

Cabinet Response to the report of the Community Safety and Social Inclusion Scrutiny Commission into the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill: Measures for Tackling ASB

CABINET MEETING DATE (2015/16)

31 October 2016

CLASSIFICATION

Open

If exempt, the reason will be listed in the body of the report.

WARD(S) AFFECTED

All Wards

CABINET MEMBER

Cllr Caroline Selman
Community Safety and Enforcement

KEY DECISION

No

GROUP DIRECTOR

Tim Shields
Chief Executive

1. CABINET MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 While Hackney has seen an overall reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)¹ in recent years, it continues to represent the largest proportion of 101 calls in the borough². Much of this behaviour has a significant impact on Hackney's residents.
- 1.2 The Council is therefore committed to using all appropriate and available measures to tackle ASB. Enforcement is just one element of this. ASB is frequently the product of underlying causes such as substance misuse, alcohol dependency or mental health issues. The Council therefore works in partnership with other stakeholders, such as the Police and support services, to tackle not just ASB but the often-complex needs that may underpin it.
- 1.3 Over the coming year, the Council will be reviewing our ASB priorities and how best to achieve them in order to produce a new ASB enforcement strategy. The Commission's report provides helpful and welcome recommendations to be taken into account as part of this, including reflecting lessons learned from the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that was issued and withdrawn last year. It also provides useful recommendations for improving support for Councillors to better support Hackney residents when dealing with ASB concerns.
- 1.4 I commend this report to cabinet.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. The Cabinet is asked to approve the content of this response.**

¹ In 2014/15 there was an 18% decrease in ASB (2436 incidents) compared with the previous financial year, which in turn recorded a small decrease of 1% compared with 2012/13.

² Calls to the police about ASB show that between April 2012 and July 2015, 42,161 ASB incidents were recorded.

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Executive Response to the Scrutiny Recommendations

<p>Recommendation One</p> <p>The Commission recommends that the Council learn from the circumstances around the publication and subsequent withdrawal of the PSPO for future consultations of debatable policy or service change. The Commission recommends that evidence to support these are produced to the highest standard to demonstrate the Council has a robust evidence base to support the proposed change.</p>	<p>We agree with this recommendation.</p> <p>Having considered the legitimate concerns raised following the introduction of the previous PSPO, we will not be proposing the adoption of a PSPO that includes any reference to rough sleeping as part of the enforcement strategy referred to above.</p> <p>However, in considering our approach to ASB more generally, we agree it is essential that any proposals are based on a strong and robust evidence base. We note that careful consideration needs to be given to any potential adverse consequences of measures and to ensuring that the correct balance is struck between enforcement and support.</p> <p>We also note (a) the importance of ensuring that the Council clearly explains the aims, motivations and evidence underpinning proposals, as well as (b) the benefits of early consultation to ensure we are getting things right.</p>
<p>Recommendation Two</p> <p>The Commission recommends that the Council review and draw on best practice in other local authorities should they decide to introduce a PSPO in the future.</p>	<p>We agree with this recommendation.</p> <p>We note that the Commission has highlighted that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provisions for existing Designated Public Place Orders and Dog Control Orders to lapse in October 2017 and transition into PSPO's with the same conditions. We agree that in connection with this we should review and draw</p>

	on best practice and lessons learnt by other local authorities, as we should in relation to other potential ASB powers.
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<p>Recommendation Three</p> <p>The Commission recommends that the Council continue to provide training for Councillors to help them understand how to manage and handle ASB cases, to build up their knowledgebase about the options available. We recommend online information is easily available on the Hackney Council website.</p>	<p>We agree with this recommendation.</p> <p>The Council is currently undergoing a review of its enforcement services, which is likely to see the reorganisation of its community safety and enforcement services. As part of this, there will be a training programme developed to support officers working within the reorganised service. This programme will be able to include a training element for Councillors to raise awareness of how ASB casework is best handled. IT related options will be factored into this.</p>
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<p>Recommendation Four</p> <p>The Commission recommends that the Council continue to work in close partnership with stakeholders (Hackney Homes, Hackney Police, TMOs, TRAs and external support organisations); to ensure the right balance of enforcement and support is achieved and the most appropriate legislative action is taken to tackle the different types of ASB and varying</p>	<p>We agree with this recommendation.</p> <p>Partnership working is a vital element of a comprehensive response to ASB. This is co-ordinated through a range of partnership meetings including Partnership Tasking, the Street Users Outreach Meeting and Anti-Social Behaviour Action Panels.</p> <p>Many ASB related issues can and will continue to be resolved by partnership working and effective early intervention. Depending on the nature of the ASB, enforcement is often the last option, with support services (many from commissioned or voluntary sector organisations) providing the initial means of tackling underlying complex</p>
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<p>degrees of intractability.</p>	<p>needs. This work will continue for example through Thames Reach to directly support entrenched street drinkers who are engaging in ASB.</p> <p>The return of Hackney Housing to the Council will enable officers dealing with the most serious estate based ASB to be located within the reorganised community safety and enforcement service. The existing neighbourhood arrangements are being retained however, building on the good work highlighted by the Commission in respect of the contribution of TMOs and TRAs.</p>
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