



Housing Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Housing Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Anti-social behaviour policy
Date:	February 2024
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Simy Dhyani
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Anti-Social Behaviour policy 2024 Appendix 2 – Community Impact Assessment
Background papers:	N/A
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour HTIP - Housing Transformation Improvement Programme

Report Author / Responsible Officer	
Author: Natasha Beresford, Assistant Director – Housing Operations & Safe Communities	
✉ 📞	
Natasha.beresford@dacorum.gov.uk / 01442 228840 (ext. 2840)	

Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clean, safe and enjoyable environment
Wards affected	All.
Purpose of the report:	Inform Members of the current position relating to the ASB policy update.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback regarding the amended policy.
Period for post policy/project review:	2 years from the completion of the updated policy.

1 Introduction/Background:

An effective Anti-Social behaviour and enforcement provision is an essential aspect of governance and community development for Dacorum Borough Council. The Community Safety team recognise that Anti-Social behaviour can have a significant impact on the safety and well-being of individuals and communities.

By investing in addressing Anti-Social behaviour robustly and in a timely manner, the local authority can help to create safer and more secure neighbourhoods, which subsequently will improve the quality of lives for residents.

As part of Housing Transformation Improvement Programme (HTIP), the Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Team have been aligned, providing a one team approach in managing Anti-Social behaviour, as HTIP progresses further consideration will be given to this approach in reaching a determination of the permanent structure.

The Safe Communities service now has the overall responsibility for dealing with Anti-Social behaviour perpetrated by Dacorum Borough Council tenants and private households throughout Dacorum. As a result of this amalgamation, the council has developed a revised and updated Anti-Social Behaviour policy, to support our approach when tackling nuisance behaviour.

2 Key Issues/proposals/main body of the report:

The policy provides a breakdown of the types of ASB that the council will deal with, both in the Community Safety Team and Tenancy Management Team. Contact times have also been revised so that Customers will have clear guidance, relating to initial contact from enforcement officers. In delivering changes to the ASB policy, the council ensures that the policy is aligned with our new corporate behaviours.

The revised ASB policy, also considers new measures that put in place by the Government (ASB Action Plan), giving local authorities and partners a wider range of tools and powers to deal with persistent and unreasonable behaviour. The ASB Action Plan, which was implemented in March 2023, will bring numerous benefits to victims of ASB. The plan seeks to support initial prevention methods, such as early education and take a robust approach when dealing with persistent nuisance that blights communities. The ASB action plan also seeks to make improvements and builds on the work already carried out by local authorities and partner agencies by acting in the following three ways;

- Treating anti-social behaviour with the urgency it deserves, bringing in hotspot policing to target the worst affected areas.
- Taking a zero-tolerance approach – including cracking down on the illegal drugs that blight communities. This further includes, banning nitrous oxide and expanding drug testing on arrest.
- Giving police and other agencies, including local authorities the tools they need to act and restore pride in local communities.

A further inclusion within the council's revised ASB policy, details the council's approach to performance indicators and our requirement to report back specifically on topics such as Hate Crime, which is now a requirement of the Tenant Satisfaction Measures.

The Community Safety Team as a whole, has been reviewing approaches to tackling ASB and has identified new initiatives to robustly deal with persistent nuisance, such as increased use of Community Protection Warnings/Notices and demotions of tenure. The new policy details the tools and powers that we currently and will continue to utilise moving forward.

3 Options and alternatives considered

Alternative options have not been considered. It is necessary for policies to be regularly refreshed, to ensure that legislative requirements and best practice are reviewed and incorporated into our strategic documents, as necessary.

4 Consultation

Due to the nature of this policy and areas of work that may be impacted, partnership working, and Community cohesion are reflected in specified case work and feedback provision.

5 Financial and value for money implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications outlined within this report.

7 Risk implications:

The risk implications would be relating to the increased resource needed within the enforcement team, enabling the team to effectively deal with the current and sustained increased in demand relating to Anti-Social behaviour.

8 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

The Community Impact Assessment has been reviewed and there is minimal impact that would occur, from updating this policy.

Human Rights – There are no new Human Rights implications arising from this report, which have not already been considered.

9 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

This policy will have a positive impact on areas of work such as the Community Safety Partnership. It will support the work of the current partnership, ensuring that collaborative work is embedded, within the multi-agency approach to tackling crime, disorder, and ASB.

10 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

Anti-Social Behaviour will continue to impact not only Dacorum Borough Council departments but also external stakeholders, if a robust policy is not in place to ensure, progressive and innovative best practice. It is vital that a partnership approach to tackling ASB continues, with tools and powers used at the earliest opportunity.

11 Conclusions:

This report provides members with an insight into the updated ASB legislation and positive service changes that are proposed within the policy.