

Response from Council's Community Protection Team

Information from the Community Safety Team (looking at a limited amount of ASB complaints and reports)

An analysis of recorded antisocial behaviour complaints received directly by the Community Safety Team in the Community Protection Service was undertaken. The following categories of ASB complaint were included in the analysis (noise, disorder, disturbances, alcohol and drugs and intimidation / harassment) – categories such as dog fouling, dog barking, fly-tipping and littering were excluded from the analysis for obvious reasons. A quick check of the data for all village and town centre localities in East Dunbartonshire revealed no specific trends (other than that of reducing report numbers over the last few years in all areas). The localities (Milngavie and Kirkintilloch) in which the 2 existing and the 3 proposed areas of over provision are located were specifically checked for any noticeable patterns or trends over the last 3 years. No real trends of concern could be identified and a general reduction in complaint numbers was noted throughout the period in question.

Numbers of ASB complaints received by the Community Safety Team in the analysed categories for the localities of Milngavie and Kirkintilloch (2020-21 to 2022-23)

Milngavie	2020/21 – 78	2021/22 – 70	2022/23 - 35
Kirkintilloch	2020/21 – 232	2021/22 – 171	2022/23 – 111

The COVID 19 pandemic had a significant impact on local communities particularly in the years 20/21 and 21/22 when more people were working from home, spending more time in and around their local communities and tolerance levels were strained. The 2022/23 recorded complaints are more in line with the volume that the service would expect to receive during a normal recording and reporting period out with a global pandemic. Within the 2022/23 figures no specific trends or areas of concern were identified. Of the complaints received, there is no differentiation between those in the proposed overprovision areas and those in the remaining areas of East Dunbartonshire. No specific conclusions can therefore be drawn from the information we have, which is perhaps not surprising given that the majority of initial reports in relation to antisocial behaviour matters are invariably made to Police Scotland rather than the Council's Community Safety Team (roughly 80 percent of reports from members of the public are made to Police Scotland in the first instance).

The Community Protection Service would support the proposals from the HSCP that the area of Kirkintilloch West be no longer considered an area of overprovision – from the limited amount of data held and examined by the Community Safety Team, there is no evidence to suggest that there are any spikes or particular issues in relation alcohol related antisocial behaviour in that particular area. Similarly, the Community Protection Service holds no ASB data that would support the need for any new areas of over provision in the three localities that have been suggested.

Information from the Licensing Enforcement Section (Licensing Standards Officers) - looking at low numbers of complaints for licensed premises

On analysis of recorded licensed premise complaint data of the localities proposed for over provision, no real trends or patterns emerge. In general, relatively small numbers of complaints have been received in relation to licensed premises over the last 3 years. This may be due to COVID19 pandemic restrictions resulting in on sales premises having to close or restrict their operating model for several months. Of the complaints received, there is no differentiation between those in the proposed overprovision areas and those in the remaining areas of East Dunbartonshire. No conclusions can therefore be drawn from the information we have.

Licensing Standards Officers would support the proposals from the HSCP that the area of Kirkintilloch West be no longer considered an area of overprovision. Again, in terms of licensed premise complaint information, there is nothing within the data that would support the retention of the area as an area of over provision.

In relation to Hillhead, there does appear to be a large number of off-sale outlets compared to other residential areas. However, this in itself, would not be sufficient that this should remain as an area of overprovision but may be relevant when considering other available data from the HSCP and Police Scotland.

Over the past 3 years the COVID19 pandemic has resulted in an increased number of variation applications to include the home delivery of food and alcohol. The applications received include off sales premises as well as traditional on sales premises (i.e., pubs and restaurants) as premises adjusted to COVID19 restrictions on trading. Premises continue to comment that the home delivery aspect of their business continues to be popular now that restrictions have been lifted.