

Appendices

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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Scrutiny Panel – Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 February 2017
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Customers & Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Councillor Anna King
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny report on the Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town, presented to Cabinet 11May 2016

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report for Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety are accepted.
- 2.2 That the task and finish group are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to produce it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event for 2015/2016 the scrutiny of Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town was identified as a key priority. This was therefore included within the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/2016.
- 3.1.2 A number of meetings were held to gather evidence from a broad range of stakeholders. During this process a significant amount of evidence was heard.
- 3.1.3 28 recommendations are included in the report. They are broadly focussed on how the Council and partner agencies can further provide a joined up approach and response.

3.2 Responses to Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations

3.2.1 Set out below is Cabinets response to each recommendation:

1. Ward Councillors and Partner Agencies are asked to promote the variety of projects that the Community Safety Partnership has put in place to address anti-social behaviour, such as Street Football, Street and School Pastors and Weeks of Action within their wards.

Response: A list of projects is being developed and will be shared with Ward Councillors and partners Agency's. Projects and activities are already being promoted at multi-agency meetings in priority areas, which include the local Councillors.

2. Councillors give consideration, through the Councillor Community (Enabling) Fund, to supporting Junior Warden Schemes and other relevant youth schemes that address anti-social behaviour, in their local area.

Response: Complete - Applications for projects that address corporate objectives are always welcome and will be assessed on their own merit. Funding is currently being provided for youth projects such as Street Football and Jam in the Hood.

3. All Councillors, in particular the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, are encouraged to attend the open day at Hazard Alley, Milton Keynes on 24 July 2016.

Response: Unfortunately due to other commitments this was not possible. There is an open invitation to Councillors should they wish to attend any further visits when arranged in 2017.

4. The work of Hazard Alley is promoted to all primary schools in the borough.

Response: Complete and ongoing - Neighbourhood Wardens are sharing the information with the primary schools in their areas, encouraging schools to take part in the Junior Warden scheme.

5. Network Rail's 24-hour helpline number: 03457 11 41 41 and on-line form for reporting issues, including graffiti, is issued to all County Council and Northampton Borough Councillors .

Response: Complete – number has been shared

6. It is ascertained whether the Council has authority to remove graffiti on railway land and buildings bordering the railway and train station.

Response: Councils do not have the authority to remove graffiti from railway land or buildings. Permission needs to be sought from land/building owners.

7. Neighbourhood Wardens responsible for the town centre are issued with a body worn CCTV camera on a trial basis of six months, following which their effectiveness is assessed; with a view to extending the trial further, outside the town centre, to include parks and open spaces.

Response: Complete - The Body Worn Video (BWV) Policy has been approved by Cabinet. The equipment required has been ordered and will be set-up and implemented once it has arrived. The BWV will only be worn by the Town Centre Neighbourhood Warden and this will commence in March 2017. At this time it is not planned to provide BWV to Wardens working outside the town centre or Park Rangers. This will be reviewed at the end of 2017. All wardens will continue to be able to radio/phone in to the CCTV control room to request monitoring in specific area as and when required.

8. The Induction Training Programme for Neighbourhood Wardens includes the awareness of substance misuse and dealing with Street Drinkers.

Response: Complete - All Neighbourhood Wardens have attended drug and alcohol awareness training at Aquarius (drug & alcohol agency). This now forms part of the induction programme for new starters.

9. When reports of fly-tipping are made by Neighbourhood Wardens the rubbish is collected as a matter of urgency.

Response: Complete - Any reported fly-tipping is collected with 48hours of being reported. This is the agreed timeline within the service level agreement we have with our contractors.

10. The option of Neighbourhood Wardens working from a local community base on a regular basis is explored. The purpose being for residents to meet with the Neighbourhood Warden and share any issues they may have. The days and times that the Neighbourhood Warden is based at one of the community locations should be widely promoted within the ward.

Response: Complete - This is already happening with some Neighbourhood Wardens having hot desks in local police station and community rooms. There is however further opportunities being explored to develop the work of the wardens and PCSO's around co-location.

11. Neighbourhood Wardens continue to patrol the town centre, twice a day, to discourage, and move on, Street Drinkers and Beggars.

Response: Complete – There is a dedicated Town Centre Warden that undertakes a set patrol of the town centre in the morning and afternoon. At busy times, such as the Christmas period, this is increased to 2 Wardens. Whilst on patrol the Warden will also monitor and report on trade waste issues, fly-tipping, littering, fly-poster, graffiti, street furniture and buskers. The Warden will also engage with the police, shoppers and businesses.

12. Consideration is given to looking at the hours of operation for Neighbourhood Wardens.

Response: Wardens standard working day is between 7am and 6pm. The Town Centre Warden starts the first patrol at 0830 and the second patrol starts at 1300. Consideration always needs to be given to the impact on areas when Wardens are taken away to cover specific highlighted issues in other locations. However, they do work later hours to support specific operations as and when required.

13. The option of providing a shelter (“Wet Area”), or similar area, where Street Drinkers can congregate is explored.

Response: Options are currently being explored to see if existing resources and locations could be broadened to provide this type of service.

14. The Council, together with relevant partner Agencies, adopts a zero tolerance approach to street drinking in the town.

Response: Complete - As far as is possible, zero tolerance is taken to those people drinking alcohol. If, whilst out on patrol Neighbourhood Wardens or Police Officers come across people drinking in the street, the alcohol is removed and poured away. Unfortunately it cannot be guaranteed that there will be an authorised officer available to undertake this task at all times.

The Public Spaces Protection Order was approved by Cabinet in November 2016 and is due to come into force on 01/04/2017. This Order will see a broader range of anti-social behaviour issues being addressed.

15. In acknowledging the need to ascertain why individuals rough sleep and street drink; the development and implementation of the Council’s Rough Sleepers Strategy is fully supported. This will include linking in with Voluntary Organisations to establish how they can and do provide assistance.

Response: Complete - The Rough Sleepers Strategy has now been agreed and adopted. Statutory and voluntary organisations played a role in the development of the strategy.

16. All Agencies dealing with anti-social behaviour are recommended to link in with, and make referrals to the Northampton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) to ensure effective management of anti-social behaviour issues/cases.

Response: Northampton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit is the central place for ASB referrals. Police and NBC officers are linking with and referring cases to the Unit. It remains patchy in other areas such as housing providers, and more work is required to bring them on board.

17. NBC, and its partner Agencies, utilise the Case Management System, called ECINs, as the central point for recording ASB issues and case building on individuals and problem premises.

Response: ECIN's is now the primary case management system being used for case building and monitoring of ASB cases. There are still some areas/officers not using it to its full potential and this is being progressed.

18. All Agencies work together to ensure that both victims and perpetrators are aware of the anti-social behaviour support available.

Response: Complete – the case management process for all perpetrators also includes a risk assessment of both victims and perpetrators. Through this, the level of support is identified and referrals are made to the relevant organisation such as Voice, S2S, Social Care etc.

19. A document, similar to the “Green Book” that provides information on the Agencies which provide support to vulnerable people is produced and distributed to all Councillors in the borough.

Response: A list of all relevant agencies is being compiled and will be shared with Councillors

20. Existing resources are reviewed to ascertain whether a further multi-agency “Task Force” approach is required in addressing anti-social behaviour for the town.

Response: Complete - The existing approach to dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour has been in place for a number of years and is working effectively – this was acknowledged by the Scrutiny panel. There is an established case management group supported by task groups, which report into the CSP Officers group. There is good engagement from relevant statutory and voluntary sector agencies.

21. Support is given through Partnership Grants for street based service to support substance misuse and Street Drinking.

Response: Complete - Applications for projects that address corporate objectives are always welcome and will be assessed on their own merit. Funding is currently being provided to the Hope Centre, Street Pastors and Family Support Link.

22. Relevant Officers, such as Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers, attend an awareness raising session around psychoactive substances and drug and alcohol misuse. A similar session is included within the Councillor Development Programme 2016/2017.

Response: Complete - All Neighbourhood Wardens have attended drug and alcohol awareness training at Aquarius (drug & alcohol agency). This is also offered to front line workers within the organisation. Training for Councillors is currently being arranged.

23. The Council supports any activity through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in addressing issues caused by psychoactive substances, drug and alcohol misuse, such as the health implications and anti-social behaviour.

Response: Complete – multi-agency work is ongoing around this agenda, ensuring there are links with Health & Wellbeing partners.

24. The Scrutiny Panel formally informs Cabinet that it fully supports the Community Protection Notice process and highlights the positive effect this has in addressing and reducing acts of anti-social behaviour.

Response: Complete - Community Protection Notices are an integral early intervention approach to dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour and are used on a regular basis when appropriate.

25. The Council, together with its partners, look to implement a shadowing programme between staff from partner organisations, with the aim of better understanding what partner Agencies powers involve and how they can be effectively used in tackling anti-social behaviour.

Response: Complete – Job shadowing forms part of the induction process for Neighbourhood Wardens, ASB Case Officers, Police staff and Housing officers. This is now offered to wider partners to help improve their awareness of multi-agency roles.

26. Northampton Borough Council urges the new Police and Crime Commissioner, when developing his Policing Plan relevant to the borough of Northampton, to include a more proactive approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour issues, particularly relating to begging, Street Drinking, urinating and defecating in the street and the night time economy.

Response: Complete – meetings have been held with the PCC and relevant support staff to flag issues and concerns around street drinking and begging. Further information was also fed into the consultation for the new OPCC, Policing and Crime Plan

27. Cabinet recommends to the Licensing Committee that conditions on problem licensed premises are reviewed, when it is identified that their working practices are contributing to ASB in the town, and they are failing to meet their licensing responsibilities.

Response: Complete – any licensed premises that are reported by the relevant statutory agencies to be failing to meet the licensing objectives are taken to Licensing Committee for review. At that review consideration will be given to their current licence and a decision made on changes to their licensing conditions.

28. Cabinet recommends to the Licensing Committee that it reviews the Licensing Policy with a view to opposing the early morning sales of alcohol.

Response: The current Statement of Licensing Policy covers the period from 2016 – 2021. However the process of gathering of evidence in respect to areas where an early review of the policy is considered appropriate has commenced and it is planned to present a report to Licensing Committee on this matter in early summer 2017.

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 Cabinet will need to consider the possible options as part of its response to the Recommendations

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are none specifically identified in this report

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 Any financial implications will be met through existing budgets

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no specific new equality implications in adopting these recommendations.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The Panel took evidence from a wide range of Stakeholders and Councillors from Northampton Borough Council

Internal

- Cabinet Member for Environment, NBC
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
- Cabinet Member for regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Neighbourhood Wardens, Park Rangers and Manager, NBC
- Community Safety Manager, NBC
- Town Centre Manager, NBC
- Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, NBC
- Town Centre Ranger

External

- Parish Councils

- Area Commander, Northants Police
- Town Centre Police Inspector, Northants Police
- Substance 2 Solutions (S2S), Northamptonshire (service for adults)
- CAN, Northamptonshire (services for young people)
- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
- Director, Accident & Emergency, Northampton General Hospital
- Director, East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Chief Executive, Northampton Partnership Homes
- Chair, Market Action Group
- Chair, Town Centre BID
- Director, Trading Standards, NCC
- Conservation Area Committees
- Chair, PubWatch
- Chair, Northampton Retail Crime Initiative
- Director, Network Rail and Director, London Midland

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Northampton Borough Council Corporate Plan - Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods

- A clean town with neighbourhoods that are tidy and well maintained
- A place where people want to visit and enjoy our parks and open spaces
- A place where visitors and residents from all communities feel safe, secure and protected
- with low levels of crime
- Less waste and increased recycling through education and waste reduction schemes

Creating empowered communities

- Empowered local communities with a greater capacity to become involved in community life
- Increased capacity of our partners in the voluntary sector to better support communities

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 There are no other implications in this report

5. Background Papers

5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town (11 May 2016)

Julie Seddon
Director of Customers & Communities
Ext: 7379