

Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee

05 November 2025

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Cabinet - Non-key Decision



Cabinet Member	Cllr Des Keers – Community Services
Responsible Officer	Damian Roberts – Chief Executive
Report Author	Alison Finch – Safer & Stronger Communities Manager

Update on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Team and request for funding for future years

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Enforcement Team employed by the Borough Council to work from May to November 2025.
- 1.2 As well as providing details about the work they have been undertaking, the report will also request funding to continue with the team for the next two years.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 The ASB Team ensures a high-profile visible presence throughout the borough, which is reassuring to residents, local businesses, interested parties and visitors to Tonbridge and Malling.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members to agree to continue to fund the ASB Enforcement Team for a further two-year period subject to Council approval of the funding in February 2026 as part of the annual budget setting process.
- 3.2 Members to agree to request funding from Parish/Town Councils.
- 3.3 Members to agree to go out for procurement for the ASB Team.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 The Borough Council has employed an ASB Enforcement Team from May to November 2025. The team is employed through Kingdom Services Group Ltd, and they work from Wednesday to Sunday with two teams of two individuals out in the borough during these times.
- 4.2 To the end of September, the Team had visited 700 locations within the borough, engaged with 692 residents, 224 businesses and identified 71 incidents of flytipping. One Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued for a breach of a Public Space Protection Order (for nuisance vehicles in Snodland).
- 4.3 Feedback from the public has been very positive with the comments including:
- “We spoke with a resident, she reported that since the last time she talked with us, she has not seen the disgusting things happening in the area in the evenings when going and coming from the gym. She now feels more secure than ever because she met us in the area. She says that she does not see the people gathering in the area in the evenings anymore”.*
- 4.4 Feedback received so far from the Parish Councils who have contributed to the Team has also been positive. Parish and Town Councils who have contributed to the scheme, each receive a monthly report detailing the total number of hours the team have spent in the borough along with specific details for their area, including number of visits, hours spent and types of engagement (e.g. business/public/youth engagement, fly tipping reports and graffiti reports).
- 4.5 There have been some challenges in ensuring that the Team work to provide the best service for the public and there is a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work by the Community Safety Team to ensure that they provide an excellent service. Staff turnover and retention within Kingdom has been an issue, although this has been addressed quickly by Kingdom.
- 4.6 As the Team has been very successful in providing reassurance to the public, it is proposed that the scheme is continued. To allow for consistency and for a more streamlined procurement process, it is proposed that the Team is funded for a two-year period (2026 and 2027). This would be from May to October during both years.
- 4.7 The Finance team are considering suitable sources of funding to ensure the continuation of this scheme. It is currently outside the budget and policy framework and will need to be a Council decision. The request at this stage is to endorse “in principle” the future of the scheme for the next two years, allowing the procurement process for potential contractors to be undertaken in good time to secure the ASB Team. Final endorsement will be subject to Council approval of the funding in February 2026 as part of the annual budget setting process.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 Members are requested to consider continuing the ASB Team for the next two years (subject to Council approval of the required funding) and for officers to begin the procurement process.

6 Other Options

- 6.1 Members could consider funding the Team for one year only. However, this would mean procurement would need to be completed on a yearly basis which is time consuming for the officers involved and does not allow longevity for those applying for the contract. It is hoped that a longer term will be more appealing to potential contractors and the Council will receive a wider range of options to ensure the best outcome.
- 6.2 Members may not wish to continue with the Team at all. However, in the two years that a Team has been in place in the borough they have proved themselves to be a valuable tool in providing reassurance and a highly visible presence for residents.

7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 7.1 Last year the total cost of the contact was approximately £85,000. The overall cost to the council was reduced due to the number of parish/town council contributions. Contributions will again be sought at a flat rate of £2,000 per parish/town council area. Indicative costs cannot be provided at this stage but will form part of the final decision paper at Council in February 2026.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 All appropriate risk assessments will be undertaken through the procurement process.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The ASB team are accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) by Kent Police, giving them powers to request name and address, seize alcohol, and stop a moving vehicle.
- 9.2 Failure to pay a PSPO fixed penalty notice may result in legal action.

10 Consultation and Communications

- 10.1 A survey will be carried out with all Parish Council's to get their feedback on the work of the Team.

11 Implementation

- 11.1 If funding is agreed, the Team will run from May to October in 2026 and 2027.

12 Cross Cutting Issues

12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

12.1.1 Limited or low impact on emissions and environment.

12.1.2 Climate change advice has not been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.

12.2 Equalities and Diversity

12.2.1 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.

12.3 Other If Relevant

- Procurement

12.3.1 Due to the cost of the Team procurement will be required for this contract.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	None