

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

27 July 2010

Subject: Wiltshire Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy

Cabinet member: Cllr Keith Humphries – Public Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Summary

The Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire states that one of the ambitions for Wiltshire is “to reduce particular crimes, change behaviours and inform the public to bring about communities that are safe and feel safe”. The reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour was identified as a priority in achieving this objective.

Response to this challenge is driven by the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership (the Partnership) which is committed to the promotion of effective, co-ordinated action by partners and the community to tackle anti-social behaviour at both local and county-wide levels.

At its last meeting on the 17th June the Partnership approved the Wiltshire Anti-Social Behaviour strategy supported by an implementation plan. These documents will provide a framework to deliver a consistent service to both victims and perpetrators. The strategy also provides an overview of the complexity of the work of all partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and the implementation plan provides details of the services and resources which are required to deliver this strategic objective.

Success of the strategy will depend on the commitment of the partners and this report is being brought to cabinet to advise Members of the proposals for the actions to be taken with respect to anti-social behaviour but also to seek endorsement of the strategy and plan as a statement of Wiltshire Council’s commitment (as the Partnership’s lead authority on anti-social behaviour) to tackling this issue.

Proposal

The Cabinet endorse the Wiltshire Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan and recommend it to the Council.

Maggie Rae

Corporate Director of Public Health & Wellbeing

Wiltshire Council

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1. Purpose of report

1. 1 The purpose of the report is to request Cabinet to consider endorsing the Wiltshire Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy (Appendix 1) and Implementation Plan 2010-2011 (Appendix 2), and as the Responsible Authority within the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to support its recommendations. The Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy if endorsed will form one element of the Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. The latter Strategy forms part of the Council's policy framework which would mean that the strategy and any of its components would require approval of the Council. Cabinet is therefore requested to adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy with a view to recommending it to Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) and the perception of it, was identified as a priority issue in the most recent Partnership Strategic Assessment, Wiltshire Police Constabulary's Strategic Assessment, perception surveys carried out by Wiltshire Council (People's Voice) and the Wiltshire Police Authority.
- 2.2 Wiltshire Council is obliged to work in partnership to tackle ASB through the obligations placed on in by the Crime and Disorder Act and The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. This was enforced through the National Indicator set which set anti-social behaviour related targets which were included in the Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire.
- 2.3 Partners have been working together for some time now to combat anti-social behaviour but until recently there has been no strategy or implementation plan to provide a framework for this work.. The Wiltshire Anti-Social Behaviour strategy was approved by the Partnership at its meeting on the 17th June 2010.

3. Main considerations for the council

- 3.1 The Wiltshire Anti Social Behaviour Strategy will enable partners to consolidate efforts and approaches to tackling ASB, develop toolkits to be used within communities, manage and support individual cases reported, and communicate how specific community-based problems will be addressed, whilst reassuring victims that their case will be dealt with as a matter of utmost priority.
- 3.2 The strategy supports, encourages and initiates a range of actions and initiatives that will directly address anti-social behaviour by using a victim focused, evidence based problem-solving approach. The aim is to tackle anti-social behaviour through prevention, intervention, enforcement and reassurance.
- 3.3 Prevention - In order to prevent anti-social behaviour, information is required to indicate what the problems are, where and when it is happening, and who the perpetrators and victims are. To ensure that we are able to take effective, targeted action we are committed to improving information sharing between agencies to deliver a co-ordinated approach
- 3.4 Intervention - Sustainable effective action on anti-social behaviour requires early and targeted interventions. We are committed to deliver early proportionate interventions to tackle ASB that affects the environment and our communities
- 3.5 Enforcement - The partner agencies have a range of powers and tools available to them to protect the community from ASB. We are committed to using enforcement in a balanced and proportionate manner. We will ensure relevant powers and tools are used appropriately by all Partners.
- 3.6 Reassurance - Keeping communities informed about what is being done to tackle ASB helps to reduce perception and to promote community cohesion. We are committed to working with the local community forums, such as Community Area Boards, Town and Parish Councils and Residents Associations to receive and provide information about local anti-social behaviour issues.

4. Environmental impact of the proposal

- 4.1 Tackling ASB will have a direct impact on improving the local environment. Examples of this are:
 - Animal problems, e.g. Dog-fouling, dog barking
 - Noise nuisance
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Littering, graffiti and fly-tipping
- 4.2 The environmental impact of the delivery and implementation of the strategy will be taken into account as and when actions and interventions are planned, and measures to address climate change and environmental issues will be incorporated into the planning of all initiatives.

5. Equalities impact of the proposal

- 5.1 The adoption of this strategy will support and improve service delivery and interventions for both victims and perpetrators of ASB. It will have a positive impact on the lives of people in Wiltshire by promoting a balanced approach and proportional use of support, interventions and enforcement powers for both victims and those whose behaviour is persistently unacceptable.
- 5.2 The reduction of anti-social behaviour will have a positive impact on perception of crime and in doing so will improve community confidence and cohesion.

6. Risk assessment

- 6.1 Failure to endorse the strategy may result in
- An uncoordinated approach to reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour.
 - Undermined trust and confidence of the public and amongst practitioners charged with delivery.
 - Undermined reputation of the Community Safety Partnership.
 - Undermine reputation of each individual partner organisation.
 - reduce the level of public confidence.
- 6.2 Adoption of the strategy may result in an increased demand and community expectation for service delivery.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 Adoption of the strategy is already covered by the existing anti-social behaviour team staffing budget.
- 7.2 There is currently no budget to cover legal costs associated with applications for anti-social behaviour orders or other associated ASB enforcement powers although this is being investigated.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The endorsement of this anti-social behaviour strategy complies with the Council's obligations in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with the other responsible authorities to:
- formulate and contribute to the implementation of a Partnership Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy to tackle identified priority crimes, one of which is anti-social behaviour and;
 - to consider the implications of all its functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

The Partnership's Community Safety (Crime and Disorder Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011) agreed a set of local priorities following a strategic

assessment of crime, disorder and substance misuse, and there are partnership strategies in place to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to those other priorities.

- 8.2 The strategy acknowledges our responsibilities under both the Human Rights Act and Data Protection Act.

9. Options considered

- 9.1 The alternative to the recommendation to endorse the strategy is that actions to reduce anti-social behaviour will be delivered in an uncoordinated and inefficient manner which can result in duplication and poor response to community concerns.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 The Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is needed to provide a harmonised service across Wiltshire Council and will provide a framework to promote effective, coordinated partnership work to tackle anti-social behaviour at both local and countywide levels.

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Background papers

Appendices

Appendix 1: Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Strategy 2010 – 2011

Appendix 2: Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Implementation Plan
