

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2019  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the council has a statutory duty to work with the Police and other agencies to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- 1.2 This report sets out the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Action Plan and seeks approval to consult more widely with key stakeholders and residents with regard to its suitability and implementation.
- 1.3 The draft strategy sets out how the council will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour through a framework of prevention, early intervention, support and enforcement.
- 1.4 We will do this in partnership with other agencies (statutory, non-statutory and voluntary) to reduce both the number of incidents and the impact of ASB and to ensure that victims and perpetrators receive support relevant to their needs and circumstances.
- 1.5 The draft strategy sets out the key priorities for the council's ASB service during 2019-2022 and how they link into and compliment the action plan of the 'safety, stronger' Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 1.6 The draft strategy incorporates the more targeted use of tools and powers available to us under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, more specifically the implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Hatfield Town Centre and the wider use of Closure Orders to tackle high impact ASB and crime relating to drugs and alcohol.
- 1.7 The draft ASB Strategy is shown at Appendix A.
- 1.8 The draft ASB Action Plan is shown at Appendix B.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That Members approve to consult on the draft Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and action plan with key stakeholders and residents of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
- 2.2 Approve that the feedback from the consultation and details of any changes to the strategy be presented to Members in advance and in consideration of approval of the strategy at the committee in June 2019.

### **3**     **Explanation**

- 3.1     The council is a key partner in the Community Safety Partnership, which has five key priorities via a published annual action plan:
- 1) Keep Down Crime
  - 2) Prevent Anti-Social Behaviour
  - 3) Reduce the Likelihood of Drugs and Alcohol misuse and its Impact to the Community
  - 4) Protect Vulnerable People
  - 5) Support People Enduring or Escaping Domestic Abuse, Intimidation and Harassment.
- 3.2     The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy sets out how the council will help to achieve these priorities. Prevention, intervention support and enforcement cuts across many service areas within the council, but all activity will be carried out in harmony and under the broader umbrella of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.3     The draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy sets out objectives and a number of key commitments that will be undertaken throughout the lifetime of the strategy.
- 3.4     The key commitments of the strategy are;
- Embed a harm centred approach and provide an accessible, ‘victim first’ service.
  - Achieve safer communities through preventing anti-social behaviour and taking action that is proportionate and timely.
  - Maintain and develop effective partnership responses and information sharing to combat ASB.
  - Reduce high impact drug and alcohol misuse and associated crime and ASB by providing a targeted response.
  - Provide a robust response to Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime and any forms of harassment and/or intimidation.
  - Tackle Environmental ASB and encourage community responsibility and engagement.
- 3.5     The draft strategy incorporates the use of a PSPO as a targeted response to high impact ASB crime linked to drug and alcohol misuse within Hatfield Town Centre and the strengthening of partnership working in this area.

### **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 prevent and tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs. The responsible authorities (including Police, Hertfordshire County Council, National Probation Service,

Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Fire and Rescue Service) form the Community Safety Partnership.

- 4.2 It is important that the council has a clear strategy to enable it to take proportionate preventative, supportive, and/or robust enforcement action in order to tackle the problems ASB causes to the community.

## **5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 Failure to manage anti-social behaviour effectively can lead to increased costs due to void loss, damage to property, compensation claims for redress via the Housing Ombudsman and court costs relating to enforcement and evictions.

## **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 to the council. This is significantly mitigated by having a robust strategy, policy and procedure in place and by adopting a partnership approach.

## **7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

- 7.1 There are no implications arising from this strategy but the PREVENT agenda will ensure that the council provides training to all frontline staff and via the Community Safety Partnership, the council teams responsible for delivering the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy will receive training for the identification and quick response to issues of security and terrorism.
- 7.2 A number of actions will support the prevention of terrorism and information sharing will take place via Channel Panel to act quickly where radicalisation or risk is identified.

## **8 Procurement Implication(s)**

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

## **9 Climate Change Implication(s)**

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this strategy.

## **10 Human Resources Implication(s)**

- 10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this strategy.

## **11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

- 11.1 Crime and ASB can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of victims, their families and the community. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy sets out a harm centred and victim first approach to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to WHBC.
- 11.2 The Strategy is clear about safeguarding vulnerable groups as well as dealing robustly with issues such as Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse.

## **12     Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

- 12.1   The action plan lays out how communication with victims and perpetrators will be improved through co-ordinated case management, additional resources to communicate how we will deal with ASB and improved reporting mechanisms.
- 12.2   This report seeks approval to consult with and engage residents and stakeholders in the development of this Strategy and the implementation of it.

## **13     Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 13.1   The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priorities:
- a)    **Our Community** and specifically to the achievement of 'promoting inclusive and safe communities'
  - b)    **Our Housing** and specifically to the achievement of 'being and high quality landlord'.
- 13.2   The subject of this report is also linked to the regulatory Neighbourhood and Community Standard 2015 as well as legislatively to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

## **14     Equality and Diversity**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals that are set out in this report. However this will be done following consultation feedback to ensure that it is up to date and reflects the final draft of the strategy.

Name of author	Kerry Clifford ext. 2659
Title	<i>Neighbourhood and Enforcement Manager</i>
Date	10 January 2019

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A - Draft ASB Strategy

Appendix B – Draft ASB Action Plan