

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

CORE QUESTIONS

The Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town

Question 1

Please provide details of your organisation and its role in addressing anti-social behaviour

Response

The Market Action Group was formed in 2010 and is currently chaired by Raymond Overall with member representation from Cllr Jonathan Nunn.

The Market Action Group regularly discuss actions required to support a reduction in anti-social behaviour on the market place.

Question 2

What strategies and policies do you have in place for addressing anti-social behaviour?

Response

The Market management and officers coordinate and communicate with market traders on a daily basis and are present on site 5 days a week. They report any incidents of concern with regard to anti-social , and or criminal activity in the area to the appropriate body and have a good working relationship with the local authorities.

Question 3

What specific practices and measures do you currently undertake to address/tackle anti-social behaviour?

Response

The market management and officers report incidents directly to the authority concerned. The MAG discusses the issues pertinent to the market square and make recommendations for ways in which to tackle Anti-social behaviour.

Question 4

Do you have any specific budget/resources/funding in relation to addressing anti-social behaviour? If so, please provide further details

Response

The cleaning regime has been changed to, amongst other benefits, provide deterrent to groups gathering in the market square at various times, particularly early mornings and evenings.

Question 5

Are the current partnership arrangements for tackling anti-social behaviour sufficient? If not, what are the gaps?

Response

Market officers have a direct link to the CCTV control room to report any incidents that occur. The MAG has stated many times that more police presence is required in the market square to discourage anti-social behaviour as a pro-active measure. The MAG also feels that because of the large number of licenced premises around the market square, the licencing committee should monitor these closely.

Question 6

Do you feel there is adequate co-ordination between agencies regarding dealing with anti-social behaviour? If not, how could it be improved?

Response

The Retail Crime Partnership work very well with our organisation and retailers to promote awareness of offenders and those excluded from the town centre. This is run by the PCSO's and has input from local businesses. Wardens and Police seem to work independently of each other and could join up, particularly with reference alcohol confiscation.

Question 7

How does anti-social behaviour impact upon you/your organisation?

Response

It creates an environment in which customers do not want to be therefore impacting sales and footfall both in the market and town centre.

Question 8

What do you think could be done to ensure effective strategic and operational links are made to tackle anti-social behaviour or improve it, on a town scale?

Response

Meetings of representatives from all parties within the town that this concerns. Agencies coordinating to prevent anti-social behaviour at source, such as providing shelter for the homeless.

Question 9

Please provide details of the enforcement powers that you have in respect of anti-social behaviour

Response

Market officers have no specific powers but have direct access to those that do such as Wardens and Police/PCSO's

Question 10

Do you have the resources to enforce the powers that you have? Please explain

Response

See question 9

Question 11

Do you have information regarding the nature of the psychoactive substances market that you are able to inform the Scrutiny Panel of?

Response

It is being openly sold from a shop premises in the vicinity of the market square which in turn attracts potentially undesirable individuals liable to persist in anti-social behaviour.

Question 12

Please can you provide details of any health consequences of using psychoactive substances

Response

N/A

Question 13

Do you have any suggestions on how, as partners, we can improve our approach in addressing anti-social behaviour?

Response

It would be beneficial to have regular meetings with all agencies and businesses in relation to anti-social behaviour

Question 14

What do you think is the key contributing factor to anti-social behaviour across Northampton?

Response

Lack of resources to cope with reactive incidences as well as dealing with potential offenders at source.

Question 15

Do you have further information regarding the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town of which you would like to inform the Scrutiny Panel?

Response

N/A