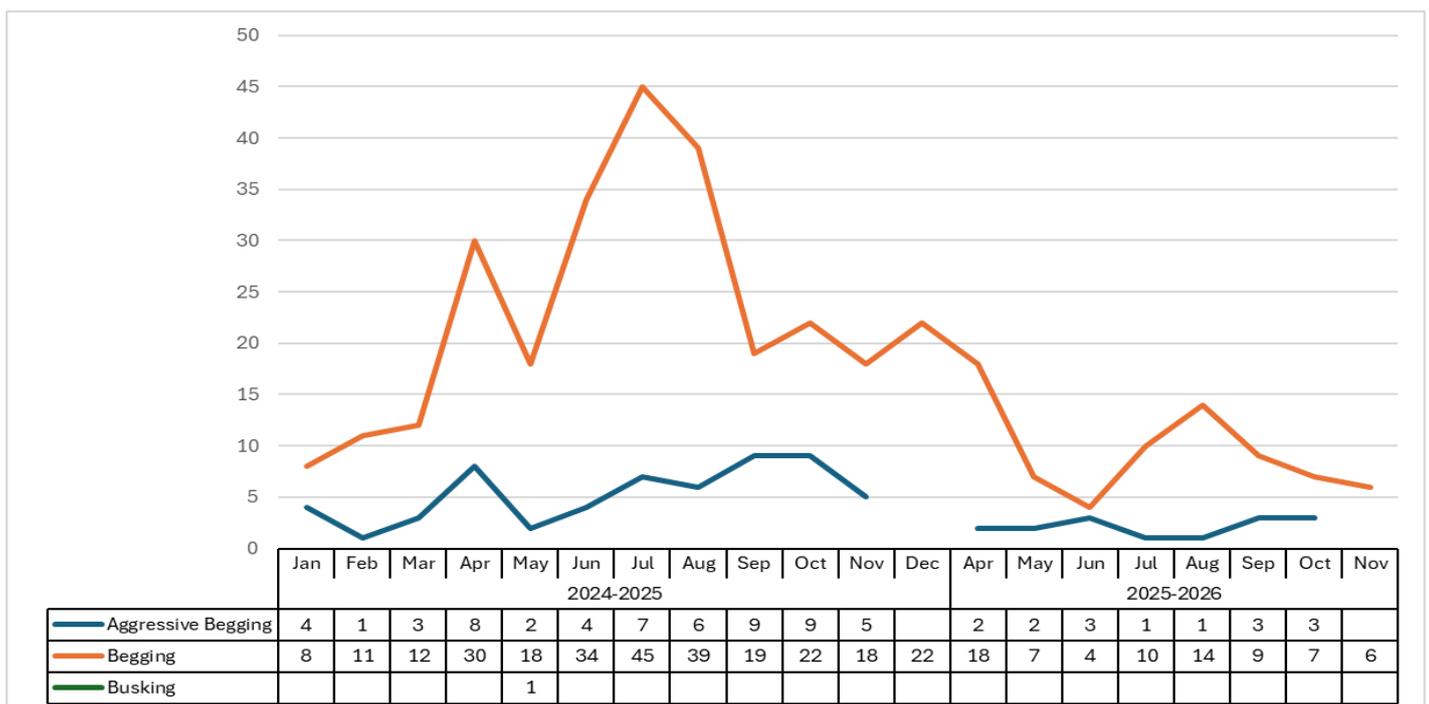
Evidence – the prohibition in relation to begging

Begging within the Restricted Area continues to directly impact on businesses within Stockton Town Centre and those working, visiting or residing in the area, across the reporting period. The text recorded within the analysis highlights consistent feelings of harassment, alarm and distress, felt by the reporting person.

The tables below documents the level of incidents identified where ‘begging’ has been perceived as being the major category type or is a factor in the behaviour of those involved.



The graph below shows the monthly timeline of begging related incidents recorded over the periods April 2024 to March 2025 and April 2025 to November 2026.



Evidence – the prohibition in relation to ASB related loitering

“A person commits an offence if at any time they loiter, sit or lay, without reasonable excuse in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress, to any person within the Restricted Area”

Analysis indicates a consistent pattern of behaviour of individuals who choose to hang around/congregate in groups around locations within the Stockton Town Centre area, which is perceived as being intimidating to businesses and causing harassment, alarm and distress to the public visiting the town. The data highlights those involved choose to migrate to the same repeat locations within the Restricted Area on a daily/weekly basis, congregating, at times, in large groups, and acting in an anti-social manner which prevents other members of the public from accessing the same area.

To understand the nature of the occurrence reported, a deep-down analysis has been completed to obtain the behaviour trends of those involved in the reports. The findings resulted in additional sub-incident types being included in the tables below, as to demonstrate the nature of behaviour occurring.

Table 1 below illustrates examples of occurrences of loitering only (no other behaviour pattern involved), and those who choose to sleep , or lay, or sit within a location. The majority of incidents of ‘sleep/ lay’ over the reporting period have occurred within doorways of businesses preventing access obstruction of a doorway/business premises.

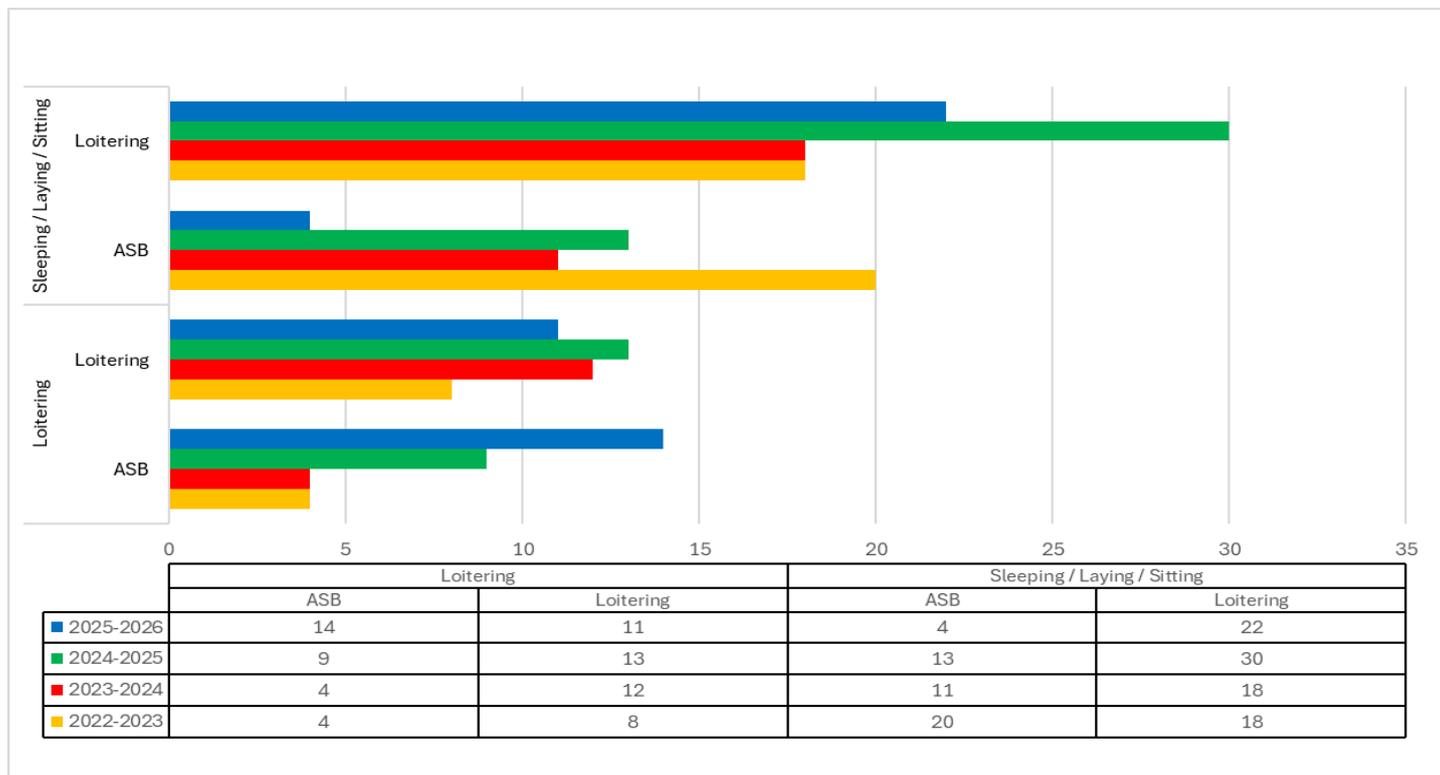


Table 2 overleaf illustrates examples of occurrences of additional behaviour patterns of aggressive behaviour (examples include verbal abusive to each other, fighting, shouting and screaming), nuisance, protesting and ‘suspicious behaviour.’

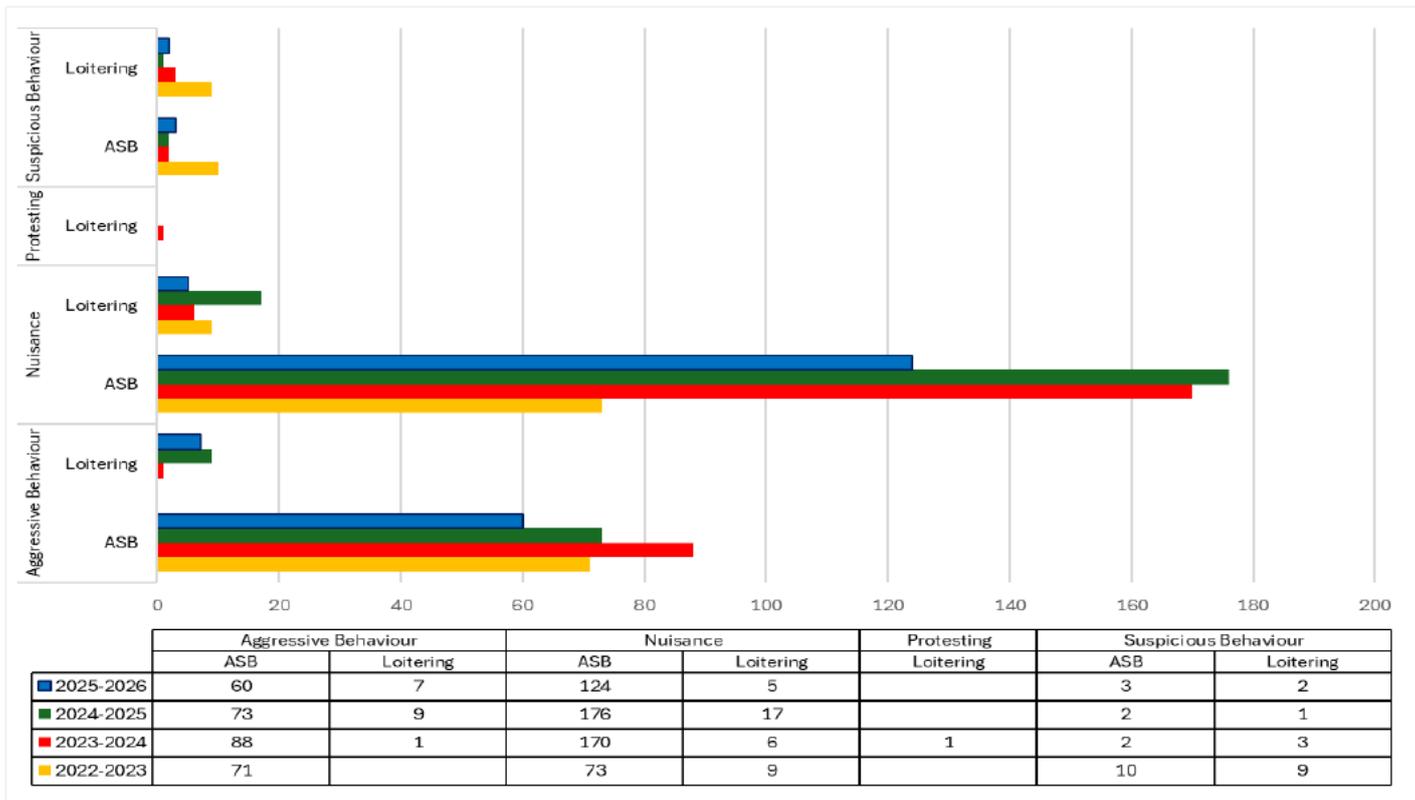
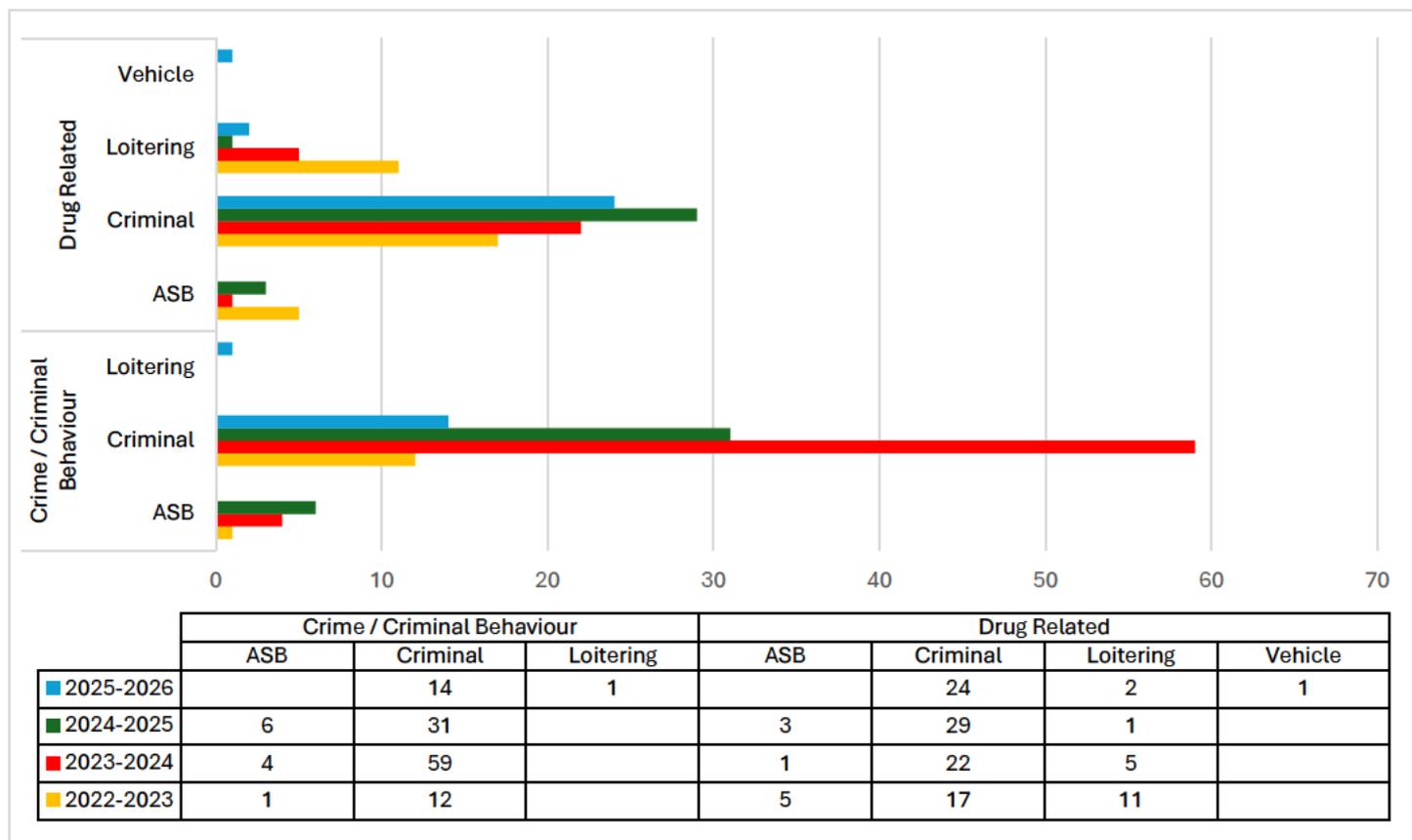
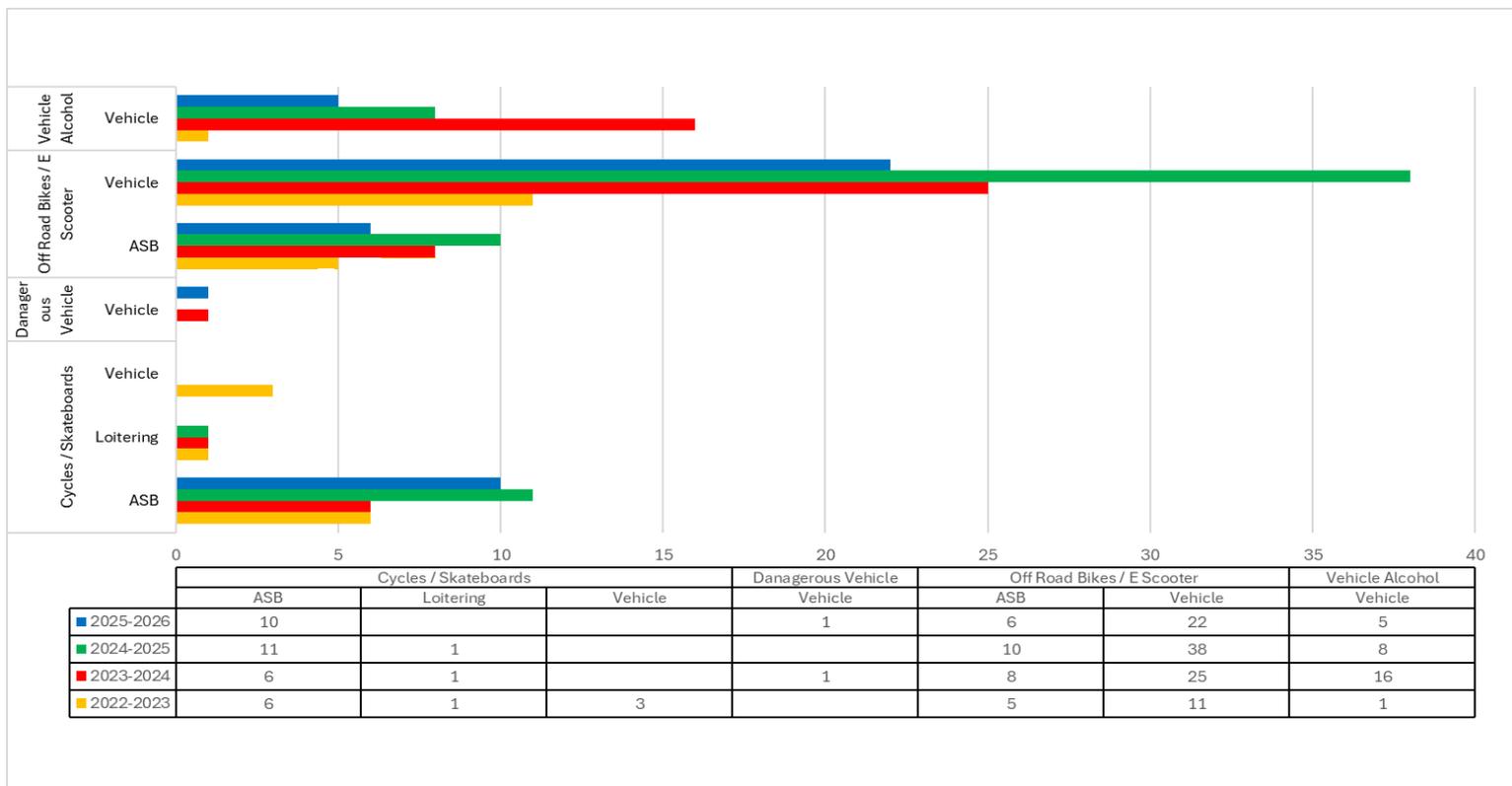


Table 3 below illustrates examples of occurrences of groups congregating/ loitering within the Restricted Area, however it also indicates an additional recorded code/behaviour pattern of ‘criminal issues,’ i.e. potential shoplifting or drug activity, such as dealing. Analysis shows examples of High Street shops reporting known individuals persistently loitering at the front of the store with the intent to shoplift/refuse to move on when asked.



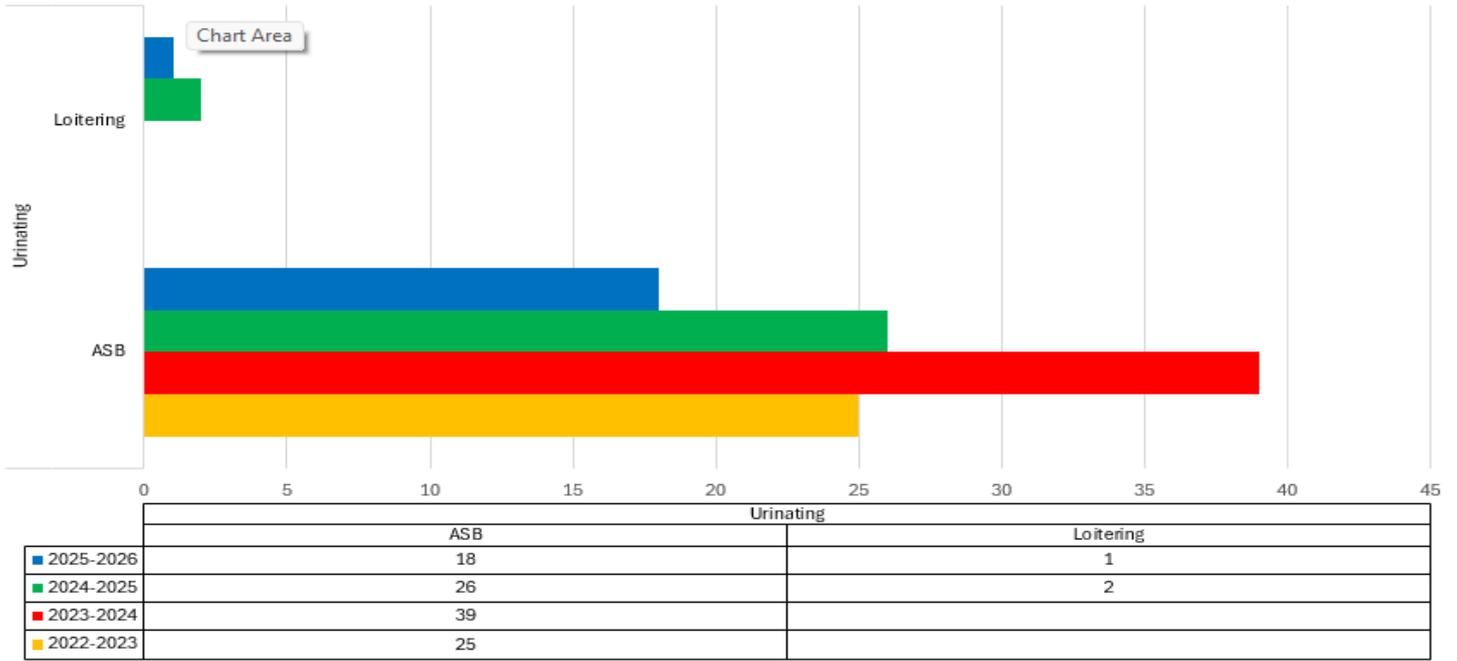
Evidence – the prohibition in relation to the anti-social use of vehicles

The graph below illustrates the impact of the anti-social use of vehicles within the Restricted Area. For reference, cycles/skateboards occurrences has also been included in the summary as the analysis indicated both youths and adults are choosing to use cycles inappropriately, to travel from locations within the main shopping area of the town centre. Of note is the ‘Vehicle Alcohol’ recorded code, which illustrates the total number of drink driving occurrences within the reporting period for reference.



Evidence – the prohibition in relation to urinating and defecating in the street

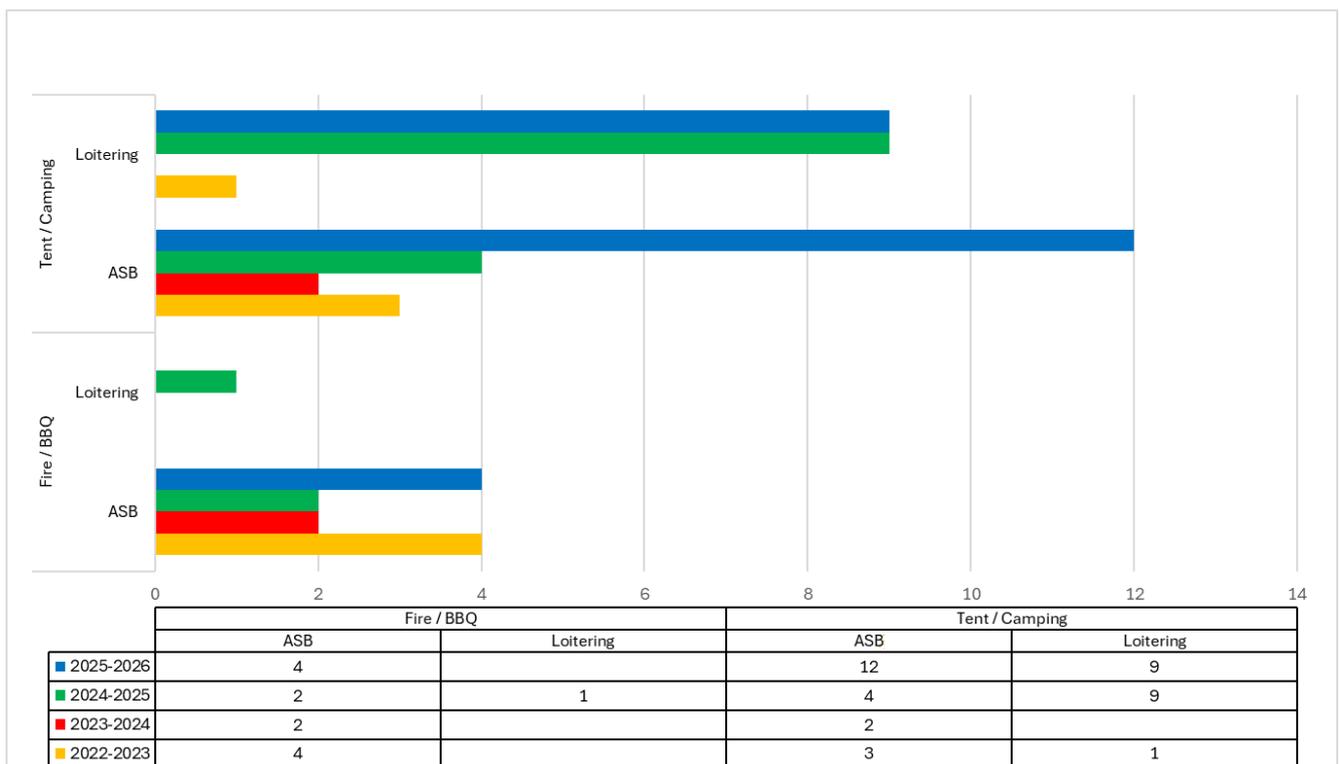
The graph overleaf illustrates the number of occurrences of urinating/defecating within the Restricted Area, during the reporting period. Due to the recording methods used, occurrences of defecating are not a recognised recordable field within the Community Safety system, and therefore it has been included within the urinating total.



Evidence - Requirement to remove temporary structures or vehicles when requested

Analysis illustrates an increase in 2025–2026 of temporary structures (specifically tents). Many occurrences have occurred on the green space area at *Trinity Gardens*, which has been identified as a new area of concern and located within the proposed revised Restricted Area. During the current period, groups of individuals have migrated away from the High Street and congregated within this setting, resulting in an increase in reporting due to them acting in an anti-social manner and conducting criminal activity, either in, or besides, the tents. This behaviour prevents other members of the public from accessing the same area and impacts on the surrounding residential area – a statement from the nearby care home corroborates this statistic for instance.

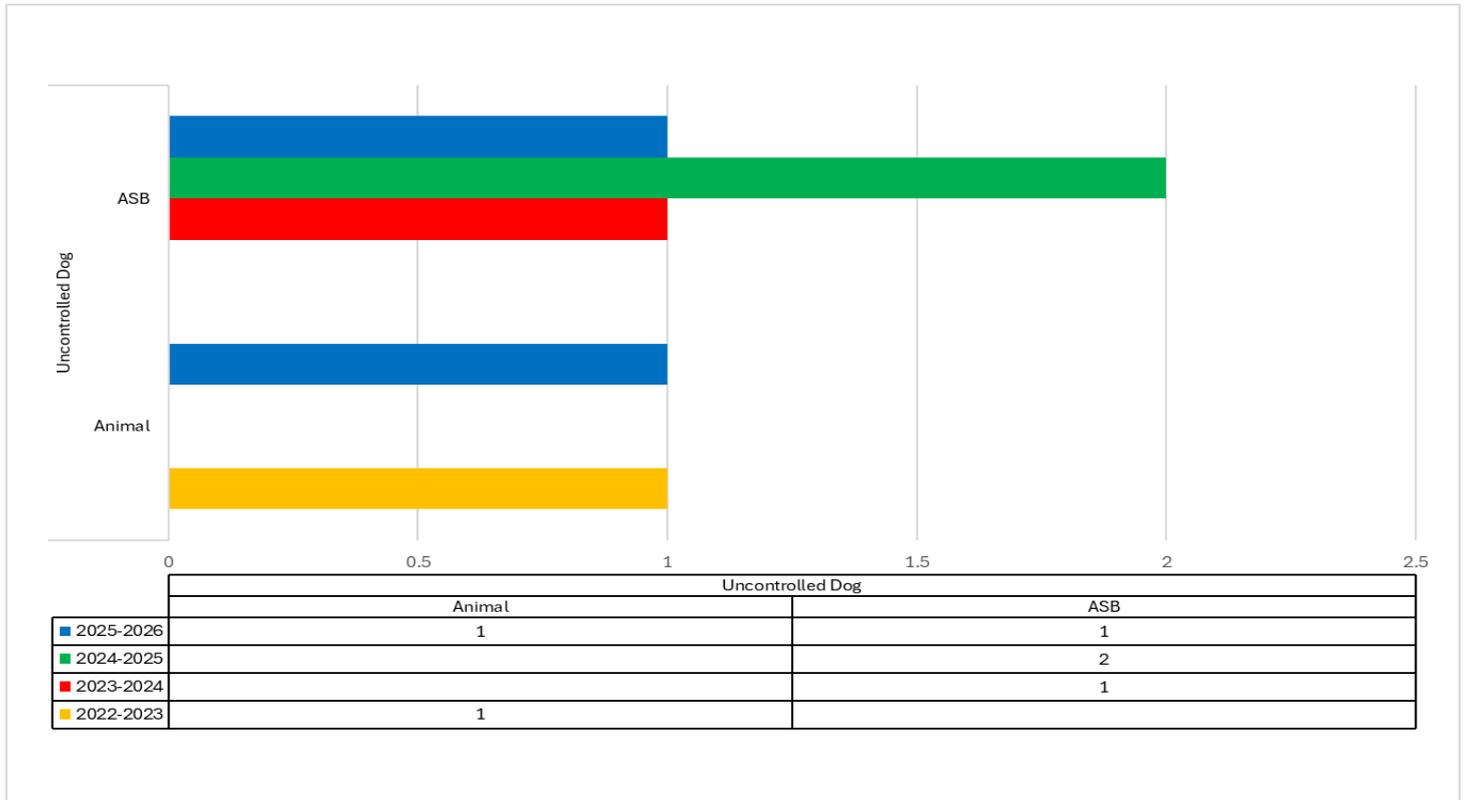
Evidence – the requirement to have dogs on leads



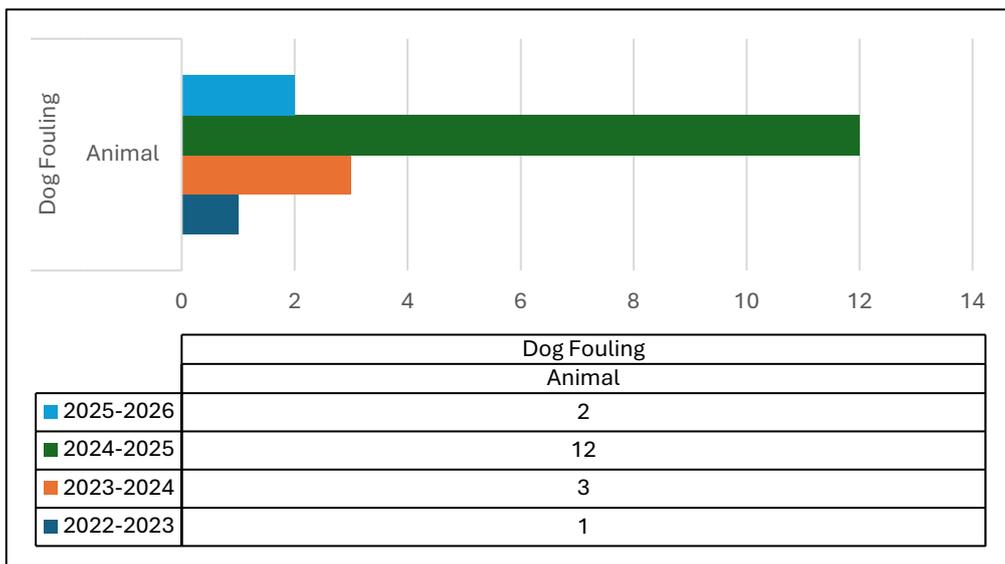
Due to the recording methods used, occurrences of dog issues is not a recognised recordable field within the Community Safety system, and therefore has been included within the ‘uncontrolled dog’ report code.

Analysis illustrates occurrences where a dog has been present with an individual, congregating within a larger group at the time of the report. Some occurrences report dogs are roaming free/jumping up at passing members of the public causing them harassment, alarm and distress, due to the breed of the dog involved. This condition is evidenced more concretely in the evidential supporting statements provided by SBC Environmental Health and Cleveland Police’s Matrix Team.

Evidence - Requirement to pick up dog foul



The table below indicates the number of occurrences of dog fouling within the restricted area. The necessity for this condition is supported further in the statement provided by SBC Environmental Health.



In relation to the requirement to provide identity in cases of ASB

6.0. Any person is to provide their name, address, and date of birth, to an Authorised Person if directed to do so, where the Authorised Person is of the opinion that the individual is:

(a) in breach of any of the prohibitions or requirements contained within this Order, or

(b) is behaving in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress, to any person within the Restricted Area.

6.1. A person commits an offence if, when subject to a requirement under paragraph 6.0., they fail to provide their details immediately. It is also an offence under this paragraph if the details supplied are proved to be false.

6.2. All requirements under Part 6 of this Order are not valid, if an Authorised Person is asked by the person subject to the requirement, to show evidence of their authorisation and they fail to do so.

The requirement above is required for the effective and proper implementation of this PSPO, as to combat and process ASB incidents & breaches in a timely and efficient manner. The details which an officer will demand using this requirement will ensure the Council and Cleveland Police can streamline enforcement, given that such personal details are needed for any prosecution. The need to know an offender's details is a fundamental requirement for effective enforcement. As Superintendent O'Donoghue writes in his supporting statement/evidence for the draft proposal: "[The] provision supports investigations, ensures accountability, and enables repeat offenders to be identified and dealt with appropriately."

In relation to the requirement to leave the Restricted Area when asked

7.0. Any person is to leave the Restricted Area immediately, if directed to do so by an Authorised Person, and not return for a period not exceeding 24 hours, unless for a lawful reason or with reasonable excuse, where the Authorised Person is of the opinion that the individual is:

(a) in breach of any of the prohibitions or requirements contained within this Order, or

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This important and crucial power/requirement, hailed by local authorities nationally as a 'game changer,' is a must for the Council & Cleveland Police, as to bring about immediate order and relief to High Street businesses suffering from ASB. This dispersal or 'direction to leave' requirement is a flexible power which we'll be able to apply in a range of situations to disperse anti-social individuals and provide immediate short-term respite to the local community and High Street businesses. The power is preventative, allowing an officer to deal quickly with someone's behaviour and deal with the problem before it escalates – for example; we could be dispersing persons who may have gone on to commit shoplifting offences or other such serious offences, had we not intervened early on. This power empowers officers to proactively 'nip issues in the bud.'

Written & prepared by

Dawn Tyerman, Public Protection Development Officer

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Edited by

Adam Bateman, Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Public Spaces Protection Order (No.3) 2026 – Norton Town Centre

Evidence Report – **Restricted**

This document has been prepared to evidence incidents recorded within land identified in the proposed revised extended “Restricted Area” of the Public Spaces Protection Order (No.3) 2026 – Norton Town Centre.

Consequently, the document also evaluates the PSPO 2023 in Norton Town Centre.

Evaluation period: April 2022 – November 2025

Please note types of incidents within the document are recorded as perceived by the member of the public, council officer, authorised officer or via CCTV at the time of the event. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council’s (SBC) Community Safety team believe that the activities listed in this document have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature; and is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions imposed.

General Summary

The current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was sealed on 23rd February 2023, following a Cabinet decision and introduced into Norton Town Centre, to tackle problem street drinking and aggressive begging, which were two aspects of anti-social behaviour that were contributing to high levels of reports across the town centre.

(i) Definition of the PSPO – Aggressive Begging

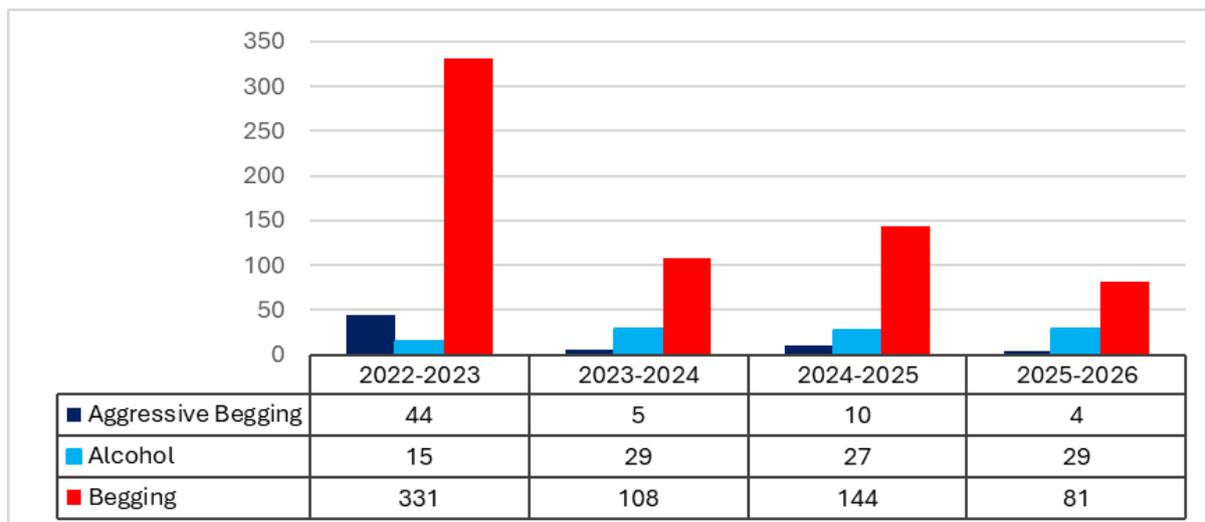
No person shall aggressively beg within the designated areas. Aggressive begging includes, but is not limited to, begging in a manner which a reasonable person would perceive to be threatening, intimidating or aggressive, or following a member of the public.

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No person shall consume alcohol within the Designated Areas in circumstances where an Authorised Person has directed them not to do so in the reasonable belief that such a direction is necessary

*If an Authorised Person reasonably believes that a person:- is, or has been, consuming alcohol in breach of the prohibition, or intends to consume alcohol in circumstances in which doing so would be a **breach of such prohibition, he or she may impose a requirement upon that person.** In practice, the street drinking prohibition was only enforced when there was an added element of associated anti-social behaviour (e.g. spitting, swearing, littering, etc.).*

Table 1 overleaf identifies the total number of incidents occurring during the reporting period relevant to the current order occurring within the Restricted Area.



Totals following the introduction of the PSPO:

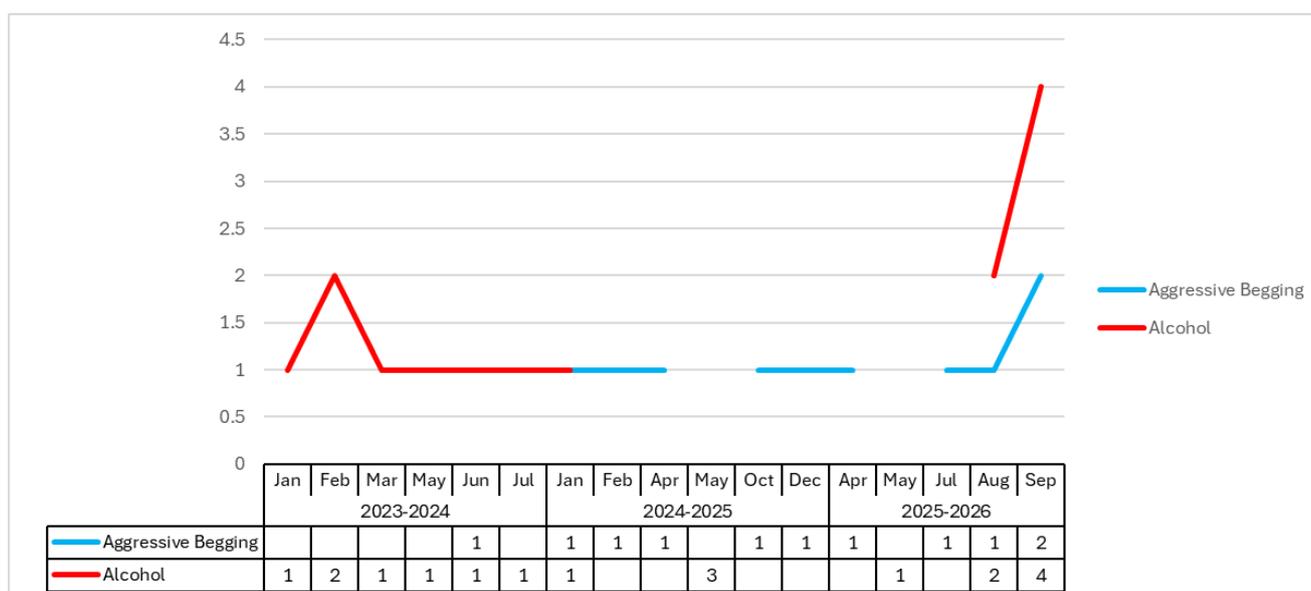
- **Begging** decreased by **67%** in 2023-2024, however increased by **33%** in 2024-2025. To date, begging within the Restricted Area is showing a **44%** decrease on the rolling year.
- **Aggressive Begging** decreased by **88%** in 2023-2024, however increased by **100%** in 2024-2025. To date, aggressive begging within the Restricted Area is showing a **60%** decrease on the rolling year.
- **Alcohol** increased by **93%** 2023-2024 however decreased by **7%** 2024-2025. To date, alcohol within the Restricted Area is showing a **7%** increase on the rolling year.

Continuous reporting of these events deemed a positive due to proactive monitoring by officers and confidence of members of the public/ local business in reporting issues.

PSPO Actions 2023 - 2025

The graph below illustrates the pattern of PSPO incidents recorded by month within Norton Town Centre.

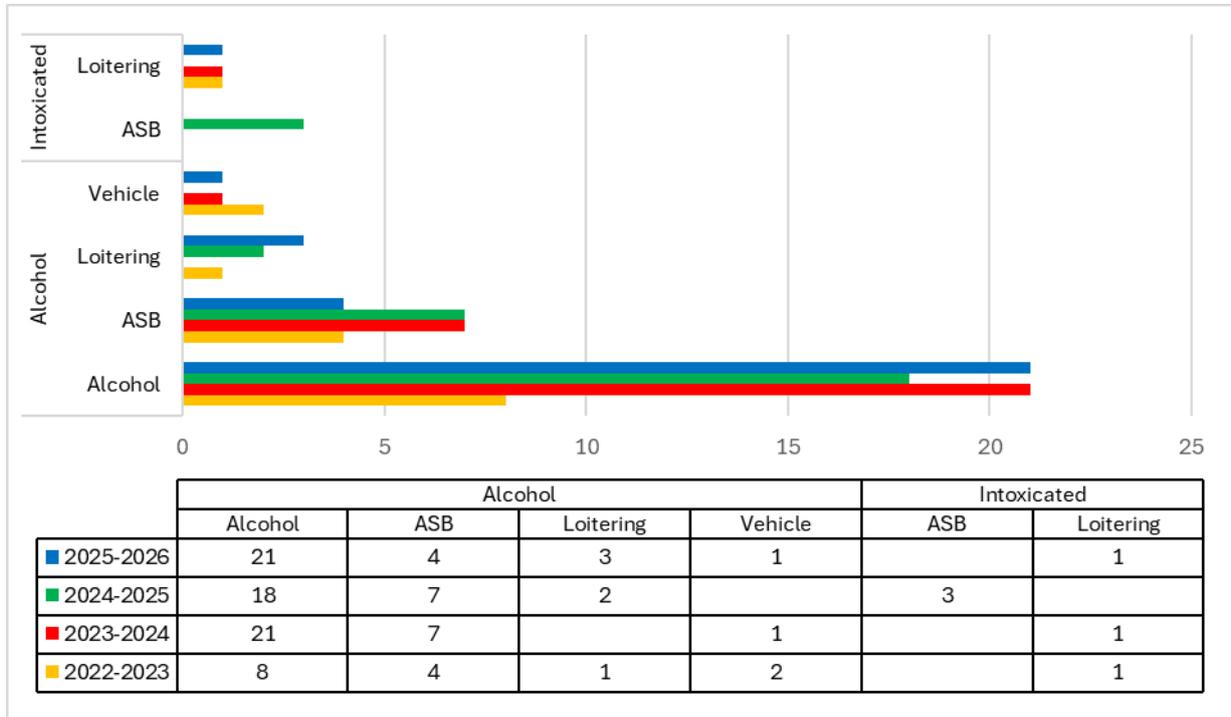
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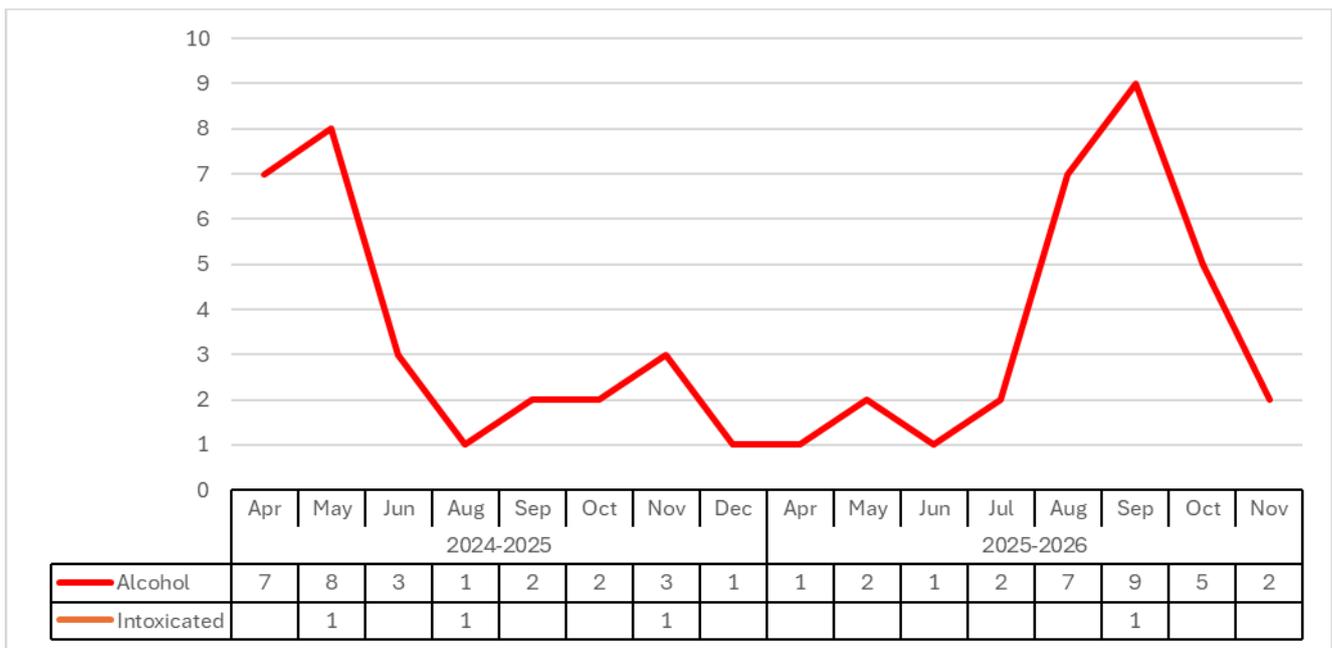
Evidence – the prohibition in relation to alcohol consumption

Alcohol consumption within the Restricted Area continues to impact businesses within Norton Town Centre, as well as those working, visiting or residing in the area, across the reporting period.

The table below documents the levels of incidents identified where ‘alcohol’ has been perceived as being the major category type or the consumption of alcohol is a factor in the behaviour of those involved, i.e. *ASB incident occurring however the person committing the incident is perceived by the reporting person to be conducting themselves in a manner linked to alcohol consumption.*



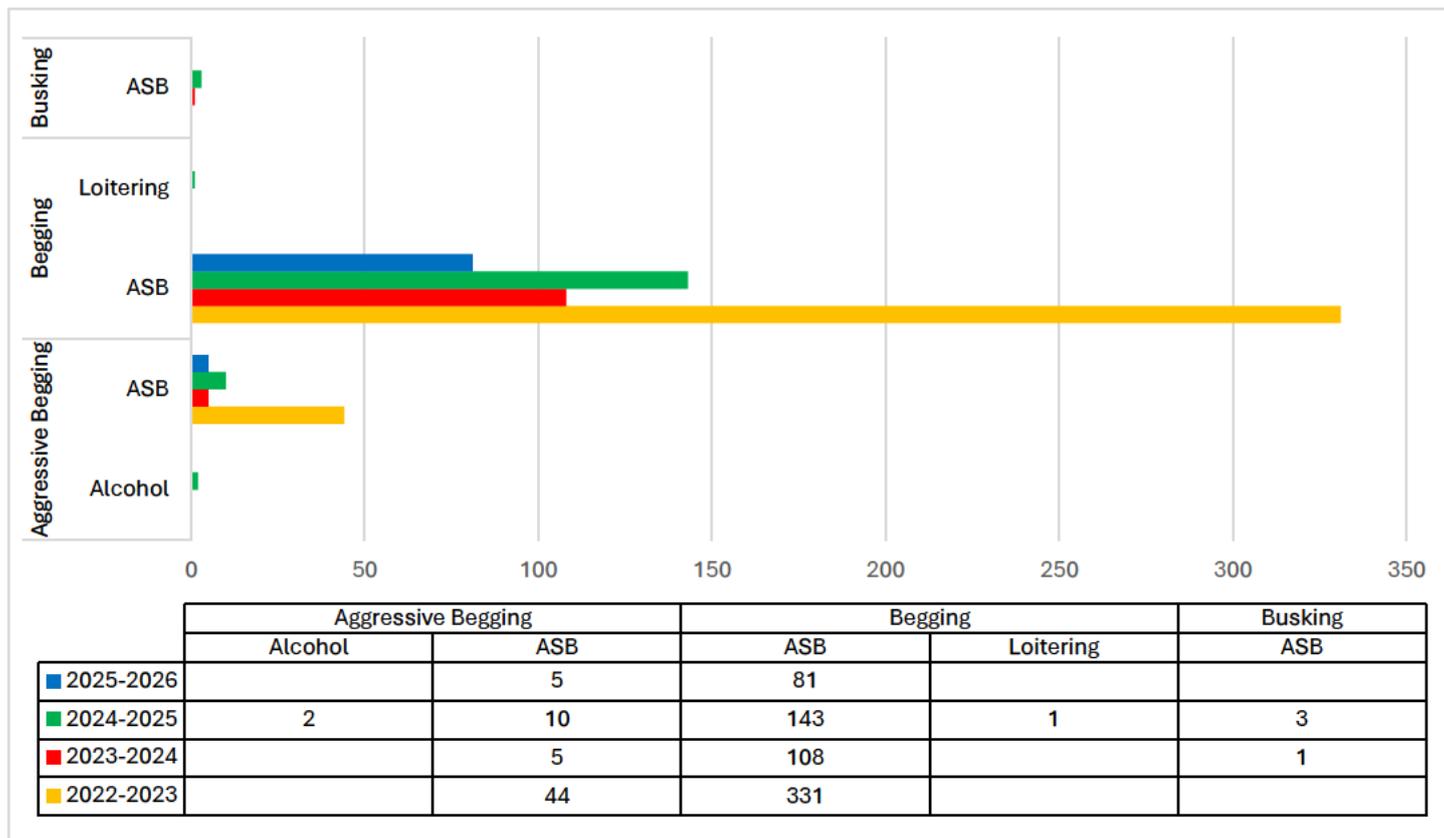
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Evidence – the prohibition in relation to begging

Begging within the restricted area continues to directly impact on businesses within the Norton Town Centre are, and those working, visiting or residing in the area, across the reporting period. The text recorded within the analysis highlights consistent feelings of harassment, alarm and distress, felt by the reporting person.

The table below documents the levels of incidents identified where ‘begging’ has been perceived as being the major event or is a factor in the behaviour of those involved.



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A person commits an offence if at any time they loiter, sit or lay, without reasonable excuse in a manner causing or likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress, to any person within the Restricted Area.

Analysis indicates a consistent pattern of behaviour from individuals who choose to hang around/congregate in groups around locations within the Norton Town Centre area, which is perceived as being intimidating to businesses and causing harassment, alarm and distress to the public visiting the town centre. The data highlights that those involved choose to migrate to the same repeat locations within the Restricted Area, on a daily/weekly basis, congregating at times in large groups and acting in an anti-social manner, thus preventing other members of the public from accessing the same area.

To understand the nature of the occurrence reported, a deep-down analysis has been completed to obtain the behaviour trends of those involved in the reports. The findings resulted in additional sub-incident types being included in the tables below, as to demonstrate the nature of behaviour occurring.

Table 1 below illustrates examples of occurrences of ‘loitering’ only (no other behaviour pattern involved), and those who choose to sleep, or lay, or sit, within a location. The majority of incidents of ‘sleep/ lay’ over the reporting period have occurred within doorways of businesses preventing access/obstruction of a doorway/business premises.

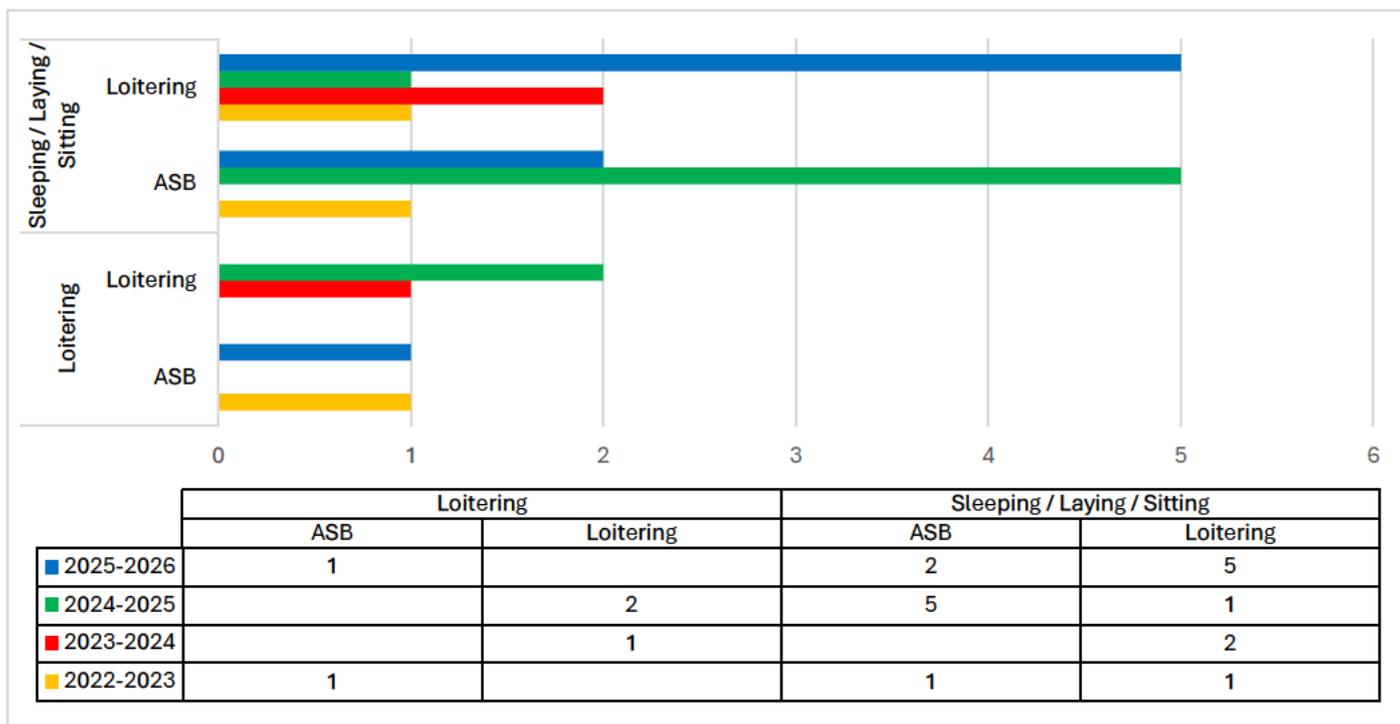


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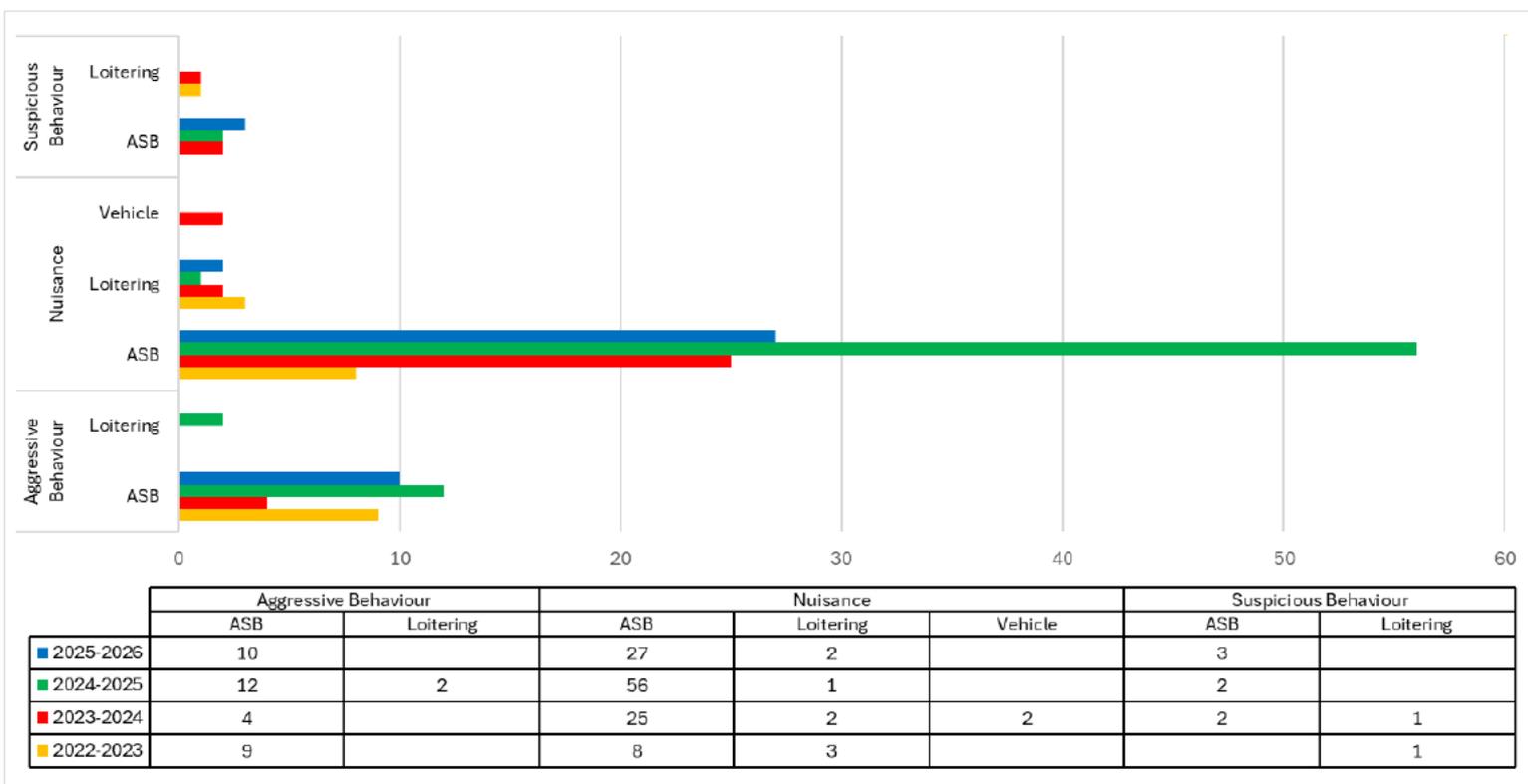
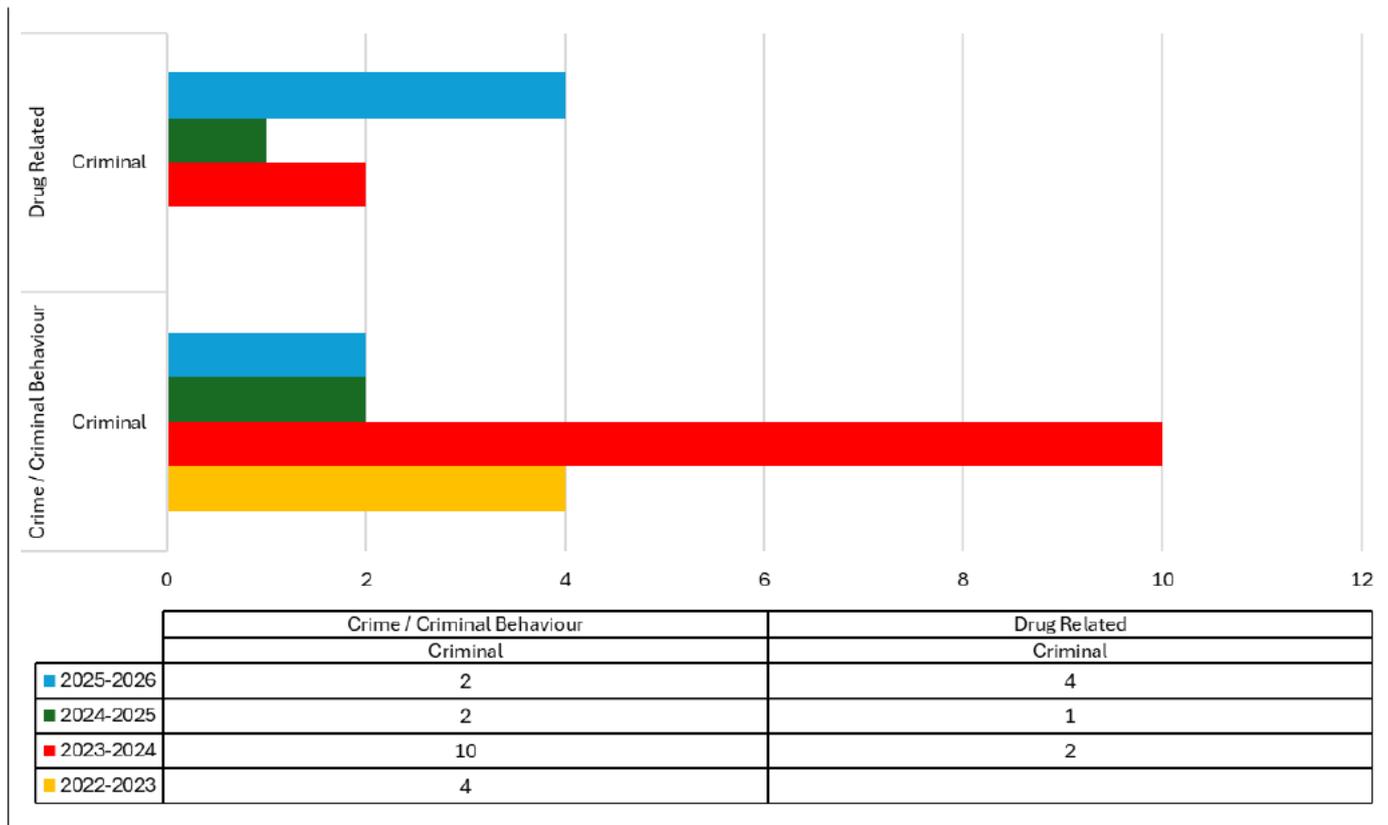


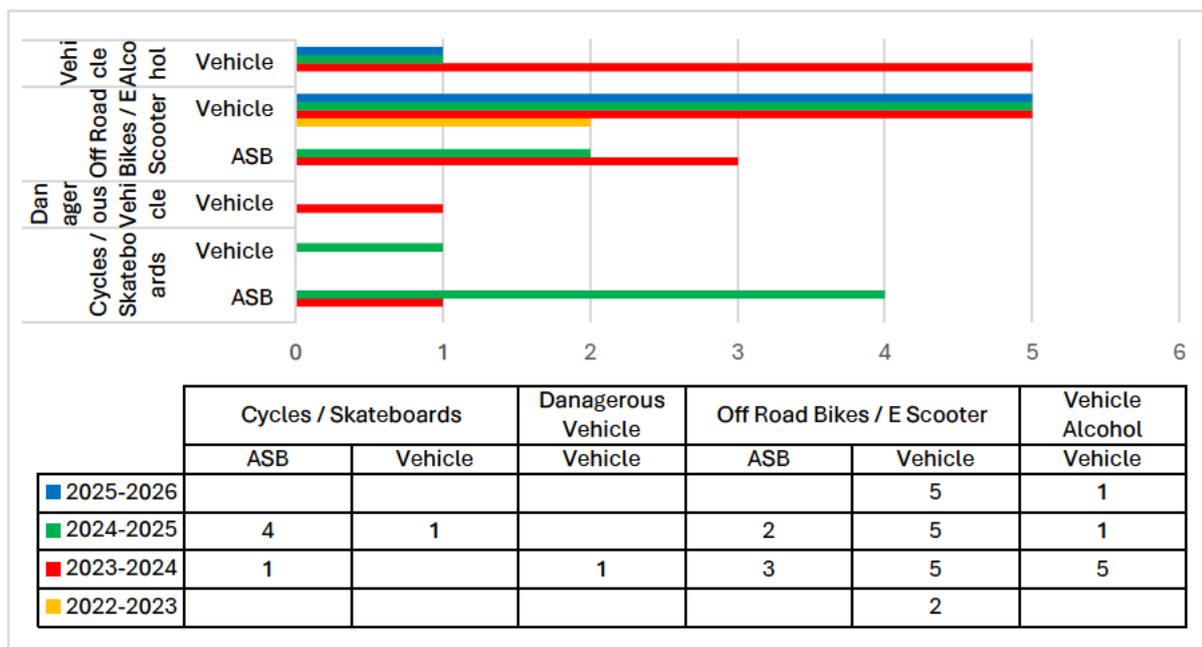
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drug activity, such as dealing. Analysis shows examples of High Street shops reporting known individuals persistently loitering at the front of the store with the intent to shoplift/refuse to move on when asked.



Evidence – the prohibition in relation to the anti-social use of vehicles (and bicycles)

The graph below illustrates the impact of the anti-social use of vehicles within the Restricted Area. For reference, cycles/skateboards occurrences have also been included in the summary, as the analysis indicated both youths and adults are choosing to use cycles inappropriately, as to travel from locations within the main shopping area of the High Street. Of note is the ‘Vehicle Alcohol’ recorded code, which illustrates the total number of drink driving occurrences within the reporting period for reference.



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Written & prepared by

Dawn Tyerman, Public Protection Development Officer

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Edited by

Adam Bateman, Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer

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Email: tracy.hyman@stockton.gov.uk

Date: 01/12/2025

Adam Bateman,
16, Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees,
TS18 1TU

Dear Adam Bateman,

We, the Public Health Team, confirm that we have been consulted on the revised Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

The revision of the PSPO aligns with our current work in the Complex Lives workstream and the Street Drinking Project. Stockton Town Centre is undergoing significant regeneration to become a safer, more inclusive space for all. There are complex challenges, including persistent street drinking and associated anti-social behaviour with a small visible cohort of fewer than 30 individuals. These individuals are not only service users but also residents of the town centre, many facing severe disadvantage including homelessness, addiction, and social exclusion.

A compassionate, multi-disciplinary approach is needed to address this complex issue, of which the PSPO is one part.

We are pleased to see that:

- Service providers have been consulted on the boundaries of the PSPO area, and have had the chance to influence this, whilst ensuring that current and potential service users can access the service.
- Partner organisations are willing to provide and support safe spaces, which will be promoted as part of the implementation of the PSPO

We are confident that the combined implementation of the PSPO, alongside the implementation of the Statement of Licensing Policy (SOLP) and the provision and development of safe spaces, will contribute to a welcoming town centre for all, whilst supporting recovery for those who need it.

Yours faithfully,

Tracy Hyman
Public Health Practitioner



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Adults and Health

Environmental Health

www.stockton.gov.uk

PO Box 232, 16 Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1XD

Tel: (01642) 393939 · Fax (01642) 524743

My Ref:
Your Ref:
Please ask for: Mr M Berry
Tel: 01642 526552
Email: Mark.Berry@stockton.gov.uk

21st October 2025

Introduction

I am a qualified Environmental Health Officer and one of the Team Manager's within the Environmental Health Department. I have been qualified for 36 years and have managed the Public Nuisance, Animal Welfare, Pest Control and Animal Health teams for over 20 years. The animal welfare team deals specifically with companion animal welfare including the council's statutory responsibility for stray dogs. The team deal with a whole host of complaints with regards to irresponsible ownership of dogs, from straying, welfare, dog attacks, noise and fouling issues

During my management of the animal welfare service I have been involved in national policy formulation working on national panels with DEFRA colleagues to help write and produce specific guidance documents for local authority enforcement officers in relation to various dog related subjects, including microchipping, dangerous dog enforcers roles and the recently introduced licensing of activities involving animals. I have also given evidence at a parliamentary select committee on the review of dangerous dog legislation on behalf of the LGA

Rationale for Support

The development of the urban park, as part of the on-gong transformation of Stockton High Street, will inevitably change the use of the high street and surrounding area from a traditional retail area to one which is intended to attract adults and children for leisure and social activities. With the outdoor space being designated as an urban park, and its direct links to the river and other open areas it will inevitably see an increase in dog owners bringing their dogs with them into this multi-use space.

As seen by the service and supported by the number of service requests for other areas of the borough that are popular sites used by dog owners, this is likely to bring about an increase in dog related incidents by irresponsible dog owners within the urban park. This will potentially spoil the enjoyment of the space from uncontrolled off-lead dogs causing issues to other users, to more serious dog-related attacks on people or other animals.

Implementing the PSPO and balancing the wider community's needs against those using the space and causing anti-social behaviour is likely to have a positive impact across all equality groups. The legitimate

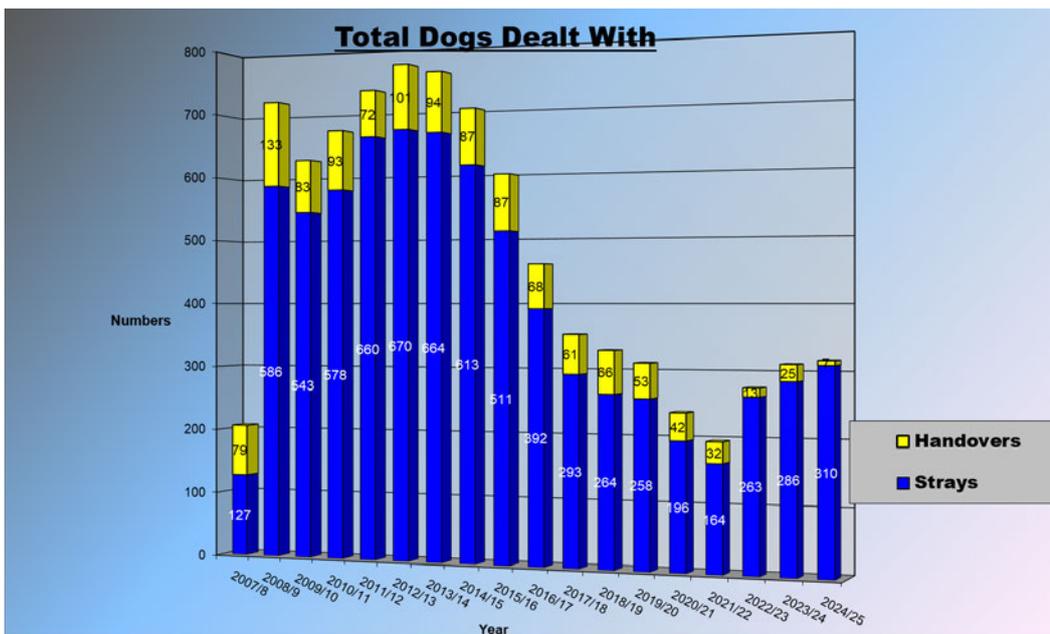
aims of the PSPO are to ensure that people are free to use this public space free from anti-social behaviour. This will contribute to the health and well-being of citizens in an urban environment.

The dogs on lead and dog fouling requirement for owners to clean up forthwith after their dog within the designated area will help eliminate dog related anti-social behaviour and allow authorised officers to deal directly with those dog owners that do not comply with the requirements. As seen by the service and supported by the number of service requests for other areas of the borough that are popular sites used by dog owners, this is likely to bring about an increase in dog related incidents by irresponsible dog owners within the urban park. This will potentially spoil the enjoyment of the space from uncontrolled off-lead dogs causing issues to other users, to more serious dog-related attacks on people or other animals.

Evidence of Need

Below are statistics in relation to complaints that the animal welfare service has received concerning fouling and dog related attacks on people and or animals

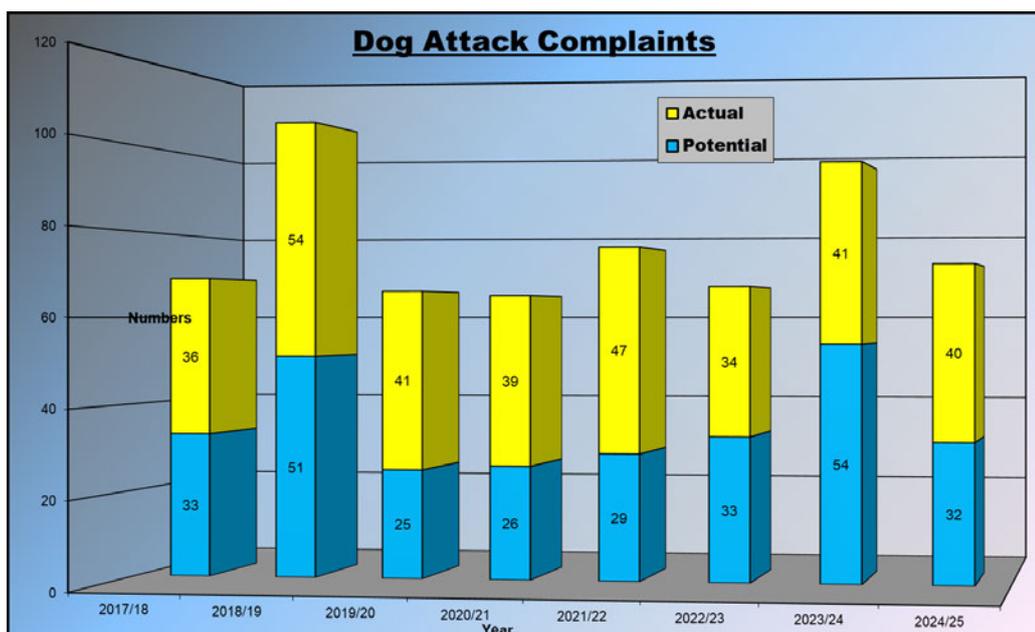
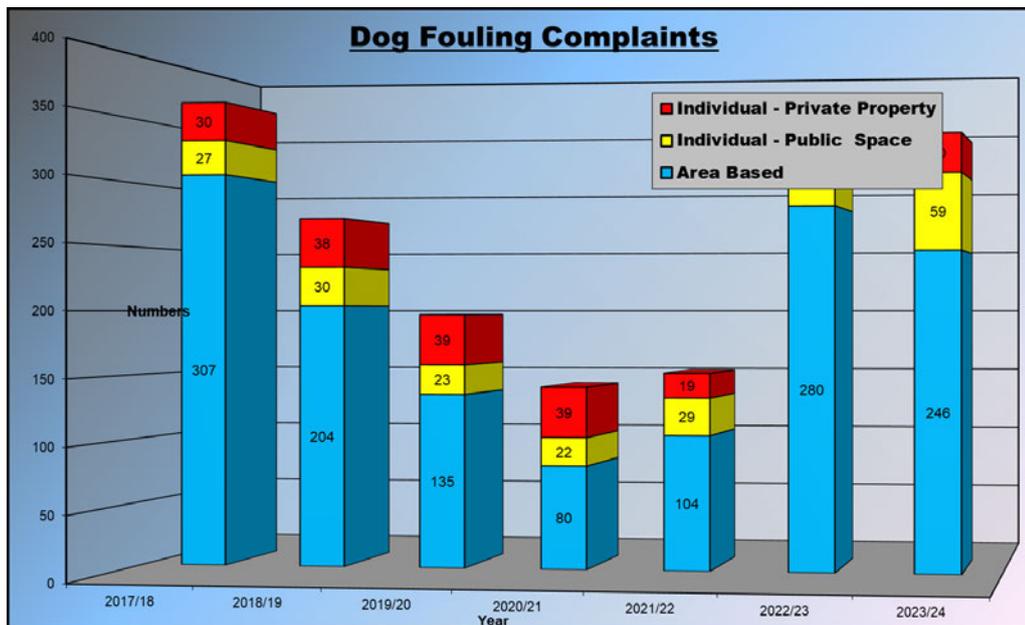
Dog related complaints and statistics surrounding issues such as stray dog numbers, dog fouling and dog aggression have been influenced following Covid and the associated lockdowns that accompanied it. The overriding consequence of the lockdown periods saw a significant increase in people deciding to acquire a dog during this period, quite often people that hadn't been dog owners previously. Due to the circumstances of the lockdown period these new dogs were not appropriately socialised or trained and consequently the animal welfare service has seen an increase in dogs with various behavioural issues in the proceeding years. As such, since 2021, coming out of lockdown and compounded by the cost-of-living crisis, we have seen a sharp reverse in the the number of stray dogs (unwanted dogs) dealt with. This is in stark comparison to the continued reduction in dog numbers over the previous ten years due to all the proactive work undertaken by ourselves and other stakeholders .



Consequently, the whole stray dog and rehoming sector throughout the country has been at bursting point for the last two years, compounded by the fact that several of the major animal charities that support local authorities have had to drastically reduce their input due to lack of resources.

In line with the above, the service has seen an increase in dog-fouling complaints over the last few years as well as a consistent level, and at times more serious incidents with regards to dog aggression-based complaints.

Anecdotally this is in part due to a culmination of several factors i.e., new first time dog owners, lack of appropriate socialisation of dogs and the behavioral issues this has led to, lack of recall training and basic control commands, a lack of knowledge and ignorance around the legal responsibilities a dog owner must comply with



Legal Justification

The proposed condition satisfies the legal tests outlined in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in that:

- **Detrimental Effect:** Activities involving off-lead dogs and dog fouling have had, and are likely to continue having, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the borough and specifically the new urban park.
- **Persistent and Unreasonable:** These effects are persistent, unreasonable, and justify the restrictions imposed.
- **Proportionality:** The requirement is reasonable and proportionate to prevent recurrence, reduce risk and allow all users of the open space to enjoy it safely

Operational Benefits

From a day-to-day service perspective, it will allow all duly authorised officers to speak with dog owners to address dog off lead and dog fouling related incidents as they happen, and have the appropriate powers to address this behaviour in line with the councils agreed enforcement concordat

Conclusion

The introduction of “dogs on leads” and “dog fouling” conditions is a necessary and justifiable addition to the PSPO and will enable enforcement of responsible dog ownership within the urban park. and prevent dogs being a potential risk to other site users.

The addition of both requirements is recommended to enable we can provide safe parks and open spaces and prevent dogs being a potential risk to other site users


Mr M Berry
Env Health Team Manager (Public Nuisance, Animal Welfare, Pest Control & Animal Health)

My ref: PSPO 2026 Consultation – STC
Your ref: Homelessness & Housing Consultation –
PSPO 2026 STC

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26th November 2025

FAO Adam Bateman
Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

By Email:
Adam.bateman@stockton.gov.uk

Dear Adam,

Consultation Response – PSPO 2026 Stockton Town Centre

Thankyou for taking the time to consult the homeless service on this draft PSPO. We fully support all the proposals in the draft Stockton PSPO, especially in relation to “Part 3: Begging,” as our frontline staff often observe beggars presenting to the residents of Stockton, that they are “homeless” when they actually aren’t, and my service has housed them. Our staff note that begging continues to be a persistent issue in and around Stockton Town Centre, especially along the High Street and outside major retailers like Lidl and Cooplads. I also note that issues relating to street drinking, loitering whilst being drunk & disorderly or whilst taking drugs, is a persistent and serious issue, which I’m aware the public call the enforcement service about frequently. I’m especially aware of issues surrounding clusters of tents being linked to drug use & supply in *Trinity Gardens*, causing anti-social behaviour (ASB) for the nearby residents.

Another key comment I want to make about the proposed Stockton Town Centre PSPO relates to “Part 7,” specifically the bit about tents and temporary structures. I totally appreciate that the clusters of tents observed this year in places like *Trinity Gardens*, attracted significant ASB and criminality, so I understand why this has been included, however, I think it should be made really clear that this condition isn’t just a punitive enforcement tool. Moreover, enforcement staff tasked with enforcing the Order should employ ‘joint-visits’ with my frontline homeless outreach officers in relation to “Part 7” of the draft. In doing this, we can utilise the condition in a supportive manner, whilst preventing ASB and crime. During these visits, we could encourage people to engage with support & recovery services, and ourselves, to get them housed, if the driver for the breach of PSPO, is because that person is street homeless for instance. I think it’s important that before we look at enforcement and court proceedings, we clearly document what support has been offered beforehand and any actions taken. Having raised this argument in person during the consultation over the draft on 20/11/2025, I am confident any fears of mine can be allayed, and consequently, I give my full support to the draft Order, and look forward to playing a part in the accompanying implementation phase, to actualise my above points.

In conclusion, the activities of street drinking, begging, loitering and causing ASB, ASB driving of vehicles like e-bikes and off-road bikes – which I'm aware were linked to drug use & supply occurring within encampments (clusters of tents) in *Trinity Gardens* in the Summer – all take place in Stockton Town Centre. I'm also aware that such activities cause great concern for residents of the Borough, and have been long standing matters.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Lathan; Service Lead Homelessness, Lettings & Nom, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

My ref: PSPO 2026 Consultation – STC
Your ref: Licensing Consultation – PSPO 2026 STC

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18th November 2025

FAO Adam Bateman
Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

By Email:
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Dear Adam,

Consultation Response – PSPO 2026 Stockton Town Centre

The licensing team at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) support the proposal to prohibit the consumption of alcohol within the PSPO area, as the proposal replicates the licensing objectives of:

- the prevention of crime and disorder,
- public safety,
- prevention of public nuisance, and;
- protection of children from harm.

The proposal also supports the ongoing collaboration between SBC Licensing, SBC Community Safety, and Cleveland Police, and ensures a joined-up approach to reducing alcohol-related harm to individuals and the wider community.

For clarity, alcohol prohibitions under a PSPO do not apply to alcohol authorised by a premises licence or temporary event notification and orders are not designed to interfere with the licence conditions. However, consuming alcohol beyond the legal boundary or outside the days/times of the authorisation would mean that the order and associated powers apply.

This allows local authorities to support business and promote community events while still using a PSPO to tackle the problems of anti-social drinking.

The licensing authority also expects licensed premises which operate in areas where a PSPO has been implemented to have measures in place to ensure their customers do not contribute to activities which have or may have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

Yours faithfully,
Leanne Maloney-Kelly; Team Leader – Licensing, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

My ref: PSPO 2026 Consultation – STC
Your ref: Selective Licensing Consultation – PSPO
2026 STC

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27th November 2025

FAO Adam Bateman
Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

By Email:
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Dear Adam,

Consultation Response – PSPO 2026 Stockton Town Centre

First of all, thanks for consulting with myself and my staff on the above matter. I can confirm that I was consulted on the proposals on 25/11/25, and that, on behalf of the Selective Licensing team at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC), I support all the proposals in the draft PSPO.

The proposals to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) caused by street drinking, begging, loitering & intimidating/threatening behaviour, ASB vehicular use, unauthorised encampments, and urinating/defecating, are especially relevant right now, as it's clear that all these activities occur in the town, and are having a detrimental impact on the locality. To my mind, these prohibitions and the well-intentioned draft, replicate the core principles of the Selective Licensing (SL) Scheme.

The SL scheme operates in 'Central Stockton,' with many of our landlords and tenants visiting/being active in the proposed PSPO zone. Note though, that the SL scheme does not overlap into that area, we just border it.

The reason why SL was introduced in Central Stockton was because SBC was satisfied that the area had at least one of the following issues:

- low [housing] demand,
- significant or persistent problems caused by anti-social behaviour,
- poor housing condition,
- significant occupation of properties by migrants,
- high levels of deprivation, and;
- high levels of crime.

The guiding principle of SL is therefore to help the multi-agency response to addressing such issues. We do this alongside partners such as SBC Community Safety – who drafted the proposals, and who we work closely with across the Borough – and Cleveland Police. I believe the

proposals replicate our work to address the core matters of: (i) 'significant or persistent problems caused by anti-social behaviour' and (ii) 'high levels of crime.'

With regards to Operation Shield (a multi-agency safety initiative in Stockton Town Centre), our officers work closely with SBC Community Safety and Cleveland Police on this, conducting property inspections and visual audits in the SL area, which literally borders the PSPO zone, most notably along the boundary of *Trinity Gardens*. The SL area does overlap the Op. Shield operational area of targeted activity though. And for this reason, my staff operate in Stockton Town Centre frequently; every week, etc..

The team have reported back to me, and also expressed verbally during the consultation, that they continue to observe street drinking, begging, persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol congregating in large groups shouting, swearing, and being intimidating, etc., on most occasions in the town centre. They state that the activity does cause them concern for their own safety, but also report back that the people we work with under the scheme, report it also. Moreover, I believe the well-intentioned draft proposals which I have seen, seek to combat these long-standing issues, which our residents – the people my staff talk to every day as part of SL – want the Council to address decisively.

I also fully support conditions to restrict the driving of vehicles in a manner which causes ASB, but during the consultation, I did raise, from the perspective of a concerned Stockton resident, the argument to include bicycles in there too. Bicycles riding furiously, narrowly missing people at speed, in a busy town centre, is a genuine problem I see frequently when I'm in town, and I'd like there to be consideration over that also. I also suggested during the in-person consultation, a great opportunity for SL and SBC Community Safety to further collaborate on Op. Shield. I suggest that those who are identified via 'Part 10' of the draft PSPO, as being in breach of the PSPO, are referred to SL, where appropriate. The SL team can look at ASB interventions unto perpetrators, even if they don't perpetrate in the SL area (as long as they live in an SL covered property). There may be potential successes here, by utilising our housing/accommodation angle, to apply pressure, diversionary schemes or interventions, on PSPO offenders which SBC Community Safety identify. I trust that this suggestion will be included in any accompanying implementation/strategy document. And finally, I want to note my only concern, relating to the direction to leave (DtL)/dispersal parts of the draft Order. While I acknowledge (and support) the emphasis on protecting the town centre through the imposition of immediate remedies unto ASB offenders, such as the issuing of DtLs, I just want to note my concern that this may inadvertently move offenders into residential areas just outside the PSPO zone, and consequently, into the SL scheme area. To mitigate against this, and any adverse impacts associated, the team and I will, in the run up & just after implementation, do some intense work with those clients in the scheme, on the periphery of the PSPO zone. This work will focus on target hardening our service users.

In conclusion, the proposed draft Order supports the ongoing collaboration between SBC Selective Licensing, SBC Community Safety, and Cleveland Police, among other Op. Shield partners, and ensures a joined-up approach to reducing ASB and criminality in the town centre environment.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Dunwell; Team Leader – Selective Licensing, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

My ref: JJO/PSPO26/STC
Your ref: PSPO 2026 STC

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11 November 2025

FAO Adam Bateman
Problem Solving & Partnerships Officer
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

By Email:
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Dear Adam,

Consultation Response – PSPO 2026 Stockton Town Centre

I am employed by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as the Trading Standards Manager, a position I have held since April 2017. Given my position, I can confirm that the Trading Standards Section is supportive of the updated PSPO proposed for the Stockton Town Centre area.

The new proposed PSPO supports the broad principles and objectives of the Trading Standards Service in its desire to protect residents and businesses, to create a safe and welcoming environment and to improve public safety. The PSPO will also have a positive impact on the experience of my officers, in terms of making them feel safer and more secure when working within Stockton Town Centre.

It is clear to me that the activities prohibited by the PSPO have taken place in the past and, without intervention, are likely to continue and persist, and have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality. In my opinion, this justifies the restrictions being imposed.

Yours faithfully,



Jimmy Jones
Trading Standards Manager

My ref: PSPO STC 2026 Consultation
Your ref: Regen PSPO STC 2026 Consultation

Dunedin House
Columbia Drive
Thornaby
Stockton-on-Tees
TS17 6BJ

Date: 05/12/2025

Dear Adam

I provide this representation as the Town Centre Manager for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, with responsibility for the operation of the outdoor general market on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. I also have responsibility to ensure our town centre is clean, tidy and welcoming to all who visit.

The town centre has benefited from high-quality public realm improvements including pedestrianised areas, modern street furniture, and a central water fountain that serves as a focal point for visitors. Enhanced lighting has improved alleyways, and dedicated spaces now accommodate events, markets, and cultural activities.

In addition, the Stockton Waterfront scheme is transforming the area into an urban park that reconnects the High Street with the River Tees. This flagship project, part of the Council's 25-year regeneration plan, aims to deliver vibrant mixed-use spaces, boost footfall, and support local businesses through play areas, gardens, flexible event spaces, and food trading opportunities.

To protect these investments, a stronger PSPO is essential. It will help maintain safe, welcoming spaces that encourage public confidence and attract visitors. The PSPO also underpins efforts to secure private-sector investment in retail, hospitality, residential, and leisure developments, ensuring the Town Centre remains an attractive destination for businesses and the community.

Securing private-sector investment and additional funding remains a challenge. Implementing a robust and enhanced Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will be instrumental in strengthening investor confidence and supporting productive discussions with key stakeholders.

With this in mind, I have firsthand experience of dealing with and understanding the impact that anti-social behaviour (ASB) has on our town and markets, and the detrimental impact that it has on the wider perception of our town centre. Because of the negativity and poor perception of Stockton town centre, I dedicated my degree into how we can change people's perception through strong collaboration and communication.

As part of my role, I chair several group meetings which include:

- Town Centre Stakeholder Group
- Town Centre Operational Coordination Group
- Town Centre Regulatory Group
- Young Persons Focus Group
- Town Centre Animation and Activities Group

I also attend other group meetings specific to the town centre which include:

- Operation Shield Strategic Group
- Event Programme Group
- Wellington Square Retailers Meeting

At these meetings, ASB is a standing agenda item, and discussions are focused on how stakeholders can work together collaboratively to look at intervention and prevention measures to help address this issue. This includes accessing support for people with substance issues who cause problems in our town, as well as looking at how reporting can be improved to deter those causing issues in our town centre.

There is an impact on staff who regularly experience ASB. Many of our staff, including me personally, have either been threatened by local people under the influence of alcohol/substances or have been approached by beggars asking for money. Several members of the town centre cleansing team have had issues with intimidating behaviour, especially on early morning, which creates issues with lone working as staff don't always feel safe in the town.

The current PSPO hasn't had the desired impact and through my experience and what I have witnessed personally, I strongly believe we need a stronger version to really be able to manage the issues I have listed below. The biggest issue and challenge I witness is having the appropriate powers as an organisation to deal with the issues and challenges we face daily, which is creating negativity and giving Stockton a poor reputation locally.

The below examples set out my experience of working in Stockton and why we need a stronger PSPO that gives our Enforcement officers and the Police, the powers to deter and remove those who cause problems in Stockton Town Centre.

1. I have regularly observed issues that stem from alcohol consumption, and this occurs from as early as 6am in the town centre, particularly around the markets and the fountain. There have been many occasions where large groups of people have been drinking around the fountain area, with high strength alcoholic drink containers and these people can be loud, rude and often swear a lot, fight with each other and through engagement and discussion with traders, businesses and the public, I have been made aware that they feel intimidated. I have witnessed people openly urinating around the fountain area and in business doorways, such as Furniture Express, Costa Coffee and surrounding alleyways, which means that I have to get our town centre cleansing operatives to clean these areas regularly.

There are also issues caused with littering and the town centre cleansing team are regularly having to remove rubbish from the flower beds at the fountain, which are full of discarded alcohol tins and bottles. There is the perception that this drinking, shouting, swearing and other alcohol related ASB is poor, and this undoubtedly stops people from visiting town. I regularly report these issues through the Security and Surveillance Centre with my calls being logged.

2. I witness occurrences of begging regularly in Stockton Town Centre with varying levels of aggressiveness. This begging often takes place in high profile central areas such as outside Cooplands, F. Hinds Jewellers and Halifax. I have had complaints directed to me personally from staff from these businesses, and I signpost them to our security and surveillance team as well as reporting myself. Some of the beggars are aggressive and are intimidating to customers of these businesses and to general passersby. I have personally witnessed an elderly lady crying after being targeted by a beggar walking past Cooplands who had went onto a market stall for help by one of the traders as she was traumatised.

I often see and report begging on the market early in the morning which I report. Again, these can vary in how aggressive a person can be. I have personally witnessed two males who are aggressive and walk into market catering gazebos and target elderly people. This is very

off-putting from customers and market traders and does lead to people stopping from visiting the markets.

3. Loitering is an issue in Stockton Town Centre and something that I feel really needs tackling. There are many areas where I see loitering which can range from 2 or 3 people to groups of 15. I have witnessed this and report this regularly. The fountain area is probably the most high-profile area where groups of people loiter. They may not be drinking on view, with drinks often concealed. However, they can be loud, rude, aggressive, swear a lot. I have witnessed and reported people consume drugs in broad daylight. They have done this in front of watching public including children and elderly people. Again, this is something I have witnessed and reported. This regularly gets promoted negatively on local social media channels and may stop people from visiting our Town Centre. Other locations are the doorways of Halifax, former Shoe Zone, The George Pub and the southern Shambles entrance. This can be extremely intimidating to people who work or run businesses in Stockton. I have witnessed and reported this on many occasions and observed shouting, swearing, fighting, spitting, urinating, people having sex in public, openly taking drugs and threatening passersby. Other issues with groups loitering comes on public realm seating and benches. I have witnessed and reported issues on benches outside The George Pub, Betfred and William Hill. This would involve large groups, loitering around the benches and causing ASB, as reported above. I have been involved in the removal of all three benches because the issues had become so bad and constant. Having a lasting and negative impact on those who have businesses or work in these locations.
4. The use of anti-social vehicles is most certainly on the rise, and I witness and report this when I see it. There have been incidents around the fountain where vehicles have churned up the grass areas. Motorbikes regularly go through the High Street and market on a Saturday, speeding and causing big safety concerns. Other more minor issues would see people riding bikes through the town centre and packed market aisles. This can lead to safety concerns from the public and market traders and actually lead to a large brawl one Wednesday on the market which was shared widely on social media and had a big detrimental impact on our town centre.
5. Urinating in the street is a big issue in Stockton and one which costs the authority money in terms of the cleaning resource it takes to keep on top of the issues. The alley from High Street to Green Dragon Yard, Finkle Street near Remember Me Tea Rooms, Ship in Yard and the area between the Arc and former Storytellers bar are affected by urinating extremely bad. We must jet wash and sanitise these areas at least once a week, sometimes two or three times.

The SBC cleansing staff are tasked with cleaning and sanitising these areas with specialised anti-urine detergent. I have also had to paint the walls with anti-urine splash paint to try and curb the issues, to no avail. I have regular complaints sent by the Arc manager, with people openly urinating in front of Arc customers and it really has a negative impact from them. I have personally witnessed and reported people urinating/defecating around the fountain, fountain flower beds, Costa coffee doorway, Furniture Express doorway, in several bus stops and to the rear of Wellington Square. This is done in public and reported. This also has a huge negative impact, especially if you witness it or have to put up with the repugnant smell when visiting locations or going to work.

Our town centre cleansing staff have had to clean up human excrement from fountain flower beds, shop frontages, bus stops on many occasions the alleyways off the High Street and from areas where people have erected tents and structures.

6. There are issues that we have faced and had to deal with on many occasions with people sleeping rough in doorways, putting tents out or similar type structures. This is something all

our Town centre team would report regularly, and we would do this to security and surveillance and homeless teams, to get the support out there in the first instance to those who need it. The big issues that we face is the discarded needles and drug paraphernalia that usually comes when tents or structures are put up. There are also other litter and detritus left around the areas and the people use the area as a toilet and we have had lots of reported instances of urinating and defecating in public areas. Locations that I have reported would be, Veterans at Ease shop, The Goerge pub, Gilly's Amusements, Winpenny House, North end Costa Coffee, Furniture Express, Parish Gardens, under the bridge on Calverts Lane, steps leading to Flats at end of Finkle Street and the bushes on Riverside, opposite Riverside lounge. This is a burden on resources because we must continuously clean the areas up, bring in bin wagons or other cleansing vehicles to remove and dispose of tents and structures as well as all the other waste that's left behind.

7. Dogs fouling is also an issue in Town. I regularly note dog fouling and report to the town centre cleansing operatives who must go and clean this up. This is an issue with traders having to set up around areas where dogs have fouled but it also creates that negative perception when people see it before we get to clean it up.
8. An issue I see and report a lot, is continuous problems caused by the same people, on a particular day who are causing ASB through consumption of alcohol and/or under the influence of drugs. I report a person or group causing problems, Enforcement would be tasked with a job, they move them on, but they would go to another place, near to where they were moved. I would then report again, or another person or business, the Arc for example, would have to report the issue, the Enforcement would then have to go and moved the person or group on again and it just causes problems. Locations would be the fountain area, the Arc, the wall of car park opposite the Arc, the flower beds opposite the arc, the benches on Calverts Lane, the front of Shambles and the Parish Gardens. This is not only a good look for the Town, does not help with the perception of the town, but is a drain on resources and deflating for those that must deal with the issues and impacts on motivation. Criticism on local social media outlets only fan the flames from something that is not currently within our control, and I believe that having an instruction to leave the PSPO area would help massively with this.

Yours faithfully,

the team at Regeneration & Inclusive Growth; Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Stockton Town Centre PSPO 2026-2029 Consultation: Letter of Support

Introduction

As Centre Manager of Wellington Square Shopping Centre, Stockton Town Centre, I write here to express my full support for the proposed Stockton Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2026, which seeks to address the types of persistent anti-social behaviour (ASB) affecting the safety, cleanliness, and overall experience of our town centre, including at my shopping mall. I can confirm that, through our partnership work with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's (SBC) *Operation Shield* community safety initiative, I was approached in November 2025 by SBC Community Safety, to consult on the draft proposals of a new order, as a representative of the land to which the order would apply too (e.g. Wellington Sq.), the management company of such land, namely Knight Frank Promise, and of the staff of Wellington Square, including those who maintain the operational integrity of the site, and of the businesses who I call tenants.

For many years now, our shopping centre has been significantly and negatively impacted by many of the behaviours prohibited in the proposed draft order. These issues not only affect our staff and tenants, but also deter customers and damage the reputation of Stockton Town Centre, as a safe and welcoming place to visit. I therefore welcome the introduction of this PSPO, and offer the below comments in support of each part. I am conscious of the legality and restrictiveness of PSPOs, having been involved – albeit in a lesser capacity – in the previous order, covering the area. I'm aware that the 2023 order looks to curtail (i) street drinking when the act is associated with (other elements of) ASB, and (ii) aggressive begging. I am aware that the thresholds of these acts are fairly high in comparison with other PSPOs found in the shopping/commercial areas of other town and city centres across the country. I absolutely understand and support the need to lower such thresholds this time around, and to utilise a PSPO as effectively as legislation allows for. Moreover, I'm fully aware, again from past knowledge, that to justify the restrictions of this strengthened proposed order, the Council – and to an extent, those like myself who support such strengthening – must be able to evidence that such behaviours have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the locality, and that such activities have been persistent and are unreasonable. Consequently, in supporting the draft order, I am definitively stating that such activities endorsed in this letter pass such legal tests from my perspective.

On Part 2: Alcohol Consumption

Street drinking is a regular issue in Wellington Sq., outside our entrances – such as at the fountain area, Dovecot Street, on the Café Nero chairs etc. – and in surrounding public spaces in Stockton Town Centre. I note though, that we have seen an improvement in street drinking

since the Council introduced the *Reducing the Strength (RTS) Scheme* in Autumn '25, but we still experience this very longstanding issue, albeit at a reduced rate, most days, every week. Indeed, that's as much a reason to support the order in itself, so that the Council may employ any and all methods (e.g. RTS and PSPO) to curb this intimidating activity. In my experience, street drinking often leads to threatening or aggressive behaviour, littering, and a disruption to trade; it puts our customers off from shopping here if they know it's plagued with street drinkers shouting and swearing, being intimidating. Families with children and the elderly especially don't need to see that, and I am sure it puts them off shopping here. I know from my visits with SCB Licensing and SBC Community Safety whilst promoting the RTS Scheme, that traders and shop staff feel the same way – there is definitely a serious concern that congregations of street drinkers, something Wellington Sq. sees aplenty, puts off well mannered & law-abiding customers, causing there to be detrimental impact on business.

Moreover, a clear prohibition, with powers to confiscate alcohol, will help reduce these incidents and support a safer environment for shoppers and staff. One of my previous concerns was that the message on street drinking wasn't clear enough – I think the wording of the proposed draft resolves that completely.

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. In terms of logs where we have observed a person entering the site street drinking or in an obvious state of drunkenness, we calculate that this occurred 8 times a day on average, with a monthly total of 229 occurrences (for October alone). Of those occurrences, 29% also involved that person shoplifting on the mall.

On Part 3: Begging

Begging, despite the best efforts of our Wellington Sq. operational staff and guards, is still, sadly in 2025, a persistent problem frustrating our tenants. It is known to occur in the town centre outside *Cooplands*, which is near to our site entrance on Dovecot St., but also near and around cash machines. It can cause distress to customers and staff, particularly when it is persistent or aggressive, although, having said that – and notwithstanding the begging we see with people loitering on the mall walkway itself – I have recently been dealing with a repeat issue of a street drinker, who happens to busk and beg, sitting outside one of our tenants' establishments. This beggar, sitting on the floor, near enough every day or most days every week, blocks a key window of establishment, with a window advertisement, causing the shop staff harassment, alarm, and distress, not to mention the business case of the person blocking that prime advertisement spot. At a time when High Streets are struggling with all sorts of factors, we collectively need to be doing everything we can to support and shield them from the adverse impacts of ASB and criminality. Furthermore, the strengthened and simplified wording in this order, compared to the higher threshold (of begging) in the previous version, makes it easier for enforcement officers to intervene, and ensures that all forms of begging that cause alarm are addressed.

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. In terms of logs where we have observed a person entering the site – where it's my staff's belief – that they are sitting on the mall, or at a car park pay station, with the sole intention of asking people for money or people roaming the centre approaching people with the sole intention of asking customers for money, we calculate a daily average of 3 occurrences of this, with 19 instances of people sitting on the mall & begging, and 79 instances of them roaming & begging (total begging incidents for October 2025 are therefore: 98) – 8 of

those were deemed by my staff to be instances of 'aggressive begging.' This doesn't include the beggar on Dovecot St., as that isn't on-site.

On Part 4: ASB-Related Loitering

Loitering in doorways has been a particularly difficult issue in Stockton Town Centre this year – one nearby example on the High Street was frequently raised in online negative commentary on the 'decline of the High Street,' with people refusing to move from obstructing a commercial premises' doorway, refusing support, help, housing, etc., but lying down drinking, smoking, with bottles of suspected urine alongside them – indeed, what powers do our enforcement colleagues have to deal with that right now? It's tough – so I can see why this condition has been included in the draft proposal. Elsewhere, on the mall itself, of course we have people loitering, being intoxicated, swearing, being suspicious, planning shop thefts, following people, making staff feel uncomfortable, etc.. These acts create an unwelcoming and unsafe atmosphere. This condition will be vital in helping us maintain safe and accessible entry points to our premises too, an issue which I have personally seen crop up regularly, if not front of house, then at the back, more sensitive areas of the site (hidden from natural surveillance and public view, etc.).

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. This is a very difficult condition to statistically quantify, given the way our staff record incidents – I know this activity happens multiple times daily, as I detail above, but in terms of statistical support of that claim, having looked through the book, and highlighted instances of people loitering in the car park, service areas – where it's clear they are trying to avoid CCTV – I can only say that the daily average for this is 0.7 occurrences, with monthly instances being at 23. Again though, the way we record incidents plays a part in this data.

On Part 5: Anti-Social Use of Vehicles

Undoubtedly, over the past couple of years, we have seen a rise in the anti-social use of e-scooters and bikes in pedestrian areas, including inside the shopping centre itself. This behaviour poses a serious safety risk and undermines the family-friendly environment we strive to maintain. Enforcement powers under this condition are essential, especially if you look at e-bikes and e-scooters. At the moment, we speak over the tannoy and politely ask people to dismount, but it's hard to enforce that ask, so it would be very welcome if our enforcement and police colleagues could be held accountable in the enforcement of such a health & safety issue. It would help us maintain safety and standards on the mall, and elevate a stronger message on the matter, especially when this is quite topical, as we have had some political and council interest on it, with public complaints, both recorded and unrecorded (online) about it too.

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. In terms of logs where we have observed anybody entering site on an e-scooter, e-bike, scooter or motorbike, etc., that we have dealt with or have asked to dismount & push their vehicle, we have the below figures (accounting for October 2025 only):

- Scooter: 34 Occasions
- E-scooter: 155 occasions
- E-bikes: 124 occasions
- Motorbike: 2 Occasions

- Monthly total: 315 Occasions

On Part 6: Urinating and Defecating in the Street

Unfortunately, defecating & urinating has occurred in service areas and alleyways adjacent to the centre. It is unhygienic, distressing for staff, and costly to clean. Urinating in the nighttime economy context is also a big problem right now – our CCTV staff are regularly having to monitor evening trespassers – often drunk people on a night out – using our doorways on the main mall walkaway itself, to urinate, when they think no one's looking. Including this behaviour in the PSPO gives us a stronger basis to report and address it, and hold the Council accountable to combat this issue.

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. In terms of logs where we have observed anybody urinating or defecating on our relatively small site, we recorded the below level of occurrences for the month of October 2025 alone:

- Daily average: 0.4 occasions
- Urinating: 12 occasions
- Defecating: 1 occasion
- Monthly total: 13 occasions
- Where staff believed & noted that the offender was under the influence of drink or drugs at the time: 31% of occurrences

On Part 7: Tents etc.

We have experienced unauthorised encampments (by use of tents) in the past, and I do accept that this sometimes links to ASB and substance misuse, especially where the Council have tried and failed to get the people themselves to cooperate with housing or recovery support, etc.. More broadly though, I'm aware that this condition will help prevent the build-up of such structures and support a proactive approach to managing public spaces, especially in parks like the planned waterfront development, or the historic *Trinity Gardens*, which I know has suffered from this activity greatly this year. Note that I have checked the daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025 in relation to this activity, and found no such incidents for that month impacting upon us.

On Parts 8 & 9: Dog Control

Loose dogs/dogs off leads and dog fouling have been reported in and around the mall on occasion over the years. Concerning to me though recently, is that I'm aware of drunk street drinkers being in charge of dogs off leads too – should things go wrong between a member of the public and an out of control dog on the mall, we'd be looking at ways we could have proactively prevented that; PSPOs are such ways I believe. Although these aren't issues we see all the time at Wellington Sq., but including such provisions will help ensure responsible pet ownership and improve cleanliness and safety for visitors, which we know is a genuine concern for other parties who have, or I'm sure will be, consulted with, on this draft order.

To evidence our support of this condition I have looked back through our daily occurrence book for the month of October 2025. In terms of logs where we have observed anybody entering site with a dog off lead/out of control, we have compiled the below statistics:

- Monthly total (October 2025 only): 6 occasions

On Part 10: Requirement to Provide Identity in cases of a breach to PSPO

Whilst not a condition I can pass much professional comment about, I do accept this condition appears to be a more modern and strong mechanism for ensuring effective enforcement, and I accept that conditions like this are used in other commercial areas where PSPOs are active nationally. I support this requirement being included as it will allow officers to identify repeat offenders and supports the escalation of enforcement where necessary. Indeed, a common criticism of the older order is that people didn't feel enough enforcement action was taken – so if this helps with that, then of course I support it.

On Part 11: Direction to Leave

This power is particularly important for managing individuals who are intoxicated or causing a disruption in town. I have shoplifters in mind. If we have SBC Enforcement on the mall but not police, and police are too busy elsewhere, we still need enforcement to feel empowered to deter shoplifting, and use the powers granted to them by legislation, such as PSPOs. Indeed, I can see how this particular power could be used by officers on the mall to reactively deal with an issue, or proactively deal with a street drinker. In proactive cases you could envisage an officer dispersing a person from the mall, and then monitoring compliance via patrols and CCTV, thus helping to deter and prevent any further shoplifting offences that day for instance – I can really see utility in that. Finally, I think it will allow for swift action to be taken, to de-escalate situations and protect the public, especially during busy trading hours.

Conclusion

In summary, the proposed 2026 PSPO for Stockton Town Centre appears to me, to be a modern, innovative, and effective tool for improving safety, cleanliness, and public confidence in Stockton Town Centre. I can see ways in which the order, its prohibitions, and importantly, its requirements, will support business, protect staff/customers, and help restore pride in our shared public spaces. I fully endorse its implementation and look forward to working with the Council, Cleveland Police, and other agencies, as a shared and valued member of the Operation Shield partnership, to ensure its success.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Boxall

Centre Manager; Knight Frank Promise

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Dear Adam

RE: Public Spaces Protection Order (No.2) 2026 – Stockton Town Centre

Thank you for taking the time to consult with me regarding the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Stockton Town Centre.

Events play a major part in the role of activating Stockton Town Centre, providing high quality cultural engagement and experiences whilst enhancing and supporting the Town Centre offer.

The Council's Events Team works very closely with relevant stakeholders including, licensing, community safety and Cleveland Police, in the planning of events and through initiatives such as Operation Shield, to ensure that our event spaces are a safe environment for visitors.

There are, however, several recurring anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues which effect the safe delivery of events. These tend not to be directly related to the event itself but can consume the event specific resources, primarily medical and security staff, which reduces the planned welfare and safety resources for the event.

Examples of such issues include.

- The regular use of electric scooters which travel at great pace through the event space. These vehicles have no or very little sound, and therefore significantly increase the risk of collision with members of the public in densely populated areas.
- Attending to medical issues which are alcohol/substance misuse. At a recent event, a medical response vehicle was lost from the event resource for over 1 hour due to a recorded 'intoxicated male' who required hospital treatment and was taken to the nearest Hospital A&E.
- Significant resource having to be deployed each event day to areas such as Parish Gardens and Trinity Gardens/Church to sweep the area of drug paraphernalia, tents, and potential weapons.
- There have been instances, whereby small temporary structures such as tents have been either attached to event infrastructure, such as fencing, which cause a risk to the stability of the fencing, or pegs have penetrated the ground in areas which the Council have ground scanning protocols in place to avoid underground utility services.

The proposed PSPO (all parts) will support improve the safety of the delivery and experience of events in the Town Centre and therefore will be a positive approach.

With regards to 'Part 2: Prohibition in relation to alcohol consumption' of the order, there are circumstances where an event includes the sale and consumption of alcohol. When this occurs, it is delivered in accordance with the Council's Premises License (Number: 113946) and provided within a controlled area within the footprint of the event space. The delivery and management of controlled area is agreed as part of the planning process with local authority Licensing and Community Safety colleagues. Therefore, it is my view that the arrangements in place would class an 'exemption' in line with the proposed PSPO.

If you have any further questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact me on 01642 526 819.

Yours faithfully,



Chris Strong
Event Development and Production Manager