

MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER PROPOSAL CONSULTATION SUMMARY MAY 2025

1 Consultation Headlines:

The consultation ran from 9am, Tuesday the 1st April 2025 and closed at 12 noon on Tuesday 13th May 2025. The consultation was based on-line; however, methods were advertised allowing members of public to complete the survey over the phone or request a paper copy. This was advertised via social media campaigns via CEC and Police networks. Information (including electronic documents advertising the consultation with QR codes and methods of contact) were sent to the following groups/stakeholders:

- Environment and Communities Committee Chair
- Macclesfield Library, Town Hall and Police Station (for display in reception areas)
- Laminated A4 notices in and around Macclesfield Town Centre near to original signage with links to the consultation and contact information.
- MP Tim Roca's Office
- Cheshire Constabulary's PCC Office
- Cheshire Constabulary's Chief Constables Office
- Members of the Cheshire East Multi-Agency Action Group (MAAG), including, Cheshire Fire Service, Registered Providers and Local Policing Units
- Macclesfield Pub Watch Chair (for circulation to its members)
- Ward Members within the impacted area
- Macclesfield Town Council

From our on-line consultation and webpages, links were supplied to both our current order, the proposed new order and our "notice to extend". The consultation was simplified, asking respondents to state how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the council's intentions to extend, along with a free text box to allow them to make any further additional comments about the council's proposals.

Aside from this, respondents had optional questions including who they were responding as (resident, business, ward member, employee etc), the geographical area they lived with and age group.

52 responses were received, which was down on the 97 responses received during the consultation for the original order in 2022. This is expected as response rates for extensions/renewal of orders in their current form often do not encourage the same level of responses as new orders. All 52 respondents answered all questions relating to the PSPO.

Overall, a high percentage of the respondents either agree or strongly agree with the proposal to extend the order in its current form (over 84%)

94% of the respondents were residents or part of a local business within or near to the area the PSPO will continue to cover if extended.

All of those that chose to supply their postcode, lived in either SK10 or SK11 area area so reflective of the area the order extension has been proposed within.

There is a good balance of Male/Female and age band respondents.

2 Survey results

Proposed extension of Macclesfield Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation May 2025

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the extension of the councils current Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO and the area it covers?			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		71.15%	37
2	Tend to agree		13.46%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree		1.92%	1
4	Tend to disagree		0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree		11.54%	6
6	Not sure/ Don't know		1.92%	1
			answered	52

2.1 Open ended comments – with CEC response

The below table sets out some of the questions asked and comments made by those completing the consultation along with a response. Some of the questions/comments were simpler to those from our last consultation in 2022 so answers to those have also been included in this table further down.

Frequent comments and questions from 2025 consultation	
Comment/suggestion/question	Response
Respondents felt that the current order has been a sufficient deterrent in the area and would like it to remain in place for those living, visiting and working in the area.	No response required.
Would the order be criminalising those that are street homeless?	<p>This question was also common when the original order was consulted on in 2022 the response remains the same: 2022 response: <i>The council have paid consideration to ensuring that the individuals the PSPO is proposed to tackle does not specifically target those that are street homeless. We consider all elements of a proposed PSPO and take time to make sure that thresholds are met, and alternatives have been considered and attempted before a proposal is made. Macclesfield is a good example of this, with the PSPO consideration being requested back in May 2021, the order has been a long time in the planning, with multiple partner agencies involved in the review of evidence to support the order. As part of this Police Colleagues and the Councils Homelessness relief team have been working together in the area on a regular basis, liaising with those adults that are within the town centre and subways sitting and drinking and have confirmed that the majority of individuals spoken to all have housing provision. The individuals choose to gather during the day and sit in areas to partake in drinking, leading to associated ASB. On the rare occasion that any are identified as street homeless our homelessness team have quickly picked the cases up to ensure provision is offered where applicable. The rest of the target group the order is set to tackle includes individuals or groups of individuals involved in similar behaviour whilst visiting the town to access its night-time/weekend economy.</i></p> <p>2025 response: To date, no individual has received a criminal sanction for being in breach of the Macclesfield Town Centre PSPO, whether this be via means of Fixed Penalty Notice, or prosecution in court. The order has delivered the expected main impact of which was to enable authorised officers to request alcohol is handed over. Alcohol confiscations have taken place without a requirement to criminalise any member of public in respect of breach of the PSPO. It is hoped that formal sanctions will remain low if this order is extended a further 3 years, however the powers would be there to take necessary action if required.</p>
If the order is extended, it requires more active policing.	Having a PSPO in place will not automatically increase the amount of police or council patrols that will be undertaken in the area. However, the order, if extended will continue to provide authorised officers additional powers to tackle the behaviour that they come across/or is reported at the earliest opportunity. Prior to our current PSPO, officers did not have the power to request from an adult over 18 years that alcohol is handed over to them, so could not act unless other criminal offences were

	<p>apparent. It is not a breach of the order to be in possession of alcohol, but a breach not to hand it over when instructed to do so. It is hoped that planned patrols of the area will increase during the summer months (2025) as part of the governments “safer towns” initiative of which Macclesfield Town Centre is part of. Aside from initiatives, patrols will be conducted where possible and in line with any increase in reports of ASB/Alcohol related nuisance.</p>
<p>More signage informing members of public about the order is required.</p>	<p>We currently have 6 x very large (1meter x 1meter), detailed signs placed on central points in and around the town centre, on our main carparks and hotspots. In addition to this we have 50 A4 signs in and around light columns and mounted on walls reminding members of public about the order. There are 2 x banners that as and when initiatives are underway will also be on display.</p> <p>There is no current intention to increase the amount of signage, however if there is a particular place within the restricted area that members of public feel signage is required, then this can be requested via our ASB Team via email: asbteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk who will review the request.</p>
<p>What evidence is there that the order has been “successful” already?</p>	<p>The Council will employ various methods to assess and review the impact of an order on the area it covers. Legally, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) must be reviewed every three years if the Council intends to extend or modify them.</p> <p>The review process includes public consultation, examining incidents and enforcement actions, observing changes in behaviour, and determining whether the behaviour addressed by the PSPO persists or would likely increase if the PSPO were removed.</p> <p>This public consultation is part of the review and the Council's plan to extend the order for another three years. The police have requested the extension and provided the Council with data on incidents before and after the PSPO's implementation, along with enforcement actions taken. These findings will be presented to the Environment and Communities Committee, where a decision will be made based on the Council's recommendations to extend the order.</p> <p>Once a decision is reached, the report, supporting evidence, and consultation results will be published on our website.</p>
<p>Can the order include the smoking of cannabis?</p>	<p>As this is already an illegal activity, police colleagues already have powers to deal with individuals smoking or in possession of cannabis so the council would not be looking to add this onto its PSPO.</p>
<p>Can other geographical areas be added to this order (nearby parks etc)</p>	<p>At present, the Council has only received a request from the police to extend the existing PSPO without any changes to its geographical coverage or the terms, restrictions, and requirements it includes.</p> <p>Any proposals to amend current orders or to extend those nearing expiry must be backed by evidence of relevant incidents, along with documentation of actions already taken to address the issue. These requests are submitted to the Council’s Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team through an agency referral process.</p>

Frequent comments and questions from 2022 consultation

Comment/Question	CEC Response
How will giving out fines to people that cannot afford to pay stop the behaviour?	In relation to the alcohol requirement on the PSPO, it is important to note that in most circumstances, there will not be any requirement to issue a FPN or proceed the matter to court as the order will not be breached unless the individual refuses to hand over the alcohol. The main aim is to prevent the behaviour before it requires further enforcement action. The council do not wish to deter people from using the towns seating areas and visiting the area to relax and enjoy the surroundings responsibly. However, in some circumstances whereby individuals refuse to hand over alcohol or are caught using the public area as a toilet provision it may be necessary to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or opt to take the matter straight to court for prosecution. For those issued with FPN's who fail to pay, then the matter will be progressed to our legal team for consideration for court action.
£100 FPN too much/£100 is not enough	The £100 FPN is the maximum amount that can be used for breach of Public Spaces Protection Order. This has been set in legislation and cannot be changed. The Council set the fine at its highest possible rate with no early payment discounts as they consider breach of PSPO a serious matter. Individuals struggling to pay their fine will be urged to contact the council as soon as possible to avoid, where possible court action.
What does “sealed container” of alcohol mean? Does that mean that I cannot carry alcohol in the zone I have purchased to take home?	No, it does not mean that anyone with a sealed container of alcohol will be asked to hand their alcohol over to an authorised officer. If the order is extended for a further 3 years, officers will not be in and around the town centre, checking bags and stopping people going about their normal everyday behaviour. Officers will only be approaching those that appear to be already drinking alcohol in the town centre, or where an incident has highlighted a group/person who might have bags/containers of unopened alcohol with them as well, especially groups of people sitting in the town centre on benches/walls, gathered in a group that appear to have been consuming alcohol already and further consumption of the alcohol they have with them might lead to public nuisance/incidents of disorder.
How will I know who an “authorised officer” is?	Currently, the only officers authorised to deal with breaches or requirements of PSPO's are Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, and the Councils Community Enforcement Officers. All of which will have full uniform on and have photo ID cards. The Councils Community Enforcement Officers will have Cheshire East Council ID cards displayed, with their authorisation on the back of their card. In relation to this order, in the main the council officers and police will be undertaking joint patrols. It is important to note that it is a criminal offence to refuse to give details to an authorised officer, or give false details, whether that be a police officer or an authorised council officer.
What about events in the town centre and licensed bars that have outdoor areas etc?	Part 4 of this order highlights the exemptions in relation to alcohol. The order does not apply to council-operated licensed premises when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol. Part 4 of this order also confirms exemption for events that have a temporary events license for this activity, or where permission has been granted under the highways act for the sale and consumption of alcohol in an outdoor area. There are other areas of legislation (such as licensing) that cover misuse of these

	<p>provisions should there be concerns with poor behaviour related to alcohol, licensed events or premises. The PSPO would not cover these.</p>
<p>The area in which the order will apply to is not big enough. What about displacement?</p>	<p>When considering PSPO's the Council work closely with partner agencies and key stakeholders to make sure decisions on requirements of the order and the area the order covers are proportionate and meet the thresholds set within the legislation. In this particular case, the proposed area the order will apply to has been set based on police incident information, of which evidenced incidents involving alcohol fuelled Anti-Social Behaviour. We appreciate that this may displace some of the activity, but other powers can be used to tackle individuals who persist in engaging in this behaviour whether it be within the PSPO area or not. Due to the level of incidents within the area outlined when the order was first made, and the impact the behaviour was having on visitors, businesses, and residents within the town centre it was considered a proportionate approach to consult on using additional powers to elevate some of the concerns that have been expressed at the earliest opportunity. We are unable to widen areas on a "just in case" basis as this does not fall in line with the purpose or scope of the legislation.</p>