



**Consultation Response:  
Consultation on proposed Public  
Spaces Protection Orders in Southampton**

**Response from Simon Hayes,  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**

**Consultation Questions:**

**Do you agree with the proposed orders restricting these activities?**  
Yes

**Do you agree with the proposed PSPO boundary for the City Centre?**  
Yes

**Do you agree with the proposed PSPO boundary for Portswood  
Broadway?**  
Yes

**Do you agree with the proposed PSPO boundary for Shirley High Street?**  
Yes

**Do you agree with the proposed PSPO boundary for Woolston High  
Street?**  
Yes

**Do you agree with the proposed PSPO boundary for Bitterne Precinct?**  
Yes

**Are there any impacts that could be caused by the introduction of the  
proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders that you think need to be  
considered?**  
None.

**Do you have any further comments on the proposed Public Spaces  
Protection Orders or locations.**

It is vital that the residents of Southampton are given the opportunity to have a say on what affects them in their local area. All residents who live and work within Southampton are entitled to a positive life experience.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2013 was designed to support local authorities in making communities safer. There is a difference between a genuine, vulnerable person begging as a means to get by, and someone who is a fraudster, and tricking the public out of their goodwill, and who are actually housed by the City.

The police are here to protect our communities, and those vulnerable people who need access to additional support and services. The PSPO should be used in conjunction with local support services, to enable the City to deal with problems that affect the public and local businesses. Police powers should only be used as a last resort once public education, outreach support and all other methods have been exhausted.

This is a community issue, requiring community action and support to resolve begging and street drinking within the named areas. It is not about forcing those vulnerable individuals off the street, but rather to highlight the problem locally of 'professional beggars' who are deceiving the public and local services. A community education campaign is key to spreading the message to visitors and those residing in the City.