

Additional information relating to Anti-Social Behaviour for consideration within the Selective Licensing Update report

Submitted to Challenge and Improvement Committee scheduled for Tuesday 13th November 2018

This information should be read in conjunction with section 8 of the report titled “Dealing with Ant-Social Behaviour (ASB)”

1. General

National statistics for the year ending June 2018 has seen a rise in police reported crime from the previous year:

- 30% rise in police recorded public order offences
- 22% increase in police recorded robbery offences
- 8% increase in police recorded overall theft offences
- 7% increase in police recorded vehicle related thefts
- 2% increase in police recorded burglary offences
- 12% increase in police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument

ASB hasn't been recorded in the same way, but the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimate that 34% of respondents experienced or witnessed ASB in their local area in the latest survey year, an increase from the previous year. This report does not break this information down to a Gainsborough level.

It is also possible that given the focus on quality of crime reporting, some incidents which have previously been reported as ASB have more recently been recorded as crimes which would account for some of the recent rise in public order offences.

2. State of the District

The West Lindsey State of the District reports from 2015 to 2018 can be found here <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-business/growth-and-regeneration/state-of-the-district/>

Each of these reports contains information relating to crime and ASB. As an overview Lincolnshire Police recorded the overall crime rate in West Lindsey as 50.89 incidents per 1,000 of the population, a notable increase from 45.7 per 1,000 in 2016/17, and 40.0 during 2015/16 and 39.5 in 2014/15. This is in line with the trends Nationally.

These reports do provide further detail as to the overall crime levels, however they do not detail ASB to the level in which the information to be provided by Lincolnshire Police will. Please see section 4.

3. West Lindsey Information

Table 1: ASB report information from West Lindsey District Council

ASB	Jul 15 – Jul 16	Jul 16 – Jul 17	Jul 17 – Jul 18
General	42	40	35
High Level (Managed in Sentinel	5	4	4
Intimidation and Harassment	1	0	0
Nuisance Premises	1	7	4
Vehicle repairs on the Highway	3	1	0
Graffiti	9	8	6
Waste on private property	15	3	3
Rats and Mice	1	0	0
General Complaints	3	1	1
Rowdy Behaviour	0	1	2
Drunken Behaviour	0	1	1
Vandalism	0	1	0
Nuisance Location	0	0	2
Total	80	68	58

Alongside this, in 17/18 on average, there were 64 housing disrepair cases open within the South West Ward. In 18/19 to date the average is 32, 50% less.

4. Lincolnshire Police Information

Information has been requested from Lincolnshire Police relating to the licensing area. This information has been requested, but not yet provided. Once provided it will enable a broader viewpoint on the overall level of ASB to developed.

Officers are happy to provide this information to the committee at a later date or be scheduled to attend a future meeting to discuss it.

If the information is available prior to the Prosperous Communities Committee meeting on the 4th of December 2018 it will be provided as part of this report.

5. Case Studies

Case Study 1 – ASB in an unlicensed property

The Council became aware of the owner of an unlicensed property commencing the process to let the property to individuals who were known to the Council for having caused Anti-social behaviour at their previous address and had been evicted from the property due to this.

The Council sent a number of warning letters to the owner, advising them not to occupy the property whilst it was unlicensed and making them aware of the schemes requirements, but these were disregarded and the new tenants moved in. The Council received several Anti-social behaviour reports shortly afterwards.

The Council considered that it was in the public interest to take formal action in respect of the unlicensed offence, due to the issues the conduct had caused and successfully prosecuted the owner of the property in July 2018. A completed SL application has subsequently been made.

The anti-social behaviour issues were raised under the scheme, and the landlord is now taking active steps to address the issues and manage the tenancy. The number of anti-social behaviour complaints in respect of the address has significantly fallen since the start of the tenancy.

Case Study 2 – ASB in a licensed property

The Council received a number of reports of Anti-social behaviour in a licensed property. The issues were raised with the licence holder, and the references they had taken at the commencement of the tenancy checked, as outlined in the scheme conditions. The previous landlord reference which had been received was notably positive, despite the Council being aware of a number of issues having been raised during the tenancy. The Council interviewed the previous landlord under caution and considered that an honest reference had not been provided, as required in the schemes conditions. As it was a first time offence, a warning letter was issued to the previous landlord.

The licence holder for the tenant’s current address addressed the concerns with the occupants, and sent a letter outlining the concerns. No further reports of ongoing issues have been received since this.

These are some examples of issues which have been spotted in the area and been resolved as a direct result of being raised under the selective licensing scheme.

Within 36 hours

Removal of broken glass



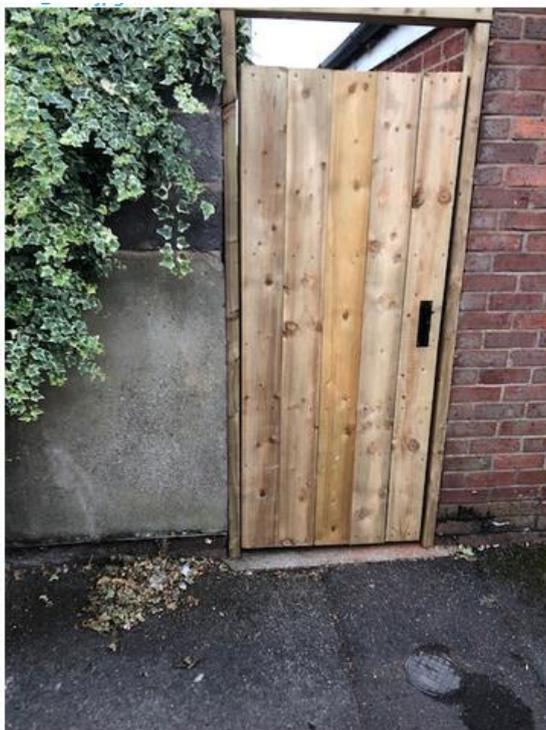
Within 7 days

Removal of waste



Within two weeks

Replacement of rear gate



Within three weeks

Extensive clearance of waste

