

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2016
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (FINANCE AND OPERATIONS)

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIME STRATEGY

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Welwyn Hatfield Community Housing Trust (the Trust) works alongside the council and other members of the Community Safety Partnership to fulfil the council's statutory duty to tackle anti social behaviour
- 1.2 This report sets out the draft Anti Social Behaviour and Crime Strategy and seeks approval to consult more widely on this with key stakeholders and residents.
- 1.3 The draft strategy sets out how the council and the Trust will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour through a framework of prevention, early intervention, support and enforcement in partnership with statutory, non statutory and voluntary sector organisations
- 1.4 Welwyn Hatfield Community Safety Partnership Action Plan has identified 'Prevent anti-social behaviour' as one of its five key priorities. The draft Anti-social and Crime Strategy sets out priority actions which aim to reduce the incidents and impacts of anti-social behaviour and compliment the work of the wider Community Safety Partnership.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members approve the draft Anti-social Behaviour and Crime Strategy and Action Plan attached at Appendix A and B in advance of consultation with key stakeholders and community representatives.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The council is a key partner in the multi agency Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2 The Community Safety Partnership publish an annual Action Plan setting out the priorities to tackle the incidence and fear of crime. The Plan has five priority areas – 1) Keep Down Crime, especially burglary at homes 2) **Prevent Anti-Social behaviour** 3) Reduce the damage caused to neighbourhoods by drugs and alcohol misuse 4) Protect vulnerable people and 5) Support people enduring or escaping domestic abuse, intimidation and harassment.
- 3.3 The Trust was formed in 2010 to manage the council's housing stock and other related services. The services they provide are set out in a ten year Management Agreement and a series of Service Level Agreements. This includes management of anti-social behaviour. The Trust's Community Development Team manages anti-social behaviour and provides diversionary and community services across all housing tenures.

- 3.4 The service provided by the Trust cuts across many other service areas, such as housing management, Independent Living, housing needs and teams within the council such as Public Health and Protection, Housing and Community and the Environment team. All activity is carried out in harmony with the broader activity of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.5 This Strategy sets out objectives and a number of key actions that will be undertaken throughout the lifetime of the strategy to meet the service aims. The associated Action Plan provides further information on actions, responsible persons and timescales for delivery.
- 3.6 The six objectives set out in the Strategy are set out below:
- Providing a victim centred approach to identifying and tackling anti-social behaviour and criminality, ensuring that communities and individuals are kept informed and are reassured by our actions
 - Achieve safer communities through preventing anti-social behaviour, putting in place early interventions following reports of anti-social behaviour and taking prompt and effective enforcement actions
 - Maintain and further develop effective partnership response to crime and anti-social behaviour
 - Provide a robust response to Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse
 - Promote and encourage community responsibility and involvement
 - Tackle environmental anti-social behaviour and invest in local communities

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) district councils have a duty to plan jointly with other named responsible authorities to table the incidence and fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs. The responsible authorities (including the police, Herts County Council, National Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Crime Rehabilitation Companies and the Fire & Rescue service) form the Community Safety Partnership.
- 4.2 The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 simplified the anti-social behaviour toolkit, reducing the number and types of orders within the legislation to manage anti-social behaviour – to provide a streamlined approach, giving greater flexibility and a more responsive system for tackling anti-social behaviour.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 The risks related to this proposal are:

- 6.2 Failure to manage anti social behaviour within our communities presents a high reputational risk. This is significantly mitigated by the partnerships that we have in place and the Strategy and associated Action Plan ensures that the council and Trust are transparent in our approach and therefore more accountable to the community.
- 6.3 Risks specific to the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan are set out on Page 11 of the Strategy (attached)

7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 The council and the Trust have ensured that all relevant staff have received PREVENT training and are engaged via the Community Safety Partnership with initiatives such as Channel Panel, which is designed to provide diversion and education to people in the community who are at risk of radicalisation.
- 7.2 A number of actions set out in this Strategy will support the prevention of terrorism, for example anti-social behaviour case management and sharing of key information with partners via the use of the Safetynet case management system and forums such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum; support for existing diversionary activities and the development of new opportunities; attendance at Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA); the development of a third party reporting centre for Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse; promotion of Resident Associations and Neighbourhood Watch

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report

10 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 10.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Maintain a safe and healthy community and specifically to the achievement of 'work with partners to keep people safe' and 'help improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of residents'

11 Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report. However an EIA will be completed in relation to new initiatives that are developed as part of the Action Plan – to ensure that we promote equality and are fully inclusive of all members of our community.

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Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Appendices to be listed