



CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT – LICHFIELD CITY CENTRE

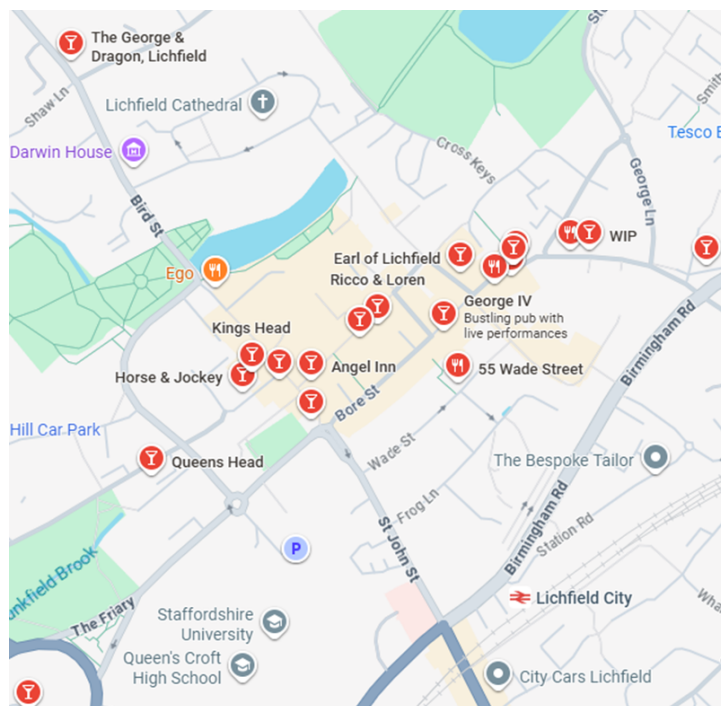
INTRODUCTION

Lichfield city centre has a thriving retail and hospitality sector covering both the daytime and nighttime economy. Work is ongoing to create a new leisure hub at the top of Bird Street which may incorporate a cinema, hotel and restaurants. Parts of the city centre promote a 'café culture' approach where open air dining and open fronted pubs are popular. This has been enhanced following partial pedestrianisation of the city centre and the installation of protective bollards to limit vehicular access to the city centre. Market Square is a popular location for events, markets and festivals. The vibrant nighttime economy in Lichfield attracts visitors from across the Midlands as well as tourists from further afield. The city is well served by two train stations and the bus network, as well as good road links, including the M6 Toll, linking it to Birmingham to the south and Manchester to the north, all of which contribute to the local economy.

Whilst there are licensed premises elsewhere in nearby Burntwood and outlying villages across the District, it is the city centre which is by far the busiest area and contributes significantly more to the associated crime and disorder than anywhere else.

EXISTING LICENSED PREMISES

There are currently 29 licensed premises in Lichfield city centre providing a varied mix of businesses involved in both the daytime and nighttime economy.



The vast majority of venues close between 11.00pm and 2.00am with 3 premises making use of an extended 3.00am or 4.00am licence on a Friday and Saturday evening. Some are known to apply discretion and close earlier than their normal licensing hours where there is a lack of customers.

Friday and Saturday nights traditionally see the greatest numbers of people in the city centre, with numbers beginning to increase steadily from 6.00pm and peaking around 10.30pm to 11.00pm. Tamworth Street, Bird Street and Market Street have the highest volume of footfall throughout the evening due to the concentration of licensed premises.

The most popular late night licensed premises is on Bird Street and closes at 3.00am. The presence of two late night food venues and a taxi rank will see exiting patrons often gathered in numbers on Bird Street and The Friary.

POLICING

In recent years, Staffordshire Police have made representations in relation to a number of licenced premises for failing to comply with the conditions on their licence, crime and disorder caused by drunkenness, drug possession and supply, and violence.

The existing cumulative impact area does not incorporate where some of the most popular existing venues are located or the areas where future licensed premises are likely to be established.

As a result of partial pedestrianisation, hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are no longer permitted in the city centre. This has resulted in people moving further from the existing cumulative impact area towards ranks on The Friary and Tamworth Street.

Staffordshire Police has advocated that the existing cumulative impact area is retained and, as part of a wider approach to tackling the causes of the crime and disorder, expanded to cover the city centre. Staffordshire Police has provided the evidence that forms the basis of this cumulative impact assessment.

Operation Safer Nights is policed by a small team of officers, complemented by a number of Special Constables based at Lichfield Police Station. This offers high visibility foot and mobile patrol of the town centre area from 8.00pm until 3.00am. Officers operate a meet and greet theme to ensure patrons and premises staff are reassured by an early policing presence when visiting, with this presence continuing into the night. Police make frequent use of relevant legislation to prevent, detect and deter crime with the focus of promoting a safer environment for businesses and visitors of the city centre. The resilience of the local policing team is significantly reduced after 3.00am and relies on a night shift which assumes responsibility for the policing of the centre alongside the rest of Lichfield District.

Lichfield neighbourhood policing team (NPT) incorporates the policing of the city centre into its business as usual model but also provides additional planning and resources to seasonal operations which concentrate around the summer months and Christmas period. The NPT support community events and festivals which take place throughout the year including Lichfield PRIDE, The Bower, Fuse music festival and Christmas lights switch on to name but a few.

Staffordshire Police has secured central government funding to provide overtime to officers to patrol in several key hotspot areas. Lichfield city centre is incorporated into the operation. The aim is to use high visibility foot patrol to disrupt crime and ASB activity in these areas, therefore cooling the hotspots down and in turn reducing the crime and ASB experienced there.

Other operations incorporate Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) week, walk-throughs at licensed premises, drug swabs of surfaces, and safety and reassurance provided at peak times to nighttime economy. The approach is complimented by a proactive Community Safety Partnership, the Council’s licensing officers and Special Constabulary team.

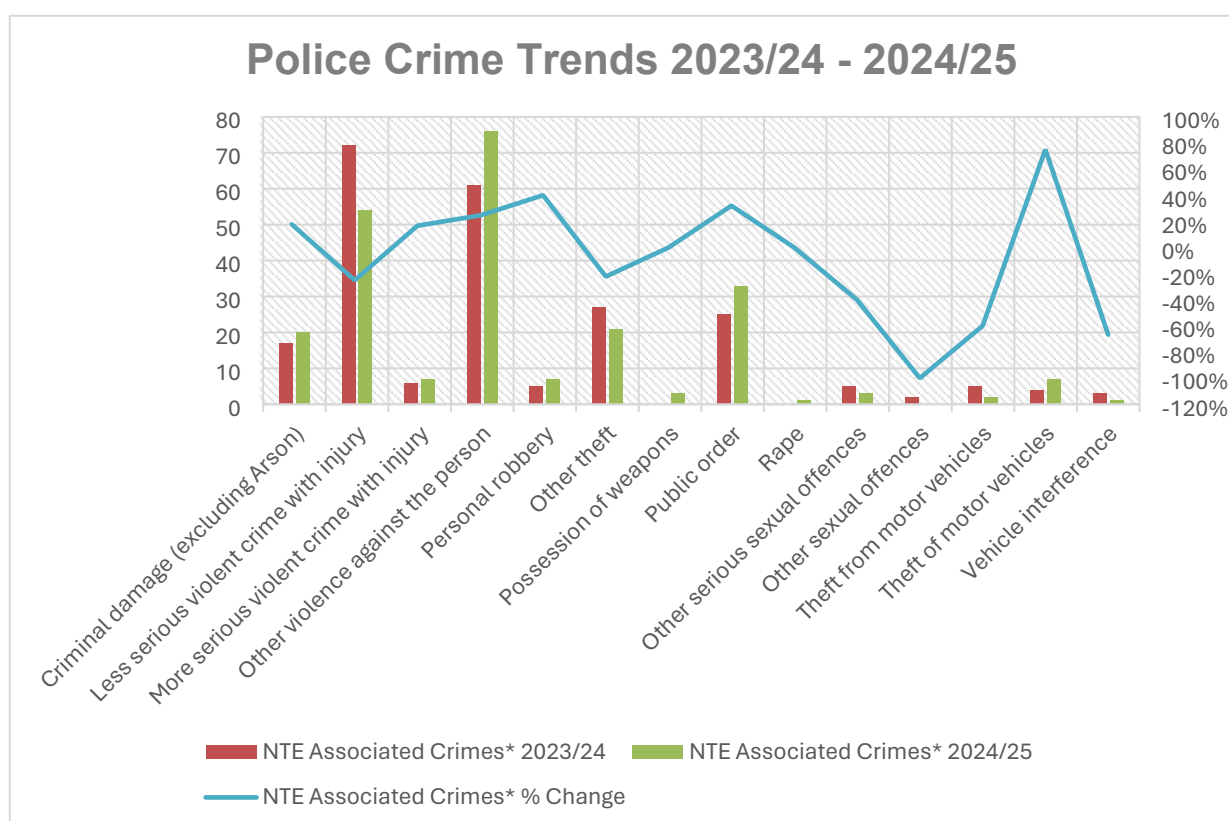
Staffordshire Police will use all available legislation to tackle antisocial behaviour and criminal behaviour in the city. Where opportunities arise to use dispersal powers under Section 34 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 they are taken, tackling drunkenness and ASB early to prevent it escalating into violence later. Post conviction orders are also utilised to address longer term repeat offending, for example Drinking Banning Orders (DBOs).

CCTV

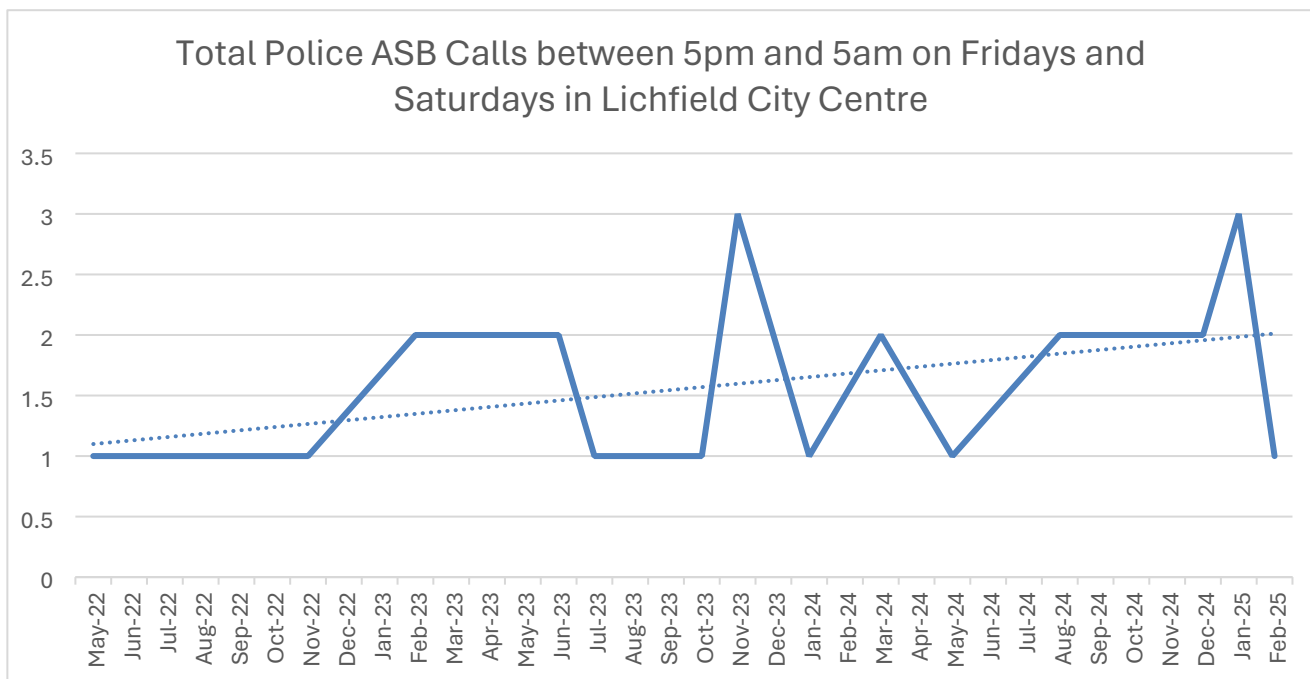
City centre CCTV is extensively used with dedicated staff to monitor and tackle issues within the centre and excellent lines of communication exist between CCTV staff and the Police. The Three Spires management company have responsibility for the day to day monitoring of the network. They are located in the city centre unlike a lot of other town centre operators who are remotely accessed. The CCTV system is undergoing an upgrade to improve coverage and quality. The majority of local businesses offer their own private and independent CCTV.

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

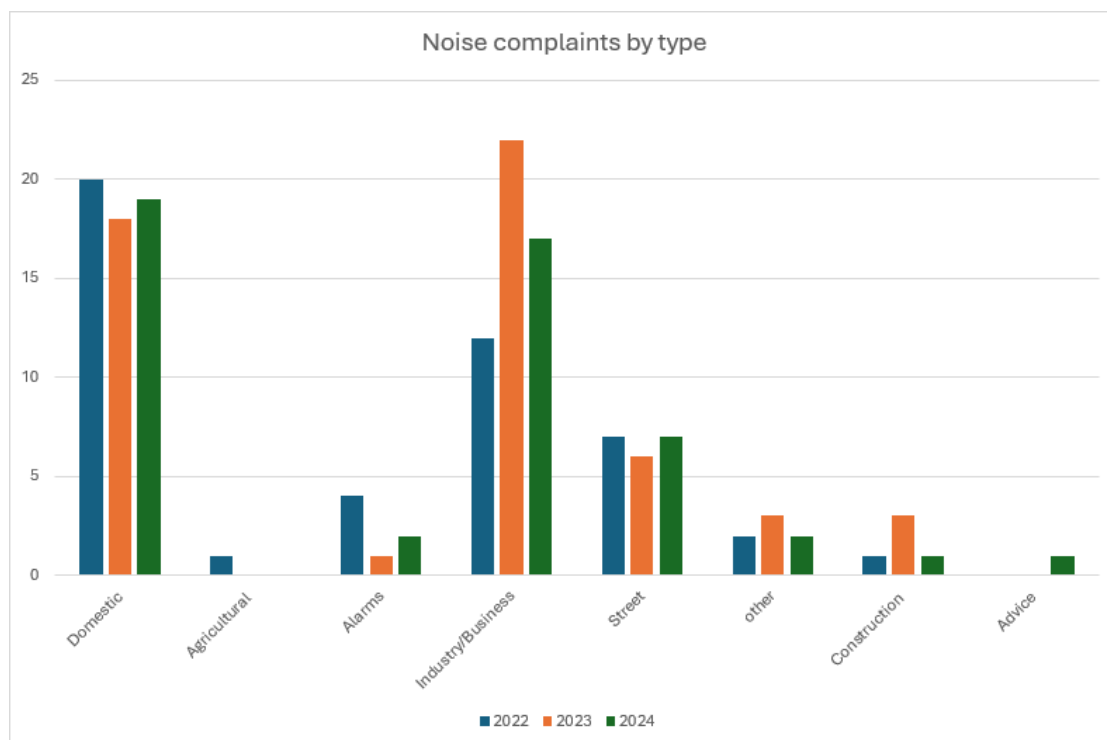
Crimes reported between Fridays and Saturdays remain low compared to national and regional averages but are the peak days for incidents across the week.



The Police have recorded a small increase in anti-social behaviour calls to the city centre compared to last year. This provides some context to several nighttime economy survey responses which mention youth ASB bring an issue in particular.



The Council also receives complaints regarding anti-social behaviour, in particular, noise complaints. The graph below shows the number of calls to Environmental Health regarding noise complaints in the city centre. The noise complaints are categorised by type with the most relevant types for this report being business/industry and street.



A recent survey conducted to support the city's [Purple Flag](#) status received 256 responses. More than 80% of respondents felt 'safe' or 'very safe' visiting Lichfield.

The following table provides data relating to overall incident level changes. It demonstrates no clear and obvious trends across the county, however does show a similar reduction in offences in the nearest similar economy in Tamworth.

		12 Month % change
Hanley Town Centre	SCB1	31%
	SCB6	-2%
Tamworth Town Centre	EW00	-10%
Stafford Town Centre	WM05	-13%
Leek Town Centre	NA02	6%
Newcastle Town Centre	NB61	4%
Hednesford Town Centre	WV02	25%
Cannock Town Centre	WV41	3%
	WV43	20%
Lichfield City Centre	ER00	-12%
	ER03	-5%
Burslem Town Centre	SC73	-6%
Burton Town Centre	EP15	11%
	EP30	0%
Longton Town Centre	SG61	26%
Uttoxetter Town Centre	EP51	-14%
Stone Town Centre	WM73	21%

CONCLUSION

Stoke, East Staffordshire, Tamworth, Cannock, Newcastle under Lyme and Stafford are examples of nearby city and town centres that are covered by a cumulative impact assessment. In Lichfield, Staffordshire Police contend that there is a consistent theme of crime, disorder, and antisocial behaviour impacting on both the daytime and nighttime economy.

The reductions in some crime types, especially violence and sexual offences is positive, however some crime types continue to see increases during nighttime economy hours.

The local policing team is engaged in weekly collaborative Safer Nights policing operations which involves, as well as public and business engagement, high visibility patrolling and positive action approach to arresting perpetrators. This is a labour intensive approach to reducing crime and disorder and could not feasibly be scaled up in a meaningful or impactful way, due to the pressure on police resources.

After 3.00am on the weekends, the police resources are reduced dramatically, particularly in the town centre, and any later opening of licensed premises represents an additional threat to order in the locality.

As part of a wider approach to tackling the causes of the crime and disorder, Staffordshire Police

request that the cumulative impact policy is expanded to cover the wider city centre. Therefore, the licensing authority considers that the number of premises licences and/or club premises certificates in one or more parts of the area described is such that it is likely that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA MAP

