

CORPORATE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Dennis Knowles, Community Well Being
Responsible Officer: Simon Newcombe, Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing

Reason for Report and Recommendation: To provide an updated Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy that ensures a consistent approach across the organisation in line with current legislation and practice.

RECOMMENDATION: That the PDG recommend that Cabinet approve the updated ASB Policy as attached in Annex 1.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Working with local communities to encourage positive behaviours is a key theme within the current local plan. In particular, supporting the community under the Community strand of the plan links directly to dealing with anti-social behaviour within the Mid Devon area.

Financial Implications: There are no specific financial implications resulting from this policy.

Budget and Policy Framework: This is a policy to ensure the relevant Council services and functions are dealing with ASB notifications consistently as a number of services are responsible for different aspects of behaviours that may constitute anti-social behaviour. There are nonetheless no direct budget implications as this work is considered business as usual.

Legal Implications: The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides agencies including Local Authorities with enforcement powers in addressing anti-social behaviour. The use of those powers is covered by the Enforcement Policy PH/EP/09/20 to ensure the key principles of enforcement are followed.

The Council has a specific responsibility to address ASB as part of wider strategies for reducing crime and disorder under the provisions of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, but there is no legal requirement to have a specific corporate ASB Policy.

Equality Impact Assessment: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached in Annex 2. There are no direct impacts from the policy in respect of equality but this must be considered on a case by case basis in determining the best course of action in the circumstances.

Risk Assessment: A co-ordinated approach to ASB is required to ensure resident satisfaction. If the Council does not commit resources to ASB issues the policy will not be effective and the Council could fail in its responsibilities under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

The policy ensures that a consistent approach to assessing the case is undertaken but that the resulting action may vary depending on the circumstances.

Impact on Climate Change: Some activities that are considered antisocial within the community can have a detrimental impact on the environment. Examples such as bonfires, and reviving car engines can be considered under this policy and therefore taking action in such cases may have a positive impact on climate change, albeit it small.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This ASB Policy was last reviewed in 2017 and is now due a review and update. The policy underwent a major rewrite just over three years ago so this review is to ensure that any fundamental changes to legislation or practice have been captured in the policy.

1.2 The purpose of this corporate ASB policy is to provide an overarching basis to link all local services that deal with ASB, therefore to improve co-ordination and encourage a consistent approach to dealing with issues that arise, either informally or formally through the enforcement powers available.

1.3 There have been no significant legislative or procedural changes over the last three years and therefore the policy remains largely unchanged except to make roles and responsibilities in dealing with ASB clearer.

2.0 Consultation responses & resulting changes

2.1 The draft policy document has been shared internally with all service areas that respond to ASB complaints. It has also been shared with our police partners for comment. No recommendations for change have been received following the consultation period, with one positive comment received from the Housing Team.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the PDG consider the updated policy and recommend it for approval by Cabinet.

Contact for more Information: Julia Ryder (Community Safety & Emergency Planning Officer) jryder@middevon.gov.uk or Simon Newcombe (Corporate Manager for Public Health, Regulation and Housing) snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report:

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Well Being (Cllr Dennis Knowles)
Members of the Community Policy Development Group
All Leadership Team
All Corporate Management Team
All Group/Operations Managers

List of Background Papers:

None

Annex 1 – updated ASB Policy

Annex 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment