

The Exeter City Council Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee

Issue to be considered by Customer Focus Committee: ***Address public concern about the impact of anti-social behaviour in the City Centre; its causes and possible solutions.***

Organisation providing evidence: Inclusive Exeter

Officer providing evidence:

Date: 19/09/2025

Causes of ASB within Exeter City Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The recent political climate has exacerbated already existing racial tensions. This has emboldened people to become much more vocal and in some cases physical, with a rise in hate crimes across England. Politicians like Nigel Farage have endorsed racism through inflammatory language in political debates, this is also reiterated through social media by politicians across the board. Finger pointing and blaming immigrants for the lack of adequate services has become a norm and is not challenged by the media or those in positions of power within statutory organisations.2) Lack of policing and related services. Underfunding has rendered many essential services to be 'cut to the bone' and therefore a negative impact falls on the people of colour, many of whom face the brunt of raw racism.3) Political rhetoric, media narratives, online misinformation, and economic anxieties have driven an increase in racism in the UK. Misinformation spread through social media can often ignite hatred and trends that lead to a rise in hate crime.
Solutions to ASB within Exeter City Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) More support is needed for migrant workers from their employers and councils, statutory bodies, the media, etc.2) The media needs to take responsibility and show that migrants and people of colour born in the UK are not just needed but essential for the

	<p>UK economy and this message must be amplified by those in positions of power within statutory organisations across the city.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Rapid response is required when racism is a key factor in incidents reported to the police. This has been a key issue and has resulted in a breakdown of trust between ethnically diverse communities and the police. 4) Statutory organisations like ECC, DCC, Police, and the NHS, need to ensure that their staff are trained in inclusivity and equality and that staff diversity reflects the diversity of the city. The number of people of colour in employment across statutory organisations should reflect the diversity of the city – this is currently not being achieved. 5) CCTV footage should be accessible if it is placed in the vicinity of an incident. If a bike gets stolen and there is a camera that would normally pick up the incident, but police will come back to say that there is no footage. This exacerbates an already fraught relationship between the police and the local migrant community. 6) More of a positive police presence being visible not just in times of crisis but as a normalisation of a positive relationship between the police and businesses run by diverse communities will help to reinforce trust in the police.
Work, activity, projects and initiatives currently undertaken by my organisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Drop-In Support Service: assists people of colour and migrant individuals and communities 2) Physical activities run by partner organisations like Filipino Sportsfest, Nigerian Fun Day 3) Cultural events hosted by partner organisations 4) Engage with numerous organisations like RAMM, Studio 36 to ensure that their services and events are accessible to diverse communities. This supports integration and encourages cross-cultural communication and enforces a sense of belonging. 5) The New Exonians Project traces the journeys of people who have made Exeter their home, an oral record of the challenges faced and outcomes achieved throughout their years in Exeter.

Any other information you may feel is of use to Customer Strategic Scrutiny Committee	A presentation will be given of the challenges faced by people of colour in and around Exeter and the positive outcomes of the various projects we host.
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The information provided above, will be included a presentation at the next Customer Strategic Scrutiny Committee on 25 September 2025. You are invited to attend to present the evidence you have provided above and to answer questions from Councillors.

Please return this completed form to democratic.services@exeter.gov.uk no later than XXXX