

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

25 May 2021

Report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 TONBRIDGE & MALLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a priority for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and for the Community Safety Partnership. In order to help this work we have updated our Anti-Social Behaviour Policy which lets people who are reporting ASB know what they can expect from us.

1.1 Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

1.1.1 Tackling Anti-social Behaviour is a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership and the Borough Council. Anti-Social Behaviour can have a huge impact on the lives of anyone experiencing it and the Borough Council (and Community Safety Partnership) want to ensure that anyone who is a victim of anti-social behaviour knows how to report this and once they do, will know what service to expect.

1.1.2 From April 2020 to March 2021 there were 2,962 reports of ASB to the Police (an increase from 1,269 the previous year). The Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer also received reports from over 300 people who have reported ASB issues to him over the previous year. During the Covid lockdown period we saw a lot more reports of ASB, particularly linked to neighbour disputes as people were spending more time at home and in close proximity to their neighbours. Now that lockdown has eased, we are seeing more reports of ASB caused by groups of people.

1.2 The ASB Policy

1.2.1 To help us be able to respond to complaints of ASB we have developed two documents - an overarching Policy and an Operational Procedure document. Both documents will be available on the Borough Council's website so that the public will know what they can expect if they report anti-social behaviour to us.

1.2.2 Attached an **Annex 1** is the updated Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Within this Policy document we define anti-social behaviour and our objectives around how

we (the Council) will deal with reports of anti-social behaviour. We also give details of the tools available to us to tackle ASB, how we will support victims and how we will share information.

- 1.2.3 At **Annex 2** is the Operational Procedure which sets out how the Council will respond to reports of ASB. In this we set out our minimum standard of service - we will aim to respond to reports of ASB within 5 working days and our initial investigation will take no longer than 20 working days (if it is going to take longer, we will update the complainant). We will record all reports in our ASB database and will keep victims informed regularly. The document also lets people know how to report ASB to us.
- 1.2.4 We hope that by clearly setting out our policy and procedures this will help any residents who need to report ASB so that they feel confident to do this and know what to expect when they do report anything.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 All risk assessments are under-taken as appropriate.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Community Safety

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 That the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy as set out in **Annex 1** and the Anti-Social Behaviour Operational Procedure as set out in **Annex 2 BE SUPPORTED AND ENDORSED.**

The Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

Safer & Stronger Communities
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