

SUBJECT:	ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACROSS LINCOLN CITY
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT AUTHOR	BEN JACKSON – PUBLIC PROTECTION, ASB & LICENSING SERVICE MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To give the committee an overview of the current level of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across the city. To highlight the current and arising issues, and to appraise the committee of the work and projects that are being undertaken across the city to reduce and address ASB.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (PPASB) Team deals with a wide variety of complaints including ASB, Noise, Environmental and Animal issues. The team receive more than 4000 requests for service each year across the city.
- 2.2 Partnership working is key to the resolution of many of the service requests dealt with. Our key partners are the Police who we work closely with to address a range of public safety concerns and where applicable to ensure residents can live free from ASB or crime.
- 2.3 A successful bid was submitted to the Safer Streets Five fund. This has provided the PPASB and Licensing teams with additional resources to tackle crime and ASB within the City Centre.
- 2.4 This report sets out some of the key achievements and work that the teams have completed and are currently working on to improve the city for our residents and visitors.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (PPASB) Team covers a broad range of areas. The core services provide a combination of both proactive and reactive actions designed to protect individuals, the community, and the amenity of the city.
- 3.2 The core service areas are:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Noise
 - Animals
 - Pests/ Condition of gardens
 - Accumulations of waste
 - Fly-Tipping investigations
 - Licensing Consultations

- Artificial Light from premises
- Smoke, Fumes or Gasses from premises.

3.3 The PPASB Service consists of 1 Service Manager, 1 Team Leader, 5 Technical Officers, 2 SSF5 Technical Officers, 1.5 Technical Assistants, 1 Admin Assistant, 1 Apprentice and the Safety Warden Service.

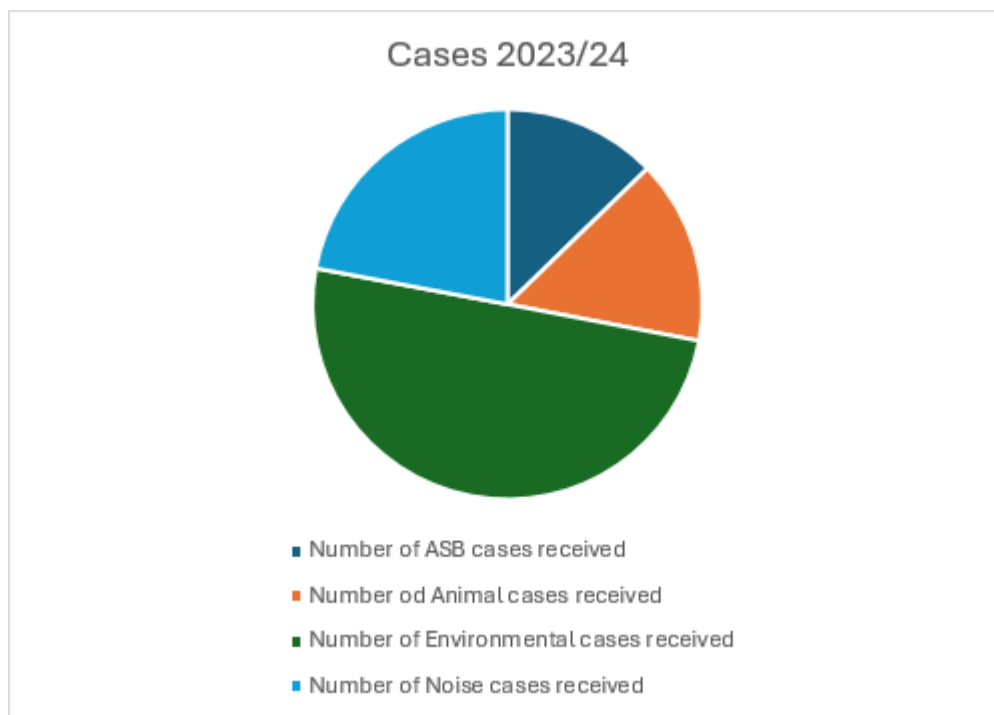
4. Service Demand

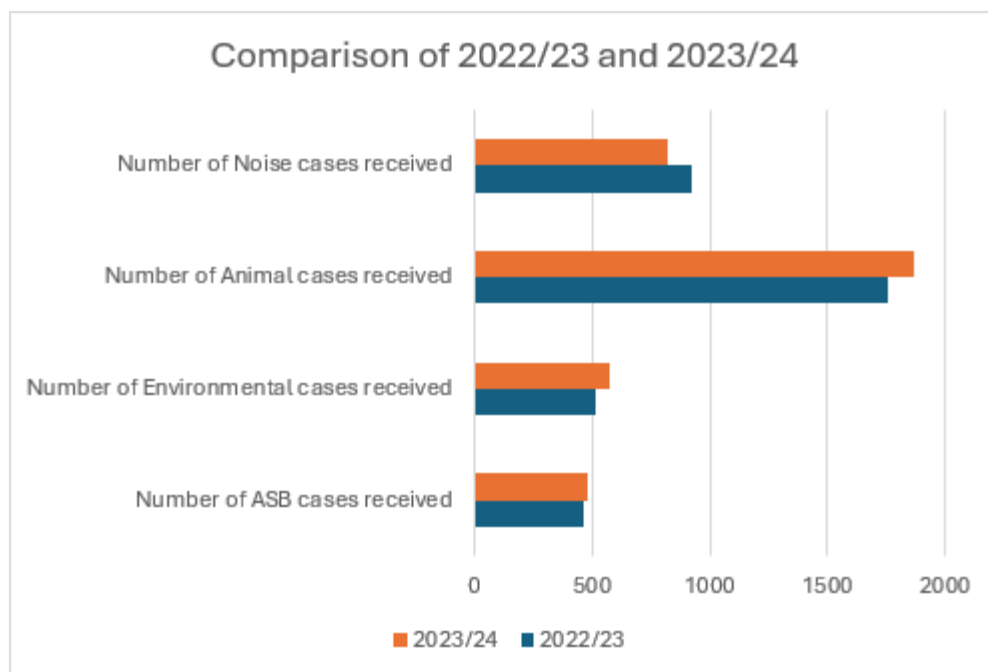
4.1 From 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 the PPASB Team received 3,925 requests for service across all their service areas including Anti-Social Behaviour, noise nuisance, animal related concerns, environmental issues such as fly tipping, and pests.

4.2 In 2020/21 the service demand was 2523 requests
 In 2021/22 the service demand was 3815 requests
 In 2022/23 the service demand was 4049 requests

The figures above show a considerable rise in demand in the financial year 21/22. The demand has then stabilised at around 4,000 service requests per year.

4.3 The below charts show the service demand by category:





5. Enforcement Actions

- 5.1 In most cases, it is possible for the team to resolve complaints without taking formal enforcement action, this is done through advice and guidance, through letters, visits, informal mediation and agreeing parameters, and seeking support from partners. The PPASB team has served a total of 199 Community Protection Warnings (CPW's) during 23/24, which is an example of how early warnings are used to prevent further enforcement action.

In a few cases it is necessary to undertake formal enforcement. This could be the service of a legal notice requiring action, the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice, seeking an injunction, seeking a closure order, working with Housing to seek possession or a prosecution.

Improving communication and joint working opportunities between the Housing and PPASB team has continued to be a focus for the teams. This allows for effective problem solving using the tenancy agreement alongside the tools and powers available to the PPASB team. Weekly tasking meetings are now in place, where joint problem-solving tactics are discussed and implemented. A new referral process has been produced to allow us to monitor the amount of referrals made by Housing into the PPASB team. This referral process went live in April 2024, so there is a lack of data to present at this time.

- 5.2 See Appendix A for enforcement figures.

6. Safer Streets Funding

- 6.1 During the period of the report, a successful bid was submitted to the Safer Streets 5 fund. This project includes:
- The City Centre Safety Warden Service
 - 2x City Centre PPASB Officers
 - 1x City Centre Licensing Officer
 - Additional CCTV staffing
 - £50,000 to improve CCTV infrastructure
 - 1x Part time funding for a Trading Standards Officer

- 6.2 All the above resources have been in place since early 2024. The resources have been allocated specifically to the City Centre with a focus around community safety and engagement. Feedback from the community, businesses and partners has all been positive around the project. The extra resources have allowed for proactive work in the City Centre, such as joint operations with the Police in the nighttime economy. The Safety Wardens, PPASB Officers and Licensing Officer are receiving training from the Children's Society to help to spot signs and to assist in the tackling of child sexual exploitation. They also form part of the daytime and evening city centre management groups.
- 6.3 The PPASB Officers have made connections with the Scampton Police and site management teams. They have completed Asylum seeker/ refugee training which covered safeguarding elements such as measures to tackle trafficking and exploitation.
- 6.4 A steering group was set up to help effectively utilise the Safety Warden service. This group has representation from the University, Police, Lincoln BIG, PPASB, Licensing, the Safety Wardens and the Student Unions. This has allowed us to set priorities, identify hotspots and respond to trends in the nighttime economy. The Wardens have partnered up with the Police and Transport Police to help to safeguard individuals in both the daytime and nighttime economy.
- 6.5 The PPASB team are working alongside Trading Standards to target the illegal sale of cigarettes and vapes on the lower high street area of the City Centre. Trading Standards have recently obtained 7 Closure Orders on commercial premises. The next stage is for PPASB to consider enforcement action against the landlords who may have been aware of the illegal activity taking place on their premise. This work has been funded by the Safer Streets project which has allowed for a more pro-active approach.

7. City Centre

- 7.1 City Centre Tasking Meetings enable information sharing, priorities to be decided, resources to be coordinated and understood and emerging issues to be identified and fed into the city centre and uphill management meeting.

CCTV, Police, Car Parking Services, Lincoln BIG, Project Compass and the Rough Sleeper Team meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss ongoing and emerging issues within the city centre and our multi-Story Car Parks. This group share intelligence and formulate an operational response to issues alongside setting and reviewing priorities for the two weeks ahead at each meeting.

- 7.2 This year has seen the group faced with the challenge of responding to a rise in ASB associated with aggressive begging, drinking and drug use within the City Centre. There have been recent changes to prison release policies which is suspected to be the driver behind the rise in the issues within the City Centre. The additional resources acquired through the Safer Street Project has allowed us to respond pro-actively to this, although the funding is only secured for a 2-year period. Joint Police and PPASB patrols are now in operation to tackle the issues, where support and enforcement tactics are utilised.
- 7.3 The PPASB Team works closely with the University of Lincoln, the Students Union, and the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to ensure that where complaints are received either by or about students they are responded to quickly and robustly with a joined-up approach.

- 7.4 The PPASB team works closely with the CCTV and Licensing teams to actively monitor and enforce ASB, Crime and Licensing issues in the City Centre. The evidence provided by CCTV is key to any disruption or enforcement action.
- 8. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)**
- 8.1 There are currently three active PSPO's:
1. A PSPO that covers the City Centre (and wider) that prohibits the consumption of intoxicating substances or having an open container of alcohol.
 2. A PSPO that covers three Multi-Storey Car parks (more detail in 9.2 below).
 3. A PSPO which prevents access to St Peters Passage.
- 8.2 The PSPO that covers the City Centre was renewed at the start of 2024. It was extended for a further 3 years to cover the same prohibitions as the previous order. The PSPO that prevent access to St Peters Passage is due for renewal and the consultation process will begin in the coming months.
- 9. Partnership Working**
- 9.1 **University and Students Union**
- The service continues to have a good and productive working relationship with the University, particularly around tackling student issues across the city. The teams will work closely together to continue to support students and communities to co-exist.
- 9.2 **Police**
- The PPASB service continues to work closely with both the Neighbourhood Policing Teams within the wider city and the City Centre. The Police and Council Officers work in partnership on a variety of matters such as City Centre tasking, joint working with Housing, PPASB and Licensing, and any other enforcement matters where there is a presence of ASB and Crime.
- 9.3 **The Rough Sleeper Team**
- The Rough Sleeper Team was launched in 2018 with the aim of providing additional bed space with a housing first approach for those who are homeless. The service has grown and developed over the last 6 years and remains a key partner for PPASB when looking to resolve ASB that involves individuals who may be or have been homeless. We also work closely with them to support those entering or leaving rough sleeper accommodation.
- 10. Forward Look**
- 10.1 Over the next 12 months there will be a focus on utilising the resources obtained through the Safer Streets Project. These resources are focused within the City Centre to provide support and advice to the community, but also enforce where necessary.
- 10.2 Demand across all services provided by the team is expected to remain high. This puts pressure on the team to respond, investigate and enforce against 4000 plus service request per year.
- 10.3 The Lincolnshire Recovery Partnership was introduced in 2024.

Conversation is underway to embed the support mechanisms into the Councils processes. This will hopefully have a positive impact on the level of Crime and Disorder within the City.

- 10.4 There have been several new members of staff within the PPASB team. Training and upskilling the team is a priority for the year ahead.
- 10.5 Lincolnshire County Council have a proposal to launch an ASB intervention team. The office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has received funding to tackle ASB hotspots within the County. It is important that the PPASB team works closely with LCC and the PCC, to best focus these resources to tackle the priorities within the City.

11. Strategic Priorities

11.1 Let's drive economic growth

This is met by enhancing our city centre and retail area in both the daytime and night time economy by providing a safe and attractive city.

11.2 Let's reduce inequality

This is met by holistically protecting and supporting some of society's most vulnerable and overlooked groups.

11.3 Let's enhance our remarkable place

Projects within the city centre to tackle anti-social behaviour serve to improve and enhance the city.

12. Organisational Impacts

12.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

Not applicable

12.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

Should formal enforcement levels rise this will have a resource implication for legal services.

12.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

The work of the PPASB team is to protect individuals from harm and / or nuisance.

As this report provides an update on services provided and does not recommend any changes to policy or procedure an Equality Impact Analysis has not been undertaken.

12.4 Human Resources

Not applicable.

13. Risk Implications

13.1 (i) Options Explored

Not applicable.

13.2 (ii) Key risks Associated with the Preferred Approach

Not applicable.

14. Recommendation

14.1 That the Committee notes the report.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

Appendix A – Enforcement Figures

List of Background Papers:

None

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