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**Executive**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Report of the Director Communities and Neighbourhoods**

## **Approval of the City's Anti Social Behaviour Strategy 2011 to 2014**

### **Summary**

1. To approve the contents of the city's anti social behaviour strategy that will cover the period between 2011 and 2014

### **Background**

2. The issue of anti social behaviour (ASB) and sub criminal behaviour is clearly one of our customers highest priorities with it being ranked in the top three priorities in all but one ward. Equally in the annual survey of council tenants there is concern from tenants about the way ASB is dealt with just over ½ being satisfied with the way their case was handled and less than 50% satisfied with the outcome.
3. Chapter one of the strategy clearly sets out the background legislation and significant government guidance that has been issued in relation to ASB over the last 15 years. It is clearly a Corporate priority linking closely to nine of the 35 local area agreement indicators. Equally it directly impacts on a number of key strategies for various department not least the community safety plan, children and young peoples plan and the Homeless strategy.
4. The current approach to tackling ASB in the City is inconsistent and is dependant on your tenure. As a local authority or registered social landlord tenant you have redress to the conditions within the tenancy agreement and your landlord is obliged to investigate and take action where appropriate. In the private rented sector and as an owner occupier these resources aren't as readily available, nor is the same level of advice and support. Their recourse is either the environmental protection unit or the police for action and general advice agencies such as the CAB.

### **Consultation**

5. The development of the strategy has been done in consultation with victims of ASB, the Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations other stakeholders and partners within the city. It has also been influenced by the outcome of the recent mock inspection of housing services held in January 2010.

6. The user consultation included individual users completing a user survey and running group discussions on what the services are like now and how they could be improved
7. The key findings of the consultation with customers/stakeholders are available on request.
8. Following the completion of the development of the strategy the draft documents have been shared with stakeholders and customers at events held in March/April 2010. The feedback from these sessions was that the strategy was well received, it had captured the main issues in a form that was concise and easy to read and the action plan was challenging.
9. There have been subsequent discussions with the anti social behaviour task group and the strategy has been endorsed by the Safer York Partnership Board

## **Options**

Option one

10. To endorse the housing ASB strategy and action plan.(See appendix 1)

## **Analysis**

11. The overarching aspiration of the strategy is reduce the effect that ASB has on the residents of York's lives and look to preventative measure to reduce the need to resort to legal remedies.
12. Within the strategy there are four key strands
  - Partnership working – To have effective partnerships at a local level with statutory and other agencies, departments and other landlords for the sharing of information and tackling anti-social behaviour. Clearly this strategy can only be effective with the cooperation of partners and to this end its steering group will be the ASB Task group chaired by Safer York Partnership. To ensure that all the partners are engaged this group has been widened and will now meet four times a year.
  - Prevention – Ensure that CYC has an holistic approach to tackling anti-social behaviour which emphasises prevention and changing behaviour. Clearly enforcement is necessary in some extreme cases but with earlier interventions more costly enforcement can be avoided.
  - Enforcement – To deal quickly, sensitively and appropriately with all incidents of anti-social behaviour in accordance with published procedures and legal remedies.

- Support Services – To provide appropriate and sufficient support to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour and to provide support to tackle the causes of anti-social behaviour
13. Details of what is required over the next three years are contained within the action plan. The plan will be monitored by the ASB task group that meets on a quarterly cycle. There will be ½ yearly reports to the Safer York Partnership board on the progress of the action plan.
  14. To achieve the aims set out in the action plan there is a need for both members and stakeholder agencies to adopt new working practices, develop forward thinking and dynamic policies and pro-actively address the future challenges

### **Corporate Priorities**

15. The City's ASB Strategy is closely linked various strategies and priorities. In terms of the corporate priorities it is critical to the following priorities.
  - percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
  - perceptions of anti-social behaviour
  - the number of households living in temporary accommodation
  - rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
  - drug-related offending rate
  - substance misuse by young people
  - first time entrants into the Youth Justice System
  - young people's participation in positive activities
  - the number of vulnerable people achieving independent living

### **Financial Implications**

16. There are no direct financial implications to this report. However, it may not be possible to deliver all the actions contained in the strategy within the existing resources. The financial implications of delivering the strategy will therefore need to be kept under review.

### **Equalities Implications**

17. As part of the process of reviewing the ASB strategy an equalities impact assessment has been completed.

## Risk Management

18. The risk is that the council doesn't achieve a targeted and focused response to tackling ASB in the City.
19. The risk/s associated with the recommendation of this report are assessed at a net level below 16. The risks have been assessed as moderate at 14, the strategy will be regularly monitored at the ASB task group and Safer York Board.

## Recommendations

20. The Executive is asked to approve the strategy and the proposed monitoring arrangements through the ASB task group and ultimately the Safer York Partnership Board.

Reason : It is a clearly a high priority to have a focused and coordinated approach to tackling ASB in the City of York

## Contact Details

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Report Approved  Date

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

**Respect Standards in Housing Management**

**KLOE in Tenancy management**

**Mock inspection of housing services 2010**

**List other strategies contained in chapter one**

**Outcomes form consultation**

**Appendix**

**Draft Housing ASB strategy and action plan**