

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

09 November 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 COMMUNITY TRIGGER REVIEW

This report will provide Members with information about the revised Community Trigger process and will ask them to endorse this process.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Community Trigger (or Anti-social Behaviour Case Review) is a process which allows members of the public to ask their local Community Safety Partnership to review responses to incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 1.1.2 The Trigger was introduced through the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (revised January 2021) to help ensure that agencies are working together to resolve incidents of anti-social behaviour that are affecting resident's quality of life. Community Safety Partnerships will do this by appropriately sharing information between agencies, reviewing the actions that have been taken and use available resources to try and reach a solution and make recommendations that will hopefully prevent the situation from reoccurring.
- 1.1.3 The Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership already has a procedure in place but due to the revision of the Trigger the Community Safety Managers across Kent have looked at what is currently in place to ensure that we are all following a consistent approach across Kent and that victims who meet the criteria can receive a review of their case.

1.2 The Community Trigger process

- 1.2.1 Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key priority for both the Community Safety Partnership and the Borough Council and the Community Trigger process will be one way of ensuring that victims can get the support they need to resolve anti-social behaviour issues.
- 1.2.2 The Community Trigger can be used if someone has reported at least three incidents of anti-social behaviour to a relevant organisation (e.g. the Council, Police, Social Landlord) within the previous six months. These are incidents where

the same behaviour, nuisance or problem has reoccurred, where the victim feels that no effective action has been taken and when it was reported within one month of it happening. This is known as the Community Trigger threshold.

- 1.2.3 In determining the threshold, we should also consider the persistent nature, the harm or potential harm caused by the anti-social behaviour and the adequacy of the response to the anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2.4 The Community Trigger is not designed to replace existing anti-social behaviour reporting lines or for the reporting of general acts of crime, including hate crimes although these can be included in the number of incidents that are reported if the person feels that they were part of the anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2.5 Community Trigger applications are submitted via the Borough Council's website (<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/community-services/report-anti-social-behaviour/3>) and are initially considered by the Safer & Stronger Communities Manager and another professional (usually a police sergeant) to see if they meet the threshold.
- 1.2.6 If the application meets the threshold, then a Review Panel must be held which would consider the case and would involve agencies such as the Police, Council and Social Landlords. Any agencies may be asked to submit information in relation to the case (if appropriate) so that this information can be considered by the Panel to decide if any further actions are required to help resolve the case.
- 1.2.7 Even if the threshold is not met, then we would try to help the complainant to resolve the issue by liaising with other agencies.
- 1.2.8 The victim/complainant will be kept informed at all times about what is happening and once a Review Panel has been held (as appropriate) then the victim will also be informed of the outcome of this. We will also review any actions arising from the Panel to ensure that they are completed, and the victim is receiving the help that they need.
- 1.2.9 Since 2014 (when the requirement for Community Triggers first came in) we have received 25 applications. Of these eight have met the threshold and a panel has met. Whilst we would hope that most issues could be resolved before the need to progress to a Community Trigger, we do want to ensure that residents are aware of the Community Trigger and how they can access this if they feel that their anti-social behaviour issues are still ongoing.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 The Community Trigger is included within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (revised January 2021) and it is therefore a requirement for the Borough Council to work with other agencies to ensure that residents can request a Community Trigger if they feel that their issue meets the threshold.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 There are no direct costs involved in providing the Community Trigger, although it does take up Officer time.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 All risk assessments will be undertaken 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 Members **ENDORSE** the Community Trigger process.

The Central Services Director 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:

Nil

contact: Alison Finch
Safer & Stronger Communities
Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Central Services Director and Deputy Chief Executive