

SUBJECT:	ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY
REPORT BY:	JOHN BIBBY, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
LEAD OFFICER:	SAM BARSTOW, SERVICE MANAGER PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Executive of the newly developed Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy and request endorsement of the Strategy document (attached as Appendix A) and the aims and objectives set out in it.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The City Council has legal responsibilities in terms of how it responds to ASB and how it works in conjunction with its partners. These demands have changed and have increased over recent years.
- 2.2 The City Council recently restructured its services that relate to ASB and Public Protection issues in order to benefit from aligning these services with the intent of delivering a more effective and consistent quality ASB service. Officers have since developed the attached strategy document outlining how it is intended to achieve these aspirations. The Executive is asked to consider the document and endorse the strategy and the aims of the service.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 1998 the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act mandated the involvement of local authorities in responding, at a strategic level, to crime and disorder within their area. Subsequently the 2003 Anti-Social Behaviour Act afforded powers to local authorities to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour within its communities, at an operational level. The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has been in existence since the introduction of ASB powers for local authorities and further alignment of public protection and housing services within the Team will strengthen the Council's ability to respond to ASB.
- 3.2 The City Council as a stock retaining authority and landlord of some 8,000 council tenancies also has a contractual responsibility to its tenants to deal with ASB in the management of its housing stock, as empowered by various Housing Acts and through the tenancy agreement.
- 3.3 Through its programme of transformational reviews the Council recently restructured its enforcement services and brought them under one umbrella service, the Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour (PPASB) Team. This includes enviro-crime, fly tipping, animal issues, waste, pollution and noise; along

with traditional ASB. This also included the embedment of a housing officer in to the new service area in order to improve consistency of the Council's response to ASB across all forms of enforcement and all forms of tenure.

4. The Draft ASB Strategy (2014-2017)

4.1 In order to develop its ASB services in line with increasing demand and a greater requirement for partnership involvement, it is essential that the Council makes clear its aims and objectives for the services it provides; along with mapping the route intended to be taken in order to develop its ASB services to meet the stated requirements and deliver quality services for customers.

4.2 The landscape for ASB issues is changing, both internally and externally, with restructures and national legislative changes. It is therefore important that the Council is able to respond and adapt to these changes; the strategy has therefore been produced with the need for flexibility carefully considered.

4.3 The Strategy sets out a vision "to provide an effective, trusted, fair and consistent service which is accessible for all victims of anti-social behaviour"

4.4 The strategy contains five aims which are as follows:

- To improve **partnership working** through development of shared systems and resources
- To develop a **consistent response** to tackling ASB across public, private and social sectors
- To work in conjunction with our partner organisations to develop a range of **preventative measures**
- To develop sensitive and tailored **support & reassurance** for ASB victims and wider community
- To develop robust **enforcement** protocols for perpetrators of ASB

Underpinning these aims is a series of objectives, which can be found in the strategy document attached as appendix A.

4.5 Subject to adoption of the Strategy by Executive the Directorate will draw up a full action plan to underpin implementation of the Strategy. The action plan will involve multiple internal and external partners and will be properly timetabled. The strategy has been built to be reviewed on an annual basis, in line with potential developments, and the Community Safety Partnership's annual priority review.

5. Strategic Priorities

(i) Growing the local economy

5.1 ASB can impact heavily upon businesses within the city. It is imperative that the services are able to respond to the concerns of businesses as well as residents and ensure they operate in a safe and productive environment.

(ii) Protecting the poorest people in Lincoln

5.2 ASB can often have a disproportionate impact upon vulnerable people and those in greatest need. Ensuring the Council's services are appropriately focused will allow it to reduce any detrimental impacts and respond effectively to varying

circumstances.

6. Organisational Impacts

(i) Finance

6.1 No unbudgeted financial pressures will arise from the adoption of this strategy.

(ii) Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

6.2 In order to comply with the Council's legal obligations it is important that its services are responding consistently, in conjunction with partners, and are understanding of the needs of victims.

(iii) Human Resources

6.3 Requirements being placed on staff in terms vulnerability assessments, safeguarding and the introduction of new legislation will be considered and routinely reviewed as a part of the development of the underpinning action plan and appraisal process.

(iv) Equality, Diversity & Human Rights

6.4 The aims of the strategy are to develop the Council's services in order for the Council to consistently consider individual's needs, both victims and perpetrators. This will ensure consistent consideration of equality, diversity and human rights.

(v) Significant Community Impact

6.5 The strategy holds the potential to deliver improvements in community impacts in terms of the way in which reports of ASB are dealt with and victims of ASB are supported along with improvements in general satisfaction and confidence in services.

7. Risk Implications

(i) Options Explored

- 7.1
- No strategy development.
 - Develop a strategy.

(ii) Key risks associated with the preferred approach

7.2 It is considered essential that the City Council sets out a clear strategy for tackling ASB. However with high expectations of the Council's ability to respond to reports of ASB and potential future legislative changes, current level of resources and commitments must be taken in to account. There is a risk that some of the objectives may not be capable of being developed at the pace expected within the limited resources available to the Council and it will be therefore imperative to prioritise the objectives through the subsequent action plan.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That the Executive endorse the proposed Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy attached at Appendix A to this report.

Key Decision

Yes

Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply?

No

Call in and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

Appendix A – ASB Strategy

List of Background Papers:

None

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