

Proposed Prohibitions and Actions contained in Public Spaces Protection Order for Exeter City Centre Analysis 01/06/16

TOTAL NO OF SURVEYS: 1237

1. Do you agree with Proposal 1?

Proposal 1	Frequency
Yes	557
No	668

2. Do you agree with Proposal 2?

Proposal 2	Frequency
Yes	594
No	621

3. Do you agree with Proposal 3?

Proposal 3	Frequency
Yes	211
No	1,013

4. Do you agree with Proposal 4?

Proposal 4	Frequency
Yes	324
No	896

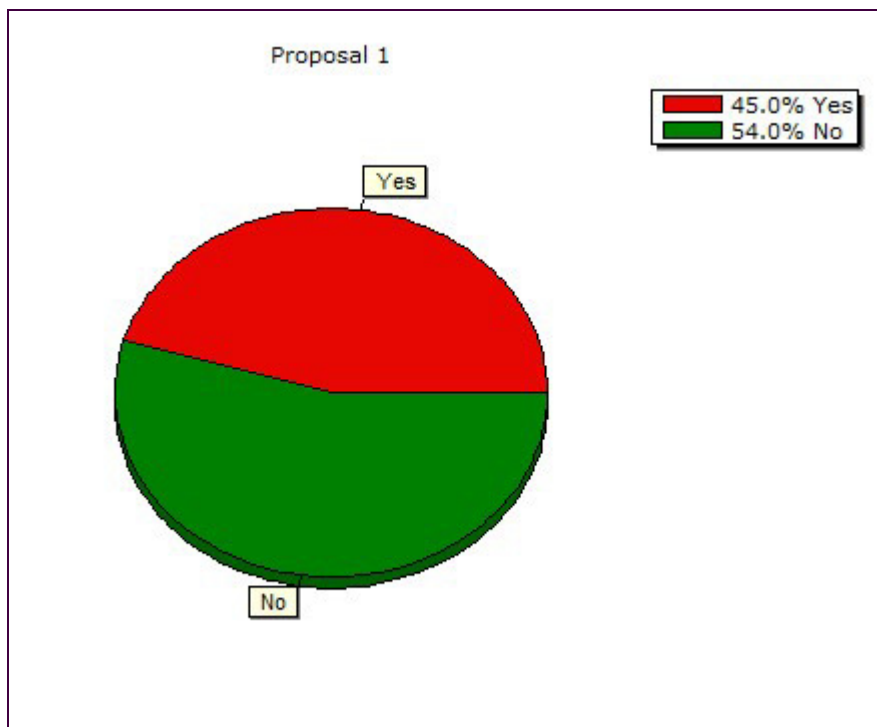
5.. Do you agree with Proposal 5?

Proposal 5	Frequency
Yes	594
No	629

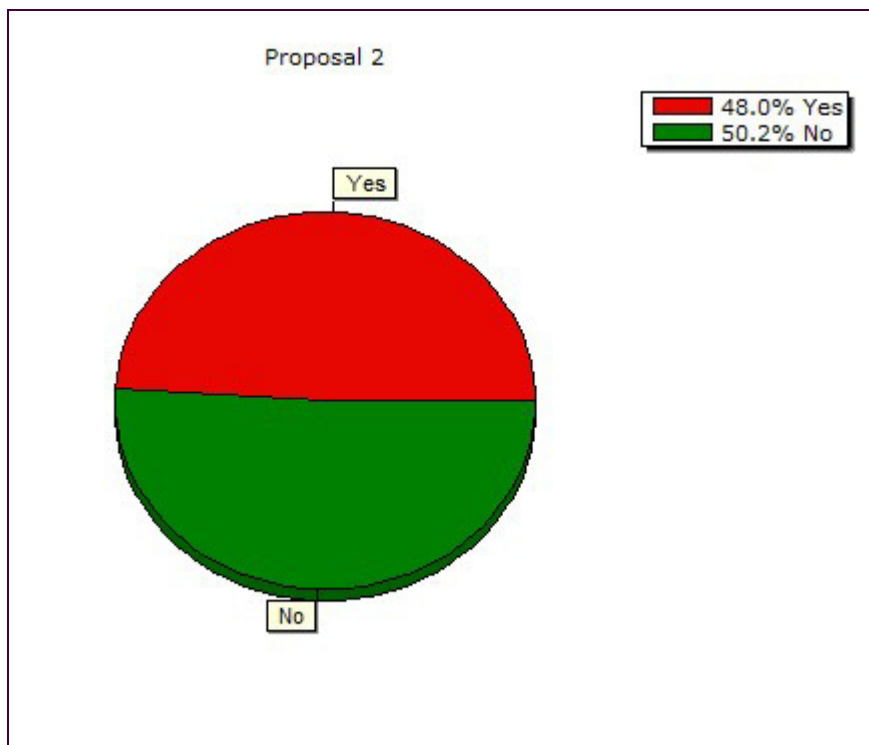
6. Do you agree with Proposal 6?

Proposal 6	Frequency
Yes	541
No	658

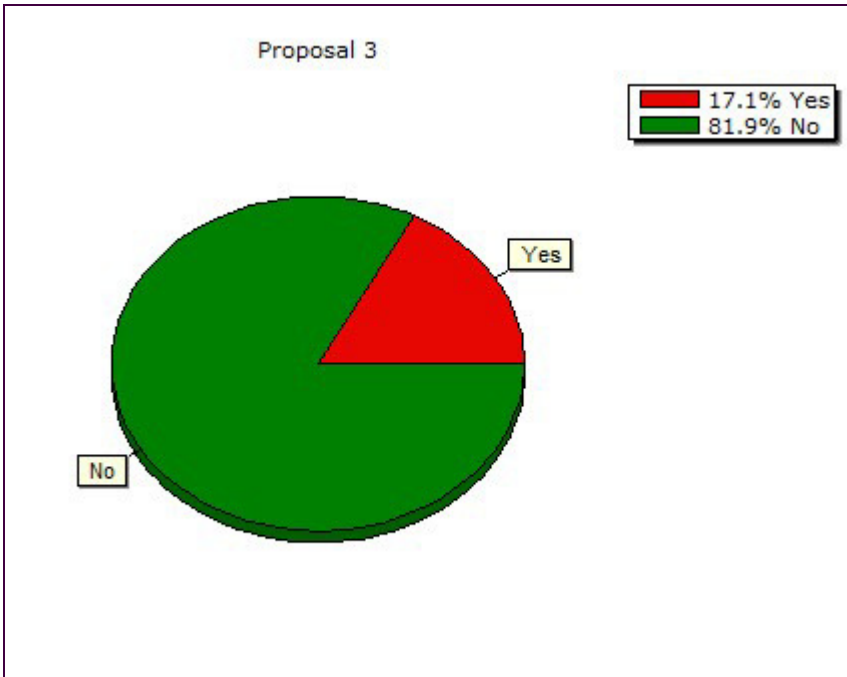
1. Do you agree with Proposal 1?



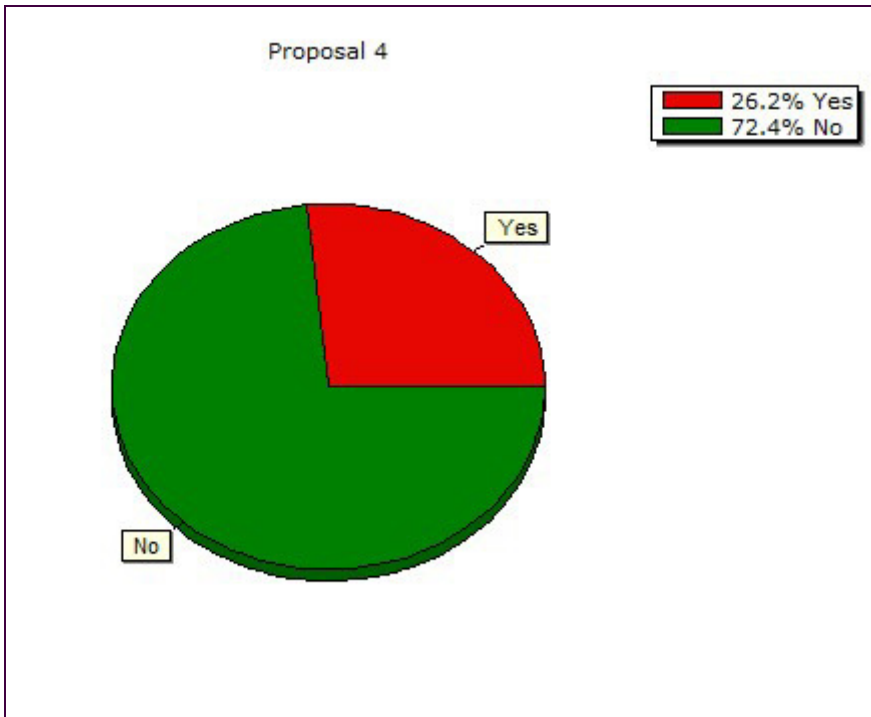
2. Do you agree with Proposal 2?



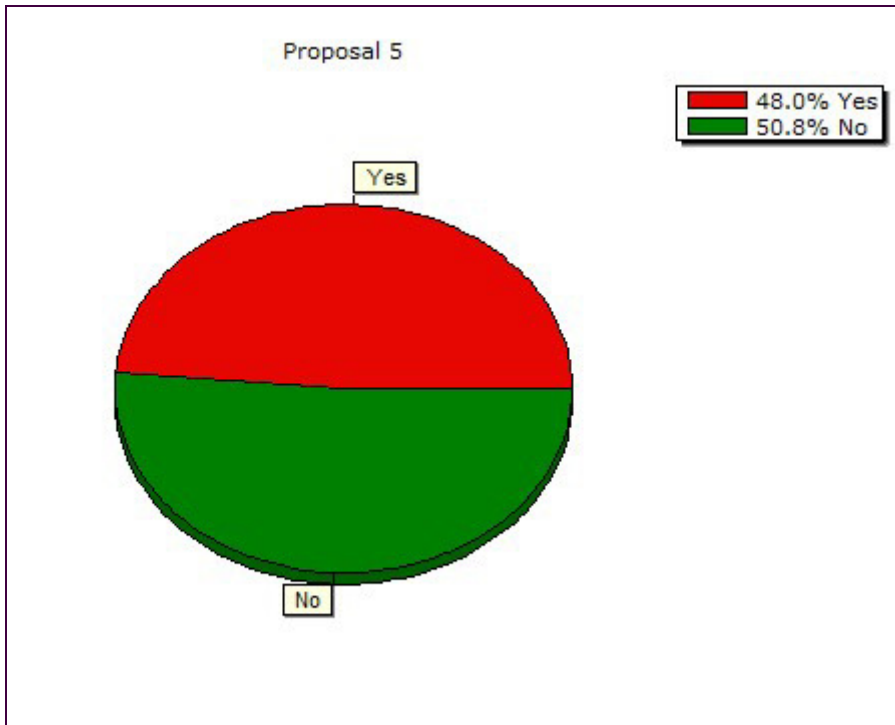
3. Do you agree with Proposal 3?



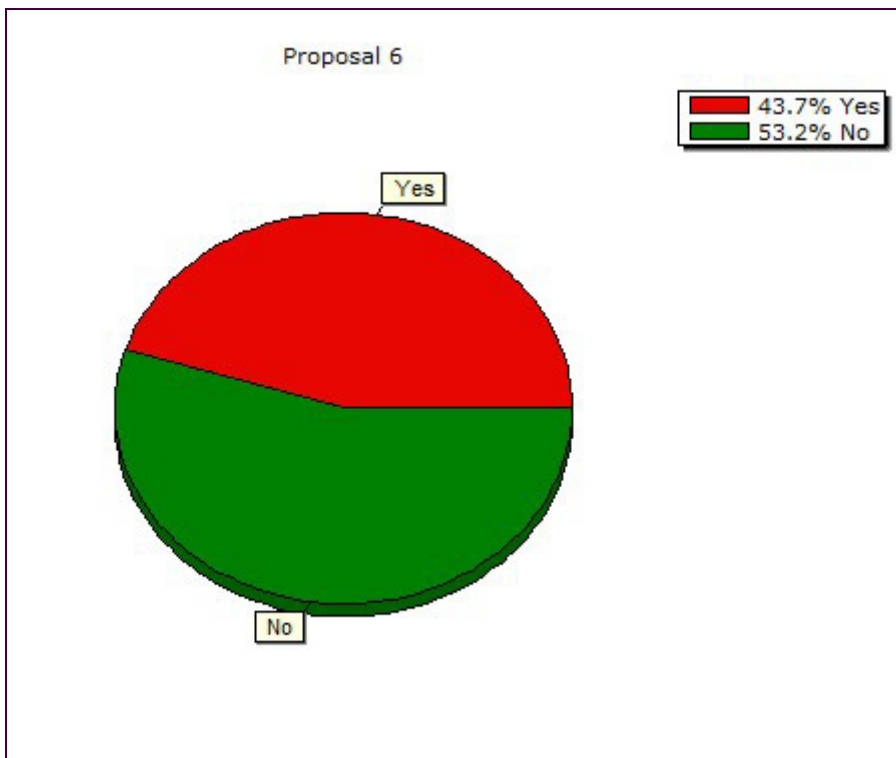
4. Do you agree with Proposal 4?



5. Do you agree with Proposal 5?



6. Do you agree with Proposal 6?



**PSPO Consultation
Responses to Restriction 1
01/06/16**

Comments Proposal 1

This proposal in my opinion has been long overdue, the powers to prevent begging and drinking in a public place have been available to enforce for many years.

It should be a criminal offence to do any of the proposed intentions in public place anywhere, Anti social behavior has achieved a new level and its long overdue.

A careful and considerate approach would be needed is establishing medicinal use, or using this to target people on circumstantial evidence.

Consideration of potential to simply move the problem or create new issues. The removal of alcohol from individuals making their way into the centre of town for a night out has created issues for residents on the edge of the alcohol free zone - through noise cans and bottles being thrown in bins, use of resident bins for disposal, and a pocket of congregation through PCSO interaction and use of bin.

Smoking should also be banned in public parks and similar amenities.

I have noticed an increasing number of people consuming substances of this nature around South Street, Cathedral Yard and most noticeably around 118 Sidwell Street. It is unnerving and intimidating to walk passed and also creates a very poor impression of Exeter city. I commend the decision to address this matter in a fair and reasonable way.

The power to take away any substance if the person has reasonable grounds to BELIEVE that the person INTENDS to use the substance within an area? What would constitute as reasonable grounds in this instance? This is far too vague and could easily be abused

This needs to be brought in as standard. I have a business in west street at the bottom of stepcote hill and am frequently witness to drug taking in all forms.

It should only relate to illegal substances

Nothing further to add.

Who would enforce this?

Excellent idea, the PCSO's know more about their 'patch' and those in it so they need more powers to deal with it on the spot.

The zone should cover the University area too.

if this proposal is accepted, i would expect, wrongly, it to be used on the local youths / homeless / lower social classes only

It should not include alcohol

Include firemen doctors ambulancemen nurses security guards soldiers airmen sailors in uniform

Its important that our inner city streets are a "safe" place to be and these proposals support that.

This would be welcome and is overdue

As long as it applies to well dressed and well spoken people as well as the homeless.

People should be banned from all areas of our lovely city.they are a blight on the universe!!

It'd be better to refer people to support agencies rather than fine them.

It does not stipulate clearly that if a person is not causing a problem then it shall be permissible to consume alcohol.

If the alcohol is also limited in the pubs and clubs available to others or a space is made that is ok to drink in

Extend the are up through St James to the University.

Not sure why "given to an animal as a medicinal remedy" is an exclusion, this defence is typically used for legal highs.

I Don't believe the authorised persons outlined are qualified or equipped to distinguish what may constitute an intoxicating substance on site.

Neither the Council or the Police have enough staff to deal with this

Apart from CCTV operators who from the Council will be working late into the night to enforce this ?

I agree with

a) they are found to be ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances; or
all the other regulations seem like harassment.

Late summer onwards has seen a big increase in all antisocial behaviour, esp. encampments & rubbish from Station Road Exwick, down to Exe Bridges, any chance of extending PSPO?

Disagree as written.

Before requiring a person to surrender what is, in truth, their property to an official, the official should be required to give a warning to the effect that the person either desists from the activity or withdraws from the area.

That, and reasonable grounds should be less vague.

People with nothing most likely need something to get through the day. When they they don't have a there own home funded by their rich parents or have fallen on hard times. A polite word to say find somewhere more appropriate or out of the way seems more useful.

I would not accept that ECC employees have any authority

This does not address the root causes behind the addiction and homelessness - money would be better spent on these issues.

This is a particular problem in some parks.

also a high number of Big Issue sellers, some of which are aggressive and sometimes intoxicated.

Presumably the City Council, Police etc are also working on the causes of binge drinking and anti-social behaviour... perhaps something could be done re licensing laws, limiting the size of pubs, ensuring people at risk aren't served, education in schools and the prevailing culture, making the University and College responsible for the behaviour of students, etc.

The limited geographical stipulations of this Proposal risk pushing such undesirable behaviours out from the City Centre into residential areas of the City. I believe the proposal should encompass the whole city, not just the city centre.

I assume that this will cover ALL persons who are ingesting alcohol in the designated area and not just homeless people as I have witnessed students walking down through the City Centre openly swigging out of cans and bottles.

Though can we be cautious and use common sense as I have real concerns that this may drive the use of these substances to a place which isn't monitored, isn't safe and therefore makes it dangerous for the people undertaking the activity. Also; this should not be done in a way that embarrasses the person. I would like to see follow up activity and support if the person is of "concern" even if this is just a literate about support groups or about the dangers of legal highs.

Although I hope that information will be given to the person about where they can get help to address their substance use - mainly RISE in Exeter. I also wonder if fining someone who may not be able to afford it will help the situation? Surely this could put them further into debt or poverty. Is there a different way to deter people?

In general this sounds a good idea, but what about people who live in the city centre. I liked to have a glass of wine in the grassed area in Princesshay next to the flat I lived in.

The one problem I see is enforcing this. The City Centre is a threatening place at night and it is hard to imagine that our hard pressed police could cover all eventualities

Is it actually an offence to be in possession of a legal high? Will it include alcohol? What about cigarettes?

It is required to curb drinking in St Thomas pleasure grounds

Seems perfectly sensible

This basically gives anyone with "authority" the right to search everyone and anyone for any reason. Although the sentiment behind this is spot on, the last part about suspected use within an area doesn't sound right.

It is no job for a council officer to make these subjective judgements.

Existing laws have historically been used in control of this type of behaviour. These proposals will have the effect of removing civil and legal protections from people who most need them. The people you are targeting are most likely to be badly educated, leading chaotic unstructured lives without support and much hope for improvement.

You have no right to take other people's property. There are already enough laws in place to cover nuisance, drunk and disorderly etc and these can be used correctly when necessary.

Laws already exist both regarding behaviour and the possession of illegal substances. This proposal is an encroachment on personal freedom, unnecessary given current laws, too broad and open to abuse.

If what people are doing is not illegal I do not think it is for local authorities to decide what to remove from citizens going about their business. If illegal activity or crime is taking place then the police should of course deal with that

This sort of power is quite draconian and I do not believe it should be available to PCSOs or, worse still Council Officers, who lack training, experience, the ability or inclination to use discretion in such matters. There are far too many 'jobsworths' around as it is and we don't need more interfering in people's lives in an insensitive manner. This power should be restricted to Sworn Police Officers only.

These issues are already within the remit of the police and require no further embellishment. To do so is merely a draconian example of greater revenue creation and are of no benefit to the public at large.

The issue should not be possession of intoxicants such as alcohol, but whether there is disorderly behaviour. No action without harmful effect on others should be punishable.

It oppresses the powerless

The poor and vulnerable must be empowered not oppressed. We should only look down on people if we're helping them up

We can stop and confiscate because we think someone intends to use something?

Self medication is OK if you're on the sofa at home. If you're out on the street, it isn't? Deal with the root of the issue, not the leaf.

I hope to see this proposal applied without discrimination, and not used to target only the homeless. Having witnessed an attack on a homeless woman by a drunken woman of means (yes police were notified), I believe the police have a responsibility to protect vulnerable homeless people from intoxicated members of the public.

Does this include cigarettes/alcohol- clarity would be helpful here.

Move along not confiscate. Often people's troubles are enough without having their escape taken too

As long as this is used proportionately and at discretion then it would be fine. However the police in general are abusive and mean to the homeless population and I feel like this would be used as a way of victimising them.

no definition of 'authorised person', police need to be properly trained not substituted for mall cops

This is a gross infringement of personal liberty.

A "tot" of whisky for example, can be warming to the body and soul, and I can imagine that a homeless person would be helped by this, for example. What I do find unacceptable, is the state of the City's pub clientele after they have been drinking and particularly when one is trying to walk along the pavement, only to find it blocked by people who are outside for their smoking habit, swearing, blatantly drunk and badly behaved.

I think the biggest nuisance in Exeter (apart from real estate speculation) is alcohol and drunk people in the streets at night. I understand we live in a University city but, even though I live quite far from the bars, I still get people shouting their lungs out in the middle of the night at my window.

This proposal has the wrong focus. It is not the 'substance' that is the problem, it is consequent behaviour. There are already sufficient powers to deal with this.

Who is an authorised person. What training will they receive?

The wording is far too loose. Who is to decide if a person intends to use a substance, including alcohol? My guess is that I (middle class professional) won't have my alcohol taken off me as I walk home, but a rough sleeper will. This seems very unfair as you are making judgements that may not be correct.

I agree with (a), but (b) and (c) are open to abuse and harassment of certain types of person.

Alcohol is a drug. A recreational drug the same as heroin cannabis cocaine ecstasy etc etc. The hypocrisy of the powers that be astounds me.

But please don't use this without good reason that the person may cause nuisance. For example street entertainment such as Morris dancing outside a pub shouldn't disallow the audience from drinking alcohol in moderation

I think only illegal substances should be removed by authorities. Otherwise I will expect an authority to knock on my door and liberate me of my Saturday night glass of wine. If you would prefer these people to consume alcohol indoors, give them a place to sleep.

This is inhumane, I am a labour supporter and I can't believe a labour council would be thinking of doing this. You should be spending resources on supporting these people.

Drinking alcohol is not illegal and does not necessarily lead to antisocial behaviour, and as such I do not believe it is fair to criminalise the drinking of alcohol. Breaking dependence on alcohol and drugs is a difficult and painful process, and simply removing drugs from people will not solve the problem of addiction.

A total waste of police time and resources. Would only support such a proposal if the person(s) were engaging in anti-social behaviour such as violence, intimidating behaviour, verbal abuse etc.

I am also aware that alcoholism is incredibly hard to conquer and these people should be treated with compassion and given appropriate support.

We all have the right of choice confiscation should only be an option where an individual's behaviour is offensive and affecting others.

No, this proposal should not proceed. These are vulnerable people affected.

It is totally inappropriate to even contemplate that an Exeter City Council Officer should be authorized to act in this manner.

The Police already have powers to act no further powers are required

Public spaces are for everyone. If you are enjoying a peaceful drink or other experience why should it be a problem? And who will govern what the "authorised people" count as "reason to believe" someone is planning to use a substance in public? Also, why would cigarettes and vapourisers be exempt? Passive smoking is always harmful to health. Being in a public space with someone who has had a drink is not.

open to misuse, and criminalisation of vulnerable individuals.

This seems like a good idea as long as it is carried out reasonably!

Make this clear to all people entering the area.

As long as it is when there is a specific problem being dealt with and is proven to work to reduce anti-social behaviour, it should be tried first.

Existing laws are already in place, this is unnecessary.

What would be considered "reasonable grounds" in terms of section C? The way this reads it sounds as if an authorised person would be able to confiscate sealed alcohol containers with no evidence of wrong doing, other than that they suspect the alcohol might be consumed within the city centre.

This seems heavy handed and potentially ripe for abuse, as well as flying in the face of the legal principle of "innocent until proven guilty".

Draconian criminalisation is not a solution to social problems and ultimately leads to further problems and demands on the public purse. Humane and supportive initiatives are more effective, not to mention more respectful.

Too draconian.

Too broad a definition.

Overly prescriptive and controlling.

Can we also use common sense as well !! (It doesn't cost anything)

I think this is utterly disgusting and degrading.. But what I have not read it gives Exeter council the right to remove and destroy the homeless belongings. Perhaps it would be better to open drop in centres.. And the imposing of fines of up to £1000 on people that have basically nothing seems utterly stupid.

The powers are open to abuse and what is proposed is actually the theft of legal substances by the authorities. The proposed powers are quasi-judicial and should not fall within the remit of police, P.C.S.Os or Council Officials. The powers would illegally circumvent judicial due process and be, effectively, a form of Martial Law. The proposal is extremely problematic in terms of civil liberties and would be vulnerable to judicial review which may well find the Council to have breached both English Criminal Law and International Law, such as the Convention on Human Rights.

This is simply common sense. Alcoholics / drug addicts in town can be threatening & aggressive. It is long overdue that the beggars on the High Street are moved on. The problem has been growing the longer it has been ignored. They stay there as this is where they can raise the largest amount of funds for perpetuating the cycle.

The actions of some anti-social individuals should not impact on society as a whole. The anti-social behaviour should be dealt with as it happens. Blanket bans are not a good way of dealing with specific issues.

It's too broad-sweeping. Reasonable to remove intoxicants if a person is intoxicated, but not more than that

This will not tackle alcoholism or their addictions and may drive them to use in more dangerous and secluded areas. Why not focus on promoting rehabilitation as well? Just taking it away will not solve the problem

This should be unnecessary - the Police can do it all.

the proposal to give a fine to people with no money is ludicrous, the proposal to take away their bedding and possessions is outright inhumane and cruel, I expect to see a better attitude from a labour council. These are desperate human beings that need treatment and help. They're not vermin, they're human like you and me.

If the intoxicating substances may be consumed legally then they must never be confiscated. If possession of them is illegal the police can deal with the matter.

I would like the geographic area to be extended to include Thornton Hill, West Ave and the three cut de sacs off Thornton Hill. I would like this feedback to be considered for all questions

I believe that the powers the Police already possess are adequate to deal with this behaviour, they already have the ability to stop and search. I am concerned that this may lead to criminalisation of vulnerable people with substance abuse or mental health issues.

What about having a picnic in a park with a glass of prosecco? If people are drunk and disorderly, they can be arrested for that. If they are in possession of illegal drugs, they can be arrested for that.

That seems perfectly reasonable

Deal with ALL anti-social behavior whenever and where ever it occurs, using the police's existing powers.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have 'reasonable grounds' to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

If use of substances is associated with criminal acts, existing public order legislation is adequate to deal with this. Further powers are not needed.

I agree. The use of legal highs on the street is a concern to me and I find the behaviour of people obviously intoxicated by substances that drastically alter brain function and inhibit logic and reasoning to be intimidating. I have seen this on an almost daily basis and have seen women with small children and elderly people choosing to avoid entering the pedestrian subway in Coombe Street because of a group of people who camp down there every day. These vulnerable pedestrians have been seen trying to cross Western Way rather than use the subway. I am also in contact with some young vulnerable people (through my job role) who have recently begun to use legal highs and have suffered terrible side effects from them. Their open use on the streets starts to create a desensitisation to the irrational and unpredictable behaviour that these products produce.

It is reasonable

Living in St David's the open drug use and drug dealing is blatant. We no longer attend events at The Corn Exchange because of the groups of drug users/vagrants in front of the Hospice Care charity shop who are intimidating, filthy, often with dogs, and they completely undermine what should be a 'cultural' and social event when one leaves and has to pass them - with trepidation. St David's church is a magnet for vagrants - we have to pass them sitting in full view 'shooting up'. This is absolutely unacceptable in close proximity to family homes with children. Some of the main drug dealing/drug using goes on in recognisable places e.g. Bury Meadow Park, on the corner of Dinham Road very close to St David's Primary School, in our other green space e.g. St Bartholomew's cemetery. Any additional authority/powers given to the council and police to address this will be most welcome.

Open drug abuse, shooting up in the street - if you dare look at them, you are faced with hostile, abusive language. Syringes and needles are in our parks and verges which puts residents and staff at risk. And the amount of broken glass from bottle all over the streets is unacceptable and huge risk to dogs and children. One is almost on top of it before you realise it - particularly along the footpath along to the Quay. My vet bills for injured pedigree dogs from all this broken glass is unacceptable, let alone the distress to the animals.

BUT only if applied equitably to all citizens. I am concerned that people sleeping rough will be unfairly targeted.

I do however wonder where homeless people are to go when they want an alcoholic drink that they have purchased legally.

The police, and only the police, should be allowed to ask them to move on and if they do move on, that should be the end of the matter.

Unless the person or a group of persons is committing a public order offence, they should not be subject to criminal prosecution, penalty fine or what, in effect, amounts to nothing more than the enactment of a policy of social conservatism designed to inflict punishment on those in our society least able to afford them, resulting in their suffering further from a sense of (real) isolation, exclusion and abandonment.

The inclusion of buskers in this Public Spaces Protection Order would seem to be little more than camouflage designed to distract the true intention of a policy of discrimination.

Will this cover those that put alcohol in a different container (e.g. Cola bottle) oldest trick in the book!

This should be under a public nuisance basis not fee to be applied under the personal powers and unsubstantiated judgement of an authorised person. As written this allows rights over people without any justification of nuisance or danger to people as themselves or others.

Exeter has a reputation for tolerance and balance. Making it illegal to consume alcohol is basically a taxation on the poorest members of society. Council officials are not people who should be able to make enforcement decisions. Inappropriate behaviour by those people can be punished to the extent of the law. Using illegal narcotics in public is already a crime, as is disorderly conduct. There does seem to be a question as to whether accidentally breathing car or bus fumes, incense in churches and weird crystal shops, will be made illegal by this blanket operation.

The ban seems to say that people who live in the area, (or have to sleep in the area, due to there in access to housing) should not be able to have access to legal drugs. This is not a nice thing to do to people. Please help people with drug and alcohol abuse problems, don't criminalise them, or hide them. They need love, tolerance and respect in order to overcome their challenges. Most people with drug and alcohol problems have problems related to sexual or physical abuse as a child. This is an endeavour to further punish those people (very ineffectively I might add - the punishment is a fine - that they cannot and therefore will not pay).

This is a fair proposal. No one ever needs to use an intoxicating substance, except in medical instances that are already listed as an exception. As such there is no valid reason for a person to be breaching this order.

I think this would be a good proposal if it were only applicable if the individual carrying the intoxicating substance was behaving in an antisocial manner that was likely to bring harm to someone else. The substances are within the law and so should otherwise be allowed to be used.

People may be homeless, but I do not agree with the destruction of personal property! I think its disgusting that the government think this is ok!! They are humans and some of the stuff they have is all they own in the world!! If you do this, this will cause more crimes, unless the homeless are actually committing crime where they sleep, they should just be left alone! I'm appalled

So we can't have a nice bottle of wine by the Quay on a warm evening anymore? What utter nonsense.

This should be enforced against all people, especially students who often disregard this as anti-social

The council should provide some form of suggestion/referral for rehabilitative services if people who have substances seized from them are seen to be suffering an addiction. At least they should be encouraged to seek help rather than just taking things and further damaging the mental health of those suffering.

Otherwise, I don't think people who are not being drunk and disorderly have any reason to have alcohol confiscated, for example if they are attending a dinner party and deem it polite to take with them a bottle of wine, and would rather not pay for a taxi.

I understand the logic behind the proposal but it seems a little extreme. Why should cigarettes be allowed, which harm others around them, yet alcohol, which is only inducing harm to yourself, be confiscated?

The 2nd and 3rd points need a clear test, and limited exemption for alcohol. i.e. only if the container is open is intent to use established, and there should be regions in which drinking (but not public drunkenness) should be allowed (i.e. beer with a picnic in a public park).

Yes but this needs to be extended to the fringes of the city centre - the end of Sidwell Street and Old Tiverton Rd in particular
Huge, huge problem in Exeter. Bad for residents. Bad for visitors Bad for the people concerned.
Drugs openly visible on our streets and in our parks most days.

I do not think an out of sight out of mind approach is the answer. People will not stop using these substances, they will just not be seen by the public and therefore are unlikely to be able to get help. I am not bothered by people smoking and drinking in the street myself.

This means any self organised activity in groups with responsible adults who might want to share a bottle of wine in the park, Rougemont gardens etc. as part of a picnic for instance is banned. It puts city centre space into the hands of business not people.

I am not convinced that the possession of a legal substance or its ingestion ought in itself to be grounds for a new order

How will you deal with this problem if it results in people going outside the designated Order area and behaving in the same way?

For some people, public spaces are their homes, so what do we intend to do with the people if we don't allow them to drink/smoke, eat etc in their homes?

I agree with the proposal on condition that that anyone who is homeless and using alcohol or legal highs in public places who is apprehended should be offered help, not fined.

-
1. why is tobacco exempt? Drunken behaviour doesn't effect me or annoy me nearly as much as cigarette smoke, which makes me wheezy, feel ill, and need my inhaler.
 2. Drug use is much less noticeable than the abuse of alcohol.
 3. I suspect that this law will be used to harass homeless people more than it will be used to curtail the problem drinking of students and young people in local pubs.
 4. If there is a growing problem with alcohol abuse and/or drug use and/or homelessness, there are more effective and compassionate ways to address those problems than to outright ban their use in public spaces.
 5. Being a public space, I would expect people to use that space as they see fit. I have no right to insist on other people using that space in particular ways.

yes - broadly - but I am concerned that it could lead to victimisation of a very vulnerable group of people (i.e. drug-users and alcoholics), and that there seems to be little recourse if the person who becomes subject to a PSPO fine believes that they are being unfairly treated.

How would an appeal against the fine be made, who to and how would an abuse of powers be recognised and restitution made?
Perfectly reasonable

Only as good as the enforcement of the Proposal. Will there be prioritisation of resources to cover? Currently resources are prioritised in the city centre which has pushed the ASB issues out to the centre fringes and our neighbourhood St David's has been hard hit.

The Officer must have a compassionate nature and be fully trained in how to offer positive guidance to the perpetrator; not a plain...'Move On'.

This gives 'authorised persons' the right to make a decision which could lead to discrimination and racial profiling.

I differentiate between homed rowdy drunks and the homeless. I tried to send comments to community.safety@exeter.gov.uk (the listed contact) but the email was rejected.

I have put these in the comments box at question 3. Please read them.

I understand that refusal to comply with these prohibitions can result in a fixed fine or a charge of criminality. This is not spelt out in this consultation. If it is the case and it was included it would very much affect opinions.

I think 'legal high's' are very dangerous and this power is needed, I have seen members of the homeless openly smoking them in Sidwell Street and have seen the results of their behavior afterwards including being unpredictable and violent.

I do not believe that criminalising homeless people is a solution to their predicament. I believe there is already a ban on drinking in public in the city centre and as the use of any other intoxicating substances is already illegal, this legislation is not needed for that purpose. While begging can be a nuisance, I find most beggars to be polite and non invasive and as stated above do not believe that criminalising them will be helpful.

It's too draconian - a huge area, including several parks, where responsible people won't be able to drink on a summer's afternoon. I don't believe there is sufficient issue currently to warrant such drastic action. I would far rather public resources be spent on treatment for substance abuse issues as opposed to prohibition.

Under point C, anyone could be stopped. How would an authorised person prove this.

I do NOT agree with the removal of "legal highs".
These are legal and therefore should be allowed.

Instead of treating these people like criminals who are often a victim of traumatic life experiences why don't you help them. Instead of fining them when you know full well they can't pay why don't you offer treatment programmes or house them in the countless empty properties across the city.

It does not address the social causes of anti-social behaviour and so will have no real or lasting effect.

Should the Police be doing this already?

Will the officer have the power to seize substances that they believe are going to be shared with others?

Under what circumstances will the seizure actually be required? What behaviour has to have been exhibited or is believed to be imminent to require the seizure at all?

yes we do it is a good idea. suggest you use professional agents to work in conjunction with the Police and PCSO Officers. Agents such as Devon Investigations have years of experience in this field

Substance abuse is typically caused by low quality of life. These people will not be helped by having their coping mechanisms confiscated. If you want to solve the problem, give them treatment instead[1].

[1] <http://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/full/10.1176/ps.51.1.116>

This proposal must be understood to apply to University Students and every person on the streets/ public open space covered.

It must not be used primarily as a tool against homeless/rough sleepers.

No further comments

If they are not hurting anyone leave them alone.

This would be a seriously improper step to take, an infringement of ordinary people's property rights and of their rights of free association and assembly, and it would also be a dispiriting and worrying indicator of a massive deficit of social responsibility on the part of Council officers and members. It would be completely disproportionate to the actual level of incidence of such activities, it would put far too much power completely inappropriate power in the hands of city council officers, and it would seriously undermine trust and confidence between Devon & Cornwall Police and many of the disadvantaged people who may well need, in their situation, to look to local police for protection and redress against theft and mugging, common assault (including verbal abuse), sexual assault, actual and grievous bodily harm, and much more.

This will negatively affect the most vulnerable people in our society. These people need help rather than being victimised and persecuted.

The acts of persecution and discrimination of the minority and vulnerable groups are abhorrent and comparable to some of the measures introduced by the Nazi Party before the Second World War.

Mahatma Ghandi said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Based on this quote, if these proposals are introduced, this Nation would be quite distant from greatness.

I believe the police have sufficient powers at their disposal now and these powers which the Council also wish to give to council employees is concerning and for such un-trained people - open to abuse of authority. These powers are also rather vague and could be used against everyone - even a few orderly people have a picnic and bottle of wine together, no such powers as exist are sufficient and should remain in the sole hands of police officers - i.e. who are trained in such situations, additional powers are an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Homeless people, who no doubt would be the most likely set of people to be targeted by these proposed measures, should be assisted, support for homes and hostels should be a priority of the council - as servants of the community. I would by far prefer to see councils and the police focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

Yes I agree that we don't want bad behaviour as a result of drug/drink, but in my experience there has been no more of a problem with 'homeless' than the rest of society. We should be careful not to demonise people because they are homeless, they are people, just as you and I, and should be treated with respect and helped.

I don't agree with this because the police already have these powers and I do not think it appropriate for an Exeter City Council Officer to do this, especially as it may endanger them.

I am against anyone except a bon fide police officer having any powers as described above. Even then I have concerns about the individual judgement police officers would need to exercise

These powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse.

I think that this proposal could be abused and to make the homeless population of Exeter, many of whom have drug or alcohol dependencies, fearful of police or PCSOs. It would be a shame if this has the consequence of either i) forcing people away from the city centre, where most of the city's provisions are, or ii) worsening relationships with police.

Should be limited to illegal substances

These powers can be used against the general population not just the group(s) you are targeting.

Police officers can enforce the law as necessary.

Persons acting in an anti-social manner should of course be dealt with appropriately. But to prosecute someone drinking a glass of wine or a can of beer? That is police state gone mad.

Regardless of actual intent or reason, this gives unbounded authority to confiscate goods. You already confiscate enough in taxes. Exemptions are inadequate and should include legal intoxicating substances legally obtained and for later home, business or other legitimate use

The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

The Police have existing powers to control persons who are actually using these substances in such a way as to adversely affect others. This proposal would widen the authorisation to Council Officers and make subjective suspicion sufficient grounds for action. Neither of these are necessary and could be actually detrimental.

This places too much power in the hands of the individual law maker.
Surely existing law can deal with public nuisance caused by individuals.

This carries the risk of giving unbridled power to the kind of people seen in the recent G4S scandal the very people who may well be employed by the council.

I would trust the Police, and possibly the CSO, to be impartial but not a civil servant from the Council Offices. The Police are trained. YOU are not.

Unwise blanket prohibition.

Existing laws allow police intervention already. Often, all the homeless can do to get through their day is drink or drugs. Removing them alone is useless.

There are already laws Re: these issues which cover all citizens so there is no need, in my view, to impose further restrictions on homeless people. You cannot drink etc., at home if you have no home.

Whilst seemingly effective in theory, in reality, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

I feel the measures are too heavy handed and extensive and could lead to the persecution of vulnerable people e.g assuming the intention of antisocial behaviour and implied rights to stop and search people based on this assumption. Powers to address antisocial behaviour that is occurring where this isn't already covered by law are apt and reasonable where there is clear outlining of what constitutes this where it involves, threat, offence or nuisance. I believe this proposal goes way beyond that and is unreasonable.

I do not agree as this could affect 'ordinary people' (ie; non vagrants) who may be out for the evening and are innocently carrying a drink from one place to another and are then stopped midway by police when they are merely harmlessly consuming a drink while on the move.

Taking someone's property should only be used in rare and exceptional circumstances, such as an illegal substance or if the person is dangerous to others.

People should be offered a referral to substance misuse services.

I don't agree with taking action against people who someone thinks May do something wrong.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

Why should cigarette smokers not be covered by this same measure?

These powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of wine for an impromptu Summer picnic on the Green. However, these powers might commonly be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Efforts need to be made to help such people and treat them with understanding and compassion, rather than prosecuting them, which will simply be counter-productive and very unhelpful for their prospects and future life. The proposal is potentially insensitive and is too general - action needs to be targeted at any person whose behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others. It would be better for the Council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community.

Abuse of civil liberty

This proposal criminalises ordinary citizens behaving responsibly, but drinking in public.

The proposal is too woolly, lacking adequate definition of what constitutes 'reasonable grounds'. Such blanket power is open to misuse.

These people are vulnerable at risk and the last thing they need is prosecution as oppose to help and our compassion You cannot criminalise people for the above. Possibly remove the substances from the people and sign post them to the relevant services

I am appalled that a Labour council is considering putting a policy in place which is legalises the abuse of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. These people need our help. They are not criminals.

There are plenty of laws already in place to deal with aggressive or violent behaviour. Possessing and using alcohol and so called "legal highs" are not criminal offences in this country and to make them subject to sanctions in this manner is reminiscent of the policies put in place in Germany under the Nazis.

Existing laws regarding antisocial behaviour are in place and should be used to focus attention on those individuals who are causing problems within a neighbourhood. I find this vague, all-encompassing proposal to seize legitimately purchased items from any individual based on assumptions rather than offences unwarranted and unnecessary.

Handing authority to unqualified individuals to confiscate property of people just because they think they might consume in a public space is completely unjustified. Even if an individual does drink or smoke in a public space they are not necessarily causing any harm to the community (persons or spaces).

It further penalises, harasses and intimidates the most needy and vulnerable people in society.

Legislation already exists to deal with drunk and disorderly CONDUCT

Rough sleepers have a tough enough time as it is without further harassment. Harass the rich not the poor.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

Being homeless and on the streets is not a crime, it is a tragedy. Having been homeless myself I know that often the only way to survive is to get drunk or high. Giving a homeless person a criminal record will only further harm their possibility of making a return to useful, independent living. They need help, not punishment. Once interest rates begin to rise more people will find they are unable to pay their mortgage, and will find out just how poor services to stop homelessness are, just how easy it is to 'fall through the cracks'.

Other European countries have provided safe spaces for people who may be drug users etc, without criminalising them. It would be much better for Exeter to look towards this kind of solution, rather than criminalising people who are already the most disadvantaged in our city.

"other public space where the public have access without payment" means anywhere in Britain that isn't a private space. This seems like drastic overkill. And is it possible for anyone to know that someone "intends" to use substances in a public space? Going on what's written in Proposal 1, it's entirely subjective.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

I feel these are draconian measures, which create a 'them' and 'us' culture. I speak as an ex teacher and educational adviser. This policy seems like a sledge hammer to crack a nut. It puts the most vulnerable in our society at greater risk. I am surprised and disappointed to see that our only Labour controlled council in the South West has come up with such an ill thought through policy to tackle a small percentage of anti social behaviour. Improved investment in social care and job opportunities would help.

WHAT IF I CARRY A BOTTLE IN MY DISABILITY SCOOTER WHEN GOING HOME. THROUGH THE PSPO AREA?

This is not a coherent or just policy and is likely to move the problem around i.e. to parks and other parts of the town/city. Perhaps, this is not an issue for the council because the main concern, judging by the associated map, is that the town centre needs to be 'kept clean'. Any perceived anti-social behaviour would be bad for business.

Intoxicating substances necessarily includes alcohol but criminalising their use is not the solution. If you want to be radical with good urban governance then consider the unthinkable and move to limit the availability of excessive purchasing of alcohol. This will mean targeting first the number of businesses/people who profit from selling alcohol (legal drug) locally in bars, bistros and restaurants. Take issue with the manufacturers themselves who relentlessly push ever cheaper alcohol into the market place.

If you are genuinely concerned about citizens welfare, set up education programmes in schools and social centres.

This could border on harassment. Officers carrying this out would have to verify that the person accused was actually proposing to do what was suspected.

This is not dealing with the problem it is sweeping it under the carpet. The impact will be to marginalise addicts, the homeless and beggars even more. We should be giving them support and love and not punishing them

These are legal substances

It seems to me that you are looking for problems where none exist

Draconian - guilty without trial

Some people need alcohol or tobacco to relieve their misery. It's only worth considering if they are threatening. This should not be criminalized.

People have the right to choose. It's not their fault others get so offended by it.

Surely action should be taken only if the person is breaking the law, causing an affray or similar or causing a public nuisance - this action is a job for the police who are trained to deal with these types of situations.

Why are you demonizing these people What community support are you providing

Better to address the real problem of homelessness. What are you trying to achieve? It's going to take a very big rug to sweep this problem away.

Police already have the power to remove people from the area for antisocial behaviour or breaching the peace. More police and better upholding of the intoxication laws would cover this. It is an offence to serve alcohol to someone who is intoxicated. This is not upheld and should be before stronger measures about simply holding alcohol are put in place.

draconian & controlling..they need help..not criminalising

Because there is a lack of support in terms of addiction and mental health and trauma services to tackle the reasons behind that persons use of harmful substances. The order is around others may feel about it not supporting the supposed perpetrator. For example I know of people with addiction problems who receive no support in relation to trauma problems related to childhood sexual abuse.

'Reasonable grounds' must in no circumstances be used as an excuse for harassment.

instead of spending money on repressive unhelpful actions, spend public money on provision so people are not forced to be on the streets. alcohol and other substances are used to lower body temperature and enable the homeless person to survive. have compassion rather than punish these people.

People have enough stress as it is, just leave people be.

Should only be applied if the person is causing problems, not just "for the sake of it." I am aware of people who smoke substances - they pose no risk or nuisance. You can drink in moderation, without getting drunk.

This makes no sense, as tobacco is also a harmful substance.

I object to the seeking of additional powers where the council already has remedies under current legislation. The impact would be to criminalise the inadequate and vulnerable. This is not the response of a civilised city and reflects how far from it's core values the current Labour party has moved.

It's all down to the free will of the individual what they put into their bodies; equally, there are more than enough empty buildings in and around Exeter that could house these individuals, and at no extra cost to the local authority. Give these people a roof over their heads - give them back their self-esteem -- treat them as the human beings they are and perhaps they'll not require to resort to intoxicating substances to kill the pain and suffering they endure on a daily basis. Namaste.

Open discrimination against anyone who the authorities wish to believe is homeless and sleeping rough. No proof needed.

I only partially agree, it seems in order to confiscate the intoxicating substances only if they are actively consuming them, by whatever means, in a public place and are likely to cause nuisance to others by doing so.

It is most certainly not OK to search people merely on suspicion that they might be carrying such substances. This could lead to unnecessary harassment of innocent people or even vulnerable people who have no intention of causing a public nuisance despite their possible addictive habits.

It is so restrictive and can be used to bully vulnerable people. If they are using substances inappropriately then the reason for this needs to be addressed. It is a social matter and not a matter for the police.

People can be allowed to drink one minute and not the next, just because they were now deemed to be near to a group of antisocial behaviours. Walk out of an off-licence with a bottle intending to take it home as a Christmas present, but if there is an antisocial group outside being dealt with it will be for the shopper to prove they were not part of the group and not be confiscated. It will drive legal high users into pub premises, where these new rules don't apply.

In respect of all the proposals there are already powers available to the Police to arrest or move on individuals drunk, using drugs, harassing people for money, and behaving in a criminal or anti-social way.

If Exeter CC impose a restricted area those involved will find near-by places to sleep or meet in other parts of the city. Most homeless people will have no means of paying any fines, as an alternative might receive a short prison sentence and then be back on the streets again.

Those who frequent the city centre are not there by lifestyle choice. They essentially suffer from a range of addictions, chronic mental health issues or behaviours contributed to by various traumas earlier in their life. A more effective and certainly more compassionate approach, especially for a Labour-led Council, is to help provide alternative accommodation for those on the streets and support to access appropriate services. Is Exeter CC content to be counted as a City that discriminates against the disadvantaged and most vulnerable members of society.

1 c 'reasonable grounds' needs to be defined.

This should only be actioned if the person or persons is creating a nuisance.

these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

Support from social and community services are needed. This should not fall on the police. I am absolutely appalled that those sitting comfortable in their positions at work would remotely consider these proposals. I have always said what a forward-thinking council we had but now I am not so sure! Shame on you!

1. As so often happens this legitimates the antisocial behaviour of some people [the in-crowd] while castigating the behaviour of others [the out-crowd]. Cigarettes are just as obnoxious as cannabis or legal highs.
2. Relations with the police have been getting worse for years. I have observed 75 of them. This will do nothing to improve them and will bring PCSOs and council staff into the same opprobrium.

As a Labour Council you should be ashamed of even thinking about introducing such draconian powers! As with other (e.g. RIPA) powers, I have no doubt that mission creep will inevitably lead to unfairly targeting vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals.

This will allow legal purchases to be confiscated even if they are not opened. Doesn't existing legislation cover this already?

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

I find the proposal unbelievable. I can only assume the Council wants to remove a 'certain type' of person from the city centre. Even if that was a desirable goal this is not the way to go about it. The Council should be tackling the root causes of the problem. Having a drink in a public space should be something the Council should be encouraging. Or is the aim to stop people having a drink with their picnic on Cathedral Green? This Proposal will cause more problems than it solves.

While I can accept the idea that a Police Constable should have this power, I am wholly opposed to the idea of giving such powers to any Council Officer or PCSO.

Personally, I would prefer that only fully qualified police officers would be able to utilise these sorts of powers, although I had understood that they already possessed these to some degree. Certainly, extend their powers over alcohol and 'legal highs,' although I find this a worrying trend for councils to be dealing with and would much rather have national rulings to classify these as harmful or even illegal substances if the goal is truly to eliminate their use.

Additionally, there must presumably be some form of paperwork or accountability for the taking of otherwise perfectly legal materials from individuals - I fail to see how this could be upheld as legal or even effective if any authorised person could confiscate these materials without having to catalogue and store them in some form of evidence locker? Even from the considerations of the layman, who would like to make sure that the confiscated spirits and legal highs aren't merely being taken for the personal consumption of your authorised individuals.

Adequate restrictions already exist.

This appears to be a blanket ban.

There should be no harm in relaxing in public space with a moderate amount of alcohol.

Drunkenness, offensive behaviour and illegal drugs are a different matter, and these indeed should be dealt with.

Care must be taken not to create a society where there are too many rules.

Great care must be taken in giving powers to deal with this. The fewer the better, but where people need to be protected there must be laws to allow this.

It is the authorities in Exeter who should be criminalized for allowing people to suffer so much

This proposal can very easily target those who are homeless who may drink alcohol to keep warm during the cold winter months. I believe existing regulation regarding public drinking is already sufficient enough to deal with the problem of public drinking.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

The law as it stands should be used to control this. If not, mind your own business

I would agree however I fear this gives rights for violent action toward anyone in possession when confiscating. I would also suggest that instead of just confiscation people in possession are encouraged (or by law) to go to a support group for said substance

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

C) is too arbitrary

The police are already within their rights to confiscate substances and or alcohol of people, there is no need for a new law. Or to have members of staff of the council (not trained by the police) acting as police-attempting to confiscate items from intoxicated people, this is unacceptable.

There are too many problems associated with this proposal. It could be applied unfairly to people who have legally purchased alcohol for their own legal use. There is also a question over "reasonable grounds" for taking action. This is open to too wide an interpretation.

Legal substances should only be taken if there is clear anti-social behaviour in progress. Simply being homeless does not constitute anti-social behaviour!

If a person has been to the pub, then picked up a bottle of wine on the way home, then decides to sit/rest in a public area before going home. Does this mean they could have their goods confiscated? How can an officer clearly determine the difference if a person is not caught in the act itself? This is reliant on the perception and predication of an event that may not happen. No law should be upheld on this basis. Are we not innocent until proven guilty? Prediction of an event should not be allowed and infringes on our civil liberties.

good idea the city centre and park and open spaces needs sorting out and fast before it gets out of control.

If a person is in possession of a legal substance, then that is their business. If they are behaving in a disruptive manner then current legislation could be implemented. If substances that are currently legal need, in the opinion of the Council, need to be made illegal, then the Council should lobby the government.

These people need homes. We can ingest things in private but the homeless live hopelessly and society should help them.

I feel that this would lead to particular groups being targeted unfairly - I very much doubt that it would be enforced in all cases, with the homeless being particularly targeted. In theory I have no issue with illegal substances being removed from persons, but I am wary of the clause that allows an official to remove property on the ground of their own presumption on who will or will not consume the substances in the area.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

A homeless person may have substance and alcohol abuse issues but they have to live within the same society as the rest of us. I do agree that there must be control of these issues in order to ensure that the other homeless people and the public are kept safe.

This is open to misuse of authority by both police and council officers! How can they read somebody's mind as to whether or not they intend to use the substance or not?! Anybody, at any time of day or night could be carrying alcohol around with them, maybe for a birthday gift to a friend, for a dinner party they intend to have later, to consume later IN THEIR OWN HOME...for a multitude of reasons. Just because a council or police officer thinks a member of the public looks like they will consume the alcohol, they could have it confiscated and given a £1000 fine?! Absolutely ludicrous!

I assume this would apply to the general public not just to the homeless people. Not happy with council staff getting involved with making decisions on whom to enforce the law.

There should be no further curtilage of responsible use of recreational drugs, which includes alcohol and tobacco, nor discrimination between them.

This can and will be abused though, and will be used to remove vulnerable people from the city centre into housing estates instead of giving them the assistance they need

c) the authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe that such person is using or intends to use the intoxicating substance within the said area.

I think this needs to be better defined. What are the reasonable grounds?

Who is this going to predominantly affect? - the media are saying that this is being pushed toward removing homeless people from the area and these points seem to be carefully worded to avoid alluding to that. It would be nice to know who the projected targets of this initiative will be.

Personally I am against this, as it is over the top. I have never experienced any anti-social behaviour in Exeter City centre.

The proposal is too broad and depends too heavily on the subjective impression of individuals. This broad proposal lends itself to discriminatory application as to apply universally would require much more resource than the council or the police have available.

It's an erosion of liberty and the council have no right throwing their weight about. If you don't like drugs, the police should have done their job in the first place by stopping the drugs entering your towns and cities in the first place. Focus on that and start sacking police officers who fail to curb drug supply to the UK. Spend money on providing PLENTY of clean, safe public toilets, that are free to use so that people don't have to urinate in the street. Perhaps if you provided it, you wouldn't have this hassle so much. As for drinking and smoking in the street... Well, you were the ones who banned smoking in the pubs, so where else are they going to do it?

I am confused about the intention of this proposal. As far as I am aware, there is already an order relating to alcohol covering Exeter city centre, whereby police officers can confiscate alcohol being consumed outside of licensed premises should they see the need.

Therefore this measure is already in place. Illegal drugs are illegal. Therefore police officers can and will confiscate illegal drugs whenever they discover somebody in possession of them. Therefore this measure is also already in place. Legal highs are not illegal, and therefore to allow confiscation of these substances in public places, when they are not confiscated from people in their homes, is to disproportionately target people who do not have private spaces in which to use these substances. If aggressive, violent or other criminal behaviour is occurring, the police can and will deal with those offences in themselves, but possession or use of a legal substance should not be grounds for confiscation of property. Most importantly I am very concerned with the suggestion of granting powers of confiscation to an 'Exeter City Council Officer'. There is no mention in your FAQs of who these officers would be. I suspect since you don't stipulate that they would be employees of private security firms which I strongly object to, however even if they are council employees I do not agree with non-police officers being given powers of confiscation in public places

Such a regulation. Containing as it does, clause 3 opens up the possibility of harassment and searching of any individual whom an officer seems to be worthy of search. This can result in the victimisation of people who live outdoor lives, do not dress conventionally and/or behave in ways with which officers might be unfamiliar, e.g. People from non European cultures, people with mental health issues, disabled people particularly those living with autism or Tourette's.

This proposal could well be used to target vulnerable and/or homeless people - giving far too broad a power to Council Officers. Council Officers do not have the same extensive training as either Police Constables, or Police Community Support Officers. Both Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers are more likely to have contact with people around the city and more skills to deal with them. Additionally, it is too broad in that (c) suggests the authorised officer only needs to have 'reasonable grounds' that the person is using or intending using.

"the authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe that such person is using or intends to use the intoxicating substance within the said area." : gives excessive discretion to the relevant person enforcing the PSBO. Almost certainly liable to bring within the criminal justice system vulnerable individuals who are best kept OUT of it.

if an existing law is in place then only a Policeman is under oath to protect the people and uphold the law who are Police Community Support Officer or Exeter City Council Officer, to interfere with me as a freeman and U K subject

How will the authorised person know if it is for intended use? This ruling is open to misinterpretation by the authorised person and could lead to victimisation.

Firstly, there has been to my knowledge no evidence submitted to objectively justify the proposed new powers from organisations who look to help and support the homeless and those who may also be homeless and have mental health difficulties.

Secondly, there appears to have been no evidence to demonstrate that existing powers are insufficient.

Thirdly, as a general comment encompassing all the Proposals, it is clear that there is already legislation that could be used ; that no objective evidence appears to have been submitted to justify any of the Proposals and that the Council currently has a Homeless Strategy document out for consultation. This document if nothing else, should be dealt with before any attempt to introduce new powers

The following is a "lift" from the "Keep Streets Live Campaign"

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems.

Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals.

Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse.

It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

I dont agree with extending these powers to council officers, i feel current laws around this behaviour are sufficient what qualufications do "authorised persons" have to judge intent? Surely the very exoressiin "legal highs" mean no legal offence is committed by their use.

Needs to be applied reasonably and not in a blanket or discriminatory fashion

All needles, sharps and hard drugs should be confiscated but alcohol and soft drugs such as marijuana are used by a large portion of society; particularly alcohol.

If this proposal of a blanket ban on the homeless using intoxicating substances is designed to clamp down on anti social behavior the council should consider a ban of alcohol sold in pubs and clubs as these establishments result in a greater magnitude of antisocial behavior than that of the homeless drinking on the street.

The separation between the homeless and revelers frequenting licenced establishments is quite simply, the homeless lack the funds to drink inside these establishments.

I believe this proposal is an attack on the social class that is the homeless.

The authority should consider the reason behind an individual using intoxicating products when dealing with them and do their utmost to resolve the core issue, often use of such products has a very deep and painful cause.

These powers could easily and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. This measure allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on anyone.

I agree with every aspect except alcohol - should be handled at officers' discretion (i.e. if they are drinking AND being antisocial/ aggressive, not just drinking)

If the substances are illegal Police Officers and PCSO would be able to deal with this without this additional power.

There are enough existing powers already to stop problem drug taking and alcohol abuse. There must be room for discretion where people are enjoying the odd drink outside

There are laws relating to illegal substances, and byelaws about areas of the City wherein drinking is controlled or banned. This is sufficient to control a perceived problem, and automatic confiscation from a targeted group such as this is draconian and liable to cause more disturbance, subterfuge and hostility

I agree in theory but I do believe a central area should be designated for homeless people to meet up and drink etc. They live very solitary lives and need human interaction too. If it is kept to one area with seating and perhaps some shelter they will be easy to control/police and yet they will be treated as human beings.

The scope of this proposal is far too wide and open to misuse. Technically, anyone could have legally-bought alcohol confiscated at any time simply on the belief of a council officer

Yes, BUT point c) should be carried out with leniency, e.g. in the way police etc interpret 'reasonable grounds' for asking someone to surrender drinks (alcohol etc) - ONLY if the drink has been opened and the person is in a place where the public are walking by/ sitting very close to them. They should be allowed to keep unopened drinks if they agree to put it out of public sight.

This is just hysteria promoted by the press. If people are misbehaving, they can be dealt with by existing laws. The 'legal high' that causes most problem is alcohol.

If it's possible to legally catch people in the act of using substances

I cannot see how this is a manageable use of public resources. Who would this target? There are lots of different people in our society who possess intoxicating substances so surely all of them would need to be reproached not just the most vulnerable.

These measures will involve searching people and it will be the homeless who will be subject to this and not other people in the community

This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse.

It could well be wrongly applied, for instance in the case of a police officer wanting to control or intimidate someone or misunderstanding the situation. It is too wide a power for the few cases where real public nuisance is occurring.

NO

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

This is over-intrusive in people's lives.

This is too broad and could apply to a eg bottle of alcohol that is unopened and gives too much power to the council.

They should be left alone. Essentially the council intends to criminalise homeless people.

I feel this will target the most vulnerable people rather than the general public. However anyone that is behaving in a manner that is likely to harm someone else should be dealt with appropriately and someone likely to harm themselves be given support also to ensure they do not have mental health issues etc and support is what they need not sanctions

Trying to take alcohol away from impoverished alcoholics is a recipe for disaster, I can't believe it is seriously being proposed that "council officers" (ie low-waged, briefly-trained, and with unclear mechanisms of accountability for misuse of this power) are going to be authorised / asked to do this. It is about the most provocative action I can think of to inflict upon people who are addicted to intoxicating substances. It will lead to dangerous situations, and is an open invitation for the target individuals to get themselves in more serious trouble by resisting. If alcohol causes antisocial behaviour, or if illegal drugs are being used, then the police need to deal with it under existing legislation.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

I am not at all persuaded that these draconian powers are necessary.

If they are not causing anyone distress then I don't see it as a problem. This is victimising homeless people - just because someone doesn't have a nice warm home doesn't mean they shouldn't be able to enjoy a drink.

Too vague parameters for the 'authorised person' - making an assumption that they might drink! There are already powers in place to deal with antisocial behaviour, this is too heavy handed and not dealing with the root cause of the problem - why are the people behaving this way in the first place?

As a resident of the city, and someone who is regularly in the city centre both in daytime and sometimes at night, I find the powers that are being proposed excessive. Whilst there are individuals whom the authorities may have to confront about their behaviour it is totally unnecessary in my opinion that anyone who has alcohol in their possession can be challenged and have items removed. The accompanying assessment to this questionnaire makes comment on assistance to the most vulnerable who are 'on the street' and have a substance abuse problem, improvement and appropriate resources to give this assistance is what is crucial. The money involved in implementing the proposed changes could be much better spent in supporting those who are 'on the street'.

As stated, the power granted to the police and other officials is insufficiently specific and could be used to seize legally purchased alcohol even where it is not currently being consumed. The criterion of 'reasonable grounds to believe that such person [...] intends to use the intoxicating substance within the said area' is open to interpretation and as such is likely to be applied mainly to homeless people whether they are causing problems or not.

The current alcohol free zone is used to confiscate alcohol from anyone drinking within the zone whether rowdy or not except when outside and of pricey wine bars. Is this just an extension of that order which also stop people who are unable to afford and expensive pubs from using these areas.

NO

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

Many people who are homeless have mental health issues including alcoholism. There are already notices prohibiting drinking in certain areas of all cities. This is unnecessary and will mean that vulnerable people will be the people harassed. We need to have proper mental health support in our country and find ways to tackle young people taking legal highs not just banning them in public as if its enough to do 'out of sight, out of mind'.

There is already enough legislation to cover anti social behaviour if it arises. IT seems to me that this has the risk of officials taking pre-emptive action. All of us are innocent until the courts proves otherwise.

The scope of the powers is too broad. Persons carrying an unopened container of a substance that they acquired legally should not be molested in any way. Rather, authorised persons should concentrate upon those who are behaving badly, whether or not they are drinking at the time: this would include the many people who leave pubs and clubs in an intoxicated state and make trouble on the streets.

I don't see why people should be criminalised for personal use of these substances, as long as they aren't bothering anyone else. People with drug problems should be helped rather than punished.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

If the police don't feel it is necessary to make it an offence to not give up whatever substance is here considered, then they know it is unreasonable. They do have the right to arrest if unacceptable behaviour occurs as a result, which should be enough. 'Reasonable grounds' is a subjective consideration, one on which the police have considerable training and experience to make a judgement but which an Exeter City Council Officer may not. Can we be sure that 'reasonable grounds' will not be affected by appearance which may put vulnerable people at unnecessary risk?

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

This is a serious coordinated attack on homeless people sleeping rough across Exeter. A person is at rock bottom when their homeless it seems Exeter City Council is promoting the kicking of these people when they are down.

Homeless people should be liable under the same laws as everyone else, not subject to special conditions which infringe their liberties.

The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose.

I can foresee circumstances whereby unopened bottles of alcohol is taken from rough sleepers, and believe this would be a breach of their personal freedom.

A draconian response to a perceived issue regarding the public image of Exeter city centre. Legislation already exists to cope with individuals behaving in a harmful way to themselves and others. This proposal, which centres on preemptive action, will inevitably lead to targeting of vulnerable people who don't 'look' respectable. The lack of any proper means of regulating the behaviour of the 'authorised' persons is also very worrying.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

This could easily be misapplied to any person who has bought a bottle of wine or beer for a drink in the park or green as part of a picnic.

I consider it is not the business of government to tell people what to consume or where to consume it and I find the increasing tendency of government to try to exercise control in this area offensive and depressing. When I find an area where a council has put up signs saying alcohol consumption is controlled, I avoid the area. I certainly don't choose to shop there. I've taken to doing my Christmas shopping in places in Germany where people wander round with their wine in their hand. I like to feel I'm in a free country

The careless disposal of drink containers (cans and bottles) should also be taken into consideration.

These powers could be used against innocent people, who may have a bottle of wine on a picnic.

This is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. These powers will most probably be used to target vulnerable people such as homeless or people with mental health problems.

Provides power to remove possessions based on suspicion they might be used inappropriately, without evidence or proof they will be misused. Homeless people shouldn't be discriminated against, or the assumption made that they must be criminals.

Leave people alone

This legislation would be indiscriminate, would affect the most vulnerable and would end up being discredited like the 'sus' laws. It would also lead to disruptive behaviour if what the suspect was carrying legally purchased. There are already laws to apprehend people who are being disorderly and disruptive.

It's the person's choice what they put in their body, so long as they don't hurt any one else. Rules like this cause more reaction and therefore harm as they feel threatened. Most of our common foodstuffs (as well as other things) are full of chemicals that harm (stimulate and depress) the nervous system, but no one talks about this, and this is through lack of choice. Cigarettes and vaporisers are some of the worst 'legal highs' too. So this proposal is hypocritical and backwards.

I would agree if it were only for those drunk and disorderly.

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

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The proposal is draconian and is likely to result in the targeting of vulnerable people. I am quite sure that if I purchase a bottle of wine and carry it through an area covered by a PSPO, I would not be asked to surrender it. I am equally sure that if I were unfortunate enough to be homeless, or suffering from a mental impairment, I would be. There is no law against purchasing alcohol and there is already legislation to cover drunken or antisocial behaviour that causes offence to others. We don't need this, and the courts don't need to be swamped with cases of people unable to pay fixed penalty notices.

I believe that "c) the authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe that such person is using or intends to use the intoxicating substance within the said area." Is open to abuse by authorized persons who are prejudiced against certain people for what ever reason. It will make it quite easy for such a person, to negatively discriminate against someone based purely on nothing more than a negative bias. An individual may be carrying an unopened intoxicating substance to be consumed at home. An authorized person who is prejudiced against certain groups or individuals, could easily say that they believed that a certain individual was intending to consume their intoxicating substance, when in fact that was not the case.

It is unreasonable that substances may be taken if officers believe there is an intent to take them even if unopened and the person is not causing a disturbance.

Powers already exist to remove substances from people who are having a detrimental impact on other people and the local amenity. Removing any substance which is not in use is theft and a massive infringement on civil liberties.

The potential misuse of this power is too great especially when dealing with vulnerable people.

There are very few facilities for those with addictions..often the street is the only option. Young vulnerable people are told to stay away from Gabriel House as abuse is common...the street is the only option.

I believe that there are already laws in place that deal with these concerns

I feel this would become a confrontational and rather lazy response to people who are already on the fringe of society. I'm sure there are individuals "known" for their drinking/drug problems, surely the money would be better spent addressing their housing/social/addiction problems.

I am not confident that these powers will not be mis-used to target the homeless and/or vulnerably housed, and those with mental health problems. Absolutely, people harassing others, or otherwise causing distress and alarm, should face enforcement action. However, this measure would allow council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. People carrying legally purchased, unopened, containers of alcohol can have their property seized, even when they aren't drinking at the time. This is an unwanted and inappropriate interference with individuals' personal freedom. This is a blanket power that sounds suspiciously like an attempt to justify targeting our most vulnerable members of society.

I have seen Exeter City Council enforcement Officers in the past ignore street littering and walking away from the person littering, because they are frightened of any confrontation. Useless

An unwarranted interference with personal freedoms. The police already have adequate powers to deal with criminal behaviour...if and when it IS criminal.

We are talking about human beings who are vulnerable and need support and care. We all do what we can to survive and i, at times, have a drink to help me feel better. These human beings have to be somewhere. If you can provide a suitable place for them - great. If not - you can't just sweep them aside and pretend there isn't a real problem. LABOUR - REALLY!?

Yes. The Homeless obviously do not have homes, so have they have little choice but to consume their preferred intoxicants out of doors. Sometimes a drop of alcohol or similar is the only comfort in a cold & harsh world. I bet all you guys have a drink at home.

These guys have no home. Have a heart & do not be so selfish!!!

I disagree with the second part about "intent". Who is to decide what another persons intent is? So a person has just bought a bottle of wine to share with their partner at dinner, but a police officer, PCSO or council officer can confiscate it on the basis of their assumption of intent. Sadly none of those are above being prejudiced towards other based simply on appearance, ethnicity or social status, so this is highly likely to be used to criminalise the homeless, young people and other minority groups

Whilst these powers could in theory apply to a young couple who had bought a bottle of Prosecco for an impromptu summer picnic on the green, these powers could easily be and will most probably be used to target vulnerable and marginalised persons, such as homeless or vulnerably housed persons, or people with mental health problems. Whilst no one could reasonably object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows council officers to target people solely on the basis that they have reasonable grounds to believe that they will use an intoxicating substance within the PSPO area. This power would allow officers to seize legally purchased and unopened bottles containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking the alcohol at the time. As such, it is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. Also there is no clear mechanism for an officer to establish beyond doubt that a so-called intoxicating substance has not been obtained lawfully and for a lawful, medicinal purpose. The PSPO creates a blanket power which is open to potential misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon known individuals whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These known individuals could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is having no detrimental impact on any person.

All you will be doing is to displace the problem (if it is such a problem), elsewhere. Look at the supply of the intoxications of any kind first, then you might begin to get it right.

the authorities already have sufficient powers

Try living on the streets without using some sort of intoxicating substance. Enforcing a ban will not help homeless people, it will only serve to further ostricise them from society.

It is not clear to me why such additional powers should be required, given that existing legislation on drunk and disorderly behaviour already empowers police to act against any person behaving in a threatening or antisocial fashion under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants, and controlled substances are illegal anyway. In effect, the proposal simply criminalises the consumption of alcohol by the kinds of people who would be unlikely to be permitted to enter or remain in licensed premeses, i.e. the homeless and the very poor, even when used to no disruptive effect.

I feel the area considered should be extended to include all of Flower Pot playing fields as there is a significant problem in this area already which will only get worse if a clamp down is put in place elsewhere.

I agree if the individual is consuming the substance and refuses to give it up. Beyond that, I feel this proposal is simply targeting vulnerable people who have not, until they have started consuming, yet committed a crime.

The statement "the authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe..." opens this proposal up to abuse. Ultimately it would be the individual's word against the "authorised person" which is only going to end one way and the individual is unlikely to be able to pay a fine or fight the case.

I have witnessed antisocial behaviour by a group of vagrants in sidwell st and support any measures to prevent it.

It seems a bit much... I mean these people don't have much to help them cope with whatever baggage they carry, and prohibiting does not seem like the best option, as they are just going to do it elsewhere.

It feels very broad; if someone is creating a large, genuine nuisance then I would say it is fair to take any intoxicant they have, but otherwise I don't believe it is fair to take someone's possessions so easily.

Street-based alcohol consumption and drug use are a real community safety concern. Members of the public can find the behaviours associated with street-based consumption distressing, intimidating, or threatening; and the visibility of such behaviour can have a negative impact on fear of crime, and can also affect the perception of the city's day and nighttime economies. Added to that, the biohazard waste and litter associated with street-based use can pose public health challenges.

However, as is so often the case, the powers afforded to enforcement services are not themselves the concern - but rather how those powers are interpreted and applied in practice. Evidence demonstrates that enforcement in addressing street-based anti-social behaviour from people with complex and multiple needs is only effective when integrated with a comprehensive, multi-agency support package. (Johnsen & Fitzpatrick, 2008; Johnsen, Fitzpatrick and Watts, 2014.)

We would therefore offer our support in the granting of these powers providing that there was a commitment to defining a coherent, accessible, city-wide, multi-agency support package (a so-called "exit offer" for those seeking to leave a street-attached lifestyle) and a corresponding robust and assertive escalating process of enforcement, where the "exit offer" is re-emphasised at every stage of enforcement. These parallel, but integrated systems, should be co-designed by enforcement and support services, and form part of a city-wide, evidence-based approach to which all services are asked to "sign-up" to.

This design process needs to be cognizant of potential perverse outcomes and unintended consequences of any actions - and prepare and design mitigating and contingency responses to minimise these effects. For instance, a "clampdown" on visible street-based drinking and drug use in the city centre might have the effect of displacing this activity to more "hidden" parts of the city. While this outcome might have a positive effect in improving the public's sense of safety, reducing the "gravitational pull" of street-based communities to other vulnerable people, and disrupting some drug markets; there may be increased risks of alcohol poisoning, overdose and drug-related death as users are more isolated, and less visible. As part of the design of both the support offer and the enforcement process, such consequences need to be identified and mitigated.

Devon & Somerset FRS support the adoption of the PSPO for the area shown on the map.

I not wish to be stopped if I am carrying a bottle of wine under these proposals as drafted, a police officer could legally seize wine purchased and unopened. Here there is a blanket power which is open to abuse

It seems to me that police already have sufficient power to deal with antisocial behaviour caused by drink, drug taking etc. Extending this power to lesser trained council officers could result in abuses and confuses an already sensitive area of policing.

I totally and utterly disagree with the PSPO in its entirety. This is an assault on homeless folk, who need support not discrimination. Beds are not available for all homeless people, and the beds that are available end up accommodating revolving door cases, as many individuals are evicted from hostel accommodation due to lack of support for other issues (substance misuse, mental health issues).

The fact that Exeter city council is considering implementing a PSPO disgusts me. I thought I lived in a caring city, not one that discriminates against some of the most vulnerable individuals within our society.

This is not a good or well thought out way to deal with street drinking/drug taking. A lot of these people are vulnerable & need help & support. This is a very complex issue & this proposal will not deal with it.

I agree with the proposal but feel only uniformed officers should be authorised.

But I fail to understand what this adds to powers police already have to seize drugs

I agree to an extent, but do not think there should be a total ban on drinking alcohol, only if behaviour is causing anti social behaviour. I do not think council officers should be given the power to confiscate.

Support for self-medicating and homeless or displaced people must be considered. The Equalities Impact Assessment is good on this but we know 'locally available services' are in short supply, which is why sleeping rough has become visible again.

This infringes the rights of ordinary sensible people to go about their enjoyment of public spaces, for instance having a picnic in the park with a glass of wine or beer.

This proposal is too loose in its language and could in fact infringe on Human Rights.

Addiction is a big problem however confiscation will not solve it. A demand for these items will remain and could lead to increased crime if they are forcibly removed.

I do not agree that authorised persons have the right to confiscate substances if they are legal, and believe that if this were to come into law, would be discriminately used against the homeless population, or those who the person of authority suspects is homeless.

These measures are draconian and arguably violate human rights legislation

I think people should be allowed to drink in public. However, confiscating intoxicating substances is much better than arresting people. Its threatening to already vulnerable groups

Those who are most likely to be targeted by Proposal 1 are those who are homeless and have very few possessions. With insufficient support from the council, while these substances are illegal, they are constitute one of the few possession of value for these people.

This should be taken into account when confiscating the substances.

This is just going to victimise homeless people and will not help them at all.

It his will be open to interpretation by police officers who are not qualified to know about medications, substance replacement products and the like.

The main problem with the Proposal is the "if considered to be in possession". This puts too much stress on the judgement of officers which might themselves make mistake based on appearance of someone, and breaching privacy.

A policy of confiscation that does not provide the individual user with support for their addiction or usage is ultimately meaningless and will result in more direct harm to the individual. Furthermore, the consequences of confiscation without any provision of support to the individual will most likely result in an escalation of begging and street crime.

I personally find it more unpleasant someone smoking than i find someone having a drink on the street. When smoke is blown over you as you walk past this is disgusting and happens frequently.

So from the outset the homeless people dont actually do anything particularly disruptive, and most of them drink or whatever in town that doesn't have much in the way of residential buildings so even if it gets a bit loud or whatever it's not really disturbing anyone.

For Proposal 1, it is absolutely ridiculous that you think you have any right to take away the recreational activities of people who already have a shit life. It's like "oh i know your life is difficult, and this is one way you can actually have fun and a relief from that, but what if i just took that from you." Absolutely abhorrent.

I do not see how this will benefit the city centre and it will most likely result in people being pushed out and doing these same things in other, less safe places in the city.

People using drink or drugs in public places is a real community safety concern and can be distressing to other members of the public. It can have a negative impact on people's perception of the City as a safe place to visit or live. Waste and litter, in particular drug related litter is a public health concern. However there is an issue in how these powers are interpreted and put into practice. In order to be truly effective with people with complex drug, alcohol, mental health or other issues, there must be a comprehensive multi-agency response to individuals. As Exeter CVS has put it, a comprehensive "exit offer".

Having looked at the map, there may be an unintended consequence of the large area proposed for the PSPO and people will be dispersed into other more hidden areas with consequent impacts particularly upon women or the most vulnerable in this cohort. It is much better if the police have the power to nip issues in the bud, rather than have to wait for an offence to be committed before they can take any action.

Is this person harming others?

If the substances are directly leading to anti-social behaviour, I agree with this. However, people should be allowed to be in possession of drink and drink in public places if behaviour is reasonable.

It is unfair to assume someone may take a substance. How can this judgement be regulated amongst the police. It leaves authorities with an unfair portion of power which is based on what somebody looks like

I am concerned about how these powers can be used against people simply for carrying alcohol, even if a) they are not consuming it, and b) their behaviour is not causing alarm, harassment and distress, as defined in existing legislation (Public Order Act 1986). I'm not sure how enforcement personnel are supposed to ascertain whether people possessing alcohol have the intention of consuming it within the defined area. It may also be difficult for individuals to prove that substances are for medicinal use, even if this truly is the case. Therefore these powers are too broad and open to misuse. I think legal powers should focus on the behaviours of individual people rather than broadly defining those who possess alcohol as being antisocial within the zone.

I understand the need to prevent anti-social behaviour, but are there not adequate laws existing already to deal with this? This proposal seems to give excessive power to officials.

Sections b) and c) are too much open to interpretation. What is the definition of "reasonable grounds"? They sound like a catch-all devised to justify action merely on the say so of individual officers who, in the absence of any actual evidence that an offence had been/was being committed, can simply say that they thought an offence was going to be committed at some point in the future.

Prevention might be better than cure but official intervention should nonetheless be based on the reality of a situation, not on an individual officer's imagined perception.

It would be too easy to abuse the right to remove intoxicating substances that are being carried through a designated area without intent to consume them within that area.

I can understand the concern. It can be concerning to see a group of people getting drunk or taking substances.

However the proposal is incredibly subjective and therefore inevitably open to misuse. It is likely to disadvantage the young, the poor and the non-white.

It is putting the PC, PCSO or Council worker at great risk of even unwitting misuse of their powers and it is ridiculous to suggest that we do not all have our own internal biases, however progressive we think we might be.

This is a pointless measure if anyone is committing antisocial behaviour or is drunk and disorderly there are current laws to deal with those issues under the public order act or being drunk and disorderly I assume these measures are for people who are minding their own business Taking alcohol lawfully purchased is an attack on the vine tables personal freedom and is just bring done yo socially cleanse the streets if someone is an alcoholic and has there alcohol taken without any medical support this is known to be detrimental to health and even fatal Anyone knows hat yo help vulnerable homeless people trust is required clearly this will be eroded by such draconian measures making it much harder to help the homeless

Why criminalise people who are vulnerable and homeless

The duty of the community (including the city council) is to protect all citizens. Instead of criminalising this behaviour, we should be finding solutions rather than moving the problem deeper and deeper underground.

If you were homeless wouldn't you want to have something to drink?

Have some compassion - I don't believe drugs should be allowed. But for alcohol most people can consume within the premise of their own home - for some the streets are their home. Try to see something from their point of view and not a privileged one.

Why are we not addressing the causes?

When you can't afford somewhere to stay, alcohol or other drugs are a rational method of dealing with cold temperatures.

Also, people within the NHS I've talked to suggest that people often turn to alcohol to self-medicate in instances of mild or undiagnosed schizophrenia. It seems likely that this would be the case with many rough sleepers. You wouldn't take away their medication if it was prescribed - why do it when they've escaped the help of the health service?

This is infringing on civil rights and freedom of speech.

No details are provided in the proposals or FAQs as to why the proposals will deter alcohol and substance abuse more than the existing laws. Officers will apparently have the power to confiscate alcohol off any person at all who is carrying. Whether they do so or not will, it appears be at the discretion of the officer in question, leaving it wide open to abuse. No reason is provided for such a wide ranging power to deal with a problem that is already against the law. No examples are given to demonstrate the inadequacy of the existing laws. As such this proposal appears to be completely unnecessary.

Many homeless people are alcohol dependent, removing alcohol from them could result in them suffering a fatal seizure.
Threat of confiscation of alcohol from homeless people is likely to lead to incidences of aggressive behaviour.

I suggest the provision of safe sleeping provision - this could be a marquee with toilets, where people can drink alcohol if they wish to, as we who are securely housed can do.

Many people view the PSPO as a city centre cleansing, implementing it is likely to push those who wish to be able to drink to the edges of the PSPO area, which will impact unequally on residential areas in Exeter.

Briston have implemented a PSPO, purely to manage the use of legal highs, and I suggest this option be considered.

This disproportionately affects homeless people and seems like you are attempting to legally target these people rather than help them.

The litter left by drinkers and drug takers represents a hazard to my children and my dogs. Behaviour of those injecting substances can appear threatening and unpredictable and makes the city centre and no go area for us as a family in the evening.

These proposals disproportionately affect the homeless and will not solve the problem of alcohol and drug taking, but make it more difficult to spot.

Currently the authorised persons are the police force. This activity is already illegal and does not require any other agency to provide protection for the public. Is this part of a gradual attempt to privatize law the law enforcement function? Serious crime of this nature should be the sole preserve of the police authority.

This proposal would exclusively apply to people who would not be breaking any national laws. All this would achieve is making the poorer people - the equality analysis form accepts this would target the economically disadvantaged - surrender what little comforts they have to those in power simply because it's discomforting to those in power.

It will make the streets safer, eg less drunken and disorderly behaviour

Good idea

Proposal 1 is disgusting
barbaric

this will be aimed at homeless people. High street is a drink free zone but I have never had an open bear taken off of me yet, and yet homeless people do all the time. There is no way to implement this without it being unproportionately targeting homeless

About time!

What about late night drunkenness by nice middle class students, residents and soldiers, who are contributing to the 'night-time economy'? Will they be targeted too?

You should buy them off the homeless people so that they can afford to buy food or lodging.

If the person taking illegal substances (their status as such is questionable anyway - legalise, regulate and tax substances if you want to control 'illegal' drug dealing and consumption) is homeless, what good is a fine going to do if they fail to comply? They're probably freezing cold and have managed to get something that they believe will get them through the night. Why does the council or any body of national or local law enforcement have a say in the free adult choice of an individual? Have you ever been in their circumstances?

I'm referring to:

"£100 or the person could find themselves prosecuted. A breach is a criminal offence and there is a maximum penalty of a £1,000."

It's ridiculous to fine people for taking drugs, publicly or privately. Give them help and support, not drive them further into debt and likely further into their drug addiction.

Substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system could be anything

Legal highs are just that, legal. You should not be extending this to include legal intoxications

I agree that substances should not be consumed publicly and therefore should be surrendered. I do not agree with fines.

Extremely rational proposal.

Why do people think animals are here to benefit our selfish needs?

So an ECC employee is going to have the power to remove alcohol? What next? It definitely should not be a judgement call for them or a PCSO

Police already have the powers to address this issue. Legal highs will be made illegal in the next few months anyway so Police will also be able to deal with that.

I don't actually believe that drinking in the street is of itself so bad a thing that people's possessions (bottle, can etc) should be removed from them. I can't see how this will encourage anyone who has a problem with alcohol or drugs to engage with the available services.

It will probably only lead to a worsening of trust between them and the police / council. In my experience the most intimidating and offensive drunk people are usually the ones who come out of clubs and pubs, where they have paid for the privilege to get inebriated (and for the use of a toilet!), who will be exempt from the PSPO. I have never knowingly come across let alone been bothered by someone who has been taking legal highs, but I can't see that confiscating these substances can be anything but a token gesture. The main problem is that manufacturers of such drugs are making them and selling them, and that they are always changing the "recipes" to get round the law.

If a person commits an act of public nuisance or affray as a result of being inebriated, there are already laws in existence to deal with those offences. Being drunk in public is not against the law.

Allow them to get help no fined

This could make legal and legitimate purchase of alcohol incredibly difficult for anyone that these "authorised personnel" decide they don't like the look of

There are plenty of powers that already deal with this.

No

Police offers should not be given the power to decide whether someone is intending to consume a substance such as alcohol that they have legally bought and confiscate it from them

What are you the Gestapo?

If we are allowed to digest intoxicating substances then what right do we have to take that away from others. We are faced with as much danger of students digesting these intoxicating substances than we are with everybody else.

Say for example the Police stopped somebody carrying a large amount of alcohol to a private party. Under proposal 1, all the Police would need to do to confiscate all this person's alcohol is say that they believed the individual intended to consume the alcohol in a public place. This is an unverifiable and arbitrary judgement, for which the Police cannot be brought to account.

The Police already have powers to do this. This extension of these existing powers seems to be an attempt to cleanse the city centre of Exeter of anyone who is poor and homeless. It is dealing with the symptom rather than the causes of poverty. It criminalises and stigmatises the homeless - I can't imagine that these powers will be used against hen or stag parties.

Surely all these measures are enforceable at the moment. I think you should be helping these most vulnerable people to overcome their problems. and if there are not enough professional agencies available to do this then put the blame where it should be with this Tory Government .

Inhumane

Take from the poor and give to the rich that made them poor in the first place

It is dangerous and unnecessary to give Police powers to council officers. Furthermore, the proposed powers go way beyond Police powers as normally understood in the UK or any other civilised country. To allow confiscation of property without a publicly scrutinised judicial authority, because an "authorised person has reasonable grounds to believe" something, is contrary to the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act, so is clearly illegal.

These things may get them through the day, how about you look at how you can help them instead of stopping them doing the only thing they can do to help themselves

This seems to be an excessively draconian interference in civil liberties given that there is no stipulation that any harm or offence is required to justify the confiscation of legal substances. While it would be reasonable to assume that this power would not be abused there is not enough protection to ensure that it would be used ONLY to respond to public unrest (which is already possible under existing laws)

I would like to see that anyone effected by or convicted under Proposal 1 is given ample attention by the authorities to ensure that they receive adequate support from a programme or charity that will work with them to overcome addictions to these prohibited substances.

People can use intoxicating substances if they pay rent or from a bar. People with no private space should have the same rights on personal liberty.

Persecuting, destitute and homeless people

See comments and questions in accompanying letter.

This proposal must be universal - applying to all citizens if appropriate and not just the homeless.

This is cruel and inhuman. People with housing, sheleter, can smoke, drink etc. Where else can they have some life.

Yes and no it entirely depends upon the circumstances. If the person involved in causing a public nuisance and does not appear to be destitute. Yes, the substance should be surrendered. If the person involved appears to be destitute - they are in need of help.

There are many aspects of modern society that offend so why pick on alcohol and other intoxicating substances. They're usually used by people who are 'outside society' for one reason or another and used by them as a prop. Confiscating these things and criminalising behaviour is not helpful.

Whilst no one could object to a person facing enforcement action if their behaviour causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, this measure, in contrast allows a council officer to target someone solely on the basis that they think that they will use an 'intoxicating substance' within the PSPO area. This power would allow officials to take away an unopened bottle containing alcohol, even if the person wasn't drinking at the time. It is an unwarranted interference with the personal freedoms of individuals. It creates a blanket power which is open to misuse. It would be better for the council and the police to focus upon people whose actual behaviour is having a detrimental impact on the local community. These people could be targeted rather than a blanket power which applies to every person, even if their behaviour is offending no one.

Only if this behaviour is likely to cause offence.

Criminalisation of the homeless.

If not, more crime.

I think this proposal is a stupid and bad idea.

Some people don't drink and want to sit in the dry.

It will cause all sorts of problems for both the homeless and the council.

This will only make a bigger problem for both the council and the homeless.

I reckon some places on this area could be designated ok to drink.

Kids shouldn't have to see it.

This will only make a bigger problem for both the council and the homeless.

I'm concerned that it disadvantages the homeless.

You shouldn't be taking the little bit you have to satisfy your own needs.

Will you be applying this to students?

Leave the homeless alone.

It is really silly to fine a homeless person on the spot.

The measures set out in this proposal are excessive.

No

This will just cause many problems as taking a homeless persons belongings off them is like someone walking up to you and taking your home off you.

It's disgusting that you expect homeless people to find a place or get fined £100.

It's disgusting.

Utterly unbelievable.

Disgusting no respect for the homeless.

The proposal is as much about protecting and restricting the market as it is about the control of people's behaviour within a given space. This includes their economic behaviour. Surely the greater concern should be about the non-taxing paying multinational companies peddling overpriced tooth decay, obesity and diabetes to the people of Exeter, or to The Head Shops and their suppliers who openly sell unregulated synthetic poisons from Exeter High Street. Corporate distribution and profiteering from the sale of sugar and drugs seem like a much greater anti societal issue than any individual consuming any substance anywhere. And of course if these profiteering tax dodgers did pay the correct level of tax in this country there would be more accommodation available. The council should pursue illegal trading on its high streets and not simply fine the hmeless for being homeless.

**PSPO Consultation
Responses to Restriction 2
01/06/16**

Comments Proposal 2

This proposal in my opinion has been long overdue, the powers to prevent begging and drinking in a public place have been available to enforce for many years.

It should be a criminal offence to do any of the proposed intentions in public place anywhere, Anti social behavior has achieved a new level and its long overdue.

Public toilets are closing. What are desperate meant to do?

Taunton have a pop up night time urinal that has proved successful in providing a solution rather than simply banning Amenities - such as public toilets - should be provided to reduce this. This includes toilets that are open later and in busy street areas to allow people to have an alternative. Additionally, getting agreement from high street restaurants / bars that they are happy for people to "pop in and use the bathroom" would be helpful to know it's acceptable alternative.

Should exempt small children under the age of 5.

This proposal is only acceptable if there are sufficient open toilet facilities available in the evening and late into the night and early morning.

Please install more public toilets. You can't beat Mother Nature.

Nothing wrong with having a wee in a bush if you're caught short!

Sometimes you gotta pee

Allowance for anyone who offends, but has a medical reason for doing so.

Surely this is already against the law?

Where can late night revellers go to the loo, there are no options then urinate in the street, why not have some 24hr toilets like you see in other large cities, even if there is a charge

Sufficient toilet facilities must be made available, the current trend seems to close the public toilets.
as before

The zone should cover the University area too.

i fear this rule would only apply, wrongly, to homeless - police would smile and wave on people of my social status.

Must be facilities to use available

Exclude children in need

On grounds of hygiene and decency how could anyone object.

Welcomed

There are not enough public conveniences open; particularly at night.

People will always urinate but there are limits to where they can go to once the public conveniences are closed?!!

If the areas can be patrolled in the evenings, that's when most incidents occur.

Stop shutting public conveniences.

I agree that people should not urinate willy nilly, but you don't say what you are going to do about it. On that basis I disagree. By definition, now most public loos or demolished or expensive, what are these people (homeless = no home, no bathroom) supposed to do? You need to work at the problem at source

This is of course a great idea if you have free public toilets or urinals portaloos available for the homeless. but not if there is no alternative gotta go somewhere

Extend the are up through St James to the University.

I agree, except for on beaches where sometimes there are not many options. It should be allowed if the person takes themselves away from public view. Also there is a problem with public toilets not being open in the evening so where are you supposed to urinate. Pubs etc do not let you in without buying a drink and often all public toilets are shut. This is not fare.

If someone needs to urinate discreetly on a beach at midnight or behind a bush in a park it doesn't bother me.

No public facilities after 6pm so where can you urinate and why are late night venues like McDonalds allowed to trade without having their toilets available to their customers. Will you also fine the taxi drivers from the Sidwell St Rank who regularly urinate in the alley leading to the bus station?

Again huge probs. along riverside.

Provide 24 hour toilets case solved. You can ban something when there us no alternative that sounds heartless.

Provide public toilets at nighttime for the use of everybody who may need them, such as the French pop up toilets.

Are there any temporary toilets for those leaving clubs etc who may have drunk a "few" beers? We all know that when you want to go you have to!

But build more public toilets

Many of the public toilets have been closed or require money to use. How can you implement this without providing more facilities?

My approval is on the basis that adequate facilities are provided for the use of the public at all hours. At present I'm not aware of any public toilets open late at night, and presumably this is the most likely time for the offences to occur. Do you think people really want to just urinate in public for fun (in most normal cases) or do you think it is done through inability to find suitable facilities? If you provide those facilities, I'm sure the problem with dry up (if you'll excuse the pun)

But please make sure toilets are open longer in the evenings for the use of the public. There's a real problem when toilets are needed and not available in the evening.

See comment on 1.

Whilst I agree with this proposal, night time toilet provision in the city is appalling. Address this problem and it may not be necessary to enact this proposal.

This needs to be extended to cover leaving cups, bottles etc used as urinal, and needs to be extended to defecating, in any public place!

Public urination is disgusting. pure and simple. But, if you are homeless and the Council facilities are closed and you are unable to go into a public house to use the facilities, what do you do? Again, i feel as though this is just targeting the homeless. i'm sure many have witnessed other sectors of society doing this, I know I have

But, please ensure adequate facilities. Some of us have small bladders! But on a more serious note, some rough sleepers do not have a choice where to "go to the loo", particularly at night. Can more facilities be made available for these people?

The urinating is also a health hazard

As long as public toilets are opened in the night

Catch them at it is the dilemma

I assume there will be massive investment in public toilets that are open 24 hrs...especially on all public beaches?

Seems perfectly sensible

Even though this is disgusting - there are NO toilets available (as far as I know) outside of commercial premises after a certain time.

Where are the homeless meant to go if they need the toilet?

Are there any public facilities which are open 24 hours a day? I am particularly thinking of those who are homeless and have no other appropriate option for reliving themselves.

I wonder whether there are sufficient public toilets available in the city centre. There used to be some behind Dingles, but I think they were closed for that open cafe. Were they replaced?

Whilst I agree in principle that urinating in the street is wrong, the reason people do it is because there are not enough places to urinate or they are not aware of the places where they can do it, especially at night. Will the council spend more money putting up signs and provide more OPEN facilities throught the area? If not then I don't support this proposal.

If public toilets are not available, then what are people - especially the elderly, the homeless and peoplewith bladder problems meant to do? Make sure clean public facilities are available 24/7 in all areas before you criminalise natural functions.

Nothing to fault on this one. Disgusting to walk in some places to find the smell unbearable.

This could only be reasonable if suitable alternatives are available at all times.

I have urinary problems resulting from prostate cancer. I have needed to pee in public though not too publically so far but including public park areas.

Some effort also needs to be made to ensure adequate public toilets.

I would have liked a third possibility of 'Unsure' as an answer. Is this not covered by existing laws/by-laws? Would this be applied universally, or to target the homeless (for example, what about a child who needs to urinate urgently)? I believe that the real purpose of this proposal is to criminalise the homeless and for that reason I do not support it. I do agree that urinating in public is in essence unacceptable, but believe this to be covered by existing laws. Prosecution should be subject to the process of law, not PSPOs.

Yes I agree it is antisocial to urinate in public. This should only breach an order if the person urinating has access to public conveniences within a reasonable distance. Public conveniences have been closing for many years now - what I would ask the council is one to do in such circumstances?

If all establishments that must provide toilet facilities must make those facilities available free of charge to non-customers.

It is already an offence to urinate in a public place and we do not need another pointless and unnecessary law. Again, only Sworn Police Officers should be allowed to deal with such matters, not some jumped-up Council 'jobsworth' with an attitude problem and probably corruptly incentivised.

Is the council planning to spend the generated revenue on building new free public conveniences to replace the ones which have been demolished in order to create this situation in the first place?

Homeless people have no choice but to do this. Provision of public toilets would be a good idea.

sometimes potty training kids cant make it to a toilet! We mustn't criminalise them!

Where there are not public facilities, what can you expect homeless people to do?

Too often toilets are closed. If you really need to go you really need to go pubs so. Dogs seem to be aloud to urinate anywhere how about opening more public toilets, night time urinals etc solve the problem at source

Since there are not enough public free toilets available this is unreasonable. It would be the right decision if free public toilets were available.

Are there any public toilets in the City open for 24 hours? I do not think that there can be many men who have not been "taken short" at some time in their lives, and have had to use somewhere out of sight, as in a hidden space in a park. In addition, as in other european countries, people are entitled to go in to any bar and use the toilet if they need to without being a customer. Can you see this happening here? How many publicans will gladly allow the poor homeless to come in and use their facilities?

I obviously don't want people urinating in the streets but the question for me is: are there enough public toilets? Exeter also needs more public fountains.

As there are no public facilities available for many hours of the day; those in bars and restaurants are often for customers only. The need to urinate is not always controllable and cannot be legislated.

I would agree if the Council had reviewed the amount and location of toilets available to the public and was prepared to invest in further toilets if there is insufficient to meet people's needs. These facilities need to be well sign-posted so even a stranger to Exeter can find their way to a toilet when needed.

Provide more public toilets

can more of these temporary urinals/toilet be provided because if you're living on the streets where do you go?

Public toilets are often closed very early. What are people supposed to do in these circumstances?

However I think providing adequate places to toilet for the homeless that are accessible 24 hours per day, should be a pre requisite of the clause being included.

not enough provision is provided for public urination after a certain time and until this changes I cant support this

Do you have public toilets open 24 hours a day? I doubt it. What do you expect people to do?

While broadly this is an acceptable policy, if used mainly to criminalise homelessness I find myself having to disagree with its implementation. Certainly if there are no public toilets available I disapprove of criminalising the act.

We just need to ensure that appropriate facilities are readily available and well signed.

Tell this to dogs cats and all the other creatures that regularly urinate defecate on our streets. Provide more toilets!!

No, the proposal should not procede.

The police already have powers to act in this matter they do not use the powers they have.

More public toilets are needed so they don't have to use public places

More public toilets should be made available - not just urinals for men.

I would agree with it if accessible, free, 24-hour toilets are available. For people sleeping rough they may have no choice.

There are far too few public toilets for people to use 24 hours a day. If a person is urinating in a quiet, respectful and modest fashion and not causing offence or a health hazard because there are no toilets available then to my mind this should be considered acceptable.

Sometimes you're just caught short; there are very few public toilets.

This would be an entirely sensible measure if the council provided more clearly signposted 24hr public toilets.

I do not support urinating in the street. However education from an early age is the way as well as sufficient sanitary provisions suitable for the current 24 hour culture.

I am surprised that this is not already an offence. Incidences like this might be reduced if there were free public toilet facilities in the city centre, I am not aware of any.

Surely there are already sufficient laws and powers to control this.

Where there is a demonstrable problem, try installing more toilets or using splash-back paint before resorting to legal measures.

This is a hard one because there aren't enough public loos. When I take my three year old grand daughter out and she needs to go, we have to stop in the street and discreetly hold her to have wee. Will this mean I could be fined?

This proposal assumes that anyone who needs to go has access to a toilet within a short distance, and that s/he has money with which to pay for it if required.

This becomes a challenging issue as an increasing number of public conveniences are shut down.

These proposals will criminalise homeless people who do not have access to toilets, especially at night when any public toilets are likely to be locked.

I would agree with the proposal if I could be satisfied that the Council provides adequate, and safe, public toilets which are open and patrolled on a 24 hour basis. As I can not be sure that this is the case, and it is very unlikely to be the case, it must, therefore, be possible for the homeless to urinate, discretely, in public when they have no other option available. I do not see what they are supposed to do otherwise. This is not a practical proposal.

Who put in the exemption. Seriously stating the obvious. Someone is clearly getting paid on number of words. Try sticking with what is actually intelligent and relevant please.

Funnily enough you are missing out Pregnant women who are caught short and need to use a police officers helmet to urinate - perfectly legal in public.

I will be glad to see this proposal introduced as and when the police etc become responsible for enforcing dog owners to stop their animals messing and urinating in the streets - much more of a nuisance in my book.

Without access to a good number of public toilets, this can be difficult - especially with toddlers. Not a major issue in Exeter, to my knowledge....

There are not enough public toilets in Exeter, I have incontinence following a childbirth injury nine years ago and I often have to find a bush in a park when there's no alternative. If there's nowhere to go, how can you make a necessary bodily function illegal?

This is already an offence. You don't need it.

At night public conveniences are often locked and rough sleepers and others have little choice but to urinate in a public place after public conveniences have closed

This would only be at all practical if you had an abundance of free 24 hour public bathrooms.

More public toilets should be made available. All of us can be caught short on occasions, and those on water tablets find it hard to go far from home as the open public toilets are very few and far between. As a former irritable bowel syndrome sufferer, the first thing I needed to do in any town or village I visited, was locate the toilets. Sadly, these are minimal in number now.

While I agree with this proposal, I would expect it to be supported by the provision of public toilets which can be accessed 24 hours per day. You make the assumption that anybody wishing to use toilet facilities will be using pubs or restaurants. This is not the case as there are many rough sleepers within Exeter who would not be able to do so. Without an amendment to this proposal, I could not fully support it.

Whilst I do not like seeing people urinate in the street, individuals would not engage in this behaviour if sufficient free public toilets were available 24 hours a day. Therefore the better proposal would be to invest in additional public toilet facilities free at point of use for all, rather than criminalising those who end up having no choice (or are caught unavoidably short!).

Most of the city centre toilets are closed at night, even ones for disabled people. If this is sorted out people will stop urinating in the streets etc.

more public toilets should be made available or better signage towards them and have them open later or 24/7 if possible

Are there sufficient open and usable publicly accessible facilities so that people cannot be caught out? Including incontinent people or small children? You can only criminalise this if the person in question had the reasonable option to use a public facility and this was open and usable.

No. You lock public toilets far too early. If a person is caught short and takes reasonable steps to avoid leaving a mess or causing offence there is no victim here.

This is too wide ranging. Small children often need to urinate at time which could be classed as inconvenient. If an area is chosen which is out of the public eye and where the urine will be soaked into the ground I can't see a problem. Discretion is required on the part of the person in authority

Whilst public urination is unpleasant, the lack of adequate public toilet provision is a problem that confronts homeless and vulnerably housed persons most acutely. For someone who lacks a secure abode and is sleeping on the streets, it can be difficult to find a safe and private place to use the toilet, particularly throughout the night. It is hard to see how issuing spot fines to destitute persons is going to make a meaningful impact on the issue of public urination. There would need to be exemptions made for vulnerable people for this measure not to have an adverse impact on the most vulnerable members of society, in the absence of those exemptions, and with a lack of evidence of adequate provision of public toilets, particularly throughout the night, I cannot agree with this proposal.

There should be exemptions for medical conditions and "emergencies" - e.g: some older men, and the very young, are sometimes overtaken - and where the person has gone to some trouble to secure privacy. Someone taken short should be able to dive into bushes or behind walls and relieve themselves. Common sense says so, but officials are sometimes lacking.

In practice, given the limited number and opening times of public toilets, this is likely to have a disproportionate and unfair impact on the homeless. The inclusion of 'any road, footway, beach or other area to which the public have access without payment' is a very wide scope, and includes instances where no public nuisance would necessarily be caused.

Perhaps some more public toilets would alleviate this problem?

The yes is qualified by a requirement that urinals must also exist within a reasonable distance.

In France have seen (only practical for men I think) large blow moulded polythene 'urinals' at public events.

What about very small children? Sometimes there is simply no time to get to a toilet!

I work in the town centre and start work at 6am every day. Walking to work through Exeter high street at that time is scary because of the amount of drug users and drunks roaming around at that time of the morning. I have to walk through the alley way next to house of fraiser to get to work, I am often confronted by people ther urinating, not only is it disgusting and smelly but I also feel very uncomfortable and unsafe. I'm a young woman in full time work and feel that this would really be a step forward if these actions could actually be dealt with rather than these people being able to get away with behaving This way and ruining the city centre for the rest of Exeter.

With so many other cultures coming into our society unsociable things like this are becoming almost normal to some people; this trend must be reversed in order to keep our dignity and respect for proper behaviour as we know it in our country.

It is easy for an office worker to consider such a thing. I work outside, even though my Industry is covered by hundreds of rules and regulations, the provision of toilet facility's seems easily omitted. I am often, as a last resort, found peeing in the bushes. My Doctor tells me I am doing myself damage holding it in too long. My son holds it in all day and is greeted by a "No operatives past this point" sign on the door, on his return to central office.

A group of vagrants openly urinating on the cathedral school door leading to Cathedral Green in mid afternoon is just revolting. Quite unacceptable. The narrow footpath along our garden is casually used as a urinal by vagrants and youths which makes a disgusting mess.

They do this with no regard for the general publics and even in front of children. Dreadful.

I am ticking 'no' because not sure whether Section 329 of the Highways Act 1980 makes provision for FREE toilets. Not acceptable that people sleeping rough must pay 20 or 30p. Also, too many toilets are too often closed (e.g., Buddle Lane and Cowick Street)

I don't like people urinating in public - but there is a totally inadequate provision of free-of-charge public toilets open 24/7 in central Exeter, and this issue needs to be addressed first.

My only concern is that those sleeping rough should have access to toilet facilities overnight - there should be at least one public/free facility in the city centre that is open 24 hours.

common decency prevents people urinating on the street. There is no need for a special law about it.

To help with this, all the toilets in Exeter city centre should be free to use.

If we as a community find this to be unacceptable, then a specific by-should be proposed, debated and passed. i would be in favour of such a by-law should it include exemptions for instances where the act is not in public view, e.g. not in a play area in the presence of minors, an area not frequented by pedestrian or motor traffic.

This should be under a public nuisance basis not fee to be applied for no reason. There should be no victimisation given closure of public toilets and for people on the street at night. They need help not criminalisation.

If there are no public toilets open, and no access is available for the people. I agree with this proposal where public toilets are OPEN and within 10 minutes walk of the person's location. Otherwise you are punishing people who haven't got a nice plumbed in toilet.

Which is mean spirited at best, or nasty at worst. Are homeless people supposed to not pee from 7pm-7am?

This is a fair proposal. There are free toilet facilities within Exeter and so long as they exist there is no reason for people to have to publically urinate.

Although I agree with this on one level, we must consider the homeless who may not have the means to enter an area that can only be accessed using payment and they should not be punished for a bodily function. Furthermore I have never considered public urination to be a considerable problem in Exeter and so I think that the benefits of this proposal would not outweigh the consequences that would be most felt by the more vulnerable citizens of our community.

I hope discretion will be used in situations where a small child or person with a medical condition have "been caught short".

I only agree with this if there is provision for homeless people to urinate somewhere. Provide them with some safe and nearby facilities (not to mention the shoppers).

Don't charge for public toilets. If someone cannot afford 20p to use the toilet, it leaves them with no choice but to relieve themself elsewhere.

there should be some kind of 24 hr public loo which may prevent the problem of urinating in eg the Mary Arches carpark.

What have the homeless folk to say about this?

What if you are pregnant and have no access to a public toilet? What if you suffer incontinence and would rather not urinate yourself through your clothing.

If you do not include behind a tree and discreetly within the phrasing of this proposal, then I agree that street urination is not acceptable. However, what about those that are homeless? What if they have nowhere else to go? What if there are no shelters available and no public toilets open at night? Or they do not have the cash to pay to use a bathroom?

You might want to build more public toilets, and keep existing toilets open at night (possibly with a pay barrier to prevent abuse).

This is only fair if there are public toilets open at all times. Are there?

There are many spaces that these people SHOULD be allowed to use. The beach and the riverside being just two.

Not urinating on a beach or park seems a little over the top! It might be more appropriate to restrict it during busy times.

Old Tiverton Road and Sidwell Street should be included in this proposal

Some medical conditions lead to the urgent need to use the toilet, and difficulties with bladder control are common in old age. If the City Council is not prepared to make free facilities available within the designated area, this could lead to penalty orders being given to respectable citizens who had no intention to offend, and may already be deeply embarrassed, but had no physical choice. The explanation given in the FAQs that people could "go before leaving" shows no understanding of the relevant biology.

Sometimes when walking in the countryside on public footpaths it becomes necessary to urinate discreetly. This should be included in the exemption.

If public toilets are provided then that would be fine.

This is far too sweeping. Where are homeless and impoverished people supposed to go to urinate? I do not believe pubs and clubs will provide them with access. If there are concerns about this then the City Council should make permanent all-night provision.

it would be good to have a website we can upload photos of people doing this onto

The council will need to ensure there are enough public toilets available to be able to enforce this

While I strongly support this proposal in principle, it is hypocritical to introduce it without making sure that there are safe, clean public toilets available in the city centre on a 24-hour basis. I entirely agree about the need for pubs and clubs to make such facilities available to their customers - and for their customers to use them - but unless and until there is proper provision for those who end up sleeping rough on the streets (and who certainly are not customers of the pubs and clubs), this proposal is untenable, because for those people there are no realistic alternatives.

On condition that improvements in the provision of public toilets is much improved, and in the case of young children sometimes there is no option but to use a public space.

Make more FREE public toilets available and then people wouldn't urinate in the street.

If there are no public urinals available then it is unfair to fine people (particularly rough sleepers) for relieving themselves.

Absolutely. We know the problem about the shortage of public toilets but there ARE toilets in the city centre so there is no excuse really.

Only as good as the enforcement of the Proposal. Will there be prioritisation of resources to cover? Currently resources are prioritised in the city centre which has pushed the ASB issues out to the centre fringes and our neighbourhood St David's has been hard hit.

Ditto Prop. 1

The council should ensure adequate toilet facilities are available.

Please see my comments at question 3.

The area should be expanded to include the flowerpot recreation fields and the fields that run beside the flood prevention scheme.

At times when there may be particular predictable problems (e.g. freshers week) some work with interested parties (e.g. Student Guild) to pay for temporary toilet blocks in strategic positions be explored. For ongoing issues with vulnerable groups, look for some form of solution with agencies involved and those vulnerable groups.

There aren't any temporary urinals that I am aware of. If they are provided and then not used there may be a case for the above. Until such time however, I am not in favour.

This is targeting homeless people and I'm not in agreement. I agree that people out drinking should be urinating in the street, but for people whose home it is, I have no problem.

I would agree if there were adequate public toilets available.

Any homeless person needs to urinate. If the council insist on closing public toilets at night then where exactly do you expect them to urinate? Are they suppose hold on for over 12 hours before they can use the toilet.

Needs to be clear will not effect children where there are no public loos.

This proposal will needlessly and unfairly effect Exeter's homeless community. In the FAQ sheet it is stated that there is "little excuse" for publicly urinating as "all drinking establishments have toilets for use by patrons." Rough sleepers are unlikely to be able to use or afford these establishments and so will find themselves without anywhere to go since public toilets are locked during the night. The venues are also unlikely to be open all night so there will be a large window where Exeter's homeless community will not be provided for. The claims of the FAQ sheet make clear that the effect of this proposal on Exeter's homeless has not been considered. While I would rather people didn't urinate on the street, given that homeless people have no other choice I am strongly opposed to punishing them for acting out of necessity. If this order were come into place then it would have to be in conjunction with public toilets being made available throughout the night.

Is this to include the St. Thomas area?

make the urinator clean up the mess afterwards

Public conveniences must be made available all night in affected areas.

yes, its all needs cleaning up and currently gives a bad impression to visitors and can be dangerous to children and mothers if the offenders are in the parks and open spaces. and certainly gives a very bad image of Exeter

If a person does not have a home of their own, and no public toilets are open, then what are they supposed to do? Pubs, clubs etc. don't like homeless people coming in to use their toilets, and they aren't open all night either.

Again this proposal must clearly apply to all persons urinating in a street or public open space. By far in most cases urinating is done by clubbers on weekend nights.

Provide public conveniences for people to use and the problem will mostly go away.

Council officers and police have better things to do with their time. Or should have.

This will negatively affect the most vulnerable people in our society. These people need help rather than being victimised and persecuted.

The acts of persecution and discrimination of the minority and vulnerable groups are abhorrent and comparable to some of the measures introduced by the Nazi Party before the Second World War.

Mahatma Ghandi said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Based on this quote, if these proposals are introduced, this Nation would be quite distant from greatness.

I most certainly do not agree with this! As a 48 year old woman I am constantly appalled by the closure of public toilets and the lack of such facilities, for the homeless this is an even worse situation - at least I can ask a restaurant politely to use their facilities - sometimes I have been refused, they are never going to say yes to a poor homeless person! Further there is perfectly adequate existing legislation that can be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

If we were to help the homeless, and make sure they were safe, and had their needs met, which includes access to a toilet, that is the answer, we really can't keep demonising them. They are no different to us, except they have no home to go to. We wouldn't treat a dog like this, we would make sure it had shelter.

I am an elderly 70 yr old lady who has had to discreetly pee when necessary in public. Pee is sterile and every human has to pee.

There is also a lack of public amenities

There is no need for these by laws. Police need to use the powers they already have.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Existing legislation should be enough, what about people without access to suitable toilets, for example during the night when no public toilets or venues are open?

Existing legislation adequate

We live in a diverse country with varying customs; I am used to urination in the street as I've lived and holidayed in France like many of us.

Circumstances alter cases. A small child caught short - could it be prosecuted, or its parent?

Whilst I think such practises as urinating in the street as disgusting, what facilities does the council provide for people in the city centre during the night? All the toilets are locked. I suspect a lot of pub-goers and homeless people will be damaging their bladders...

There is no provision for people with medical conditions, desperate to urinate and when no public or e.g. shopp convenience is nearby or is closed. Provided discretion is used and no exhibitionism is involved there are legitimate reasons why some people may need to urinate in a public place

Homeless people may not have access to lavatory facilities and must not be further penalised for their unfortunate circumstance.

Antisocial behavior of say, intoxicated youths, are already covered under other policing measures,

Whilst no-one wishes to see others urinating in public places, there are sufficient numbers of homeless people on Exeter's 'streets' that there will be times (especially at night) when they will not have any access to public toilet facilities. This proposal would effectively criminalise them for their homelessness. Not a good idea!

Again I thought laws existed to deal with this sort of nuisance and what happens to people "caught short" late at night when the public toilets are all shut?

Again too easily abused to unreasonably target those most at risk and mentally ill. Existing legislation is adequate.

Supposing the homeless are urinating (or indeed defecating) because they are ill? Are there Public Conveniences that are free of charge in Exeter? If not, why not?

Homeless people may have 'emergencies'

Stop closing public toilets.

How many public urinals have been closed? Who will be empowered to look for urinating people, for heavens sake.

What else are people supposed to do when public toilets are closed?

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Mostly agree, but, under current wording, this would include a homeless person who has no access to toilet facilities urinating in an out of sight bush or waste area. Consequently, I feel that the extent of this proposal is unreasonable.

I do not agree, as many 'ordinary people' (ie; non vagrants) often find themselves desperately in need of a toilet when there are none nearby, and this could criminalise them unnecessarily if stopped by police.

Provide public toilets

Most men have been caught short at some point and have had to urinate in public and doubtless some women, most children also. So this makes most people's actions illegal. I understand the limitation in retail areas, but more free public toilets should be provided.

There are insufficient facilities available at night, and even the bus-station conveniences close early/mid evening. A person may be 'caught short' quite innocently and some because of age or a medical issue.

There need to be free facilities for homeless people to urinate otherwise they have no options

There needs to be more public toilets with 24/7 access. Anyone can get 'caught short' especially if they have a medical condition.

Adequate powers exist for this purpose. Council could/should ensure that people have safe places to urinate, particularly at night

Everyone would agree that public urination is antisocial and deeply objectionable, however local authorities should be obliged to provide adequate facilities for the public, which unfortunately, is one of many public amenities that seem to be disappearing. Our society in the 21st century should be evolving positively, not regressing.

only if open public toilets are available

Isn't this already an offence?

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

What about rough sleepers? I would go along with this measure if all publicly accessible businesses were also obliged to allow anyone to use their lavatories

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people, such as the homeless, who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the night-time hours. Again, to prosecute these vulnerable people in such circumstances would show no understanding and would be completely counter-productive as regards their situation. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

unless it is an emergency for the person

The city council keeps closing public toilets and reducing opening times, whilst in the town centre charging has been introduced. Recently members of my family have become disabled in a way which requires regular trips to the toilet, which aren't available thanks to council policies.

We need to provide more public toilets open twenty four seven and make sure it's non payment operated. In the 19th century there were public baths places to get clean. If we are going to act in a dracoion manner then reestablish these as oppose to criminalising people.

P

I don't agree with the proposal although I agree that urinating in the street s not right. There isn't an abundance of public toilets are there- also people who are homeless cannot afford to pay to us a public convenience

I am appalled that a Labour council is considering putting a policy in place which is legalises the abuse of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. These people need our help. They are not criminals.

There are plenty of laws already in place to deal with aggressive or violent behaviour. Urinating is not a criminal offence in this country and to make it subject to sanctions in this manner is reminiscent of the policies put in place in Germany under the Nazis.

What if somebody with a bladder disorder has to urinate. That would be embarrassing enough without being fined in addition to this.

Again handing powers to unqualified individuals is dangerous.

The FAQ mentions that rough sleepers are not targeted yet states that public toilets are not available at night and states that patrons of pubs etc can use those facilities before they leave the venue. Exactly what does Exeter council expect those on the streets to do?

They can't afford to use the establishments yet there are no available toilets. I understand the issues of public toilets being used in inappropriate ways at night however facilities need to be provided otherwise the homeless are effectively being criminalised for natural bodily functions.

Provide Dutch style urinals.

Exeter needs more public toilets available

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

The provision of toilets in the city is not adequate during evening and night time hours and bars are sometimes reluctant to allow people to use theirs, urinating in the street is disgusting, but so is poverty and heavy fines just place people in hardship. Not everyone who might need a toilet but not be able to find one would be of antisocial character or intoxicated. I think this is not the right way to solve this problem

With Councils having income from national government cut, public toilets are seen as an easy target for savings.

Yes but only if this is going to apply to people who populate Exeter's pubs and clubs on Friday / Saturday nights. But there are no public toilets in Exeter after 7pm - so again this is probably a better solution.

What if someone is desperate and they've done their best to find a discreet place to pee like behind some bushes in a park? Hardly a criminal act, is it? Overkill again.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

This is likely to make life more difficult for the homeless of Exeter. Where is the compassion of the council leaders? Please think again.

I am assuming that there are public toilets in sufficient numbers that are open 24/7 -- is this true? Otherwise, where can a homeless person pee?

WHERE DO YOU "GO" when the toilets are shut?

Of course, one part of the equation is the provision of clean and accessible public facilities.

I believe it is already against the law, but doesn't seem to be being enforced, judging by the condition of such places as Parliament Street.

There are not enough public urinals. Spend a bit of money and put up a few pissoirs. Stop being so coy about a bodily function.

Yes if there is adequate provision of free toilet facilities on a 24 x 7 x 365 basis in the immediate vicinity.

Is this really a problem in Exeter. In my experience it is not.

But I note that the council provides urinals at new year to allow toilet facilities to the antisocial rich.

Only agree if the council provide appropriate official facilities

Aren't there already public disorder laws to control this? Why make it a specific criminal offense?

Yes in general but not sure why it has to be a law most people are discreet and anyone else can be ignored its a bodily function and really we don't need to be controlled like this.

All acts of "making use of the facilities" should be done in their respective designated areas i.e. Public toilets. I also think that all outdoor public toilets should be open at all times, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There are too few public toilets these days and I have often been in a city I don't know well with no alternative but to find somewhere quiet and pee on the front tyre of my vehicle (legal when driving is your job) but I would prefer a public loo

You have closed down many public toilets what do you expect

Have you made sufficient provisions for widespread toilets available 24 hours per day, or have you closed down many public toilets during the last few years. If the latter, then criminalising a function that sometimes can not be avoided is wholly unfair.

The law must already cover this! Anyone who does this is in need of help; not persecution!

This is already covered under the Public Order Act as it could cause offence to the public or damage to property. Police currently have the power to deal with this on any street.

Unless public toilets are opened as an alternative this proposal should be dismissed. Whilst I do object to people urinating in door ways and other street places, I would consider behind a bush acceptable in the absence of public conveniences.

provide public loos that are open!

It is implicit in this specification that 'street' could not refer to a beach or e.g. a public-access coastal or moorland footpath, since neither of these exist in the city centre. It would be inappropriate to prohibit people from relieving themselves discreetly in either of those two environments. [I would ask also that the spellchecker applied to surveys such as this one use UK English rather than US 'English' - I find it invidious that 'centre' is flagged as a misspelling of 'center' for a survey re a UK city.]

as i said previously if you help by providing some provision then people will not need to urinate in the streets.

I agree with this statement as it's a disgusting and destructive way of behaviour to the community.

Please provide enough public toilets and maintain them, could employ a homeless person to do that?

I object to the seeking of additional powers where the council already has remedies under current legislation.

If this is introduced access at least to public toilets should be available

If there are open public conveniences available.

However, use of a public toilet must be available 24/7...

Perhaps people would not if there were adequate public toilets?

Would have thought this offence was amply covered by other laws. Also what about pregnant females?

But it would be **TOTALLY WRONG TO IMPLEMENT THIS** if a person is homeless and therefore has no private access to sanitary facilities, is being discreet and not urinating in a public hard surfaced area such a street, car park etc **IF THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TOILETS OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE FOR THEM TO USE**

Again. Why is the person urinating. Are they vulnerable? Do they have a toilet to go to? We need to find out why and address that, not prosecute them.

Actually the students are the main culprits here. They have no excuse. But anyway, using the law to bully people is not the way.

The exemption only includes temporary toilets, therefore permanent toilets are not exempt. There must be some provision for going to the toilet when in public places, toilets should not be locked at night. Presumably defecating in public is not antisocial, you would have to prove the person was also urinating at the same time. What about people urinating into a receptacle or pad, would that also attract a fine?

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination. Isn't that the law anyway? How about stopping all the drunks urinating in the streets. The homeless are a tiny tiny percentage of this problem...

the council has been saving money by closing toilets for years. Now you reap the reward. It is not fair to expect people to walk a quarter mile to a public toilet and then to pay for the privilege.

As with RIPA 'mission creep', these powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

What happens when a homeless person needs the toilet when public facilities are unavailable? For example in the early hours of the morning?

I'm not sure the policy makers have really thought this through from the perspective of a homeless person.

There are no public toilets in Exeter which do not cost money to use. It is completely unfair to expect homeless people to pay money to use the toilet when they cannot even make enough to eat. Set up a public toilet that doesn't cost money to use (which should be a thing anyway) and then homeless people will have somewhere safe and sanitary to perform their very basic bodily functions.

Where on earth do you expect them to do it otherwise.

I cannot agree to this proposal because the council is closing public toilets and when nature needs to go there should be adequate public provision within the city areas. Damage to health can be caused by attempting to stifle the need to urinate. Expecting business to allow the public to use staff toilets is unreasonable and poses among other things a security risk

Again, existing legislation could cover this. Homeless people will be adversely affected

Most of the public toilets in the city centre and not available without a charge, which I think, frankly, is absurd. Whether you are homeless or not, members of the public, especially those who are struggling to pay to feed themselves, should not be taxed for relieving themselves. Reprimanding those who are urinating in the street, most likely because they are choosing not to spend their money on using public toilets, but rather to find food or shelter, is frankly disgusting, as well as waste of police and community officer's time and energy.

In exceptional cases some people have no choice but to urinate in a 'public place' where they are desperate and there is no immediate public urinal facility. In such cases it would be vital for absolute discretion well away from public view.

Nobody is keen to see people urinating in the street. Even those doing it would probably prefer an alternative. A civilized society provides the means for people to relieve themselves (at no direct cost). It doesn't chase around after them issuing fines.

Some people drink the stuff, what's the harm? Otherwise, the dreadful and unsanitary condition of some of the public toilets in Exeter (the mens' toilets next to the public library for instance), and particularly those in areas with drug problems are so horrible or worrisome to use that I can completely understand if parents for instance would prefer to let their children urinate against their car tyre before leaving town.

Before passing this law, I think it would at least be fair to assess how accessible some areas' public toilets are after around ten or eleven at night, as many of the public toilets are sealed off from public access (e.g. the Guildhall toilets) without nearby alternatives; I fail to see how making people urinate themselves rather than break the law could be a step forward.

Adequate restrictions already exist and legal penalties are available.

If people need to go, better in an open space than a hidden passage or doorway where the rain does not wash it away so it stinks and goes on stinking. Sometimes there is no alternative nearby.

Only if adequate facilities are provided

where are the destitute supposed to go

This proposal I believe is largely targeted towards homeless people who often don't have access to a public toilet especially during the night.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Potty training children occasionally need to urinate in public spaces. It is also something that dogs do so commonly, it seems strange to make this a criminal offence.

the law as it stands should be used.. Otherwise, mind your own business or ask parliament to change the law.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Are we sure people without a home have access to public urinals?

A beach, or park or rest area are NOT streets-and should not be treated as such. There are adequate laws in place regarding indecent exposure. If someone is caught short on a walk in the countryside they shouldn't be treated as a criminal or have it suggested the behaviour is similar to a drunk person urinating in the street.

There are existing laws covering this and it could be used to target vulnerable people who may not have access to facilities. Not needed.

Should only be enforced if there is an open public toilet within, say, 500 meters.

Yes in theory. However, a homeless person does not have access to facilities 24/7

yes good idea

As public conveniences are in ever shortening supply, it is quite possible that any individual could be 'caught short'. While the idea behind this proposal is understandable, it could be misused.

When there are public toilets available you may do this.

I agree with this, but I think the provision of public, free toilets should be addressed and increased, including facilities available at nighttime. If there are no publicly available facilities it is unfair to penalise someone who is urinating in a public open space simply because it is the only place available to them.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

I do agree. However the Council should ensure portable toilets are provided and maintained within a reasonable distance so that they can be used, thus eliminating the need for anyone to urinate in the street or any open public space.

If people need to go and are discrete and relatively hygienic about it, it seems rational that they should be able to go. Obviously not on the high street, but in a field, on the side of a road or down an alleyway is reasonable enough.

How many times have you held your child over a grate, at the side of the road, behind a tree in a park when they can't hold it anymore?! Are you going to give children a criminal conviction?! There's not enough public toilets as it is, many have been closed down and what about the poorest in our society who don't have a home with a toilet and can't nip into shopping centre toilets etc at night? What, exactly, are they supposed to do?!

I would if the council provided free toi

Consideration needs to be taken into account for the homeless, where are they supposed to go when they need to. If no public conveniences are within easy reach for instance.

Homeless people have no where to go at night.

Laws already exists for this I understand.

The agument about 'going before you leave' is fine, but discriminates against the homeless who do not have this option, and makes it an offence to be 'caught short' for any reason. The existing laws on indecent exposure are adequate. The 'mess' of public urination is insignificant compared to that caused by disgarded food and vomit.

Urinating in public should not be allowed by the person doing the said urinating should be allowed to finish without any harassment or physical contact being made. The removal should take place after the urinating has finished

There needs to be specific account taken for medical conditions (for example pregnancy) and disability. The council should also consider appropriate provision of public facilities.

Provide more free toilets! There ain't enough obviously.

I assume pregant women will be exempt as this is a national acient law that has never been recinded

Invest in outdoor urinals for the weekend like the ones they have in Bristol and other cities.

Where else can people urinate if they find themselves having to sleep rough? If the council could provide 24 hour conveniences where and when they are needed this would make sense, but rough sleepers are faced with locked toilets through the night. Where are they supposed to relieve themselves?

It is likely that this would be used to target rough sleepers who have no access to public toilets, especially at night. Presumably the Public Order Act 1986 could be used where urinating in public was judged to cause Alarm, Harrassment or Distress to other members of the public. There are also no details as to who would be the enforcing officers.

No detail of enforcement given or suggested. Therefore it is not possible to comment further. Is the matter dealt with by a fixed penalty. Does the authorised person wait for the urination to cease before acting. Very poorly drafted.

no there already laws in place regarding this offence that can controlled by a policeman

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours.

Crucially there appears to be no objective evidence submitted by the Council to suggest that existing legislation cannot adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

inadequate provision of toilets make this impossible to enforce.

I think that the number of public toilets, open 24 hours, should be increased in order for people suffering from homelessness to have a place to safely and easily urinate without breaking this prohibition.

This is sensible provided that there is adequate toilet provision which is available and safe to use at the times when people mighth otherwise urinate in public

I would agree if access to toilets are available within a reasonable distance.

As long as those who are living on the streets have facilities that are easy to acces and always open to them.

Existing legislation can already adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including urinating in public.

Seems sensible, though keeping public toilets open would surely help?

If the urination involves indecent exposure than i agree it should be discouraged, but if someone does not have access to a private facility to relieve themselves i dont see how they have any other option but to use a public space (unless you expect people to soil themselves).

So where is a homeless person to go,- especially at night. Providing this is discrete I would want to leave the law as it stands

But again there are sufficient laws to control this behaviour, and it is a issue of enforcement not new high-profile bandstanding

Please make sure there are more public loos open at all times...the worst offenders in my opinion are the drunks coming out of clubs and pubs...it is disgusting and totally uncalled for. They should be fined a lot more.

I broadly agree with this as urinating in the street is not pleasant, however, if this is to be implemented the City Council must ensure that they provide enough public toilets which are kept clean and safe to use (and open).

It is not always possible to find a public toilet. I propose the council provide more public toilets before this proposal is brought in.

Is this not covered by existing public nuisance laws?

Yes, BUT a 'first offence' warning should be given to those urinating in a semi-public place (e.g. behind a building/ somewhere not clearly an 'open' area), and police etc should allow the discreet use of bushes etc where no toilets are available (especially at night) and more free public toilets should be provided.

Sometimes it is unavoidable and is better than urinating down oneself.

Wouldn't the application of any PSPO would be too late, after the event?

If the council has not provided public conveniences in the near vicinity then discrete urination must be expected.

If you provided adequate public conveniences, people wouldn't pee in public. The fact is that in our country there are people that have mental health problems, no job or prospect of one, no benefits, addiction problems and no home. Rather than make this country a fit place to live in and supply the much needed services, you just want to criminalise the most unfortunate and vulnerable. I suppose nothing but these peoples deaths would please you.

It may be the case that some people have no option if they are homeless or if they have a medical problem or illness that means they can't get to a toilet in time. There should be some clear exceptions in this case and I hope that the police will use some discretion.

There are rough sleepers around the city centre who genuinely do not have access to toilet facilities at night. Criminalising a basic human function is unjust.

This would be too much control over our public spaces and our natural needs. There are hardly any public toilets in the centre of Exeter to make this viable.

Any person, as long as toilets are open/available

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable, disabled or ill people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the night. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Again, this is too wide a power, which takes no account of circumstances. It will target the homeless, the mentally ill and vulnerable.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Providing there are open public facilities (toilets) available in close proximity to said parks.

I do broadly agree with this but would expect a lenient approach to be taken if, for example, a pregnant woman was caught completely short and went behind a bush or something like that. Also, it is incumbent on the Council to provide public conveniences so that people can go to the lavatory when they need to.

Should be allowed to urinate unless there are public toilets within half a mile and providing urination does not take place in gardens of private residents.

This is already covered in existing law

I agree that urinating in a public place should be discouraged.

Not free toilet facilities in Exeter open 24 hours a day

I agree that urinating in certain public spaces is totally unacceptable and it is worthwhile trying to find ways to prevent it. However, criminalising anyone who has a wee behind a bush, or finds some other innocuous place but then gets caught, is utterly draconian and against natural justice.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

I am not at all persuaded that these draconian powers are necessary

This is really difficult - if there are no free public toilets open in an area, what are people supposed to do? This should only be enforced in areas where there are toilets freely available. I would prefer the ruling to be that people cannot urinate, defecate or vomit on the pavement or against any building.

The council should provide adequate public toilets 24 hours a day if they want to stop people urinating everywhere. Again victimising homeless people.

If someone has no other place to urinate, it makes no sense that they should be punished for doing so as it is a natural human requirement.

Suitable toilet facilities must be provided

It is a human right to expel body fluids and waste products. Whilst polite society governs that we should use bathroom facilities, public toilets are few and far between and locked at night. Many homeless people are very respectful and will urinate or defecate in a discrete area in an emergency only. What would you do in the middle of the night if you were not able to find any public toilets. I agree with people being stopped from urinating in the streets - as can be seen by revelers on nights out. It is the homeless that have no choice that I can understand their need to urinate in a park, for instance.

This seems to be targeting the most vulnerable - how many homeless people have access to a working toilet 24 hours a day?

Access to appropriate toilet provision is extremely poor in the city centre at night time. What are those who are forced to be on the street supposed to do? Urine-soaked doorways to shops are undoubtedly unpleasant but so is the need to use those doorways as your shelter for a night.

In the absence of sufficient provision of public toilets which are free and open at all times homeless people often have no option other than public urination. Where this is a problem legislation exists which can be used to deal with it.

I would agree with this if public toilets were open during the evening. There is also people that have medical issues that makes urinating a rush job. There should be a clause in this legislation to be exempt people that have made a reasonable attempt to conceal themselves from view and are not damaging property e.g. behind a bush.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

Not all of the public toilets in Exeter are free, so especially for the homeless finding a place to relieve themselves can be a trouble. It is unfair to ask them to use up, what might be the only money they have, on using the public toilets, when they could be using to feed themselves. Providing more free public toilets with the special blue lighting would help.

The problem with this is that most of the people you will 'target' so to speak are the homeless - they have no other place to urinate, what do you expect them to do? I think obviously urinating in a street is not ideal or sanitary, but these people simply probably will not have the money to pay to use a public loo. If they have any money things that they will prioritise will be food and water, not toilets. This is an issue that must be handled with care - different circumstances merit different responses: urinating in the high street, bad; urinating in a bush, less bad, etcetera.

What are people supposed to do when all the public toilets are closed at night? I sympathize with businesses who don't want people urinating in doorways but what can you do when you are homeless. Don't make this an offence that homeless people cannot avoid!

Also if this does go through, are these 'Exeter City Employees going to get training in dealing with vulnerable people in stressful situations?

Providing there are ample public toilets available

When I had small children and I was halfway around a supermarket, there was nowhere to take my daughter. I ended up leaving the trolley by the checkout and taking her round to the back of a building in the car park. We found a drain, so that it would not contaminate anything else, but I don't know what else a mother could do in this situation.

There is legislation in place if someone is offending the public through their behaviour. If the City Council is aware that some people are unable to access public toilets - perhaps it needs to review the accessibility of hygienic, pleasant to use public toilets in busy areas.

This is really not a serious matter, and can be dealt with under existing laws relating to causing a public nuisance and/or indecent exposure. The proposed new provisions would cause disproportionate harm to vulnerable people.

I agree that people shouldn't urinate in public if they can avoid it, however homeless people often don't have a choice.

While in principle I agree that public urination is wrong and problematic, there is already adequate legislation designed to deal with this issue and extra enforcement is not necessary. I also think that the city needs better provision of toilet facilities that can operate later in the evening, even if not all night. This will not just be pertinent for homeless people who are limited in choice of facilities, but also to the wider city, especially as the growing restaurant and nightlife culture of Exeter emerges. Consequently, I think this part of the PSPO is meaningless currently.

Your faqs site those leaving pubs or other social venues, making the point that they could use the facilities offered on the premises, but make no mention of those living on the streets who do not have access to these facilities or public conveniences especially at night.

Existing legislation is adequate against inappropriate behaviour which includes urinating in public places.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

This is a serious coordinated attack on homeless people sleeping rough across Exeter. A person is at rock bottom when their homeless it seems Exeter City Council is promoting the kicking of these people when they are down.

The heading for this section should read "not urinate or defecate"

But only so long as public toilets are available. People with homes to go to can wait to get home! What do we expect homeless people to do if they need to go to the toilet and there are no public facilities open?

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

In the FAQs it states that there are toilets in pubs, cinemas, restaurants so people have the opportunity to go to the toilet before leaving. What about rough sleepers who may well be denied entry to these establishments?

Draconian response that seems to have been drafted as a means of catching out vulnerable and homeless people, especially during the night. Existing legislation is already sufficient for dealing with serious cases of public exposure/urination.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

During hours when toilet facilities are closed, especially the very few public toilets which do close at specific early times, there can sometimes be no choice, especially for homeless people, or someone just caught ' short ' at an inconvenient time.

Unnecessary ; sufficient powers already exist

This targets not only vulnerable homeless people but also the elderly who sometimes cannot reach a public toilet in time.

I have no problem with people urinating in the street. dogs and cats do it all the time and I don't see any reason why people shouldn't . If the council wants to provide facilities why not permanently open free urinals like they have in France. those I see in Britain have inadequate opening hours and excessive charges

Unless public toilets will be made open and available 24/7 free of charge then I do not agree with a proposal that harms the vulnerable who may have no access to toilets.

Where should people without access to toilets go throughout the night?

Vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities especially at night time would be targeted. The existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately. including public urination.

If it is during the day when public toilets are open and available, then yes it would be acceptable but where homeless people cannot access public toilets and have made attempts to find somewhere private I can see that this may be the only option. You can't punish people for needing to urinate in public when you have closed available conveniences.

Existing powers already cover this, it also discriminates against people who don't have access to their own toilet, or are penalised by public loos being closed at night.

Public toilets are not always available. Have a more relaxed attitude as the French

This should only be considered if there are sufficient public facilities available. Toilets should be provided at all times for those who have no home. Existing laws can be used for those displaying inappropriate behaviour.

As public lavatories are sometimes locked it would be wrong to prohibit urinating during periods when they are locked

The fact that you have to pay for most public toilets marginalizes people who can't afford it, especially homeless people - where do you expect them to go when nature calls?! It's natural, and who are you to criminalize this? Public toilets should be free! This would solve the problem!

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination.

I might agree with this if councils were not closing public facilities, or closing them at night. You can't have it both ways!

However more public conveniences at night must be provided. I have been refused entry to use a toilet at an establishment simply because I was not a customer. There are times when you have to go, times when you are no longer able to hold it. Without access to a public lavatory, or if being refused access to an establishment so as to use their lavatory, what option does any one person have?

There are already laws in place to prevent this

If there were public facilities readily available in safe location at all times at no cost this may be acceptable, but that is not the case. This would also have detrimental impact on families as small children sometimes need to urinate at short notice and urinating in the street may be the only option.

we do not have enough public facilities for the homeless

I think this is already an offence .

clearly no one wants to see someone urinating publicly but are there adequate public toilets open in the evenings/night when the bulk of drinking takes place? Is this yet another easy/lazy way to deal with people who may well have housing/mental health/social difficulties.

It would be too easy to use these powers to target vulnerable people lacking access to public toilet facilities, especially overnight.

There is already adequate legislation in place to respond to those behaving inappropriately, including public urination.

Public toilets need to be open so that street homeless have somewhere other than the street to urinate.

At least one facility in Exeter must be kept open for an appropriate amount of time.i.e. 24 Hours

It is the council's intention to close all toilets to save money. Even though I would not use the public toilets due to the dirty state and stench of smell. Plus of all the anti-social behaviour going on in them, the cleaners turn a blind eye, again because they do not like confrontation.

I've lost track of the number of occasions I've been 'caught short' only to find no public convenience...or closed/out of order signs. What about tiny children. The police already have powers to deal with criminal behaviour

Provide necessary alternatives. Human beings need to function. What do you propose they do?

Again, with no home to call their own, what are they supposed to do. If you don't like it, give them a home!!!!

That would be fine if the council provided sufficient, safe and clean public toilet facilities, but they don't. So again the vulnerable groups will be most likely targeted by this clause. plus there is already effective legislation in place concerning public decency to tackle any problem with urinating in public.

The powers could too easily be used to target vulnerable people who do not have access to public toilet facilities, especially during the nighttime hours. Existing legislation can adequately be used against persons who behave inappropriately, including public urination. Urinating, defecating and sexual activities in public places, has been going on as long as I can remember and probably long before that. It is part of life which only offends a small minority.

With the closure of public toilets, there is no where for those who have no home to go

Yes, always allowing that sufficient provision of public toilet facilities has been made. Otherwise, it simply gives authorities another way to penalise homeless people for the 'offence' of being homeless.

Please take note of my previous comments.

Surely measures to help avoid the problem would be preferable to this measure? Introducing public urinals (like those seen in London) would seem an obvious alternative.

They may have no other place to do so. Even public toilets you may have to pay for. if it is in an alleyway it's not such a problem, but on main roads it is.

Public urination (and defecation) in the street has a clear impact on public perceptions of the city, and on its public health - and should be discouraged.

That said, the City Council and others (retailers, premises that function in the nighttime economy) have a clear responsibility to ensure that an adequate number of toilets are available and accessible to the public in order that any enforcement action might be deemed reasonable. This is particularly important for those members of the public that might have medical conditions.

DSFRS supports this measure.

While the public toilets are locked at 7pm throughout the city this is unenforceable and would fall if challenged in court

Again, urinating in public is already covered in detail under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, 1986. The act is very fair in that it does not criminalise those who have no choice but to urinate in public spaces, yet it robustly prohibits antisocial urination - particularly where other options are available. The broader terms of this proposal are unfair. It is absolutely abhorrent that the failure of Exeter City Council to provide sufficient public toilet facilities in the city centre should result in the criminalisation of citizens.

There are inadequate public toilets as it is, and those that exist are locked in the evenings nights and early mornings. A homeless person cannot easily go into a hotel or pub or cafe and ask to use their facilities and in any event they are not available at all times.

This proposal is cruel unnatural and oppressive. The problem is not limited to the homeless. Even the most respectable people occasionally have to use a bush or tree.

I ask where you expect street homeless individuals to go to the toilet when the public toilets are closed? This appears to be aimed at street homeless individuals who do not have access to a toilet.

How many fines are you going to hand out to pub goers on a weekend? The last person I saw urinating in the street was a middle aged man in a suit.

Again I'm not sure what this adds to laws that already exist especially given that Exeter is not awash with free public WCs that a homeless person might be able to use.

Adequate provision for homeless people needs to be made available, somehow.

Unless there are public toilets readily available 24/7 we should not persecute the homeless for needing to urinate.

Sometimes its 3am and you really need to pee

I would agree with this if the council could provide a viable alternative to people who need to urinate (which is a basic bodily function), such as having 24/7 public toilets available in strategic locations, with no cost at point - of - use.

It is not a matter for enforcement - it's a matter of providing free, open toilet facilities for the public to use 24/7.

This would be a reasonable suggestion if there were more public urination facilities available in Exeter.

The idea that the public have to enter a private establishment or an area where one only has access by paying, to urinate, really strikes me as draconian and out of touch with the reality of living in a city.

Where are homeless people meant to go?

Keep public toilets open at night.

Those without a home in Exeter have no where else to urinate! This is a proposal that will criminalise a biological function of the homeless! Provision must be made for them before this proposal is implemented.

This is just going to victimise homeless people and will not help them at all.

Homeless people have no access to toilets after the public toilets close. This action will criminalise them for needing to urinate.

This could be a valid Proposal if there were more public urinals, but for someone who doesn't have the option to go home there is effectively no place to urinate.

The absolute lack of public space urinal and toilet provision makes this proposal a tad ridiculous, if there was the provision of public space toilets then certainly a measure to encourage usage would make sense, however the absence of an alternative option means street micturation is an inescapable reality.

There are no public toilets in Exeter open at night, so where do the homeless go? Especially with the closing / cut of funding towards their services.

I don't believe that criminalising this further will help to change the homelessness problem in Exeter. Our city need an abstinence based recovery program for drug users found using the public toilets which should be available 24/7.

Until 24 hour public toilets are available this is an impossibility

This should be discouraged but is not helped by the fact that all public toilets are closed overnight and hence not accessible to the public, including those with medical conditions. The City Council has a responsibility to ensure that adequate facilities are available so that any enforcement is seen as reasonable.

Not when there are no toilets open 24 hours in the city centre

Yea that's stinky.

Either late night public toilets should be opened, or bars should be required by law to allow the public to use their toilets without needing to be a patron of the establishment. The reason some of the homeless urinate on the street is because they can't afford to buy a drink to use the toilet.

I believe exemptions should be taken for the homeless who have no alternative unless the council actually do more to find housing and facilities for the large amount of homeless people on the street

There are less bureaucratic, more effective methods of dealing with this issue. More can be done by the council to provide public toilet facilities in the defined area that are open for longer hours, which would be a long-term, sustainable solution that improves quality of life for all. In particular spots where public urination commonly occurs, hydrophobic paint can be used alongside signage as an effective deterrent that requires minimal bureaucracy. Lastly, the possibility that vulnerable populations who do not have adequate access to toilet facilities could be fined for urinating in public is cruel and will simply worsen their situation, exacerbating the problem.

Need for enough public urinals to be provided. Hours of opening increased. Cleanliness and adequate provision of toilet paper, hand driers, etc.

As long as the area is somewhat secluded then I think it is unreasonable to expect homeless people to urinate in private establishments or be given a fine, especially when public toilets are locked at night.

The Police already have powers to deal with this and in particular the homeless community are likely to have no alternatives. If the 'offender' is intoxicated, then the Police can already deal with the offender under s.5 Public Order provisions.

An immediate on the spot fine and failure to pay meaning a criminal offence feels like an overreaction.

Hugely discriminatory towards the homeless who have to go somewhere which is fine as long as reasonably discreet.

The council have closed public toilets they are closed at night and no restaurant or pub will allow rough sleepers in what do you do if you are homeless and have nowhere to go can't believe you would want up criminalise rough sleepers in this way it is not a lifestyle choice but a poverty choice

If we are not able to provide accommodation for our homeless, we should at least offer basic facilities so they don't have to urinate in the street. Give them a toilet and somewhere to wash.

The council lock public toilets after a certain time. Where else are the homeless supposed to urinate, you cannot control a body clock like that. Dictating whether a person can urinate only goes to subjugate them further. I believe they should not do it on the main high street and maybe go to a back road for privacy but I firmly disagree with this proposal.

Provide more 'free' public toilets and this will cease to be a problem.

There is no point implementing this proposal unless the council are also prepared to improve access to public toilet facilities 24 hours a day. It would be far simpler to prevent the need for proposals such as this, by improving existing public toilet facilities, than to track down and punish every violator of this proposal, who is violating the proposal simply due to a lack of facilities.

No because if someone really needs to urinate they can't help it, I think if someone goes down a back alley or into a bush it should be acceptable.

If you're sleeping rough, you do rely on public conveniences. Yet often they're closed at night, or just closed. For example, on Tuesday February 16th I went to go urinate in the toilets next to Wat Tyler house - but the gents was closed with no explanation. Over the past month I would say 90% of male council-run public conveniences I've tried to urinate in - admittedly many not in Exeter - have been closed. Where else are people going to do their business?

Again, no explanation is provided in the FAQs as to why this is necessary, when there are laws in place to deal with this. Where is the problem with the existing laws that cover this?

Homeless people don't have homes in which to urinate privately, and so many indoor spaces are now corporately owned/commercial that their urinating options are severely limited. Of course urination in public is not particularly pleasant, but nor is being homeless.

This policy will limit homeless people's ability to carry out basic bodily functions without coercive interference. That's repressive government interference that I won't tolerate, even though it doesn't affect me personally.

Only works if there are free public toilets available.

I agree that public urination is wrong but more should be done to provide for the homeless at night when there are no public bathrooms at all, you cannot expect to stop everyone from urinating in public spaces without giving them a proper alternative. A lot of homeless people can't stay in hostels and will not be welcomed in some stores so more public 24 hour bathrooms should be considered

Homeless people need to urinate, and will do so on the street unless there is alternative provision. Suggesting that they could use restaurant or bar facilities is disingenuous, since homeless people are unlikely to be able to afford or be welcomed into restaurants and bars.

Brixton have provided "pop up" urinals which is an option which can be considered, Provision of public toilets, open through the night, or camping style toilets alongside a safe sleeping marquee area are other possibilities.

This once again disproportionately affects homeless people, not everyone has the luxury of a home with a toilet and once shops have closed the places to urinate drop drastically.

But please provide public lavatories. There is a distinct lack of them!

We have a real problem with vagrants using the area behind our garden as a toilet. My family are prevented from enjoying city life partly because of this. If the council want to promote city living they must act and bring in this PSPO no matter what the mis-informed do-gooders say!

As said before, these proposals disproportionately affect the homeless and will not get rid of homelessness, but make it more difficult to spot.

Where exactly do you expect them to do their business?

I don't think there is enough access to public toilets for those who are homeless or have limited access to toilet facilities. Something needs to be done about this in order to implement proposal 2.

Since when was this practice not an offence under existing legislation? The suggestion that currently urinating in the street is acceptable is ridiculous. Opening of public toilets after 19.00 hrs would be a constructive way to alleviate the problem.

The FAQ section explains how there is "no excuse" for not urinating in pubs or such establishments before leaving when public toilets are shut. Unfortunately this order would target exclusively those who can't afford to be in pubs - it's currently winter so it's clear why drinking in pubs is preferable. And yet the victims of this order are those who can't.

There are bigger problems in society, no need to concern yourself with making the lives of homeless people even harder.
authoritarian

The question appears to be unfair - if you are homeless and have no other options then where else can you urinate? People shouldn't urinate in the street - but they shouldn't be forced to either.

again - students and drinkers piss in the street all the time. This will just target the homeless

Again, what about midnight peeing by marines, residents & students? And what if a person has nowhere else to pee?

There are public toilets available; however, they are only used as a last resort by myself due to the condition I often find them in.

I agree with the principle, but there are insufficient public toilets available or open during the night.

This is already illegal under Public Order Act, 1986 amirite?

If the urination is discrete, homeless people don't have the same access to toilets as many of the public do, if the toilets charge, are you expecting them to pick between paying to urinate or their next meal?

Only agree if they are public toilets within a sufficient distance.

Where should homeless people go to the bathroom? Public toilets are not open at night. Fining homeless people for going to the bathroom is immoral. There must be an alternative for them if this is going to be put in place.

Seems very logical for public hygiene and cleanliness.

Is never enough public toilets at night. Should be more open 24/7 before we can even consider this proposal.

To date, I have found at least 3 public toilets in Exeter closed since Xmas. Where are people supposed to go? You need to sort out public access to toilets first

Make public toilets free, 20p a use doesn't really pay for cleaning them, but it can prevent people from peeing in the street, and don't lock them up at night

Nobody wants to see anyone urinate in the streets but this is already handled by the police. It also isn't just a 'homeless' issue and is actually more relevant to the huge numbers of students that leave a disgusting mess every night of the week on the way home from the clubs. More public toilets needed!

Exeter Council are about to make it effectively illegal to be homeless in Exeter by imposing £1000 fines for begging and giving the authorities permission to confiscate and destroy homeless people's bedding and personal property. Not only is this inefficient as it does not target the reasons why people are homeless in the first place or why they can't get off the streets once they are, it also explicitly victimises poor and mentally ill people.

Its disgusting to see people urinate in the street

Of course no-one would say that urinating in the street is a pleasant thing to witness and it can cause a bad smell. However, I would not condone a PSPO that effectively outlaws anyone who gets caught short and pees behind a bush. I believe that there are no public toilets available in Exeter at night. It is not enough for the council to say that there are plenty of facilities in pubs and clubs available to patrons - if you are penniless and look even slightly shabby, you are certainly not going to be allowed into such an establishment to use a toilet.

If you close public toilets in the evening what do you expect to happen

Late night travellers to and from the bus station often have no other choice than to run to a secluded alleyway or bush to urinate before continuing their journey as there are no public facilities open beyond seven o'clock in the evening

There are existing powers that already cover this. How about addressing the lack of public toilets?

I would agree with it if there were access to more public toilets that are open until a reasonable time (unlike the majority of public toilets which are currently locked in the evenings).

No

More public toilets need to be made available as an alternative to being forced to urinate in public places

Facilities MUST be made available to the homeless and under privileged. To make it a crime for a homeless person to urinate in a public open space without offering clear plans for an alternative is frankly despicable.

Vulnerable people do not want to Urinate in a public street but are left with no option when the public toilets CHARGE to use them and are not made welcome in other places with facilities. Make public toilets FREE to use instead.

Homeless people may not have enough change to use a public toilet, it is not fair to persecute them for public urination. Mentally ill people may not understand that excretion in public is inappropriate, and thus should not be persecuted. Children are often caught short and may need to discreetly urinate in a public (if concealed) place; again, it is absurd to persecute children for this.

How about free public toilets...or even composting ones on some green land near city centre which could be built as part of a volunteer organised community programme.

The Council do not have open any 24 hour toilets. If they did open a 24 hour toilet in the city centre this would be a reasonable proposition. The police do have powers regarding this already. Again this will be used against the homeless.

Terribly biased the way it is worded. What about supplying facilities such as public toilets being open late. If not, where are people supposed to urinate?

Build more public Loo's

This is not the solution. The solution is to provide public toilets. Even the ancient Romans did that.

Where are they supposed to pee?!?! If they don't have a home I'm quite sure they won't have a toilet !!

This requirement would only be reasonable if there was adequate provision of (open) public toilets. Urinating in the street may well be unpleasant and undesirable but I can imagine situations in which it would be unavoidable and the (discretionary) imposition of a £100 fine seems disproportionate and open to abuse (or to selective enforcement)

Adequate: free open public toilets open 24 hours are needed and the right to use private business premises; i.e. shops toilets if needed.

Persecuting, destitute and homeless people

See comments and questions in accompanying letter.

Does council provide practical alternatives?

Again - the proposal should apply to all but is there adequate provision of urinals/public toilets - this matter needs immediate attention.

Where else can they carry out this human basic function.

Answered yes and no. Exactly the same criteria as question 1. If the person is destitute/homeless finding a loo at night is not easy.
At 68 with a weak bladder I struggle when shopping!

Yes providing you include all the mainly young people who go out during the week and at weekends to get 'hammered'. I don't support it if you just target homeless people who have nowhere to go.

This must not be introduced while all public conveniences are locked at 7pm. They should be available until at least midnight.
However the majority of public conveniences are closed.

No

Keep toilets open!!!

If they left the public conveniences open later at night they wouldn't have people urinating int public open spaces and the street.
I am an alcoholic, very strong addict ? I had to drink or I had withdrawal.

It's dirty and there are public toilets around. But when the public toilets are shut, where are you supposed to go?

Where do you expect people to urinate?

You close public toilets where are people supposed to urinate.

Will you be doing this to students?

Leave the homeless alone.

This prohibition is too vague, and what purpose does it serve? When I was a student in the 80's people got arrested for unriating in Sidwell Street on the way back from the pub. That kind of bylaw remains. So why the need to bring this in? What's wrong with watering the flowers and trees in the park?

No

But as long as they are out the way that's fine - but to stop them doing it keep the public conveniences open.

Leave some public toilets open for them.

Leave a loo open at night with security.

It its a park fine.

I agree with the proposal but what do you expect when people have drank 15 pints of cheap lager and there are no public convenience available.

**PSPO Consultation
Responses to Restriction 3
01/06/16**

Comments Proposal 3

I feel it's important to be able to offer an alternative to street sleepers not just to move them on, as this will only push the problem outside the city centre and not resolve it. Although I do understand that it is not necessarily ECC's responsibility to be offering these additional support services.

Proposal 3 does nothing to solve the causes of homelessness and only demonises the homeless community. It will waste public money on enforcing this law.

This proposal in my opinion has been long overdue, the powers to prevent begging and drinking in a public place have been available to enforce for many years.

It should be a criminal offence to do any of the proposed intentions in public place anywhere, Anti social behavior has achieved a new level and its long overdue.

There needs to be safe spaces for day storage of belongings for rough sleepers, where do they clear they belongings to? This measure will realistically only move rough sleepers to other parts of the city. In effectively moving the 'problem' to places that are less busy could intensify the level of potential fear felt by some individuals, and become a more dispersed issue unable to manage both in terms of response and prevention measures.

I don't think it's fair to remove rough sleepers from one of the most sheltered, amenable areas to rough sleep in the City. Where are you expecting them to go? The City Centre has large, flat, rain-sheltered areas that are better for rough sleeping than anywhere else.

Moving rough sleepers into residential areas of the City or the parks/fields surrounding is not beneficial for local people or the individuals who are sleeping rough. I don't think they should be moved without an alternative place for them to go. I appreciate that you are trying to make the City Centre safer for most people, but the City has a homeless problem, and moving people out will not help it, just dissipate it so it's less visible. If people are sleeping rough, I'd much rather they were under some rain cover in the City Centre than more exposed to the elements in a muddy, dark field. There are not the same "shared spaces" in residential areas as there is in the City Centre.

This must only be enforced provided alternative temporary shelter is available at the time.

Whilst I do not wish those without homes to be any more persecuted than they already might be maintaining public space is paramount. I would however prefer that those having to take shelter "from the elements" are given alternative means of accommodation rather having their possessions taking from them.

"include materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground"

This is ridiculous. We have homeless people living on Exeter's streets, many suffering from mental health problems and addiction, and confiscating what few possessions they have left leaving them open to the elements is frankly disgusting. No moral person could agree with this.

Leave homeless people alone! If you don't like them on the streets then give them a space to live!

I think the council should be spending money, preventing and helping those on the streets. Not making it illegal for them to be there.

The future date or time should be within a matter of a few hours.

I am concerned that, although facilities are available to those sleeping rough, these are insufficient in number and other factors may prevent access. If rough sleepers have their sleeping paraphernalia removed, they are placed in an even worse and more vulnerable position as a result.

nothing further to add.

This is shocking and absolutely appalling. You are basically banning homeless people from the area. This is an absolute abomination of your role as a council. As a council you may not have a legal responsibility to help these people, but surely you have morals - this suggestion suggests not. I feel you should be ashamed and I hope all the charities pick up on this and challenge you, as it is rightly deserved!!!

I disagree with removing bedding and belongings. Often the streets can be someones "home" and therefore all they've got.

Since I moved here in May, I have never seen bedding etc in the street, therefore is it a real issue? I'm not sure I'd have an issue even if I did see it in the street.

If someone has no where to go and very little to their name and you take this away, how do you expect them to survive? At some point it will fall back to the state, most likely via mental health issues.

You can't just get rid, they are humans too, just like you and I and our family and friends.

On the condition that provision for shelter be made for homeless persons found doing this in the area.

I think that homelessness needs to be treated with great sensitivity, and there needs to be flexibility in dealing with removal of tents etc., Depending on siting them.

feel sorry for the homeless, difficult if there is nowhere else to go especially in winter

The zone should cover the University area too.

disgrace to penalise the underclass - this would just push this problem out of city centre.

Every effort should be made to encourage rough sleepers into homeless shelters (e.g.: Gabriel or Esther house) instead of demonising them. St Petrocks for meals and advice should be made available to them.

It does worry me that some people have reached a stage that they feel they have to "street sleep". This measure may only move them onto somewhere else but I feel the proposal is right.

This is overdue and welcome

If a homeless person is using the area it seems counter-productive and uncharitable to confiscate bedding. A 'move on' order should be sufficient.

The term 'to the satisfaction of an authorised person' is too subjective. What is meant by satisfaction and who are the authorised people? The disposal of a homeless persons belongings for any reason is not going to help anyone. When someone only has a very few possessions destroying them because they are unsightly is overkill. There must be a way of removing them to another place for collection.

If someone is homeless, then taking away what little shelter they have seems in human
Why throw away their bedding?

This would criminalise the needy and the vulnerable. Completely unacceptable.

This is a truly sick way of dealing with the sad issue of homelessness in the city. It is a disgrace anyone would think it is okay to take from people who have almost nothing. Stealing their only source of warmth will kill people in the winter.

You may as well just strip them. You said it yourself "shelter against the elements". These people, like all of us, are doing the best they can. Just because it offends some people, doesn't mean this is the solution.

This seems to be aimed simply at making it illegal to be homeless. Yes, there are many cases where accommodation is available and has been refused, but this is not all cases; there are many cases where the alternatives to sleeping rough are frightening and unsuitable, or where people with other issues have simply slipped through the net. Surely the answer is not to simply sweep these people out of sight, but to proactively seek solutions.

Make safe place to camp or sleep. Make an inside area available for rough sleepers this is unfair we have seen cut after cut for this sector make empty homes available.

The homeless population should be cared for not persecuted.

I'm aware of rough sleepers camping in the city. There should be a requirement that the this proposal is subject to there being a nuisance to others

To remove bedding or shelter from anyone desperate and unfortunate enough to be using it outdoors in a city area is an act far below what most would consider acceptable human behaviour.

Again who is going to remove the items as the Council do not have night workers and the Police do not have the manpower

What these 'homeless people need is a home. We all need a home. The people who are homeless have ended up in this situation, often for reasons beyond their control and under ordinary circumstances would not choose to sleep in a door way. These people will die of exposure if they have no bedding and cover and that will be the fault of Exeter City Council. There is proportionally large homeless population in Exeter and I have always felt that they had a chance in this city. No you are planning to take away any chance they have, this is inhumane and you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Ditto

I think there needs to be a large degree of discretion exercised when using these powers. If people move away from doors early in the morning there can be little harm done.

This is an insane proposal. You want to take away bedding from the homeless? What planet do you live on?

The Council should consider finding a suitable place for the homeless to erect their tents etc. if no other suitable accommodation, permanent or temporary can be found for them.

No I do not agree with this proposal as this will target and affect homeless people. If their sleeping kit etc is confiscated what will they do the next night? Work with the homeless should focus on getting them off the streets into temp accommodation and if this isn't possible the some sort of locker system to allow people who are homeless to keep their stuff safe during the day.

Agree because it is unsettling and intimidating to see people camped out in the street or shop doorways etc but on the other hand I am concerned that someone trying to sleep at night who couldn't get into a safe house will be forced to move on. "There but for the grace of God, go I" comes to mind. However I see it is only for a specified limited area, so yes, I agree with Proposal 3.

Oh so you have nowhere to live how about we make this worse for you? by stealing all your property and letting you die in the cold while we have meetings in the warm and live in our nice houses and look down on you, If you agree with this scenario take a good look at yourself and imagine if the tables were turned, what would you do?

If the council provided somewhere safe for the people to go they would not be on the streets, perhaps even having somewhere to move them to, like an area with a toilet and shower and access to shelter. Treating people like garbage will make the city such a horrible place to live.

As the weather gets colder it is crucial that vulnerable homeless people are able to stay warm.

Just hope these people will have somewhere warm and dry to go to and are helped if they have mental health probs.

How many people will have to freeze to death before you admit you are wrong

That is a disgusting proposal to attack the weak, shame on you.

If you are you remove things like this then an area should be designated for the homeless to sleep, be it a field of what ever. To deny them this much inhumane

How can you take away peoples basic needs of warmth and shelter without providing proper facilities to prevent the need for sleeping rough? This is inhumane.

Again, how many are there because they want to be and how many because they are desperate. I'd prefer to see something constructive than destructive being introduced.

This will hopefully encourage those affected to accept services. It will also benefit businesses.

I hope that the main focus would be getting people who are sleeping rough the right support, particularly those with mental health issues.

To remove bedding or shelter from anyone desperate enough to be using it outdoors in a city area is well below what most would consider acceptable human behaviour.

Removing homeless people from the streets in the defined area(s) does not solve the wider problem of homelessness in the city. I would only agree with this proposal if suitable alternative arrangements were made for those sleeping rough.

I am concerned that the limited geographical restrictions to the proposal will just push out these undesirable behaviours to other parts of the city not covered by the proposal. The proposal should cover the entire city.

I actually have no words.

Please please please don't do this to some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Driving them out of the city centre means that they are at more danger from people, the weather and each other. Can we not find a more humane, creative way to help them. How about designated "secure" areas? Or, more funding for St Petrocks/ YMCA? Although I understand some of these people may have refused accommodation, some of them also have multi layered issues that require time and patience to resolve.

Although, on occasion I have felt unnerved walking through the city centre at night, because of the volume of rough sleepers, my empathy and compassion lies with them as it is not safe, it is lonely, it is traumatic. Without seeing these people homelessness it is hidden, people don't realise the effects the austerity cuts are having, people can be blinkered again.

I urge you to participate in the Sleep Easy run by the YMCA before you make these decisions, spend a night sleeping rough, talk to people who have slept rough and gain a better understanding.

Additionally, the potential fines to be imposed are a waste of time, these people are homeless, they won't be able to, in general, afford them and then there is the cost, for the council/ taxpayer, of going to court to collect money, which, just isn't there. It may even be in the winter months that some people flout these rules, just to get arrested to have a warm, safe bed for the night, or to be sent to prison for the same reason.

I worry that already vulnerable people will be treated badly by this proposal. To just move someone on doesn't help their situation. Again people should be given information about where they can get help. I also wonder if fining someone who may not be able to afford it will help the situation? Surely this could put them further into debt or poverty. Is there a different way to deter people?

With the devastation of support networks and the situation facing more and more people to blithely destroy a person's shelter is criminal. Involve community groups such as SHOT and St Petrocks before disenfranchising people and causing distrust.

I don't think this proposal is appropriate, given the high amount of homeless people in Exeter. I think that this proposal could only go ahead if the authorised person removing such bedding will provide shelter for the person involved. These people need help, and for you to come along and take away the precious few belongings they have is disgraceful.

Do you think that by moving the problem along, the problem goes away? Due to my work, I walk through the city centre at night relatively regularly and have never got trouble from a member of our homeless community. This is a combination of needless scaremongering and a vain desire from the council to prettify 'Brand Exeter'.

This is a disgraceful proposal. What do you suppose will happen to these rough sleepers once they have been moved on and their bedding has been confiscated? You will just be displacing the problem to neighboring areas and potentially be putting lives at risk in cold weather. How about a creative solution to help those sleeping rough, instead of criminalising them?

This proposal will not solve any issues of homelessness in Exeter. It will just move it out of the centre, and demonise those who are homeless and thus in need of the council's help.

Exeter City Council should be ashamed of its conduct in even requesting this proposal.

Anyone using an improvised shelter in a public space is not doing so through choice. To move them on or remove their means of shelter is to penalise disadvantaged individuals and, if multiple move-on demands result in a police record, fuel the cyclical trap of homelessness. Distinction must be drawn between career begging and genuine homelessness.

This is clearly targeted at the homeless. Taking from those people who have nothing is heartless and inhumane. I fail to see how making the homeless sleep without a sleeping bag and directly on concrete will help reduce anti-social behaviour. These are human beginnings.

I am horrified at the proposal to remove the meagre possessions that those who are unfortunate enough to be homeless may have. To remove these items is in itself wrong on both a human and moral and in my mind would amount to theft. Removing cardboard and tents and sleeping bags does not solve the problem of homelessness. Yes- it may reduce your annual night-count statistics but it will not reduce, solve or eliminate the problem. Having worked for a homeless charity and witnessed hostels close, I would recommend putting the effort into establishing a night shelter. This is not an ok proposal.

I don't think it's appropriate to find people packing up their camping gear in shop doorways at 9.00 am. The area looks like a gypsy camp and makes the city centre look run-down. Is there a more appropriate, more secure place for homeless people to shelter?

I disagree with this proposal because the homeless have nowhere else to go and the council are not providing an alternative. If this is enforced then they will gravitate to industrial units on Marsh Barton or residential areas. There is no way that they can afford £100 fine so they will end up in court. Homelessness is not a lifestyle choice and criminalising them will only make their situation worse.

I do not agree with items being removed without the consent of their owner.

Ownership of property is a human right, therefore to remove such articles without the consent of their owner, which has nothing to do with the landowner, is a breach of human rights and amounts to theft. Provide places for people to sleep without fear of being stolen from - the police are there to serve the whole community, not just those with money.

The right to move people sleeping rough is fine. But not to confiscate someone's portable home. Put yourselves in their shoes, I know I would be very angry if someone came and stole the only possessions I had. Asking people to move outside the area is a good idea though but maybe the money spent on policing this could go towards helping the homeless who have to sleep rough instead.

It is no job for a council officer to make these subjective judgements. This criminalises homelessness. It is not a crime it is called poverty.

Again this can only be justified if alternatives are available and I really don't believe it is fair to be taking away personal possessions from the poorest and most vulnerable.

This appears to be vindictive treatment of the most vulnerable. The employment of Community Education Workers to guide and assist these people would have long term value and would be applauded.

I am deeply concerned (especially when reading this in winter, and in the run-up to Christmas) about a proposal that 'An authorised person may confiscate and dispose of materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground.' by some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Yes, it's fine to ask people to move on but taking their possessions is theft. Extrapolate that and consider when police ask crowds to move on at football matches, accidents etc, imagine them then starting to take possessions from people for not doing what they are told.

On private property, I would agree, but on public property, this is an inhumane and short-sighted proposal which does nothing to resolve the underlying problem.

Yes - in a time of unprecedented homelessness (a problem likely to get worse when housing benefit removed from young people) to remove protection from the elements without providing alternative shelter is tantamount to contributing to the deaths of some of these unfortunate people. What kind of society are we when we feel it is okay to propose such draconian measures against vulnerable people

This sounds like an attack on the homeless; the poorest and often most vulnerable people in our society - a sad reflection on the policies of Cameron's government. It's draconian and should be opposed by all right thinking compassionate human beings.

This sort of power is quite draconian and I do not believe it should be available to PCSO's or, worse still Council Officers, who lack training, experience, the ability or inclination to use discretion in such matters. There are far too many 'jobsworths' around as it is and we don't need more interfering in people's lives in an insensitive manner. This power should be restricted to Sworn Police Officers only and only used if adequate, suitable accommodation is available and the person concerned has refused that accommodation. Nearly every homeless person is homeless, due to the inability or unwillingness of a Council to house them. That same council should not be penalising them for something that is often the fault of that council in the first place; it should be providing them with a home, not criminalising them and then stealing their possessions!

Wouldn't it make more sense to offer the homeless somewhere to live rather than punishing them by stealing their only means of shelter? Or are their subsequent deaths from exposure of no concern to you?

This proposal is too open to abuse.

Many vagrants use sleeping bags for warmth. They will freeze without it, they can't help needing it. They're not hurting anyone. This proposal oppresses the powerless

I find it unpleasant to see discarded bedding just left in door ways. This bedding has often been provided by outside agencies to help. I have no problem with the proposal if someone refuses to remove items.

Could consideration be given to providing lockers to enable rough sleepers to have somewhere to store bedding during the day?

Keeping and destroying the possessions of indigent people is theft

Provide shelter, don't discriminate. Ask the government to provide additional funding for shelter accommodation. Where do you go when you're homeless and destitute?

Empathy!

It is unfair to penalise desperate people. Nobody creates a shelter in the street unless they are desperate, and to remove it is unthinkable cruel.

This will impact homeless people- if you take away the bedding of a homeless person in winter and they have nowhere to go they may freeze to death. Homeless people aren't on the streets by choice.

Being asked to move all your belongings that essentially constitute your home could be traumatic, if the person doesn't do it in the specified time the belongings should be kept in storage to be collected, not destroyed or disposed of.

I would agree if a suitable alternative was provided

Shameful. Victimising homeless people and confiscating or destroying their possessions is not the way forward in any civilised society. This is a discriminatory measure targeted at the homeless population of Exeter. The city council has no moral grounds to both refuse to house or provide safe camping grounds, lockers etc (all things proposed by homeless persons) for homeless people and also to steal their possessions when they sleep wherever they are able. Trying to make homeless people invisible to the electorate is not a way to solve the problem of homelessness, and driving them out of the city centre makes it more difficult for them to access vital support services.

It is inhumane to take away a person's bedding.

THIS IS A CRUEL AND HORRIFIC PROPOSAL. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.

There was a similar proposal in Oxford that was defeated, a city with a massive homeless problem. These people are HUMAN BEINGS already victims of biting government cuts - why take away their bedding? The winter is just getting colder - this is so so cruel! In Oxford two homeless people recently died unexpectedly, and making life that bit harder for the homeless does shorten their lives!

The average age of death is 47. I IMPLORE YOU not to implement this.

Ashamed to be part of a country that wishes to do this to the homeless.

HEARTLESS!

taking away bedding from rough sleepers could be a death sentence in winter time, have you no humanity?

Homeless people obviously need some form of shelter and so it should not be removed.

A homeless person may have to visit a nearby toilet and, therefore, might, quite understandably, leave their worldly belongings nearby whilst they are gone. They should be allowed to move from their position without carting all with them, for fear of someone taking away even their meagre belongings, Shame on you!

I doubt that anyone sleeping in the street in Exeter does it for pleasure. This proposal is immoral and shows very little humanity. If this is a Proposition from a supposedly Labour-lead Council, I don't want to imagine what the Conservatives have in mind.

The homeless need help, not having their few possessions and means of keeping warm and dry removed and destroyed.

People do not sleep in public places because it is fun. Exeter City Council is failing to address this problem and seeking to blame individuals for its failure.

Without help they will just move up the road. Punitive measures won't solve the problem just shift it.

No-one sleeps rough on the streets by choice, homelessness is a sign of poverty not anti-social behaviour. These people should be helped and supported rather than fined and criminalised.

It is wrong to deprive people of basic shelter and items to keep them warm. Consequence will be either more deaths from hyperthermia, or theft/begging to obtain replacements

How wretched you are treating people like vermin! YOU are supposed to provide social housing for people not let them live on the streets. Yes I know you have problems with beggars and homeless people who are on drugs but this draconian response is inhumane. With all the money you get paid can't you come up with a more compassionate answer?

I've never seen this as a problem - homeless people need somewhere to try and be safe and warm at night and until Exeter can provide them with proper accommodation we shouldn't move them on. There is a huge homeless population in Exeter and this should not be hidden from the public

If a person is homeless, removal/destruction of bedding etc. would be very cruel and could put the person's life in danger.

I think you should only be allowed to dispose of someone's belonging with their permission or give them the chance to move their stuff..

I think this is outrageous. Exeter is not a lovely garden for the middle classes to sip wine in undisturbed by the riff raff! It is a city with diverse populations and complex issues. Hiding the paraphernalia of the homeless from public view has not solved the problem of homelessness. I suggest that more attention be paid to the root of the problems rather than putting the emphasis on the individuals already suffering from having no where to live and multiple unaddressed issues. This should rouse our human compassion, not our contempt.

Again not enough is provided by the council to ensure that everyone has a warm and safe place to live and till that happens you should not be given the right to take and dispose of vital resources.

This policy would inevitably end up criminalising homeless people. The problem of homelessness is growing, and people in this situation should be helped, not considered an inconvenience or an aesthetic problem. It would be better to try to find people housing or increase the number of homeless shelters - or prevent people being made homeless before they are (and these ideas are uneducated and v likely better responses have been thought out by homeless charities), rather than criminalising homelessness.

Proposal 3 is an abomination. Thanks to our current government we have a huge increase in homeless people in the city with no support, shelter, treatment etc. The idea of removing their only belongings is quite frankly dispicable. Have we made a return to the Victorian era? Sort out the cause, do not punish people from being in a position many are only a couple of pay cheques away from. My concern is that this power could cause extreme hardship, especially during winter months, to people who are unable to provide for themselves in any other appropriate way. My understanding is that the majority of people do not CHOOSE to sleep rough - their needs are generally much more complex.

You have no right to remove confiscate property and I would not support this. There is plenty of trash in our city anyhow which you fail to control.

No, the proposal should not procede. It should be a criminal offence fro a persons propoerty to be stolen or taken forcefully from them. This could very easily be abused. These are potentially very vulnerable people what protections would there be in place to protect them? Who would be their advocate?

WHere are they supposed to store their belongings?

This would be terrible for people sleeping rough. They are already at increased risk of assault and theft and have nowhere safe or protected to go or store their belongings which are necessary to survive especially in winter. It is terrifying that anyone would want to introduce a law stating that people who have almost nothing could be legally robbed of their basic necessities simply because they dared to not have a house to put them in. Many people sleep rough because of traumatic life experiences including active military service, abuse, and losing their job and partner. People who are vulnerable deserve increased protection - NOT to be treated like second class citizens, NOT to have fewer rights than other people, NOT to experience this kind of discrimination. does not recognise the complexities of the homeless issue, or peoples right to make a protest. The proposal effectively gives the right to take away someones home, possessions and source of protection and shelter. The council needs to be looking at the root causes of why people are sleeping out rather than penalising them for their vulnerable, lack of a home, money or a job. Many of these people will be particularly vulnerable to mental health, addiction and familial problems, The police should not be given powers to stigmatise them further and make them more vulnerable.

It would be indefensible to leave people living on the streets with no shelter, bedding or means of keeping warm. Living on the street is already frightening enough, to have one's few personal possessions at risk from those who should be helping protect them would be harrowing. I can't believe that councillors find this acceptable.

Too harsh a treatment, homeless people are real people ,and would not be sleeping rough if they had the ability to be in a safe accomodation. Sometimes the street may be much safer than a hostel place. Rather than treating them as criminals its important to treat them with dignity

What a horrifically inhumane proposal. If someone is reduced to sleeping on the streets, how can you possibly take away what little comfort they have? What do you think they'll do if you take it away? These people have no options - if they had anywhere else to go, do you think they'd choose a sleeping bag in a doorway, or a cardboard box on the street? On a cold night these belongings could be the only thing between them and death. The council should be investing to provide long-term support and emergency accommodation for all those who need, not clearing people away because you think they're an eyesore. Absolutely disgusting that you are even considering this.

We shouldn't be criminalising rough sleepers - homeless people need support, not punishment. Confiscating their bedding and belongings is inhumane and would leave them vulnerable, especially in these cold winter months. The homeless are people too, and have just as much value as anyone else, so they should be treated as such.

Perhaps if there were sufficient beds for the homeless then they wouldn't be forced into making sleeping areas. Perhaps the people proposing such action should try sleeping rough for a few nights during wet wintry weather before thinking that this could be a good idea!

Where do you expect these people to go? They aren't doing this with the intention of causing antisocial behaviour, they have no other choice.

It should only be done where an alternative safe place to sleep is already available - for example a local shelter. I understand many rough sleepers find shelters and hostel dangerous environments (particularly women) with by te authorities

I do not believe that the City or other agencies have sufficient resources at their disposal to provide adequate shelter for those in need. Financial constraints are like to increase the need and reduce the provision. Fixed penalties on those without ability to pay will need to

It is not appropriate to confiscate the belongings of people sleeping rough.

There is a significant homeless population in Exeter and to move these people on is to mask this problem
Inhumane to do this

Yes people will freeze to death. What s the purpose of this. How is this hurting of affecting others.

I believe this could be used to harass homeless people and I find that to be completely unacceptable and unfair.

Homeless people are still primarily people. Being homeless must be bad enough, they shouldn't be persecuted further by having their bedding and shelter confiscated!

Obviously there are some locations in which it would be clearly problematic for someone to set up a shelter, but this measure would feel less draconian if there were areas which were designated as being "homeless friendly" at night.

National and local government policy has directly contributed to an increase in homelessness. Most homeless people do not choose this way of life. Penalising them rather than changing the inequalities in society is inhumane and ineffective, rendering already vulnerable people to increased risk of harm, ill health and death.

It can't come soon enough. The authorities currently seem impotent when it comes to moving on people encamping in the city centre. I believe the only reason they are in that part of the city is to harass and exploit the generosity of the residents of Exeter.

You need to HELP homeless people, not criminalise them.

If they can't afford a roof over their heads they cannot afford a £1000 fine so you'll end up putting them in jail for non-payment. Absolute madness.

How on earth is it helpful to remove the bedding and possessions of homeless people? This is cruel and stupid.

You must not deprive vulnerable people of their possessions.

These people should be properly housed, and definitely not have their bedding and possessions stolen.

If bedding is causing an obstruction, it should be possible for the authorised person to move it, but to destroy it is not acceptable. The most vulnerable members of our society who do not have the option of a safe roof over their heads need to be protected from the elements, and will only be forced to beg to replace any possessions which are destroyed.

No one has any 'right' to deprive anyone of basic shelter, especially if that is all they have to protect themselves

Rough sleepers have limited possessions and limited resources to replace losses. This feels draconian and would have a high impact on the individual, there must be other more humane methodology.

Homeless people need somewhere to sleep. Removing their belongings leaves them vulnerable especially during the winter. Unless you are proposing to open a 24-hour shelter then your proposals are barbaric.

Sleeping rough is not a choice ...these people are very vulnerable...for whatever reason they have found it necessary to sleep on the streets. Many have significant mental health problems...or in the case of young people ..may be the victims of abuse and seeking refuge from further harm. A significant number of homeless people are ex servicemen with depression or PTSD and without access to support after discharge from the services .How can society turn its back on these citizens ...don't tidy up our lovely city without humanity.....

The confiscation of legal property proposed should not be possible without a court order. Without such a court order confiscation is theft, and any official involved should be prosecuted for theft. The proposal is not in accordance with English Law and due process. The proposal will be vulnerable to judicial review as it seeks to circumvent due process and give quasi judicial powers to agents not qualified to hold such powers.

Regardless of the legal problems, this proposal is inhumane and probably constitutes a breach of the Human Rights Act and the 1951 Convention relating to the protection of people from persecution by agents of the State. The proposal is cruel, spiteful and not worthy of a civilized society.

There should be a no tolerance approach from the outset. Not just the morning clear up. Half of the alcoholics and drug addicts have already made a start by 08:30, making it very difficult to get these people moving so shops can open.

There needs to be designated areas where they can sleep. Taking their bedding is just a nasty idea that leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

Ultimately it's the charities that would end up being pressed harder, as they would have to keep handing out the bedding that had been taken.

Communal sleeping areas would be a better idea, taking these people away from the High Street in the first place.

Until some alternatives are offered to those sleeping on the streets we should not be demonising the homeless.

I ABSOLUTELY disagree with this. If you want to sort out homelessness, so people are not on the streets, then there are much better ways of doing this. Just moving people on doesn't help anyone. You would be victimising the most vulnerable people in our society by doing this.

This could endanger rough sleepers

You want to remove homeless people's ability to keep warm? Do you have any morals at all?

Bedding and belongings should never be taken. This serves no purpose other than to make these people more vulnerable (particularly in the winter!) and unhappy - more likely to substance abuse or seek shelter where unsafe. Where do you propose they go? Perhaps focus on working charities to contribute to getting them off the streets. You can't criminalise for something that is often not a choice, for something they are not enjoying, for something they don't even want to be doing.

It's unkind and uncaring and makes no provision to improve the situation of the person using the temporary shelter / bed.

Taking homeless people's cardboard boxes, sleeping bags or other cover during January will result in the council being seen as very cruel and inhumane. Can you not set up a rough sleepers unit instead?

Removing the bedding & other possessions of a rough sleeper could mean they freeze to death.

Looking at this from a nice warm office or house makes perfect sense, to keep towns and public places neat and tidy. However, we are not dealing with tins of beans that can just be moved along, we are dealing with people, who are not in a nice warm office or house, and are trying to keep warm and make the most of a miserable existence. I would challenge the people proposing this to spend a week outside with nothing to shelter them from the weather, and then ask the question again, and see if they still want to carry on with this proposal

That essentially means throwing away the few possessions a homeless person has. That's terrible.

This seems a very cruel way of dealing with homeless people. Such action must at the very least be accompanied by a bed for the night and assistance towards housing. And any such possessions must be returned to the people concerned rather than confiscated. I have always thought that Exeter City Council was compassionate compared with some others but this - on its own - is positively heartless.

The person carrying out this act should be able to refer the individual(s) to an overnight shelter or other accommodation, before removing their sleeping items. We could otherwise see an increase in the number of people sleeping rough, dying from hypothermia or similar.

More money should go to assist such temporary accommodation hostels before the Proposal is brought in.

This unfairly targets the homeless and people with mental health problems. This group of people are already vulnerable and disadvantaged. Seeking to remove their possessions and potential criminalise them is not only immoral, it is also a contravention of The Human Rights Act.

Forcibly moving homeless people on is cruel when those individuals have no where to stay. To forcibly remove a homeless person's bedding, especially in winter months, could be handing down a death sentence. This measure is totally disproportionate and grossly unfair to those who have no other options but to sleep rough. You can't solve the issue of homelessness by criminalising and moving people on, this merely causes unnecessary suffering and effectively legitimises the council turning a blind eye under the banner of "gentrifying" the city centre.

it seems aimed at the homeless.

this proposal does not take into account the woefully inadequate temporary and more permanent emergency and social housing facilities in the Exeter area. To take the bedding and shelter of a homeless person when there is little emergency provision, or suitable accessible mental health care is not appropriate. I do not like to see rough sleepers, but until proper funded, staffed and properly available shelter and subsequent housing is put in place, often the most vulnerable in our society have no other choice.

Most of the people who sleep on the streets have a complex array of mental and psychological issues. Sweeping them off the streets will not make that go away, rather it deepens the issue, and is more likely to drive people to crime in order to survive. I do not agree with this proposal as it stands, and I feel it can be addressed in more suitable and stable ways.

more support for the homeless may need to occur or better information for them to receive help

Ensure that all homeless people have somewhere safe to stay, and this won't be necessary. Incidentally, I did send an email to Percy Prowse and his colleague a year or two ago, asking what the city is doing to help homeless people. I never received a reply. I fully agree that there should be no homeless people sleeping rough, so please make sure that no one is forced to do so.

I cannot condone such brutal, cruel treatment of people who have already hit rock bottom. The council would be stealing what little protection the homeless have. It's barbaric.

This is an awful and cruel way to treat HUMAN BEINGS that have nothing else.

You should never deprive any persons of their rightful property.

You should be able to move a person on only if you are providing them access to an alternative location/accommodation.

This is difficult because yes I agree there are other places to sleep and I am unsure why people choose shop doorways but this is their bedding and they need it to keep warm and that is really important. Also due to relationships it might be difficult to sleep in one of the safe sleeps

Removing the property of the homeless, especially bedding, and especially during the winter, could increase the risk of homeless people dying.

You may argue 'there are services in place for the homeless', but obviously if the services were available and effective, then the homeless person would not be sleeping on the street in the first place.

No, this is the wrong way to resolve this issue. Instead get the people off the streets and into housing and employment. That is the real solution. This is just criminalising the poorest and most vulnerable.

This will clearly target homeless people, and appears to be some sort of attempt to socially cleanse the city centre.

Stop criminalise homelessness. Give them somewhere to store their stuff as well as providing hostel accommodation. Oxford council tried to do this But wa's kicked as being unlawful. Please help them not criminalise them.

Homelessness is not illegal and should not be treated as such. We don't yet live in a police state but with this kind of act we are sleepwalking into one.

Given our current situation re housing it would be damaging to those who sleep rough if they are constantly moved on. Lets work together against the government proposals which are going to make the situation worse rather penalise those affected.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with 'anti-social behaviour'. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city.

The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues instead of creating a new criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

The idea of taking, especially, the bedding from someone who is already destitute enough to be sleeping thus is unconscionable.

Confiscation or forced removal of bedding serves only to make life harder for those who are already in a difficult position, sleeping on the streets or in public places. The Council should be ashamed of putting forward such an anti-social and inhumane proposal.

Shelters should be provided for the homeless so they do not have to sleep rough.

This proposition is way too general.

The wording of this proposal isn't succinct enough. This opens it up to a wide range of interpretation and could include many differing scenarios. The taking of belongings and/or sleeping bags is unnecessary. If a person or persons have been moved on and have packed up their belongings, I see no justification for confiscating them. This proposal could be open to mis-use and abuse, is unnecessarily punitive and will not produce any positive outcome other than causing personal distress and resulting physical harm (hyperthermia) to individuals who have human rights that we as a society should be trying to help protect.

The yes is qualified by the need that there has to be places where sleeping bags can be put. Otherwise they will be carrying the clutter round in bags or shopping trolleys which achieves almost nothing

This could have fatal consequences to those thus deprived of shelter.

I am often approached on my way to work and am made to feel intimidated if I don't give money.

One man actually called me a "cunt" because I refused to give him money. I definitely agree with the proposal

Shelter for the homeless has to be addressed, although with the current financial climate and extra immigration that is becoming increasingly difficult but that doesn't mean we can let our country and culture decline.

I agreed with proposal 3 with a condition that the persons sleeping roughly be placed somewhere they could sleep (not precinct nor prison) - temporarily with a program for them to attend to in order to be of good community standing once more. It is a big condition but this is needed as part of true rehabilitation.

I think this is entirely unreasonable. This is a vulnerable and marginalised group who need support. They have nowhere else to sleep, and will die if they have no means to keep warm. Deal with the behaviours and support resolution of the conditions, but do not penalise them for possessing basic need equipment.

I'm hoping the proposal isn't complete. Having spent some time homeless, bedding and cardboard are like real estate and hard to come by. Sleeping out of sight is fraught with danger, sleeping without insulation also. Serious assistance is needed, not serious crippling.

This proposal effectively criminalises poverty and prioritises the needs of the most secure in society over the needs of the most vulnerable, hardly a civilised response to the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping. Punitive measures such as this play to the prejudiced crowd and do nothing to tackle to root causes of the problem or provide alternative solutions. Instead of attacking and further harassing this vulnerable section of our society we should be investing in temporary shelters, outreach and support groups etc. in order to assist people to get their lives in a back on track in a constructive and compassionate manner.

Wholeheartedly agree that refusal to remove often filthy, infested bedding is unacceptable and should not be left to shop-keepers or residents. Anyone walking down the High Street/Fore Street to Exbridges in the morning must be horrified by the mess and the extent of the vagrancy.

NOTE: People signing petitions against this are often people who live away from the City Centre, have no real experience of this problem day after day, and have misinterpreted the purpose of the Order.

Absolutely agree. In the parks the encampments are disgusting and a risk to wildlife, children and visitors. And with Exeter returning to Britain in Bloom, how can judges possibly be taken into parks and green spaces which are filthy with vagrants sleeping out?

It's just too easy to ask people to 'move on' when there is such limited, decent hostel accommodation in Exeter. I speak with several rough sleepers who find the hostel accommodation worse than sleeping rough. This is just dreadful. Can we not do better as a city? I believe that fining people is completely the wrong answer to this problem. Of course we don't want to have to step over other people's bedding. But where are they supposed to store it while they are out looking for work? Some more humane provision needs to be made.

I have put 'no' because I am concerned that this could be interpreted too widely. The phrase 'encampment' suggests multiple users, but the proposal would seem to apply to a single rough sleeper, and while I would support action if this person refused to clear away their materials, this should be applied sensitively. The confiscation of their property should only be applied in extreme circumstances, and should only apply to items that can ONLY be used for bedding - it should not be used to confiscate core clothing which would effectively prevent them living outdoors at all.

I can understand that if someone is camping in a shop doorway and it is time to open the shop, they should move on and the police should have the authority to move them. Their possession, if they are removed, should not be destroyed but should be kept for a few weeks in a safe place. A safe place from which it would be easy for the owners to retrieve their property.

If we are talking about a rough sleeper who is taking advantage of a portico, doorway, or heated vent in a public place (after business hours), then no as they are not impacting negatively on a commercial exercise. As for small communities popping up, this is not likely in an area such as the one proposed and current laws, by-laws, etc. relating to this type of community (travellers) are already in place and being used.

I once had the care of an open area belonging to local housing in the city centre. Most mornings I collected blankets and sleeping bags left by folk who had slept in the park, but who never took their bottles, rubbish and bedding with them each day. I disposed of them in rubbish bins. It seems there is an endless fresh supply available! There has to be a better way!

This criminalizes rough sleeping. These people have nothing and you are only going to make things worse. Whilst it is horrible to have to move people who are aggressive it is the aggression that should be criminalized and subject to the order not the persons possessions.

This should be under a public nuisance basis not fee to be applied under the personal powers and unsubstantiated judgement of an authorised person. People have a human right to shelter and undisturbed sleep so if safe alternatives are not offered/provided, if it is not in a particularly sensitive area with other alternative places around then it should be allowed.

Taking peoples only shelter may cause deaths. Those deaths would be on the consciences of the people who approve this. I couldn't take being the person who caused the death of a person who had nothing. I wouldn't wish that burden on the police officer, or council worker. That officer who could then be reasonably be accused of manslaughter. It's not nice for them, and not nice for the homeless person.

An "unauthorised bivouac, bedding or equipment formed in a street" is quite clearly a description of the blankets and sleeping bags used by homeless people, who have no option but to be sleeping outside. I strongly disagree that we should be criminalising people forced into rough sleeping rather than helping them off the streets. I lived in the center of Exeter for three years and regularly encountered rough sleepers - I never felt at risk from them, and nor did I find them a nuisance or public menace. As a full time student I was well aware of how easy it is for innocent people to be forced into that lifestyle. It is also disgraceful for any authority to consider confiscating the few belongings these people have, rather than offering them a home or shelter to prevent them from having to breach proposal 3.

Whilst I can see potential benefits in the other proposals I feel that this is truly an inhumane action. It would severely impact on the lives of the homeless who have no other option but to sleep in the streets. As a young woman who frequently has to walk through town at night I have never once felt threatened by these people or felt they were a nuisance in any way. To deprive them of their bedding and a place to sleep would be cruel and callous. By taking away their bedding and moving them they will not just disappear and no longer be a 'problem'. These are real human beings who deserve to be treated as such and with kindness and compassion, as they are in a desperate situation and need the councils help rather than being swept under the carpet and out of sight. They are sleeping on the streets because they have nowhere else to go.

This seems to be specifically aimed at homeless people/rough sleepers and find the proposal deeply concerning. We should be trying to help and support these people not criminalising them. I thought better of Exeter than to have a NIMBY attitude to social issues.

So you're planning to confiscate all bedding and protection from the cold and wet from the homeless? If that's the case, shame on you. You'll be directly contributing to their deaths.

If they haven't got a home, where else can they go? More often than not, they are victims of circumstance and should not be punished for something they can do little to help.

What recommendations have the homeless made. Other cities have tried to do this and have abandoned the idea.

This is appalling. I am struggling to believe that this is a genuine proposal - where is your humanity? Instead of helping the homeless, you're punishing them and making it even harder for them to survive. Instead of worrying about image, Exeter should be doing more about improving the wellbeing of its citizens.

I'm lucky enough to be able to go home to warmth and shelter every night of the year. A lot of people aren't. If they can find a sleeping bag then why on earth should that be taken away from them? If you're going to do that then you obviously need to provide a replacement shelter, more centres for the homeless. Do you think people choose to lie in the doorways of shops as their preferred residence? No. They have nowhere else. And shop fronts provide shelter when there are alcoves - imagine if you had to sleep outside in the freezing winter months, with nothing but a duvet - oh wait, they wouldn't even have that if these proposals go through.

'Including shelter from the elements?'...so you're confiscating raincoats and umbrellas now? To take from people who already have nothing the one thing they absolutely need is truly cruelty. Especially from the council, who should be doing everything in their power to HELP, not punish !!

Also, you have a bug on this survey to do with the free text answer boxes - report it to the software provider.(KeyPoint, apparently - just seen the bottom of the screen).

Abolishing bedding and personal belongings makes you more a criminal than what you are trying to claim is a criminal offence! No, thats poverty.

We have a homeless problem, the solutions to this are complicated and costly. criminalizing the homeless is not one of them. Taking the meager possessions they have will not improve the situation, but will just lead to more extreme behavior among the existing homeless population.

Too widely drawn. No protection for inappropriate enforcement - certainly not implicit that it has anything to do with doorways or conflicts with access

This is cruelty to homeless people. What if that is all they have to give them shelter? Are you going to provide them with some other form of shelter if you clear their tents etc away? Are you thinking of these people as clutter to be cleared away? Or human beings with problems?

I do not believe this is necessary as it is specifically targeting an fining the homeless, the most vulnerable in society. A law should not be created that targets the homeless. This problem in Exeter City Centre should be tackled though rehabilitation and temporary or semi-permanent accomodation to help them re-enter society.

I don't think confiscating the shelters made by the homeless is really the correct way to tackle the problem. Effort should be focused with providing an alternative means of shelter for those living in the streets and open public places. Shelter is a fundamental human right and authorised personnel may find themselves morally conflicted when instigating the removal of a homeless person's shelter.

Rather than simply removing homeless people or those 'sleeping rough' on the streets of Exeter City Centre, there should be in place a support service made freely available to such individuals or groups. Eliminating the visible signs of homelessness is not a cure for the problem. A structured means of support needs to be offered without discrimination to help ease the causes of this widespread social problem.

Underpasses in Exeter are an absolute "no go" area in Exeter. Always dance with the traffic rather than enter such an uncomfortable environment. Rough sleeping and drug taking.

No second Night Out policy? Some of the faces are so well known to me as a resident including rough sleeper in our garden whose face I recognised as a regular beggar.

Many of us do feel sympathy for a section of the homeless and not sure how to help other than via St Petroc's or Big Issue. There is a section who just do not want to be helped

As phrased this is too drastic, as it authorises almost immediate destruction of what may be the sole means of keeping a vulnerable person warm, without the responsibility to ensure their safety. As it applies only to the designated area, it risks spreading such rough sleeping out to eg peripheral shopping areas, suburban parks etc, which have less oversight by police etc and so where the public will be, or feel, more at risk.

Sometimes in sheer desperation I believe people should be allowed to set up a temporary structure. The word temporary should be defined so as to ensure that places do not become unauthorised encampments over an extended period of time.

This would be a violation of the rights of HOMELESS people who might require shelter. I think so. This is a shameless proposition and I do not support it.

This is an enforced 'clean up' of the city centre from homeless people. A form of banishing what is considered unsightly to the edges without addressing the problem. Many homeless people sleep in view of surveillance cameras so that they don't fall victim to violence.

I am concerned about depriving people of their personal possessions. I appreciate that it is not pleasant for shop staff to find people sleeping in shop doorways but the remedy should not be to take away what they own.

If these are homeless people they must be given immediate practical help at the time they are told to remove their bedding, etc. Again, what will happen if the designated Order area just pushes the problem further out in the city?

confiscation is a bit much - where are they going to sleep next. this should be linked to a referral process where they are given a bed for the night.

Again, some people live on the streets, therefore, what are they supposed to do with their bedding?

I don't agree with taking bedding and shelter from those who need it.

Once again, I would be very happy not to see people camping out in the streets of Exeter - but given that there is no adequate shelter provision in the city for those unfortunate enough to be homeless, this proposal is simply hypocritical.

If that person is causing a problem to other people then they would need to be apprehended for that. Is there safe storage for people who are homeless and using a tent or similar?

Clearing away a homeless person's belongings does not solve the problem of homelessness. It is heartless, cruel and uncivilized. Homelessness is on the rise; perhaps the council should consider a long-term plan with how to deal with this issue including supporting safe houses and night shelters.

In addition, and a comment which could apply to all the suggestions so far, criminalising homelessness and associated behaviour is a waste of police time and money. They are already suffering severe and significant financial cuts. Either they wont be able to enforce these new rules, in which case they should not be passed or they will divert resources from actual criminal behaviour.

Rough sleepers have difficult and chaotic lives at the best of times; we should not do anything to make those lives more difficult. The same comments made above about restitution if someone is being victimised apply.

there are some persons who have temporary tenants hidden in the city but they have NO WHERE to go no cover to protect them from elements

The problem is not 'the homeless.' The problem is homelessness.

Sad but necessary. Can homeless charities and agencies not offer work harder to address this? If there is such fondness for allowing the homeless to sleep on porches outside the churches and use the churchyard as a toilet, they why not take the homeless INDOORS, if that is the Christian thing to do?

Only as good as the enforcement of the Proposal. Will there be prioritisation of resources to cover? Currently resources are prioritised in the city centre which has pushed the ASB issues out to the centre fringes and our neighbourhood St David's has been hard hit.

Ditto Prop 1

This is demonising homeless people with the intention of making the issue invisible. Instead, the Council should be tackling the reasons for homelessness, and putting their resources into helping people, rather than treating them as criminals.

A most objectionable proposal. Below are the comments I tried to send by email.

Dear Sirs,

I have the following comments to make regarding the PSPO. I have read the council documents dealing with the matter.

1. I have no problem with the proposed restrictions on homed drunks, rowdies and nuisances. In fact I support them.

2. I have serious difficulties when the council proposes to apply these same restrictions to homeless persons. They include some of the most inadequate members at the bottom of our society with the least capacity to pay fines or renew possessions. Among them are ex military and others who have fallen on hard times as well as young people with poor life chances. I understand that the homeless can be difficult and cause nuisance. I also know that the Councils intention is to apply the sanctions considerably and that they do support the homeless in other ways.

However, since the order makes it clear that homeless are subject to its penalties, it lays the Council open to the charge of being harsh beyond reasonableness, and this from a Labour controlled council.

You should be aware that several other city councils have been forced to withdraw PSPOs because of public objections and petitions. Exeter Council have now been attacked in the Western Morning News. While the attack may be unfair or biased it is the simple fact that the actions proposed are easily seen as bullying the weakest that produce such resentment in many people.

My forecast is that if Council proceeds they are likely to be forced to withdraw.

3. On the practical side.

3.1. I suggest you rephrase the order so that no fines are applied to the homeless (or only applied to the homed), and that if property is removed it is returned to the homeless person or made available for collection elsewhere at a convenient place.

The excuse that it is difficult to do this is not good enough. The Council have authority and assets,. The homeless have nothing. If the terms of the law (which I have not studied) prevent you doing this then I recommend the Council find an alternative to PSPO to deal with the problems.

3.2. Would it be possible to establish a (protected) 'camp site' as an alternative to doorways.

4. While urinating in public spaces is very unpleasant I think the council are on weak ground when so many public facilities are closed. It is not good enough to say use a private facility, especially at night, unless you can get such places to put notices outside saying 'please use our loos'. We don't have the continental culture yet.

(As someone who suffered an enlarged prostate for several years I am only too aware of how desperate you can get when a strong, sudden urge hits you. Some public toilets were already closed at that time and I missed them very much. On one occasion I had to leave a queue in the city and just made it to a shop loo).

5. The PSPO title gives a negative image. I suspect it is laid down in the law and cannot be changed. If the name can be changed it could help, a name concentrating on unruly behaviour. Better still, segregate the homed and homeless in the order so as to just deal with non homeless people causing trouble. Then deal with homeless by other means.

Lastly, a sort of apology. I do not think the Council means to be hard hearted and I am obviously not aware of all that goes on behind the scenes, so please excuse me if I have traduced you.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

When I walk into work through the city in the early morning I think the way the High Street and Sidwell Street looks is disgusting. The amount of litter, blankets and detritus in shop doorways seems to have increased over the last 6 months. I pity the poor shop keepers who have to clear it up, or if it's the council my tax should be spent on other things.

As before, the area is too small and must be expanded to include the flowerpot and fields that run beside the flood prevention see comments to No 1

Where are you going to move the rough sleepers too, after confiscating what little they have?

Rather than just 'signposting', in other words push the problem elsewhere (outside the zone, where they may be less visible, and more vulnerable), work with the agencies (nice if they worked together on this and shared funding) in providing more direct assistance where possible. Additionally, ensure that there is adequate ongoing monitoring to ensure the mitigations put in place are effective, and any unforeseen outcome from the order effectively dealt with.

This is the most objectionable of all. Homelessness is getting worse in the city and a better strategy from supporting individuals is required over a draconian attempt to hide the problem.

It gives no clear reason for why someone who be asked to move. Again targeting homeless people when we should be helping them. It's a very Victorian way of looking at the situation.

Unless there is somewhere for all homeless people to stay, this is a travesty. Asking people to clear up after themselves is one thing but stealing their sleeping equipment is disgraceful, especially during the winter.

This is their only means of keeping dry and maybe warm. People already struggle to come by this type of equipment as it is. Removing this equipment away from the owner will only add to their depressive circumstances and will possibly lead to more deaths on the streets of Exeter that should not already be happening.

This could cause great hardship to homeless people and it should be possible for homeless people to be able to reclaim any possessions or they can be left without shelter, clothes, etc.

My first concern is the term "authorised person." By the definition provided this will presumably empower shop owners or managers as well as police and council workers. I am aware that the police offer people the chance to reclaim confiscated property within a week, however it is not clear whether business owners will also be made to do this. Presumably they will not, and so rough sleepers are likely to find what little they have arbitrarily taken from them. Additionally, there are completely valid reasons why homeless people might want to avoid the police, and so would be unable to reclaim their property. It is understood that the vast majority "missing persons" are thought to be homeless or sleeping rough. People categorised as such are often on the run from domestic violence, abusive families or other dangerous circumstances. People in this situation are naturally wary of institutions such as the police who might recognise or report them, and so are unlikely to reclaim their property even if this option is hypothetically available to them. Homeless people often also have problems with identification and official documentation, and so might not be able to prove that the property is their's. As such even if this proposal is implemented humanely, much upheaval and disturbance will be caused to society's most vulnerable, and so the proposal as a whole should be scrapped. Homelessness should instead be addressed as an issue in its own right, as opposed to attempts to limit its effects on other people.

Something in the FAQs sheet that I take deep objection to is the assertion that "many people choose not to access [the support that is made available to them]." Within the context of the paragraph in question, it is directly used to justify the claim that rough sleepers are not being targeted. The assumption, then, is that rough sleepers aren't being targeted because they have other options available, and are choosing not to take them. In this sense sleeping rough is portrayed as more of a choice than a necessity, and so punishing people for behaviour surrounding it is seemingly justified. However this completely disregards the many valid reasons people have for choosing not to stay in a shelter, hostel, or other temporary accommodation made available. People can be trying to avoid specific individuals who have harassed or intimidated them in the past, people recovering from addictions can be trying to avoid other users so as to avoid relapsing, hostels often don't have secure facilities for personal belongings and so theft can be commonplace. Hostels (such as Gabriel house) can have time limits for staying, and so people can be unable to return for the meantime. Some hostels won't allow pets. Most accommodation prohibits alcohol and drug use, and so people with addictions are excluded. Some accommodation costs money - and many rough sleepers are undocumented and so can't claim benefits. Communal living entails the loss of privacy and personal space. People can form strong social ties to their peers and so might not want to leave their friends out on the streets, and finally, many rough sleepers form a deep rooted psychological aversion to living in one place or in a structured environment. Aversions like this can be extremely hard to get over, and people often need professional help in order to do so. As such, the fact that "other options" are hypothetically available does not mean anything in real terms, and so cannot be used to justify the claim that rough sleepers aren't being targeted. Sleeping rough is the only real option for many people, and so a proposal that gives sweeping powers to "any person with an interest in the land in question" to turf a rough sleeper out at any given moment will lead to horrendous disturbance to Exeter's homeless community, and essentially punishes people for doing something that they are forced to do out of necessity.

Yes, it is essential that homeless people have options provided to have emergency accommodation provided. No equipment should be removed that results in a homeless person immediately sleeping rough.

I work with homeless and vulnerably housed people in Exeter through the Cathedral. I am absolutely shocked that the council is proposing to take away bedding and shelter. I do not support this proposal in any way. In a civilised society we are responsible for weaker and vulnerable people. High rents and benefit delays do not help. I implore the council to re-think this proposal.

This is a problem of homelessness. People cannot just have their bedding/shelter removed from them. Quite a few people sleep in the St David's church doorways/churchyard. You cannot just turf these - people or anyone else out on to the streets. This seems a harsh anti-homelessness measure akin to Tory measures

This is not a humane way to treat homeless PEOPLE !

I hope "street" includes shop door ways/entrances.

Will these people be given details of help that they can get with their situation?

I hesitated a long while before failing to give a preference. I cannot support this measure without knowing more, but I do realise that improved controls are necessary. I fear for the consequences if alternative accommodation is not readily available and/or the measure is insensitively applied. Has Exeter enough sleeping places for those who would be displaced? Will rough sleepers be treated with respect, given sufficient warning and not deprived of their possessions when there is no suitable alternative accommodation available?

Of course, there is always the likelihood that rough sleepers will simply move to areas not covered by the PSPO. The city centre may be 'cleansed' but won't the problem simply move to areas that are currently not affected?

yes you also need to consider using Prof Agents such as Devon Investigations Ltd who have full knowledge of how to deal with these matters in conjunction with the Police. It would not be advisable to use your own staff including Community Patrol as they are not Police Trained and lack the knowledge to deal with such matters and soon than later there would be a good change these guys would be assaulted.

Rough sleepers must be offered the support and accommodation they need, simply to move them out to another area is not acceptable.

Moving the problem to where it is less visible doesn't solve it.

For this proposal to be used the city Council and other partner agencies must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place so that rough sleeper/ homeless don't have to resort to encampments.

Not all homeless people choose to be. People are made homeless for many and varied reasons. Unless enough shelters are provided for people to go and sleep in at night, and leave their belongings during the day, I do not see it would be reasonable for them to have to clear their tents or bedding if they literally have nowhere else to go.

Give decent shelter to people and you won't have a problem.

Please let Exeter be known as a place with some compassion for homeless people.

As I said above under proposal 1, this whole approach involves downright theft or mugging by a council officer or police officer, committed, for no adequate reason and without reasonable excuse, against very vulnerable members of the public who are not where they are out of choice, and who often have no money to replace the items it is proposed to steal from them. It is outrageous that any such proposal should have received any backing from even the most irresponsible Council officer, or from even the most ill-informed and inexperienced elected member.

This will negatively affect the most vulnerable people in our society. These people need help rather than being victimised and persecuted.

The acts of persecution and discrimination of the minority and vulnerable groups are abhorrent and comparable to some of the measures introduced by the Nazi Party before the Second World War.

Mahatma Gandhi said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Based on this quote, if these proposals are introduced, this Nation would be quite distant from greatness.

There is a very worrying proposal:

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

People do not choose to be homeless and on the streets. If the City Council is not providing adequate and safe facilities for such distressed citizens then it is inhumane to take anything at all away from such vulnerable people.

Many homeless people are mentally ill. Emotionally challenged. Desperate cold and hungry. Their only protection at night...and often in the day, is the equipment and artifacts that will keep them warm. No one in their right mind would choose to remove the only things they have to make life at all tolerable.

I consider the move by Exeter City Council to be against the Human Rights Act. It is against Christian principles. Homelessness is a massive problem which the council would earn huge accolades for if they set an example to the rest of the country by tackling this in a new and innovative manner rather than by disgusting acts of cruelty.

We're we to see this happening outside of the UK we would immediately be condemning it.

And how do you propose these people will keep warm, give them shelter, that's the answer. It is tantamount to stealing to take their possessions away, we are the lucky ones who have homes to go to, more possessions than we need, are well educated and come from privileged backgrounds. People who have no homes need our help.

This is a most cruel and vindictive response to those fellow human beings who have less than us. The idea that these actions would be carried out on behalf of Exeter City (a city I love and have lived near all my life) authorities is absolutely abhorrent. It is particularly disgusting that I heard about it at Christmas. Exeter certainly knows how to honour the Christmas spirit with its 'no room at the inn'. It has brought shame on our city and those who proposed it.

It is inhuman to remove articles that keep homeless people alive, especially in cold weather, when they have nowhere else to go.

This is persecution of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised in our society. I want the council to provide more accommodation and support for tough sleepers.

The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city.

You are lumping different groups under the same umbrella, there is a massive difference to being homeless, and antisocial behaviour! I disagree with this in the strongest terms, particularly the threat of a fine. I would like to add my voice to the thousands who signed the keep streets live campaign. I cannot agree with the criminalisation of a vulnerable group of people's last resort. In addition to this, public spaces are indeed that: Public. They should be free for people to use for informal gatherings, including, but not limited to, busking.

3. Clear away and remove from this area without delay (to the satisfaction of an authorised person) any unauthorised bivouac, bedding or equipment formed in a street together with any associated paraphernalia, when requested to do so by an authorised person and if that person fails to clear away and remove as directed an authorised person may then or on a future date or time confiscate and dispose of any unauthorised bivouac, bedding or encampment found within this area with or without the permission of its owner.

For these purposes, bivouac, bedding and encampment mean any portable shelter used for camping or outdoor sleeping, and include materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground.

For this purpose unauthorised means without the express written consent of any owner (or any person having control over or an interest in the land in question).

Q3.

Do you agree with Proposal 3?

No

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

In effect, you are stealing the belongings of impoverished people. Aren't you ashamed?
Provided them with housing and shelter and then their belongings won't be on the street.

vulnerable homeless people are not choosing to "cause a public nuisance" and moving them on is inhumane

Does the local authority provide accommodation for homeless people? If not, where can a homeless person sleep?

This proposal is clearly targeted at 'sanitizing' public spaces of the most vulnerable members of the public. This is a clear infringement of individual rights. A public space is a public space, to be used how the public deem fit. It is not for a council or other authority to dictate how a public space is to be used and it is not right for members of that public to be discriminated against to pander to the sensibilities of those who prefer not to face reality. This proposal is absolutely disgusting from a humanitarian point of view.

Very few people choose to sleep out in the open if there is the option of temporary shelter indoors ie a bed on the floor of a friend's house or a place in a 'Shelter' for the night.

If you clear away their bedding you may be taking the only possessions they have and their only means of keeping warm

In the case of a homeless person dependent upon such shelter, this is unhelpful and inhuman. Adequate provision must be made for that person's protection and for protecting what possessions they have, including a bivouac or similar. The enactment of the proposal could lead to suffering and actual harm.

ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING to see that measures like this could even be considered!! This is highly immoral and ethically reprehensible that a Labour-led local authority, or indeed any at all, could even be considering implementing these draconian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

There was no mention of whether the bedding etc. is being used by a homeless person or not.

This proposal again effectively criminalises homelessness. If inadequate provision is made for homeless people, what choices do they have but to provide some form of shelter for themselves? To deprive them of these meagre resources whilst not providing proper accommodation simply makes their situation more desperate AND criminalises them. It does not provide any solution to the underlying problem of homelessness.

If people are unfortunate enough through financial misfortune or mental health to be obliged to sleep rough it seems inhumane to take away their means of shelter.

I would have thought a Labour Council would focus on support and providing more affordable housing.

This is draconian and completely contrary to what I would expect from a Labour council. I am frankly staggered it is even being contemplated. Vulnerable people will be at risk of being bullied and criminalised by over powerful "council employees" or G4S type equivalents. NO!. Better to spend time and energy addressing associated housing issues.

This, imo is a form of theft and bullying? They are homeless. They have nowhere to keep what meagre belongings they have.

This would potentially compound the problems of a vulnerable person

We need to support homeless people not throw them off the streets when they have nowhere else to go.

A homeless person should be allowed to sleep rough, and should not have their bedding/shelter interfered with.

I now make a point of giving money to `beggars` since this mean spirited proposal.

If a place/ places are provided for the homeless where they can put up their tents etc., then there will be no need for them to be everywhere. Since social housing is limited and private rent barely affordable perhaps these are the issues that need to be urgently addressed. If there was enough to go around then there would be no issue of homelessness except as a lifestyle choice.

There aren't places available for people to store their possessions

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

I think that this is appalling. It seems to be saying that being in a wretched, vulnerable state of homeless rough sleeping, a vulnerable individual will be punished by law if they have any sort of improvised shelter at any time, including during the night. This proposal seems to be completely lacking in intelligence and compassion.

The homeless have a hard enough life as it is without officials making life even harder for them!

Absolutely not! You cannot take away a persons only means of protection, their possessions. This is social cleansing.

If they are to be moved on with their items they should be directed to another safe place where they can go - there needs to be somewhere for these people to settle themselves and their things - they do not have the luxury of their own property or land to go to

Help the homeless! Don't criminalise vulnerable people. Throwing away their bedding is not helping!!!

Leaves vulnerable, and sometimes unwell, people who are street homeless vulnerable to insensitive behaviour and loss of belongings. The council will be well aware of the issues that lead people to resist or refuse entry to temp accommodation, and should direct funding at working with those people to support any illness, and to find acceptable alternative safe places to stay/rest. Criminalising someone for wanting to sleep in a shop doorway where they are sheltered from weather and perhaps feel safe, seems almost inhuman.

I disagree with this proposal as it deals with a symptom and not the cause of a deeply harrowing and traumatizing situation that can afflict many people, namely, homelessness. To criminalise an individual who is already a victim of this predicament is indefensible. The focus should be on finding a solution for those who are forced to sleep outside in all weathers, even if it's just a homeless shelter, not being concerned with the aesthetics of unsightly attempts by homeless people to have the bare minimum of comfort and dignity. unless a long term shelter is provided

A bsolutely unacceptable! Trying to create brave new world? What is happening with our humanity and compassion that someone can propose to confiscate the few possessions of a homeless person and fine them £100. Both things horrified me.

I feel it is extremely unfair to punish people in this fashion when they are down on their luck. Taking away someone's protection against the elements is not only grossly unfair it is also dangerous.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

What extra provisions will be made for homeless people?

In Sidmouth recently, two homeless people have died sleeping rough - that is a tragedy - it might be said that they have been let down by Society. This provision allows for bedding material to be confiscated - how would that affect the survival chances of a homeless person? That this proposal has even been put forward is incredible, and the Council should be ashamed. We need proactive provisions to help homeless people - not an unnecessary sledgehammer to make their situation more desperate. The local authority should urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

These people are amongst the poorest in the community. To take their possessions, particularly those required to provide warmth and shelter and dispose of them is an appalling condemnation of the council and its authoritarian approach to these issues. What kind of Labour Party behaves like this and demonstrates such Victorian indifference to the poor? If the Council finds it necessary to remove people's property, then provision should be made to reclaim the property at a later point.

Until we have housing for all, at affordable prices then this is idea is not just or caring for the needy and vulnerable people who are out in cold damp weather whose equipment is already taken from them.

The proposal itself is not right and is dehumanising people. There has to be a better way of dealing with people who are different - for whatever reason- that this proposal. It is ridiculous to fine people who already don't have any money

I am appalled that a Labour council is considering putting a policy in place which legalises the abuse of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. These people need our help. They are not criminals.

There are plenty of laws already in place to deal with aggressive or violent behaviour. Sleeping rough is not a criminal offence in this country and to make them subject to sanctions in this manner is reminiscent of the policies put in place in Germany under the Nazis.

This is literally taking away their entire livelihood. Disgusting.

It's disgusting to consider doing this to people who should be helped, not harmed.

To victimise and criminalise homelessness is frankly wrong and inhumane. Whilst I am not overly fond of the sight of "associated paraphernalia" on the streets, I would much rather see this than know that a vulnerable, homeless person has potentially had their meagre possessions and limited shelter confiscated. These proposals are all wrong. The problem is not the debris/defecations of homeless people but the fact that people are being made homeless or continue to be homeless.

Homelessness is a hugely damaging problem in our society and you are seeking to criminalise people who have nowhere to sleep instead of helping them. I find the idea that you have even suggested this to be utterly preposterous and inhuman.

Confiscating the limited possessions of someone on the street is cruel and unjust.

Homelessness sadly seems to be on the increase, unless the council provides suitable and adequate alternative accommodation, for those living on the streets, then the homeless should be allowed to keep their possessions and tents !!

Again, it makes those at the bottom of the social pile unwanted.

People who sleep rough rarely do so by choice. Confiscating their belongings is a wholly unreasonable response. In fact, it is the kind of response that I would associate with Nazi Germany.

This is Elizabethan Poor Law

What if the person is homeless and has nowhere else to put their belongings? This appears to be an inexcusable attack on the innocent and vulnerable, unacceptable behaviour in a civilised and democratic society, and merely a disgraceful cover for failure of the Council's duty to house such people.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

Rather than victimising individuals that have no fixed accommodation and pushing them further out into the suburbs, it would be a better idea to tackle the homelessness problem in Exeter. It is very likely that these individuals will not have money to pay any fines which in turn I guess may lead to their arrest and ultimately prison if they can not pay. Plus if all their belongings have been confiscated then how are they going to cope with being homeless. With the varied British weather and no shelter this in turn could lead to great levels of illness and therefore hospital admission to an already under pressure NHS service. I think the proposal needs a large amount of work to develop a worthwhile solution to help the homeless population and protect the local residents.

This would place very vulnerable people at risk of serious harm, this is cruel and unjust these are the people the city council should be supporting most. This is irresponsible and compassionless

Until there is adequate available housing this will further punish those who already have nothing.

For rough sleepers, confiscating and destroying their shelter / bedding is an act of discrimination. If the problem upsets the traders, who are largely wealthy national chains, then perhaps they could contribute to adequate supported housing so that there are no rough sleepers. The police already have powers to move people on and this is enough - to then destroy their few possessions, should be a criminal act in itself.

It is appalling that you would take away what little the person has to survive. Find them a place to stay

What provision is being made for unfortunate people who find themselves homeless? What is this, Russia?!

In the spirit of law, a punishment acts as a deterrent, where the criminal and potential criminal chose not to commit further crime. Homelessness comes about through a complex set of circumstances beyond a person's control - the mechanism of punishment as a deterrent therefore fails.

Among the circumstances that lead to Homelessness are government cuts to local authorities and welfare. Not only is it hypocritical to outlaw the consequences of these policies, confiscations will not make them disappear.

If the local authority really does not want homeless bedding in public spaces, it should take the issue to those responsible in government, rather than its victims, and provide alternative, safe places for homeless people to sleep. That punitive measures were considered before these represents a disturbing lack of humanity from those we trust to represent us.

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I find this idea of removing sleeping bags and personal possessions of individuals who have fallen on hard times, truly awful. The concept of a £1000 fine, seems inhumane and distressing. Let us be better than this.

If these items belong to a homeless person and constitute their possessions and protection from the weather then these items should not be removed as it may leave the person at the mercy of the elements and at medical risk.

"Without delay" would I hope be interpreted humanely; many people, when newly awakened, take time to process life. As it is worded, this part of the proposal is far too likely to be enacted inhumanly, and a person's entire life could be disposed of.

Do you want to have to pick up dead people ?

Proposal 3 is not acceptable unless adequate provision is made to provide off-street shelter for the individual as an alternative to 'rough sleeping'.

Again, an unjust policy targeting the most vulnerable in society and potentially criminalising them. The result will be (as with so many other 'solutions' that target the end result) is that it simply moves the problem to someone else's back yard.

I strongly disapprove of measures taken against street people, whether they are classed as a 'nuisance' or not. Their lives are unimaginably hard, and should not be made harder. People don't live like this from choice.

This is so cruel! Where are the homeless meant to go? The council should be providing them with a place to camp, this is heartless I am shocked at such a suggestion.

More provision of hostels and shelters and offering practical advice to the homeless is a step in the right direction Your proposal is just to keep moving them along and pretending there isn't a problem .Not all homeless people expected at sometime in their life expected to be sleeping rough .

This is not paraphernalia it is the only belongings of some very poor people.

This is Completely wrong

I very much doubt people would be sleeping in this area by choice. Provide adequate guaranteed hostel places or a safe and warm place for them to sleep as an alternative.

No need for these measures.

Who are the authorised persons?

Sounds petty, nasty and authoritarian to me. Not at all in keeping with the sort of city I want to live in.

I frankly do not believe the assertion that living on the street is a life choice for any but a very small minority of so called offenders.

A means to further restrict protest - stop being so draconian

This is too draconian and while not stopping homelessness it will merely increase the misery.

Some people of necessity find themselves homeless and have no choice but to try and find shelter. We need to ask ourselves if it offends us and therefore makes us uncomfortable when we should perhaps say this could be my child, brother or sister who may have made some unwise decisions in life or through no fault of their own finds themselves on the streets. Very few people sleep on the streets through choice after all would you. There but for 'fortune' go you or I.

Absolutely not. No one should ever be fined for sleeping outside, but rather should be helped.

Rather than taking away the only things keeping a homeless person alive in the winter months, why not build more housing, or shelters, or at least somewhere warm and dry.

They will die on the street without shelter

Have you made proper provision for rough sleepers that does not stigmatise them? If not, then this proposal seems heavy-handed.

Well that's great! Let's take away their bedding. Why not just authorise a firing squad and have done with it!

What safety nets are in place for these people? Disgraceful proposal.

ADDRESS THE PROBLEM! This is not a solution. It's a veneer, a transparent diabolical and cosmetic fix proposed by 'politicians'.

Let's bully the less fortunate; let's drive them out of sight, and then take credit for cleaning up the streets of Exeter. This is a cynical outrageous proposal backed by the comfortable middle class. Wake up! There's a problem here.

Homelessness seems to be quite a problem in Exeter, which is noticeable on Sidwell street and on the main high street through town.

While I understand that some people may be threatened by the presence of homeless people, or find it distressing, I think that they should be allowed to 'camp' in shop doorways etc. If you want to take away this opportunity then serious alternatives need to be offered to these people. The problem of homelessness will not be solved by such a measure.

Police already have the power to move on any individual who is causing offence or distress to any member of the public. If someone is concerned that they may encounter difficulty gaining access to their property, they can call the police for assistance. Extra powers are not required to confiscate an individual's property/belongings.

provide housing or shelter.

Public officials should act within the law. They should try to help disadvantaged people where possible. Removing bedding and means of shelter where no alternative is available is barbaric.

bivouacs may be moment of public demonstrations. This is a too ambiguous proposal that may be misused in a political way.

This is punitive. It does not deal with the causes around homelessness. It makes perpetrators out of victims. With cuts around support for people in this position to then do this to them is awful and cruel. This should be obvious.

There are increasing numbers of people who, as a direct result of draconian and inequitable government policies, are left with no home or other shelter in which to sleep. It is totally wrong that such people should be punished for failure in government policy to collect taxes from large corporations such as Amazon, Boots, Google etc on profits acquired in this country, resulting in inadequate funds to meet the needs of such people.

If the person concerned is homeless and has nowhere else to go to shelter from the elements then to deprive them of their bedding or protection from the elements would be detrimental to their health and welfare.

We are on this planet together, we need to share resources of air, water, land and shelter, it's a human right, it's only since industrialisation that man has tried to impose his rules on his fellow man. In natural law we are all the same and have the same rights. So it's not ok to take away someone's only form of shelter or bedding.

Fly-tipping is bad for the area and shows a bad example to kids.

They are homeless - this is their only shelter - support them, don't harass them. Secondly, provide places where they can go which are open to them and not a controlling restrictive barrier to them. Some of the homeless are mentally disturbed and can not cope with the rat race - don't persecute them, help them.

This is disgusting. Do you think that when you take away a person's ability to stay warm that they automatically have somewhere else to stay warm/sleep? Where is the logic in this? Whoever wrote this should be ashamed of the sheer laziness and lack of compassion behind this proposal.

This is an illogical and inhumane proposal, that will endanger those most vulnerable in our society. The issue of homelessness in Exeter is one that urgently needs to be addressed, but this is entirely the wrong way to go about it.

I feel that people in this position need to be offered an alternative shelter. Where are they supposed to go? How can they pay a fine if they have no means of support? They will only move out of the designated area and probably move to more residential areas causing distress to local people.

The bedding, shelter etc. is someone's property and should not be confiscated from its owner.

A direct targeting of the vulnerable, where a serious obstruction of a public area happens the law already provides redress.

Don't believe situation is as straightforward as this and although no doubt Police can and do use discretion and common sense in individual cases this may be limited by introduction and strict enforcement.

I am unable to agree to this proposal. If the authorised personnel are approaching those on the street with humanity and offering a safe viable alternative, a place offering guidance, and non judgemental help, without condition, then there would be less likelihood of a breakdown in communication. The threat of losing personal belongings is something our homeless should never endure.

A person being told to move on invariably questions where they should go, and there should be a viable place of safety offered as a solution.

Give them a roof over their heads - it ain't rocket science. The biggest crime here is that unused buildings remain empty which could house these individuals, free. A public place is just that, public space; and any member of the public, whomever they shall be, is entitled to utilize that place and erect anything that will give them shelter from the elements; particularly if the local authority ignores their obvious plight - it appears to me that the local authority are neglecting their care of duty to those in need -- this is a human rights issue and an indictment of local authority malfeasance.

They have no other place to go, so this is completely stupid.

These draconian and authoritarian measures do not have public support.

Legalised theft, these sleeping/living materials actually are the property of someone, should not be seized without a Judge's express consent or a search and seize warrant.

These type of suggested laws are a strong reminder of pre WW2 Nazi anti Jewish laws in Germany. For Jews substitute homeless, vulnerable and the mentally ill.

Has Exeter CC never thought of opening and operating a proper homeless persons hostel near the City center somewhere? Could not a charity be found to run such a place. Put 0.25p on the council tax, more than pay for it!

But they still need somewhere to go that they can legally access and feel safe, so you can only implement this one if you have taken steps to ensure that these vulnerable people have an alternative place to move to.

If somebody has nothing else then the law should say that you have to provide them a clean dry place to sleep before removing what little they have.

Unnecessary.

Rough sleepers need to be offered an alternative and as a civilised society we need to ensure that a suitable alternative (close to Exeter centre) is available.

The vast majority of rough sleepers are not doing it from choice: the council should be looking to help these unfortunates, not criminalise them!

This would appear to just be away to persecute and confiscate what little shelter and life support materials vulnerable and homeless people have.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

Words fail me at the thought of informing it.

This is aimed directly at the homeless. There is nothing in the proposal that could not be done under existing legislation [I speak as an ex lightweight camper] These people need help. The idea of fining people who already have little or nothing and in many cases lack the ability to control what they do get is ludicrous. And as for taking what little they do have and destroying it; well we certainly are not a christian country any more.

It is disgusting to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour .

As a Labour-run local authority you should be taking steps urgently to address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

Shame on you!

Homeless should be allowed a warning and to be able to identify said belongings to then be able to pick up from the station. If it carries on then dispose of items.

Homeless people are vulnerable and need support, not to be penalised for the few possessions and forms of shelter they can find. I strongly disagree with this, again this has not been thought through from the perspective of a homeless person.

For example, when temperatures drop below zero one needs as much weather protection as one can muster to survive. To have a authorised person take your survival away for due to how they perceive it looks is barbaric. This is nothing shore of destroying someones home. Albeit a temporary shelter or a sleeping bag.

People are rendered homeless for many different reasons, what ever the reason is they have a right to a home. This proposal could lead to someones demise the following night.

Homeless people need shelter from the weather and cold!!!! If you provided them somewhere to sleep safely and securely they wouldn't have to have their own shelters.

Everyone has the basic human right to shelter.

I have never witnessed any homeless person leaving their shelter up during the day or in any way/to any inconvenience of other people, so why is this a problem.

I see this as entirely unnecessary and unfair demonisation of homeless people who have no other option.

Due to the lack of adequate provision for the homeless in the Exeter area this proposal amount s to authorisation of Bully-boy tactics instead of solving the problem.

Again, homeless people will be adversely affected.

These people are desperate and do not 'choose' to sleep rough in the streets. They are in need of urgent help and it is the duty of local authorities to give that help. It is ironic that a labour led council is taking this attitude to criminalise those who sleep rough. The council proposal is an ill thought out act of tyranny!

If people are choosing the sleep rough then that is their choice. Of course, for some it will be less of a choice -- in which case the greater 'crime' is being committed by the council for not providing what is required. Why are some people choosing to sleep rough? Turning them into criminals is ridiculous and the Council should be ashamed of themselves.

It is an excessively oppressive measure to deal with a very minor situation. It does nothing to address the roots of the problem and will merely allow the council to make a cheap cosmetic fix.

I think it unfair to remove from homeless people the few items they do have - the enforcing of this order would cause undue distress. Perhaps these people could be directed to a more non-public safe area

Confiscation and disposal seems unnecessarily draconian in nature - whilst I agree that council officers and police should have the powers necessary to clear public access ways, without alternatives I fear the humanitarian implications of depriving people of what might be their only means of warmth and therefore survival outside in the elements.

Totally unnecessary victimisation of homeless people. Concentration should be on provision of shelter and assistance.

This is the clearing away of homeless people.

I believe Medicine hat in Canada has no homeless people, so this is the way things should go:

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-thursday-edition-1.3074402/medicine-hat-becomes-the-first-city-in-canada-to-eliminate-homelessness-1.3074742>

People are generally on the streets through terrible misfortune. They need the most help of all.

This proposal seems unnecessarily draconian, as those items are likely to be the ONLY shelter and bedding a homeless person has. Removing the few possessions they have in this sense will add to the misery of being on the street rather than solving a problem. I would suggest that working with local organisations to provide more facilities for homeless persons to store their bedding etc during the day would be a better step than just removing those possessions.

The homeless need to sleep somewhere. If bedding is causing an obstruction, officers may be authorised to move it, but only so far as is necessary for clear passage. They should never be allowed to destroy the little property that rough sleepers possess. That would be legalised bullying and theft.

You should not take away peoples personal items especially items such as bedding without which a person could come to serious harm even death especially in cold.

This proposal is only targeted towards homeless people who already have to face so many hardships whilst living on the streets. Often the only possession homeless people have is bedding and if this is removed this will put their health at risk especially during the cold nights.

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I agree to them being given a chance to remove but I also think you should enable them to have a place of safety to go to in order to get out of the cold. Exeter should make sufficient provision for homeless people to go somewhere warm and dry to sleep in. There are too many rough sleepers, can a public building or a church be made available for this?

Do not pick on those who are less fortunate than you who may have no choivces.

I feel that homelessness needs a solution, and that there are circumstances where, in an emergency, someone may have no other option but to put up unauthorised shelter. This may have to remain up for the duration of the emergency. On private land, this may be taken up with the police and law should be adhered to. On public land, this should be a case of supporting the individual in finding alternative and suitable shelter, before any dismantling of emergency shelter is considered.

I feel that to deprive anyone of their only possessions and effectively the shelter that forms part of their basic needs is not acceptable. I don't feel there are enough resources to successfully support these people back into settled accommodation despite the fact that Council says advice is available We will always have entrenched homeless for whatever reasons so depriving them of a basic human right to shelter does not sit comfortably with me.

This equipment and bedding is a human right to have access to. We have so many homeless people with no place to go. They must use their bedding on the street because that is the only place to sleep. Tents are usually kept in a discreet area anyway. It would be wrong to dispose of someone's personal belongings without permission especially considering that may be their only belongings. This equipment may be the difference between life and death during the winter and it's unreasonable to expect people not to have these items. A better alternative to criminalisation is to provide multiple shelter spaces and simply ask people to go there instead of in doorways.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

Perhaps make more of an attempt to help the desperate

Yes, the proposal is abhorrent.

The Council wishes to hear the views of everyone who may be affected by the proposed Order if introduced by the 22 January 2016 - these views will be considered before any decision is made on the proposed Order by full Council in February 2016.

EVERYONE?? so the homeless people that this proposal aims to persecute, won't be affected? They are homeless and as such have no way of filling in this online questionnaire, as you know.

Absolutely not. It is disgusting that a Labour led Council would contemplate this! targeting the vulnerable and confiscating and destroying their only shelter and means of comfort not to mention potentially criminalising the person. No! no! no!

This proposal is completely unacceptable. Homeless people should have an absolute right to protect themselves from the elements. A bullying tactic! This act makes it a criminal offence to be homeless. A vulnerable person is left even more vulnerable. This proposal is not a solution but just shifts the problem. A person is caught sleeping in a shop doorway sheltering from the cold. Their wares are removed if the person does not comply. Leaving the person even more vulnerable and at risk. This person could then suffer from hypothermia then requiring hospitalisation . The result of this is more cost and leaving other sectors to take responsibility. Thus the problem has simply been shifted.

yes good idea, you need to use authorised agents ie devon investigations to assist with this task and commuinity patrol does not have the experience to undertake such tasks and they are not POLICE TRAINED

Some homeless people have nowhere else to go and need their bedding.

A person's bivouac should only be removed or confiscated if the authorised person can lead the 'offender' to a place of safety and shelter.

If there is no provision for alternative sleeping arrangements, then it is unreasonable to ask someone to move their bedding. You will simply shift the problem from one spot to another. This needs more consideration.

Give these people a safe place to live - no one wants to live in danger on the street.

I think it is unjust to remove bedding from those who have no other option but to sleep on the street - taking away their shelter and bedding could lead to severe health repercussions!

The Council should increase its support and funding for organisations dedicated to helping and rehabilitating those less well off and vulnerable in our City.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

If a person is in a properly provided area to camp there should be no need to have them removed. Due to the current climate of austerity many people are finding themselves at their lowest ebb and are no longer able to find or afford suitable housing.

Utterly disgusting; if people have nowhere to sleep, it's not their fault and destroying what little they have is immoral and inhumane.

Either leave them alone or provide more free shelters, and stop paying your top bosses hundreds of thousands a year.

"For these purposes, bivouac, bedding and encampment mean any portable shelter used for camping or outdoor sleeping, and include materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground."

What about the HOMELESS?????? Provide them with shelter not take materials off them that protect them from the elements!! On who's head will it be when people start dying? Homeless people are already vulnerable, to move them on to a potentially less safe place could put them in grave danger, to destroy their bedding and protection from the elements could cause them to literally freeze to death!! What is wrong with you people? Don't you realise that you will always get some "jobsworth" who's new found powers will go to their head? Somebody with no regard for other people's plights, care for their safety, interested in their well being? It seems to me that the council itself has no regard for those most vulnerable in its area so why would you expect its employees to be any different? HELP THE HOMELESS NOT CRIMINALISE THEM!!!!

Where are these people going to go? This is only acceptable if there are enough beds (or similar) available to homeless people within a reasonable distance, and openly available (ie without unreasonable restrictions regarding the person in need of the bed)

The council could help to provide over night accommodation for the people sleeping rough.

Let's not lose sight of the fact that these people are destitute and not persecute the down trodden just because it looks untidy. How about being human and taking them to sheltered accommodation instead of treating them as if it doesn't matter? Human life still ought to mean more money REGARDLESS!

You would take away a person's only belongings if that is their bed, only means of shelter. Too cruel.

If a person is homeless, more often than not through no fault of their own, taking their only form of shelter and warmth because they do not move on at your request is bordering on the barbaric!

This criminalises people who, in the main are sleeping rough by no fault or choice of their own. There are many reasons why people may find themselves sleeping in the street but to attempt to remove them by criminalising the practice will only make their predicament worse. The CAUSES of their rough sleeping must be addressed - this, and only this, will allow them to escape the street. This order would significantly increase the risks to one of the most vulnerable groups in society.

The police and council have a duty of care towards the persons within the city. Proposal 3 shows no compassion or respect for homeless people and is a way for the council to push 'the homeless issue' out of the city instead of dealing with it in a compassionate and sensible manner. Complete lack of duty of care and a disgusting proposal

The removal of someone's shelter is simply callous. Forcing someone who is already on the street to move on their temporary bed for the night, simply to protect a business's clear entrance way (mainly when that business isn't even open) is unbelievable. to paraphrase point 3, you are removing their only shelter and leaving them completely open to the elements.

Moving a rough sleeper on is bullying. The council should bring forward an obligation on itself to provide appropriate shelter otherwise they are pushing vulnerable people into vulnerable places. This is immoral and dangerous.

Provide suitable accommodation then! Don't stop people's housing benefit for stupid reasons. If people had a home to go to and you did your job, rather than gatekeep all of our resources for a select minority, then perhaps you wouldn't be dreaming up such evil laws today. You'll just create more "criminals" to line your own greedy, self righteous, thieving pockets.

In your FAQs there is a lot of explanation about how this proposal is being made because of employees trying to open premises in the morning. However, there is a serious gap between this explanation and the wording of the actual proposal. If you grant these powers, they will inevitably be used far more widely than you have described. If an employee is trying to open a premises and they are experiencing intimidating behaviour they are well within their rights to contact the police and the individual involved can be dealt with by the normal criminal justice process. It is absolutely unnecessary and discriminatory to grant these powers in a blanket manner, including all rough sleepers whether or not they are causing problems.

So many people now have no accommodation. Rough sleepers rarely do so out of choice. These people are the visible result of the failure of our community's responsibility to vulnerable people. They are sleeping rough because, as they have faced difficulties in their lives, they fallen through the 'safety netting'. It is no solution to move them on and ship them out so that they become someone else's problem.

I find it very disturbing that Exeter City Council is willing to target the most vulnerable people in our city, potentially criminalising them as well as imposing a fine between £100-£1000. Not to mention that they are unlikely to be able to pay. This cannot be a good use of resources. I also find it distasteful that you are considering using council officers in this way. I would suggest that the Council takes a lead from other cities, as well as Shelter into using resources to house people.

http://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/145853/GP_Briefing_Housing_First.pdf

I understand the undesirability of shop doorways being occupied by rough sleepers. However, there is no suggestion within the PSBO proposals that there are reasons why such activity takes place. The rough sleeper community know full well what services are available. They are usually full or have a policy of not overnighing people with dependency issues. This would be the most discriminatory power available under this proposal and indicates an unwillingness to acknowledge the reality of a lack of comprehensive support services for such vulnerable people. Existing PCSOs do a good job of engagement with this sector. Who would be proud to be seen to remove bedding etc especially in wet and cold conditions?

Why ? why ? who thought of this God forgive them I won't you bullying bastards who gave you the right to say which part of gods earth someone can be

This amounts to persecution of the homeless.

They have enough problems without having what little they have being taken away from them. Allowing the 'authorised person' to remove "materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground." is inhumane.

The Exeter City Council currently has a homelessness policy strategy out for consultation. There are clearly weaknesses that the Council has identified in that document in relation to cooperation between authorities and organisations and in relation to lack of training, not to mention resources. These issues and all the other issues in that document demonstrate that much work is being identified as requiring urgent and carefully considered actions. These comments are pertinent to each and every proposal in this PSPO consultation. It is not appropriate to have the PSPO consultation ending before the Homelessness Consultation.

Notwithstanding my opposition to this proposal, the wording clearly gives wide powers and there are not the safeguards. There appears to be no objective evidence for the changes and I am left wondering whether some of the "push" for this has come from the business community in Exeter.

For example, the powers being proposed appear to mean that if a homeless person has left their belongings temporarily - perhaps to use the toilet - they could return to find their belongings gone. The proposal makes no allowance for safeguards, for example, belongings are found with no one present. No confiscation should take place for at least one hour and if belongings are moved, then arrangements must be made so that the belongings can be re-used.

The following is a "lift" from the Keep Streets Live comment:

The current proposal It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures.

This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on.

The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city.

The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

It is our duty not to exclude or criminalise people who may have to sleep on the streets, but to try to help. They are vulnerable peoples, suffering and struggling to survive. We should be spending funds addressing the root of the issue and ways to provide help, rather than criminalising those people.

The dont feel the idea of the council having the power to confiscate and dispose of the belongings of our most vulnerable citizens is a very humane or helpful proposal.

cruel, demeaning and contemptuous of basic human dignity

I am astounded that this is a proposed prohibition. It will target homeless people and give the "authorised person" the power to confiscate and dispose of what little possessions these homeless people own (in their attempt to shelter themselves from the weather).

This seems to be a callous attempt to remove the troubling sight of homeless people from the streets, without doing anything constructive to help the homeless people themselves. It is not a solution to the problem of homelessness, it is an effort to deny that the problem exists, to remove the evidence of it so others, people with homes, can feel better as they walk through Exeter.

It could be used to target/harrass homeless people. There are many reasons why homeless people live on the street. For many, the problem is an absence of suitable alternative accommodation or that they they do not feel safe in the accommodation made available. Any attempt to manage homelessness in this way needs to be justified on a case-by-case basis in consultation with social workers and local charities, making sure that a truly suitable alternative (suitable to the homeless person) has been found. Otherwise, this amounts to destruction of the life of an already vulnerable person.

Again this is an attack on a social class. Rather than addressing the problem, these people have no where except the streets to live, someone has decided that they make the place look untidy so they should be removed so those of us fortunate enough to visit the city center for pleasure or business do not have to see them. The homeless should be helped, not simply removed.

I am concerned that this proposal will hit the most vulnerable members of our community.

This is a disgusting proposal. This outlines the unreasonable taking of a persons warmth, shelter, food and safety. This would leave an individual or group, who already have very little, with absolutely nothing. Seeing how so many are living on the streets with no clear future that doesn't involve sleeping rough, to take away the very means they are using to survive is something so cruel and inhuman that I'm shocked it could even be considered an 'act of justice under the law'. Why take away a mans rod when he struggles every day to provide enough fish to live off, and give nothing in return? Cruelty, appeasing of the 'higher being' and all that tosh.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures! This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000, for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket, when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their scant personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness, it is an utter disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed, and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

It is effectively criminalising homelessness, moving the problem on rather than helping to tackle the deeper social issues

If the bivouac is owned by a person who has the facilities to store it privately I agree that they should be asked and then compelled to remove it, but if a person does not have access to it then it seems completely unreasonable to suggest to them they should be springing it privately. Any confiscation made in this circumstance would be theft. That such an oppression as this is even being considered is truly shocking.

Many people sleeping rough have nowhere safe to go - taking their stuff could mean they die of exposure. Also it is dehumanising to take away the only possessions they have in the world. No one starts out planning to be homeless. We need more safe decent hostel accommodation and help to get homeless people the right help - many are in the grips of addictions which they cannot beat on their own. Fining them is pointless - they have no money to pay with. Turning them into criminals just pushes them further out of society

This is an attempt to put the homeless persons out of view.

A resounding NO! To take away the few possessions a homeless, vulnerable person owns is criminal. People will die of cold if bedding and shelter is taken from them. Shame on you to even think about it, - provide more shelters for the homeless if you don't like them "littering" the streets!

The Police and City Council already have powers to move people on. Without the provision of alternative, affordable accommodation and assistance this measure just becomes confiscation for its own sake. The individuals are well known and many have significant social and personal problems which need to be addressed. I have no difficulty with a proposal that would empower Authorities to dismantle the bivouac/tent or whatever which could be claimed back from Council Officers with the allied and assertive support being offered. Taking away possessions from people who are already disadvantaged, desperate and ill-supported is both uncaring and unproductive.

Wouldn't it be great if there was more shelter accommodation available so this was not required. Any illegal immigrants should be removed, detained and returned to a centre.

Proposal 3 appears to be entirely targeted at homeless people and is discriminatory and unfair. If someone is already so disadvantaged as to be homeless then I cannot see how removing and disposing of their bedding and few possessions can help anyone.

It would be better for the council to spend its resources in trying to help and support those who are homeless rather than trying to demonize them and make their lives even harder. In very cold weather disposing of someone's bedding in this way could leave them vulnerable to hypothermia or even death and is grossly irresponsible.

Homeless people should not be stripped of a place they deem safe in which to sleep. Human beings deserve the very basic right to warmth, to take away a homeless person's blankets etc must in any decent society be illegal. It is definitely immoral.

there should be reasonable provisions made to those being asked to move, eg. suitable and safe alternative shelter

People are rarely homeless by choice. Arbitrarily depriving homeless people of warmth and shelter is petty and mean

NO this is too strict. In Winter they might depend on such things for survival, and need some of it for warmth during the day. Also, if they have no place to keep their bedding etc during the day, surely it is simpler to let them keep it with them rather than organise somewhere with lockers, or a manned storage place. Of course they might get abusive if prevented from sitting in any public area with their belongings. That is provocative and makes them feel totally pushed out of sight and worthless. On this point, I strongly agree with KSL's campaign and their view that: The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

It is completely unacceptable to remove a person's belongings and themselves from the street if it is the only place they have to. They should not have to suffer more than they already do. A more responsible scheme would be to find them work/affordable housing.

A sweeping power that could be used to stop all kinds of legitimate artistic events, or protests, that add colour, interest, and variety to our streets, even before they have had a chance to prove themselves inoffensive.

Provide shelters for the homeless so they have somewhere to sleep so they don't have to sleep on pavements

People sleeping in the street may be there for no fault of their own. Merely ignorance or incompetence or fear of something. By all means try to find them an indoor place to sleep but this should not be mandatory. You do not know what problems the person is facing without a full investigation. Understanding is required before mandatory removal.

There are not enough homes for people and those that exist are much too expensive for homeless folk. If you want to criminalise homelessness, you then have the responsibility to provide homes.

You just see these people as filth - but something made them that way - childhood, poor education, abuse or being sent to Iraq or Afghanistan as a soldier - all areas where local and national government is lacking. These problems are yours but you don't take responsibility - you just want to abuse them more which will make more problems.

Yes, through the action of removing the temporary shelter one is not solving the long term problem of poverty and substance abuse. New shelters will be constructed by those in need. I think this approach is an immediate solution for property owners and not a long term solution for people in desperate need of help.

I don't think it's black and white. I would not want to leave a homeless person without security or bedding or to be separated from what little they possess.

Such acts can only lead to more anti social behaviour and extreme stress.

Being able to remove them to a store somewhere and making sure the person knows where to collect their belongings would be the ideal solution.

I think this is basically criminalising desperate and vulnerable people who might need that bedding to survive in the winter. I completely disagree with this.

From my professional context, I know that the implication in the PSPO FAQ that everyone who rough sleeps in the city centre does so through choice is simply not true.. There is a significant shortage of appropriate first-stage accommodation locally, particularly for those with high support needs. Driving this issue 'out of sight' because rough sleeping paraphernalia is inconvenient for local businesses merely conceals the real issues at stake and creates a pretext for not addressing them.

In practice, I strongly suspect (again from my professional context) that the PSPO will:

- a) simply increase the pressure on local support services to repeatedly re-issue items such as sleeping bags, which is an incredible waste of resources
- b) drive rough-sleepers further away from the city centre and deter them from accessing the centrally-located support services that they need

This is completely morally unacceptable

This will make homeless peoples lives significantly harder and risk their health as you will be removing the means of keeping warm and dry. this is removing the first need of any one to have shelter from the elements

Where do you expect homeless people to go? This is an unfair, inhumane proposal. The centre of a city is vital for homeless people to survive. Their network and support system is in the centre and to keep moving them on will lead to more stress and animosity. It would be more considerate and compassionate to offer a solution than just blindly trying to eradicate this perceived 'problem'.

Harassment

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues. I do not want to live in a place where vulnerable people are criminalized in this way and certainly won t be voting labour if this is what a Labour Council stands for!

Living on the streets is not a lifestyle choice. The very few possessions people have are precious to them and mostly needed to keep them as warm and comfortable as is possible in such conditions. It is possible. This proposal lacks the compassion and humanity for those who love on the streets which the council ought to display. They are citizens of Exeter too so perhaps you are you trying to hide them from public view so,that the issue of homelessness, which is growing, becomes something we no longer think about? No, do not remove bedding, bivouacs etc.

I agree with this proposal - but would hope that should a homeless person be asked to pack up during the night time - they could be signposted to somewhere suitable to sleep.

You are in effect making the homeless criminals. You would be taking away from them the pathetic possessions they still have and making their lives far worse. NOT something a council - especially a Labour council - should be. Far better to treat them with consideration of their needs and provide legal shelter.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

Making life even more difficult for those without any form of permanent shelter is unnecessary and quite frankly draconian. Especially when said Local Authorities are making it even harder for people to access their housing registers. This part should be removed from the measures .

You can remove bedding from a homeless person This is wrong on every level since if their bedding is taken and disposed of how would they be able to obtain more.

For goodness sake! Homeless people own hardly anything and you want to confiscate and discard the few possessions they do have! If there are homeless people, this is because you are not providing enough temporary and permanent housing for them so this is your fault, as a Council, not theirs.

This would be theft.

The Council should work with organisations supporting the homeless to provide suitable safe accommodation and allow people to have a roof over their head. A greater proportion of Council taxes should go towards support services for the homeless.

This is very unfair on homeless people and effectively criminalises them for existing and needing to sleep somewhere.

How are people supposed to manage an already tenuous existence when this council is building homes for super-rich students and not affordable homes for local people.

This is disgraceful and could lead to fatalities especially in this cold weather. The council should have enough shelters for all homeless people 24 hours a day to rest and eat. This is beyond humanity and the main point I have against these proposals. These homeless people are human beings who are at the lowest point in their lives, such actions are totally unacceptable

This cannot be the right response to the recent rise in homelessness. If a group of young white males were to pace around Exeter in mid-winter, taking homeless peoples' bags and shelters away from them, it would rightly be labelled as a rise of unacceptable fascism bordering on the murderous. Can a Labour council seriously consider authorising its officers to do the same thing? I am also very concerned about this proposal being misused to prevent overnight protests or pickets of any sort.

I am extremely concerned about this.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

I am not at all persuaded that these draconian powers are necessary

This is open to abuse. Again, it depends on whether an alternative is available. If there is no safe place to rest, are we not just moving the problem along to someone else's area?

People have a right to warm safe shelter and seeing as the council aren't providing that it is only fair that people try and protect themselves from the elements as best they can. Would you rather these people die from hypothermia?

It is ridiculous that homelessness should be disregarded in such a way and that the victim of homelessness should be placed in an even harder situation than before

It is a basic human right to have shelter. As ECC does not provide emergency accommodation this should be regarded as theft. Don't take away people's personal items without consent. Work with them, speak with them, help them....don't basically STEAL their belongings

I think this is shocking, you are denying the person any hope of warmth or dignity by taking away what little they have. How about providing blankets, bedding, more safe places for people to stay?

This is excessive and cruel, and I would question whether it is not even breaking the law to confiscate a person's property in this way. Those who are on the streets have so little already. wonder how the councillors and businesses making this proposal would feel if they had such possessions removed from their use in the appalling weather, both rain and cold, that we have experienced recently. There is little evidence of people using these items in the daytime and if there is no appropriate shelter provided elsewhere at night how are the homeless supposed to survive? As the accompanying notes acknowledge, many of those who are 'on the street' are people with accompanying difficulties who need proper support and shelter not potentially subjective enforcement of new laws. The police are at least properly trained to work with those who may cause a nuisance, are the 'council officials' trained to such a degree, or may their prejudices, and targets, adversely influence the manner in which they work?

Granting police and council officers the power to order a homeless person to remove their bedding and possessions effectively criminalizes people for acting in a way to which they have no alternative. The solution to the tragedy that people are compelled to sleep rough is to implement more effective housing provision and treatment for addiction or mental health problems where this is a problem.

It is no solution to hide the problem by forcing people to move out of view or face unpayable fines.

Do you have the same rights with travellers caravans. Do you not realise that these tents are these peoples only shelter from the elements. I guess that none of you would relise a winter night in the open with or without a tent.

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

If you have need of a "bivouac, bedding and encampment... any portable shelter used for camping or outdoor sleeping, and... materials used for shelter against the elements, weather or ground,"

then the chances are that you are homeless and the possessions that you have around you are likely to be the only things that you own in this world. It should not, nor ever be, within the power of the local authorities to destroy what few possessions these people have. Because they are people regardless of their situation and should be treated with respect and dignity, irregardless of the way their living arrangements make you feel when you walk past them on the street. Destroying what few possessions they have in this world is barbaric, disrespectful and inhumane. Added to this the fact that it will do nothing to solve the actual problem of homelessness. The only thing this proposal will achieve will be to remove the supposed 'eyesore' these possessions present to the rest of society, so that everyone else can continue on in their comfortable little bubble and ignore the malignant problem that homelessness is within our society.

These possessions, though they may appear like 'junk' to people fortunate enough to be able to afford better things, are all that these people have. The council has no right to take them away if they are not posing a danger, just like they have no right to take away someone's pushchair, for example, if they left it parked outside a shop. Belongings like blankets etcetera may take the homeless ages to obtain, and will probably have been given out of charity. They are essential to their comfort and well-being; taking away their belongings will do nothing but spark a divide and resentment on both sides, which is not the solution to the problem. The people you are considering 'targeting' need human compassion, not soul-less legislation.

Shocking proposal. Charities and churches will simply re-issue bedding, tents etc

I think it would be absurdly unjust to take away the already scarce belongings and properties owned by the people living hard and testing lives on the streets, providing they are attempting to better their situations and truly have no other place to go.

People who are homeless have very few possessions-are you going to take away the little they have? If you were out on a cold night, you would try and find a bit of shelter somewhere. I know having spent only a week homeless in London when I was young (I'm now 67)-it was frightening, extremely cold, you were all the time waiting to be moved on-but to where?

I am appalled that a Labour Council could even be contemplating these actions. Maybe if it were Conservative it wouldn't surprise me but as a Labour member, I can hardly credit this inhumanity!

In many cases these possessions are literally all these people have - how inhumane it would be to strip them of what little they cling to.

Callous, dangerous for the victim and appears to involve Exeter City Council engaging in theft of personal property as the Supreme Court shall prove against you. Additionally, if this is to be used to harass and discriminate against street artists and music performers (buskers) then absolutely not and may you hang your philistine heads in shame.

Don't take the few possessions these people have away from them

Many homeless people are given bedding and they have nowhere to store it. Some provision must be made whereby their possessions can be stored safely for them.

This proposal frightens me the most of all. The shocking increase in the number of street sleepers is a symptom of a society breaking down. I judge the decency of a community by the way it treats its lost and vulnerable citizens. Criminalising street sleepers refocusses attention from the cause (our appalling attitude to the vulnerable) towards the "symptom" (the rough sleepers). This is a complex problem requiring complex - not scapegoating - solutions. How difficult can it be to get into dialogue with street sleepers to find a solution which suits everyone? How about spending the money apparently budgeted for policing, paperwork and imprisoning people, on building discreet lockers for the homeless where they can safely leave their bedding - and then get on with their lives. Damp bedding is a health problem. No bedding at all will encourage the spread of T.B. - once - but no longer - eradicated from British streets. Has anyone making these proposals calculated the cost to the NHS of the exacerbation of respiratory diseases and premature deaths? A sceptic would wonder whether premature deaths is what the City Council is hoping for. - would solve one problem!

This is inhumane and unacceptable, since homeless people have no-where else to go. Often their shelters and bedding is all that protects them from freezing to death.

I don't see how a homeless person can clear away bedding, shelters, etc when they have nowhere to store their belongings.

I have several key concerns about this. Firstly, the ability to confiscate possessions with or without the owner's permission is a particularly damaging concept, especially since the people using bivouac and other such materials are already very materially poor.

There is also a civil liberties issue here and I believe this could be challenged in court as has been done successfully with the metropolitan police in London. Secondly, the question is, why do you need to remove these items? The only reason I can perceive is aesthetic, because it does indeed make places look untidy. However that isn't justification for legislation that results in some kind of enforcement. Aesthetic policy usually focuses on adding something to improve an environment, rather than removing people. This in itself is a danger of gentrification and social cleansing. Thirdly, though very much connected to my second point, I object to the concept of moving homeless away from spaces as it creates a culture whereby hiding poverty is treated as a means of dealing with it. This then begs the question of where the homeless would go. I suspect that, rather than going to a shelter, where many of them may not actually want to go, they will move to areas on the periphery of the PSPO zone, creating the same issue, just in different spaces.

What? Confiscate bedding and belongings if someone who has nowhere else to go is sleeping rough? Fine them if they don't want to move, someone who has very few possessions any way? Have you provided somewhere else, sympathetic to their needs, for all of them to go? Where in the 'designated area' are these street camps?

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

This is a serious coordinated attack on homeless people sleeping rough across Exeter. A person is at rock bottom when their homeless it seems Exeter City Council is promoting the kicking of these people when they are down.

Some storage arrangement should be made available to rough sleepers so they can leave their bedding etc secure during the daytime. It is definitely not fair to confiscate possessions without recourse.

To remove the bedding and other shelter from homeless people is unspeakable. It takes work to gather bedding. Do we want to take away the very small amount of comfort such people have managed to get hold of and thus leave them to be even colder and more vulnerable when night comes? Better the council provides facilities for storing bedding etc and thus really looks after the homeless of Exeter.

I oppose measures being taken against homeless people and the confiscation or destruction of their few possessions. We should show compassion for people in these circumstances and provide services for their welfare.

Rough sleepers may need to be moved and given help but NOT CRIMINALISED and not covered by the same Order that includes urinating and drug taking in public places. Including the homeless in this way is a shocking indictment of the Council's attitude towards them.

It would be far more worthwhile, considerate and effective if the "offenders" were directed to a place where they could safely and legally camp or bed down. Confiscation, should be an extreme last resort and must be temporary.

The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

I find this disgusting. It puts at risk people who are already highly vulnerable and shows a profound lack of compassion.

This is a reprehensible and vindictive proposal, aimed at destroying the possessions, privacy and self-esteem of those who have least in society. Shameful. And shame on you councillors for proposing it when you all have nice, comfortable homes to go back to every night.

It is highly distressing to see any authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that any council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute. Having worked professionally with homeless people and having narrowly escaped homelessness myself I think this proposal is disgusting and strips the most vulnerable desperate members of our society of hope and dignity and marginalises them yet further when they are in most need. how will criminalising them help?

Again unnecessary

This is a draconian measure showing total insensitivity to any one who may be sleeping rough for a night or indeed homeless. More resources could be put into providing more housing for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those with mental health and addiction problems. Rather than treating homelessness as a crime resources need to be put into finding and addressing the causes.

If people find themselves on the street at night they should be able to surround themselves with anything they are able to find to increase their comfort. I wouldn't wish to do anything to make this person's situation worse and I am deeply shocked that any council should be so lacking in compassion. A council exists to serve the interests of ALL the people its area and it shouldn't imagine it can do that by coercing people into adopting the systems it has dreamt up

I find it an appalling attitude to take to some of the most vulnerable people in society.

To take their property and dispose of it is heartless and uncivilised. They are vulnerable in some way and need support. To fine and criminalise is impractical and a waste of resources. These people have hardly a thousand pennies let alone a thousand pounds.

Usually these people have mental health/physical health needs that would be exacerbated by this bullying action.

Council/police must be vigilant to "nip in the bud" unauthorised camp sites before they become advertised on social media and grow uncontrollably.

Actions should be taken to increase shelter for vulnerable people on the streets, and not to remove it! Have some heart!

I am concerned that a labour led council are considering these measures, homeless people have no choice but to sleep rough, shortage of housing is creating more people to become homeless. It will cause highly vulnerable people to be less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely because they have no choice and nowhere else to go but to sleep rough. This is a disgrace that a Labour led council should consider criminalising the most vulnerable members of society. It would certainly be better to solve these issues if the local authority urgently addressed provisions for housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction and/or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used against the most vulnerable and destitute.

Are you seriously advocating confiscating and destroying the only comfort or 'home' these people have? How unbelievably callous and cruel. I cannot believe this is even an option NO NO NO. Don't be so heartless.

Anyone who removes bedding from a homeless person in winter is recklessly endangering the life of the homeless person, they should be prosecuted for this not given power to do it legally. At best it's theft, at worst manslaughter, either way we have laws to prevent these crimes, not facilitate them.

Just making people victims of the council whim disgusting!!

It is most distressing to think that the possessions of the most vulnerable and unfortunate could be confiscated and criminalised. It is ridiculous to fine these people who have no resources. The council should be providing more housing and support for those suffering from addiction and mental health problems.

Sometimes there is no alternative to bedding down.

How cold must your heart be! It's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard! Who are you to have the 'authority' to take away someones belongings whom are surviving and sleeping on the earth, which was made for all? It's absurd! How are they supposed to keep warm and survive? They're marginalized and isolated enough without all this nonsense!

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

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I find it incredible that you are proposing to remove bedding from people who have nowhere to sleep other than in the open. Again, this will target the most vulnerable people in our society, those whom we should be treating compassionately. 'Tidying' them away will not solve the problem.

I believe that this proposal does nothing other than victimize the poorest and most vulnerable in our city. I think it will do nothing, but cause a rough sleeper to feel alienated, outcast and hated by a society that ought to be helping. It is bad enough that people find themselves destitute here in the UK without resorting to bullying.

This is targeting vulnerable people who do not have access to this consolation process as they are homeless.

This proposal could have a lethal impact on homeless people. Confiscation (also known as theft) of someones homely possessions is so morally wrong it is astounding it has been considered an option in a civilized society.

Homelessness should be dealt with in a compassionate way. taking and destroying the little the homeless have will not solve the problem

No one lives on the street by choice ,would you ? .taking away there shelter only makes their situation worse . I think it would help if you put yourself into their shoes for a moment and consider the help you would need to get back on your feet .

This is a serious breach of individual rights. A person who has lost virtually everything in their life, has almost nothing left which they can call their own. Once their bedding or shelter has been taken, has the problem of their rough sleeping been resolved? clearly not. Forcefully removing the only source of night time warmth does NOT provide accommodation for the forthcoming night. How are the most dispossessed members of society supposed to acquire another sleeping bag,blanket or covering.

This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000, for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer. It gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour . It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don t comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

This discriminates against street homeless as it removes the very few possessions they might have and need. It seems to me that it is an underhand way of targetting homeless people and it is completely unacceptable.

I don't think that removing a homeless person's few possessions is the right thing to do. Also unless there are shelters or hostels that these people can be taken to I think that it is wrong to ask them to move. This proposition does not treat the problem, it just moves it somewhere else.

It is incumbent on the authorities to ensure that the people who need these items has somewhere safe to store them during the day. Just simply telling them to remove them is not acceptable.

I am very alarmed that this proposal was ever suggested. The council seems to think that it can just sweep what it deems to be anti-social behaviour away and in the process it will sweep away the most vulnerable and powerless members of our community. Is this really what we have come to?

The street sweepers are prepared to move bedding, because their Managers inform them not to in case they sue the council because its personal belongings. Also the council has no where to keep rough sleepers bedding, tents and so on.

A Labour Council...A LABOUR COUNCIL...seeks to conflate destitution with anti-social behaviour. Shameful.

I could not disagree more with your proposal. Again - human beings with human needs. You just want to ignore their plight and make them criminals in their vulnerability. I am ashamed to hear how you plan to act.

A homeless person is supposed to exist without bedding or other protection from the elements. Get real!!!

Taking the bedding of a rough sleeper is an act of cruelty.

Again this will target the homeless and criminalise them for simply not having a place to live. Where is a homeless person supposed to keep their shelter?

It is highly distressing to see a Labour-led local authority even considering implementing these ill-thought out and authoritarian measures. This measure would make it a summary criminal offence, punishable by a fine of up to £1000 for a homeless person to not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered to do so by a council officer, and gives the council the power to confiscate and destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people on the basis that they had the temerity to object to being moved on. The extension of summary powers such as this to the local authority wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with anti-social behaviour. It will cause highly vulnerable people to become less safe and to face criminal sanctions purely on account of having to sleep rough. It means vulnerable people will be subject to potential bullying at the hands of council officers who will have the power to destroy their personal possessions if they don't comply with orders that might be unreasonable and misconstrued. At a time of rising homelessness it is a disgrace that a Labour-led council in particular should be considering measures that criminalise the most vulnerable members of society and make their lives more difficult in a misguided attempt to sanitise the public spaces of the city. The local authority would do better to urgently address the provision of housing places for those who are inadequately housed and treatment for those suffering from addiction or mental health issues, instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to marginalise the vulnerable and the destitute.

You cannot destroy another person's property without a court order. And look at the problems that will create.

The most disadvantaged people will be worse than homeless.

People become homeless, usually through unfortunate circumstances, they need some means of surviving. Removing their shelters is only likely to lead to more illness/death and more pressure on the NHS.

For homeless people in extreme weather, collecting blankets and constructing improvised shelters can be a matter of life and death, and their loss can have drastic consequences for their physical wellbeing. As such, they should be removed only in the most extreme cases, although it may sometimes be necessary for them to be relocated. An unsightly blanket in a corner is a small price to pay for someone not freezing to death.

As already stated I do feel very strongly that the area should be extended to take into account the fact that there is already a significant problem in the Flower Pot area, and people ((especially women) using the area for lawful pursuits such as dog walking, football etc already feel threatened.

This is an outrageous proposal. What is it you expect homeless individuals to do? I do not know the other measures you may have previously introduced to help the homeless but I still fail to see how this proposal can be justified. I'm ashamed to be a resident of a City that considers this sort of action.

That may be their only protection from elements or their only comfort. They should be allowed to keep it.

This is clearly attacking rough sleepers whose only possessions are usually a sleeping bag or something to sleep on and some warm clothes. They may have nowhere else to go, and to confiscate these most valuable possessions to me seems ridiculous and I am very strongly against it.

This question is perhaps the most sensitive and contentious in the proposals. Exeter CVS is in principle in support of these powers, but (as with proposal 1) with the caveat that it would be the interpretation and application of these powers that would be the real issue; and secondly that the city first establishes a comprehensive support package (including access to appropriate accommodation) for those seeking an exit from street-based living.

Our starting point is one of social justice. Homelessness and rough sleeping is not desirable for the individual, for the community, or for society as a whole. It is important that we do not romanticise street-based lifestyles, or collude with or sustain behaviours that keep people vulnerable and away from pathways to recovery.

The evidence that rough sleeping is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of an individual is overwhelming. The average life expectancy of a male rough sleeper in the UK is just 47 - the figure is even lower for women at 43. Just over one-third of all death among rough-sleepers is drug-related and rough sleepers are over 9 times more likely to commit suicide than the general population. Over 80% of people who begin rough sleeping start using at least one new drug within 6 months in order to cope (Crisis, 2011.)
Homelessness kills - and it is to be discouraged.

Exeter's official street count in 2014 gave the city the unenviable position of having the highest rate of rough sleeping per head of population in England outside of London. Although the official street count in 2015 showed a modest drop, services working with the street homeless in the city see this as not necessarily being accurate as the count was held on a night of heavy rain, and with the city centre unusually busy for the switching-on of the Christmas lights.

Exeter City Council is to be applauded for its Sleep Safe campaign over the winter months of 2015-16, which opened up 22 beds of emergency accommodation. However, the open, dormitory-style accommodation on offer was not universally appealing - particularly for those who feel most vulnerable. As a result, the assertive homelessness outreach team reported some rough sleepers preferring to "take their chances" on the street rather than go into accommodation they deemed to be riskier due to the presence and behaviour of certain other members of the street community.

In our view - and we believe the evidence shows - enforcement can have a positive impact on outcomes for individuals and the community as a whole, but only if it is integrated with a comprehensive package of support, including access to appropriate housing options (Johnsen & Fitzpatrick, 2008.) Without that, enforcement action would be purely punitive, ineffective and counter-productive. Furthermore, it would be unethical.

Commenting on the ineffectiveness of enforcement interventions elsewhere in Europe, Doherty et al (2008) notes that homeless people they tracked in their study were "squeezed" out of public spaces without any compensatory support - and often were forced into a binary choice between increasingly displaced rough sleeping sites and inadequate and chaotic sheltered accommodation where harsh disciplinary regimes and fear of assault, harassment or theft are common. Such actions exacerbate rather than alleviate the problem.

So, debris and biohazard waste associated with rough sleeping and street-based anti-social behaviour are a very real concern for public health, community safety and the local economy - but are caused by social justice challenges made manifest in the lives of vulnerable people with complex and multiple needs. As a city, we must first be confident that we have in place an accessible, integrated, multi-agency package of support - sufficient to meet the needs of anyone seeking an exit from street living - and including access to affordable and appropriate models of accommodation with parallel support to address other issues (mental health, substance misuse, offending, basic lifeskills etc.) Then - and only then - should enforcement action using these powers be considered ethical.

As with our answer in question 1, we believe these powers need to be contextualised within the co-design and development of two parallel and integrated strategies: one for comprehensive support, and one for compassionate, but robust enforcement.

As a city centre resident living near Bartholmew cemetery & the Catacombs the situation of rough sleepers has become much worse over the last couple of years. I've lost count of how many times myself & my partner have contacted the council, over the summer it was every few days, I must point out though that on each occasion it has been dealt with very efficiently. Pretty much daily we see drug dealing & taking, discarded needles, human faeces, smashed glass, antisocial & aggressive behaviour, aggressive dogs, general mess & so on.

DSFRS responds to a number of small fires involving card board bedding within the PSPO proposed area and welcomes the removal of these encampments from the shop fronts and covered areas as they pose a greater risk of fire spread to heritage, residential and commercial buildings.

Rough sleeping and homelessness is a large and national problem. It is difficult to see what is to be achieved by this proposal except to harm the homeless and just move the problem around. Move it around enough times and it will be back where it started. This is just mean minded

The police already have sufficient power to deal with this too. Proposal 3 would place new pressures and responsibility on council and other authorised parties, resulting in abuses and placing undue pressure on local support services already struggling to deal with Exeter's homelessness problem. The city centre is a space for all Exeter's residents and I personally find the desired cleansing this proposal implies quite chilling.

This proposal is completely unreasonable unless the City Council first provides unlimited free overnight accommodation for homeless people. So far as I am aware the City Council has no such plans and in the circumstances should not entertain the proposal.

Sort out the problem of homelessness don't punish it's victims.

Why would you deprive street homeless individuals of the only shelter they have been able to acquire? This proposal is cruel.

People who sleep on our streets are some of the most vulnerable in our society. We should be doing all that we can to help them. Taking away or even threatening to take away their bedding & shelter is just plain wrong. Exeter has a big problem with homelessness but this is not how to deal with it, there people need compassion.

You cannot bring in this sort of "clearance" without also having a plan for better hostel provision for the homeless

I think it is disgusting to remove bedding or tents from people who are homeless. Exeter should be providing more availability in hostels. Yes they have safe sleep beds in the winter, but not enough spaces. Much money is spent through our taxes/ housing benefits, funding places in privatised band b's, taking a high top up charge off residents and then evicting them, when finding them intentionally homeless! How are these people meant to survive on the street, private landlords will not take those with problems? There should be more projects, particularly for those with mental health issues. It seems that the intention is to persecute people when they are at their lowest point.

can a area be made available for rough sleepers to store their bedding during the day

This is horrible. People who do not have homes should not have their bedding taken away from them.

Homelessness is bad enough without having one's few comforts and possessions removed without prior warning.

I believe taking away people's bedding is inhumane and I am disgusted that a Council would ever consider it

We need to protect the homeless, not make their lives harder.

What provision is being made as an alternative to house homeless people?

If someone is rough sleeping it doesn't help them to have their belongings removed - they need emergency accommodation. It is not a crime to be homeless.

There is a failure by Exeter city council to provide adequate shelter to the homeless. Removing shelters people are forced to erect themselves strips them of a basic human need and endangers lives. Furthermore this action will only force those living in the street to relocate to residential areas which will be more problematic.

Live and let live; dudes who need to do this are barely living as it is.

This could kill homeless people who require such materials on cold nights and obviously have nowhere to store them.

Proposal 3 is disgusting

This legislation will only exacerbate the problems of the homeless. People living on the street is not a problem that is going to go away just by asking them to 'move on' and confiscating their items needed for survival in this environment. It will probably only cause such persons to become more desperate.

This is particularly problematic. Essentially this would be institutionalised theft from the very poorest members of society. You may not like that the capitalist system you espouse has created homelessness for many, but trying to make the problem invisible is beyond despicable.

I feel that this will cause great distress and difficulty to the large homeless population in Exeter. It will further discriminate against them in their already difficult situation - criminalising their behaviour and the safe space they have attempted to construct for themselves rather than offering them help and safe shelter.

This will directly affect the homeless, some of the most vulnerable members of society who also are unlikely to have the means to speak out against these measures themselves. Rather than punishing these people, perhaps you could take measures to help them such as by providing more homeless shelters and provisions.

This is a disgusting attack on homeless people, it makes life harder for them instead of helping the situation at all.

a society has a responsibility to protect those most vulnerable not fine them for being at a disadvantage

Why are you trying to criminalise homelessness? If people have no alternative, why are you removing their bedding from the only place they can go? How is that humanely justifiable?

Help the homeless.

Those who are homeless do not choose to sleep where they do, if they actually had a place to go, they'd go there. taking away their only protection from the elements is morally wrong.

These are some of the few possessions the homeless have. There is no where else for them to go and to confiscate their bedding is inhumane - how are they expected to get through the night? This proposal is nothing short of ridiculous. Provide a shelter for these people. It's the only humane solution if people dislike seeing homeless people on the streets.

This is just going to victimise homeless people and will not help them at all.

Where are homeless people going to find shelter after an authorised person has taken away their only form of shelter. Life is hard enough when you are homeless, please don't confiscate homeless people's few belongings.

Is there another option for someone sleeping rough?

Firstly, has it been considered that "materials used for shelter against the elements etc" includes clothes? As it stands your proposal reads very much like Exeter city council would like to strip the homeless of their very humanity. For shame! This is singularly the most offensive and disgusting proposal I have ever had to read. Not only do you wish to subject the city's most vulnerable citizens (their lack of franchise does not mean that they cease to be citizens of this nation, they are very much still citizens) to state of existence that is akin, if not worse than a refugee camp, but the council is actually proposing to terrorise them. This is outrageous, have you been getting policy pointers from Israel? Did the council wake up one day and decide that what Exeter really needed was its very own West Bank?

Condemns the homeless.

These are horrible, horrible rules that will only allow the council to take homeless people out of the sight of 'regular' citizens, instead of actually trying to solve homelessness.

I don't believe that criminalising this further will help to change the homelessness problem in Exeter. Our city needs an abstinence based recovery program for drug users and to fix its housing issue so that this sort of violent legislation isn't deemed required.

Exeter has a lot of homeless people - how does confiscating their only bedding possessions help the situation? This is very short sighted and does not actually solve and problem, just looks to try to hide to problem so that people can't see it on the street. If anything, homeless people being on the street provides them with better safety than if they were moved on as they can be in groups and there is street lighting. By all means, remove drugs and drug taking accessories but ethically there is something very wrong with removing the last things that people have and not offering a safe alternative.

How can you actually justify this. They literally have nothing else, and you want to just get rid of the bare minimum they have? On top of that just being horrendous, their bedding is not harming anyone at all. How can you actually be considering this?

This is barbaric, why is the council targeting attacks at the homeless and most vulnerable? This helps no one.

Proposal 3 simply further victimises the homeless, the enforcement of it would be deeply immoral as all it does is further harms a very vulnerable part of society. It would do absolutely no good but quite a lot of harm.

This is clearly formulated to criminalise Exeter's large homeless community and will do nothing but force them into other parts of the city. The council should instead reconsider and focus on improving services to the homeless rather than criminalisation. These people live in Exeter just like the rest of us and deserve just as much of a voice.

They don't choose to live like this, and they shouldn't have to cower out of sight to make the city look nicer or in order not to offend our eyesight. Since when did being poor become a crime ?

If the council does not want homeless people in the city centre I would suggest they make provision for these people by opening empty shops or providing suitable help and housing rather than just taking their belongings and moving them out of sight.

Agreed reluctantly on the proviso that there is an integrate package of support available for those who want to move from being on the streets which is a particular problem for women. Rough sleeping is detrimental to the health and well-being of an individual leading to reduced life expectancy and higher suicide rates. The support package will only be effective if there is sufficient affordable and appropriate accommodation with accompanying support for other issues such as mental health, substance misuse, offending, life skills etc. Where people have lived in challenging circumstances, often for years, they will need help and support to learn the necessary skills to maintain their accommodation.

We do not feel safe at night walking in some areas where there are rough sleepers, and they need to be dealt with humanely.

There are some homeless people who do not qualify for shelter places or other housing. They should be helped, not penalised! rough sleepers do not usually choose to sleep rough. The council should provide lockers so people have somewhere safe to store their stuff. And laundry services so they can dry wet bedding. I know that there are not enough beds in the city for all rough sleepers. ECC should provide a night shelter for homeless people waiting to go into hostels or looking for a private landlord.

An absolutely disgusting contempt for the homeless is shown here; the proposal doesn't stop at asking them to move on, it specifically says to steal their bedding and anything that can 'provide shelter from the elements'. In this weather. If I ever heard of an unofficial, sanctioned death sentence, this is it.

Not all of the homeless have access to overnight accommodation, or they may have reasons not to go. No one chooses to be homeless for fun. These people have had tough lives and have nowhere to go. It is cruel to take the few meager possessions of people who have nothing just because their presence is inconvenient or uncomfortable. It may be said that this law will only allow for the removal of someone staying in a public place if they exhibit anti-social behaviour but this law will easily make it so that the homeless will be kicked out of the public eye just because their presence makes people feel uncomfortable or for mental illness-related behaviour, which is rarely intended to be violent. The Council should instead be implementing more funds programmes and educational workshops on job applications for the homeless if they want them off the street.

It's a disgusting suggestion to rob what little some people for the aesthetics of the streets. Solve the problem of why they are there not why you have to walk past the occasional sleeping bag

It is disgusting that the council is considering the possibility of making the most vulnerable members of the Exeter community subject to fines and seizures/destruction of their possessions, simply for 'being' in public space. Such measures should only be used against people who have the intention to cause harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public - simply having bedding/equipment in public space does not fulfil any of these criteria. If people are complaining about seeing such equipment in public space, its is purely an aesthetic issue and the council should not cede to such subjective concerns. If the council wants to reduce the presence of such equipment in public spaces, taxpayers money would be much better spent on improving housing and services for the homeless.

These materials are used to protect the homeless from the elements. If adequate affordable housing was available, the need to build a shelter would not arise.

This activity is driven by necessity, survival.

Any action to reduce or destroy these make-shift shelters undermines basic human rights.

If no safe places are provided by this rich city for these poverty stricken people, shame on it!

Seems to be a complete overreaction by ECC deliberately designed to push the problem of homelessness out of sight and create a totally fake image that the problem does not exist. It is another manifestation of the trend to dehumanise the most vulnerable in our society and is deeply shocking from a supposedly Labour council. The priority of enhancing economic prosperity by these means rather than by addressing the actual problems associated with homelessness is unworthy and ultimately self-defeating. People should come first - and yes, the homeless amongst us are people too.

The NHS is already under enough stress attempting to provide healthcare services without also having to provide care for homeless individuals who are suffering from exposure due to having their bedding removed.

I understand that the intention is to only do this to "uncooperative" homeless or rough sleepers. I understand that the public may feel threatened by dirty or smelly or odd looking people. However, they are people and part of our community whether we like it or not.

Even the most cooperative of person may have had a rough night or be ill or otherwise feel aggrieved. Perhaps they've been handled badly or the request made aggressively..?

Issuing on the spot fines to the poorest in society and then criminalising them for non-payment (which is likely to be impossible for them to pay) is just hopeless.

Taking away their bedding is an act of heartless bullying which as a society we should not condone or encourage. These people need understanding support and protection, not criminalisation or putting them at risk of death by exposure.

Proposal three disgusts me, you should be ashamed this is even being proposed. How dare a proposal be set out to take from the most vulnerable in society?

Whoever proposed this should be ashamed to be fair

Someone could die in the cold who really is going to take a homeless persons bedding yo Allison them to be cold they will have Ho Ho somewhere we should concentrate on helping them not punishing them who will be to be blame when s homeless person dies

If shelter were to be taken away, would alternate shelter be provided? Where are they expected to go?

Absolutely horrendous. You cannot take away the few possessions someone owns, and the means for them to sleep and remain warm, unless we (the community) have a alternative for them.

How can you possibly uproot somebody and confiscate their bedding. That is stealing... you might not have realised. Where are the homeless supposed to sleep if they cant afford a hostel for the night. This is plain cruel and vilifying the homeless will not help the problem. Aim to rehabilitate the homeless not criminalise them.

Provide more shelter for the homeless!!!!

This proposal is quite frankly shocking and disgusting. No one chooses to erect a temporary shelter on the street by choice. No one decides to sleep on the street by choice. By proposing to remove the bedding and shelter of these individuals, the council are making it clear that the survival and wellbeing of these unfortunate people who are forced, by whatever circumstances, to spend their nights on the streets, do not even make it onto their list of priorities. To take away what little these people have is inhuman. To even propose such a thing speaks volumes about the disgraceful attitudes of those elected to represent us as citizens, and protect our best interests.

What kind of world do we live in, if our elected representatives would rather punish the most vulnerable members of our society to make a statement about how 'tough' and 'decisive' they can be, than invest in rehabilitation and education schemes, or even homeless shelters to actually tackle this problem at its very roots?

Yes, this is such a big problem in Exeter, I have often been intimidated by these people following me, or throwing insults at me.

These are people's possessions. You wouldn't like it if someone came to your house and threw away your things. It's hardly fair, when these people don't even have a home, to threaten to dispose of their belongings. Rather than use the force of the law to move them away from being in places you disapprove of, why not offer them somewhere they'd prefer to be?

This is barbaric behaviour, we have more people who are homeless than ever and your intention is to make them suffer more than ever. You should be trying to help these people not persecute them. I am horrified to think you could do such a thing.

Again, no explanations are given as to why existing laws relating to this are inadequate. Again it hands huge power to officers without defining the circumstances under which they will be used. Since this particular proposal is directed squarely at the homeless it seems particularly callous. It is highly unlikely that they would be able to afford an on the spot fine, thus adding debt and a criminal record to their problems. I do not understand how a Labour Council could even consider such a shameful idea.

Yes of course I do. This blatantly targets homeless people, without any commitment to accompanying efforts to address the causes of homelessness. If you give them homes, then sure, take blankets etc. off the streets for all I care, but while you make no significant effort to address the problem at its root, proposal 3 simply airbrushes the problem, and makes the town centre more aesthetically pleasing for the more privileged members of your city.

What about homeless people who don't have anywhere else to put their things, because they are homeless. How can you justify taking away a homeless person's bedding or any other objects they are using as 'protection from the elements'?! It's nonsensical and frankly inhumane.

It's inhumane to remove the bedding, it will literally kill people. We need to protect the most vulnerable, not cause them further harm.

This is social cleansing aimed to directly target the homeless; I think it's utterly contemptible.

Some people have no other choice but to sleep on the streets. To make that harder for them when they are already in a vulnerable position is barbaric.

This proposal does absolutely nothing to stop the issues you've raised such as shopkeepers not being able to get in or having to deal with litter (which I think is a small issue compared to homelessness anyway) Most homeless people will move when asked and litter is a problem around the city centre not just in doorways of shops. Threatening an already vulnerable group with a fine they won't be able to afford is merely stigmatising a group of people the City Council should be trying to help. This comment isn't just a protest but a suggestion that more help should be given to accommodate the homeless as there are only a few hostels available that sometimes require a fee, Exeter has such a large population of people who have to sleep rough this proposal will only exacerbate an already large issue and do nothing to help the public awareness and empathy for those in need

if this measure is to go forward then the council should provide an adequate place for homeless people to sleep every night without charging them like the hostel does

Confiscation of their bedding is likely to lead to loss of trust in establishment figures, anger, and paranoia; in short impact negatively the mental state of people who already may have significant mental health problems.

I suggest the provision of safe daytime storage. These facilities could be publicised, and transport offered if needed. Tea, toast, and signposting to other services could be provided where these lockers were situated.

I understand that business owners and staff do not want discarded cardboard or bedding in the doorways of their premises, and may feel intimidated by homeless people being asleep in the doorway when they arrive for work. It is reasonable that bedding be stored away before 8.00a.m.

I suggest a prerequisite for any PSPO needs to be education about the issues homeless people face, and underlying conditions which may lead to behaviours which are unusual, or which others find alarming, and a request for respect for people in our society who lack status, safe accommodation and financial security.

Blatantly targeting homeless people now, not even trying to be subtle.

Humans need shelter to survive, finding shelter and reducing exposure comes before finding water in survival guides. This is an ill-thought-out proposal in an attempt to improve the image of the city without regard for the welfare of those already at a disadvantage.

Should be done with compassion but quickly.

This proposal is disgraceful to come from a council that should protect its inhabitants, not punish the homeless for existing. If this proposal were to be put in place, I would reconsider voting Labour for the Exeter Council elections.

You're specifically targeting the homeless. Yes you can remove the visual indicators of the problem of homelessness but you are not providing a solution just removing the problem from the public's view. This is so cruel.

It is unfair to take from people what little they already have.

This unfairly targets the homeless population of Exeter and will make their already unpleasant lives much more difficult. Consider finding an alternative, more humane method of relieving Exeter's homeless population of their need to sleep on the streets. Designated homeless shelters are a relatively cheap and humanitarian answer to the issue, and at the bare minimum can even simply take the form of an abandoned building that is refurbished for the purpose of sleeping in only.

Provision of a storage facility is a more positive response to the problem. Where are these people supposed to sleep? There is inadequate provision of suitable accommodation and this is a major contributor to increased homelessness. Permanent, affordable accommodation is needed for low wage earners and insecure housing tenure can mean such persons can be forced onto the streets. Penalizing destitution is intolerable in a caring community. Punitive measures are not a solution to a real social issue. The vagrant lifestyle in many cases is not a choice but a necessity in the current political climate of victimizing the poor and disadvantaged by public expenditure cuts. Blaming people for their own misfortune lacks compassion. The back story of these people needs a more caring response.

Taking away the few possessions of people who can't afford anything more and fining them a thousand pounds is not a sensible way of achieving anything except more poverty, more starvation and ultimately more suffering.

What kind of thick twats are you? You're trying to kill these people are you expect normal people to stand by you?

THIS IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS- THESE PEOPLE DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE HERE AND THEY HAVE A DIFFICULT ENOUGH TIME AS IT IS- HELP TACKLE THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN DISPLACE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LESS OPPORTUNITIES

Proposal 3 appears to be targeted at the homeless community; removing bedding will lead to increased discomfort, poor health, and potential fatalities. Other proposals target the drunk and the disgusting (ie prohibition of public intoxication and urination), this targets the vulnerable and fails to acknowledge the homeless as a group in need of much help from the state.

Also how convenient this proposal occurs as summer approaches, so homeless people freeze to death on the council's conscience As stated if homeless are blocking fire exit etc, they should be asked to leave

I am genuinely disgusted by the proposal to remove homeless people's bedding. It is not a real issue in society, yet it is to many homeless people an essential possession. I'd much prefer to see bedding on the streets and living homeless people than finding them dead from exposure, which is what this would provoke.

Do Homeless people have a choice in where they sleep and whos land they are sheltering on? I say if they are not doing any harm and are away from specific property they can keep their shelter (their home), all of their paraphernalia and everything else you wish to take from their possession. Otherwise that would be victimising the poorest of the community, unless, you were willing to give them specific land for them to live on which would bypass this new proposal.

who do you people think you are? I mean jesus christ almighty remove people's bedding? What are you going to achieve? You people are sick and twisted

Provide alternatives, you can't "confiscate" people's only means of keeping warm in winter - being homeless shouldn't be made illegal. It's a disgusting idea to take away a person's only belongings.

Where the hell are they supposed to take it? they are homeless! you are saying clear out the only bed you have, even though it aint a bed

Where will they move on to? My concern is the Council are just shifting the problem to the outskirts of town/planned proposed areas. Needs a solution- where will these people go? You can't just push the problem into different areas.

What gives you the right to take away a fellow humans bedding. Help them don't make their lives worse and pray on the vulnerable.

You're seriously proposing to take away a homeless person's bedding? Have you been out in Exeter at night recently?

If you were to remove their shelter or bedding, they would freeze to death and their blood would be on the hands of the counsellors Proposal three is inhumane and unnecessarily brutal.

People with 'bedding' and 'paraphernalia' on the streets are not trying to take advantage of, or ruin, your beautiful streets. They have nowhere else to go. When will you get this in to your heads? How hard is it to understand? If you unlawfully (I am speaking by the obvious laws of human nature) take away their possessions, the only things they have left in the world, just because you are in a suit and have a council position so think that you have the right to do this to another human being, you are only going to cause uproar and rebellion. Provide for, assist, and advise these people on how they can get off the streets. Don't you dare take the pittance they have left away from them. You could cause suicides, deaths, more vandalism - Proposal 3 is provocative, demonising and inhumane.

This is truly inhuman. Address the cause not a symptom.

Homeless people are PEOPLE, not animals. If they've found a safe(ish) place to sleep for the night and you don't like that, pay for a night in a hostel for them.

Removing what little proterty homeless people have is despicable.

Those belongings are often all that they possess.

Where are they going to sleep if you take their bedding? They're homeless because you failed them and now you want to take away anything they have left. Ridiculous.

I think this proposal hasn't been thought about enough - the council is taking away homeless people's belongings and have they thought about where the homeless person might go after their possessions are removed from them?

What do you propose homeless people do?! Disgusting.

It seems unfair to remove someone's shelter if they are homeless, without providing an alternative.

I completely believe taking a homeless persons bedding off themy is horrendous. I understand the homeless have alternatives, however when you are an addict you make decisions because of your addiction. He seems people need help not have heir lives made more challenging.

This simply victimises the homeless and does not contribute to solving the issue of homelessness as it completely fails to tackle the causes of the issue

These people have few possessions and nowhere else to go. They should be treated with respect and left alone if they are not harming anyone. Their presence or the presence of their belongings is not a threat to anyone.

This is a sickening proposal, why would anybody wish for it to go forward? Why would anyone want to cause unneeded suffering to others by taking away essentials.

Removing bedding should be criminal. It takes ages to accumulate such items and they are not always affordable. Provide a facility for stuff to be stored

This is disgusting. Homeless people are people just like you, they are simply less fortunate. Do you honestly think it is acceptable to not bother trying to help the homeless and instead penalise them? Do you really think that will solve anything? Do you think that because you have more money and opportunities in life than them you have the right to destroy anything they have? Do you think it is acceptable to treat the homeless as vermin, as a nuisance? They are human beings. If you would like to get them off the street, help them.

It's disgusting, robbing the homeless of their bedding, how can this ever be approved!

They need somewhere to sleep, taking away their stuff won't suddenly make them find a job and buy a house

Where do you expect homeless people to actually go? And how are they supposed to stay warm at night? You'll have more of a problem having to 'remove, clear away or dispose of' the bodies if you take away a homeless person's only way to stay warm without providing an alternative.

This is a blatant attack on the homeless with no effort to address the underlying problems.

This victimises those who are homeless and have no where else to go.

This specifically targets those who sleep on the streets and are homeless. This is criminalising homelessness. How can you take away the bedding or shelter someone has on the street when that is the only place they will be able to stay??

I don't believe that that is going to solve the homeless problem in Exeter

This is the most disgusting aspect of the PSPO, the councils don't or can't provide enough homes for people so to take away their shelter and bedding is outrageous. How many people will die of hyperthermia? To fine people to collect their belongings is insane, where is the money supposed to come from to pay for it?

Exeter Council are about to make it effectively illegal to be homeless in Exeter by imposing £1000 fines for begging and giving the authorities permission to confiscate and destroy homeless people's bedding and personal property. Not only is this inefficient as it does not target the reasons why people are homeless in the first place or why they can't get off the streets once they are, it also explicitly victimises poor and mentally ill people.

It is inhumane to remove someone's bedding. Especially as this could lead to illness and death, particularly during winter. A more logical way to tackle this would be to not spend the money on people 'removing' such items but placing the money into housing etc. to deal with the problem of homeless people that is currently facing the city.

This section appears to target the most vulnerable people in the community, the homeless. Taking a rough sleeper's bedding away from them seems to me an immoral, punitive action. It is being presented as a benign deed intended to encourage rough sleepers off the streets for their own benefit, health and well-being, but I think this is disingenuous. I believe that the truth is that the council wishes to remove homeless street sleepers from the City Centre because they offend the eye, look scruffy and traders believe that their presence will deter customers. This section of the PSPO will lead to unpleasant scenes between police officers or PCSOs and street sleepers. No-one is going to want to give up their bedding without complaint. This will lead to a breach of the order, and a fixed penalty fine. The homeless person will not be able to pay the fine, so they will end up in court and possibly in prison, all of which costs money and makes a poor person's life more, not less, messed up. Many rough sleepers have complex needs and problems. Coercing them to engage with appropriate agencies rarely works, and this harsh approach will damage relations of trust that often exist between homeless people and the police / service providers. I am not a Christian, but I do know the parable of the talents: "from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." (Matthew 25:29)

What about homeless people who have no other means of warmth or shelter? Would they be therefore forced to sleep unprotected?

How on earth is this acceptable to even raise this as something you want to do? do you care at all for your fellow man? or do you just want to watch the homeless suffer more whilst you sit back and give out £100 fines for people in more than a group of two who look "Intimidating"? Absolute bullshit. Be careful what you chose to make law, because this will not stand and people will get hurt over this. you will be killing homeless people

This would make life impossible for rough sleepers

There is an enormous housing crisis and too much extreme poverty. There will be people sleeping rough so long as there is a lack of affordable housing. Instead of criminalising those already down on their luck maybe we should be addressing the lack of affordable housing.

No

This is disgusting. Shame on all those who outlined or support this proposal. Do not criminalise poor circumstance. As a member of the emergency services, who frequently deals with the homeless population, I believe I can speak in reasonable representation of the officers who may feel forced to impose this new law. It is inhumane and will be a detriment not only to the health of the victims of this classist crime, but also to the officers who have no choice but to enact it. Have you no soul?

This is morally wrong, the idea of confiscating warm bedding from the homeless is barbarian

I find this Q3 distasteful and totally NOT acceptable. No one has the right to remove things from another human being which would keep them warm and alive.

Why is it necessary to make the lives of homeless people even more miserable? This proposal is shameful.

Rough sleepers, rather than being targeted in this way, should be provided with support instead. I don't think this proposal helps address the needs of the homeless.

Homeless people, or vulnerable young people forced out of their homes sometimes have no choice but to sleep on the streets. These individuals need bedding and temporary shelter to survive the cold weather or they would die of hypothermia. I have never known a homeless person's bedding to obstruct a public right of way, ever. The homeless community in Exeter are, on the whole, pleasant and vulnerable people. Their council should be assisting them into sheltered accommodation, NOT confiscating their few meagre possessions. This is utterly absurd, and deeply inhumane!

De-humanising

This is a license for any homeless person to be moved on at any time if they have any sleeping equipment - it is not reasonable.

It targets an already vulnerable population in a most unhelpful and discriminatory manner.

Absolutely against such action. Taking away - what in some cases will be their only possessions - is an act of cruelty. What about supplying some lockers or dry facilities for such items to be stored in

This proposal is discriminatory against vulnerable homeless people and should not go forward

You can't confiscate someone's bedding when it's all they've got to sleep on. Life is already hard enough for them as it is.

Take away the only things they have to keep them warm? More homeless that will die

Taking property is stealing. It is wrong and illegal.

This stuff is keeping them alive. It's freezing at night

It seems entirely inappropriate to make rough sleeping illegal when measures to provide for the needs of the very poor, disturbed or desperate are insufficient. Imposing fines on homeless people is pointless and uncivilised. As with the other measures listed here, the wording is so broad as to make this provision dangerously open to abuse in its implementation - no distinction made between people who are obliged to sleep outdoors and who try to minimise any offence this may cause and people who are deliberately antisocial.

Increasing the likelihood of taking away the little the homeless have is not going to help them, or the community at all. I would like to see further action with charities working with the homeless in Exeter, and an increase in spending on Exeter City Council initiatives to work with homeless people in order to house, teach and support them.

The police and council should be looking out for people sleeping or having to live on the streets, Devon's homeless should not have their situation made worse!!

Free or low priced left luggage facilities in town centre are needed. NOT theft of people without security of private tenancy.

Persecuting, destitute and homeless people

See comments and questions in accompanying letter.

Council have no right to seize people's possessions.

It is appalling to contemplate removing the only protection/warmth belongin to a homeless person. Is it LEGAL? One has to ask - to remove a person's possessions without that person having any redress? Compassion is required, not condemnation.

It would be cruel, inhuman, where else are they to sleep or lie down if bedding etc removed they would die of exposure to the elements. They face enough risk to health and life as it is now. They have no money to replace these things that are humanly essential. We would be ashamed to citizens of Exeter if this Dracowian PPPSP were to be implemented.

No one should take over a public footpath/underpass for themselves.

Find shelter for the person and their belongings - even if that includes a dog or cat. They are in need of help.

Instead of being punitive, provide people with somewhere to sleep or better still, to live. Taking away their few possessions is pathetic. Do you really think people want to live on the street cold and wet, nowhere to wash or give themselves what we take for granted? It's NOT a lifestyle choice!

This measure makes it a criminal offence if a homeless person does not immediately remove their sleeping bag, or blanket when ordered by a council officer. It also gives the council the power to destroy the bedding and possessions of homeless people. This extension of power to the council wrongly conflates destitution and lack of housing with 'anti-social behaviour'. The act of sleeping rough due to the unavailability of affordable housing must never be a crime. The city Council would do better to provide housing places for those who are homeless. Instead of creating a criminal offence which will be used to penalise the vulnerable and destitute.

As in adverse weather conditions people would be at risk of hypothermia.

But only if kept area clean

Give them somewhere to live and doctors help. Rehab getting better.

Open more hostels.

Taking someone's bedding off them is endangering lives, as if they have no bedding for the night, they can freeze - especially in the recent weather, depending on - Age/Health problems.

If 'bedding' is taken from someone it may cause health problems depending on age/health.

I respect people who sleep on the street.

It causes more problems - everywhere I've seen people doss down, it's clean when they get up and go. If you don't want to house anyone, why are you making the problem worse?

If "bedding" is taken from someone it may cause "health problems" depending on - age/health.

This is their homes - all the own, some are homeless for so many different reasons.

Great idea, burn someone's bed??

There are no public toilets at night, sat that out ?

Leave the homeless alone.

It is wrong to take away bedding people need their bedding to keep warm.

This is the real stinker. It's hard enough being homeless. Too many people, who cause no trouble, already get evicted from shop doorways.

No

Taking bedding away from homeless people is risking people who are homeless (not by choice) freezing and ending up either dead or in hospital.

Every homeless person should be given a sleeping bag. People will die or become seriously ill.

This is wrong, people could die from this.

Have places where they are allowed.

Over 40 individuals sleep rough in and around Exeter city centre at any one time. Some suffer severe social exclusion and will not ever be offered accommodation by any RSL or LA. Some have multiple unmet physical healthcare needs and complex mental health issues. Some have no money or even adequate clothing. Having worked in the area for a couple of years I know that when I took a sample of the last 100 people to exit the local direct access hostel on Smythen Street, only 4 moved into the independent living and secure accommodation ensured by having a tenancy rather than a licence agreement. No second Night Out actually creates and perpetuates the rough sleeping issue as do the rules around intentionally and local connection. For example, I have lived in a hostel for 3 months, I get kicked out for some reason, I am intentionally homeless and not NSNO and not in priority wherever I go. I leave and turn up elsewhere but cannot get reconnected because no one will offer me any accommodation back where I came from so what am I to do. Destroying such people's last few remaining possessions and means of shelter from the elements doesn't seem that just or fair or helpful or necessary. Offer such people a secure safe place to live, a means to live, a means to contribute and a little support and suspect some would take it. Sort out the useless broken supported housing system in Exeter.

**PSPO Consultation
Responses to Restriction 4
01/06/16**

Comments Proposal 4

I applaud the action being taken by ECC as it doesn't reflect well on a city which is 'up and coming'

This proposal in my opinion has been long overdue, the powers to prevent begging and drinking in a public place have been available to enforce for many years.

It should be a criminal offence to do any of the proposed intentions in public place anywhere, Anti social behavior has achieved a new level and its long overdue.

Criminalising, marginalizing and stigmatizing poverty isn't the answer.

How will this be implemented? How will it be enforced?

If they are not causing an obstruction and ask politely then how can this is not anti-social behaviour. If we do ban begging then should we not also ban chuggers in the high street?

This is WELL over due, begging is a significant problem in the city center I have witnessed aggressive begging on more than one occasion and believe it should be considered anti-social behavior.

"impliedly requested by conduct"

Does this include people with signs asking for money? I think the consequences of banning such behaviour need to be considered.

People in this position need support and if the State refuses to offer it then who else have they to turn to but the public? If you criminalise that as well where next will these people turn? Such proposals could easily lead to an increase in crimes such as theft

How does this apply to charity fundraising?

Sometimes you gotta eat and those that are supposed to protect and care for all people regardless of where they live chose to criminalise being poor.

How else will you support the homeless population in your borough? With the budget constraints, I imagine it will be nothing. Removing homeless people from an area does not address the issue - it just exacerbates it and moves itself. I'm shocked and appalled that you are even considering this...!

I only disagree with aggressive begging.

There are a lot of beggars in the high street and surrounding area

Some people who are homeless rely on whatever small handouts they may receive

I assume this proposal will apply to the increasing numbers of charity collectors employing aggressive tactics to get people to hand over bank details on the high street too?

The zone should cover the University area too.

Can you stop Chuggers (Charity Muggers) forcing people to sign up with a charity on the streets as well.

I agree, I find it intimidating when someone asks me for some 'spare change for a coffee" when I can see by their demeanour they probably want to score. (I used to work in a drug treatment charity)

I contribute to charity but prefer to do it by direct debit etc. Unsure about who is and who is not a genuine beggar I dont give to them mainly because I worry they will spend that donation on drugs. They can also be threatening so I agree with the proposal.

you might include those people who try and stop you on the street and make you donate to a charity

This is fine as long as it also applies to charity collectors etc

These beggars are a blight on the community n should be dissuaded from begging in any part of the country. They do not need to beg! They only use the money for drugs or drink.?!?!

Does this include charity collectors

This makes homeless people and the buskers and street performers that make Exeter a nice place to live criminals. Proposal 4 is vile.

What about registered charity collectors who may not have the landowners permission but are lawfully collecting for charity?

If people are threatening, use the law against them, not bye laws. We already have the means

It sounds good in theory, but how will you distinguish between, for example, a busker and a beggar?

Before that happens get more help for people ie rhab and mental health services .

Extend the are up through St James to the University.

This is not a serious problem in Exeter like it is in other cities. People who have little should be allowed to ask for help if they do so politely. The answer no is always an option and almost always the answer they get.

I find myself being requested money by unsolicited sources on a daily basis via advertising and businesses in general society - if these activiiles are also to be banned , i would agree

There are currently laws that are available to cover this but even with CCTV evidence the Police are reluctant to deal with this effectively

People sit quietly on the street and ask for money, the public choose to give or not give. The public have the right to be charitable if they want. If begging was aggressive I would see it as an issue but I have lived in Exeter for 16 years and never felt that this was an issue.

The issue is with the government and a system that doesn't look after its most vulnerable. Often these people have ended up in this situation because of poverty or mental illness or other problematic family situations and now you want to persecute them even more. I guess you are trying to clean the streets of Exeter so that the, shoppers with disposable income are not distracted from their mission of spending money on things that they probably don't need. Either give these people a home and an income to support them at a reasonable standard of living, or allow them to find their own ways to survive - stop persecuting them.

I think people should be able to beg. Although I agree it is very uncomfortable and may be intimidating at times, I thin resources could be spent educating the general public on how to deal with beggars

There has been a lot of work done on this to change the culture. While I 'aggressive' and organised being is intimidating I am concerned that this regulation will penalise unwitting people beghing etc. It's not clear also how this will affect those collecting fit charity, especially local charities rather than the 'professional' charity collectors.

Because the ambit is too wide, and would encompass charitable collections as well as begging; and in particular because no distinction is made between pressuring people into giving money or being a nuisance whilst doing so, and merely asking.

And licenced chuggers (charity muggers) are ok were they get paid 7 pounds an hour to flog a different charity every week and lie to your face about how they care?

At least begging helps someone directly (even if for it us for and bottle of cider it heaven forbid food)

Is it a crime to ask for help? These people need to eat, clothe themselves, get places, to do this you need money. Again, if proper help was given they would not be in this situation, it's going to cost you as much money to try to 'remove them' as it would to help them.

Openly approaching pedestrians for change should be discouraged, but homeless people who are sat down asking for change are less intimidating.

As an employee working in the car parks, our customers advise us that they overhear police in the High St tell people begging to move into the multi story car parks. In Mary Arches car park begging is nearly out of control as is drug abuse. Customers are always complaining with every reason to. We do not currently have any tools to use with this problem only to ask them to move and if they don't there is nothing further we can do and it is a lottery if the police turn up at all.

Get rid of the charity muggers first please authorised or not they are far more annoying.

These people are in need. It should not be illegal to ask for help.

I live in the city centre and in the evenings it is rare to walk around without encountering beggars. It is a very sad situation but some are drunk or high. Others refuse offers of water or food. Some can be quite intimidating. This proposal may encourage some to seek services and encourage people to give to homeless charities rather than to the homeless community directly.

Homeless, Big Issue sellers, bona fide charitable collectors fine, chuggers not fine.

I am concerned that the limited geographical restrictions to the proposal will just push out these undesirable behaviours to other parts of the city not covered by the proposal. The proposal should cover the entire city.

I have witnessed tourist alighting from coaches being asked for money. not a great introduction to the city.

Again, this needs to be carefully considered. How do we help these people rather than penalise them? Rather than just moving them on they need to be given support to help them help themselves. Easier said than done, i know. We need to reduce the causes of begging not just the symptoms.

I also wonder if fining someone who may not be able to afford it will help the situation? Surely this could put them further into debt or poverty. Is there a different way to deter people?

Your definition here is vague to say the least, but I believe our homeless community have a right to request support from those less fortunate than them. This shouldn't be done in a 'hard-sell' way and other than on one occasion, I have never seen it. I have never seen threats used or violence inferred. This is another inhumane example of Exeter's vain attempts to gentrify itself.

This proposal should include approaches from charity "ambassadors" collecting subscription donations.

Once again, another anti-homeless policy. There are a few beggars who are overly aggressive but most are not. And they will not stop. So you will be criminalising vulnerable people.

Yes. It is unpleasant to see people with no home being in the degrading position of having to ask strangers for change. But, with no home, they can get no support, JSA, Disability Living Allowance or access to the majority of support services to change their situation.

Not pleasant but they have no alternative. Criminalising it does not solve it.

This is called begging, and I thought was illegal. Has this law, or bye-law, been rescinded?

This is very vaguely worded, you could equally apply this to someone collecting for a charity. "impliedly requested by conduct" - what does this mean? Does standing on a street corner imply this? Does sitting down on the street imply this? I thought the council already had measures to stop begging. Again criminalising this activity doesn't help the homeless.

I've never felt pressurised by the people who beg in Exeter. I work on Sidwell Street and there are often people begging there and it doesn't bother me. I think the public should be able to choose if they wish to give money to people begging rather than making it an offence to do so.

This is sometimes the only way people have of feeding themselves or their children. Aren't you ashamed that the UK is treating people like this?

Everyone has the right to say no to these people, its a simple answer and does not need to be policed. Maybe when some of the tiny percentage of homeless become aggressive or verbally abusive should anything be done. The majority of the time its a simple yes or no answer. But again the money used to police this could go towards the people who are having to beg for money for food.

Totally unenforceable. Busking is an unregulated activity and by legal precedent does not constitute begging.

I do not condone begging, but a bye-law banning it cannot be right without something being offered to help those with no source of income out of that position?

People have a right to beg and those approached are, like the rest of us capable of saying "no" without the assistance of these orders I feel that this should be restricted to repeated or aggressive requests

I would say yes on the proviso that it applies to ALL people asking, unsolicited for money including, including chuggers etc. I think it's fine for people to stand there with their signs saying what they are about what they want money but nobody at all should approach members of the public begging for money whether as individuals or as representatives of large companies.

Laws already exist regarding threatening or abusive behaviour. I have no problem with someone asking me for something as long as I am free to respond as I wish, including not engaging with them.

As stated about bedding - should we then let people starve????

Another attack on the poorest and most vulnerable in society. No care or compassion here.

It is already an offence to beg in the street; we do not need another pointless and unnecessary law; the existing law should be enforced!

I would prefer to live in a society where such requests were not even necessary. Do we live in a society where there is no hunger, poverty, homelessness etc? No we do not. Prohibiting such things does not negate the issue of their presence.

You have no right to stop people begging. Only if they are harassing or intimidating others and occasioning complaints should they be stopped.

This Proposal oppresses the powerless

I have lost count when going to church early on a Sunday morning how often I'm asked for money, the most so far is five times. I always refuse but on one occasion was followed to a cash machine and felt intimidated so didn't get out the cash I needed.

Criminalising polite begging so poverty becomes less visible just makes it easier for us to become more callous about the poor

Criminalize begging. Excellent idea, perhaps we can lock up the majority of those working for "institutions" in the city first.
Does proposal 4 apply to poppy sellers? So called "chuggers"? Barring harassment, I don't see why people should not be allowed to request money.

Where else can homeless people get money? They will starve without.

Passive begging is acceptable. Sat with a sign for example. Asking verbally is not. This should equally apply to canvassers
The fact that begging makes those of us who have no need to beg uncomfortable is not good ethical grounds to ban it.

Begging may sometimes feed a habit of course but:

- 1) taking away begging as an income source forces people to turn to more desperate means
- 2) can you really blame someone for turning to drugs/alcohol in such desperate circumstances?
- 3) the 'your kindness can kill' campaigns to stop people donating to beggars don't actually result in people donating to homeless charities in different ways so homeless people still need it as an income source
- 4) not all beggars are just alcoholics - it is a legitimate income source e.g. to pay the £25 a week for a night shelter

WHY DONT YOU STUPID PEOPLE COME INTO THE REAL WORLD IF YOU DARE. Begging was going on before the days of Dickens ~ leave these people only
don't be ridiculous

A [person without money obviously needs help so should be able to ask for financial help.

What a terrible world we live in when we should each be afraid to ask for some help when we most need it, and how arrogant that we should decide to whom we are allowed to show some charity and those we should shun! Would a hungry child not be allowed to beg? Again shame on you.

Similar to sleeping in the streets, I don't think that anyone begging in the streets is doing it for pleasure. If people don't want to give, they don't have to, but you cannot ban people for trying to survive.

There is already sufficient legislation to deal with this.

Begging would not occur if we lived in an unoppressive society. Exeter City Council is colluding with such oppression by adopting punitive measures.

A polite request for help from someone in need should not be criminalised. An offer of help should not land someone in trouble.

The proposal does not distinguish between quiet polite requests and aggressive begging.

Does this cover charities asking for money. It looks like it does

Every member of the public has the right to say no, if they are not being aggressive it should be our decision whether to give or not, not anyone else's

This would prevent busking, charity collections etc.

What else should they do for money? Consider reassessing the way benefits are delivered.

the homeless community in Exeter are often very respectful and have in my near 30 years never caused me any problems or concern.
If you can provide a network to support these people whereby money is collected and distributed evenly amongst them then I can support this cause.

Disgusting

Simply asking for change is not illegal, and can be someone's only method of finding income.

See comment for proposal 3.

I agree with this proposal as it constitutes harassment and can be quite upsetting

The proposal should not proceed.

This could have a direct impact on a number of activities.

Buskers, Morris dancers, Street performances of all types.

How can you prosecute someone for implying something? That is not concrete enough to be an offence.

Human beings asking each other for assistance should not be a crime.

Any aggressive approaches, or harassment, is unacceptable.

if a person's benefits have been sanctioned or stopped how are homeless and vulnerable people meant to survive, if you take away this avenue of revenue you will see an impact in petty crime

Can this please apply to the excessive number of charity collectors and their buckets and pamphlets. A blight on our city.

Although I understand that on occasion begging can be aggressive, the vast majority of the time the homeless and begging cause no 'antisocial' problems.

Again, banning begging is not the solution - please support the homeless people in our communities rather than condemning them.

We shouldn't be trying to deal with homelessness by making people disappear by forcing them off the streets, they are people who should be helped by society, not ignored.

Demanding money with menaces should not be allowed. In other circumstances there are always the words 'Sorry, no'

They wouldn't be doing it if they had another option.

I thought there were already laws about begging, why are they not being used?

These people are desperate and have the right to ask for help, including asking for money.

Asking or using a sign is not offensive as long as there is no threat or attempt at physical aggression

I have no specific views on this.

I don't much like begging, and generally don't give to beggars. However in this time, where a person with mental health problems could easily find themselves without any income, or state benefits, one has to ask how people in this situation are supposed to afford to eat?
My concern would be that if you criminalise, and strictly police begging, you may just be pushing the homeless towards theft, or other more serious crimes, in order to feed themselves.

People have to live. If they feel they need to ask for money to survive who are we to judge them? There but for the grace of any higher power go you or I. It is unchristian to criminalise people's needs often brought about through no fault of their own.

I am regularly harassed for money in the city centre, and this has got gradually worse over the past 6 years that I have lived in this area. This must be particularly intimidating for older people or those with young children. There are often people soliciting for money near bank cash machines which again can be particularly aggressive and intimidating.

Somebody begging for money will not be able to pay any fine you impose without even more begging.

You are restricting freedoms that punish too broad a range of people.

This would only move begging into other areas.

I think a distinction needs to be made between passive and aggressive begging, i.e. sitting quietly with a hat or approaching passers-by.

I agree but PLEASE DON'T criminalise members of the general public who are happy and willing to freely give money, food or a hot drink to anyone,

The term "impliedly requested by conduct" feels too open to misinterpretation.

Begging is not a criminal act. Homeless people need a source of income. People can decide for themselves whether they wish to donate any money.

Allow individuals to make choices about whether to respond to requests for charity....do we really need a nanny state?

There have always been poor people reliant on the generosity of others. . If you prevent the public presence of poverty you create an illusion that there is no poverty and this allows society to distance itself from the reality and from taking responsibility to tackle the underlying issues

The State should provide adequate protection and food for the homeless. People should not have to beg. I don't think people do 'need' to beg in this Country, yet...

Begging can be distressing and can make people violent. It should not be allowed.

Begging is illegal. This has been an issue for years, with the police occasionally taking a tough stance but this soon drops, as their resources dwindle, so they have to target their policing to more serious issues.

Why are we proposing criminalising the poor and homeless?

People don't beg for fun - they are desperate

Clearly they should not be in peoples gardens or private land but public spaces are less harmful. Why not open up some abandoned buildings for a homeless charity to manage? Furthermore the use of written forms, like requested for the homeless to feedback on this, is not fair as many are likely to have poor literacy skills. Try talking to them to give them a chance?

It's begging. It is an offence. No need to duplicate.

Cash from begging all to often goes into the hands of the organiser, not the beggar.

Does this include Big Issue sellers? I do hope not!

Provided they aren't menacing, people should be able to ask.

many times I see people on the streets, who are courteous, polite and good humoured. If I choose to give my money to them, what has that to do with anyone else. Again, please be aware some of these people are living on very little. I understand that some are taking advantage, and yes should be stopped, but how do you know who is in genuine need and who is not?

we cannot just throw the baby out with the bath water and treat everyone the same, again, let the people suggesting this try living in the streets for a week or so. Perhaps they could come up with some more inventive options than to just put in a blanket decision for everyone.

Again, terrible. Take a long hard look at yourself.

This again unfairly targets the homeless, asylum seekers and people with mental health problems. Often these people have been unable to work and denied benefits. Rather than criminalisation, it would be more beneficial to operate a system in which people could engage in meaningful activity which would allow them to earn money. Being homeless or having to sleep rough is not a lifestyle choice for the majority of people.

<http://centrepoin.org.uk/>

If someone has no money why would criminalising them make for a better society? We would be punishing people for ending up on hard times. If some people are begging for the "wrong" reasons then equally some are literally that desperate and they don't deserve our wrath.

If people want to beg for money it's fine by me.

Repeat what you did last year regarding giving money to charities instead. A couple of secure collection boxes at either end of the high street might work well.

Again this is hard, if people genuinely need money thats different. My experience is that most people are begging to buy drugs or alcohol. I wish people would give food or hot drinks.

On another note I am very concerned about the lack of appropriate substance misuse services for this group. I know they are hard to engage but that doesnt mean we shouldnt try, they need to see workers regularly, assertive outreach, to take the time to build relationships. As they dont turn up to appts then they dont get seen, this really isnt good enough and has to change

Begging, when undertaken due to extreme poverty/homelessness, and without any threatening behaviour, is, in my opinion, an essential lifeline.

To say to someone living on the streets it's illegal to beg for money is very unethical. It threatens to make the homeless suspicious of authority figures, put them into debt (written off if you're bankrupt, but not homeless?) and means that the poor cannot save to get themselves out of poverty, or even just to eat.

Furthermore unemployment/homelessness is a complete waste of someone's potential and deprives the government of much needed income and council tax.

So again, instead of criminalising the poor for asking for help, the council should approach the homeless with one clear message - 'you are not going to have to sleep on the streets a moment longer. Come with me to get a warm meal, clean clothes and shelter.' Then later... 'here is a long term home for you and help getting a job'.

Once a person is in work again, the help can gradually be reduced and they can stand on their own feet again.

That surely should be the objective.

This again clearly targets homeless people.

See previous comment

Although I understand that it can be annoying to be asked for money in the street, it is not done aggressively and, again, we are taking away the chance of someone less fortunate than ourselves to find sustenance.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is world in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate's court hearings and the mixing up of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals rather than creating a new criminal offence.

This measure as currently worded would also criminalise 'unauthorised' busking because playing an instrument or singing on the street could be construed as an implied request for money. This is an absurd outcome, conflating a cultural activity which brings enjoyment and colour to the public spaces of a city, with a criminal, antisocial activity. It would lead to scarce public resources being directed towards the prosecution of people playing music on the street. It is contrary to Home Office advice on the use of Antisocial Behaviour legislation and is also likely to be an infringement of Article 10 rights to Freedom of Expression under the Human Rights Act. It is fundamentally misconceived.

Is that intended to include the quite well-funded folk who ask me to support some charity? - or subscribe to some TV channel? - that is certainly soliciting money. Or is intended to apply only to the already poor and disadvantaged?

Sitting with a hat, or even saying: Got any change? is an irritation, but it is in my experience totally non-violent and non-threatening. More aggressive approaches certainly should be discouraged. I have experienced them only from the more well-heeled elements.

The reference to requests 'implied by conduct' is overly broad, and could include cases where no request is in fact intended, or where no nuisance or discomfort to the public results from the request. The requirement for permission from owners or others with an interest in land is an unwelcome privatisation of public space - in a vibrant, welcoming and open city, activities such as busking and street theatre should be welcomed as traditional uses of public open space, and not hemmed in by licenses and permits. People don't have to give if they don't want to. As long as they are polite when asking and do not get stroppy if people don't give them anything.

Although we are all pestered by beggars sometimes, the majority of them are not aggressive, confrontational or a nuisance. There are so many reasons for people asking for money on our streets - I find paid charity collectors much more intimidating sometimes than beggars. To pass this ruling would surely put an end to charity collections, buskers (who have long been commended for giving the city centre atmosphere and character) and Big Issue vendors.

Some beggars are genuinely homeless, possession-less, hungry and cold. Some beggars are professional and masquerading as homeless. There are already laws in place to deal with the type of beggar who accosts people. Proposal 4 will not alleviate the problem of fraudulent beggars but will adversely affect many people who have a genuine need to ask for money.

Poverty is not a crime and if there is nothing else they will beg.

To remove the right to ask for help is indefensible.

This happens to me daily on my walk to work

I understand that some people coming into our country are led to believe begging is not only tolerated but condoned, obviously this is wrong.

Again, for that the person be given to an institution that helps them to be on their feet again.

We need to find better ways of raising money and systems to address their needs, rather than leaving individuals to have to beg. I've been homeless but have never begged for money, but I've stolen a lot. I am aware of organised crime in this area, but sometimes they just want the money to get home.

Again this measure is clearly designed to place the needs of landowners and business owners over the needs of those in our city who are currently experiencing extreme hardship. I refer you to me my previous comments.

From time to time the council has put up signs to discourage people from giving to people begging - there has been a place for cash donations to be made and these donations we assume are managed by the council/agencies.

On one occasion a thick-set middle-aged man sitting on the corner of our street asked me firmly for money. I said WHY? He said because he hadn't any money for food. I said WHY? He said he hadn't got a job. I said WHY? He then screamed abuse at me calling unrepeatable names. But it was interesting to see that he had absolutely no defense for his begging - there are jobs. He was fit and able. Begging was his life-style choice - not mine.

The behaviour can often be very aggressive which as a woman I find very intimidating. There are charities and agencies who provide lots of help and we as volunteers contribute our time and money - but having demands made of one -- particularly in e.g. a car park or in a one-2-one situation - is scary.

Yes, I do agree that begging is problematic. It can be intimidating for pedestrians, even if not intended as such.

I cannot agree with a proposal to criminalise begging. Only begging in a specifically aggressive manner should be against the law. again I have mixed feelings - given our current welfare/service cutbacks, there may not be public services available to help people in genuine need at short notice, and provided people only ask for money in a polite manner, I would not wish to make this illegal. If the current law prevents aggressive/intimidatory begging, as I believe it does, then I am not sure this extra power is needed, though I appreciate the argument that it is better to deal with it through this power rather than through a criminal prosecution.

Many beggars are drug addicts. To prevent them from begging will only drive them to a life of crime.
Begging should be allowed but the police should be allowed to move the beggar on if necessary.

Busking should not be classified as begging. A good musician offers his art and the public voluntarily pay for it.

Someone who cannot play very well will not make much, if any, money so we can say that to an extent the quality of music in busking is self-regulatory.

A beggar with a tin whistle is not a busker, is not a genuine musician. Let us not confuse the two.

People have the right to say 'no' when a request is made, as is their right. I am not somebody who gives to those who solicit in public. I have lived in cities and countries where this activity/problem is much more rife and obvious. Exeter does not have this 'problem'.

I never give money because it will be spent on drugs and drink, and I do not want to keep the rich drug barons rich! I would buy food/milk if required.

Allow more licenced street vendors to improve the vibrancy of the local high street. Remove unlicensed beggars.

Again this should only be under a wider public nuisance basis not fee to be applied under the personal powers and unsubstantiated judgement of an authorised person or from the complaints of just a few people. People have a natural right to a way of living that is not a nuisance to the vast proportion of others who can feel sorry for someone without the resources to live. Many of these people have mental health difficulties, nowhere to live and need help not sanctions.

I would start with bright-house. Who make unwarranted requests for 99/9% APR money advertised without said APR on local busses. I don't like being begged at, but I don't see any aggressive begging.

Like proposal 3, this seems to be targeted at homeless or otherwise impoverished people who in many cases have little choice but to ask for handouts on the streets. I would agree that people who are identified as scammers, collecting for a charity without permission, or being overly forceful in attempting to persuade others to give money should be considered in breach of a PSPO order and would support a proposal to this effect. However I am concerned that in its current form proposal 4 could be used to disproportionately target rough sleepers.

Whilst there are individuals who beg on the streets, I have never felt pressured or threatened by them and if I say I don't have any spare change they don't become threatening, but rather wish me a good day. Criminalising this behaviour will only increase the poverty and desperation of these people, who need our help.

I take this to mean begging. Again completely the wrong attitude to take with this issue. I don't particularly like being approached by strangers for money but if this were to be illegal, I fear other crimes such as shop lifting will increase.

So the homeless can't even ask for help? Help that myself, and many others, are happy to give when we're able. They are not a nuisance, and this isn't an issue in Exeter that needs dealing with.

If they don't have a job or any money, how else can it be expected for them to raise the 20p they need to use the toilet?

I don't like the term 'perpetrator'. I do like the council advice not to give money to beggars.

I will give money to a homeless person if I feel them to be genuine, for example people not begging, people sleeping outside at night - not those outside of clubs and beside cashpoints at peak 'going out' times.

If this is made illegal, I think that those begging who are not homeless will be deterred and those genuinely homeless will actually receive more help. They do not need to ask.

I would support this, especially if it's applied to chuggers (people collecting for charity), street vendors, shop assistants etc.

Too widely drawn, could very easily be applied to valid street collection which the police don't have time to authorise and seem to have abandoned the process in many towns. Certainly any 'valid' busker standing in the street has 'impliedly requested by conduct' otherwise why would they be there. Poorly drafted and too general. We should not accept that these widely drawn provisions will always be neatly and tidily applied only to the situations where some sort of consensus applies to suggest there is nuisance.

Same comments as 3.1. Beggars should not be specifically targeted by fines which they obviously cannot pay. They should be helped through rehabilitation and retraining as well as temporary or semi-permanent accommodation to get them off the streets.

Refer to my answer in proposal 3.

See Q3.1

Same old, same old faces. Regular beggars.

Like that the library has introduced suspended coffee scheme, more of these would be helpful. A section of the troublesome community have no wish to be helped, are rude and abusive and very intimidating.

I do find begging annoying, though rarely threatening, and think it should be discouraged. I rarely experience it in Exeter, but would not want it to reach the level in European tourist cities. However, this needs to be seen against a context in which benefit sanctions & other harsh national policies mean that some people are left at times with no legal access to money. I would hope the policy will be implemented in a sensible way, as a basis for warning people and engaging them with support rather than just as enforcement, piling up unpayable fines.

I am not bothered by this, if I have money I give it to someone who needs it.

Who defines what is intimidating, harassing, alarming or causing of distress? These are very subjective experiences.

Provision already exists to control street begging and I do not see why additional measures are needed

get rid of poverty - then you can ask people to stop begging!

This is too unclear for me to respond with a yes or no. If someone is actively being a nuisance to others when begging then this needs to be addressed, but if someone is out on the street, homeless and desperate and harmless, they need help, not to be treated as a criminal.

1. how can this rule be enforced? How can you fine someone with nothing £100? Where are they going to get that money from?

2. It is immoral to criminalise poverty.

3. Homelessness and poverty are growing rapidly. Criminalising them does not solve them. Perhaps the public should be confronted with these very real problems.

I'm particularly concerned that these orders have a direct affect on rough-sleepers; these are a very disadvantaged group that we should be trying to ameliorate their day to day life not adding more obstacles.

Also how would a rough-sleeper pay these fines?

Is it possible to differentiate between 'begging' and 'aggressive begging' or threatening behaviour?

Young people are easy prey. I was: youth in a panic rushed up to me and said he urgently need £x to get to Tiverton because his car had broken down. I was in a hurry and helped the young man.

A month or so later, the same youth approached me (I was formally dressed for an engagement so he didn't recognise me) tried the same trick. I expressed great shock and pity for his broken down car - where was it? I could have a look as my husband was a mechanic. No said the lad, he just needed to get home as it was his father's car. No problem, sez I. I am with the AA. I have my card in my handbag. I'll call them now. What's the car registration number? Needless to say all I got in response was 'F... off, you old bitch'. Charming. I called the police, and trailed the youth along Queen Street, up into Northernhay Gardens (where he turned his jacket inside out to define the description given to the police). I rang in the changes... They may have caught up with him - but if not, I hope that my quiet persistence which exposed him might make him think twice next time.

We have a lot of issues with begging in the street - maybe as we have a lot of hostels and drug dealers have also particularly targetted our area. Again my comments re resources to enforce the proposal are necessary.

Ditto Prop 1

As for the previous question, this is demonising people who are homeless or struggling financially with the intention of making the issue invisible. Instead, the Council should be tackling the reasons for homelessness and poverty, and putting their resources into helping people, rather than treating them as criminals. This attempt to sweep people under the carpet to hide the problem is shameful.

I am regularly asked for money whilst walking through town. From High Street to Sidwell Street I counted 7 times last week. Some of the homeless are aggressive and actually come up to your face. It makes me feel unsafe and I actually cross the road to avoid them.

As with the rough sleeping, begging seems to have become much worst in the last 6-9months.

Expand the area.

see comments to No1

I would have said yes to this one - expect that by "implied" it would seem to include buskers as well as beggars and I do not think busking should be banned,

Also awareness campaign, even an authorised street collection, so that those that wish to help deal with the issues and problems, rather than ignore and sweep away to other parts of the city, can do so, in a way that is as effective as reasonably possible - people aren't always intimidated into giving money, some wish to and why not direct this in a better direction.

See comments for Q3

People will need to get in order to pay the fines you want to impose. If we invest more time, money and resources into helping homeless and poor people, we will see a decline in begging!

If a person asking for money is doing so, they probably have a reason. This is the issue that needs dealing with.

This is sometimes the only way that people on the streets can afford to eat. Because they have NO Fixed Abode it means that they usually can't get benefits paid to them. Most of the help that was given to them has disappeared due to lack of funding, so how else are they going to support themselves?

gain, can be a bit heavy handed - what does "implied" mean and could effect buskers who add to the urban scene.

The stated aim of this proposal is, according to the FAQs sheet and other associated documents, to "deter begging." As such, the very aim of this proposal is fundamentally flawed, making it immoral but also unworkable. This is because begging is not something you can deter someone out of. The deterrence argument is based on the assumption that an action is voluntary, that a person has a choice over doing it, and so you can scare them out of it by making increasing the penalties for doing so. Begging, however, is more or less the definition of an act that is caused by necessity. Every social commentator under the sun, save for the most extreme Social Darwinists, will concede that begging is something people do because they have to, not because they want to. As such the idea of deterring someone from begging is just as absurd as deterring someone from being poor - you can't scare someone out of either. If someone is begging in order to feed themselves, or to buy clothes, or to afford a hostel, then the threat of a fine is going to be completely meaningless to them when compared with their imminent material concerns. The unfortunate reality is that people must beg in order to survive. Even if we accept for a moment the deeply cynical idea that people sometimes beg in order to buy drink or drugs, then we will still come to the same conclusion that fines are meaningless. For somebody suffering with a serious addiction, fulfilling that addiction becomes a very real necessity, both psychologically and physically - as missing a fix can have massive health impacts, and even kill someone, who is addicted to a substance. If someone is chemically addicted to something, then fulfilling that addiction is just as much a biological necessity as eating or drinking is. As such the threat of a fine will have absolutely not impact on someone begging to fulfill an addiction.

It is also noted in the FAQs sheet that one thing the proposal specifically seeks to deter is "aggressive begging." However the points raised in my previous paragraph are just as valid for this form of begging. If somebody has a begging strategy that they believe delivers better results, then regardless of how steep the penalty is, they will continue to do it because they believe its more effective and fulfilling their material needs. If you need £3 for a meal, and you think that being more upfront in your approach is more likely to get you that money, then you'll do it regardless of the hypothetical consequences.

My final point is not so much a criticism of the proposal, but more of the appalling worded FAQs sheet - which I really think needs to be reviewed. In this sheet it is suggested that one of the problems with begging is that it can cause a shop to lose trade. This is deeply worrying.

I don't know what it says about our society when we consider homelessness not as an appalling reminder of the failings of our society, and as an ill which should blight the consciences of all of us who have warm homes to go to, but rather in terms of its negative impact on business. Politics is often seen as the process of ameliorating two opposing interests, however the right of a homeless man or woman to feed themselves is surely of incomprehensibly more significance than the right of a business to make a profit for its shareholders. Who needs that pound in your pocket more? The CEO of Boots? Or the homeless man sitting outside it? It is morally reprehensible to be considering homelessness in terms of its impact on the most affluent. Homelessness should be dealt with as an issue in its own right and any inconvenience it causes to the rest of society should act as an intensive for us to make it a thing of the past - not brushed aside with only its superficial effects on the rest of society being seen as problem.

I think you have to be pretty desperate to ask strangers for money. I would like to see a proper safety net for those in dire need. If someone asks me for money I give it and feel grateful that neither myself or family members are in that position.
are we going to have more publicity about the fact that some beggars are not really in need to try to put people off giving them money?
Again, I found this difficult to decide on, knowing that there are some people in desperate need who often have personal and (mental) health problems. If begging becomes impossible will such people really receive the help they need? Also, there is always the likelihood that beggars will simply move to areas not covered by the PSPO. The city centre may be 'cleansed' but won't the problem simply move to areas that are currently not affected?

yes a good idea. It is worth considering giving powers to Authorised Agents.

I would agree if the council provided food and permanent shelter to anyone who needed it so that begging was unnecessary.
The City Council must flag this problem up nationally so that rough sleepers/ homeless people have adequate funds for day to day needs. In other words every effort must be made to prevent people from bouncing in and out of basic benefits.
If there were enough soup kitchens or places for homeless people to go to be able to get a meal, whether hot or cold, whether free or at a reduced rate, then they should not need to beg. It is up to the local council, or charitable organisations, to provide adequate places for homeless people to be able to go and sleep or eat.

If I want to give money I will, if I don't I wont.

I was born in Heavitree and have lived continuously in or near Exeter for the last quarter of a century. This is simply not an issue here. Yes, I have often encountered beggars, but I have never been harassed by one in any meaningful sense of the word. Simply asking for money is not harassment. The proposed remedy would make the City Council an object of anger and contempt, and since this is my own City Council I am very eager that this should not happen. Exeter City Council has in the past shown a kind of open malice towards homeless people, asylum-seekers and refugees, but I had thought those bad attitudes had long since disappeared. Apparently I was wrong. This is dismaying.

This will negatively affect the most vulnerable people in our society. These people need help rather than being victimised and persecuted.

The acts of persecution and discrimination of the minority and vulnerable groups are abhorrent and comparable to some of the measures introduced by the Nazi Party before the Second World War.

Mahatma Ghandi said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Based on this quote, if these proposals are introduced, this Nation would be quite distant from greatness.

Yes - The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food. The proposal is worded in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. I do believe this is a very un-Christian thing for a council to be proposing and again is very worrying - spiralling these poor people into further debt and despair! And I rather like to hear buskers on our streets - especially if their quite good - I think these proposals are going too far and trying to turn the city into a sanitised barren wasteland!

I am shocked at what a cruel world we live in. You are proposing to turn on our most vulnerable. I haven't got much money, but was happy to give £1 (yes, just £1) to someone who had nothing.

Its not hard to say no if you do not want to give money or as most people do walk by. The real problem is that Exeter does not want to face up to the fact that the poor will always be with us. The citizens of Exeter deserve the choice to give or not to give. Not to have these people airbrushed out of sight. Like the Jews.

Begging for money might well be the homeless persons only means of buying food.

Vagrancy laws cover this.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is world in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

How do expect homeless people to get money to eat? Do you want them to steal, or starve?

I'm tired of filling out this form, but don't let that lessen the impact of my disappointment in this council for bringing forward legislation which targets the most vulnerable.

Regardless of the fact that there is some consensus that giving money to people who are begging is not a very effective way to help people who are homeless, the use of these powers would result in increased impediments, e.g. a criminal record or a fine, to people who, let's not forget, have already been reduced to begging. Plus the ability to intimidate using the threat of these powers could lead to emotional abuse.

Unless you are going to include all people, such as charity workers and people selling things this is grossly unfair and seeks to criminalise the homeless

Use the law, if appropriate, but many people wish to donate to homeless people because they recognise their poverty and distress.

Provide outreach workers to work with homeless people to enable them to be supported both now and in their housing.

It can be done because it has been done.

i am wary about the concept of implied request for money and fear it may be open to interpretation and so be used to harass vulnerable people

Does this apply to charities? Or to children asking for donations for their Guy before 5 November?

I'll agree to this proposal when it also applies to shop-owners and Council Tax bailiffs.

I know under the vagrancy act it is illegal to 'beg', but what choice do they have? There but for the grace of god go we all! The vast majority of homeless people are ex-service personnel. If we looked after them better on discharge they would not be driven to take such drastic action. People with Mental Health issues are often driven onto 'the streets', as are many men due to marriage breakdown or loss of job. Before you judge them, put yourself in their position for a moment and ask yourself what you would do. The possibility is just around the corner for so many people.

Should contain an exemption for busking, whether musical or theatrical, unless the person(s) is/are threatening or clearly under the influence of some substance and might thereby represent a danger to themself or others

The police already have adequate powers to deal with begging under the Vagrancy Act. Once again, it is wrong to extend these powers to Council officials, who could simply notify the police if begging was deemed to be against the public interest. This proposal would also effectively outlaw busking, where performers often invite passers-by to make a donation, without any aggression or duress.

I thought this was dealt with by existing law. Again too much power could be placed in the hands of potentially untrained individuals.

Again this affects those most vulnerable and is heavy handed an open to abuse. Use existng legislation.

If they do not have an address, they cannot claim social welfare. Unless the council advocates theft/burglary, I fail to see how they get any money with which to feed themselves

Another all embracing idea which in fact has already solutions in place relating to public order

If homeless people are claiming benefits then i agree they should not be asking people for money. If they have no access to benefits, on the other hand, "Spare a bit of change love" is not really intimidating. The giving of alms to the poor has always been part of British history and it doesn't hurt those that have to be challenged to help those that have not. If people begging on the street is an embarrassment, and it should be, then deal with the root causes instead of further punishing already marginalised people. Anyone of us could find ourselves in that situation and the line is getting finer.

Begging is inevitable when benefits payments are refused or take weeks to process. Everyone has the right to eat and drink.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is world in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate s court hearings and the mixing up of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals rather than creating a new criminal offence.

This measure as currently worded would also criminalise unauthorised busking because playing an instrument or singing on the street could be construed as an implied request for money. This is an absurd outcome, conflating a cultural activity which brings enjoyment and colour to the public spaces of a city, with a criminal, antisocial activity. It would lead to scarce public resources being directed towards the prosecution of people playing music on the street. It is contrary to Home Office advice on the use of Antisocial Behaviour legislation and is also likely to be an infringement of Article 10 rights to Freedom of Expression under the Human Rights Act.

It is fundamentally misconceived.

Any person, whether vagrant or just 'ordinary persons' should have the right to merely 'ask' another person for something. And that other person can always simply say "no" to the request, so it is not a problem to merely ask.

Distinguish between professional beggars that have accommodation and benefit and those whose only means of survival is begging. As long as they are not asking in a confrontational or threatening manner and obstructing people from going about their usual business they should be allowed to merely enquire

Sometimes people have no choice. As long as they are not harassing others for money, there is no harm done.

Most homeless people now are unable to claim any benefits as their situation often prevents them from "actively seeking work". How can one adequately attend interviews, present oneself smartly dressed and washed if they have nowhere to live and bathe? These people have nothing! Would you rather they just left town and quietly died? It seems like this is a problem you would rather not have to address in any kind of humane fashion.

Up to members of the public to decide, not the law. I like giving money to buskers, they add to the atmosphere of the city centre, which is so uniform, characterless and bland without them. And I am always struck by the fact that homeless people with all their problems still find it in them to give you a "god bless" or a "have a nice day" even when you do not give them anything.

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I am not confident this will not simply persecute people who are already seriously in need of more help

I have absolutely no objection to giving money to a homeless person or other vulnerable person who asks for money, and I am sure that many people feel the same. Speak to the person, and you find that they are typically normal people who have fallen on hard times and unfortunate circumstances. This proposed provision aims to criminalise such people - it is completely misguided. The Council and the Police should use existing legislation to focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour. For homeless and other vulnerable people, the Council should liaise with relevant charities to increase help to such people, instead of imposing (unrealistic) fines on them for doing what they need to do to survive.

the definition is too wide

Why should we be allowed of the hook for our failure to address problems in our society?

I am appalled that a Labour council is considering putting a policy in place which legalises the abuse of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. These people need our help. They are not criminals. There are plenty of laws already in place to deal with aggressive or violent behaviour. Begging or "appearing to beg" is not a criminal offence in this country and to make them subject to sanctions in this manner is reminiscent of the policies put in place in Germany under the Nazis.

For some it's their only source of income and as long as I'm not being harassed I have no problem with asking for change.

Again, this is victimising and criminalising some of the most vulnerable people on the fringes of our society. I cannot imagine how demeaning it must be to have to beg for money. This is not a lawless get-rich-quick scheme, this is predominantly a last resort for a few pounds and pence to eat and survive. I am fully in support of people being allowed to beg in a time of need.

You are trying to ban a form of human interaction. Asking for money is not a crime. You can say no. This proposal is utterly absurd. Being asked for money from a homeless person is no more distressing than being harassed by charity fund-raisers on the street who are can be much more intimidating and forceful albeit it with a veneer of cheer.

Why did we fight two world wars to free us from oppression when our own authorities serve it up?

Again, people rarely beg through choice. I do not want to live in a society which criminalises people who are destitute.

Some people are easily frightened and the proposal is too vague

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I don't believe criminalizing begging solves the problems of addiction and other antisocial problems and I believe it will increase street crime. I believe Exeter should concentrate on antisocial behaviour that relates to a genuine risk of harm to the public, and that it should focus on behaviour which is dangerous intimidating or threatening. Some beggars can be intimidating and aggressive but most I have encountered have been polite and courteous. There is a greater problem with aggressive behavior among those residents of Exeter who have enough money to get very drunk in the pubs and clubs and then be abusive and intimidating late at night in large groups, these people who do that are not beggars.

Sometimes buskers and street performers have little skill others can enliven some areas, anyone who believes that they have a skill have a right to perform to entertain the public and should be allowed to ask for something in return for the entertainment. There more resources put in to drug and alcohol treatment, this would mean that street performance would be of a higher quality as those who are just performing to support addictions would feel less need to do so

Only aggressive begging needs to be an offence. When you are desperate you need help, not punishment.

I think it is very presumptuous of Exeter City Council to tell me that I cannot choose whether, or not, I give money to people who are effectively begging. I work pay taxes, council tax etc and will spend my money how I choose.

Does this include busking, for example? Is that to be made a crime now? For Christ's sake, who wrote this lot? If someone's begging and you don't want to give them money, ignore them. If they are hassling people, then it's a different matter, but this proposal says nothing about that.

A disgusting lack of humanity demonstrated in this proposal. Think what would drive a person to degrade themselves in that manner - absolute desperation.

Begging is not a choice, and punishing it will achieve nothing other than to cause vulnerable people greater suffering.

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Many talented artists have developed their musical and creative talents by having busking opportunities. We need spaces for our creative to develop their abilities. Busking can add positively to the character of Exeter.

Please err on the side of caution. Gifted individuals don't all have the best start in life. All need the space to find their own roads to success.

Unless aggression is used or implied then such people would seem not to be harming anyone.

If I want to give money or goods to someone, that's my choice. If someone else chooses not to, that's theirs. "Implicit" begging is far too difficult to enforce and, again, leaves the homeless open to mistreatment.

The proposal, as it stands, is vague and either, unenforceable or open to misinterpretation (how would you describe 'implied by conduct'?). You could end up with many spurious accusations! No doubt a homeless person, not speaking, sitting quietly but with a cardboard sign saying 'Homeless' is exactly the person fitting this description.

Again, it's a prohibition policy aimed from a gun barrel pointing firmly downwards at the poor, marginalised and vulnerable in society. Even if the target are sophisticated charlatans, this convenient blunderbuss approach ensures the poor are caught in the blast. What, really are you trying to do here? If people are being relieved of their money illegally then its either theft or fraud and there are laws to deal with that. If people are being asked for money by someone who has none or very little, there will be an uncomfortable moment for both of them. The person being asked to donate still has a choice to give or not but, please, don't criminalise the one making the request.

If someone needs money, I give it. I have never had any trouble from 'beggars' - it doesn't help to call them 'perpetrators' - and have found them very polite. Begging doesn't bring in much money, and none of us would like to do it.

If you can't sign on because you don't have an address what are you meant to do? Starve?

I personally see nothing wrong in street entertainment whilst I am strolling around a City or town, I think it adds character to a place providing the public aren't getting hassled to give money. And nothing obscene is happening or no swearing is taking place

Most people don't like overt begging but the wording of this proposal seems to outlaw things such as busking or other entertainments.

Plenty of other people asking for money (chuggers). Are they also to be banned?

Begging is possibly a minor inconvenience to some. I manage to live with the knowledge that there are many people worse off than me. I do what I can to help if I want.

Whoever is proposing these measures is finding problems where they don't exist.

Requests must clearly not be menacing but for many people this is their only short term hope of survival.

Since there is no option to comment on proposal 4 I must simply answer NO

People are free to give or not give money as they see fit - treat your public as adults

Some people need to beg. It's up to the passer-by to give or to refuse, not the Police.

People do not have to give money and most homeless people are so grateful for any kindness shown and especially if something like sandwiches or a hot drink is brought for them. And if they are con men or women we have still shown kindness after all Jesus who had no home once he started travelling said if you show kindness to the least important you do it for me. We cannot hope to have a greater goal than that. Only eternity will show people's true heart.

This is already the job of the police who have training for such instances.

They will starve. Some of them are already.

I don't like to see beggars on the streets of this country. I feel intimidated and embarrassed. Why are they begging? What do you propose to do with these people; no money, no home ... arrest them? fine them? gaoil them? Then what ... yes they'll end up back on the streets in the same hopeless situation.

WHY ARE THEY ON THE STREETS?

Again, homelessness will not be solved by implementing this proposal. For many homeless people this is the only way that they are able to collect together enough money for a decent meal, or a night in a shelter.

I feel people have the right to ask for help from others. I'm sure that is a freedom provided to us in this country. We also have the right to say no to that request. Harrassment or offensive behaviour, whether through the course of requesting money, drinking, sleeping or urinating are all covered under the public order act and police have powers to prevent these behaviours.

taking away peoples freedoms & controlling them by using fear tactics is negative & not at all enlightening

if the request is not creating any abuse or molest anyone there is nothing wrong with it.

'Perpetrator' is a loaded word that clearly implies wrongdoing. The wrong in such circumstances is arguably in government policy rather than in the one that has to beg in order to survive - policy that rewards incompetence in the banking sector and similar areas by giving them vast amounts of money that should properly be used to meet the needs of those who have been so badly served by that incompetence.

Although begging is not an ideal situation it has been carried out since biblical times and should not be classed as antisocial behaviour unless it falls into category 5 which in my experience in Exeter it never has. If proper support and accommodation was provided the majority of homeless people would no longer need to beg and I am sure if they had the choice they would prefer not to carry out this activity as it is demeaning for them.

how else can they survive in a money economy.?

People who beg have the right to in a world that should be able to help and protect it's people, if someone is on the street, then the people and the planet has failed them, they haven't failed us and they should not be criminalised for this.

If not done aggressively, whilst in this 1st world country there should be no poverty, I'm happy to give to people in need (and do so), why should this be outlawed?

Your proposals contradict themselves and show that there is no genuine interest on behalf of the municipality to SOLVE these problems. You don't want people sleeping on the street. If you criminalize some people's ability to gather money, where do you think they will be forced to sleep? The stupidity behind these questions is astounding.

This should be a right of people in need, who have no other way of gaining money for food and shelter. It has no harmful effect on anyone.

Although it is distressing to see people begging, how else can they get money? Sadly, any money received is often used for alcohol, or drugs! It is a social problem that needs a deeper solution,

For the moment I think people should have the right to ask for change. (I am worried that a "yes" to this could potentially be used to ban busking, and as buskers are working for their money I see nothing wrong with that.)

However, any member of the public is entitled, by free will, to offer money if they so choose.

Scenario 1. A person (with a home) is trying to catch the bus. He is 20p short, so he asks the person stood next to him for that money. Either the person gives him/her 20p, or he doesn't. Either way, this IS ALLOWED.

Scenario 3. A person (without a home) is trying to buy a sandwich in Tesco. He/she is 10p short. He asks someone for the change, and they either do or don't give it to him. Just because the person doesn't have a home, why should they be treated differently? We're all humans, and no one wants to be homeless. If people with homes don't like homeless people, why don't they try it themselves? I'm sure they will help homeless people then.

These draconian and authoritarian measures do not have public support.

This Government seem to take a lot of pleasure in stopping the benefits of as many people for practically no reason, especially the mentally ill and more vulnerable. Often these people do not know about or cannot use Food Banks and begging is the only alternative left. I help certain vulnerable street people with as much as I can afford, not only with cash but sometimes with food or clothes from a charity shop - just wish I could do more but as an OAP it is not easy.

In a civilised society we should be helping the less fortunate, not walking away and ignoring the problem and passing draconian laws to try and make it all disappear. All that will really happen is that the problem will just move somewhere else. Then what? Forcibly intern these poor people somewhere? Send them all to the Isle of Wight or somewhere?

But it should be fine for them to make passive requests for food, non alcoholic drink and other items such as toiletries, by e.g, a sign placed near where they are resting.

Better that than starve. The homeless people in Exeter are generally polite. Those of us lucky enough to be OK need to know about those that are not. Then we should take collective responsibility. You seem to want to just hide them from us. I guess this is because the commerce of this town is more important than the souls of the people living here.

It should include charity collections, and additionally not be allowed even if the owner of the property consents.

there is already provision in the law for police to deal with begging and vagrancy without giving further powers to council officials. In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is world in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate s court hearings and the mixing up of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals rather than creating a new criminal offence.

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they get little money as it is, if you don't want to give, you ignore it! I have never felt intimidated to give money in Exeter or London even.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way.

Shame on you!

People should be freely allowed to ask people for help even if that includes money.

See previous comment.

Being homeless does not make them a 'perpetrator'.

Money has been past on this was for thousand's of years, again it might be the difference between life and death. Should a homeless person receive a sandwich or a hot drink would they still be a 'perpetrator'?

I find reading this proposal extremely upsetting, never mind the fact that it may become a reality. One can only imagine that Exeter City Council have no conscience what so ever.

These people are unable to provide themselves with food and shelter. The least we can do is allow them to ask people for any change out of the goodness of their heart and allow other human beings to demonstrate their charitable and kind spirit by sparing change to help those around them.

I have NEVER been aggressively or obstructively asked for money, all those who ask are polite and kind and I have absolutely no issue with this, nor should anyone else.

This proposal has been used in other areas to intimidate and stop Buskers and street entertainers from performing. Exeter council tries to portray the city as being a centre of culture. This law flies in the face of that principle. Wording is far to ambiguous.

Existing legislation?

If those who have been driven to ask for money in public are not allowed to do so, they will be forced to engage in other, most likely criminal behaviour, in order to support themselves. The vast majority of those who ask for money in public in the city centre do so politely, are never threatening or intimidating, and do not pose a threat to other members of the public. As members of the public themselves, the council should be putting all their energies into supporting those who are begging into finding more positive and contributory roles in the community, rather than criminalising them. This will only exacerbate the problem.

This is also badly thought out. Criminalising busking is a violation of freedom of expression. Responsible buskers do not have their music too loud so as to stress neighbouring businesses and shoppers. Providing street music gives a cultural feel and character to a town/city. Furthermore buskers do not 'harass' members of the public for money. If people choose to give money, that is their individual choice. Buskers appreciate the point of view of the public. This proposal is therefore flawed and points to an attitude of prejudice by Exeter City Council.

Who is to say what begging is allowed? The city centre is littered with adverts, asking us to spend our money (and creating a consumerist culture). I would rather these were outlawed as they do far greater damage.

People do not have to give. And if someone is harassing someone else then that is already covered by proper legislation. I try to teach my children that someone begging is a wonderful opportunity for them to help. The council needs to look into it in more detail. In some cultures the most revered members of society carry a bowl and ask for alms. We had a similar position in this country with monks. Do we want people to go without?

It is not a crime to be poor and homeless any more than it is too be offended by the sight of poor people.

I agree with these proposals, especially if they can be extended to some car park operators within Exeter city limits who regularly extort consumers through combative and speculative ticket fines.

Legal remedies already exist. I am happy to be approached for such purposes.

Firstly you are preventing homeless people (that society should house) from earning any money to help them get off their feet.

Secondly you would deter street buskers from performing.

These often add tremendously to the atmosphere of a city

I understand why this measure is being included, but again it appears to be criminalising behaviour which is mostly driven by necessity and desperation. People may not like seeing others begging and may dismiss it as being a 'lifestyle choice', but it reflects a very real problem in our city. Criminalising this behaviour won't solve the problem, it will just move it somewhere else.

Aggressive begging should not be allowed, but sitting with a hat or equivalent harms no-one. If the destitute cannot beg, they may instead be forced to resort to stealing: not only would they get criminal records making it harder for them to survive legally in the future, but the immediate legal and possibly prison process would add a disproportionate cost to the public purse.

how are they supposed to eat - will the councillors feed them

The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter.

It is necessarily the fault of the person that they are so impoverished. Show some compassion please.

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Use the law as it stands or leave them alone.

Individuals should be allowed the right to be present for financial or food gain, whether implied or direct. Passers-by have the right to deny giving anything. This presence should not be allowed to include intimidating, aggressive, or harassing behaviour.

While constantly being asked for change is annoying, what would you do in that situation? Perhaps the best way to target this is to make sure everyone asking for money has authorisation such as selling papers etc.

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Most of the people I see begging look like they need help

Not clear or specific enough and could criminalise anyone including buskers.

Why are you so determined to be nasty to these unfortunate people?

How does a person pay a fine if they are having to beg in the first place? Do they beg further to pay it or even commit theft? How can the fine be upheld? This proposal seems to again be targeted at vulnerable people who need help not to be victimised.

If done in a polite manner it should not be criminalised.

If the requests for money are threatening or intimidating, the current legislation should cover this point.

"impliedly requested by conduct" is too vague and would be open to abuse.

These people have no income - first give them an income then you may stop begging.

I see no issue with people on the streets asking for money, personally in Exeter I have found those living on the streets to be very polite in their requests. These people need our help, not to be cut off from the generosity of people who may wish to help them by giving them a few pounds.

most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is worded in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate's court hearings and the mixing up of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals rather than creating a new criminal offence.

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Begging I do not agree with.

Oh my god, this is getting even worse! Just when I thought the council couldn't stoop any lower they are going to criminalise somebody who is down and out begging for money! Apart from the few and far between con artists, human beings generally don't BEG unless they NEED TO! And what's more, they will be criminalised if the "officer" believes or chooses to believe that they "look like" they are begging because they are "impliedly requesting by conduct"

If the general public don't like them begging or want to give them any money then they will just walk on past as the majority of people do anyway. It's just the council who will criminalise somebody for sitting in a public place looking down on their look because they are asking for money?!

You can choose to ignore beggars, if you so desire. There are many people out there who do help, and want to help, and in general the beggars can't choose to not need the money they are asking for.

How about the people selling the mags for the homeless

You realise they are asking for money because they are desperate and have nothing right?

It may be the persons only means of getting money for food.

Due to the manner in which our society operates, some of our most vulnerable members have no option but to beg. For as long as I have the right to refuse to give to a beggar, people MUST have the right to beg.

If you looked after homeless people they would not be begging! This will also affect those homeless busking. Another failer in the councils duty of care!

This is a personal choice, and not something that should be governed by an Authority. Members of the public are free to say no if they do not want to give, but taking away the option of asking only makes a homeless person's situation harder.

Begging is unpleasant and I would rather not see it happening. However to outlaw beggars is to add to their problems and not solve anything.

The council makes unsolicited and unwanted requests for money all the time, but the difference between the council and the homeless, is that you've already got pocketfuls of money with a nice big house and 2 holidays a year. The homeless have to beg, because when they apply for their right to claim benefit or a home to live in, they are short changed, denied access and sanctioned for breathing out of time.

As per my comments about the other proposals, any person asking for money in a manner that constitutes a criminal offence can already be dealt with by the police. Those of us who are privileged enough to have homes and jobs do not have the right to be protected from the needs of less fortunate fellow human beings. If people are uncomfortable seeing people begging, there is a good reason for that. And criminalising begging is clearly not the solution to the problem.

Firstly this outlaws busking which enriches the cultural life of our communities

Secondly people who 'beg' for money are doing so out of delegation. The 'career beggar' is a myth. Whilst it may be true that many people begging on the street are substance dependent, many are not. If our community can find no ongoing solutions for destitution, it makes no sense to criminalise those whose only faults are that they can't access conventional income streams, often for reasons of mental or physical ill health, disability etc.

The Vagrancy Act 1824 already gives Police the power to prosecute people for begging. Whilst there may be some genuine instances of aggressive and/or unpleasant begging - why can't the Police use the existing legislation instead of bringing in further powers and using additional resources.

Existing powers adequate. Under the proposed regime, what would the new powers involve and intend?

not unless it is going to include council tax charge or what ever you call it if I received an unsolicited request for that

Again, persecution of those with little or nothing.

There does not appear to be any evidence which would justify the introduction of these powers. If such evidence exists it should be produced as part of the preamble to the Councils' consultation document. Is there a massive outcry sufficient to mean new powers are needed?

The following is a "lift" from the Keep Streets Live campaign:

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It is contrary to Home Office advice on the use of Antisocial Behaviour legislation and is also likely to be an infringement of Article 10 rights to Freedom of Expression under the Human Rights Act. It is fundamentally misconceived.

this is already covered by the vagrancy act i dont feel an extension of this is necessary

is a busker making an implied request for money? how about charity collectors who are blatantly asking for money.

People proposing legal changes like this should know better than to use words like "impliedly". Learn English before putting yourself in judgement of others.

I can fully understand the desire to prohibit aggressive requests for money. However, I think that the phrasing of this prohibition is too broad, particularly with the "impliedly requested by conduct" aspect. This point relies too heavily on the subjectivity of the authorised person, and could be used to target and punish anyone who is merely sat on the street. Also, until a truly sustainable and successful solution to helping vulnerable and homeless people in Exeter exists, I do not believe they have many options for surviving which extend beyond begging.

Again this needs to be handled sensitively to avoid criminalising or harming vulnerable individuals

I do not like being asked for money by anyone, be it the homeless or charity workers but if i don't want to hand over money I won't; simple.

It is only a problem if someone is using aggressive or hard sales pitch pestering tactics; which is more commonly the tactic of a charity worker not the homeless.

Same comment as with Proposal 3. Begging/busking have been part of society since the beginning of civilization, and will continue to be so until a proper social contract is found that allows for full support or integration of the most vulnerable. Under current housing policy, and in the current economic climate, more people are likely to find themselves destitute or homeless. Criminalizing begging (which is generally a symptom rather than a cause), and trying to sweep the problem under the carpet, is no solution.

So this says that these people cannot ask for help? Whoever wrote these proposals makes me sick.

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People who ask for money, whether casually or by begging, more often than not directly need it for food and water. They're not in the same category as buskers

Although i appreciate that repeated requests can be experienced as annoying, unless the person doing the requesting is attempting to intimidate/compel the one being requested i fail to see how this could be considered an act worthy of sanction. Being an inconvenience doesnt make you a criminal and, quite frankly, such attempts to hide the realities of poverty in this country would be sinister.

There is already adequate legislation to stop aggressive begging, vulnerable people begging discretely should be allowed.

Busking gives entertainment, a good atmosphere, and a chance for musicians to earn a little cash,- let them be.

Begging is annoying and saddening, but the City must recognise that a) it is not an easy option for many destitute persons b) it can be reduced if residents refuse to give cash - but have the capacity and knowledge to direct to relevant food/shelter/advice facilities c) it is an international problem, and there is very little evidence that such legal action either suppresses it or builds the safer community to which we all aspire. This proposal focuses on the symptoms of inequality, fear and annoyance not the causes of social disintegration.

As a regular visitor and previous resident of the city, I am appalled at the divisiveness that this is creating. Seeing poor, substance dependent, homeless and often mentally ill people without supports is so much more distressing than being approached by beggars Exeter is a richer place for all its buskers and I would be extremely angry and extremely sad if you removed them. No one forces you to give them money. Exeter would become soulless and nondescript if there were no buskers...what about free licences for set pitches?

As long as there is no harrassment or threat then I believe that people have the right to ask for money, just as those asked have the right to refuse.

How else are homeless people supposed to get food and drink?

Do not existing public order laws cover begging? Just an additional way of criminalising the poor

No. This is too strict. I don't mind being asked once for money, or seeing buskers on the streets, or hats etc left out for coins, and I believe a clear distinction should be made between 'unobtrusive begging' and pressuring people in a way that causes distress to the public.

It can be very difficult for a homeless person to find employment and sometimes this is the only method of earning money to purchase food/drinks.

As a Christian and a good person I wouldn't want anyone to go hungry when I have cash to spare.

1. see my answer to 3. The person conceded may have no other way to obtain food and drink

2. I lived many years in London, saw such people very very frequently. They were invariably polite, never in any way aggressive, more likely very passive. You'll have to solve the whole problem of homelessness before you do this.

This proposal will outlaw busking which s usually a delight. And if you don't agree, walk on! Although people should not be allowed to directly approach and ask for money as the can be disturbing for people.

How can this be realistically enforced? I don't want my tax money being spent on this approach.

This again makes it a criminal offence for the homeless to ask for help and money. Provided people are not aggressive or intimidating I have no problem . In fact 'authorised' and paid charity representatives can be a lot more persistent and ask for a lot more money than a homeless person asking for a little change! They even knock on doors of the vulnerable and elderly but apparently this is ok, while a starving cold hungry person is a criminal? I really can't support that.

I have no issue with requesting money as long as it is not done aggressively or threateningly.

This is a basic human right to ask for help from other humans. Where do you draw the line? If I was stranded in the middle of nowhere and had just been mugged and I needed to ask a fellow human being for money then this proposal would prevent me from doing so. It is unrealistic to try and control people asking other people for money - how would busking work? Would that fall under the same heading. If these proposals were to be followed through they should then be applied to all in society not just homeless people which is who these proposals seem to be victimising.

If someone doesn't want to give money they can ignore them. I have never been intimidated by such people in the street

This will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is worded in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine and a court action which would be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour just make them more marginalised and isolated from society. Begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

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I have no problem with people playing musical instruments or doing anything entertaining to raise money. People who simply sit on the pavement with the hand out, or a container in front of them, are doing no harm and are unthreatening. This may be their only opportunity to raise our awareness of the fact that they need a hot drink, some food or something basic which we take for granted. No, I have no wish to see this proposal implemented.

There are already legal ways of dealing with aggressive beggars. If people busk or beg, it is because they are desperate for money. How does it make the council look, creating criminals of such people? And busking is lively and creative, and welcome on our streets. Yes, deal with anti-social behaviour, but not by demonising the poor.

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This could lead to a great deal of misunderstanding with the words impliedly by conduct being included. What about street musicians there is nothing wrong with that also there are people who do just sit and hope that someone may give them something to tide them over.

Let us not get like some South American countries where people/children just being around who are poor have nowhere to make others uncomfortable and leads to dreadful measures.

Let us look to other ways of resolving the issues of homelessness and being on the streets.

I can understand that beggars can be a real nuisance however what if a individual finds themselves with no money i.e have been robbed and have no way of getting back home unless someone helps them

I try never to walk past beggars, unless I am running for a train. I talk to them and give them at least enough for a bed for the night. Are you human? Are you humane? Do you have any religious or philosophical belief? What are you doing to help rather than punish other human beings who happen to have fallen on hard times?

This is already covered by existing laws against begging

I have not noticed 'aggressive' begging in Exeter.

I am quite happy to give food or clothes to people in need or money were appropriate and if they do not make the fact clear then we could not help people- This is not a nanny state individuals can decide if they want to give money or not. Obviously actual aggressive physical stopping of people would not be appropriate. This would stop charity workers who work on the streets of Exeter also asking people to sign up for paying money to them and actually in some cases the same charities that help homeless people

Criminalising begging is a BIG step to take and shouldn't be slipped in surreptitiously with the rest of these proposals. All civilized human societies have their beggars, and to try to sweep ours under the carpet is to deny our own reality, and to deny the majority of us the opportunity to show compassion. Powers already exist to deal with aggressive begging, and it is surely not tenable for a Christian country/city to declare non-aggressive begging as morally wrong and deserving of punishment. Also, it is hard to establish any substantive difference between begging and 'collecting' on behalf of charity; also begging and busking/street performance. On balance there is a huge moral maze around this specific proposal and it deserves a much wider debate than slipping it into these proposals.

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I am not at all persuaded that these draconian powers are necessary

Yes it is appalling that some members of this society don't have enough money to survive, whilst others have too much and pollute everyones air with their big houses and big guzzly cars. I am never offended by people who ask for spare change, only saddened that other well off people shun and ignore this plea for help.

It is an individual's choice if they wish to give their money. You have no right over what someone does with their money and punishing those who beg by fining them is incredibly ironic

Please help these people by providing much more support. There needs to be more hostels to help get them back on their feet. A life on the streets must be unbearable and I can understand why these folks beg and often spend the money on drink or drugs. It is an awful existence.

I think it is a basic right to be able to beg - people do not have to give. If you take that right away then you're denying the beggar and the giver an opportunity to experience humanity.

Those forced to beg are most often at their wits end to survive. A launch into govt. handling of benefits to young people is not appropriate here, but there can be many reasons why an individual is forced to this level of humiliation. Ludicrous penalties which cannot be paid, and the time such prosecutions will take, add to the ridiculousness of many aspects of these overall proposals.

As with Proposal 3, this proposal would criminalize behaviour which is the only available option for many vulnerable people. The provision that a request for money could be "impliedly requested by conduct" is, again, problematically open to interpretation and liable to be interpreted in a way that makes virtually any action of a homeless person, such as sitting on the pavement, an implied request.

There is also a risk that buskers could be construed as making "unsolicited and/or unauthorised request(s) for money", "impliedly requested by conduct".

Q5 (Sorry) I have was under British law you have the presumption of innocent until proven guilty. How can anyone see into the future to tell if someone is the future to see if someone is going to commit a crime. No crime no offence.

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The problem with this proposal is the wording. I agree that being hounded for money is not pleasant, but so long as it is not aggressive then I accept it, as it is the only way that some people manage to survive in this world when they have nothing and no-one else. Specifically the wording "whether expressly requested or IMPLIEDLY requested by conduct" is too ambiguous and leaves too much up to the judgement of the individual 'authority'. What does "impliedly requested by conduct" even mean? This is a very open and subjective phrase that is too open to interpretation and violation, which could result in some people being unfairly punished because of either a misunderstanding, miscommunication, or a deliberate 'misunderstanding' between themselves and the 'authorities'.

People asking for money is not an issue if they are not aggressive about it. Do we stop people collecting for charity in the streets? No. There is little difference. In fact, 'authorised' charity collectors can often be more of a disturbance than the homeless population, who rely on our kindness to, quite frankly, survive. Everyone has free speech. Everyone.

There is sufficient legislation currently to deal with this already

I have no objection to someone in desperate situations asking me for money. In fact, I willingly give people money, food or what I can-just as I am doing for refugees abroad. Are we going to be less humane to our own citizens in the UK. Does this also included people who are busking? When we visit countries on holiday we all like to hear buskers-but it's not OK in our cities. What souless places they will become!

As difficult as it is when asked for money, I think it has to be recognised just how desperate a situation one must be in to do that in the first place - I very much doubt people are doing it by choice.

You are criminalising destitution.

As far as I am aware, begging is already illegal. I don't understand what this extra rule would do. Some members of the public are willing to give money and other things to needy strangers.

It has actually happened to me that I had run out of change for a ticket machine and another person in the queue gave me 10p freely. I cannot remember if I actually asked them or not, but I have a feeling that I looked as if I was going to ask them and they pre-empted me.

This is unrealistic. These people are not going to get written consent! Some (many) of these people do not know how or are unable to claim benefits (No fixed abode is rarely accepted, people need addresses to receive money; young people are expected to live at home - so those traumatised youngsters where home has been a living hell are supposed to remain there rather than escape to live on the streets. Rarely does anyone chose to live on the streets. Have some compassion - the street dwellers need as much help as they can get - however many times they reject it.

It is a basic human right to communicate with fellow-citizens and to ask for help. Of course, it is also a right to say 'no'. The idea that the state should interfere with such conversations is not tolerable. Of course, there are existing laws that prohibit begging that is aggressive or threatening: these laws work well, and I have not detected any kind of problem in Exeter.

As I have mentioned before, I don't agree with criminalising vulnerable and homeless people. I also don't see how you can apply this to beggars and not charity collectors, as they can be just as intimidating if not more so.

There is already legislation dealing with the means by which people collect money in public spaces, so this is wholly unnecessary. Additionally, this is another example of hiding poverty and trying to resolve a problem by moving it.

The public are perfectly able to say 'no' to someone begging, or to ignore them as most do. The police already have powers under present legislation to prosecute if necessary. This is just more unnecessary powers to Council Officials.

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This is a serious coordinated attack on homeless people sleeping rough across Exeter. A person is at rock bottom when their homeless it seems Exeter City Council is promoting the kicking of these people when they are down.

The heading to this section could usefully add, after "requests for money" "or other benefits".

People are begging because they are in need. Until city councils can provide better for the homeless we shouldn't stop them.

Bi Issue sellers are working legally.

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A few people may find begging a nuisance, but the greater need is with the poor and those who are forced to beg in order to survive. Begging has been going on since time immemorial, the reason being that some people don't have any money. Councillors should be aware that, in the current circumstances and under the current government, there are many more reasons why this could be the case now. Aggressive behaviour by beggars can be dealt with via existing means; otherwise, there is nothing wrong with the activity of begging itself.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a disproportionate and manifestly unjust way. The vast majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and often destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is worded in such a way that even a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate s court hearings and the mixing up of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals rather than creating a new criminal offence.

Also just because someone does not have a house to put their possessions in does not give you the right to take them away.

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Too widely drawn ; unnecessary

There is already in place the Vagrancy Act of 1824 to deal with persons who are a real public nuisance.

Busking might also be construed as begging and yet the music adds to the culture and interest of the city.

I welcome the opportunity to give directly to beggars. I have given up donating to most "charities " as they seem to spend money on overpaid executives and fundraisers who persist in sending me mail shots with useless coaster, book marks etc. I have often given money to beggars who sit outside churches in other countries. I am not at all intimidated, but I think it is the right thing to do

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It is already illegal to beg under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police enough powers to prosecute persons for begging if it is deemed to be within the public's interest. These new measures as currently worded would also criminalise 'unauthorised' busking, playing an instrument or singing on the street could be construed as an implied request for money. I find this absolutely unacceptable, destroying a cultural activity which brings enjoyment and colour to the general public. It is contrary to Home Office advice on the use of Antisocial Behaviour legislation and is also likely to be an infringement of Article 10 rights to Freedom of Expression under the Human Rights Act

it should be less vague. If someone has a sign that is fine. Approaching strangers is wrong. But seriously if you don't like homelessness, do something about the causes not the victims.

These people are vulnerable, not criminal.

There are already adequate laws for the police to prosecute people who are begging aggressively. It would be wrong to delegate these powers to council officials. It would be easy to construe from the suggesting wording that anyone sitting on the pavements was impliedly begging. Also those who are busking could be caught by this proposal, even if their presence is considered an enhancement of the city environment. It is a waste of time and money to fine those who have so little money they are reduced to begging.

No one is ever forced to give money it's up to the person asked to decide whether to give or not, but not wrong to ask for money

Why is asking a problem, what do you expect them to do - just quietly die? The homelessness problem is perpetuated through ignorance, so this proposal will cushion ignorance further, and so the problem has been swept under the carpet and not been dealt with while you bask in a bubble! This proposal only serves to keep those in power with tighter administrative control.

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Most people who beg do so because they have no other means of obtaining money, usually because of homelessness and/or mental health problems. Furthermore, this would allow officials to prevent busking and other forms of street entertainment, such as pavement art, since that could be construed as implicitly asking for money.

Those that "beg" in Exeter do so politely. I do not see this as a problem other than it is a sad state that some people have found themselves in such a position that they have resorted to begging to get by. I would prefer that desperate individuals "beg" rather than turn to other illgal means to survive. I do not see any justification for anyone feeling intimidated by someone politely "begging".

Obviously if an individual "begs" and is abusive when doing so, then that individual need to be delt with accordingly.

Again, targeting vulnerable people. Begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

The authorities already have powers to deal with aggressive and threatening requests for money.

I believe the good people of Exeter or any other town should be allowed to help who they wish to without interference. After all if you found yourself in this position I'm sure you would be grateful for any help you could get .

This proposal is far too broad and not adequately considered.

Buskers generally entertain and bring pleasure to people... when a group gather to watch clever street entertainers does an officer really have to close them down or does that officer make an arbitrary judgement about which entertainers can continue? Art in public spaces while not to everyone's taste, frequently shows skill and has considerable value as a means of social commentary (Banksy etc???) . As for straightforward begging, criminalisation, fines etc are going to be a totally counter-productive measure. Those reduced to street begging need to be supported to be able to address the housing/financial/social/mental health problems that have landed them on the street.

Just like proposal 3, this will disproportionately and unjustly impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. The vast majority of people who beg do it in order to obtain food and shelter because they have no other choices. The proposal is worded in such a way that even a person who was sitting down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Additionally begging is already illegal under the 1824 Vagrancy Act which gives the police ample powers to seek to prosecute persons for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. Instead of giving an enormous range of new delegated powers to council officials which could see a large number of fixed penalty notices given to people with no ability to pay them and a resultant rise in costly magistrate s court hearings and the throwing the already-vulnerable people into the criminal justice system, the council and the police should focus purely on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target those individuals instead of creating a new criminal offence.

it is better to beg than steal. Let individuals decide if they want to be generous or not

I have no problem with begging but I do have a problem with a council that is treating vulnerable people in this way.

Begging is some peoples only way of gaining income. Whilst I agree it is difficult for a passersby we have to make sue these individuals are catered for appropriately.

I am equally alarmed with this proposal.

The police already have powers to deal with vagrancy...

From choice - I am happy to support people who "their but for the grace - go I" It is my money and right to give where I choose. Have you thought about how they are feeling - ever?

Where does one get authorized to ask for money when needed? It takes a lot of humility to have to ask. Please give freely. Any one of you could end up in this position in this sick austerity society our leaders have created for us.

Intimidating behaviour asking for money is one thing, being in need is another. I don't object to someone in need asking for help. ww do not need legislation to "protect" us from people begging. We can all simply say no, or just ignore the request

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If the benefits system was fair and adequate, why would anyone want to beg steal or borrow.

Problems that create those sort of activities, need to be addressed.

The authorities already have sufficient powers

They need some way of surviving, in modern society this requires money.

People have a right to request charity when in conditions of genuine need. Should they do so in a threatening or harassing manner, they may be dealt with under existing legislation on public order. A blanket ban would be completely inappropriate.

To repeat myself.....this is also an outrageous proposal. What is it you expect homeless individuals to do? I do not know the other measures you may have previously introduced to help the homeless but I still fail to see how this proposal can be justified. I'm ashamed to be a resident of a City that considers this sort of action.

Yes. I witnessed aggressive begging outside lloyds bank where an oriental man was pressured for money whilst using the cash point. Asking may bring them to the attention of passers-by and ensure at least some kindness from someone, whether it be money or offer of a drink/food etc.

That's just stupid! how are they going to survive then????

Again, for many people this is their only source of income, through no fault of their own, and most people have absolutely no issue with this. It is disgusting that homeless people are being penalised for a situation they can often not control, and this measure will not do anything at all to help their situation.

At the risk of repeating ourselves, the powers to intervene to prevent begging are potentially useful - however, the context of their application will be key. As mentioned before, we favour the option for enforcement as part of a much wider, integrated strategy of comprehensive, accessible support parallel to robust, escalating compassionate enforcement - with support offered at every stage.

Again, this issue is emotive and contentious - partly because people see giving to people begging as an act of charity or mercy, believing that they are helping someone who is totally destitute with no other means of support.

In actual fact, national studies (and local case studies) show that most persistent beggars are actually in accommodation - and that the main driver for begging activity is not the need to raise resources for subsistence, but to fund alcohol and / or drug use. Furthermore, evidence shows that there is a correlation between the amount of money earned through begging activity and the level of drugs / alcohol consumed. The more that is earned, the more drugs or alcohol are consumed. (Fitzpatrick & Kennedy, 2000) It can therefore be argued that begging is highly problematic because it is so potentially damaging to those engaged in it. At best, self-destructive habits can escalate, and at worse the risk of overdose and drug / alcohol-related death becomes more acute.

The city-wide "support package" that we therefore advocate must include a range of support interventions, but in the case of begging, rapid and supported access to drug and alcohol treatment (and particularly substitute prescribing) becomes particularly important.

As with the section on street drinking / drug use, enforcement services and support providers must also anticipate and plan for unintended consequences. For instance, enforcement action taken against visible, static begging (individuals sat outside shops, or next to ATMs etc asking for money) can lead to individuals instead engaging in the less-visible ambulant begging, whereby they walk around and approach people to ask for money. This latter form of begging may be experienced by some people as more "aggressive", intimidating or threatening than static begging.

I get asked every day for money it becomes quite stressful when constantly asked , especially when you get abusive language back just for saying no.

DSFRS believes soliciting for money impacts on the overall safety of the public and the reputation of Exeter as a safe city.

The money requested may for a desperate need. Better to ask than be in a desperate plight

Out of sight, out of mind. Despicable.

If someone is in need they should feel able to ask a fellow human being for help.

Why would we attempt to prevent any individuals from approaching others for help and assistance? If I am ever in trouble I hope I can approach my fellow human beings for some help.

Maybe we should ask ourselves why people are begging on our streets and deal with that issue rather than criminalising the beggars. A friend of mine felt pity for an alleged cold and hungry begger and purchased a hot pasty for him, only to be told what to do with it - he only wanted money!.

The majority of begging is irritating but harmless. Just say no. Aggressive begging should be dealt with but there needs to be differentiation

People who have very little should not be punished for asking people for money.

Destitution is not an anti-social activity, it allows some people to give directly to those few who find themselves with extremely limited options.

I think its a good reminder that some people need help and support

The Police already have powers to move on people who are begging - a new Order is not necessary but more Police on the ground may be.

It's easy to argue that the folks who do this genuinely need the money, but the reality is many who engage in the practice are exceedingly assertive.

All ready a crime as per the Vagrancy act of 1824, just not enforced.

Again this penalises the homeless and desperate.

Sounds like cracking down on poor homeless people.

It strikes me that this proposal is only to protect the 'non-homeless' public from possible offence caused by the site of begging. As a member of the public who regularly walks past people begging for money in Exeter, I can confirm I am neither offended or frightened by this and it is my choice whether or not to give some change to whoever it may be. Sometimes I buy somebody a cup of tea instead of giving them change, and this is something I probably wouldn't do if they weren't sitting there asking for money. Nobody is forced to give anything, so this proposal is unnecessary.

Many of Exeter's homeless population rely upon begging to support themselves. In an ideal world this obviously wouldn't be necessary, but for the time being I feel that criminalising their behaviour rather than taking steps to offer help and practical support that means begging is no longer necessary for them is unhelpful and unkind.

Again, this will directly effect the homeless, some of the most vulnerable members of society who also are unlikely to have the means to speak out against these measures themselves. Rather than punishing these people, perhaps you could take measures to help them such as by providing more homeless shelters and provisions.

This is another disgusting attack on homeless people, such proposals would rather see them starve than damage Exeter's 'image'. These are real people, they need our help not our harrasment.

If support isn't going to be given to homeless people who require it, why are you trying to limit the last means they have of getting money/food/etc? Are you trying to marginalise them into such a small amount of space they will stop existing?

Help the homeless

There is realistically no other way for these people to raise money to feed themselves each day. While it disturbs shoppers on the high street, requests are generally unobtrusive. Those making the requests for money face no choice and are not proud to sustain themselves this way. Provide food and shelter for these people or face responsibility for their ill health.

This is just going to victimise homeless people and will not help them at all.

Why should people not ask others for assistance if they need it? It is at the discretion of the person asked whether or not they offer assistance.

This would obviously not exclude busking

A person without a home does not have an address, ergo they cannot have a bank account. It is unlikely they have a job or any means of receiving state benefits, how then do they feed themselves? Even those who have tried to find work through charitable institutions such as the big issue appear to be victimised by this proposal, the method of selling the product they are selling is by nature unsolicited. Come to think of it, any street vendor vocally advertising their wares would presumably be covered by this proposal, commerce requires cash.

Many people are happy to help out and at most, someone begging might make you uncomfortable.

This only seeks to destroy one of the only ways homeless people can sustain themselves. it is evil.

I don't believe that criminalising this further will help to change the homelessness problem in Exeter. Our city needs an abstinence based recovery program for drug users and to fix its housing issue so that this sort of violent legislation isn't deemed required.

Again, this is not harmful. This entire thing is pointless because it's addressing a nonexistent problem.

Again another policy targetted at the most vulnerable that wont change anything, it'll just mean we're fining people who have no money

Proposal 4, again, simply further victimises the homeless.

People should have the right to beg for any reason, whether they're homeless or not. What other options are the council providing for people forced to beg? If there is no alternative, then how exactly is this going to help anybody?

People can also politely say no and give them a hello recognising their existence.

Similar to comments in other questions - will need to be applies carefully.

Absolutely, there is plenty of help and benefits available and nobody needs to beg in Exeter other than to get money to spend on drugs or alcohol.

Some homeless people are not entitled to benefits of any sort, therefore the only way they can get money to buy food is to ask for it from members of the public. Until the government or local council supply people with food then I do not see what alternative these people have.

people beg or busk for many reasons. It can take more than two monthes to get a script for methadone or subutex and people have to jump through too many hoops to please RISE. If help was more easily available people wouldn't need to beg.

I like buskers ... they cheer up the high street.

In this instance, I assume the council would only give 'permission' to wealthy street performers and charities that spend 80% of donations on staffing costs, marketing, advertising etc, rather than a man already starving on the streets looking for money for food and drink. I would like to repeat my sentiment from Q3.1 and say that to even propose this is disgusting.

Didn't really understand it, ambiguously written.

If the homeless are not able to ask for money, they will die of starvation. Simple as that. They may use the money for things other than food and shelter, but we cannot make that judgement for them. It is much harder than people think for someone in this situation to get a job.

This law will also affect busking. The public love Exeter's buskers and if they want to give money for this entertainment, it should be the choice of the individual. Busking helps the economy of Exeter, because street entertainment draws people to the centre's shops.

Existing legislation already exists to tackle beggars who cause harassment, alarm and distress to people in public spaces (Public Order Act 1986). If none of these negative effects are being caused, then it is completely unreasonable to sanction these vulnerable members of the Exeter community. Issuing penalty notices to people who do not have the money to pay them would not only cause unnecessary hardship to beggars themselves, but is also a ludicrous waste of council resources at a time when local government budgets are already extremely limited. The council should instead let the existing legislation cover any problems that do arise, and focus on providing better services for impoverished people in Exeter - for example, by giving more support to local charity networks.

Out of sight, out of mind?

This whole set of proposals seems intended to sweep under the carpet the fact that Exeter City cannot or will not acknowledge the fact that it is failing these mostly young people, and is trying to hide the problem of homelessness.

Aggressive begging is already an offence. Will this be applied to charity workers soliciting donations? To my friend asking me to lend him £1 for his bus home? No - we all know that this is again targeting only the most vulnerable victims of the current economic austerity.

But asking for anything else should be okay; for food, or shelter, or help.

I (I suppose, like many people) do not find beggars to be particularly pleasant. I appreciate that the Council may feel that they are under a duty to protect me from this unpleasantness.

However, I think that the Council's duty is in fact greatest to those in greatest need and should be concentrating on support for those who are in such a dire need that they need to beg in the street. Fines to beggars and then criminalisation them for when they can't pay (which will be inevitable, surely) is a waste of public money and completely unhelpful to both the individual concerned and the wider society.

I prefer my City to be welcoming and supportive, and if I suffer the trivial inconvenience of being asked for money when I get my lunch in the City, I am very much more than willing to pay that price.

There are laws under the vagrancy laws against begging now what is the point of finding people who are do desperate they are begging just do they can beg again yo pay the fine ridiculous

This is already criminal behaviour (begging).

If the society we live in didn't cause homelessness and poverty stricken people I would see no reason for begging. But the fact that these people have no roof over their head, no guaranteed food I must say I think it is ridiculous you want to criminalise begging.

Perhaps take a look at the reason there are people on the street rather than vilifying the already marginalised and subjugated.

How are homeless people meant to eat? If the council intends to enforce this proposal, they should be equally prepared to invest in soup kitchens to feed the homeless and free sheltered accommodation. Somehow, given the disgusting ideas proposed here, I doubt any such measures will even be considered.

They sit by cash machines, sometimes often right in front of it, so you cant use it, and follow you. Just the other day someone was robbed at a cash machine.

It's extremely intimidating and frightening, and has no place in Exeter

A few weeks back, I spoke to a man who was asking for money, who said he had just been thrown out of sheltered housing on Oxford Street. He was clearly confused but the story he told was a distressing one. He said that he had woken up with his wrists slit, and didn't know how it had happened. He suggested that someone might have done it to him. He had the bandages, looking quite clean at this point, to show it. However, he said that the incident had caused him to be thrown out of the house he had been staying it - presumably because they thought he was lying, or did it to himself. Regardless of the ins and outs of the story, if there is any grain of truth to it, it makes perfect sense for him to be asking for money in preparation for the evening ahead. In that instance, I gave him a little. Mostly I do not give people money - I typically try to buy people food - but I am not offended by them asking.

On this note, I hope you're consulting with St Petrock's homeless charity on this. However, the individual I describe here was dismissive of the help they offer - saying it was way too hard to access. That's a disappointment to me. Perhaps the council and St Petrock's can work together to improve the support they give rough sleepers.

While I agree with the proposal, my friend asking me for ten pounds seems to fall into this category of "soliciting money without written consent" so maybe amend the wording? And exercise a little common sense and responsibility about this one and we should all get along fine

What else are these people supposed to do when the council won't help them?!

Again there is no explanation as to why this is necessary, nor is there any explanation as to what an implied request for money in fact is. This seems unacceptably vague. There are already laws against this, why is this necessary?

People beg because they have no alternative. I can't imagine it's a particularly lucrative practice, and it's hardly an enjoyable way of passing the time. People do it because they have to; for one reason or another they are in dire straits, and criminalising begging will only exacerbate the problem. You can't punish people out of poverty. As long as they are not behaving in an intimidating or threatening way, and money is offered consensually, I can't see any reason to involve law enforcement.

People do not chose to beg on the streets, they do it because they literally have no other choice. If I was on the street, cold and hungry, I would get desperate and I would sacrifice all the dignity I had and I would also ask strangers for money. This is what these people have to do and I don't believe anyone who says that is not what they would also do in the situation. If they don't ask, they don't get, it's that simple, and when it literally becomes a case of life and death, you can not take away their only opportunity to ask for a little salvation.

Again, a blatant attack on the homeless. If the council aren't prepared to help them, at least let them ask for help from the public. I am always happy to give to people, as is everyone I know.

It's not causing any great harm to people. You shouldn't silence people.

I don't believe the fact it makes some people uncomfortable is a good enough reason to stop people getting money that might mean they don't go hungry that day. The convenience of people more privileged shouldn't be at the expense of vulnerable people.

if you provide them with food and necessities so they don't have to beg then go on with this proposal.....

I am aware that current DWP policy leaves some people destitute, and that sanctions are applied disproportionately on people with mental health problems.

I am familiar with the argument that any money given will "be spent on drink or drugs". This is what many people in our country choose to do, in their own homes, to ameliorate worries about their situation, deal with the pain of their lives, or just to feel better.

This legislation would impact on buskers. The suggestion that buskers could audition for pitches, as happens with Princesshay, would exclude some vulnerable people from the opportunity to busk.

I have often been asked "to spare a bit of change" but I have not found this intimidating. Having been without money or a phone on my own in London on one occasion (following theft) I experienced what it is like to have no money, in a city where you see people able to buy drinks, food. The feeling of extreme vulnerability will stay with me.

I find it sad that people need to beg, I would be gravely concerned if a hungry, thirsty person was prevented from asking a fellow human being help.

Once again an attack on the homeless community rather than an attempt to help.

We are frequently abused by aggressive beggars and would welcome action to clear these people from the street. Big Issue sellers are not properly monitored and can be a big problem too. This scheme while well intentioned seems to keep people trapped in a cycle rather than assisting them to break out.

See previous comments. This proposal has no basis or justification.

Who is that harming? If they are begging, it's freedom of speech and their choice. to you and i it may be degrading, it's not like they don't feel degraded, they just need to.

Again you are specifically targeting the homeless and less fortunate. Some use begging as a last resort and it is up to the individual to choose whether they wish to give money or not to those less advantaged. You suggest no alternative solution for those who have to ask for money.

Begging, if unaggressive, does not bother me.

Again this will make the living situation of Exeter's homeless unnecessarily more difficult. If the charity and goodwill of Exeter's population is all the homeless have to maintain themselves, it would be unforgivably cruel to deny them of this source of income.

Talented buskers can provide enhancement to street life. Begging with menaces is already outlined e.g. harassment at ATMs . Passive begging by desperate people is merely a sign of the times we live in. This is merely an attempt to remove the problems of our society out of the public gaze ie out of sight is out of mind.

Begging is the only way some people can survive. The FAQs argue that this is important because it makes people feel "uncomfortable". I would argue that starvation and homelessness are a little worse than "uncomfortable".

How else are you, as a human being, going to find money for a place to sleep or a bit of food to warm you up? you've already proposed that you're going to take away their bedding and possessions so what're they going to do? How have you been allowed to even put this in the public domain?

Again, targets the homeless; fails to recognise the fault of state systems that so many people end up on the streets through no fault of their own, with no way of obtaining income except through begging

Begging is not offensive, I happily give to people who ask me for my spare change on a regular basis. There is no pressure to give to homeless people if they ask for money - it is their prerogative. People should be given the right to decide whether they want to give money to homeless people directly or not - it is not the council's decision. Stop making the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society more difficult than they already are.

Again, victimising the homeless, for what purpose? What is their other method of gaining financial support? They should be allowed to passively beg (aggressive begging and getting in the face of the public is another matter) and it should then be up to every passing pedestrian as to whether they deserve money or not.

So you can't even ask for money now? This is much more to do with facism than democracy

How else are homeless people going to get any money?

I don't care about being asked for money - and you won't stop the middle classed kids playing violins to ask for money so why will you stop the homeless?

How do you 'implicitly' request money? Oh, right, you decide that by making assumptions about people who 'look homeless'.

This might actually encourage me back into the city centre

As a busking musician, I'd starve without such rights.

I can choose whether or not to give to a beggar or a busker

I often feel guilty when I am asked for change and have none, but when I have some to spare, I am happy to give it to a homeless person in need if they provide a good reason for asking.

I understand the principle, but before this can be put in place, I believe there needs to be increased provision for homeless people around Exeter - otherwise this will only make their lives worse than they already are.

Proposal 4 is also inhumane. People are not making 'unlawful requests for money' because they're cheeky or want an extra beer at the pub. Why would you spend your time risking arrest for a few quid if you weren't at the peak of desperation? Like I said, help, assist, provide for these people so that they can make their way back into society as functioning, contributing adults. The government takes ridiculous amounts of our money. Why are you complaining when one weather-beaten old woman asks you for 20p?

No one wants to be a beggar. They're not doing it for fun. If they're truly desperate and asking for money then it gives people the opportunity to do some right by them - buy them a sandwich, a hot drink, or a bit of spare change. What difference does it make to you? As long as they're not being aggressive, I don't see a problem with it; unless you have any other solutions and can house people in empty homes.

People don't choose to beg. Often people have to raise money to spend a night in a hostel and begging/busking is the only way for them to do so. To ban begging and move beggars away doesn't solve any problem.

I was shocked to see a homeless man begging being arrested and treated with contempt. They only ask for change, that's not harmful to anyone.

If people choose to give money that is their choice.

Well this is just ridiculous! Sometimes people need to ask for money, what's wrong with that? I once asked someone for a pound at a supermarket in exchange for 80p for a trolley. Will that now be a crime? You cannot stop people from asking for money!!!

Again this victimises the homeless

If they aren't aggressive or threatening there is no harm in them asking. Individuals can decide whether they wish to help them but they should have the right to ask.

This is a real annoyance in Exeter centre.

Nobody should have a problem with those in need asking for help. We are all humans and should be willing to help each other out.

This proposal cannot go forward.

I personally do not mind begging. It is my choice how I respond. Having worked at CAB I am well aware of why someone may have no money and I think everyone should have access to some hard cash- not vouchers or anything similar

This is also disgusting. Homeless people need money to live - if you are selfish enough to not give them any, if you walk past them and feel annoyed by them asking for a tiny percentage of your excessive disposable income and you then do your best to ignore them, then you are a despicable human being. More, you are trying to make it illegal for them to ask in the first place! Will that ease your conscience, to remove the awkwardness you feel in denying them the means to live?

How do you expect the homeless to buy food/space in a hostel?

It's ok to ask politely, if it's annoying to see then solve the problem, don't just cover your eyes

If I want to give my money to a stranger I should be allowed to do so, and if a person cannot afford to eat then why stop them calling on the public's generosity.

You cannot simply try to hide the unattractive reality of begging. Everything should be done to try and help beggars get off the streets.

This proposal will add to their problems and victimise them further in the eyes of society.

I am yet to see anything that would increase the social mobility of the people affected by these proposals.

I do not believe this is going to solve the homeless problem in Exeter

Lots of homeless people cannot claim benefits, they have to eat and the majority are not aggressive, unless the council is prepared to help these individuals they should not criminalise them. These people are just trying to survive.

Exeter Council are about to make it effectively illegal to be homeless in Exeter by imposing £1000 fines for begging and giving the authorities permission to confiscate and destroy homeless people's bedding and personal property. Not only is this inefficient as it does not target the reasons why people are homeless in the first place or why they can't get off the streets once they are, it also explicitly victimises poor and mentally ill people.

I'm always being approached by people asking for money

Someone who is begging clearly is in need. As long as they accept people's refusals and do not physically harass people it is fine. Much like if a charity worker stands on a street corner holding a bucket. It seems that just because they are wearing a banded top and appear more 'together' their request for money is fine. It is exactly the same for the needy and to stop them directly asking for money will result in them finding other ways to get the money.

I have never come across anyone aggressively begging in Exeter. I have often seen people asking for money to help them out, and I am not so naive that I don't realise that sometimes the beggar may spend the money I donate on alcohol or drugs, but they might equally use it to buy food or to pay for a place to sleep. It's not for me to guess whether a person is going to use the money in a way I approve of. Poverty is not a crime and nor is addiction. I do not subscribe to a culture in which one is encouraged to turn away from those who have fallen on hard times, and pretend they do not exist.

People need to eat

How are homeless beggars supposed to be able to get to a hostel without the four pounds required to stay the night, which would become more necessary under proposal 3

There are already laws that deal with this. Why is the City Council so obsessed with criminalising the homeless?

No

The vast majority of the homeless people in Exeter are polite when asking for change and do not push it if you decline them. It does not bother me going about my business on the occasions this occurs.

That's just fucking stupid

Again, being homeless is a public health concern, not a crime. To debase these people with the further stigmatisation of being criminals only serves to iterate the stance that those of lower economic circumstances are 'undesirables' in this society.

They deserve our help, not to be criminalised.

"oi mate got a spare 50p?"

"Nah I'm calling the police"

Is ECC trying to 'exterminate' the most vulnerable human beings in our society? because that's what it sounds like

Not all beggars want money for drugs or alcohol, some just want a place to stay and a hot meal and I am often happy to help when I can.

I believe it to be harmful to those who are excused from an area because of the guilty effect they cause on those passing by. They have as much right to a piece of earth as anyone else. This has become an act of selfish progression that we must face ourselves rather than push through into a policy.

Homeless people occasionally have no other choice but to ask for a little change. The council must implement measures to target the causes of people having to beg for money, rather than persecute those begging.

have compassion

This criminalises both begging and also busking.

I have never witnessed any aggressive begging at any time and therefore no-one need feel intimidated to give if they don't want to.

How else are they supposed to eat and stay warm

Begging is already illegal under the 200 year old Vagrancy Act. That Act should have been repealed long ago. It is certainly unnecessary to pass another law to do the same thing.

As with other provisions in this proposal, this MIGHT, possibly be justifiable if we could be CERTAIN that adequate provisions are in place to ensure that no one is left in a situation in which they are forced to rely on help from others. I don't think we are there yet.

People sometimes need change to live off of, I can't see the government helping them.

Criminalising all donation giving sounds (in public space). Ethically wrong. Also every advert and shop window is implied request/offer to buy - give money which I can see from a public space.

Persecuting, destitute and homeless

See comments and questions in accompanying letter.

This proposal ? the common term "begging". I agree only if the LAW does not allow "begging".

We do not want to see them criminalised and given a criminal record. This is cruel. The unfortunate people are suffering in this society which denies benefits and jobs, housing, whilst in a land of plenty for some rather many.

Not welcome even if it is authorised - hate begging.

Ticked yes and no. Same criteria. I would far rather pop coins to someone who is sitting on a pavement in obvious need of help, than be accosted by someone collecting for a charity.

We're all big enough and old enough to make our own decisions as to whether we give money to people or not. The use of the word perpetrator says it all. These people need to be helped NOT demonised.

In common with proposal 3, proposal 4 will impact the poorest and most vulnerable members of society in a manifestly unjust way. The majority of people who beg are highly vulnerable and destitute and are reduced to begging in order to obtain food and shelter. The proposal is worded in such a way that a person who was sat down, without causing any issues to any other person, could face a criminal fine of up to £1000 and a court action which would, in itself, be costly and would in no meaningful way change their behaviour because they would now have a fine that they could not possibly pay, as well as a criminal record which would cause them to be more marginalised and isolated from society. Begging is already illegal and the police have power to seek to prosecute people for begging if it was deemed to be in the public interest. The council and the police should focus on the small minority of people who combine begging with genuinely aggressive and intimidating behaviour and use existing legislation to target them rather than creating a new criminal offence. As currently worded it would criminalise busking because playing an instrument or singing on the street can be construed as an implied request for money. This is absurd. It conflates a cultural activity which brings enjoyment and colour to the public spaces of a city, with a criminal, antisocial activity. It would mean scarce public resources being directed towards the prosecution of people playing music on the street. It is an infringement of Article 10 rights to Freedom of Expression under the Human Rights Act. It is fundamentally wrong.

For some people this is a last resort and have no other means of sustaining a living. Do you just expect them to starve?

Provided that there is a clear definition between busking and begging.

Should not be taking homeless people's stuff.

Give them help.

Most homeless people want to get out of the hideous weather.

Most people, if it's raining just want to sit down out of the rain - especially people with dogs. Not everyone is begging they just want shelter

Not all folks in doorways/arches are begging some just want shelter.

I think they aren't doing anything wrong for other people so why they won't do this.

People sat with an empty hat, not saying anything isn't wrong. Pestering people is wrong and shouldn't happen.

Not all folks in doorways/arches are begging some just want shelter.

At times these people need funds due to circumstance.

?

Stop attacking the homeless.

Leave the homeless alone.

This is really mean. Why not try to help these people rather than criminalising them?

No

Most people who beg, don't actually ask for money, people who do shouldn't get in trouble as people are obviously desperate, PEOPLE NEED HELP.

If someone wishes to donate and help that's their choice and should not be hassled for doing it.

They have to eat.

Need to be registered homeless Big Issue ok

The welfare state is in crisis following the recent overhaul of the benefits system. Individuals on JSA are routinely sanctioned for infractions of the rules placing them in severe financial hardship. Others on ESA have to wait months if not years to be called for their work capability assessment. Some individuals have had to wait over 2 years to receive their full entitlements despite a GP providing sicknotes all throughout this time and guidelines for assessment stating 13 weeks. Over 2500 people have died having been found fit for work following their medical assessment. Why is the local authority not highlighting the plight of the people of Exeter affected by this problem?

**PSPO Consultation
Responses to Restriction 5 and 6
01/06/16**

Proposal 5 and 6

I am particularly concerned about the Cathedral Green area. My youngest daughter attends the school and does feel unsafe when crossing the green between classrooms

This proposal in my opinion has been long overdue, the powers to prevent begging and drinking in a public place have been available to enforce for many years.

It should be a criminal offence to do any of the proposed intentions in public place anywhere, Anti social behavior has achieved a new level and its long overdue.

Surely we have enough laws already.

These need careful consideration for how they are delivered in practice. Where are the resources to deal with groups and ensure actions are stuck to? How to determine whether groups are intimidating?

This is very vague. I am worried that this will be used as a way to target specific groups of people (e.g. street homeless) that people are prejudiced against, as opposed to any group that may be perpetrating this behavior. Will groups of students or sports fans be subject to the same enforcement? I appreciate the need to keep the City Centre safe and protect people, but I think unless people are being actually overtly aggressive / harmful, there shouldn't be any requirement to enforce on them. I fully support the need to address concerns about aggressive groups within the City Centre intimidating people, but I think the wording of this is too vague and could be used as a means of social control that is beyond what is required for the City. People have the right to enjoy themselves in the City Centre and act as they wish, as long as it doesn't cause harm to others. The wording "likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed" doesn't even require someone to be upset by it to enforce upon. I think it's heavy handed and too controlling. People have a right to congregate, and it's only a matter of opinion (according to this) what is to be perceived as intimidation.

I think if the wording was clearer and less vague I would be more positive about the Proposal.

Saying yes to Q 5 takes care of proposal 4.

All this is well and good but how you are going to enforce any of it remains to be seen as the relevant authorities cant cope with what they have to do at the moment

This (if enforced) will significantly improve public safety in the city center and in time improve the confidence of the general public to walk freely.

Proposal 5 is horrendously vague and could easily be abused. After reading these proposals I am disappointed that the Council believes this is the best way to tackle anti-social behaviour. Maybe if the Council directed their resources to HELPING people who live on the street instead of labelling them as CRIMINALS then society would improve. I sincerely hope you reconsider these proposals.

Why should it not be immediately in every case?

Although I appreciate that groups of people may appear intimidating to certain others, this is largely a question of perception. It is not acceptable that people may be "moved on" without some objective means of demonstrating that they ARE causing distress or alarm and/or that they are engaged in wrong doing.

Dont know what city centre relates to. Exe bridges/Leisure centre area should be considered to come under all the proposals.

I feel five is highly subjective and would be difficult to control. Who will decide who is truly intimidating. This to me could be at high risk of validating segregation and promoting prejudice behaviour.

I feel you are wishing to turn the streets into a soulless void. Removing homeless people and those behaviours you dislike is like some weird twisted police state. As a city council you should be promoting inclusion and support for the more vulnerable. I'm disgusted by these proposals and genuinely sickened by your vision for this space - it is somewhere I would very much like to avoid.

I agree if antin social behaviour is involved.

I disagree if the group are sleeping quietly.

To apply to antisocial behaviour, as opposed to homeless people occupying a space definitely, they can be threatening to persons, and not a role model for the younger generation.

The zone should cover the University area too.

It is too vague a statement

NO

Again as long as it is applied equally and not just to the homeless. There is as much antisocial behaviour from the housed and employed people in the city centre as the homeless.

You might also wish to address the city wide antisocial actions of cyclists on pavements. This is a serious problem in Cowick St with the elderly and children regularly put at risk by, supposedly responsible, adults cycling on the pavement. This behaviour I have not seen from the homeless.

Anyone who breaches these rules should be prosecuted n banned from all areas! They should definately be charged with vagrancy n removed from society!

This is entirely subjective, and could be misused against peaceful political protestors.

People get alarmed by anything, especially if they are bigoted. This is incredibly vague and will strongly affect Exeter in a negative manner, affect the legal right to protest, and generally allow for police harassment of innocents. This is unacceptable.

The law already covers this area of offending and is not required in this order.

We already have the means within the law to deal with intimidation and violent behaviour. As as for upset and distress - have you been into Exeter on Thursday/Friday/Saturday night with hoards of drunks marauding around? They won't be dealt with.why not? Because they are university students having fun.

Deal with homelessness at source, but do not begin empowering 'nameless council officials with such powers. If Exeter council sanitizes the city much more it really will be for the wealthy only

I would have assumed that 5 was part of the law anyway. 6 sounds good in theory, but there is the problem that it leaves an awful lot to the "authorised officer," which is a slippery slope toward arbitrary enforcement of the law. For example, I think it is a safe bet that a group of drunken students and a group of drunken people that are obviously homeless will probably not receive the same treatment. So while I give it cautious support, I would want to see proper safeguards and training in place for the officers.

If a group is harrasing not just hanging out together.
Extend the are up through St James to the University.

This is fare as long as it is used justly.

I have a general comment about the area covered by the proposals. The area should include the area around the university which can be a focus of unruly behaviour in otherwise quiet residential areas.

As long as this is not abused by authorities to disperse legitimate peaceful demonstration

Again cost and resources who do u expect to deal with this. The council used to have a brilliant team called Community Patrol. But even they finished at midnight before they were scrapped. Only way is to increase CCTV coverage then prosecute using that as evidence

I dont understand these proposals, people can be alarmed by the way people dress, or if someone is having a fit or had turrets, or by a group of young people drunk on a night out. I would agree that action should be taken when people are purposefully bullying or intimidating directly, or as a group are creating havoc with outrageous behaviour - however the line hould be carefully drawn and the rules specific - otherwise you risk arresting/harassing innocent people and people having a good time.

Yes, please extend PSPO!

You're going to get the police to quieten the streets of drunk loud people around the top of Fore Street? Or are you just going to make life harder for the homeless?

How can an individual disperse? They are effectively bring banned from an area. The are already laws which deal with this whether it's drunken behaviour or larger public gatherings. It is not clear what the purpose of this is and how such behavior is defined and against whose standards its determined. Will it affect people who are organising campaigns that often happen in the city centre, is it designed to make the homeless move on or intended to stop drinks making a scene? I think it'll fail on all these fronts. Proper policing is required not in enforceable bylaws

Is this just banning free speech? Also this would ban busking or street entertainment because someone is always offended by what other people do.

Further to my previous comments I would like to add that I walk through the city regularly at all times of night and day and regularly witness more antisocial behaviour from the public and students, especially students in the evening, than from any o the homeless community. In fact I regularly see homeless people picking up litter, helping people out and telling students off for urinating in the street! Perhaps Exeter university can help the council financially and socially by trying to curb the attitude of the student community, for it is them above anyone who is causing these problems you are trying to solve!

Communication between officers and homeless people is important, and should be conducted in a reasonable way, without heavy-handed approach, to encourage homeless people to share the town space in a peaceful way.

and to think I voted Labour, I am ashamed of my local council

By such time is a little vague

No one should ever feel they are being threatened whether homeless or not. Homeless people act this way because they are driven by desperation. Dispersal orders will not stop it from happening, it is a waste of time and money. More should be done to prevent people ending up in such desperate need in the first plane. None of these actions are likely to resolve the situation, they will just make it worse

Again, very broad power. How does this conflict for instance with a right to protest? It's very easy to say someone feels intimidated, who will judge whether there is in fact any form of intimidation?

Although I agree with the proposal I think it will be very difficult to enforce, particularly if no additional police support is to be offered. The safety of those enforcing this proposal should also be borne in mind. It may not be safe for a single individual to confront a group of people in breach of Proposal 5.

The Police nationally need to look at how they operate at peaceful demos against war and environmental destruction. They are just as guilty of 5.

I am concerned that the limited geographical restrictions to the proposal will just push out these undesirable behaviours to other parts of the city not covered by the proposal. The proposal should cover the entire city.

I feel this could be a bit of a grey area as what some may consider high spirits others will consider as intimidation.

I have to say that your opening statement regarding this proposed legislation states that it will cover all persons committing these acts, but, after reading all the proposals, it just seems to me that it is the homeless who are being targeted. I am guessing that the student population will be exempt because of 'all they bring to the city'. The city bends over backwards to provide student digs with nice new blocks of flats - when are you going to actually do something positive with regard to providing digs for the homeless and the people who have lived here all their lives? The homeless can stay in hostels - are you aware of how much these places cost? How do they get the money? they have to beg! it's a vicious circle.

I broadly agree with this as long as it's applied to everyone from groups of students through to poorer people and kids. The dispersal order in Wonford worked well, but it did displace some of the trouble to other areas.

I am not assured by your FAQ that all these powers will not just be used to target the homeless in the city centres. Resources are already stretched so that ASB is not dealt with at weekends - see the number of men coming out of the pubs on Fore Street and urinating. How will a homeless person or a begger pay a FPN? Will the court process cost us even more and to what end?

Why do we allow busking and music playing in the High Street? Also there seems no control on the volume that the music is played. The volume should be seen as a disturbance.

These musicians can portray a detrimental image for an up and coming city.

This would really make life so much more tolerable in the City at night. Groups are always more threatening than individuals
Disperse where precisely?

A small quibble about the use of the word distressed. I feel it could be dropped without losing any strength in the prohibition.
groups of young teenagers do behave un-socially and so these rules are required

The definitions of Proposals 5 and 6 are far too broad and ambiguous, being liable for interpretation and abuse by "authorised" persons.

Surely this is already law?

I agree with these in principle but hope that what constitutes intimidating behaviour is given a framework. As an example, a group of 5 homeless men may be intimidating to some, but I would hope the same response would be given to a group of well educated but drunk rugby "Lads" or a group of business men or a night out. Different people are intimidating by different things. As a woman walking on her own and being cat called by a group of men, would they be expected to leave the area too?

There is one other point I'd like to make, not related to the six questions posed here. I find it intimidating to walk through the city centre at night. There are crowds of youngsters running around, shouting and behaving badly, who have obviously been drinking. I've been in Exeter at night with friends, returning from the theatre, and been ashamed. It's almost like a sub-culture that emerges after dark and is deeply unpleasant and a bit frightening. Even the police seem to accept the situation and keep their heads down. The police already have powers to disperse crowds and deal with anti-social behaviour. I'm not sure that this rule is required other than to be a means to collect fines from people.

NOTE: I'd also like to complain that the email address on the feedback form itself doesn't work.

Does this proposal apply to police stealing sleeping-bags and other property from the homeless, or to police acting as agents provocateurs in marches, public meetings or demonstrations? If not, then I cannot agree with such a proposal.

This seems aimed at a specific age group and different people can be intimidated by different things. I.e. Teenagers in hoodies or large social groups (also under 25's). This kind of by-law would be open to abuse by certain parties who don't like the look of certain people or groups.

Total stupidity! This requires so many subjective judgements by people unqualified to make them. Try taking a case under this proposal to court and you will end up looking very foolish.

These proposals are simply aimed at disadvantaged people who choose to behave in unconventional ways. They do not assist in solving the problems and as such will either cause the same problem elsewhere or cause longer term problem related to mental health and suicide. The underprivileged need support not penalisation if you genuinely want to help

I oppose this introduction because PSPO's are too widely drawn, with vague definitions of what can be criminalised and carry disproportionately punitive sanctions against the vulnerable and those doing harmless street entertainment such as busking.

I would agree with proposal 5 it was worded differently, i.e. that the people were harassing members of the public. Members of the public might feel intimidated by all sorts of things, unknown to those who are the 'intimidators'! For example some people are just intimidated by large crowds, traffic wardens or even the police. Do you suggest then asking these large crowds, be they in the supermarket, shopping mall etc to move on and they steal their possessions if they don't do so? You need to get the wording right

Q5: Too broad and subjective. I may feel intimidated by two people wearing certain types of clothing. Does that mean they have committed an offence? And "likely to result in..."? Who is to judge that? I find this truly concerning. Again, laws already exist to cover threatening and abusive behaviour and require a court to judge this.

If two or more people are breaking the law then that is a matter for the police. Freedom of association and moving around the queens highway is a long established right in the UK - who are you to remove this and for whose benefit. If the law is being broken then I reiterate this is for the law enforcement agencies

Too ambiguous; could be interpreted in any number of ways and goes against human rights to be allowed freedom of association.

Proposal 5: This is already covered by Section 5 of the Public Order Act, so is pointless and unnecessary. The existing law should be enforced before you start making new law! Proposal 6: should be enacted, but should be restricted to Sworn Police Officers only; This sort of power is quite draconian and I do not believe it should be available to PCSO's or, worse still Council Officers, who lack training, experience, the ability or inclination to use discretion in such matters. There are far too many 'jobsworths' around as it is and we don't need more interfering in people's lives in an insensitive manner. This power should be restricted to Sworn Police Officers only.

There are already provisions given to the Police to deal with this issue.

Further embellishment is not required.

Council workers are not Police Constables and should never be given the same authority. Under any circumstances.

5 is not needed as there are already harassment laws. These proposals oppress and demonize the powerless.

Unfortunately these individuals tend to hang around in groups in certain areas. By St. Georges Hall or by the Hospice care shop. It seems to be worse since the change of Gabriel House to the new organisation.

We are abandoning 'breach of the peace' in favour of stopping any gathering that causes just one person, anybody, alarm. I am quite alarmed that councillors have gathered and discussed this - should I call the police?

Two homeless people sat together, minding their own business. Who are they offending? This is so woolly it's untrue.

I have never been harassed by a homeless person in Exeter, but I have seen homeless people attacked, more than once, by groups of drunken revellers.

I hope that these proposals be in-acted to protect everyone, and not used to penalise vulnerable individuals with mental health needs.

Isn't this already the case

I expect to see this proposal enforced vigorously against the large gangs of drunk men who roam around Exeter one evening. I am far more frequently threatened, including being the victim of misogynistic and homophobic abuse, by drunk men than I am ever bothered in any way by homeless people of either sex.

Hopelessly vague. This could simply be used by the police to disperse harmless people gathered on the street. It should be much more specific if you want to have this rule.

too looseley worded, therefore open to abuse

When people behave in a threatening manner to other people without provocation then the intimidators should be removed.

How does one quantify behaviour which may seem unacceptable to some and perfectly ordinary to others? As I said in my previous comments, drunk clientele gathering outside public houses to smoke can be guilty of displaying behaviour which is unacceptable and they are not necessarily dispersed.

Homelessness is not a crime!

I think these two questions are quite strange. I am disagreeing with them just because I am not sure of what are they supposed to bring: Isn't it already forbidden to intimidate or harass people? Of course, I don't want anyone to feel harassed or intimidated, but I think that the police already has all the legal backup required to do this job.

Proposal 5 is so vaguely worded it could apply to any behaviour that someone might deem "offensive" and therefore be applied totally arbitrarily.

There is an intrinsic human right of assembly. The criteria for this proposal are subjective and therefore open to abuse.

This matter is already covered legally. Exeter City Council employees do not need the power to enforce this; there is no need for this order.

The entire policy contravenes the rights of the most vulnerable & impoverished group of people. Social cleansing is what to expect from Tory council not Labour. Where have your values gone when this repressive piece of garbage gets considered Shame on Exeter..shame on Labour party...

These actions are surely criminal already. Why write new laws directed at a particular group when the laws already exist.

RIDICULOUS. One person may be offended, harassed etc etc by actions of another whilst hundreds aren't. Depends on individual sensitivity etc. GET A LIFE and do something worthwhile for Exeter's people instead of harassing vulnerable homeless people

There is no question anywhere about the proposed fines - this is not practical as the majority of the people concerned do not have spare money and non-payment could criminalise them which will make their lives even worse and will not solve any of the problems they and we have

Bit of street cleansing is it?

Why not turn the resources required to police these people towards organisations who are trying to help solve the problems?

This is a really important issue but isn't this already covered by law? Protecting against intimidation is much like protecting someone from opinion.

I agree that all people should be free to go about their day or night free from intimidation and threatening behaviour but how can you possibly police this without having a constant police presence on every street? I would really like to know how the council intends to do this

The phrasing is vague and could be taken in a variety of ways from people doing genuinely harassing/victimising/distressing things to people simply being offended at the existence of others. While taking action to prevent harassment, victimisation, and cruelty is important, guidelines need to be clear to avoid gross misuse.

Please define what you mean by behaviour that could be considered intimidating etc - I would be concerned that your idea of intimidation is a homeless person asking for some loose change given the other proposals.

Homeless people have to sleep somewhere and need help rather than being punished x

This is sensible

No, the proposal should not proceed. By all means assist and proactively help vulnerable individuals but they should not be persecuted under the law for being disadvantaged. We know all too well individuals have fallen on hard times mostly due to government removal of benefits which is completely unacceptable.

Again the police have authority to act in this area.

I do not believe the people of Exeter will have the confidence in the impartiality of any Council Officer.

Much of Exeter is becoming private - for commercial use only - this has been to the serious detriment of public events and social cohesion. These proposals will only make things worse.

Again the definitions are too vague - there should be specifics given of "distressing" etc. behaviour so that this rule cannot be misinterpreted.

Don't clear our urban streets of people, they are there sometimes to make money, sleep in places they feel safer and to get help. They are so vague. Who decides what is intimidating and who regulates what people could reasonably claim to be intimidated by? I am concerned this would just become a legal excuse for discrimination. For example young people, people wearing hooded jumpers, black and minority ethnic people, or people from Eastern Europe, could be stopped from peacefully meeting in the streets if enough "in-group" by standers claimed to be intimidated.

this is too broad and again open to misuse

there are already laws in place to deal with breaches of peace and so on, this is too vague. who is to make the judgement? It means that people who behave in erratic ways end up being harassed and criminalised.

People have to be dealt with dignity, and in a helpful manner. It is difficult to assess what is intimidating behaviour, so consideration has to be made with both parties

I agree with the proposals, as long as 'intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed' are genuine. Please do not use this as an excuse to persecute the homeless.

Please interpret these terms reasonably and with humanity and compassion.

Thank you.

These are entirely dependant upon interpretation. What may alarm me as a little old lady will be completely different to what will alarm a young person. People who are mentally ill or indeed handicapped can often behave in slightly 'peculiar' ways.

These are the steps towards a police state where 'big brother' is not only watching you but judging your every action without looking at human beings with problems who are without the mental and physical resources to deal with the situation they are in.

Please do not mistake my answers as someone who believes that alcohol and drug taking should be freely allowed. Indeed I hate and detest those who sell drugs, particularly legal highs to vulnerable people. I equally abhor the problems associated with alcohol abuse and dependency.

But these suggestions from the council come at it from completely the wrong angle.

Address the problems - educate and offer assistance - do not punish the victims.

It is important that people can feel safe on the streets of Exeter but groups should be educated and dispersal of actually intimidating groups will be ineffectual and this will only serve to ruin people trying to have fun.

There is serious risk to 'freedom of association', one of my human rights, by heavy handed application of this prohibition. There is no clear explanation in FAQ about the Authority's statement 'safeguards to ensure'.

safety for all is paramount. i.e. this includes safety of homeless people and rough sleepers.

As long as the benchmark is reasonably robust and reasonable not at the level of imagined offence to the overly sensitive. There must be a reasonable belief of intimidation or proven harassment that would stand up in court and services to support people with nowhere to go not nimbysism.

I do not support this as the definition of "any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed" is unclear. For instance, I personally get quite upset when I see people driving 4x4 motor vehicles ('Chelsea Tractors') in town centres, despite this being perfectly legal. Would it be fair if I reported my alarm and distress about this situation and expected the vehicle to be 'dispersed'? Probably not.

I would expect these proposals to be a way for homophobes, racists, religious nuts and other such bigots to harass ordinary people. It is 'overkill' and encourages intolerance.

Proposal 5 seems reasonable enough on the face of it but, once again, the wording presented is worryingly woolly.

There are some very thin skinned and easily distressed &/or offended people in society, and this proposal would appear to potentially pander to them at the expense of the freedoms of other members of society.

I do not condone intimidating behaviour. This is not a matter for law. It behaves all of us to treat others with respect and kindness.

Groups of people soliciting for money in a coordinated way are particularly intimidating, more so than individuals that solicit money. There is sometimes an implied threat that failure to comply with a request for money could resort in unwanted consequences from the 'gang' or group.

This is surely covered by existing laws and doesn't need yet another by-law to be enacted.

I think there is already sufficient legislation to stop people being a nuisance. 5 and 6 would give the police unnecessary powers which they could use against the unfortunate.

VERY few people are a 'threat' to others or likely to behave in an intimidating way (or what is perceived to be) and there are enough powers already to deal with such individuals

Too much of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

Will these proposals be used to police student and group drinking behaviour? These are far more intimidating than the homeless community that these measures appear to be focused at

Intimidation or the threat of violence is never acceptable

Proposal 5 is far too vague - it could mean literally any sort of behavior. The fact that it is too vague makes proposal 6 unreasonable and open to abuse.

Public Order Act - Maggie's answer to Raves. Not really a question of agreeing, it's simply a matter of using the law. This survey is on the whole pretty useless as everything except for taking peoples bedding already has provision within the law.

I really hope no money has been spent on this ridiculous waste of time. Just use the law and get on with it please.

"intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour" - these are such subjective terms. Are a group of young people with nowhere else to go likely to fall foul of this proposal? I fear so. Deal with the problems if and when they arise. Act on a complaint - don't use a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Surely, the police do this anyway? I do think large groups of people should be dispersed if they are threatening to others.... but only if they are genuinely hassling, and aren't just getting on with their business.

This is anti-democratic as it could be used to prevent legitimate protest

This is a blanket ban on 'undesirables' as interpreted by others. Good laws need to be specific and understandable, not just a charter for unfair and illegal discrimination.

I agree large groups if homeless people are intimidating and more likely to cause actual anti social behaviour

These are just rubbish! The legislation already exists to prevent just such behaviour.

A bit too draconian with the existing wording. It gives the police the right to disperse a bus queue,

This is totally subjective. Who says what's distressing?

the definition of harassment, intimidation, distress or alarm is very woolly and open to interpretation.

Does this mean anyone doing anything that someone else doesn't like, approve of, or in their opinion causes them distress or alarm. this is far too vague and needs to be thought through, we are in danger of using a sledge hammer to crack a nut, and loosing freedom of speech, and shutting down anyone with any opinion that does not comply with people making up the rules.

This could be used to stop peaceful protest. There is nowhere on this consultation regarding busking. It should be allowed, it adds to the vibrancy of an area.

I support this so long as it is enforced equitably - eg to move on religious preachers who make outrageous statements such as to cause alarm and distress.

This again breeches the Human Rights Act and is in contravention of freedom of association. My concern is that these proposals are very open to individual interpretation and could be used to stop free association and the right to free speech or peaceful protest. Once again they seem to be criminalising individuals who do not fit within the enforcing officers ideas of social norms.

These proposals are based directly on Conservative Party ideology and have no place in Exeter.

Proposals 5 and 6 are ludicrous. You would criminalise pretty much the entire student population of Exeter!!! I don't want to live in a sanitised fake version of Exeter, it is a safe city already and this measure, whilst intended to deal with "vagrants", is ripe for mis-use. It could also be used to forcibly stop our right to free protest.

I don't understand what 5 and 6 are about.

I do agree with these proposals in general, in order to facilitate the police to keep the peace. However, these powers can be applied in a way that limits public free speech, peaceful dissent, and peaceful expression. To use such powers in this way may make for a more peaceful city centre, but at great cost to a democratic society.. Care must be taken in the writing of this proposal to ensure it does not step over the boundaries of public freedom to peacefully assembly, for to do so takes us away from a free society and moves us towards a more Fascist society. It is through small steps taken unwisely that such a transformation occurs.

I love Exeter and I enjoy shopping and visiting within the city, but I would not wish such minor inconveniences to be legislated against to the point of loss of the freedom that we hold so dear in our society. A mature and patient balance must be achieved: all parts of society, from the most productive to the most vulnerable and also the most annoying aspects, make us a whole community, and not a divided one.

There are already offences around harassment, inciting hatred etc. These laws are incredibly vague and open to interpretation. Would you be allowed to say boo to a goose?

Such judgements would be far too subjective. Bored kids messing around could be sent on their way; it would be all too easy to make judgements against people's behaviour based on prejudice.

'shall when ordered to do so' Do what exactly?? You haven't stated any request??

If a Police constable believes it necessary yes.

Again difficult but some people are very unwell mentally due to being on the street so can be intimidating. I really wish we could section people if they are mentally unwell and are using. even if it was a 2 week section just to give people a chance to feel ok come down of the drugs. If they go out and use again thats up to them, but they have been given a window of opportunity

This can be very easily twisted and interpreted to target all sorts of things - for example, a group of students leaving a pub after a few drinks and being a bit loud may be interpreted as having the possibility of intimidating someone. This proposal leaves open the option for people to be criminalised for essentially being a bit annoying. It is ridiculously authoritarian.

Are you seriously trying to ban public demonstration? That is what this will do. What a ridiculous set of proposals.

This is far too wide a proposal. Some people will be intimidated by actions and behaviours that another will deem normal behaviour. Again discretion is required.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. The police already have adequate powers, including the power to issue 48 hour dispersal notices to those suspected of anti-social behaviour, and have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to 'authorised officers' on the basis that they have a 'reasonable belief' IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour 'is likely' to cause distress to 'any' person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Discretion needed, obviously. Lively lads and/or lasses are going to be lively.

The reference to conduct which 'is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour' is overly broad, and places a prohibition on activities which do not in fact intimidate, harass, alarm or distress anyone, but which are considered 'likely' to result in this. 'Ordering' groups (i.e. anything more than an individual) to disperse has the potential to cause harm to those who are ordered around in this fashion: it is better that we look out for one another, and deliberately seeking to isolate those who may be in a group for their own safety is an antisocial act.

"A manner that (...) is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated" is way too vague.

Proposal 5 and 6 are totally unnecessary as laws already exist to deal with people who threaten violent and aggressive behaviour and/or perpetrate such behaviour. These proposals are wide open to 'interpretation' as to being misused and abused due to the definition of actual intimidation or perceived intimidation. The wording of the proposal would allow anybody at all to determine whether the behaviour of a group of people is intimidating in general terms, rather than an individual being able to prove actual intimidation to themselves. This proposal is wide open to misuse as it could be used by anyone to disrupt and disband public groupings such as trade union strikes, protest gatherings and marches, peaceful demonstrations and public vigils. I believe the adoption of this proposal would be a contravention of human rights and freedom of speech.

a) I believe there are existing regulations to control the threatening behaviour that I would wish to have addressed. The wording is too loose and too subjective.

Too vague. This could very easily be used to discriminate against the most vulnerable members of our society.

This is quite simply disrespectful behaviour to another human being which in a civilised society is intolerable and those who practice it must learn that bullying will not be considered acceptable in any way.

As long as the authorities are acting with just cause- only taking action when there is really the threat of intimidation, bullying, etc.

In parts it is reasonable, alarmed? I was alarmed to see Abu Hamza sat blocking Finchley High Street, preaching his hatred many years ago, unchallenged by the law on my way home to Devon, one Friday night, other occupants of the vehicle where raging at full volume. My granny would be alarmed to see a Gay Pride march, how are we going to quantify it?

Everyone has the right to be protected from harassment and intimidation. I am assuming this will be used to tackle the large groups of hammered students who maraud around the city at night making life unpleasant for the rest of us?

the intimidating behaviour of vagrants, drug-users, others means that times when we can feel safe and actually enjoy the amenities of our city are restricted. That in itself limits the rights of residents/visitors and if the city continues to push for a high value night-time economy, it must include diners, those who simply want to walk, have a drink and enjoy being in the city. If the additional powers help this, they are to be greatly welcomed.

~En masse with their dogs == and many do have dogs - forces je to turn back and try to find another route. Often their dogs are not under control and rush out to attack my small pet dogs which they seem to find amusing. Their dog faeces is never picked by them; they form groups which are barriers in the city centre; I am frequently 'shoulder-charged' deliberately and have been pushed into the road. Unacceptable as I am a rates and tax payer - and OAP!

Yes, BUT must be applied equitably to all citizens. Again, I am concerned that rough sleepers will be targeted.

Exeter City Centre is lovely and very safe in the daytime. At night it is not and most of these issues, apart from the begging takes place mostly in the evening. I do not come into the city centre in the evening - especially not Sidwell Street, Fore Street, South Street and parts of the high street due to fear of violence/feeling uncomfortable. I used to live in Manchester and these orders worked really well as long as they are managed well by the Police and PCSOs so I'm in support. Thanks

I would agree with this as a measure against groups of drunk or homeless people, but my concern is that this could be used to prevent individuals or groups protesting or expressing an opinion legitimately on public matters, since anyone can decide that they find such behaviour offensive and this is too much discretionary power in official hands. It would need to be much more tightly defined for me to support it, to ensure it could not be misused.

The police already have authority to disperse groups of people who are being a nuisance. There is no need for additional rules and regulations.

In any case, if this undesirable law regulation is adopted, it should definitely not include buskers.

Again if no Public Order Offence is being committed. The term 'feeling vulnerable and intimidated' is conveniently vague as to serve the interests of those who are 'experiencing' these feelings. These words are also subjective and can be easily manipulated and used by those in our community who would take advantage of such a proposal to rid their street, neighbourhood, etc., of persons they feel uncomfortable having in their community, especially for reasons which have nothing to do with public safety.

This following comment relates to all the questions.

I have compassion for those living in the ways we are discussing here. My conviction is that but for the grace of God there go I. I am certain that if any of us had had the childhood and life events these dear people have experienced, it is probable we would be no different to them.

The Solution

Improved mental health services, increased residential drug rehabilitation facilities, improved orphan child care in our society, provision of parenting skills to all new parents, and finally post traumatic stress treatment for soldiers returning from war zones, would reduce homelessness by 90% if not totally. Thank you for asking.

If Q5 was only on the basis of harassed or intimidated it would be correct for any individual. The words alarmed or distressed should only apply to a wider section of society as individuals will get alarmed or distressed by different things which the majority will think is acceptable such as a demonstration on a specific issue. The powers suggested go too far as worded.

I only agree with 5 and 6 in that THEY ARE ALREADY ILLEGAL. Harassment and Intimidation has been illegal for hundreds of years. Harassing people in large groups is likewise illegal. If a granny doesn't like the smell of a group of homeless people however. Or finds them alarming. That is not a reason to move people on. It's a very broad description.

These proposals are perfectly fair. No matter what the context no one should have the right to act in an intimidating or violent manner.

I agree with these proposals as I find harassment is fairly frequent, particularly as a young woman. However I think that a clear definition of what is considered harassment must be drawn up, so that this power cannot be misused in any way.

I hope you target those who harass homeless people particularly when fueled by alcohol and peer pressure.

Depends very much on your definition 'likely to', doesn't it? Are we employing thought police now?

I think that it is too open to abuse.

"Not behave either individually or in a group of two or more people in a manner that has resulted or is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour."

- is this not already harassment ?? Which is already a law, which can get you 6 months imprisonment - Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 also deals with prejudiced harassment more specifically.

Yes, of course people harassing others should be ordered not to?! I find it concerning that this needs to be enforced considering the protection we already supposedly have as citizens of the crown under the law of England and Wales.

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 also deals with the idea of fear of violence i.e. the victim's subjective reaction to the situation.

It would be nice if this was used to break up the large groups of squaddies, rugby players, and toffs who roam around at 2am shouting and leering. However it's going to be used to break up peaceful protests. I still support it because I haven't really cared about an issue since June 2012, but you might want to include exemptions for protests.

What counts as harassing / intimidating behaviour? This is highly subjective and open to abuse. I imagine that two or more wealthy well-dressed drunk people being noisy will not be subject to this law. This is unfair.

Both of these proposals are already set down in law and can be acted upon. But the language of these two proposals could be used to supplement section 3 and 4, considering begging as a violent or intimidating behaviour. This language of this proposal is dangerous as it is open to interpretation and intimidation of vulnerable groups within society, and is not required under the current legal framework.

This will be difficult to enforce and behaviour such as that described will be difficult to objectively judge. Temporary dispersal of groups is not going to keep them from reforming groups.

The right to make an organised, non-aggressive, political protest should NOT be eliminated. This is a democracy and our forefathers gave their lives to allow us to continue to have freedom of speech. Protesting is a human right in a democratic society.

Police don't seem bothered at present. Drunk/druggies have exposed themselves to my kids before on Sidwell Street and have vomited in front of me - no police action at all.

Young drinkers and graffiti criminals cause huge amount of issues.

Exeter awash with drugs everywhere you turn.

The wording of this is sweeping. "... any member of the public being distressed" There is no qualification for this to be "reasonable", so technically, any behaviour that can be proven to distress a single person - however unusual their sensitivities - can be banned. For example, someone who has been bitten by a dog in the past might be distressed by the sight two dog walkers accompanied by 4 dogs, even if they were well behaved. More seriously, this type of provision could have been used in the past to disperse gay people who held hands on the street, mixed race families playing in the park, groups of wheelchair users out shopping. It could now lead to calls for groups of Muslim girls wearing veils or Christians on prayer walks being banned. The addition of "is likely to.." compounds this, leaving it open to the authorised officer's personal conception of what others object to. The blanket "in such a manner" is ridiculous - strictly speaking someone could be ordered to depart walking backwards with their hands up! Assurances in the covering notes that this is not the intention are useless = once the power is in place it can be used in future in ways that those proposing it now may not intend.

I think this is far too sweeping and ignores my rights to speak out and demonstrate on matters which harass, alarm or distress me. People must be told clearly why they are being asked to 'move on' so there can be no accusations of unfair picking on individuals or groups.

This is unenforceable, unless it specifically targets certain individuals - I can feel harassed/distressed by the police, bad music, people I don't like, shops... it is entirely subjective and likely to be abused to get rid of the poor and powerless. For any of these measures, imposing a fine on someone who has no money is tantamount to imprisoning them directly - they have no way of paying or they would not be on the street - it will increase overcrowding in prisons and does not tackle the reasons behind homelessness.

What does specified mean? This needs clarification.

Could this be used to prevent people from gathering in groups to protest or demonstrate? Does this mean that football fans could not travel to or from a match in groups? How do you decide if a member of the public could potentially feel intimidated or distressed? The wording is too fluffy and leaves far too much space for misuse.

Overall these regulations will not solve the problems they are supposed to address, they will be difficult or impossible to enforce, there are more sensible, effective and civilized alternatives, they divert resources from the police and are generally nonsense.

Concerns about victimisation and restitution as discussed above.

We have a lot of issues with small groups of people hanging around waiting for a drug delivery. These proposals will help with dispersing these groups.

Ditto Prop 1

I repeat, all Officers taking on this role should take the view that they are trying to be helpful, in firm friendly manner.

This will be a difficult task,,,,,,they should be paid extra!!

With concerns. This needs to be monitored to ensure this does not lead to instances of discrimination or racial profiling. In addition, the voice of the person who is feeling intimidated needs to be listened to clearly and fairly.

I moved to Exeter City because it used to be a welcoming place. I am now put off walking through parts of the town centre because of the begging, drunken and anti social behavior of the vagrants. Anything that gives the Council or the Police powers to sort the problem out would be welcomed by me.

Please expand the area to include the flowerpot and recreation fields next to the flood prevention as far as Exwick.

Of course I think individuals or groups who are genuinely threatening should be discouraged, dispersed or somehow stopped. But I worry that this power could be misused, to impinge on rights of free assembly and to demonstrate. Surely the police already have powers to deal with intimidating individuals or groups. Why are additional powers required?

So long as this is not abused, or targetting younger people who need a space away from home and may be louder than the realise - again monitoring in place, and that this is targeted at those causing a real problem, not those who just need a quiet bit of friendly direction.

Though I agree with the sentiment behind Q5 and Q6, I believe provision is already made for such behaviour under existing public order offences. I am therefore not in agreement.

Again, some timid people will be intimidated by any homeless person or group. This is not reasonable and places all 'blame' on the most vulnerable in our society at the moment!

If, and only if, a person or group have actually intimidated someone, should they be asked to stop/disperse.

The previous operation of dispersal orders has resulted sometimes in more harm than good. could be very heavy handed as some people who see a group of young people seem to think they are menacing.

The proposals are incredibly vague and it does not take any great stretch of the imagination to see them being used to infringe some of the most basic civil rights that keep our democracy functioning. Large protests can be intimidating or alarming, someone exercising their right to free speech can sometimes be intimidating (even when it is not inciting hatred or amounting to assault). Furthermore this proposal does not require anyone to report being offender, it just stipulates behaviour that could be construed as intimidating or distressing. As such it gives the authorities the power to stop any action they deem to, on the basis that it could be "distressing" to members of the public. T-shirt slogans can cause people distress, loud music from shops and events can cause distress, seeing a clown can cause distress to someone with Coulrophobia (a fear of clowns). "Causing distress" is not a good basis for legislation as it can be interpreted to mean basically anything and so can be used arbitrarily. I don't know what the proposals are aimed at stopping but they can be interpreted so broadly that they could essentially be used to stop anything. As such these proposals have to be seen as the most sinister in a proposed Order that I am on the whole appalled by.

Does this include St Thomas?

Encourage people not to be embarrassed about reporting harassment and this possible prevention work.

At the present time certain parts of the City Centre and Parks and Open Spaces are occupied by undesirable people and it needs to be sorted out by Prof People such as Devon Investigations who have had vast year of experience in this field. The Streets of Exeter need to be cleaned up and fast before it gets out of control and people get hurt . It is no good using such people as Community Patrol as they do not have the experience and again are not Police Trained.

Don't we already have ASBOs and the Public Order Act 1986 for dealing with this sort of behaviour?

The dispersal proposal must be used in every case of behavior which meets the criteria laid down in this PSPO. It MUST be used for reported incidents involving transient noise in the early hours in residential streets frequented by University Students.

The area covered by this PSPO must cover all sections of streets and open spaces habitually used by University Students.

Arrangements must be in place such that the PSPO will be used without fear or favour against one segment of society over another. In other words research the option of empowering senior university Estate Patrol Staff at the same level as City Council Staff. Will uniformed Special Constables be empowered?

Members of the public have a right not to be harassed on the street whilst going about their business.

Everyone has the right to feel safe but fining people who have nothing is counter productive .

It is far too vaguely worded to make legal sense, and so is very unsafe, and will make anyone who attempts to enforce it very vulnerable indeed, legally speaking. It is over 70 years since the UK legislature abandoned the idea of trying to prevent people from looking as though they might some time or one day commit a criminal act, because it proved impossible to reconcile this kind of acting-on-suspicion with any judicial process that the Courts were able to recognise as securely evidence-based, and rooted in real sound jurisprudence. By adopting this approach the Council will simply open the doors widely to complainants asking the Courts to award civil damages which will have to come out of my rates. After all the dismaying developments on stop-and-search (etc.) over the last 20 years it chills my heart to see Exeter City Council going down the same route towards discrimination and officially-sanctioned harassment of innocent individuals. The fact is that any such provision will inevitably be applied almost exclusively against harmless groups of young people, harmless groups of older people and homeless people, and harmless people who are visibly either BME or from a religious minority. That's what's been happening with stop-and-search and ethnic profiling, and I am dismayed to think Exeter City Council is stepping back to the worst days of the 1930s, and the almost comically obsessive and repressive home secretaryship of William Joynson-Hicks!

This will negatively affect the most vulnerable people in our society. These people need help rather than being victimised and persecuted.

The acts of persecution and discrimination of the minority and vulnerable groups are abhorrent and comparable to some of the measures introduced by the Nazi Party before the Second World War.

Mahatma Ghandi said "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." Based on this quote, if these proposals are introduced, this Nation would be quite distant from greatness.

As previously stated, there currently exists sufficient laws (Public Order Act 1986 & Section 35 dispersal notices) to deal with such criminal behaviour where it threatens others or makes others feel harassed etc. The councils proposals are too broad and have no safe guards for mis-use, and finally it is unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad law-making and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

These proposals are all far to "1984" in thought and origin, please tackle the source of the problem - why in our rich and beautiful country are there still areas of wealthy cities such as Exeter - which resemble more a Dickenson novel ? We seem to be reverting to the bad old days and these proposals emphasis this all too clearly.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on your proposals.

I would hope that proposals 5 and 6 would apply to anyone, why are we targeting the homeless, the most vulnerable in our society. Where pray do you think they will go, they can't just disappear, as I am sure you would like them to. I think the council should face up to their responsibilities and make sure these vulnerable unlucky people are safe from harm and have food and shelter, that's the least we should offer. I am outraged and saddened by all these hard-hearted proposals when we live in such a rich country, there should be no homeless. I just hope the people who have devised these proposals never find themselves or their families in such a situation themselves.

The Police already have these powers

Such actions require a level of personal judgement that could be easily abused. Again there are already laws in place that should be applied in circumstances where the "peace" is being disturbed.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association.

There is vast difference to how the general public may feel intimidated from one person to another,

There are already existing powers that can adequately serve the function of tackling anti-social behaviour and it is right that these be exercised by police officers rather than individuals with less training, particularly in this subjective area. There is no need for any extension to these powers.

Thanks for taking the time to read my responses.

Use the law, there are sufficient powers on the statute book.

I am a former police officer and a worker with homeless people, hence my comments are backed by experience. I am also a former Labour party member, so I am shocked that the party I used to work for is promoting these inhumane and authoritarian policies against the most vulnerable members of British society who are suffering from both physical health and mental health difficulties.

Good quality care and support are what people need, in housing that enables their health needs to be met. At present, you are condemning them to an early death as most homeless men and women die in their forties. Compassion and empathy must be your watchwords.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Rees

I don't agree with moving people on because they MIGHT distress or alarm a member of the public, we are all "members of the public" and some individuals can be extremely intolerant, such people should not be able to prevent groups of people meeting each other if they are causing no harm. I am myself a retired GP and a grandmother and I feel some of these proposed laws are likely to discriminate against young people and the vulnerable. I am supportive of efforts to keep the streets safe but feel that the current laws against being found drunk and disorderly are probably sufficient.

This is highly ambiguous and subjective and would be very likely to spoil my next pub crawl.

Groups of people are often seen by individuals as intimidating so for their own sake it is better to be on a 'pitch' as an individual. However, there is safety in numbers regarding being on the streets overnight and I do not think people should be moved on if they have not put themselves in a place which is dangerous to them or others. This surely does not breach Prohibition 5 as it shouldn't be perceived as intimidating.

I agree, but would urge caution and clear definition of behaviors meeting the threshold for being considered intimidating etc Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is unnecessary.

Once again, the police already have adequate powers to maintain public order. To extend these powers to Council officials who do not have the necessary extensive training and experience to deal with these situations would be potentially dangerous. Making Council officials into a secondary 'police force' is not the way to tackle this problem or any of the others dealt with by this survey.

Again this is covered by existing law.

The proposals are altogether unnecessary and will create yet further divisions in our already increasingly unequal and uncaring society. Please not from a LABOUR council. We have enough laws without adding this very broad measure which does not have sufficient checks and balances in it. PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED.

If the homeless are cold, hungry and have nowhere to go for such basic needs as urination, or defecation with no hope of any money, they are bound to be a tad miffed (understatement) and frustrated. Once you have found homes for all homeless people, I suggest you stop this form of ethnic cleansing, and do what you, as civil servants are supposed to do - SERVE your public, and especially the most vulnerable within society. I can't think of any group more vulnerable than the homeless. Stop punishing them and start assisting them

No allowance is shown, in these words, for people who have mental health issues

This proposal is ambiguous and can be used to stop proper demonstrations which protect our rights.

Who will be an 'authorised officer'? Police should deal and certainly, such power should not be vested in anyone else - too much scope for personnel with power problems.

Surely this is already covered by existing laws?

This would give licence to the ignorant, uncaring and those intimidated by media scare stories to harass those homeless for no fault of their own,

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

These seem to be too general and open to interpretation. Intimidating, aggressive and/or offensive behaviour can be dealt with under law and reasonable regulation supporting this is fine. However, the pre-emptive assumption of this behaviour (and to whom this then applies) is not fine, nor is the vague wording about what causes or might cause (some) people distress or alarm mixed in with specific reference to what's actually aggressive and antisocial behaviour, as if they're the same thing.

Groups of people are not necessarily a problem. Also, the entire general public often go out in groups from time to time.

5 and 6 are too open to misinterpretation or to abuse. The normal law should be able to deal with problems of this kind - it does not need an extra prohibition for homeless people

They should not be dealt with violently if possible, it is more likely to spark further confrontation and resentment

I agree that no-one should be intimidated or accosted by anyone, however, there are already adequate laws to deal with such situations, and I don't see the need for further legislation by local authorities. Once again, it seems homeless people are being treated like criminals, as if they have a choice in their lifestyle and find their circumstances beneficial. People rarely choose to be homeless, and anyone who has ever experienced such hardship (as I have many years ago) would never begin to countenance these proposals.

These are human beings!, not vermin that need to be expunged. They should be helped so they don't have to beg, and not suffer further victimisation. This problem will never be solved whilst homeless human beings are treated like refuse to be cleared from the streets out of sight and mind.

A society that treats its most vulnerable in such a fashion is demonstrating a far more antisocial attitude that is shameful, deeply abhorrent and indefensible to anyone that considers themselves civilised.

Proposal 5 has a far too wide definition and anything can come under it so no i do not agree. It needs tightening up, e.g. Anyone using abusive language or threatening verbal or physical behaviour. (which personally i have not experienced from homeless people only very occasionally a drunk, and i live in the city centre!)

Do not agree with proposal 6 as that implies agreeing with proposal 5, which in its present form i totally disagree with
Isn't this already an offence?

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Agree, so long as the definition if alarmed and distressed is carefully considered such that it doesn't simply result in further persecution of already seriously troubled people such as the homeless

My understanding is that it is already a criminal offence, under the Public Order Act 1986, to behave in a manner which causes alarm, harassment and distress to other people. I also understand that there are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are engaging in antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices, which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. Thus, the PSPO proposal appears to be unnecessary - it is also too broad, and does not have enough safeguards. The existing legislation should be used, and should be applied by trained Police Officers, to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour.

They constitute too much harassment of people

A dispersal time should be specified, however I think this Provisioner's can already be met from within existing legislation.

Such behaviour is already covered under the Public Order Act. These proposals do not give adequate safeguards.

We are supposed to be an example world wide and this proposal is in its way as fanatical as some of the ideas that IS and fanatical groups.- national front being one of them. We need to be focus in on the causes of Homelessness. Agreed not everyone wants to change but the majority of people Ho are on the streets is not their first choice

I am appalled that a Labour council is considering putting a policy in place which is legalises the abuse of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. These people need our help. They are not criminals.

There are plenty of laws already in place to deal with aggressive or violent behaviour. Begging or sleeping rough are not criminal offences in this country and to make them subject to sanctions in this manner is reminiscent of the policies put in place in Germany under the Nazis.

Proposal 5 is too vague and subjective - what one person deems to be intimidating behaviour is entirely normal to another.

Proposal 6 is discriminating to those who do not have a home to gather in.

As mentioned before, there are laws in place that enable the authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour. This witch hunt against marginalised and vulnerable people is uncalled for.

A designated officer being a council official? This is a public space for use by the public. Being in a group of two or more people does not mean that they are committing a crime. Giving these powers to people who will not have the required legal background, training and understanding is dangerous and should be avoided.

Yes, so-called persons in authority, should not gather in groups of two or more and/or intimidate, harass, alarm or distress by their behaviour, any member of the public >

I get this in my job anyway, so what's new?

Who decides what constitutes intimidating, harassing, alarming or distressing behaviour? If implemented, these broad powers would represent serious interference with basic liberties (speech, association) and could be used for highly questionable purposes. I am totally opposed to these proposals.

As long as this is ONLY used when tough sleepers really are harassing or intimidating the public.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Who is to decide what is a breach. This is the same type of legislation that eventually led to the holocaust.. Millions died to stop this type of authoritarian rule.

Again Police already have powers to deal with these situations and any additional legislation is not needed and a waste of public money.

I have reservations; "distress" is subjective. What if some old person is "distressed" by a couple of gay men or women kissing or holding hands? Are they to be harassed? "in such a manner as may be specified"? What does this even mean? "Leave the area on foot, by taxi, by hopping or on roller skates, I order you by the law." Silly, I know, but clarification is needed. These proposals seem half thought out.

I take issue with the subjectivity of the person or persons being 'harrassed' or 'intimidated'. I also feel that this proposal disproportionately targets young people, who are more likely to form large groups, without deliberately intimidating anyone.

Effectively this proposal offers powers to deal with the fact that older people are unjustly intimidated by groups of young people. Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

I believe this is to be a heavy handed response, that is not necessary.

This is far too general. Furthermore, it could apply as much to ordinary rowdy citizens on a Friday night as to the homeless. Surely existing legislation must cover this situation.
who sets the time limit?

The terms as they stand (being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour) are all subjective and would be difficult to prove and could easily be misinterpreted in certain circumstances. Certain groups, mendaciously stereotyped could find themselves exposed to accusations of this nature and such a policy could easily be used to justify wrongful targeting.

I agree, with reservations. My own experience of such gangs is that they have no interest in me and I am unlikely to come under attack, but others might find their behaviour intimidating, and, yes, they should be dispersed. But there is no mention in this survey of what measures should be taken and how they should be implemented.

the interpretation of this is too vague and subject to all manner of interpretation. It needs to be more clearly specified.

None of the proposals seem unreasonable to me but reading in the media and online your proposals included charging the homeless of an offence therefore giving them a criminal record. If this is the case it is really going to help their case for the future. Regarding employment housing resulting in not being able to claim any benefits. Why don't you offer a little bit of charity and support, Or is that too much to ask of Exeter Thanks

I believe that there are already laws that can deal with this sort of behaviour.

As we don't yet live in a Police state, I would prefer to retain the freedom for all citizens rather than the vulnerable. Address the real issue instead of persecuting the vulnerable.

Yet again, a totally unnecessary proposal.

The police are already able to use such powers if necessary.

It seems that you are proposing to allow powers that are aimed at intimidating, alarming, distressing and harassing members of the public by "authorised persons".

Not a good idea, and a step towards authoritarianism.

There is an implication that the supposed threat is a one way track but these poor, often sad, frequently ex military, people are on the receiving end of abuse from many. If they are unable to gather together they are almost certain to suffer abuse, especially the relatively few females.

Again, guilty with no opportunity to prove innocence; open to abuse by the 'authorised' persons; able to prevent demonstrations etc etc "Not behave either individually or in a group of two or more people in a manner that has resulted or is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour."

I find a lot of the behavior of members of the public cause me to become alarmed or distressed. Such as people flaunting their unnecessarily expensive possessions (clothes and electronic goods).

I think that it is hard to define what is offensive to people because we all have different tastes and morals.

I would find it very upsetting to see two or more council workers 'moving on' a homeless person just so that some rich member of the public was not 'offended'.

(Also could the person who writes these surveys please make use of a spell check prior to publication).

Another job for the police with better training.

Provide a refuge for them and ask the churches to open their doors to them. Some of them are ex servicemen and some with mental health problems and you are treating them in a disgusting way

Surely this is covered by common sense? And no doubt common law.

Exeter is a beautiful city. It's not paradise ... yet.

I think it is very difficult to judge whether proposal 5 and 6 can be implemented in an objective way as different people have different perceptions. This could quite easily lead to demonisation and harassment of homeless people.

These are covered under Section 5 of the public order act and are currently enforced daily. No next powers are needed.

Thank you for your time in reading my responses.

Kind regards.

If we assume that drunkenness at night is the cause of such gatherings, the the council need to take a more active role in preventing people getting drunk. If these people are not drunk asking them to move away should surely be enough.

this is not a democracy..this is more like a totalitarian state.

Again, this is a proposal that remind of fascist law of aggregation, and can be used politically. If a person commits a crime then is going to be prosecuted; if not, there is no reason why the point 5 and 6 should be enforced

To vague unclear and open to interpretation. Is this in relation to threat or danger or a means to move homeless people to somewhere else?

Again we have heavily loaded language masquerading as sweet reasonableness. I would certainly be both alarmed and distressed at seeing e.g. a mother with two small children begging for food in a public place - but the suggestion that the response to such circumstances should be to drive those poor people away and insist that they hide their misfortune from those of us who are more fortunate is to my mind an inhumane and inhuman proposal, unworthy of any civilised human being. [Again, spellchecker wants 'civilized' rather than 'civilised' - a further sad sign of the times.] PLEASE apply principles based on humanity rather than faceless, heartless bureaucracy.

This is only possible if people have homes to go to. Otherwise and dispersal of persons will just result in the problem being moved somewhere else, which is not a solution to the problem!

I'm sure you already have enough rules and regulations in place about these public order issues why do you need more? as a labour council you should be ashamed of yourselves to be trying to implement these uncompassionate responses.

People can intimidate and encroach others to do things by playing on other's weaknesses, then lies can be spun and the wrong person gets blamed. Kids should be allowed to be free, and people should learn to love more and care for each other. This situation is best sorted out between the perpetrators and the victim.

This could apply to any group of people, not just the homeless, the Police already have the authority to move people on who are causing a disturbance. Intimidatory behavior by any group of people should be dealt with by dispersal - IF it is not part of a democratic protest. We have the right to protest, the right to free speech. These proposals have the potential to be misused and should be opposed. This is not yet a Police state.

Because there are already laws against this and, no matter how carefully these proposals are worded, they are simply meant to target and criminalize the poor and homeless.

I find Proposals 5 and 6 worryingly vague, and am concerned that they could be used as an excuse to criminalise homeless groups when no real offence can be determined.

"is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour." A disgraceful, 'woolly', and so poorly defined action as to be derisible were it not to be found in your proposals.

I have some concerns as to what may be described as intimidating etc and feel this could be manipulated by those who are seeking to have belongings confiscated. However I have on one occasion felt intimidated by 1 of a group of just 3 and moved on swiftly myself. Less mobile or elderly people may feel more vulnerable and this is not acceptable.

However, we are witnessing the subtle intimidation of these individuals and their human rights on a daily basis; thereupon, we can reasonably assert that Police and local authority covert intimidation is the main factor here, period.

This is such an open ended law with no definition at all. What offends me might not offend you? Who decides? Where are they going to be "moved on" to? What happens if they all say "No" - going to lock them all up? How much does that cost? At least they get a bed and a meal.

Has to be cheaper and better to run a proper homeless person's hostel, one that accepts all comers, not just those sent by DWP or whatever?

Q5. Certainly in cases of intimidation and harassment. However what constitutes alarm and distress? Some people are way too easily offended and upset and would say the very presence of a homeless person or a few drunk people out having a good time is alarming. These people should be encouraged to stay home in the evening!

Q6. Given the Prohibition 5 was rather woolly this is likewise the case too. If the public is genuinely being harassed or intimidated then merely dispersing the group causing the problem is likely only to be temporary and ineffective.

The wording is too vague. Harassed or alarmed yes but distressed? It can be very distressing to just see a group of young vulnerable people out in the cold with nothing. I find that distressing every day. But I don't want them to be dispersed just because their very presence distresses me.

Again, a group of drunken students certainly should be dispersed. They are foul. But I suspect this law is only to be brought in to make the lives of those most vulnerable, more difficult and less protected.

When in a group who find themselves in a place where others are being antisocial have the right to complain to them about their behaviour. The bad behaviors may be alarmed by being told to stop intimidating the first group. When police arrive they won't know who started it. Dispersal for a set period of time means people who were picked on then have to separate and go in different directions. Their evening out and transport arrangements can be compromised just because they ran into a group of antisocial people and were deemed by police to also need dispersing on the tit for tat sayso of the antisocial group.

Better definition of what may be a breach of the order needs to be defined.

As long as the authorised officer knows the law and has been properly instructed in the execution of that law - i.e. a policeman.

The wording of these proposals is far too subjective and open to individual interpretation. I sounds like it could mean that anyone in a group of 2 or more in public minding their own business and of no threat to anyone could be asked to disperse for no good reason.

This sounds like the kind of power that only a police-state would suggest. There is already provision within the law for dealing with anti-social behaviour without trying to impose dispersal of anyone a council official or other individual may not "like the look of"!

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Again there is nothing here that could be not be done under existing legislation albeit with a little more effort.

This comment applies to all the proposals. There is a recurring theme here of "ordered by an authorised officer" which is a licence for opinionated bully boys to have a field day. This order is a disgrace to Exeter. Get rid of it immediately and give the money you would spend on enforcing it to somebody can actually do something about the problems on our street such as St Petros.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary.

My answer to this is a yes and no. Yes I think this should be extended to persons acting in this matter dispute their housing situation. No I don't agree that 3 homeless souls should be separated at a difficult time in their life. The problem with this is how the authorised officer interprets this part of the proposal.

Please give a real and accurate definition of when this can take place and what exact behaviour is a breach of this. I feel this is very open to abuse by those individuals making a judgement in the situation, and very likely to be grounded in prejudice.

These regulations could work if combined with a sanction-backed requirement that officers must not act in a way that discriminates against poor or destitute people who have no alternative way of meeting their needs, and that officers should be required to assist such people to find food, clothing and shelter.

Without such requirements, it people on their uppers are placed at the mercy of officers, who may be prevented from exercising their compassionate consciences in such cases by the proposed regulations.

Surely existing legislation covers this. It is distressing that a labour-led council should resort to such draconian measures.

There are already laws in place to protect the public from harassment and intimidation which are well founded and correct. Proposal 6 can extend this to campaigners and protesters carrying out peaceful activity which in no way harasses the public. It is about informing members of the public who are free to either ignore the campaigners or support them by their signing petitions etc. Again this is an ill thought out proposal largely based on totalitarian control. It is a form of tyranny!

Proper legislation is already in place. This relies on a lot of judgements being made by the "authorised officer". This would spell the end of public protest, for one thing. And some people think we still live in a free country. More fool them.

Such behaviour can already be addressed by the police. There is no need to empower mere council employees in a way more suited to a twentieth century dictatorship.

This sounds too much like giving powers to the police to disrupt and disperse any group of people not to the Council's liking

While I would certainly agree with proposal 6 otherwise, the broad language of proposal 5 makes it impossible to agree with the package overall. I can certainly imagine many legal problems arising from this provision without very clear and specific definitions of terms like alarmed or distressed, and while I can see the legal need to include "...has resulted..." into the wording of proposal 5, I worry that this would also require very clear boundaries before being desirable in an overall context. If the risks are losing the right to 'assemble' in a 'group' with even one other person in case your overall appearance alarms people nearby, the law needs to be airtight, or more desirably, not exist. After all, these are public rights of way in a supposedly tolerant and respectful democracy, I should think that we can all reserve our right to be offended or distressed by groups of other people, otherwise we can no longer live in a pluralist democracy.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on some of your recent proposals, I hope that my comments may be helpful or constructive in some way, or at least an accurate representation of the concerns of someone who has lived on the outskirts of Exeter for some time.

Otherwise, keep your heads up and hope you're all having a happy new year

Quite unnecessary. Legal remedies already exist to deal with unruly behaviour.

This is extremely vague and is totally dependent on what others deem 'intimidating'. A group of teenagers just hanging out together could be seen as 'intimidating' by some and again this measure as worded appears to be unnecessarily criminalising people.

The enforcement needs to be proportionate to the distress caused, carefully and if possible politely exercised.

look after these poor people - do not bully them

There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Treating the homeless like criminals is grossly unfair and unkind. Often they cannot cope with the demands of living "normally" or have been let down by social services, nhs or dwp in getting support they need. I think that I would need alcohol or drugs to endeavour to survive on the streets.

Please show them compassion.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Stop trying to victimise the poorest people. You should be ashamed of your proposals.

Alarm, or distress is too subjective an experience to say that it should not be allowed that people cause this experience.

However, it should not be allowed that persons, individually or collectively act in 'order to be' alarming or distressing, or, likewise, in a manner which the vast majority of people would consider to be alarming or distressing.

If, with the amendment to Proposal 5, here above, an individual or collective group of individuals purposefully, or intentionally, behave in a manner likely to cause the vast majority of persons witness to it to be alarmed or distressed, then they should be cautioned and asked to disperse, as in Proposal 6.

Question 5 is worded in such a way that any group of 2 or more could be implied to be threatening this is a challenging situation and I think that this needs to be proved to be the case individuals perception of what is threatening or harassing varies enormously and I would not like to see this applied liberally without this being proved. Officers with responsibility for this would need to apply it responsibly!!

Again I think this is valid however we should also make it a requirement that whichever authorised officer orders the disperse he/she offers access to support groups or shelters so that people can stay together in a safer environment.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

We have existing laws for all this.

There are already satisfactory laws in place to protect the public from genuinely intimidating scenarios-in which case the correct people to intervene are and always will be the police not a council worker or anyone pretending to police the public.

The Public Order Act already covers this type of behaviour. This is just targeting a vulnerable group.

Do we not have laws already that cover this?

It is very important you use and authorised agents such as Devon Investigations Ltd who are fully trained in such matters. It would be a bad idea to use such people as Community Patrol as they lack experience in such matter and are NOT POLICE TRAINED and I could see offenders turning on Council Staff and the Council would be liable under health and safety regulations ect 5 is too vague in its wording. Likewise for 6. There must be other laws that prevent threatening behaviour.

This sounds like a public disorder offence, and should be dealt with accordingly.

Proposal 5 is too vague and open to abuse. Anybody could claim to feel harassed just because they don't like the look of a homeless person.

Completely agree that everyone has a right to feel safe and free from harassment on the streets of Exeter! I think there would need to be a clear set of guidelines as to what counts as behaviour that requires dispersal - it may well be that people do not realise they are causing distress, and when addressed will change their behaviour. I would hate to see this proposal being targeted towards specific groups of society. If there is a real cause for dispersal, such as extreme distress caused by violence etc then the situation would need to be managed accordingly to protect those at risk.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

As long as the persons are not being intimidating and are going about their business in an orderly manner even if in a group they should not be bothered.

So any street artist, busker etc could be asked to move on because some council jobsworth decides they are likely to distress somebody who won't like it?!!!! They will move all the women and children who are enjoying themselves watching a juggler or dancer entertaining in the street?! Don't you realise that you are giving people authority to abuse and cause more trouble than they are supposedly stopping or preventing?! I seriously believe the council needs to rethink its proposals, reword them, define them to specific cases, don't leave it open to human judgement. Of course stop a group of roudy drunks causing havoc on the streets, stop them urinating in shop doorways, stop people shooting drugs like heroin etc in public but DO NOT criminalise the homeless and innocent and harmless street artists, do not cause more distress to those already vulnerable. Put the time, effort and resources into helping them.....not this, for the sake of mankind, not this!

Sounds like the council guy could also stop demonstrations by other groups of people not in the interest Of democracy .

Care needs to be taken in ascertaining what the upset or intimidation entails as some people are overly sensitive and they may just be pleading for help from unsympathetic passers by that cannot appreciate the severity of the situation for the homeless.

Laws for 5 already exist I believe.

Whilst I agree that no one should be "intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by" the behaviour of others, that should be reactive, not proactive. Currently if I feel intimidated or distressed by the behaviour of others I can seek the support or protection of the police who already have powers to provide the necessary assistance. What 'might' or might not fall under this is too subjective and too much dependent upon the 'authorised officer' guessing how others may feel. It is too easily abused.

This proposed order offers me, as a resident of central Exeter, any improvement in my environment, whilst it has a disproportionate negative impact on vulnerable groups.

Teenagers outside McDonalds are the biggest issue, and always ignored by the police unless forced to act. They play football in the lower part of the high street without any intervention by police. They also pick on homeless people and get away with it, usually causing the homeless person to be arrested

Alarmed or distressed need better defining.

What would the threshold for an officer taking action? Would this be if a police officer thinks that a member of public 'may' become alarmed or distressed, or when a member of public actually has become alarmed or distressed?

On the face of it this sounds like a great idea, but I think this could quickly become overbearing if the threshold is set too low.

I support this proposal as long as it is applied to all groups including charities and religious groups.

The council cause alarm and distress all the time. So no, I don't agree with it.

Its too broad and could be used to prevent all sorts of legitimate behavior

Firstly, harassment and intimidating behaviour can already be dealt with by the police. 'Alarm' and 'distress' however are dangerously subjective. Would you arrest people taking part in a Pride march if there were other people present who were 'distressed' by it?

Concerning proposal 6, dispersal powers have been shown to have several negative effects where they have been used on young people. It is an area of policy that blurs distinctions between civil and criminal processes, damages relations between the police and targeted groups, reducing inhibitions towards future illegal activity, brings non-offenders into contact with the criminal justice system which again increases the likelihood of offending in future, as well as putting dispersed individuals at greater risk of becoming victims of crime themselves by driving them out of well-lit, busy areas and into areas with less passive surveillance, and overall represents an unjustified attack on civil liberties. Please see Crawford, A. 'Criminalizing sociability through Anti-social Behaviour Legislation' for a detailed analysis: <http://yj.sagepub.com.libezproxy.open.ac.uk/content/9/1/5>

Who will define such behaviours? Personally I might feel harassed and intimidated by groups of young men or women enjoying a boisterous night out on Cathedral Green. Does that mean that I can demand that every student group enjoying a night of youthful exuberance shall be moved on? Will the same regulations be applied to all groups? I believe proposals 5 and 6 open the possibility of groups who are from outdoor cultures, groups of people with mental health issues and individuals with nowhere to live being unfairly discriminated against. The whole of these proposals, taken singly and together, seek to criminalise those who are already finding life difficult, who have already suffered real turmoil on their lives and who need compassionate understanding and practical help from our community. Instead, these proposals seek to impose unpayable fines and to use the blunt tool of regulatory powers to solve complex problems that need well planned and funded interventions by a variety of agencies and individuals.

As with the earlier proposals - this is far too broad. What exactly is a behaviour that is 'likely to result in any member of the public being harassed, distressed etc.....'? It is not clear who are the officials who would be enforcing this. Are there not enough police to carry out such enforcement under existing legislation - eg. the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003?

The weakness (and danger) of all the proposals - and 5 & 6 in particular - is the discretion given to 'authorised officers' (both PCSOs as well as 'council officers) to make judgements about 'likely' offences that may be committed. First, we are given no indication about who the council officers may be, what training they may have and the validity of their actions within the legal and criminal justice system.

Too many grey areas. It is also important to note that young people in particular often do gather in numbers that may offput passing members of the public, words and gestures may be used that intimidate and dispersing such may well make those young people either more vulnerable or merely displace the deemed potential offence to somewhere else. Bringing young people within the criminal justice system when other methods of dealing with problems is a sure recipe for trouble down the line.

there are already laws in place to deal with this type of issue and a policeman to deal with it

This is too vague. It would be too easy for someone to claim they felt intimidated, harassed etc simply to get the "undesirables" to move on.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours.

The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

this is too broad reaching.. to act in a manner that is likely to cause distress to a member of the public. simply being homeless, unwashed etc may cause distress or discomfort to the public.

what behaviour might distress or intimidate "any member of the public" is entirely subjective. Personally i am distressed and intimidated by small children getting in my way, and by people with dubious claims to authority interfering with the lawful everyday conduct of free people

The wording of Prohibition 5 is far too vague, and again relies too heavily upon the subjectivity of the authorised person. The members of the public are incredibly diverse, and so to attempt to restrict groups of people from causing ANY member of the public to feel intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed seems deeply infeasible.

So long as common sense is applied.

I'm conflicted about both of these. Intimidation is horrible, but there needs to be sensitivity to the right of assembly. It's not an easy call, and my vote could have gone either way in both cases.

They have a right to remain where they are, but should not be a threat to the public.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power, which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour.

Needs to be more carefully defined but in principal this is okay

Police already have powers to move people on if they are causing a nuisance

I am concerned that this may be an attempt to restrict lawful protest and demonstration which may result in complaints being made by others who do not agree with the views expressed that they find such protest "intimidating, alarming or distressing".

Yes, - providing the mentally ill are not targeted,- but I understand there are already similar powers.

There are already sufficient responses to unlawful or unruly behaviours. Further bylaws to control group behaviours could be used to significantly restrict human rights. A misrepresentation of such powers by the Authority could lead to challenge under those rights, which would be both costly and counter-productive. The level of problem in Exeter is far lower than in other big cities which have considered powers to address gang-style behaviour, which we are not dealing with here. Moreover, this has tended to make things worse as the Authorities appear oppressive and divisive. We need more mature and less reactionary approach to the problems there have been.

Is this going to apply to two or more people reading from the bible, protesting, meeting up with other music or football fans? This is a really nasty insidious rule to try and slip in. Clockwork Orange comes to Exeter...bloody outrageous....between these rules and the cameras everywhere we have no freedom to do what we want, providing it isn't bothering others, whatsoever. I have fond memories of crowds(aka gangs) of us as students enjoying picnics in Cathedral Close. This would be unlawful under your rules. Exeter you should be ashamed of yourselves this isn't the Ukraine or Moscow. In fact they probably wouldn't put up with this either. I am embarrassed to call you my beloved city with this behaviour.

With the proviso that this depends on how threatening is defined. I can see this being open to abuse if someone says they feel threatened by a group of homeless people simply sitting together talking, for example.

I expect everyone to behave in a respectful manner to each other. Abusive, threatening behaviour is not acceptable and neither is dehumanisation, criminalisation or any action lacking empathy.

Whether behaviour "is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed" is subjective and hard to judge without the training given to police. Existing public order laws give the police authority to disperse people importuning others.

In general, these proposals would give homeless people a criminal record and compound that by imposing fines and leading to court costs they are unable to pay, making it even harder to find work to get off the street, thus prolonging their problems and doing nothing to solve the problem of homelessness.

Yes, BUT the word likely should NOT be interpreted as could be a chance they will cause trouble ! So if police etc are briefed to carry out these 2 proposals in a lenient, non-provocative way, they could help protect the public.

This is a huge sweeping power that could be used very indiscriminately, and limit all kinds of possible street uses.

Inoffensive small demonstrations could be stopped because of the fear (in advance of any incident) that some people may feel intimidated, thus seriously limiting free speech.

Our streets could be seriously sanitised by this proposal.

The comment "being alarmed or distressed" means what ?...I would agree to anti social behaviour controls but not because people "are alarmed or distressed" at seeing homeless people sleeping rough because the council is not providing shelters.

Much too generalised.

All six points require a stronger police presence because a resistance to dispersal will result in an arrest but what if this activity happens to public when enforcement officers are not around? How can the response to such anti-social behaviour be dealt with quickly? This doesn't happen unless the enforcing officers witness it for themselves. Whilst these points have good intentions they are merely an attempt to bring short term solutions to long term problems. If one really cares about preventing anti-social behaviour then we need to invest money (long term) into dealing with the causes of it.

I think some leeway must be given for people genuinely needing money in this austere time and if doing so discretely and politely this has to be acceptable. Not made a criminal offence.

I largely agree with the idea of this, if it is taken in the spirit of preventing really unpleasant anti-social behaviour but I am concerned that it could be misused to restrict peoples freedoms. It means that anyone who simply is a bit annoyed could be 'alarmed' or 'distressed' and could use this law to stop a harmless gathering. It also could be used to prevent groups of homeless people sleeping together for safety. Unless they are genuinely intimidating to the public - not just a bit untidy around door ways - I absolutely disagree with it being used for this purpose.

Proposal 5 leaves far too much open to interpretation, a misunderstanding, prejudice or over-reaction on the behalf of the person being 'harassed' or 'intimidated'.

As long as the time for dispersal given is reasonable

If someone feels intimidated by a group then they can alert the police but this proposal has the potential to get out of hand. Everyone has different interpretations of intimidation and unless a group has actually done something illegal or hurtful to someone then there should be no reason to break that group up. Again if this proposal was to come in to play then it should be applied to all in society from sport fans to students on a pub crawl - these groups can be intimidating to some people.

I would imagine that anyone seriously intimidating people is already being dealt with by the police.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect.

This proposal wraps up reasonable street control with totally unreasonable restrictions on homeless people, whom I have invariably found to be courteous and respectful. No doubt this is why it is framed so. Yes, by all means stop people intimidating others or using substances likely to lead to such behaviour but do not attempt to include completely unreasonable and uncharitable proposals as part of this package. I will be ashamed of this council if it goes down this all inclusive route.

There are already existing powers to deal with this kind of harassment. Such powers should be only used by those who are trained in their use, not by untrained 'officers', otherwise it could be seen as targetting groups purely on suspicion.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

I thought police officers already had the power to move on groups of people or ask them to disperse if there were any impending or other issues that they could foresee. I think that stating matters such as likely to offend could lead to many other issues where individuals could state they didn't like to see certain groups of people. Be very careful.

This strikes me like something from past centuries when members of combinations and friendly societies (early trade unions) were transported to Australia for gathering together to discuss their poverty and suffering. Your approach is setting us back 200 years! Shame on you!

This is covered by existing laws and should be the job of the police, not the council.

I have not noticed people behaving in aggressive or threatening groups in Exeter.

There are existing laws for disorder- This could be abused to just stop activity that councils do not want- ie protesting outside a bank due to its poor practices etc etc-

This power is far too widely worded and could be used against all sorts of people and activities that are currently legal. It is therefore a vast extension of power against us ordinary folk. This could be used against protests, pickets, flashmobs, parties, street performance, carol singers, charity collectors, groups of friends, students, schoolchildren, ramblers - there will always be someone intimidated, alarmed or distressed by a group, and whilst this is undesirable, we don't just restrict everybody's freedom to try and make sure that nobody ever gets alarmed about anything. Anyway, what exactly is wrong with existing powers available to the police in this respect?

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

While it is clear that I have copied and pasted these responses, this is because they say it better than I could, and I'm disabled with a condition that means I can't concentrate to make my own clear responses. I hope this doesn't count against me.

I am not at all persuaded that these draconian powers are necessary

Yes, we must be fair about what people are doing and whether it is aggressive or unpleasant. It is not enough for a member of the public to dislike another person's way of speaking or appearance. In recent months we've seen Sikhs accused of being "Muslim terrorists" because they were wearing turbans and people told to leave public transport because people said they looked "shifty". This is wrong.

I will use this box to express my general disgust at these proposals. I would expect it from Tories, but to think anyone could be so heartless and unsympathetic to those who are most vulnerable and have such difficulties and bad luck in their lives makes me ashamed to be regarded as the same species. Where are homeless people meant to disperse to. They can't just totally disappear, they need friends as much as, if not more than, other people. SHAME ON YOU!

There are already specific powers in place to deal with anti-social behaviour and again the parameters are too vague for the 'authorised person' -acting on a 'hunch'!

There is already legislation in place that can be used to deal with such situations, or when the authorities are dealing with known individuals who cause difficulties. The blanket nature of the wording means that those who are congregating in a quite unoffensive manner can be penalised. The time and cost taking those who do not comply, and will not be able to pay the penalties which might be enforced, is a ludicrous waste of council funds and resources.

Funds that will be used to enforce this legislation if it is passed can be far more sensibly and humanely used to support those who are most vulnerable on the streets. Very few are there from choice, many have difficulties which need professional help not subjection to greater harassment and humiliation than they are already experiencing. St Petrock's, Shilhay, and other street support bodies, do all they can within their limited resources. It is trained support of this nature, and additional accommodation for the homeless, that is required.

I trust that the Council will not carry through this proposed legislation and will instead channel appropriate funds to support those who are on the street. It is extremely worrying and sad that it is a Labour-dominated council that is making these proposals.

Existing legislation already allows the police to disperse groups who are behaving anti-socially in the ways described in the Proposal; there is no need to extend such powers to other officials. Additionally, the reference to conduct 'likely' to result in intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress is insufficiently determinate and leaves too much discretion to individual officials who might apply it inappropriately.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Again this is very open to interpretation, some people are very easily distressed or intimidated, some are intimidated by large groups of people regardless of what that group is doing; specifically groups of young persons are often found intimidating, and so they could be asked to disperse without having actually behaved in a way that warrants them dispersing. Doing so will alienate these groups and possibly provoke them into subsequently behaving in a way that DOES warrant them being dispersed, all because they feel like they were unfairly asked to do so in the first place because someone didn't like that fact that they were hanging around in a group of friends.

Although I do fundamentally agree, there needs to be a clear definition of what defines behaviour that makes people distressed.

Plenty of public order etc legislation already in place to deal with 5 and 6. I agree with 5 but only through using current legislation

I don't think this requires separate legislation and I think this has been included in order for this unfair order to get through. People are already not allowed to behave like this without the police being called if members of the public feel threatened

Providing the group is engaging in the activities mentioned and not purely for just being in a group as, once again, this is in breach of the law.

legislation already exists. Proper community policing, well lit streets, places people can go to keep warm, wash \ shower, wash clothes, eat, seek welfare right advice and psychiatric help is what is required.

Again, this is not really a problem (apart from the issue of people leaving pubs when drunk and disorderly) and existing legislation provides the powers that are needed to deal with this issue. These proposed new powers are draconian and interfere with our civil liberties: I fear that the United Churches Easter Procession might seem intimidating to some people and so could be prohibited if this proposal becomes law.

I think issues such as mental illness need to be taken into account when dealing with these situations.

I agree that aggressive behaviour and harassment are wrong and should be dealt with by the law, however there is already legislation in place for this. Additionally, your wording is appallingly ambiguous. Define intimidation? Some people feel threatened purely by seeing someone they disagree with/dislike and while I trust that the police would not act were such instances to be reported, this would in turn create a culture of fear and distrust. I think for you to have any credibility with this document, you need to produce a more detailed PSPO that is much more specific about what it intends to achieve and how it can be feasibly implemented. In the instance of 5 and 6, there is a huge grey area where you could have a group of people talking loudly or maybe what they're wearing looks threatening to some people, but in fact is in no way illegal. Purely the action of someone reporting it and then an officer having to investigate it would be divisive and could in fact make the accused group feel threatened.

The police already have the power to target genuine examples of anti social behaviour. Again those words 'is likely' are used. On whose say so is the likelihood? These proposals which want to use Council Officials to do police work is giving those officials powers way beyond their training and making way for vigilante-ism, a situation which impinges greatly upon their relationship with the public.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

This is a serious coordinated attack on homeless people sleeping rough across Exeter. A person is at rock bottom when their homeless it seems Exeter City Council is promoting the kicking of these people when they are down.

Again, this should be hand in hand with better provision for the homeless. This includes public education.

There needs to be a tighter definition of the behaviours. Some people find groups made up of people different from themselves as intimidating even when they are doing nothing wrong. This is far too general and risks demonising the innocent.

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Is this not already an offence?

Entirely unnecessary proposal. Illegal behaviour can be dealt with under existing legislation. The proposed measures are badly defined and too widely drawn, with a clear potential to encourage 'authorised officers' to target groups of people who don't 'look' respectable.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers

Too wide ; unnecessary; unenforceable : an absurd assault on basic liberties

There are already powers in place to deal with persons who are causing antisocial behaviour. the PSPO proposal is too wide ranging and does not have enough safeguards.

The streets would be deserted if we followed this to its logical conclusion as twentieth century Britons seem to be distressed and intimidated by more or less everything. Personally I think this is a nasty proposal that could all too easily be subverted to suppress any kind of public dissent and I am vehemently opposed to it for this reason. I really don't want to go into a city which has officials patrolling the streets doing this kind of this and if I hear the council has adopted this I won't be visiting your area again

This and other anti social behaviour is particularly prevalent in Fore Street below South Street - especially in the late afternoon/evening to the extent that it is almost impossible to walk through the area without being approached or witnessing/hearing unpleasant antisocial behaviour.

The sheer amount of litter left behind also needs to be addressed seriously.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The police and council have no need for this summary PSPO which would extend the power to criminalise people to 'authorised officers' on the basis that they have a 'reasonable belief' that is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This will ultimately change the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. There are already existing powers the police and council should use to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour.

My main caveat with this proposal is how subjectively it may be interpreted. This could for example be used against a legitimate protest or picket. It could be brought against people who are already marginalised for a number of reasons. I'm concerned that we aren't just legislating against anyone who is a bit different, just because they make us uncomfortable. I can live with feeling a bit uncomfortable. What I can't live with is the concept of persecuting and tormenting those who already have so little just so those who already have so much aren't a little inconvenienced.

Existing powers already cover actual intimidation, etc. There is no need to extend these powers further.

There is adequate legislation for the police or support officers to take action if a group of people are intimidating or harassing members of the public. Giving power to 'authorised' people to act if they think that any behaviour is likely to cause distress to anyone even if their has been no complaint.

So intimidating, harassing, alarming and distressing homeless people (and people in general) doesn't come under this radar? This is hypocrisy!

However, depending on the manner of the disturbance (either individually or in a group), warnings should be in place - the proposals are not clear about what type of behavior they deem intimidating, harassing alarming and/or distressing though, and possibly this would be abused.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

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For goodness sake! There is existing legislation to cover the situations described in these proposals. Why not just use that?

The Proposal 5's definition is to vague, and is again open to abuse by any prejudiced authorized individuals.

There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours.

Powers already exist to deal with these proposals. As well as the individual comments I would like to say that creating the PSPO would create extra work for already overloaded council officers, would demand extra training and stress for these officers and probably lead to extra financial expenditure by the Council in legal and compensatory costs for those adversely affected as a result of these ill considered proposals.

people are often distressed by those different to themselves..homeless people are often distressing to others and this is again not a compassionate way of dealing with the issue or those less fortunate than others.

No one should be allowed to intimidate another .

However I don't agree that groups of people should be dispersed after all this is still a free country .

Adequate measures already exist to deal with anti-social behaviour which intimidates, alarms, distresses or harasses.

If viewed the other way round, what rights do the dispossessed subjects of these proposals have to deal with what could become heavy handed officials trying to enforce these measures... they will surely feel intimidated, harassed, distressed and alarmed when their sleeping bags are taken from them, or their alcohol forcibly removed etc. etc.

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices that order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. Besides being unnecessary, the PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have any safeguards. It gives police and council the power to criminalise people on the basis that they have a reasonable belief their behaviour IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This is bad law-making and a direct attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target actual (rather than potential) examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

I believe there is a fundamental problem with introducing further restrictions on behaviour in the city centre - it simply isn't needed and in the long term, will lead to a much more boring, lifeless place. The proposals target some of the most vulnerable people in society and represents an attempt to hide away a serious problem that should be tackled at its root. As a labour controlled council, I presume you are aware that the cuts being experienced have the greatest impact on these people.

This is too vague and subjective and could be interpreted in any number of ways; if the individuals behave unlawfully then the police already has the power to stop them.

Sections 30-36 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (ASBA) gave police forces in England and Wales new powers to disperse groups of two or more people from areas where there is persistent anti-social behaviour. This proposal is redundant

This is already covered to my satisfaction by the Public Order Act. As well as being unnecessary, this new proposal is way too vague.

As the management in the Parks & Open Spaces / Street Scene tell their staff, Exeter does not have any street issues with rough sleepers / anti-social behaviour in the toilets.

The police already have powers to deal with CRIMINAL behaviour

I live at the top end of Sidwell St where many homeless people spend their time. I have never felt harassed and have had many interactions where I have found these homeless human beings to be courteous, grateful and respectful.

Each individual case should be tried on its merits. Just because some busybody with a warm comfortable home is just a bit bothered by the antics of the homeless, let them be. Focus on something actually useful instead. Help them to get homes!!!

There are existing laws which allow police officers to act when someone's behaviour is intimidating to another, and to break up groups, there is no need for further local legislation

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. There are existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour, including Section 35 dispersal notices which can order a person or persons to leave an area for 48 hours. The PSPO proposal is too broad and does not have enough safeguards. It is also unnecessary. The police and council have no need of this summary PSPO power which would extend the power to criminalise people to authorised officers on the basis that they have a reasonable belief IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and nebulous and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the extensive training that police officers undertake before becoming officers of the law. This proposal would allow a person to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they take a subjective view that their behaviour is likely to cause distress to any person. This is bad lawmaking and can be rightly construed as an attack on freedom of association. It will radically alter the relationship between local authority officers and the people they are paid to serve and protect. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour using their existing powers.

There are already measures in place to deal with harassment issues, don't try and over-ride those.

There are already laws which cover these things. Further powers are not needed

These are reasonable - although I am somewhat confused by their necessity, as they seem already to be covered by existing legislation on public order offences. But they must be interpreted with extreme caution, and I am very alarmed by the latitude implied by the phrase 'has resulted or is likely to result'... Who decides what behaviour is 'likely' to have such effects? This proposal must never translate into the simple gift of arbitrary power to order any person or people to disperse, simply because an 'authorised officer' feels that their behaviour is 'likely' to, at some point, distress some hypothetical passer-by: rather, it should be clearly defined as usable only in relation to behaviour which is clearly anti-social in nature.

See previous comments.

Anti-social behaviour is not tolerated amongst the public, so therefore it should not be acceptable for the homeless as well. Intimidating behaviour is what most people fear from the homeless.

I agree with this proposal, however I think it should only be implemented in extreme cases.

With all these powers, wherever possible workers from support services should be notified of the enforcement action so that as enforcement escalates, so the level of support available to assist someone to exit a street lifestyle intensifies. The clear definition of the support available in an accessible and coherent form will also alleviate many of the public concerns about the potential criminalisation or simple displacing of street-based anti-social behaviour.

Policy-makers may wish to read the evaluation of Operation Dodger, a Sussex Police operation from 2005 which tackled street activity in Brighton, and remains an example of best practice, bringing together support, enforcement, and environmental and design changes.

See [http://www.popcenter.org/library/awards/goldstein/2005/05-15\(F\).pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/library/awards/goldstein/2005/05-15(F).pdf).

When you have a large group it can be hugely intimidating, I've been scared myself sometimes & I'm more than capable of looking after myself but sometimes my daughter has to call me from the city centre as she is frightened to walk through the Bartholomew area or Fore St & I have to walk up & meet her.

reducing anti social behavior at source also reduces deliberate fire setting in the community.

There is no definition of an authorised officer. Are you thinking of using an employee of G4S?

Once again, sufficient powers already exist for police to deal with situations and individuals they reasonably assess to be causing a risk to public order. Extending powers to include the far more vague terms used in Proposal 5, and extending enforcement powers to 'authorised officers' is frankly Orwellian. Perhaps more time and energy should be spent dealing with the causes of homelessness in Exeter instead of the symptoms.

In both places Proposal 6 should say REASONABLY specified.

This takes away the right to demonstrate, and the right to gather as a group for social reasons. I hope homeless individuals are also to be considered members of the public, as I feel this proposal dehumanises sections of society - who are the 'public' and who are the 'perpetrators'?

Who will decide what kind of behaviour is alarming, intimidating or distressing?

I don't have issue with rowdy groups being sent their separate ways but the list of offences is open to broad interpretation and feeling of intimidation is very subjective.

Once again this is persecution of those without any power or money. It is stupid and pointless. How do you define what causes distress and to who. Who decides?

the on spot fines are ridiculous idea...this will only exacerbate and alienate further and persecute those who do not have the means to pay and will no doubt have their benefit cut and be criminalised as a result. It is senseless!!

These proposals are vague.

We all have a right to respect.

We need to differentiate between the homeless (who are unable to not intimidate strangers when they're in groups) and actual anti-social behaviour by students, people who work or live locally, or tourists. Until then my response to these proposals will be a resounding no.

It's all due to St. Petrock's. St. Petrock's needs to restrict their offerings of meals to the homeless who agree to sleep either on its' premises or in other local accommodation offered to them.

The wording of this is too vague and wide - ranging. Members of the public have a hugely varying tolerance (or intolerance) to different behaviours and the wording of this may result in people behaving in a way that most would find acceptable being moved on as a result of a complaint from an overly sensitive individual. Should football fans be allowed to congregate before a match? - some might find this intimidating.

Again the Police already have the necessary powers to do this - if this is simply to give Council workers the right to move people on then this could be used to target groups deemed to be a "nuisance" rather than dealt with as human beings. Are Council workers to be the new alternative Police in Exeter?

This applies as much to large groups of drinkers attending pubs/clubs as it does those of no fixed address. Hence it should be enforced on equally on large groups on "nights out"

Proposal 6 is quite sensible, but the factor it is based upon (Proposal 5) is far too ambiguous - any shmuck in a uniform could wave it about and accuse two 13-year-olds sitting quietly on a little-used set of stairs and sharing a pack of biscuits as being "distressing" because they are young and sitting in a potential passageway, and no questions would be asked. Needs some tightening up.

These are so loosely worded that they would allow harassment of individuals on almost any basis.

No

Proposal 5 - Of course, behaving in a threatening or harassing manner is not acceptable and if such behaviour occurs or is suspected to occur, we all have the responsibility to step in and try and prevent this. However, I do not believe this is something that can be changed by legislating against it. I also vote against this proposal for the reason that it is far too vague as to what is considered 'threatening or alarming'. For example, somebody holding a placard demonstrating against war or against a particular policy may be alarming to some people, but to legislate against this person would be counter to our values of the freedom to protest.

The persons being oppressed in this manner are also members of the public. Therefore these measures are self-defeating - since to implement them will cause distress to these members of the public.

Does begging count as threatening behaviour? This power should be used with caution and compassion. I disagree with Q6 because people should have the right to associate with who they want.

this is way too vague and could be unfairly exploited

Do not silence the public.

These people are a disgrace to Exeter & must be removed. If they are happy to live in empty shop premises then the Council should provide them with similar accommodation on Marsh Barton or Sowton.

I live in the City Centre & I am disgusted by the behaviour of these people. Why should I have to walk through or around their filth that is particularly prevalent at the top of Fore Street. Why should I be intimidated by their begging & abuse. The vast majority of these people are not in need but are just living off Society & those stupid enough to give them money.. Get rid of them & make Exeter City Centre a place where people can walk in peace & where visitors are not deterred from returning to the City.

This is just going to victimise homeless people and will not help them at all.

This is open to interpretation by said authorised officer. Homeless people group together for safety, and sometimes warmth. How do we propose to look after the homeless population? How do we think we can keep them safe? How can we prevent them from feeling intimidated, anxious and afraid?

This is actually about safety

What is to stop this measure being used to quash legitimate protest? A couple of years ago a band of racist thugs came to town to have a march and air their odious views. This protest was counter-protested by the English disco lovers; as much as I know that the intention was not to intimidate the fascists, there was certainly a great deal of tension on both sides at points. However much I disagree with the views that these various nationalist groups espoused, I am grateful to live in a country that allows people to express whatever opinion they wish and not be persecuted for it.

Intimidation can be interpreted very loosely, and I personally know of police using this as an excuse against peaceful protests in Exeter. Peaceful as in, not causing anyone physical harm or damaging public property, simply vocal protests.

Lumping together anti-social behaviour and homelessness is a dangerous game.

Proposal 5 - very difficult to police, not always going to be obvious so yes while it is a lovely theory people can be intimidating without realizing it or doing anything overt.

I literally find the children that gather outside McDonalds and KFC to be more disruptive and intimidating. This isn't a problem.

To be honest this law just seems like an excuse to disrupt the homeless people when you can't find any other excuse. This entire consultation is awful and I cannot believe it was even suggested.

I don't feel dispersal is necessary, one must be aware they might be grouped for mental health or disability reasons.

This proposal is extremely vague and thus open to abuse by both the public and authorities. You would need to define precisely what constitutes this sort of behaviour. Law enforcement should not be authorised to simply disperse a group of people just because one other person defines them as 'intimidating'.

Any enforcement action must be shared with other agencies so that support can be increased where necessary

I have not agreed with this as it is too vague, it depends what sort of behaviour this is referring to. It could be very subjective and if more than one person is just talking together could that be interpreted as unruly behaviour?

I would like to say yes but I can't trust that this won't be used against young people, ethnic minorities or homeless people. just because they are young, foreign or homeless.

"likely to result in harassment" - such vague terminology. Who would determine this, and how could you justify such a subjective stance? Particularly when "likely to" is not equivalent to actual offence. Proposal six is no better. Given that this is for 'individuals or groups of two or more', any 'authorised officer' could simply not like the way you're dressed, look, speak, act, or anything else to order you to move or stop talking to your friends. Would this also include teenagers out with their friends? Rowdy men sat outside pubs? This has far-reaching implications, which if not actually reached, only imply discrimination.

Proposal 5: Should it be "Not to behave either individually...." rather than "Not behave either individually...."

Proposal 6: What's Prohibition 5?

This should only apply to legitimate harassment or physical abuse, and never be applied to individuals feeling uncomfortable over the presence of another, such as asking for the dispersal of a beggar.

I agree but how can such a judgement be reguky

It is completely unnecessary and an utter waste of council resources to consider this proposal for regulation by a PSPO. The Public Order Act 1986 already gives local authorities the power to issue dispersal notices and other regulatory tools against those causing harassment, alarm or distress in public, and therefore wasting council time and money on adding another layer of bureaucracy in this particular zone is ridiculous. Not only this, but these new powers may also be enforced even where people's behaviour 'has the potential' to have a detrimental effect on quality of life. This hypothetical element of the regulations is too arbitrary and could be misused by enforcement officials.

Laws already exist to deal with this.

So long as it is applied to students. But of course it won't be given the economic stranglehold that the university enjoys in Exeter. It is the poor behaviour of the mainly middle-class, privately-educated students that causes the most offence to Exeter residents and not that of the vulnerable homeless that this proposal is aimed at. It is the university which should be targeted by the council and made to take responsibility for the shocking anti-social behaviour of the student community.

On the whole this proposal is a disgusting attempt to paper over the real problems caused by poverty and the austerity programme by attacking the victims of the current economic outrages and a blatant attempt at divide and rule by ECC as it aims to turn Exeter residents against the most vulnerable people living here.

What is prohibition 5? Is that proposal 5?

Proposal 5 is expressed in a hugely wide, subjective manner that I have the same in principle objections as previously. To put it another way, I consider it an important civil liberty that as long as I act within the law then I am permitted to do whatever I choose.

To say again, the proposals are hugely far-reaching, contrary to the Human Rights Act in a number of respects and dress up the gentrified suggestion of keeping our city centre "decent" and "respectable" into a package of measures which are discriminatory, impossible to monitor, likely to bring the officers with these powers into conflict with those affected and which denigrate this City, rather than improve it.

This is not simply sanitisation. Please think very carefully about the wider impact.

I think it is an absolute disgrace that Exeter City is considering punishing homeless people in such a way.

I don't see the point in fining people who are homeless. They have no money. criminalising them if they can't pay impacts on their ability to rehabilitate back into society and therefore the problem is self perpetuating.

These are both covered adequately by law and need not be made the subject of a PSPO.

This isn't North Korea

That is an offence under the public order act now completely pointless to add to that legislation

Since when did communal survival become a crime?

Context please!

I'm not in favour of people being harrassed, but isn't this all just a bit vague? Shouldn't there be provisions in the existing law to handle this situation?

If someone is intimidated or distressed by something I do unintentionally, then honestly that's their problem. If it's intentional intimidation then obviously that's harassment, or behaving in a disorderly manner, which is already dealt with by the police. Cut down the wording to just "Harassed" because that's the only thing out of "intimidated, alarmed, harassed or distressed" that someone cannot do unintentionally.

overall this seems to simply be making harassment warrant for police intervention. As I said, it already is

Again this is infringing on civil rights. People have the right to freedom of speech you can't take that away you don't have the right There is no explanation as to what defines alarm or distress which is rather fundamental, and leaves the proposal appallingly vague where clarity is essential to ensure it is used effectively and proportionately. Again huge powers would be given to officers without an adequate explanation of when they will be used or why they are necessary to plug gaps in the existing law.

Great policy - Exeter needs to protect its workers and residents

I don't necessarily see why they have to disperse... But of course the intimidating behaviour should stop. I think it would specifically be very useful to make explicit reference to street harassment (cat-calling, random and uninvited appraisals of appearance, sexualised insults, groping etc.) directed at women in this proposal. From my experience, it is one of the most common yet accepted forms of intimidating behaviour on our streets. I am concerned however, that proposal 5 may be utilised by police just to target any groups that they happen not to like (e.g. groups of people all from an ethnic minority) --- some work needs to be done to ensure that the proposal is not perverted in this manner.

I think this needs to be judges on a case by case basis without an blanket solution, often with sympathy to those who are supposedly causing distress or being 'alarming' because in many cases they are doing no harm and people are easily scared.

This could affect those with mental health problems, who should be protected and helped rather than punished.

Where do you draw the line? Who chooses what is intimidating and what is not?

For homeless people, the street is their home, and the people they associate with can fulfill the role of "family" looking out for each other, supporting each other and providing company. Ordering them to disperse is denying them the right to a "family life". It is also likely to engender distrust in authority, and cause anger and paranoia which may increase the possibility of, and/or escalate aggressive behaviour.

The criteria in point 5 are very broad. I find seeing people in fur coats distressing, but I do not expect them to be dispersed.

This legislation would prevent peaceable protest and demonstrations, if any of the public found them distressing or alarming.

Implementing this PSPO does nothing to recognise the political and social factors underlying the rise in homelessness. I do not agree that it may lead to "positive outcomes" or "health benefits". If a homeless person is issued with a fixed penalty, they are unlikely to be able to pay it. The eventual consequences of this are likely to involve arrest and court proceedings. The financial cost of providing legal support would be high, albeit not coming out of Exeter City Council's budget. The social cost is likely to be homeless people feeling more excluded from society and that they have no stake or useful recognition within it.

I applaud the provisions already in place in Exeter to support homeless people, and would welcome more resources for facilities that would impact positively on their mental and physical health.

The PSPO is against labour values, and is unlikely to work. Much negative publicity has been generated by the proposals, and this impacts negatively on trust in the labour controlled city council.

It is a vague enough proposal to be applied to many situations and proposals like this have been used to shut down peaceful protests. Furthermore, in light of the other proposals I assume this will be used as another way of perpetuating your abhorrent vendetta against the homeless community.

"Has resulted in distress" I agree with. "Might result in distress" is dubious, non-specific, and liable to be abused

Threatening behaviour stops my 15 year old daughter from being able to walk safely to evening activities. The area around BHS is a real problem for her especially when the soup kitchen people are there encouraging assembly of those who exhibit antisocial behaviour. This well meaning activity which gathers an aggressive group together stops families like ours from being able to live the life we'd like to in the city centre.

Laws against anti social behaviour are already in place. This descent into martial law is not necessary. Find another way to reduce the already low levels of crime in Exeter.

Have there been many intimidating incidents? Cannot say I have ever witnessed any. You're supposing that they cannot hang around with their friends in case it is intimidating, ridiculous - they need protection from the public from intimidation, just as much as you seem to be suggesting that we do.

How on earth can you go about defining intimidating/distressing behavior. You're essentially saying groups of homeless people cannot group together as they can be perceived as unnerving to some members of public. Male students on nights out are the biggest part of this problem, often displaying anti social and sexually explicit behavior.

I worry that this will be very difficult to enforce and may be enforced unfairly or with bias towards certain people, particularly young people and people of colour. Though I agree in principle with the concept, it should be restructured and reworded in a way that is less general and provides more certain guidelines as to what sorts of behaviour and language should be tackled.

Surely this behaviour of public nuisance is not tolerated currently. Obviously some persons sensitivity to groups of individuals varies considerably eg high spirited party revellers. Most are quite harmless and the result of alcohol consumption which the night time economy encourages. Some discretion has to be applied in these circumstances and most will comply with reasonable requests. Pubs and Clubs have some responsibility in this regard.

Once again the designation of authorised officer suggests that current police activity is to be curtailed which is unacceptable.

These proposals are too broadly worded. They are an incitement to abuse of power. They are valid propositions at their core but should be drastically reworded to prevent infringements on fundamental liberties.

Essentially what you're saying in these two proposals is:

- homeless people, stay away from each other. Do not converse or socialise because snobs don't like looking at you

- if you do congregate, the police are going to tell you all to move away from one another and sit in silence on your own (without bedding or possessions because when the police are called they'll confiscate it)

Truly disappointed that I've had to read this. Evil, evil stuff.

Too vague, the policy is open to too much manipulation; what constitutes intimidation? I do not like to be intimidated, however would appreciate greater clarity of what is considered intimidation etc., to avoid this policy being exercised in a potentially bias way, eg a racist way

Too many gangs hanging around making people feel intimidated or scared

There are far larger issues in society that the council should concern themselves with - race relations, gender roles, child abuse to name a few. Concern yourself with issues that impact the society at large, and make decisions that will HELP people rather than making their lives more difficult.

However the proposal is very subjective which must be accounted for, as different people will be intimidated by different behaviours; for example, a small group of teenagers, although not behaving inappropriately will be intimidating to some members of the public.

Facism, don't 'order' them, ask them politely, or better yet, put more money into the education system and tackle the actual problem, instead of these pseudo fascist proposals

Recent reports about attempted sexual assault have really concerned me

much like proposal 5 is well broad. police are intimidating and act in a group but they won't be told to move on.

Drinkers in general are intimidating and act drunk so again this is aimed at homelessness.

What does that actually mean? Also are you going to start arresting the packs of uni lads who maraud around chanting football chants?

you're disgusting

Again, will this not just push them out of the city centre & on to the outskirts of town, ie: Heavitree, Whipton where smaller groups of shops trade, & have regular / busy trading?

People should have the right to dress and appear however they choose. No person or council can make a fitting decision on what is an appropriate way to appear.

Yes, I'm against harassment in public. But does this measure target homeless people in particular? Why?

No one likes to be intimidated, and I believe that these two aforementioned prohibitions should successfully counter such situations.

I think they are difficult to define and should not be put in place without further detail in writing of what constitutes such behaviour.

Because the definitions that you have provided are very open to interpretation this could impinge on freedom of speech and the right to peacefully protest.

Needlessly vague and up open to the discretion of the 'authorised officer'

Obviously if people are being genuinely disruptive and intimidating, that's fine.

"is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour" - that is completely arbitrary, and anything dodgy is already covered by the public order act. So this seems unnecessary, and simply aims to isolate homeless people from their pals.

This proposal should be the same for all persons causing intimidation to anyone else. This proposal does need to be fairly regulated however, and not just be used to disperse any group gathering.

This is really vague, seems like you want a law that you can use against the homeless even when they're not doing anything.

Well, none of those things are measurable so how could you know of someone committed that crime? Unfair on citizens and the people trying to enforce.

What does "distressed" mean? This is vague and poorly worded, and could be applied to anything

An extremely sensible proposal, in line with legislation and in the public interest.

With caution- depending on whether a correct judgement call has been made. Just being in a group in itself is not enough to say it is intimidating if, say, I would not be intimidated.

"or is likely to result in any member of the public being intimidated"?! Clearly some members of the public are like you. That being so, some members of the public are likely to be prejudiced to the extent that they feel threatened by anybody homeless. If three homeless people are standing and talking to one another, some people - like you, I assume - might perceive this as threatening. If reported, these people would then be treated as criminals. Are you now trying to take away the right for homeless people to associate with each other? Do you have any idea what it is like to be homeless, lonely and desperate? Do you really think these people would be sleeping on the streets if they had another choice? Are you honestly saying that the solution to this social problem is to penalise the homeless rather than help them? Take a step back for a moment and think. Wouldn't it be far more beneficial to the homeless if a new homeless hostel was opened? This would get people off the streets (which I think is your main goal) and not criminalise them in the first place. Your ignorant and narrow minded solution to this problem helps nobody.

This is not the 3rd reich based on subjective discrimination.

I agree intimidating in a group is bad but I know if this goes through it will just be used as justification to push homeless people around even when they aren't doing anything. I've walk past groups of them many times and they've never intomidated me, its your own prejudice of homeless people that makes you fear them

Whats to stop a person simply saying they are distressed by a group of people doing othing wrong just to have them removed. There is no accountability.

Police already have these powers. Anyone that votes for this Inhumane policy should be ashamed of themselves. Address the cause of the issues instead of criminalising some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Exeter Council are about to make it effectively illegal to be homeless in Exeter by imposing £1000 fines for begging and giving the authorities permission to confiscate and destroy homeless people's bedding and personal property. Not only is this inefficient as it does not target the reasons why people are homeless in the first place or why they can't get off the streets once they are, it also explicitly victimises poor and mentally ill people.

As long as 'intimidation' is taken seriously and is not just used as a group of people who are behaving normally but are intimidating because they are part of a group and someone is on their own.

I believe that there already exist laws that relate to behaviour that causes offence, nuisance or intimidation to the public (Affray, Riot, Incitement to Racial Hatred, Harassment etc) and these should apply to any number of people, even one person individually, and in any place, not just the City Centre. Such public disorder would be a matter for the police. Therefore, I don t understand why this prohibition is proposed if not to allow authorised persons to disperse anyone they take a dislike to, which I must oppose.

In any case, I object to the notion of an "authorised person" being someone other than a Police Officer or a PCSO, such as a City Councillor.

This clause also makes me fear that such dispersal will be used on political rallies, protests and demonstrations, which would be a violation of citizens' democratic and rights.

Overall, the details of this PSPO make me believe that its aim is social cleansing: an attempt to brush away those who some would deem to be undesirable characters from the City Centre for the benefit of the commercial interests that appear to be given priority over the poor and vulnerable of our community. Therefore, I oppose it, and would urge the Council to pursue other, more humane ways of dealing with disadvantaged people and difficult behaviour.

Bullshit, You cannot tell people to leave an area because of how they look? This will only push race boundaries apart, and groups of people who identify and wear clothing/act such as punks will be punished for who they are? Stupid Stupid move, if this passes people will not stand for it

People who dress in an alternative manner often face prejudice from the public and are accused of intimidation or threatening behaviour on a regular basis purely due to clothing and hair style choices

When I was a youth in the 1970s I recall the way that young people, myself included, especially those who were black or looked a bit different were constantly moved on and harassed under the "sus laws" by the police. This played a huge part in stoking resentment that led to riots. Is that what we want to go back to? See:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sus_law

This is a comment about every proposal. It is fairly clear to me that every proposal here emerges from an anti-homeless agenda masquerading as innocuous directives against 'anti-social behaviour'. Of course nobody likes it when people urinate or defecate in public places; no sober person necessarily likes seeing other people drinking or using drugs in the street; no one on their way on shopping/business wants to be stopped by requests for money. Yet you would weaponise ingenuous responses like these in order to criminalise the lives of homeless people - who have little choice other than to beg, to urinate/defecate in public places, to use substances to help them endure living outside. The proposal that would effectively allow police to confiscate homeless people's possessions - literally all they have - shows this to be a sham veiling of an attack on the most vulnerable in society. This list of proposals so crudely defines anti-social through separate behaviours (though connected by the reality of living on the streets), but it is apparent that what is truly anti-social is the agenda behind this survey.

All of these proposals are horrifyingly ignorant and dehumanising. Maybe the council should be investing in services and support for people without homes, with mental health and substance abuse issues. These proposals are shameful and will unquestionably penalise and persecute some of the most vulnerable in our community. The council should be ashamed of themselves for even putting these forward.

No

They seem somewhat vague.

Exeter council is failing to provide adequate provisions for youths to congregating or constructive activities for them to engage in. Many of the activities available are aimed exclusively (by means of economic streaming) at those with more cash to throw away.

We are left with a situation wherein those who have less money, or for whatever reason do not engage with the excessive lifestyles of today, are automatically viewed as pests, a problem. They band together in efforts to find a community. A family. To then criminalise this will only cause further stigmatisation, make it harder for people to find jobs, and likely increase the rate of homelessness.

These homeless people, then being labelled as criminals simply for their unfortunate circumstances, will make them even harder to employ.

I, along with many my registered emergency services colleagues, find four of the six points proposed to be borderline sadistic in nature. I am disgusted.

As a male young adult I am already stereotyped as a "thug" or "chav" by certain older people. I already get routinely searched while leaving shops in case I've stolen anything, it frightens me that if I was walking down Exeter High Street with a few friends the police could legally remove us from the area

Vulnerable people need to stick together, what you are proposing is disgusting

I do NOT consent to any proposed Statute or Act by Exeter City Council to cause harm or loss to another Human Being. What ECC are proposing with this demonization of our vulnerable people is totally abhorrent and unacceptable. Instead of doing your jobs properly of finding decent housing for everyone you intend to intimidate, humiliate, STEAL private property and harass & criminalise decent people who have found themselves in an awful situation, often at no fault of their own. ECC should be ashamed of itself and should bring into question the mental health of the 'person' or 'persons' who proposed such psychopathic NAZI style policies.

Punks look and sound intimidating but we aren't so the public may be intimidated by us though that is not our intention. Can you stop fucking targeting us?

This proposal will give police officers too much discretionary power, it would be far too easy for them to abuse it.

Proposal 5 is meaningless. How shall it be judged that a group of individuals are intimidating other individuals? How will the Police be briefed as to what constitutes this sort of behaviour? What is to say that members of the public could not simply claim that groups of people that they 'don't like the look of' are in breach of Proposal 5. All of these proposals perpetuate negative social judgements of the homeless, of groups of young people, of working class people. I am deeply disappointed in Exeter Council.

Dehumanising and uncompassionate

This gives carte blanche to the authorities to use these powers to move people on and out of the city centre - it states for 6 hours minimum. These powers could be used not just against the homeless but against any group of people - for example anybody protesting. The powers are so widely drawn as to give huge power to the authorities. The FAQs state that these powers will not be used against people protesting - but that is not what the order states. Being "alarmed or distressed" is very much in the eye of the beholder. Individual officers will be able to interpret these regulations and effectively it will mean that any attempt at protest will be only allowed if the authorities wish to enable it. Real fears of disorder etc are already covered by the law. This extension of power is draconian and not necessary.

I was of the understanding that such restrictions as listed under 5 & 6 were in force currently so why we need a new Order to enforce what is already enforceable beats me.

Who is going to be "an authorised officer" jobs worth bully's are what there going to be

The Police and Courts already have ample powers to deal with intimidation and harassment.

Again, this is MUCH too loosely specified - any lawful protest could be broken up just because 'any member of the public' might be distressed by it. As with other proposals here, the extremely loose wording means that 'authorised persons' will effectively be given the power to decide what THEY think is acceptable or unacceptable, when to impose a fine and when to look the other way and this is a very dangerous path.

I find this propose intimidating, alarming and distressing and so the people proposing the PSPO should be removed in line with their opinions.

Persecuting, destitute and homeless people

See comments and questions in accompanying letter.

As a visitor from overseas I have been appalled to see so many homeless people on the streets of Exeter. These people need help and support. They are instead being hounded. It is not good enough. Jim Lawson, 22 Trinity Court, Southerhay East.

My comments concerning their proposals are that, in protecting the public from "unseemly" groups of people ie The Homeless - there is no consideration of how to help the Homeless. If a person has reached "Rock Bottom" they need help to get out of the pit - they are PEOPLE - like you and me - they are HUMAN BEINGS - PLEASE CONSIDER THEIR NEEDS. Paula Lawson, 22 Trinity Court, 37 Southernhay, Exeter.

Homelessness has risen by 50% since 2010 under the current government. We do not want privilege over the appearance of Exeter over it's CITIZENS well being. We don't want rough sleepers to be seen as a problem to be dealt with, as an inconvenience, as a threat rather than individual human beings. We do not agree or want to see unfortunate people forced out of the city as has happened in Soviet Russia.

As long as someone is genuinely being harassed. I've often felt more intimidated by drunken, well fed youths. The current governments policy on benefits, lack of funding for the NHS etc are causing major hardships across the country resulting in may more homeless and destitute people. Many become depressed resulting in substance abuse. I would far rather you increased my rates and helped them. Yours Natasha Ogilvie, Rockbeare.

Your wording is completely over the top. Intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed? I don't think so. Most of the time people with no home, no money, no possessions, no self-worth are cowed and apologetic. There's more harassment from football supporter!!!

Under the Public Order Act 1986 it is already a criminal offence to behave in a manner which causes Alarm, Harassment and Distress to other people. These existing powers that can be used to disperse people who are causing antisocial behaviour. This proposal is too broad and does not have any safeguards. The council have no need of this power which extends the power to criminalise people to 'authorised officers' on the basis that they have a 'reasonable belief' IS LIKELY to result in ANY member of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed by that behaviour. This wording is vague and has the effect of extending summary powers to persons without the benefit of the training that police officers have to have. This proposal would allow a council officer to criminalise a person, or group of people purely because they dislike their behaviour. This is an attack of freedom of association. The police and council should use their existing powers to target genuine examples of antisocial behaviour.

This will most likely target the homeless when in reality you should be looking at the anti behavioural problems of students.

Give them help.

I think it might work if used in the right manner and not used just to target the homeless.

Depends on the group - if its only rough sleepers - that means they are only getting targeted - then it is only those and not town revellers that it will affect if used in a fair manner then it may work, but I think it is not going to be used in that way.

Depends upon the group ie if only rough sleepers are targeted then it is only those and not town revellers that it will affect. If used in a fair manner then it may work but I think it is not going to be used that way.

It's too vague.

It's a free world and you've got freedom of street. If you're shouting at someone fair enough but if you're shouting to a mate down the road, how is that different from the police shouting "Stop"?

Depends upon the "group" if only rough sleepers are targeted then it is only those and not town revelers that it will affect if used in a fair manner then it may work, but I think it is not going to be used that way.

?

I am homeless. Walski

Will this apply to students??

Finding me homeless ?

Leave the homeless alone.

Like (2), this is too vague, is unnecessary and there are long established laws that cover this.

No

Most people only cause anti-social behaviour are not just homeless, as most of the beggars in town are housed - there is only a select few who are actually homeless. BUT - students and other people who go out drinking cause anti-social behaviour to so IT'S NOT JUST HOMELESS PEOPLE!!

They should be given a safe area to sleep and be around.

They can't be sent home they aint got one.

That's daft.

Have some RESPECT for homeless.

The right of assembly and association are basic human rights. The nuisance rules weren't passed sometime and were thrown out by Parliament. Now by using the local authority and words like intimidation, harassment and distress the same effect will be achieved and such legislation if passed will undoubtedly lead to its use to stop legitimate protests and demonstrations but perhaps that doesn't matter anymore.....