



Special Cumulative Impact Policy: The effects of alcohol related incidents in and around the SCIP area



SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

MERSEYSIDE POLICE

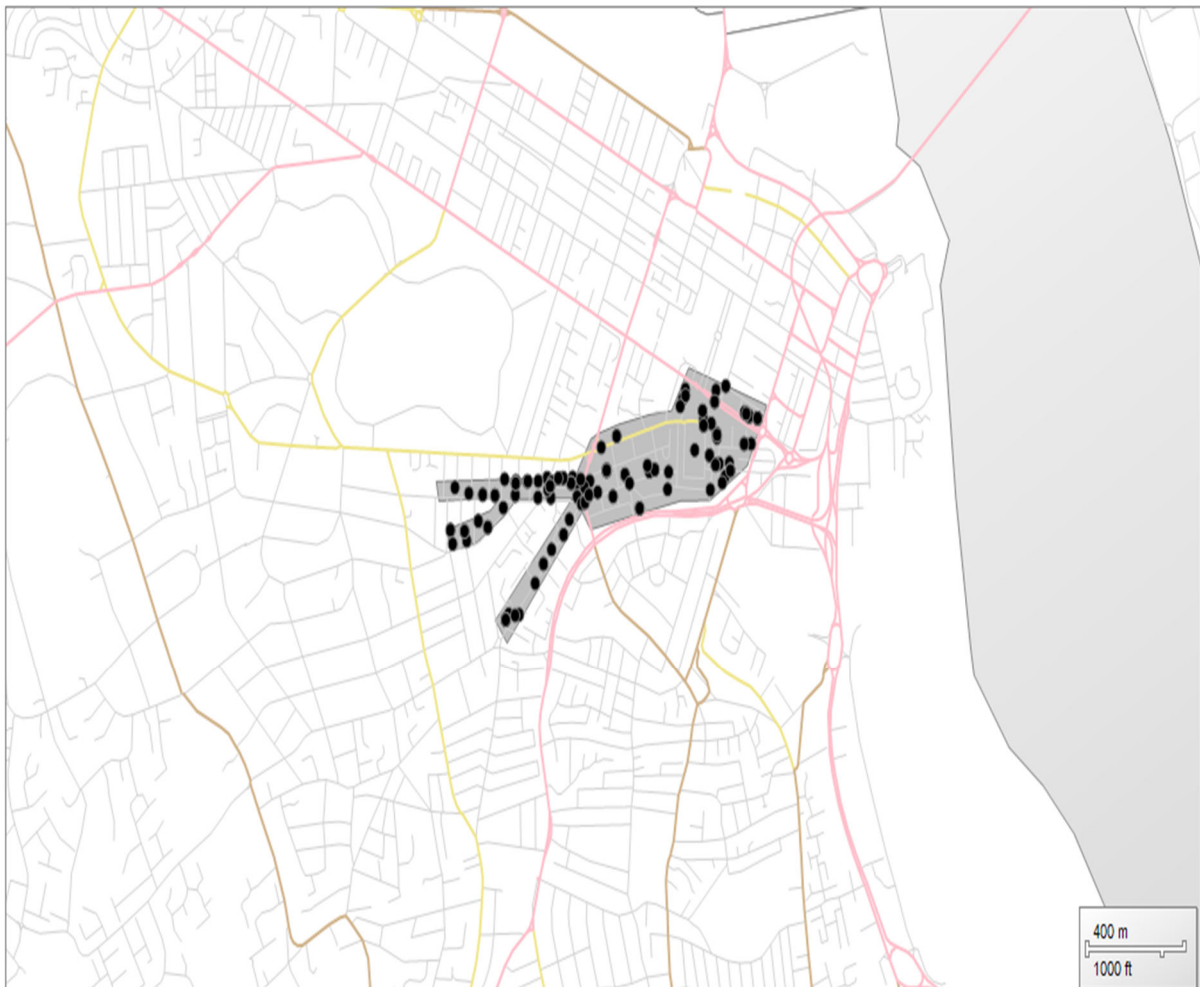
Special Cumulative Impact Policy: The effects of alcohol related incidents in and around the SCIP area

This report has been created regarding the availability of alcohol in the Birkenhead town centre area and whether it is having an adverse effect on the number of reported alcohol related crimes and incidents. Statistical data at the start of the report has been obtained from Merseyside Police systems.

The latter part of the report contains information from members of the public who reside and work in the area surrounding the proposed SCIP. Local residents and businesses were asked if they wanted to provide any comment regarding the impact of the availability of off licence sales of alcohol in the area.

Alcohol Related Crime

[Violent Crime x181 \(Last six months 22/02/2022 - 22/08/2022\)](#)



Common examples of reported crimes.

28/01/2022

22000142995

Two cousins have been out drinking when they have started to argue in the street. This has escalated to the point that one of them has pushed the other, causing no injury.

10/03/2022

22000170137

Unknown male entered McDonalds and started hitting the protective screen with a walking stick, He then attempted to grab members of staff from under the screens. Offender was intoxicated at the time of the offence.

12/03/2022

22000172953

AP has been with his partner walking home from a public house when he came across four females and one male. One of the females picked up glass from the floor and threw it to the floor causing it to smash. The ap asked for this female to pick the glass up due to it being unsafe which led to another female picking up a piece of the of glass and approached the ap whilst saying 'what about if I glass you' and threw the glass towards the ap, all parties walked in separate directions. No injury caused

24/03/2022

22000193216

Drunk male causing issues at McDonalds being aggressive and trying to get over the counter male has then left as a friend has assisted and led him away.

12/04/2022

22000251198

Offender has been seen drunk in street causing a disturbance shouting and swearing. Rendering an unknown victim to call the police.

25/04/2022

22000283478

The victim has been walking with her friends when the suspect, who is clearly XXX has called her YOU'RE A P***K AND A KN*****D.

07/05/2022

22000312467

Victim is employee in Pound Bakery, known shoplifter has entered the store xxx and attempted to steal items. Staff have tried to stop her and she has made threats to stab. Offender makes off prior to police arrival

09/05/2022

22000317875

Victim states that he has been drinking today in the town centre before socialising with street drinkers. Victim states that he had been made aware that he dropped his wallet and a member of public has handed him his wallet back and he claims that money and a bank card has gone missing from inside his wallet.

21/05/2022

22000350246

Victim is a street drinker in town centre. Has admitted to patrols that he has been punched in the face on the grange road precinct area of Birkenhead town centre. Ip has a small cut to his mouth but confirms that he does not wish to make any formal complaint, he claims he doesn't know who hit him or why.

23/05/2022

22000355928

Four males described as street drinkers seen by witness to be fighting in the street, one male seen to hit the victim on the head with a bottle, causing victim to fall down to floor. Both parties then seen to walk off in separate directions. Patrol has attended but been unable to locate any parties.

27/05/2022

22000365627

Section 5 public order - Circumstances being police called to an altercation on St Werburghs square, Birkenhead. Following report that a group of street drinkers had been fighting. On arrival officer speaks to security and pcso colleagues who had been monitoring situation on cctv throughout. It is alleged the d/p who is clearly intoxicated had begun an altercation with an unknown male and he was seen to be acting aggressively, throwing punches and drawing lots of attention from passers-by. D/p's action likely to cause harassment alarm and distress to members of public. Situation still ongoing up to point when police arrive.

31/05/2022

22000375880

Police were called by a member of the public who had witnessed male and female arguing. Security staff at the location confirmed an argument took place and that the female poured a can of alcohol over the male, before leaving the area.

13/06/2022

22000402938

Informant reports unknown male is stood at the location, shouting and swearing and appears XXX. Informant states that as he walked past the male, the male took a swing at the informant. The suspect did not make contact with the informant. The suspect was unknown to the informant. No known CCTV or witnesses.

10/08/2022
22000581898

Female sighted staggering in middle of the road, shouting abuse and swearing, Female was intoxicated and spoken to by Police and warned as to her behaviour. Female then proceeded to verbally abuse the officer and calling him a C**T, P***K and a F****T before being arrested

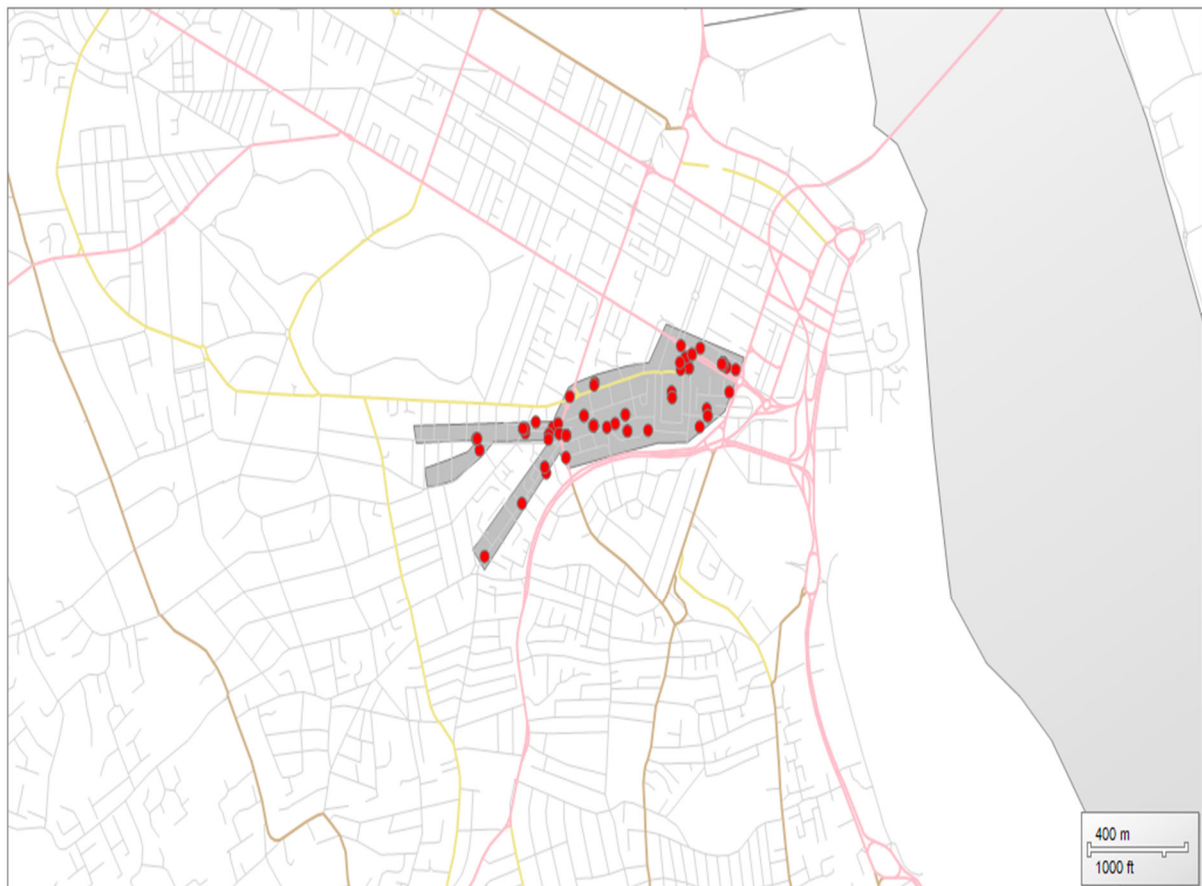
15/08/2022
22000599848

Police officers have located a drunk female in the street who was witnessed kicking an unmanned car in a car park and throwing a full can of alcohol at it ... Car has damage to rear passenger side door and a small scratch - unknown whether it was already there or not

18/08/2022
22000608763

Police called to Pyramids shopping centre following report of known male with CBO in the area causing Harassment alarm and distress to passers-by. Male located and C&A for Breach of CBO, D&D and further arrested for criminal damage to police vehicle.

Anti-social behaviour Incidents x81 (Last six months 22/02/2022 - 22/08/2022)



Common examples of reported behaviour

11/03/2022

Log MP-20220311-1091

Infmt reporting group of 12 - 15 females at al, ., ., aged approx 16, .., ., drinking xxx, "smoking drugs" and running across bus lanes, ., ., they are running wild, ., ., buses coming in and out of bus station, ,, ., one wearing a green tracksuit - 5ft slim build, ., ., all congregating in stand 6 of bus station, ., ., all in the bus station,

There is a male and a female xxx who were sleeping in the bus station - infmt woke them up when the cleaner came along, ., the male is now getting aggressive and is now being "mouthy"

09/05/2022

Log MP-20220509-0125

****Asb nuisance***, ., offender - white male - late 20's - wearing bright orange t-shirt black tracksuit bottoms, ., he looks xxx, ., throwing the bin at the a/l, ., he's emptied all the recycling bin, ., he's walking off towards Devonshire road, ., he is with a white female - 40 y/o*

13/05/2022

Log MP-20220513-0471

ASB, drug users and alcoholics sat at the bottom of this street using the steps for a place to pick drugs up., ., the infmt has never seen any police move them on., ., there is normally about 8 people here at anyone time, making the steps unusable for mop

04/06/2022

Log MP-20220604-1050

******Report of 7/10 drunk male/females***** , ., inf reporting there are approx. 7/10 people both male and female in the casino car park who are xxx, ., they are not being aggressive , however they are intimidating to the customers, ., they were arguing in the approx. 30-45 minutes ago in the tunnel amongst each other ,, ., however they are still in the car park, ., inf states they are not doing anything specific , however inf believe its intimidating customers coming in especially the elderly,*

14/06/2022

Log MP-20220614-1060

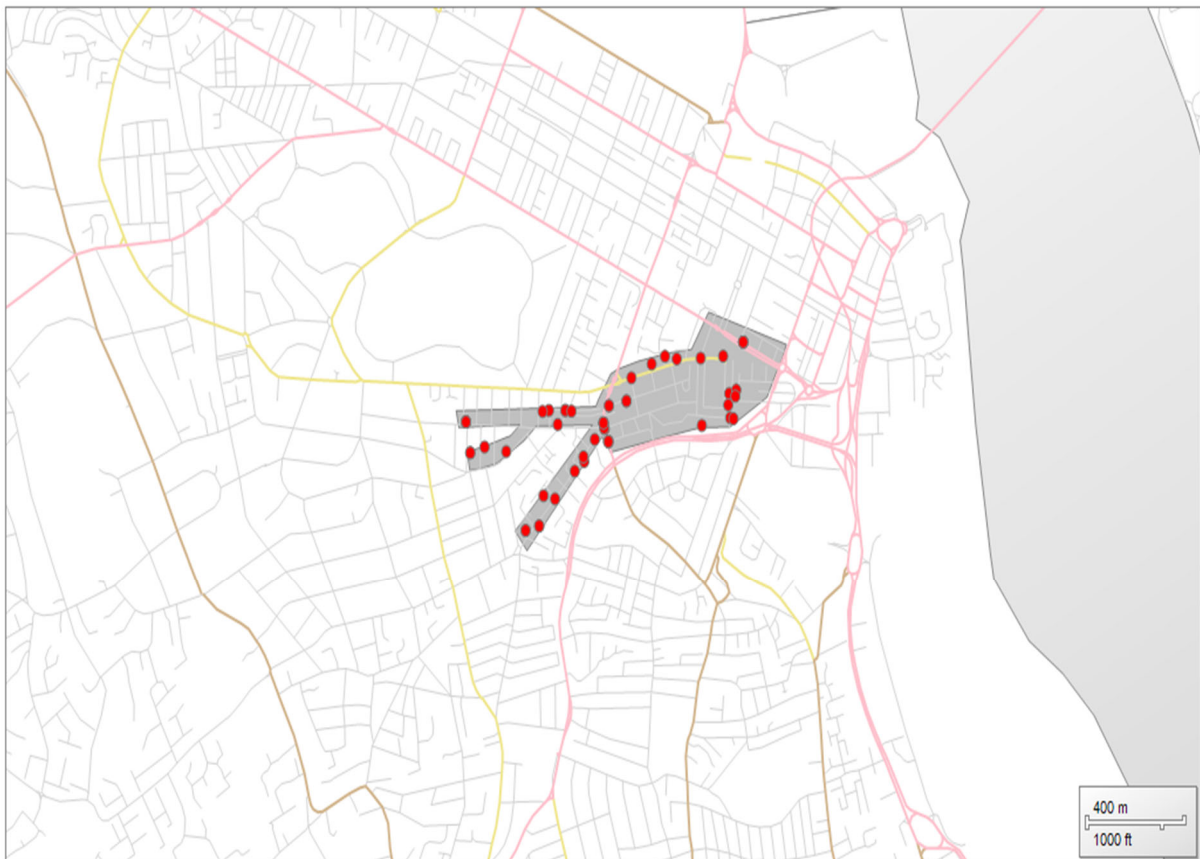
*** 4 males and 1 female causing a nuisance ** , ., they are all drinking alcohol and begging passers by for money, ., infmt states they are being loud and causing a general nuisance, ., 1 of the males wearing all black, another male had light t-shirt on and tracksuit bottom dark in colour, ., this is being seen on cctv, ., they are in the car park, near the tunnel, ., offenders not known, ., sending to area for patrols to move on as they are begging in a public place*

29/07/2022

Log MP-20220729-0679

**** Fighting ****, ., inft reporting group of street drinkers fighting outside of a/l, ., ., inft calling from security room, ., 2 males fighting, the rest are watching, ., desc male 1 - white male, grey beard, bald head, black top, ., desc of male 2 - white male, grey top, blue tracksuit bottoms - approx. mid 20s, ., inft says the male in the blue tracksuit bottoms is the one they seen hitting the other male on the floor, .

Arrests within area x61 (Last six months 22/02/2022 - 22/08/2022)



Arrests include (extracts from circumstances of arrest as recorded on custody record)

22/04/2022

22000276013

St Werburgh's Square

*D and D - officers on high viz foot patrol in Birkenhead town centre. Officer informed by security at Pyramids that they were concerned for a male in St Werburgh's sq. who appeared to be off his head. Security pointed out detained person. Officers have approached detained person, who was very xxx, showing all signs. Detained person repeatedly swore at officers including calling the officers 'c***s'. Detained person was warned several times to desist but continued and offered violence to officers. Mop watching on.*

27/05/2022

22000365627

St Werburgh's Square

Section 5 Public Order - circs being police called to an altercation on St Werburgh's sq, Birkenhead. Following report that a group of street drinkers had been fighting. On arrival officer speaks to security and pcso colleagues who had been monitoring situation on CCTV throughout. It is alleged the d/p who is clearly intoxicated had begun an altercation with an unknown male and he was seen to be acting aggressively, throwing punches and drawing lots of attention from passers by. D/p's action likely to cause harassment alarm and distress to members of public. Situation still ongoing up to point when police arrive. D/p c and a.

03/06/2022

22000383083

Cloughton Road

Breach of CBO - on 19/2/22 detained person issued with CBO at Wirral mags on of the conditions has an exclusion area including part Birkenhead town centre. Today detained person capture on CCTV within that area with operators directing officers to the detained person. Location of detained person's being detained was within the prohibited area.

09/06/2022

22000396415

Oliver Street East, Birkenhead

*D&D - AO on mobile patrol on Oliver Street East, Birkenhead. Detained person sighted in an alleyway off the street. Initially detained person flags officers down, and reports that he has been chased down the alleyway after being chased by unknown group of males, after drinking in the brass balance ph. Ao tries to assist detained person, who immediately becomes argumentative, telling officers to "f*** off". Detained person asked multiple times if he requires police assistance, however continues to be hostile and aggressive, resulting in him being restrained against the van. Detained person sent on his way. Detained person however runs to passenger side of the van calling arresting officer "a f***ing fruit.*

23/07/2022

22000528601

Oliver Street, Birkenhead

Drunk & Disorderly - ao outside temple bar on Oliver Street in Birkenhead conducting licensing checks. Door staff have ejected the detained person as he had been causing issues inside the premises. The detained person was lingering outside and goading the door staff. The detained person

*was told to leave the area by the ao a number of times. The detained person refused to leave the area and started to shout at the ao telling her to f**k off, shut the fuck up. C&a. No reply made. Handcuffed to rear. Detained person started to headbutt the rear windscreen of police vehicle. Detained person had to be taken to the floor.*

09/08/2022

22000581558

Exmouth Street, Birkenhead

*D&D - 2300 hrs officer driving along Exmouth Street heard shouting and screaming. Stopped to speak to the detained person who was responsible. She was advised to leave and officer continued to another incident. On returning to the area a short while later detained person was in the middle of the road, shouting screaming and swearing. Unable to calm her, slurred speech, smelled of intoxicants, unsteady on feet. C and arrested. Replied "f**k off". Public decency, cuffed to the front. PAVA drawn but not deployed*

15/08/2022

22000599546

Barton Street, Birkenhead

****D&D, crim dam x2, sec 39 assault, assault emergency worker, sec 4a POA**** Officers attend Osbourne Road for a report of affray which was cdt. Desc of detained person given and officer locate detained person. Detained person has allegedly kicked a mop, detained person has then seen by police to kicked a car and throw can of beer at it. C&a. Detained person has then kicked police vehicle whilst inside causing damage. Detained person has then tried to kick officer. Whilst in suite detained person has called detention officer a d**e. Detained person showing all signs of drunkenness also arrested for D&D.*

Local officers

Local Officers are receiving more and more reports of theft of alcohol from the retailers within the SCIP area. This is due to the prevalence of licenced retailers offering alcohol for sale but also in part due to the market for alcohol within the SCIP area amongst street drinkers and alcohol dependants.

Drug dependants will also target alcohol theft from within the SCIP area as they have a ready market amongst the street drinkers for the spoils. Even the larger retailers are a target of this.

In respect of the night-time economy area of Birkenhead, Merseyside Police have historically provided a higher Policing presence within this area on Friday and Saturday evenings when the likelihood of violence and disorder within the area is at its highest.

Since the force has been in receipt of additional Government funding (Violence reduction fund) the number of Officers deployed to the night-time economy area of Birkenhead has been increased utilising extra Officers as part of "Operation Grip." The objective of this operation was to increase

high visibility Policing within the night-time economy area to reduce the impact of alcohol abuse and the associated violence caused.

SCIP area Street Drinking

Within the SCIP area, street drinking has been, and continues to be a major issue for Policing, residents, retailers, and members of the public in general.

Due to the historic element and prevalence of street drinking within the SCIP area, many of the retailers, residents and public have become somewhat tolerant of the issue and as a result by their own admission to local Officers will no longer report this to Police unless things get out of hand.

The local Officers within Birkenhead deal with street drinking within the SCIP area literally on a daily basis, and also the effects of such.

There is currently a total of **four** known street drinkers who have either a ASBO or CBO against them currently, one of whom is on his second. There is also one CBO application currently going through the courts and one closure order going through the court process for Central Hotel (last expired Jan 2022 but further application in the process of being submitted to court due to a return of issues with street drinkers and youths).

Associated crime in relation to street drinking is commonplace however producing any kind of tangible figures in relation to this is particularly difficult as due to the nature of the individuals involved, many of these crimes go completely un-reported.

The high concentration of alcohol dependants within Birkenhead Town Centre is likely due to the locality of the services on offer within the area such as the YMCA, Salvation Army, Charles Thompson Mission, The Ark, Rose Brae, Wirral Ways to recovery to name but a few. The service users to the prior mentioned are often affected by substance/alcohol misuse issues. The easy access to alcohol within the SCIP area due to the high concentration of both licenced premises or off-licenced premises is seen by local Officers to exasperate the issue around street drinking and alcohol abuse.

Community Officer input

In April 2019 a new Police Officer post was created in conjunction with Merseyside Police and the Business Improvement District. The post was funded 100% by levy paying businesses within the BID area (Birkenhead Town Centre) The concept being that the Officer works within the geographical area compromising of the BID levy payers in order to address their issues directly. Constable 5056 Greg Hawkswell took up the role due to his familiarity and experience within Birkenhead Town Centre which comprises of the last 12 years. Constable Hawkswell had been asked to comment on alcohol related issued within the SCIP area which he has experienced in the last 12 years of his Police service but also more recently since the inception of his role as BID Officer in 2019. He had gave the following statement in relation to the issues faced in the area in 2019.

“Although the sale of alcohol within the SCIP area is controlled (as everywhere) with licensing conditions, I feel that it is the sheer amount of establishments selling alcohol which contributes largely to the issues alcohol creates within Birkenhead Town Centre. I find that the level of robustness and willingness to challenge those who are trying to purchase alcohol varies greatly from premises to premises. By this I can state that it is common practice amongst street drinkers

in Birkenhead, that if they are refused alcohol in one off licence of their choice, (maybe due to intoxication or the fact they are a known street drinker) then they just walk to the next one, or the next one until they do get served. There are so many premises offering the sale of alcohol within Birkenhead Town Centre that they don't have to go far to find somewhere that will serve them, even if they are refused in one or more off licences first. The number of retail outlets selling alcohol means that this technique ensures that they will never not be able to obtain alcohol if they so wish. As a result it is the issuing of licences which I feel is the greatest area requiring on-going scrutiny and control by the local authority and their partners within the already defined SCIP area. My daily duties within Birkenhead Town Centre directly involve dealing with Street drinking, either reported or un-reported, seizure of alcohol, associated ASB and begging amongst street drinkers, assaults amongst street drinkers and other offences such as theft committed by street drinkers or those with other substance abuse issues. During my many visits and engagements with BID levy payers as part of my duties, alcohol abuse, street drinking and the issues around this are very often at the forefront of my discussions as this is having a direct and daily impact not just on the retailers but also the members of the public who utilise the Town Centre and are being put off from doing so by the alcohol issues there. My work and the work of my colleagues will continue to address this area of concern, however we must do so with the support of our partners and ever more so with strict controls around the availability of alcohol within the SCIP area."

– Con 5056 Greg Hawkswell – Birkenhead BID Officer 09/09/2019.

Constable Peter Hanson is the Dedicated Ward Manager for Birkenhead Town Centre, and he had the following to say in relation to alcohol related crime within the SCIP area: -

Statement of Constable 3638 Peter Hanson

I am the dedicated Ward manager for Birkenhead Town centre. For the past 5 years I have been working with our partners dealing with Street drinking issues in and around the Town Centre. These issues can either be reported or un-reported and involve, the seizure of alcohol, associated ASB and begging amongst the street drinkers.

I have been fortunate enough to see first-hand the value of having the designated SCIP area in place and it was evident that the majority of retailers agreed and adhered to the controlled licensing conditions. It was also pleasing to visit many of the retailers, speaking to them about their alcohol sales and the flexibility they showed in removing or replacing items from shelves to play their part in improving the area.

These improvements allowed Merseyside police together with our partners to actively engage with individuals to offer support and encourage them away from the Town centre and into service.

Unfortunately Post Covid I am witnessing a heavy increase in alcohol uses on the streets and the numbers of Street Drinkers are increasing weekly. This steady increase has instantly caused issues in the Town Centre impacting businesses and the public directly.

These incidents have resulted in assaults including assaults on emergency workers and other offences such as thefts and increased ASB.

Although the sale of alcohol within the SCIP area is still currently controlled with licensing conditions it is evident that the number of establishments are now selling alcohol contributes largely to the issues alcohol creates within Birkenhead Town Centre.

I am concerned that with the SCIP expiring the current increase in street drinking will only worsen and a recent visit to several retailers highlighted that they are starting to sell single items of alcohol in the form of cans of cider to street drinkers for low costs such as 99p per can. Some establishments will even have these items concealed from display and the items themselves are only known for sale by the Street Drinkers themselves. In some-ways this stock is sold specifically for street drinkers.

Without the SCIP practices used by Street Drinkers to obtain alcohol will become increasingly more difficult and frustrating to control. I believe retailers will ignore licensing laws to make a sale and with the high number of retailers selling alcohol in the area will mean that alcohol is easily accessible by Street Drinkers and others.

It is of note that Street Drinkers will move from retailer to retailer in the Town and do not have to travel very far to purchase alcohol. These groups will often then “sit off” in locations where they know they have easy access to retailers selling cheap alcohol and without the SCIP area in place the management of these environments will become even more problematic. Importantly Police are receiving a growing number of complaints from businesses and the public regarding these groups returning to the

The growing issue now is that even when challenged or refused alcohol at a licensed premises It is way too easy for individuals and groups to quickly locate to another retailer who will serve them. Retailers selling alcohol are so condensed around the area that individuals looking to purchase alcohol do not have to travel far to find what they want. Without SCIP this will become even more relaxed, and the strengths of alcohol served to individuals will increase.

My work and the work of my colleagues will continue to address this area of concern; however, we must do so with the support of our partners and ever more so with strict controls around the availability of alcohol within the SCIP area.”

Community survey

Following a survey of the local community the following questions were posed.

Do you suffer from ASB in your area?

84% **Yes**

16% **No**

Do you suffer from alcohol related ASB in your area?

76% **Yes**

24% **No**

Do you think licensed shops contribute to the ASB?

57% **Yes**

43% **No**

Community Comments

Do you have any other comments in relation to alcohol related ASB issues in Birkenhead?

“Partially because street drinkers are clever and know where they can sit without having drink taken off them”

“I don't live in the town centre but drinkers are often seen urinating against walls or in bushes where they now sit on benches near to old central hotel....I've just witnessed it and told officers who went to the location.”

“Street Drinkers causing a lot of issues. Beggars causing a lot of issues in the area. Groups of youths with balaclavas causing massive issues in the town centre and at McDonalds. Home Bargains and the like selling cheap alcohol, possibly contributing to these issues.” - Pyramids security staff.

“Street drinkers and beggars in town centre causing issues, needs more patrols in the area. No current issues with youths.” - Asda, Security.

“Adult mainly issues Iceland have stopped selling 3 litre cider for this reason. Stop YMCA adult coming to town centre when drunk as they are issue.”

“Adults drink alcohol on benches in town after leaving YMCA adults now engaging with local youths who also sit on benches drinking alcohol. all are rowdy they start throwing empty bottles around. Change law make town no drinking zone but who is going to enforce it.”

“Problem is homeless or drug dependents, drinking alcohol asking money asking elderly. Shouldn't be sitting in town centre drunk not acceptable but should still be able to access services that are nearby.”

“ASB has always been an issues in Birkenhead it happens all day long with residents from ymca sitting in town today as they have nowhere else to go. more teams needed to engage with them 24hrs a day to organise their days / activities, they need incentives. They need to stay out of town its intimidating to shoppers. No issues with kids, kids grow up and move on.

Report prepared by Sgt 5356 James Watson on behalf of Inspector Buckney, Wirral Targeted Team, Local Policing. September 2022