



Director of Public Health  
Public Health Directorate  
Medway Council,  
Gun Wharf,  
Dock Road,  
Chatham, Kent. ME4 4TR  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## **LICENSING ACT 2003 – APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE**

<p><b><u>Name and address of premises</u></b></p>
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<p><b>19, New Road, Chatham</b></p>
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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

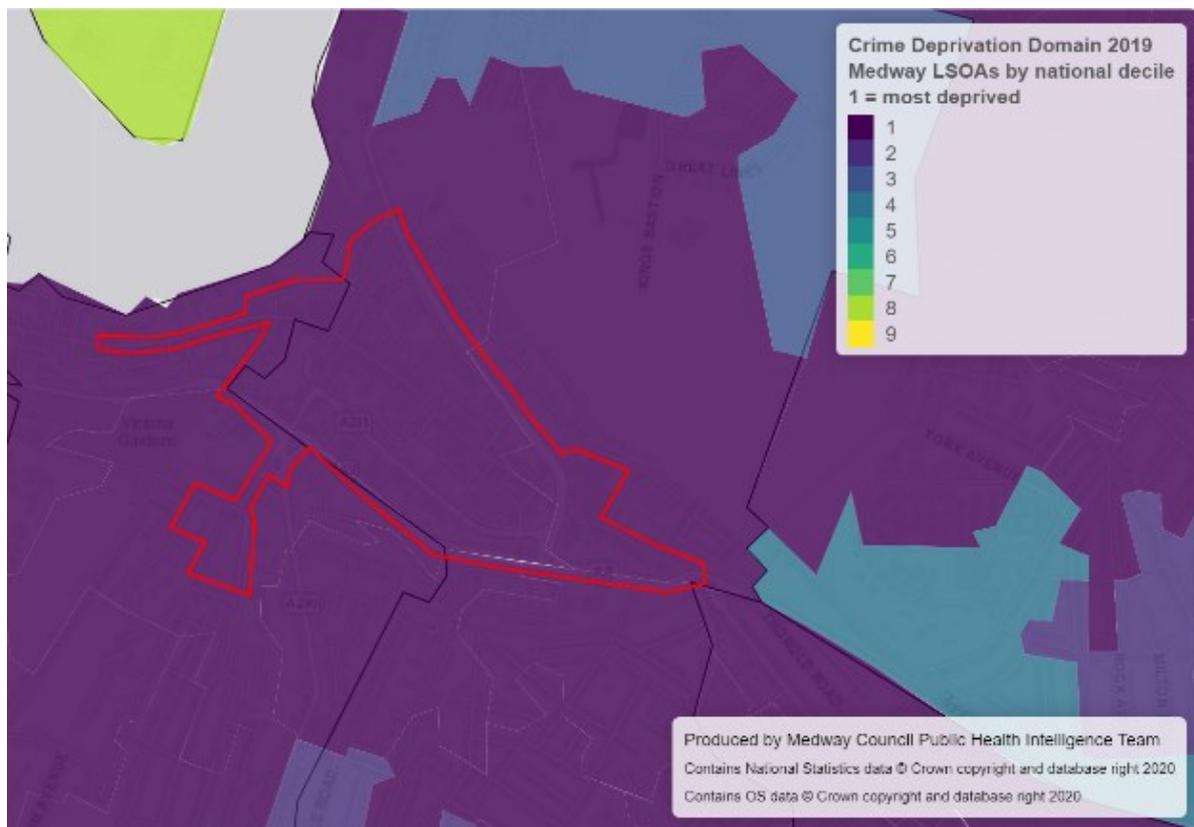
### **General comments**

This premises is located within the Chatham cumulative impact policy (CIP) area which covers Chatham High Street and surrounding area. The evidence shows there are unacceptable levels of alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance associated with a density of licensed premises, particularly off-licensed premises in the Chatham High Street area. The CIP was reviewed and renewed in early 2024 and the data supporting it was agreed by the Licensing Committee.

### **The prevention of crime and disorder**

The police provided evidence of alcohol related crime in this area to support the CIP, which related to a range of alcohol related crimes, such as assaults, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and public order. This area is identified as a hot spot in Medway for these types of crime.

The Chatham CIP area borders some of the most deprived areas in Medway. Both Chatham Central and Brompton ward and Fort Pitt ward have high levels of crime deprivation, as shown in the graphics below.

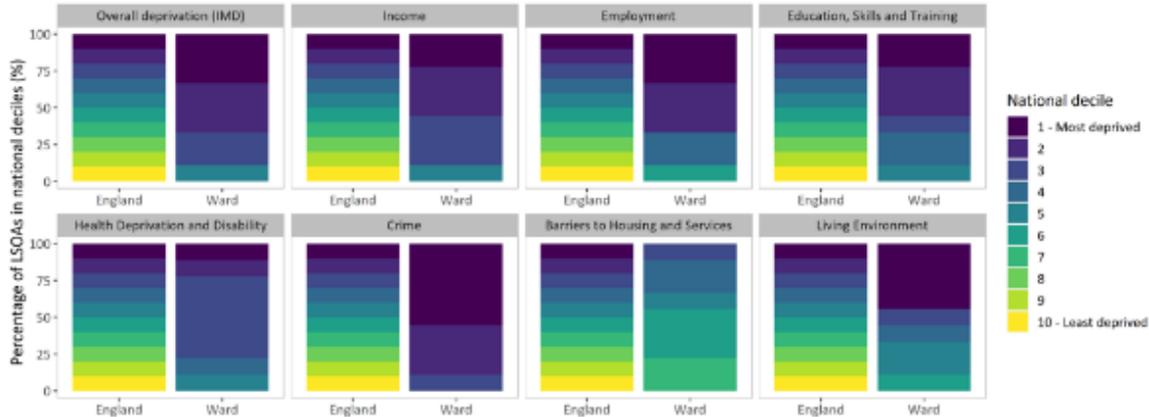


The Indices of Multiple Deprivation is a tool used to measure deprivation. There are seven domains of disadvantage including health and crime. 8.6% of areas in Medway are within the top 10% of the most deprived areas in England, with Chatham Central and Brompton ward being the most deprived for crime, and Fort Pitt ward being the 3<sup>rd</sup> most deprived in Medway.

## Domains of deprivation

### England and Chatham Central & Brompton ward

Darkener colours indicate higher levels of deprivation



Source: GOV.UK. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. English Indices of Deprivation 2019.

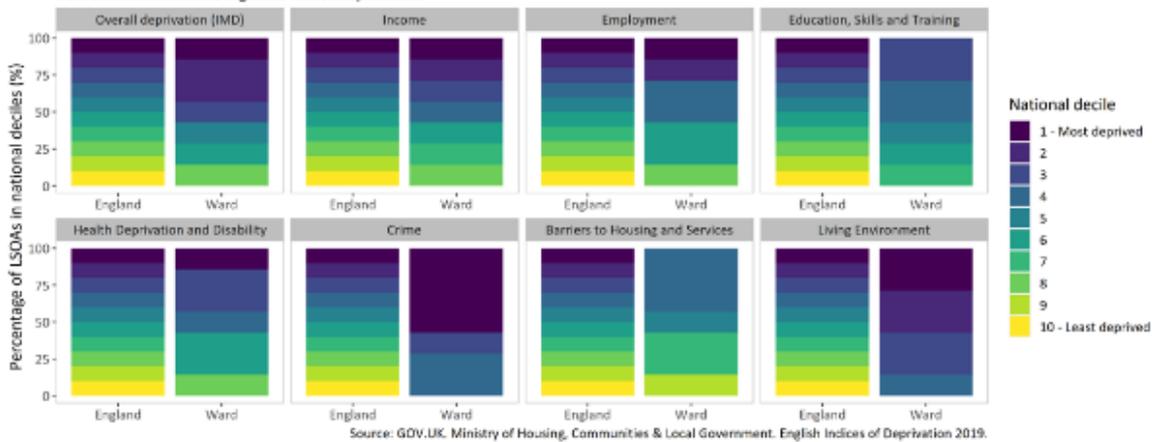
There are seven domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019). Each of these domains describe different aspects of deprivation. The graphic shows the proportion of the ward population raised in one of 10 groups across all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England for each of these domains. The darker colours indicate the most deprived group or 'decile'.



## Domains of deprivation

### England and Fort Pitt ward

Darkener colours indicate higher levels of deprivation

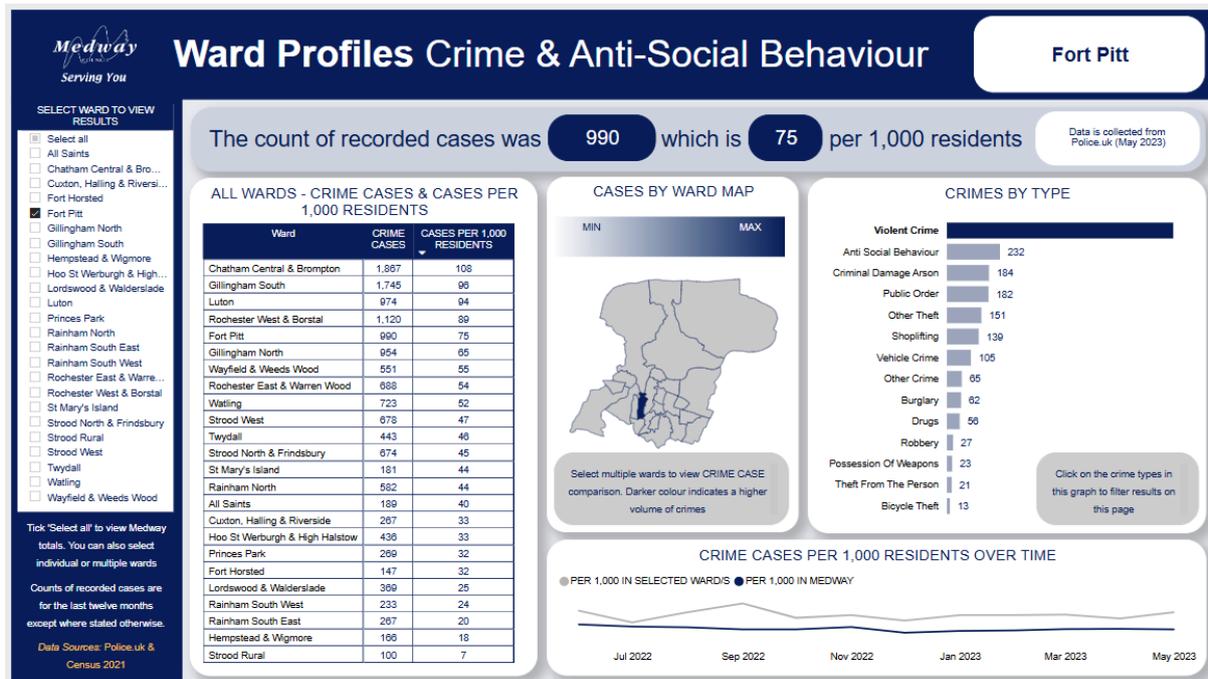
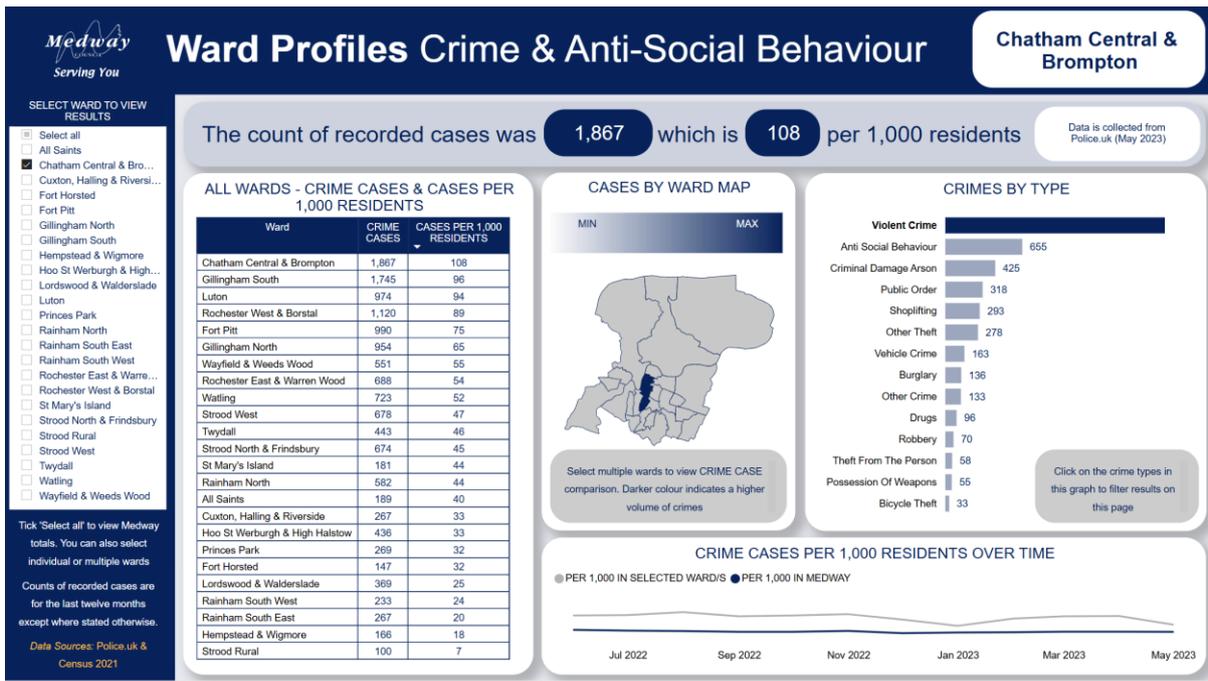


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Ward profiles, compiled by Medway Council Business Intelligence team, shows that within overall crime, the 'violent crime' category has the greatest number of reported cases, followed by 'anti-social behaviour' in both the Chatham Central and Brompton and Fort Pitt ward areas. Both types of crime are associated with alcohol consumption.

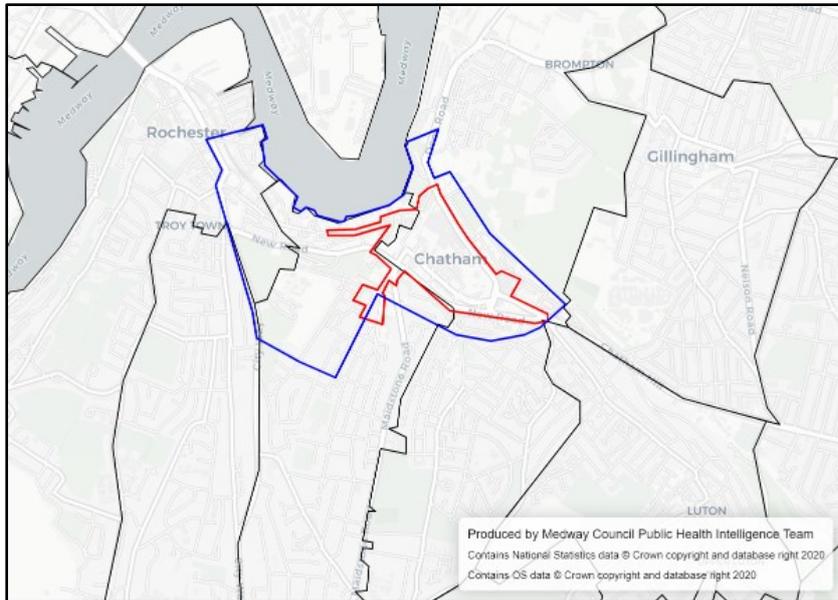


Further data supporting the concerns around the prevalence of reported violent and sexual crime and anti-social behaviour covering the 6 months September 2024 to February 2025 in and around the CIP area has been included in Annex 1.

### The prevention of public nuisance

Chatham is a hot spot for alcohol related nuisance in the form of anti-social behaviour, street drinking, alcohol related litter, including broken glass, and public urination and defecation.

There is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place for Chatham town centre due, in part, to alcohol related anti-social behaviour. The blue outline shows the boundary of the PSPO in the below map.



A member of public health staff has walked in the Chatham CIP area and there is current and ongoing evidence of alcohol related street drinking and associated litter throughout the area surrounding the proposed premises. This litter consists of bottles and cans of beer and cider, both 'super strength' and regular strength, bottles of spirits and wine, and plastic and cardboard wrappings and bottle tops. Areas where the litter was found in particular concentrations were:

- The High St – particularly in the area of the Gala Bingo/Go Outdoors buildings
- The flowerbeds in Rhodes St at its junction with the High St
- The back of the NCP car park
- Between New Road and the High St – Clover and James Streets
- Jenkins Dale area
- Railway St in the railway station area, including the alleyway towards Maidstone Road
- Ordnance St area
- Fort Pitt Road car park
- River Walk

Evidence to support the above is attached in Annex 2, which show photographs of litter that has been found in these areas. There is also evidence of public urination and defecation in the resident's car park in Fort Pitt Street and in the area around the parade of shops in Ordnance St.

The issues highlighted by the CIP are current and ongoing.

## Summary

The area around New Road has unacceptable levels of alcohol related issues, including crime and public nuisance associated with a high density of licensed premises, particularly off licences.

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. 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.

The Director of Public Health believes this application does not fulfil the requirements of 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

**Acting Director of Public Health**

Date 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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

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E mail: [barbara.murray@medway.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.murray@medway.gov.uk)

# 1 ANNEX 1 – ALCOHOL RELATED CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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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 on-site 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 following information concerning crime in and near to the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) area has been obtained from [Police.UK](#), a publicly available website which maps crime data submitted by police services across the UK. Details on how this data is obtained and mapped can be found [here](#).

The latitude and longitude locations of the crimes indicated on the maps published on this site represent the approximate location as all reports are anonymised.

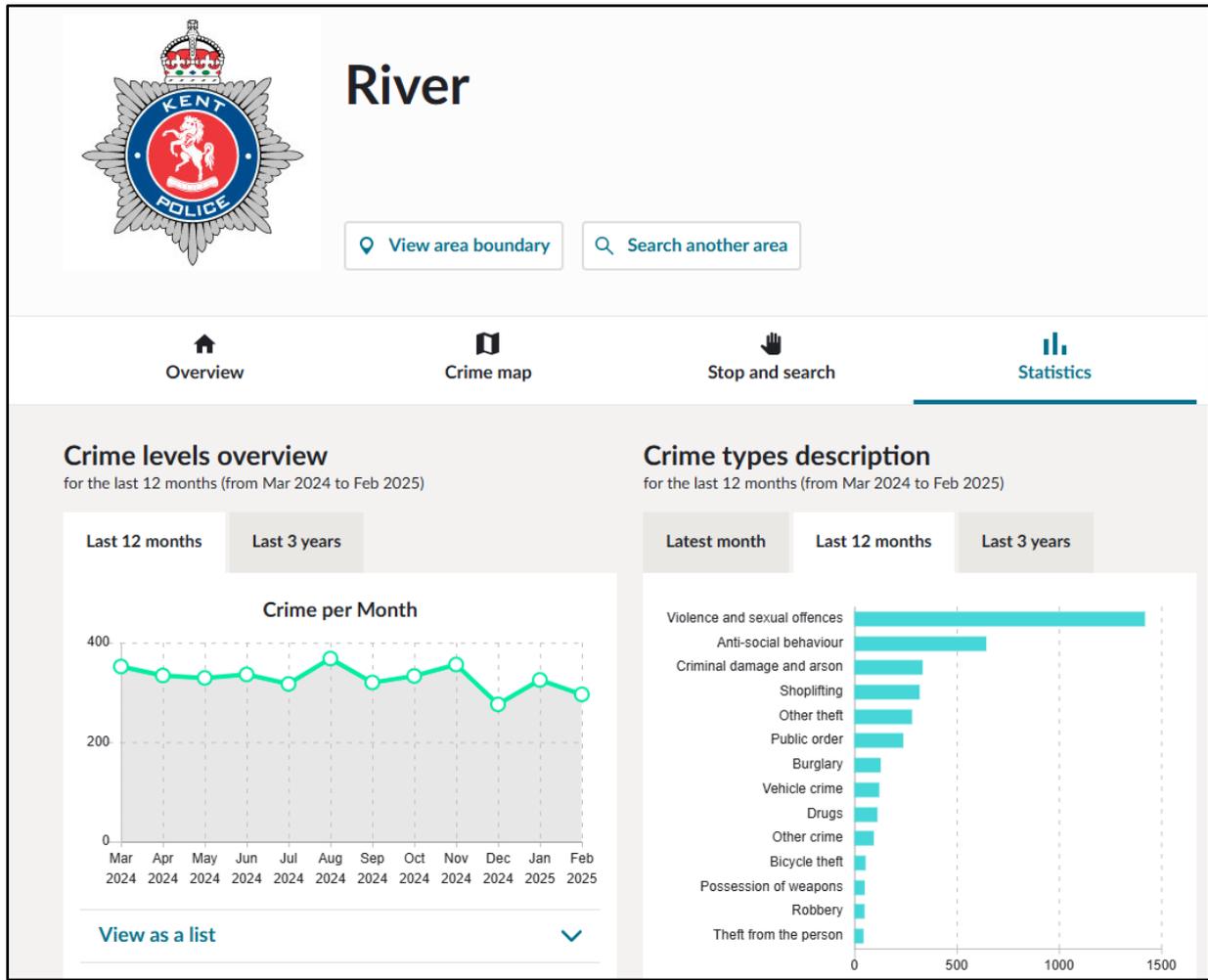
However, the figures do give an indication of the types of crimes committed in each of the two wards featured, with an idea of the general location shown on the following maps. Please note the ward boundaries shown are pre 2023.

Figures for the six months – September 2024 to February 2025 – have been included to show that alcohol related crime, such as crimes of violence, sexual offences and anti-social behaviour in the two wards which cover the CIP area are still an ongoing concern.

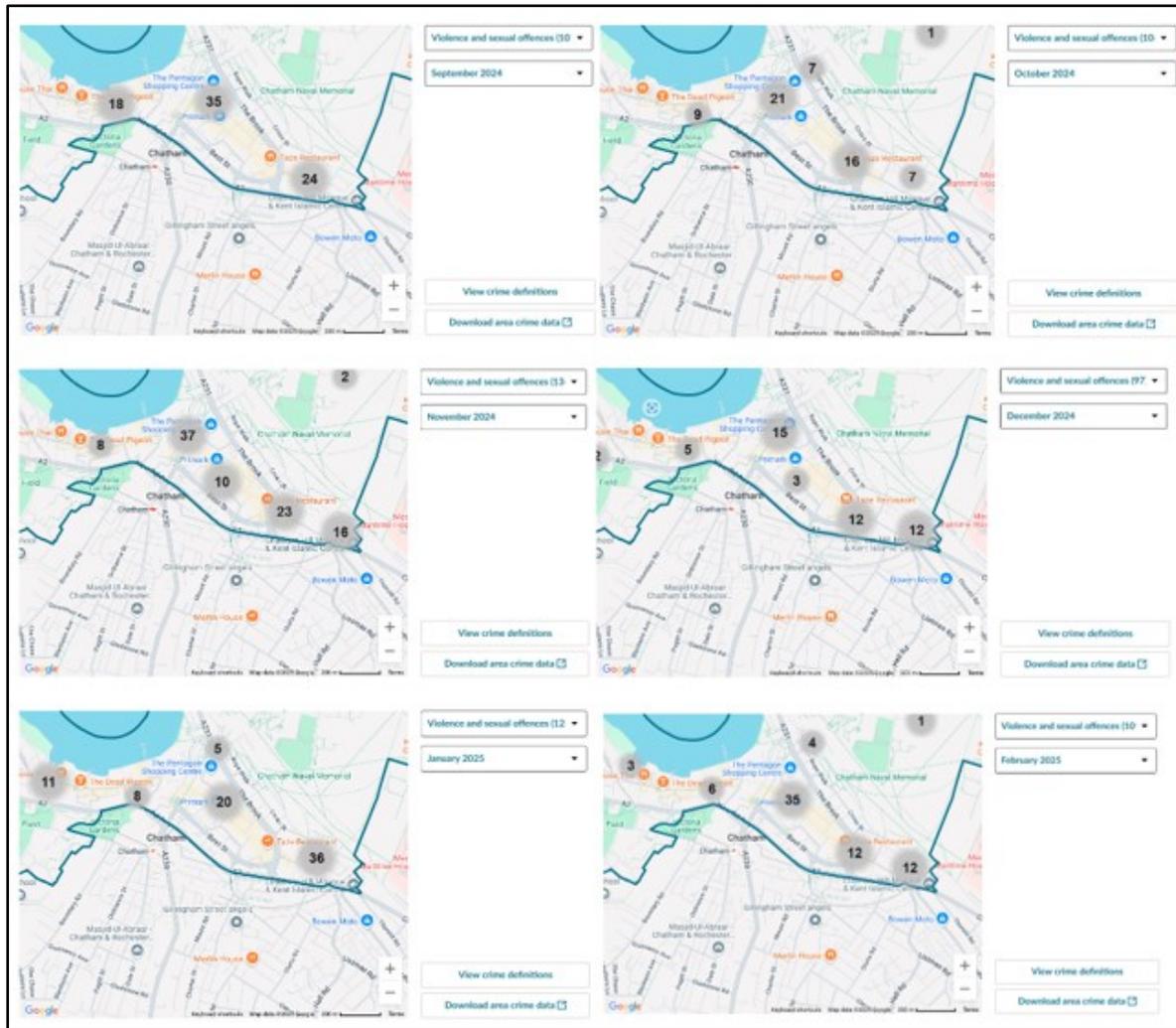
## 1.1 RIVER WARD

In River ward between September 2024 and February 2025 there were 678 reports of violence and sexual offences, and 303 reports of anti-social behaviour.

It can be seen from the following screen shot that these two types of reported crimes are the most common categories of reported crime in this ward, both being associated with alcohol consumption. Other types of crimes also associated with alcohol consumption shown in the below list are criminal damage and public order offences.



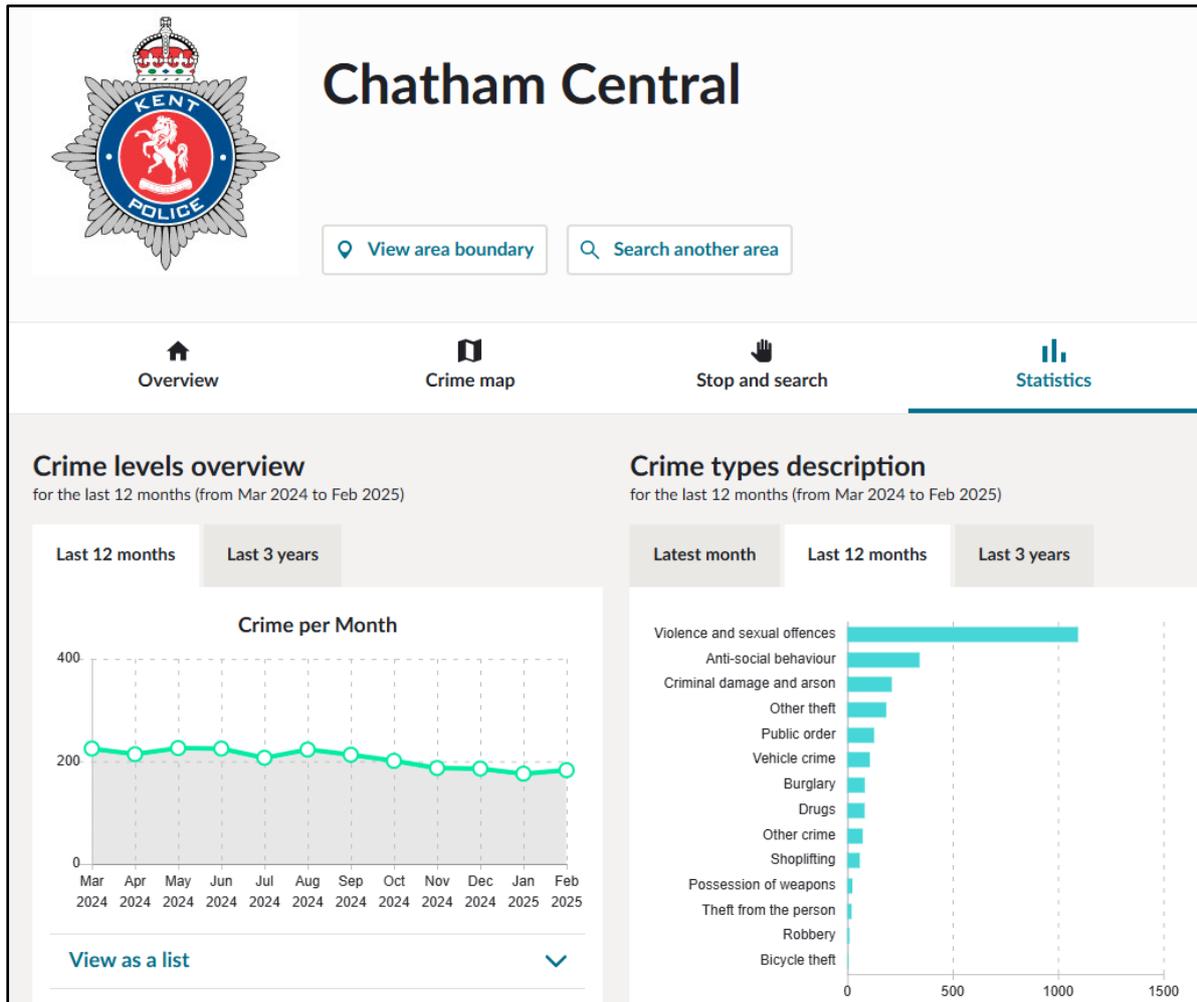
The following six maps show the approximate locations and number of reported violence and sexual offences with the CIP area in River ward between February 2025 and September 2024.



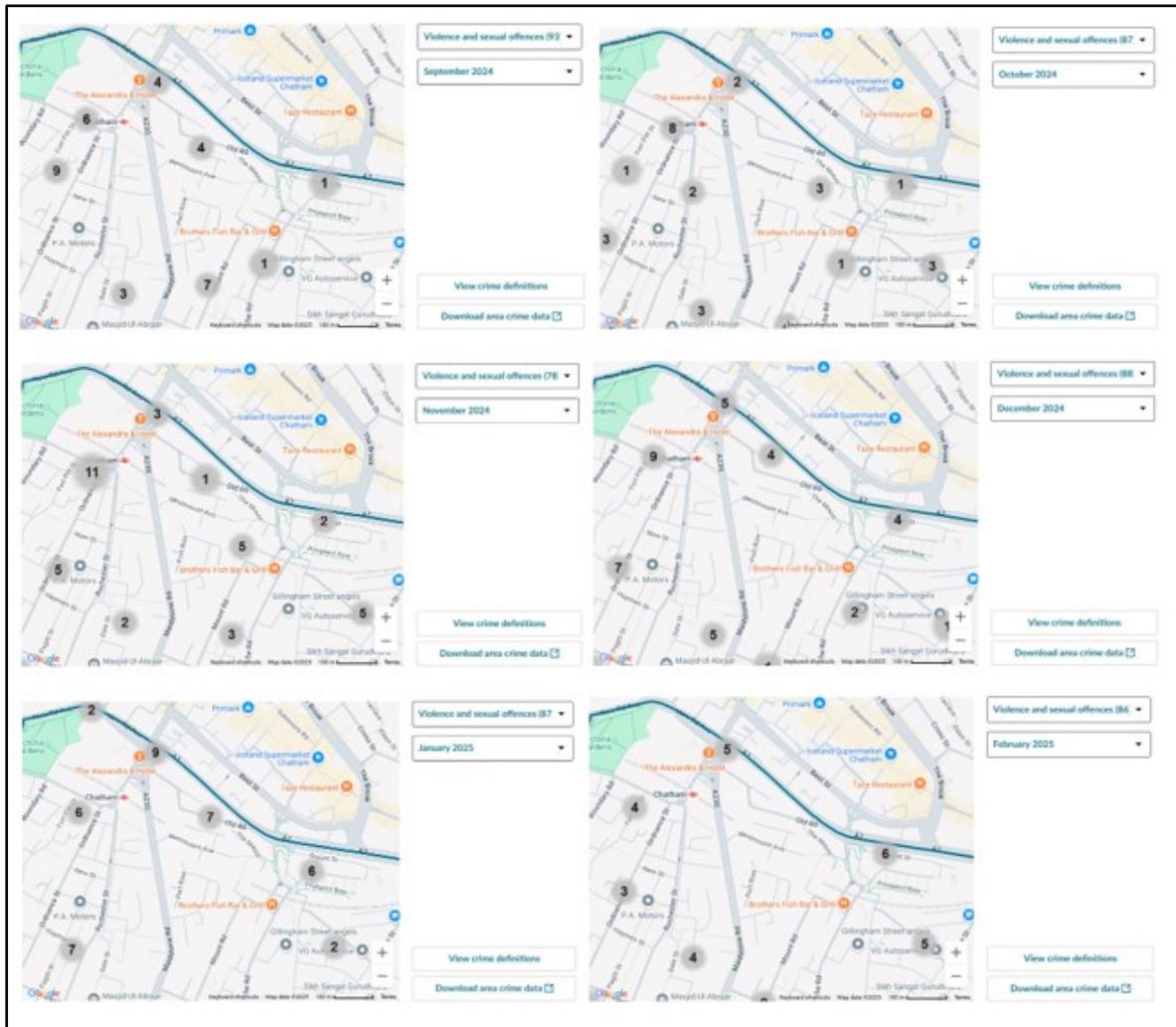
## Chatham Central

In Chatham Central ward between September 2024 and February 2025 there were 519 reports of violence and sexual offences, and 137 reports of anti-social behaviour.

It can be seen from the screen shot below that these two types of reported crimes are the most common categories of reported crime in this ward, both being associated with alcohol consumption. Other types of crimes also associated with alcohol consumption shown in the below list are criminal damage and public order offences.



The following six maps show the approximate locations and number of reported violence and sexual offences with the CIP area in River ward between February 2025 and September 2024.



# 1 ANNEX 2 – ALCOHOL RELATED LITTER

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All photographs were taken from September 2024 to date

## 1.1 RHODES ST AT ITS JUNCTION WITH THE BROOK



## 1.2 JAMES STREET





### 1.3 CLOVER STREET



## 1.4 THE MOUNT AND JENKINS DALE



## 1.5 FORT PITT ROAD CAR PARK



## 1.6 ORDNANCE STREET



## 1.7 ALLEYWAY BY STATION CAR PARK

