

Blackpool Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
Proposed amendments

2.1 Personal Licences – delete the following text:

Transitional Arrangements

The holders of existing justices' licences can apply for new personal licences during the transitional period starting on 7th February 2005. Only representations by the Police will be considered and, in most cases, the Police are not expected to object to applications to convert existing justices licences to personal licences.

2.2 Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates – delete the following text:

Transitional Arrangements

Holders of existing licences or owners of premises or others with the consent of such holders may apply to convert their licences into new premises licences. They must do so within six months from 7th February 2005. The same applies to registered members clubs.

The Police are not expected to object to applications to convert existing justices' licences to premises licences (or club registrations to club premises certificates) during the transition process unless circumstances described in the Act make such an objection necessary.

Objections are only likely where breaches of the licence conditions or failures to satisfy undertakings to the licensing justices have been detected since the last renewal of the justices' licence or circumstances have given rise to concerns about the crime prevention objective.

The Licensing Authority is determined that the transition process will be smooth and efficient. The staff of the licensing service will seek to minimise difficulties for the licensed trade by providing information and assistance before, during and after the transition period.

Applicants will not be granted if the applicant has ceased to hold the existing licence prior to the determination of the application.

2.7.8 Cumulative Impact – delete the existing text and insert the following:

The number, type and density of premises selling alcohol in a particular area can lead to serious problems of nuisance or disorder. In these circumstances the impact of the premises taken as a whole can be far greater than that arising from individual premises. In most cases it would be impossible to identify an individual premises as being the sole cause or major contributing factor.

The potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives by a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area is called

“cumulative impact”. This is not to be confused with “need” for premises in an area, which the licensing committee cannot take into account when determining applications. The cumulative impact of all the premises in an area upon the promotion of the licensing objectives is a proper matter for the licensing authority to consider.

The licensing authority has for some years, recognised that the town centre and promenade area identified in appendix A, is an area where the behaviour of customers of all the premises taken together has a greater impact than normal on the crime and disorder objective. The licensing authority is now of the opinion that this area is suffering from cumulative impact, and designates it as the **Town Centre Saturation Area** in respect of premises licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol. In reaching this decision, the evidence summarised in appendix B was taken into account.

This policy will apply to applications including the sale or supply of alcohol for:

- New premises licences
- New club premises certificates
- Provisional statements
- Variations to existing licences (where the modifications are directly relevant to the issue of cumulative impact, for example, increases in hours or capacity)

The effect of the policy is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications listed above will be refused. To rebut this presumption, an applicant would be expected to show through the operating schedule, and where appropriate, with supporting evidence, that the operation of the premises will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced. This policy does not act as an absolute prohibition on the granting of new licences.

Despite the adoption of such a policy, **if no representations are received, the application must be granted in terms consistent with the operating schedule.**

The need for this policy will be subject to periodic review. The committee will consider saturation policies for other areas if appropriate evidence can be made available.

Applications outside of the designated area:

Representations on cumulative impact may be made in respect of applications for premises licences outside of the designated area. If such representations are successful, the licensing authority may choose to consult as to whether that particular area should be designated as an area of cumulative impact.

Where Responsible Authorities of Interested Parties seek to establish that an application should be refused on the grounds that it would result in (or further contribute to) cumulative impact, they should:

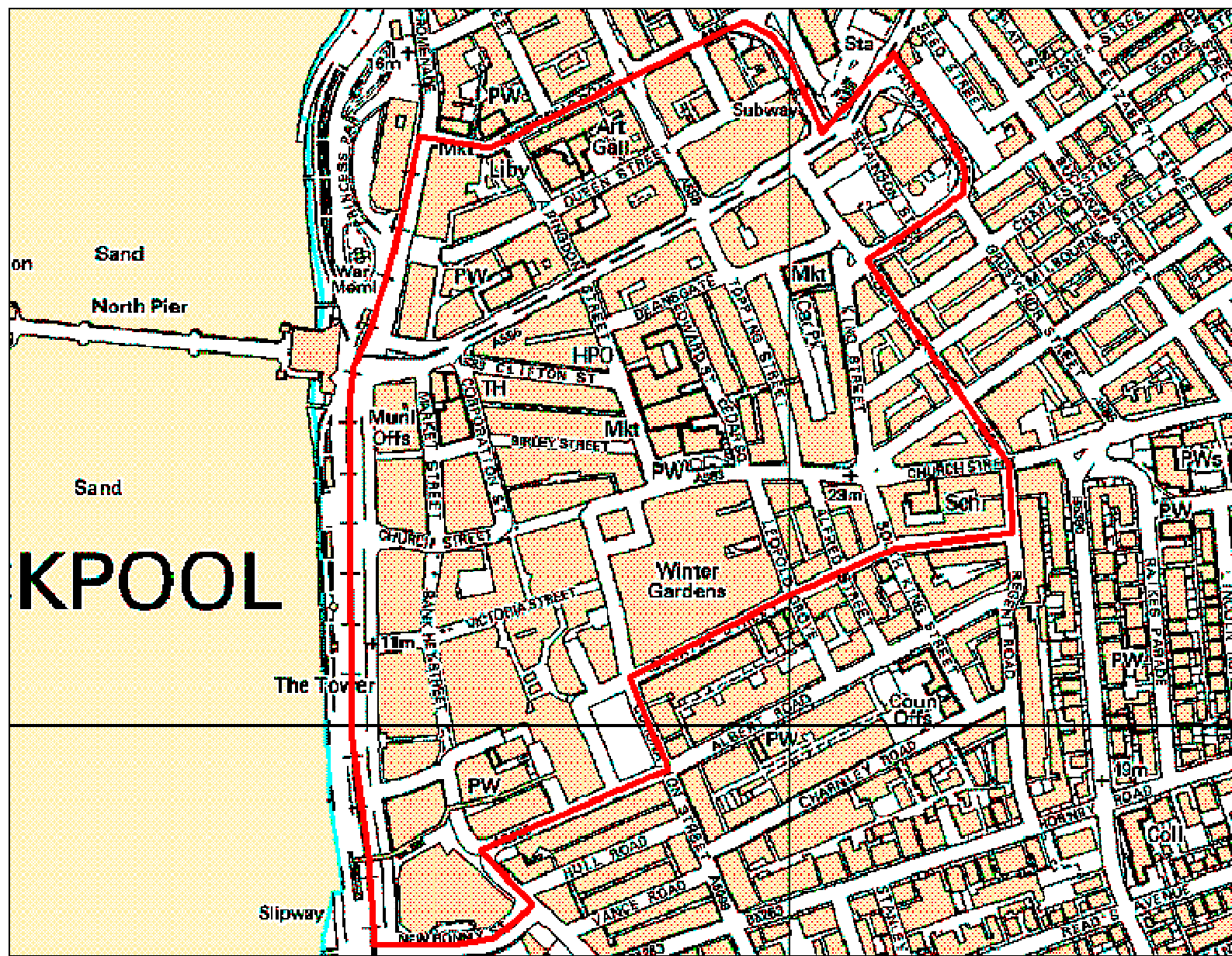
- Identify the boundaries of the area
- Identify the licensing objective(s) being undermined,

- Provide full details and evidence to show the manner and extent to which the licensing objective(s) are being, or will be undermined,
- Provide evidence that the problems are being caused by patrons of licensed premises in the area.

When considering such representations, the licensing committee will have particular regard to:

- The nature of the proposed application – including licensable activities, hours, and occupancy
- Measures proposed by the applicant in the operating schedule to mitigate or prevent adverse impact on the licensing objectives (including the proposed hours of operation)
- The proximity of the premises to others in the area, licensed for similar activities
- The occupancy figures of existing premises in the area concerned,
- The operational hours of existing licensed premises in the area concerned,
- The nature of licensed activities in the area,
- Whether the proposed premises will be a direct replacement for others in the area no longer licensed,
- Whether conditions would be effective in addressing the issue of cumulative impact.

Appendix A- Area under consideration



Appendix B

Summary of the evidence to support a cumulative impact policy

Lancashire Constabulary and B Safe Blackpool have identified the Town Centre Area as outlined in appendix A, as being an area with high levels of alcohol related violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

The statistical information detailed below has been compiled from Lancashire Constabulary crime and incident recording systems between 1st June 2005 and 31st May 2006.

Evidence suggests that there are significant levels of crime and anti-social behaviour peaking between 23.00 hours and 04.00 hours Friday-Sunday. Despite the fact that Blackpool relied heavily on tourism, there is no significant reduction in offending in the winter months.

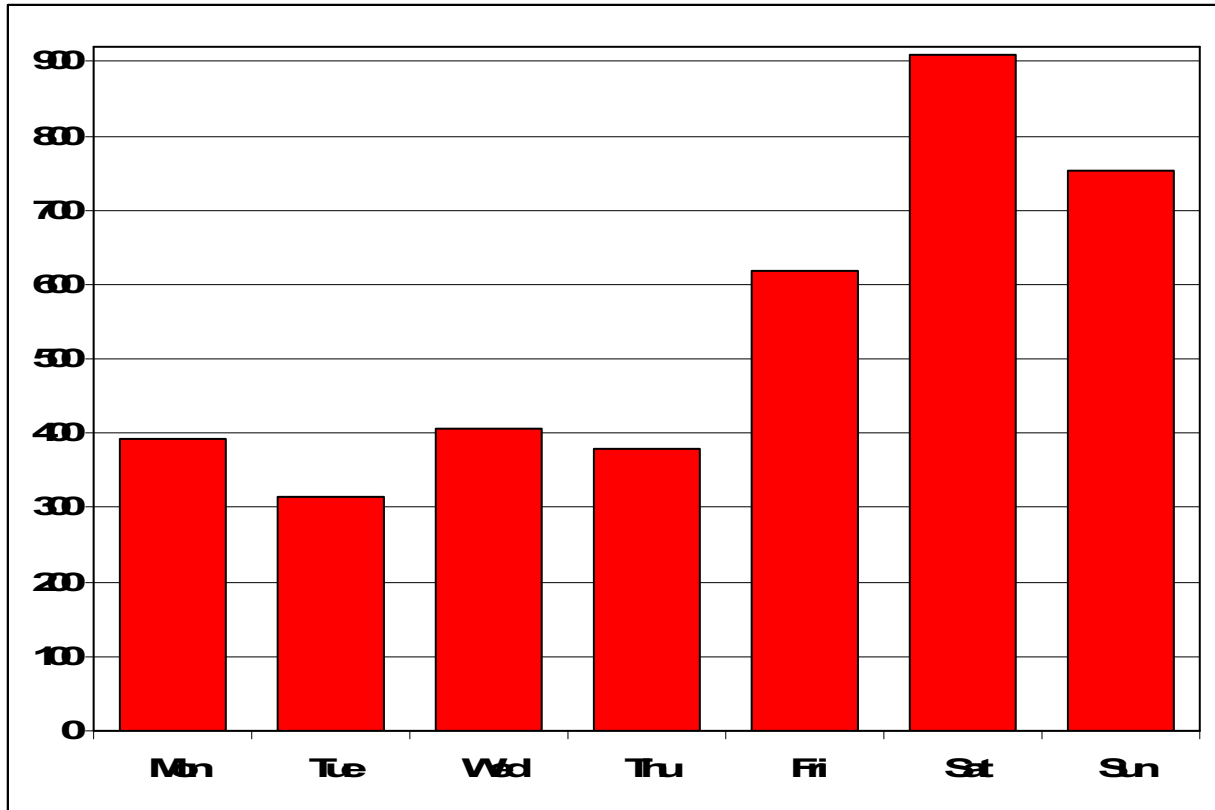
The area under consideration already contains a significant number of venues licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises. Police estimate the total capacity of these premises to be in excess of 40000.

Background information

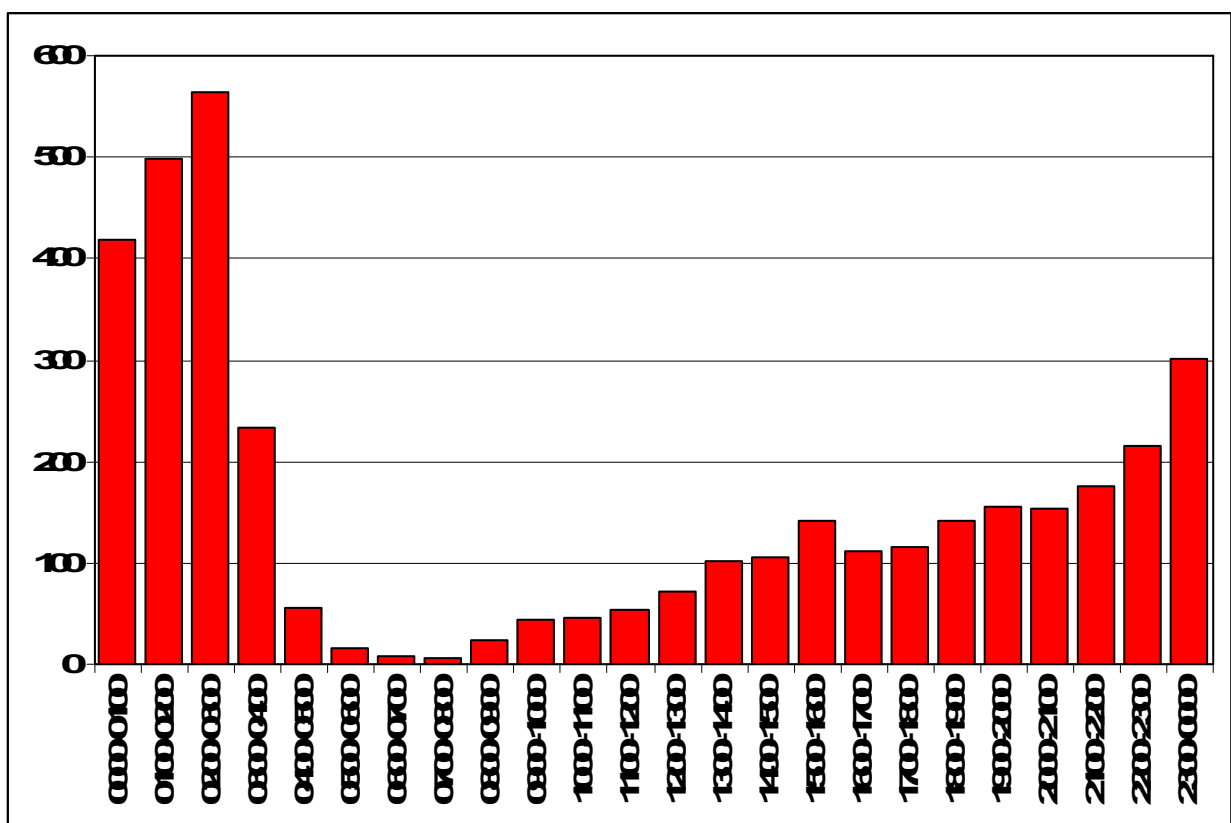
Violence and Public Order – Blackpool Town Centre 01/06/05 to 31/05/06

Reports of Assaults and Anti-Social Behaviour in the area under consideration

Days of the week

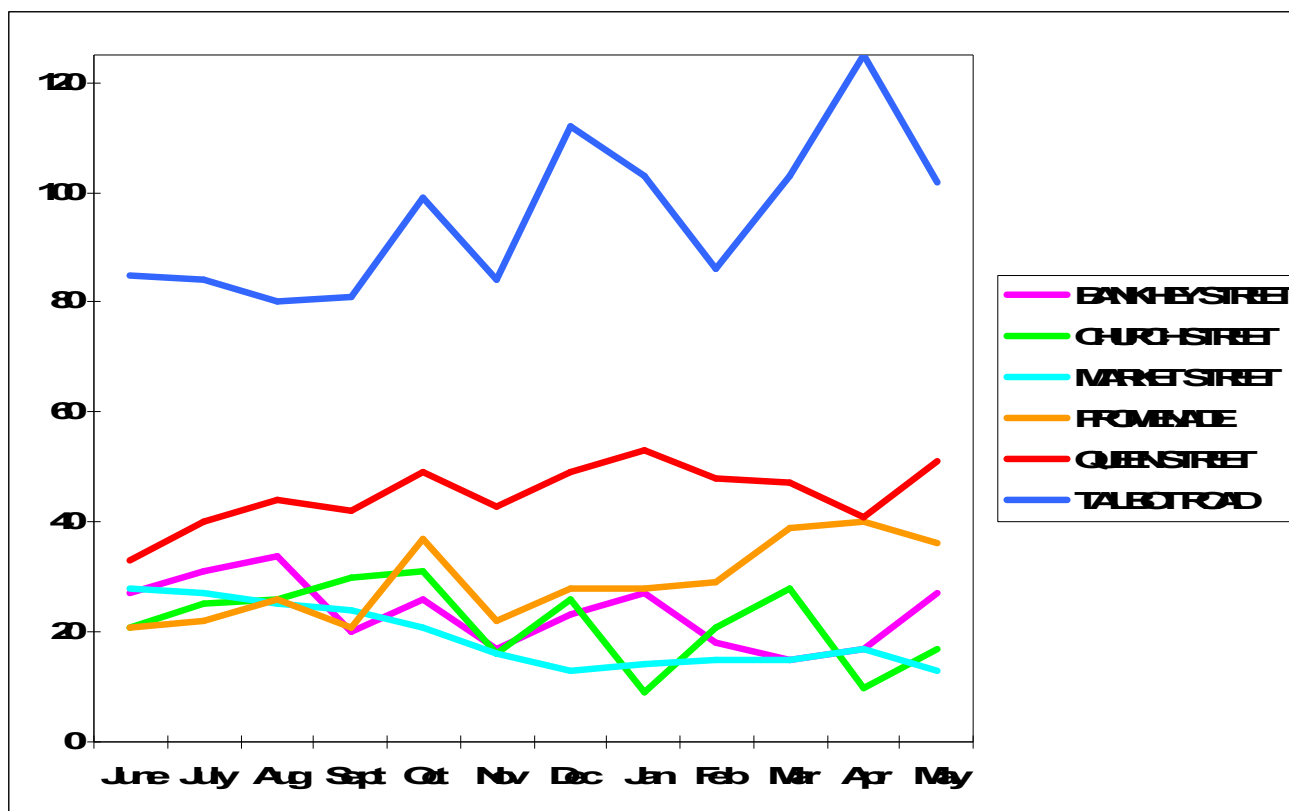


Times of the day



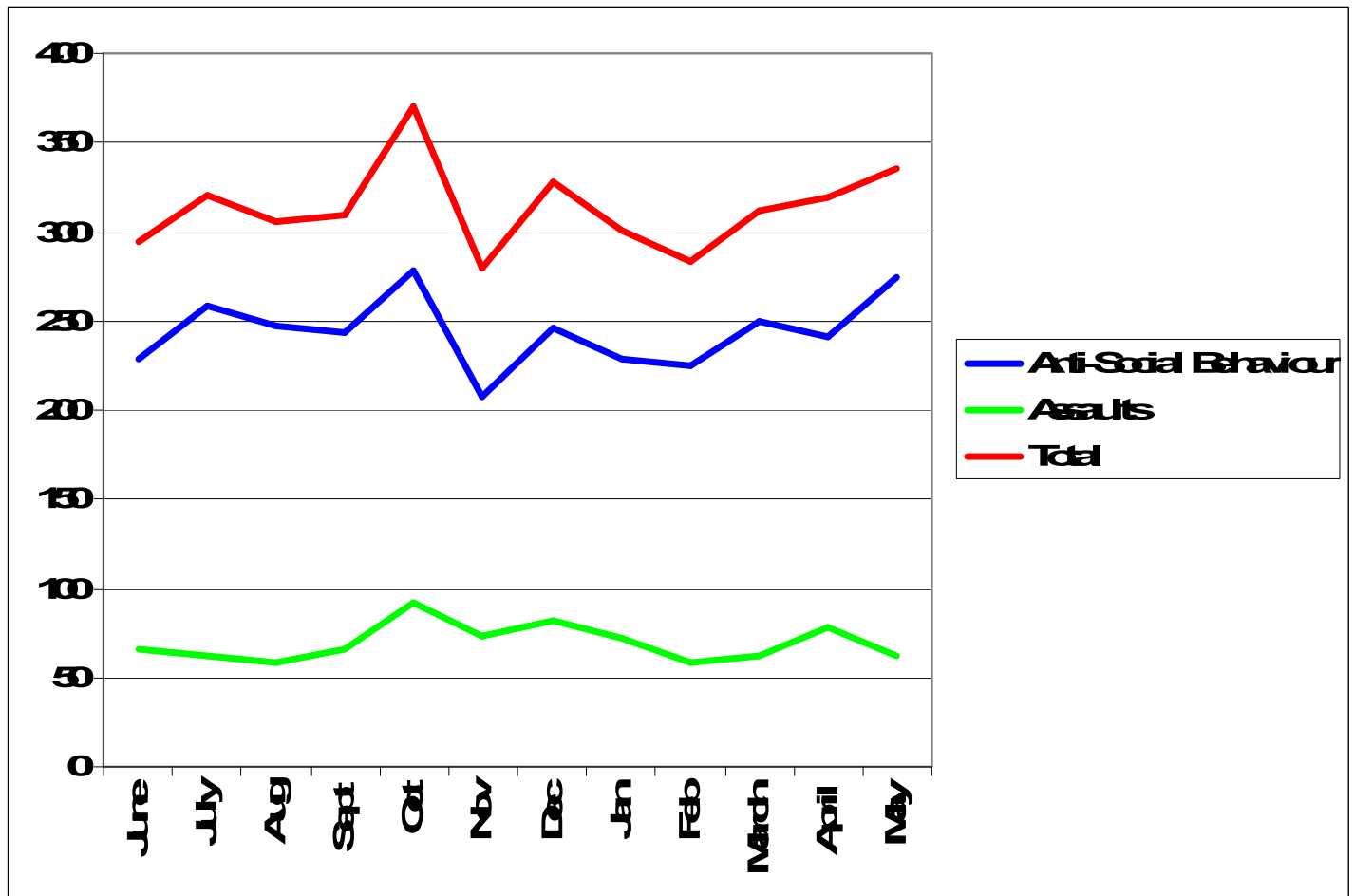
Reports of assaults and anti-social behaviour - where more than 20 incidents have occurred.

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
ABINGDON STREET	9	13	12	12	19	10	4	4	3	5	13	13	117
BANK HEY STREET	27	31	34	20	26	17	23	27	18	15	17	27	282
BIRLEY STREET	2	4	3	4	3	0	1	1	1	2	3	5	29
CHURCH STREET	21	25	26	30	31	16	26	9	21	28	10	17	260
CLIFTON STREET	8	6	1	11	13	7	6	6	12	8	4	5	87
COOKSON STREET	5	2	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	21
CORONATION STREET	3	5	2	2	3	4	2	2	1	4	2	9	39
CORPORATION STREET	1	3	2	4	7	3	6	4	0	4	2	2	38
DICKSON ROAD	13	5	3	11	10	9	4	7	9	9	11	18	109
KING STREET	3	2	2	6	3	4	4	4	1	4	3	2	38
MARKET STREET	28	27	25	24	21	16	13	14	15	15	17	13	228
PROMENADE	21	22	26	21	37	22	28	28	29	39	40	36	349
QUEEN STREET	33	40	44	42	49	43	49	53	48	47	41	51	512
SPRINGFIELD ROAD	5	5	1	1	2	3	7	2	1	1	3	0	31
TALBOT ROAD	85	84	80	81	99	84	112	103	86	103	125	102	951
THE STRAND	2	5	12	8	10	14	12	12	14	7	8	8	112
TOPPING STREET	13	15	14	8	14	12	12	11	10	9	8	7	133
VICTORIA STREET	3	4	2	2	2	4	5	1	2	2	4	2	31
Grand Total All Streets	294	320	305	309	370	280	328	300	283	312	319	336	3756



Reports of Assault and Anti-Social Behaviour Offence Trends 2005-2006

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Total
Anti-Social Behaviour	228	258	247	243	278	207	246	228	225	250	241	274	2925
Assaults	66	62	58	66	92	73	82	72	58	62	78	62	831
Total	294	320	305	309	370	280	328	300	283	312	319	336	3756



Reports of Assault and Anti-Social Behaviour – Breakdown of incidents

Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour	1680
Assault	831
General drunken behaviour	712
Harassment	251
Inappropriate use of public space	130
Public Order	128
Street Drinking	17
Noise - Pubs & Clubs	4
Serving alcohol after hours	3
Grand Total	3756

