



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

Mr Alan Patrickson  
Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

Dear Alan

**Re: Support for Public Spaces Protection Order – Durham city**

The Durham BID Company Ltd was incorporated in 2010 to bring together the resources of the public and private sectors with the aim of enhancing the vitality and commercial viability of Durham city centre. Since that time, we have established a wide network of participants and have consulted extensively with residents, businesses and partner organisations of Durham through various means. Consequently, we have a detailed understanding of the city centre in which we operate, where we are now and where we wish to be in the future. Durham BID has recently secured another 5-year mandate from businesses to deliver the priorities in our new business plan.

I am writing on behalf of the Durham BID Board and our member businesses in Durham city to express our strong support for the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) aimed at curbing anti-social behaviour in Durham city. I have witnessed firsthand on many occasions the negative impact that such behaviour has on our community's quality of life, safety, and overall well-being.

Anti-social behaviour, including but not limited to public drinking/intoxication, begging and public defecation, significantly detracts from the peace and security of our public spaces. These issues not only create an environment of fear and discomfort but also discourage families, visitors, and businesses from enjoying and investing in our community.

The introduction of a PSPO would provide the necessary framework to address these challenges effectively. It would empower law enforcement and community officers to take appropriate action against individuals engaging in anti-social activities, thereby enhancing the safety and cleanliness of our public areas. Such measures are crucial in fostering a sense



of pride and responsibility among residents and ensuring that our public spaces remain welcoming and accessible to all.

Moreover, I believe that the PSPO should be part of a broader strategy that includes preventive measures, such as community outreach programs, support services for vulnerable individuals, and educational campaigns. By addressing the root causes of anti-social behaviour and providing support to those in need, we can create a more cohesive and compassionate community.

In conclusion, I urge Durham County Council to approve the proposed PSPO on anti-social behaviour. This order is a vital step towards reclaiming our public spaces and ensuring they are safe, enjoyable, and inclusive for everyone. I am confident that with the right balance of enforcement and support, we can significantly reduce anti-social behaviour and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. I look forward to the positive changes that this PSPO will bring to Durham city.

Yours sincerely

*P. Howard*

Paul Howard

Durham BID Manager