



Director of Public Health
Public Health Directorate
Medway Council,
Gun Wharf,
Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent. ME4 4TR
18th December 2024

LICENSING ACT 2003 – GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION

Name and address of premises

Tesco Express, Unit 1, Pullman House, Corporation St, Rochester

The Director of Public Health is making representations concerning an application for the grant of the above premises licence. The representations are made against the following licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance

General comments

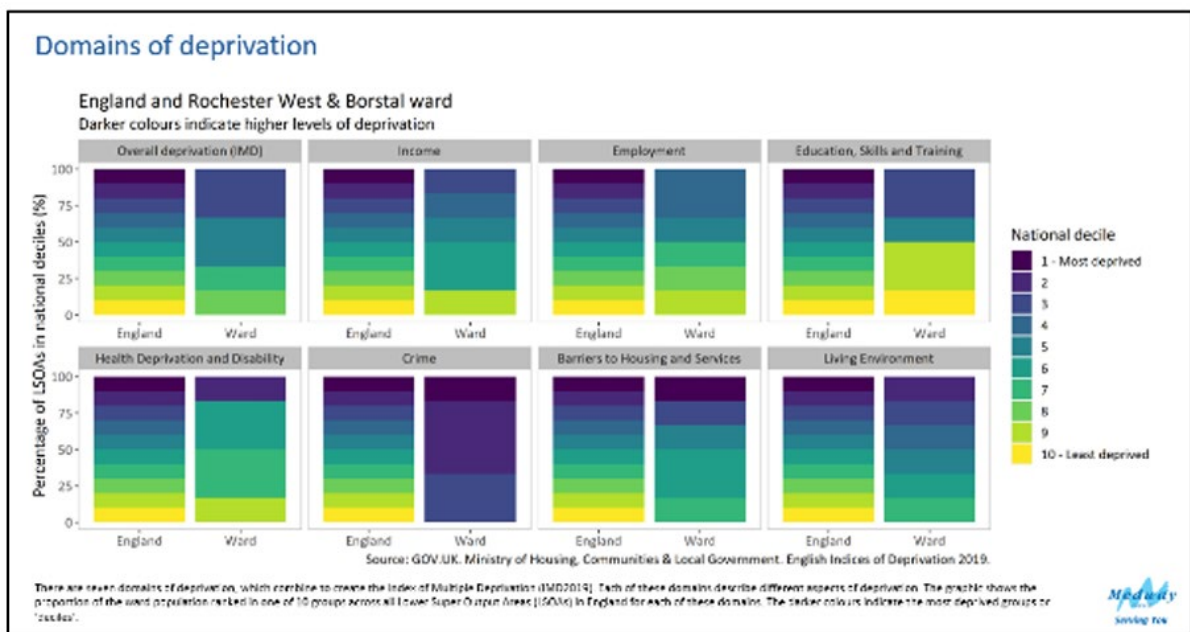
This premises is in Corporation St, just off Rochester High St, close to Rochester railway station. The area is a busy shopping and tourist area consisting of a mix of businesses, shops, including those selling alcohol and tourist attractions including museums and the Castle. Rochester High St also has a high concentration of residential housing.

This premises is located within the Rochester High St cumulative impact assessment (CIA) area which mainly covers Rochester High St. There is strong evidence of high levels of alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance associated with a density of both on and off-licenses, in the Rochester CIA area.

The prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance

Rochester is different from the other CIP areas in Medway. Many people are resident in the High St and are effected by alcohol related issues from customers of both the off licences and the pubs, bars and nightclub.

The evidence shows there is a concentration of on and off licensed premises in and around the Rochester Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) area. The CIP borders some deprived areas in Medway, which is relevant to alcohol related harms. Both Rochester West and Borstal ward and Rochester East and Warren Wood ward, are deprived in crime domain.



Ward Profiles Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

Rochester West & Borstal

SELECT WARD TO VIEW RESULTS

Select all

All Saints

Chatham Central & Bro...

Cuxton, Halling & Riversi...

Fort Horsted

Fort Pitt

Gillingham North

Gillingham South

Hempstead & Wigmore

Hoo St Werburgh & High...

Lordswood & Walderslade

Luton

Princes Park

Rainham North

Rainham South East

Rainham South West

Rochester East & Warre...

Rochester West & Borstal

St Mary's Island

Strood North & Frindsbury

Strood Rural

Strood West

Twydall

Watling

Wayfield & Weeds Wood

The count of recorded cases was **2,279** which is **181** per 1,000 residents

Data is collected from Police.uk (May 2023)

ALL WARDS - CRIME CASES & CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

Ward	CRIME CASES	CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
Chatham Central & Brompton	4,580	266
Gillingham South	4,168	230
Luton	2,060	198
Rochester West & Borstal	2,279	181
Fort Pitt	2,250	171
Gillingham North	2,075	140
Strood North & Frindsbury	1,990	133
Watling	1,722	124
Wayfield & Weeds Wood	1,193	118
Rochester East & Warren Wood	1,502	118
St Mary's Island	465	114
Fort Horsted	471	102
Twydall	943	99
Rainham North	1,292	99
Hoo St Werburgh & High Halstow	1,316	98
Strood West	1,284	90
Cuxton, Halling & Riverside	702	86
Princes Park	698	82
All Saints	372	79
Lordswood & Walderslade	1,036	70
Rainham South West	579	59
Rainham South East	698	51
Hempstead & Wigmore	457	49
Strood Rural	244	18

CASES BY WARD MAP

MIN MAX

Select multiple wards to view CRIME CASE comparison. Darker colour indicates a higher volume of crimes

CRIMES BY TYPE

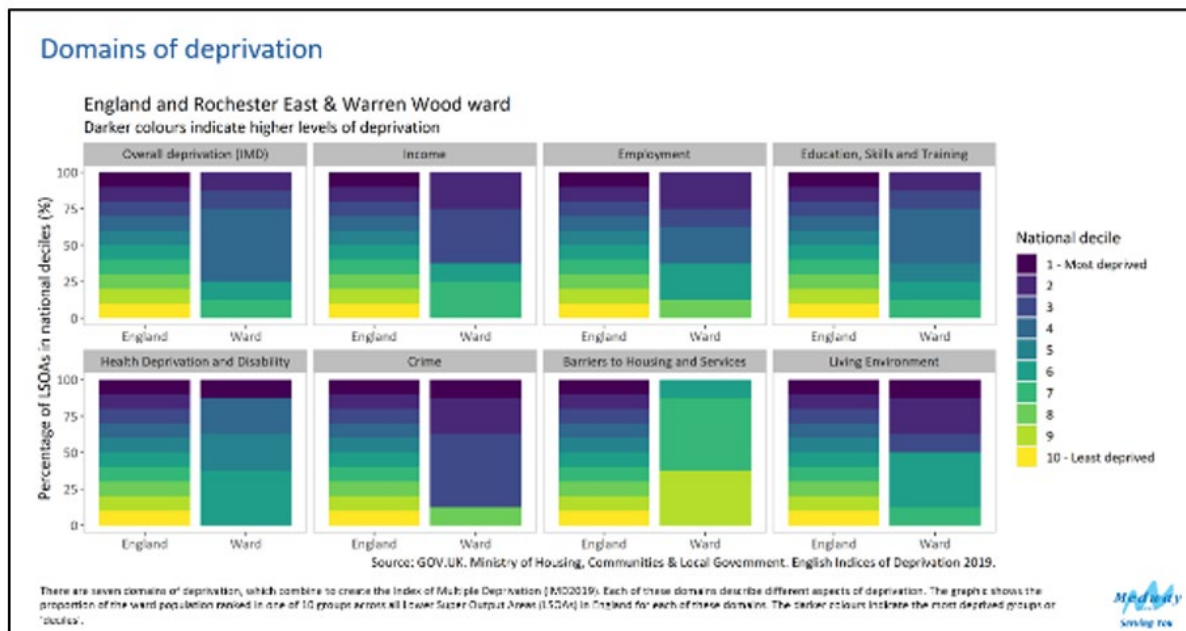
Violent Crime	1,120
Anti Social Behaviour	325
Criminal Damage Arson	141
Other Theft	126
Public Order	126
Other Crime	101
Vehicle Crime	88
Drugs	63
Burglary	61
Shoplifting	60
Robbery	23
Theft From The Person	16
Possession Of Weapons	15
Bicycle Theft	14

Click on the crime types in this graph to filter results on this page

CRIME CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS OVER TIME

● PER 1,000 IN SELECTED WARD/S ● PER 1,000 IN MEDWAY

Rochester West and Borstal ward has the fourth highest rate of crime cases per 1000 residents in Medway. Rochester East and Warren Wood ward is the tenth highest.



Ward Profiles Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

Rochester East & Warren Wood

The count of recorded cases was **1,502** which is **118** per 1,000 residents Data is collected from Police.uk (May 2023)

SELECT WARD TO VIEW RESULTS

- Select all
- All Saints
- Chatham Central & Bro...
- Cuxton, Halling & Riversi...
- Fort Horsted
- Fort Pitt
- Gillingham North
- Gillingham South
- Hempstead & Wigmore
- Hoo St Werburgh & High...
- Lordswood & Walderslade
- Luton
- Princes Park
- Rainham North
- Rainham South East
- Rainham South West
- Rochester East & Warre...
- Rochester West & Borstal
- St Mary's Island
- Strood North & Frindsbury
- Strood Rural
- Strood West
- Twydall
- Watling
- Wayfield & Weeds Wood

Tick 'Select all' to view Medway totals. You can also select individual or multiple wards

Counts of recorded cases are for the last twelve months except where stated otherwise.

Data Sources: Police.uk & Census 2021

Ward	CRIME CASES	CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
Chatham Central & Brompton	4,580	266
Gillingham South	4,168	230
Luton	2,050	198
Rochester West & Borstal	2,279	181
Fort Pitt	2,250	171
Gillingham North	2,075	140
Strood North & Frindsbury	1,990	133
Watling	1,722	124
Wayfield & Weeds Wood	1,193	118
Rochester East & Warren Wood	1,502	118
St Mary's Island	465	114
Fort Horsted	471	102
Twydall	943	99
Rainham North	1,292	99
Hoo St Werburgh & High Halstow	1,316	98
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Hempstead & Wigmore	457	49
Strood Rural	244	18

CASES BY WARD MAP

MIN MAX

Select multiple wards to view CRIME CASE comparison. Darker colour indicates a higher volume of crimes

CRIMES BY TYPE

Violent Crime	688
Anti Social Behaviour	164
Criminal Damage Arson	144
Shoplifting	107
Other Theft	106
Public Order	92
Vehicle Crime	60
Other Crime	51
Drugs	47
Burglary	31
Possession Of Weapons	5
Bicycle Theft	3
Robbery	2
Theft From The Person	2

Click on the crime types in this graph to filter results on this page

CRIME CASES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS OVER TIME

● PER 1,000 IN SELECTED WARD/S ● PER 1,000 IN MEDWAY

In both the highest type of crimes are violent crime and anti-social behaviour, both of which are associated with alcohol consumption.

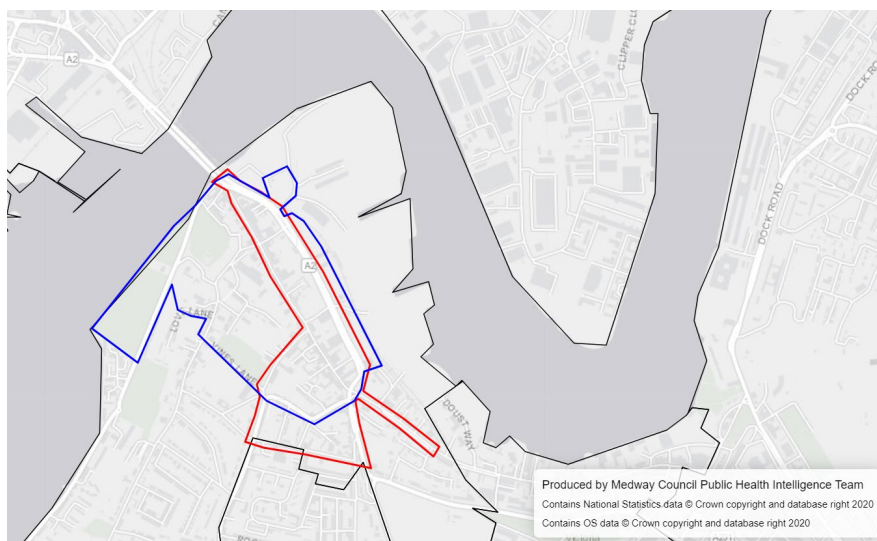
Crime and the prevalence of crime is a public health issue. Crime is part of the wider determinants of health as it effects people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Certain types of crime are more associated with alcohol consumption than others. Among crimes that are regarded as being 'alcohol related' are

- Violence including wounding and assault with or without injury
- Verbal and physical abuse
- Sexual offences including abuse and assault
- Harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Public disturbance and nuisance including street drinking, noise, littering, public urination and defecation and intimidation
- Harms to children including assault, witnessing violence and all types of abuse
- Driving offences including drink driving

Research from The Office for National Statistics states that victims perceived an offender to be under the influence of alcohol in 53% of violent incidents; a proportion which has remained consistent during the last 10 years. Research has also shown that access to off licensed premises, such as convenience shops and supermarkets, had a greater association with violent crime than premises which only allow for onsite consumption of alcohol (Trangenstein et al (2018). This is particularly the case for incidents of domestic abuse where incidents often happen in the home. Alcohol consumption, and domestic abuse, increased during the COVID 19 lockdowns, where alcohol could only be purchased from off licensed premises (Institute of Alcohol Studies, 2021).

The Rochester Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which has been introduced due to issues with anti-social behaviour covers the majority of the Rochester CIP area.



There is evidence of alcohol related nuisance in the form of alcohol related litter, public urination and defecation and street drinking which is provided by the community evidence contained in the survey results and the focus group statements which forms the evidence to support the [CIA](#) in Rochester High St.

As part of the CIA evidence gathering, Public Health held a focus group in Rochester to assess the impact alcohol has, if any, on residents and businesses. All participants in the focus group were agreed the issues in Rochester High Street were spread across the day and into the evening and the night. There were 2 distinct issues. Rochester High Street had issues of

people drinking during the day and causing alcohol related problems such as anti-social behaviour, nuisance, intimidation, begging and public urination. The second issue was connected to the night time consumption of alcohol from both on and off licensed premises, when residents were subject to fighting, noise, anti-social behaviour, public sex acts and disturbance.

Summary

Rochester High Street and the surrounding area has unacceptable levels of alcohol related issues, including crime and public nuisance associated with the density of off licences. These problems are current, ongoing, and still of concern in this area.

Policy 10 from the [Statement of Licensing Policy](#) is the most relevant to this application. Policy 10 sets out the expectation of the Licensing Authority when determining applications for off licensed premises. This states that when an application is in a CIP area the Authority will refer to the Cumulative Impact Policy, which outlines the expectations for applications made for off licenced premises in these areas.

The Cumulative Impact Policy states the Authority expects an application in a CIP area to contain a full explanation as to how the premises will not adversely affect the four licensing objectives. There is a rebuttable presumption of refusal by the Authority in all but exceptional circumstances. Offering conditions which merely show the premises as being well managed and run are not exceptional.

The application does not mention the Cumulative Impact Policy, nor does it show any understanding of the issues set out in the policy that are particular to this area, or how the applicant intends to ensure the sale of alcohol will not add to these issues. There are no

measures contained within the operating schedule which would ensure that alcohol sold from the premises will not add to the issues detailed above.

The Director of Public Health believes there is nothing exceptional about this application as required by the Cumulative Impact Policy. It is reasonable to believe the sale of alcohol from this premises will contribute towards the alcohol related crime, disorder, and public nuisance in this area, which are current and ongoing. The Licensing Committee is therefore asked to refuse the application.

Professor David Whiting

Director of Public Health

Date 18th December 2024

For all communication, please contact **Barbara Murray**, Public Health Project Officer at the address at the head of this representation or by the following:

Tel: 01634 332637

E mail: barbara.murray@medway.gov.uk