

Committees: Port Health and Environmental Services	Date: 19 September 2023
Subject: Resolution from the Ward of Portsoken	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 4, 5 and 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
Report of: Bob Roberts, Executive Director (Interim), Environment	For information
Report author: Rachel Pye, Assistant Director Public Protection	

Summary

A resolution was made at the 20 March 2023 wardmote meeting for the Ward of Portsoken. This resolution has been through the Grand Court of Wardmote (a meeting of the Aldermen), the Licensing Committee and now is to be considered at your committee as the relevant committee for environmental anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters.

Officers have responded by implementing a collaborative multi-agency intervention across Environmental Health, Cleansing, City of London Police, and the Aldgate Business Improvement District. A series of monitoring visits to understand the scale of the problem have been carried out, actions implemented, and further monitoring is underway to ensure outcomes have been effective.

The City of London via the Safer City Partnership has experienced a refreshed approach to ASB over recent years. This is set to continue as further measures in the City Corporation's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy are implemented. Action on ASB is strongly supported across the organisation by a wide range of policies and strategies. This is most notable being the Safer City Partnership Strategy, the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, and the Noise Strategy.

The existing Safer City Partnership and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies run to the end of 2025. Work has commenced to develop a new Anti-Social Behaviour Policy which will set out minimum service standards across all City departments with a responsibility for responding to ASB in all its forms.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The following resolution was made at the 20 March 2023 wardmote meeting for the Ward of Portsoken. This resolution has been through the Grand Court of Wardmote (a meeting of the Aldermen) and has been put to the Licensing Committee.

“The Ward of Portsoken request the relevant department(s) and/or services of the City of London Corporation consider what mitigating actions could be taken to resolve current anti-social behaviour (public urination/vomiting) associated with the night-time economy/licensed premises in the vicinity of Beaufort House, EC3”.

2. Officers were made aware of the resolution on the 16th May and a collaborative, multiagency problem-solving response instigated and is detailed in paragraph 6.
3. The resolution was put to the Licensing Committee on the 7th of July and members were informed of the actions that had already been undertaken by the City of London Corporation.
4. Members were pleased that officers were considering the issues raised by constituents in terms of educating those nearby premises. It was suggested that the City Corporation consider what could be done to keep patrons informed and educated about anti-social behaviour in the area.
5. The Committee was, however, aware that the matter of street cleansing and the built environment did not fall within the functions of the Licensing Committee. It was agreed that this was a matter for Port Health and Environmental Services to consider.

Progress with Actions

6. The following actions have been undertaken:
 - A collaborative multiagency response between Police, Environmental Health, Cleansing, and the Aldgate Business Improvement District was instigated.
 - Officers from all services have undertaken monitoring of the locality at all times of the day and night to understand the issues, causes and to identify controls.
 - The monitoring has shown that the location in question had a very transient population, including the homeless community and is a busy area between transport hubs of Liverpool Street, Aldgate, and Aldgate Bus Station.
 - Officers have been working in partnership with the building managers on this issue.
 - Environmental considerations have been actioned e.g., lighting levels and the repositioning of large planters that provide cover.

- Regular flushing and other cleansing is being carried out.
- The location is the subject of Licensing and Operation Reframe deployments to provide visibility and no specific links have been made to licenced premises.
- Additional signage and education for premises and patrons in the area has been actioned.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

7. ASB policy and action at the City Corporation is framed in the Safer City Partnership Strategy 2022 – 2025. It is supported by the ASB Strategy 2022 to 2025, Noise Strategy 2016 to 2026 and draft ASB Policy.
8. The work on ASB directly supports five Corporate Plan outcomes:
 - ‘People are safe and feel safe’.
 - ‘People enjoy good health and wellbeing’.
 - ‘Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.’
 - ‘Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.’
 - ‘Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.’

Financial implications

9. None.

Resource implications

10. None

Legal implications

11. None

Risk implications

12. There are reputational risks for the responding agencies if ASB is not dealt with in accordance with agreed service standards and in accordance with the City’s Enforcement Policy.

Equalities implications

13. Action to improve anti-social behaviour has a positive impact on all sections of the population.

Security implications

14. None

Conclusion

15. The City Corporation is committed to ensuring that residents, workers, and visitors to the City feel safe.
16. An effective, multi-agency approach has been invoked with pace to respond to the issues raised in Portsoken Ward. Further monitoring is being undertaken to ensure the actions carried out continue to have a positive outcome and this will be kept under review.
17. The City has a strategic approach to reducing ASB with a focus on maintaining a safe nighttime economy, delivered through the Safer City Partnership.

Background Papers

- [Licensing Committee minutes 7th July 2023](#)
- [CITY OF LONDON SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022-25](#)
- [Reducing neighbourhood crime and ASB, including in the night- time economy SCP Strategy 2022-2025](#)

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