

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

Question 37

Should we seek to limit the number of hot food take-aways in some locations, for example in our town and local centres (where there is an over-concentration) and/or close to schools and colleges or does this unfairly prejudice commercial interests?

The City of Durham Trust agrees that the number of hot food take-aways needs to be limited in our town and local centres (where there is an over-concentration) and close to schools and sixth-form colleges. This is a case where the benefits to the local community and to the health of young people must take precedence over unbridled commercial interests.

In framing the new policy there are three further issues that should be taken on board:

1. Opening hours should be limited to no later than 11pm in areas where there are local residents who could be disturbed by the noise, smells, and general disturbance of this late night activity. The Central and East Planning Committee recently (June 14, 2016) turned down four planning applications from take-aways to stay open past 11pm. The grounds were that this would be contrary to saved Policy S10, S2b and H13 of the City of Durham Local Plan 2004 and Paragraph 17 of the NPPF. Enacting these provisions in the new Plan would continue this protection when the 2004 Local Plan is superseded.
2. A very common issue with take-aways is the rubbish generated both in the shop and by customers. It is common to see wheely bins permanently left on the pavement. New take-aways should be conditioned to store their rubbish on-site and only put it out when the collection is due, and to take the bins back in as soon as the collection has ended.
3. Take-aways should only be permitted to offer a delivery service where the delivery vehicles can park safely and legally in the vicinity of the premises. All too often one sees parking on double yellow lines and half on the pavement.