



Report for:	Cabinet
Title of report:	Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
Date:	23 April 2024
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Simy Dhyani, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	
a	n/a
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	ASB – Anti Social Behaviour HTIP – Housing, Transformation and Improvement Plan

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery
Wards affected	All
Purpose of the report:	To inform Members of the current position relating to the ASB policy update and to seek approval of the policy.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	That Cabinet approves the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.
Period for post policy/project review:	2 years from the approval of the updated policy.

1 Introduction/Background:

An effective Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and enforcement provision is an essential aspect of governance and community support function for the Council. The Community Safety Team recognises that ASB can have a significant impact on the safety and well-being of individuals and communities.

Investment in responding to ASB robustly, and in a timely manner, means that the Council can help to create safer and more secure neighbourhoods, which subsequently will improve the quality of life for its residents.

As part of HTIP, the Community Safety and Tenancy Enforcement Teams have been aligned, providing a one-team approach to the management of ASB. As HTIP progresses, further analysis and consideration will be undertaken to decide on the best approach to the permanent structure.

The Safe Communities Service now has the overall responsibility for dealing with ASB that is perpetrated by 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 its approach when tackling nuisance behaviour.

2 Key Issues:

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 timescales have also been revised so that customers have clear guidance relating to initial contact from enforcement officers. In delivering changes to the ASB policy, the Council has also ensured that the policy is aligned with its new corporate behaviours.

The revised ASB policy also takes into account new measures that have been 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 provides 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 ways:

- Treating ASB 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 is the Council's approach to performance indicators and the requirement to report back specifically on topics such as Hate Crime, which is now a requirement of the new 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 all policies to be regularly refreshed, to ensure that legislative requirements and best practice are reviewed and incorporated into 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 casework and feedback provision.

5 Financial and value for money implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6 Legal Implications

There are various implications of the new policy, which are highlighted throughout the document.

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:

An Impact Assessment has reviewed/carried out and annexed - 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 Anti-Social behaviour.

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

ASB will continue to impact, not only 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 being utilised at the earliest opportunity

11 Statutory Comments

Monitoring Officer:

The report highlights the key changes to the existing policy and this should provide a robust framework to enable the Council to manage and reduce anti-social behaviour and take relevant enforcement action where appropriate.

S151:

No further comments to add to the report.

12 Conclusions:

In conclusion, the implementation of the new Anti-Social Behaviour policy is crucial to ensure the progressive and innovative development of the enforcement service. By clearly outlining the consequences of causing Anti-Social Behaviour and providing support for those affected, the policy serves as a mechanism for addressing issues both promptly and proportionately.

The amendments to the current ASB Policy have been necessary to ensure the following aspects are taken in account:

- Updated compliance with the Regulator of Social Housing, Neighbourhood and Community Standard.
- Best practice relating to the use of tools and powers.
- Incorporate newly developed legislative requirements, relating to the ASB Action Plan.
- Clearly document proposed changes to the current service provision.
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures.

Continued monitoring and evaluation of the policy will be necessary to address any emerging issues and risk, ensuring that feelings of safety are promoted throughout the borough.