



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

**Agenda Item No: 5a**

## **Scrutiny Panel 3-Keep Northampton Tidy**

**09<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

### **REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Panel with an update and briefing of the work of the OPCC and how it can support the work of the panel with regard to their published purpose and objectives.

#### **2. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour**

- 2.1 It is clear that selfish anti-social acts committed by a minority of local residents can have disproportionate impact upon communities across Northampton. It is important therefore that such behaviour, which can undermine the important sense of community amongst residents, is dealt with robustly and effectively.
- 2.2 As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, I have been very clear about the importance of dealing with anti-social behaviour. For example, through *Local Solutions Fund*, we have sought to deliver a more responsive, joined up approach to tackle the blight of anti -social behaviour and to ensure it remains a priority for all responsible authorities.
- 2.3 Another key aspect of our work to combat anti-social behaviour is to constantly ensure that the various powers available to authorities are effectively used at the earliest opportunity; identifying and intervening with those who exhibit anti-social behaviour.

#### **3. Establishing a one stop shop**

- 3.1 Unfortunately victims of anti-social behaviour, or those who proactively report issues such as fly-tipping or littering, are often passed from pillar to post by public sector organisations. This can seem confusing and be difficult to navigate. Residents should have the confidence that when reporting something, the most appropriate authority will assess the issue and deal with it accordingly.
- 3.2 With this in mind, we are advocating a 'one-stop-shop' approach that will provide a single contact point for reporting anti-social behaviour and result in positive action by the relevant authorities. Victims of persistent or significant

anti-social behaviour will have access to the same emotional and practical support as is available to victims of crime.

- 3.3 We are currently working in partnership with Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue, joint Prevention and Protection Team and the county's ASB Strategy Group to develop a 'One-Stop-Shop' for victims of anti-social behaviour. This is currently scheduled to be operational by December 2015. In support of this work, The Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice is currently undertaking a strategic review of anti-social behaviour in the county which will help to inform the design of an anti-social behaviour one-stop-shop for Northamptonshire.

#### **4. 2014/15 Local Solutions Fund**

- 4.1 Local authorities such as Northampton Borough Council have an important role to play in working with partners to tackle the issues and blight of anti-social behaviour. District and Borough Councils across Northamptonshire have been commissioned through the OPCC's Local Solutions Fund to deliver local initiatives and interventions that deliver real and sustained outcomes for local communities, improving peoples' lives and making them safer.
- 4.2 Northampton Borough Council agreed six key outcomes including tackling anti-social behaviour and has been actively engaging with local residents across all communities. The results of this work are very encouraging as the police have recorded a 0.5% reduction in ASB, which equates to 61 fewer crimes and there has been a reduction in Environmental ASB reduced from the baseline to -8.7%.

#### **5. Involving Residents**

- 5.1 It is clear that we need to better involve communities to address specific crime or anti-social behaviour issues that matter to them. We recognise that not everyone who wants to play their part in making Northamptonshire the safest place will want to become a warranted police officer. Therefore, we are providing other volunteering opportunities for people do their bit in their local community. For example, we will be seeking to expand and further develop *Neighbourhood Watch* and other 'Watch' initiatives, such as *Street Watch* to help people become much more proactive about issues within their communities such as littering and fly-tipping.

#### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 That the Scrutiny Panel 3 notes the report.

**Adam Simmonds**

**Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner**