

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	3rd February 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Mark Alflat – Director of Community Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Ros White – Housing Operations Manager	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Housing Services' Anti Social Behaviour Policy	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members note the process used to review the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy and approve the proposed new ASB policy.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To advise members of the process used to review the ASB policy.
- 2.2 To gain approval for the proposed new ASB policy.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Anti social behaviour is a key concern for residents of South Derbyshire and a priority for South Derbyshire District Council. The new policy shows the commitment of the Council in the prevention, management and reduction of such behaviour.
- 3.2 The policy will ensure that all complaints are dealt with fairly and consistently with both preventative and enforcement methods being considered when managing anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3 The policy was last reviewed in October 2007. In the last three years much has changed in terms of best practice management and prevention of ASB and this proposed new ASB policy reflects those changes.
- 3.4 The views and opinions of residents were equally important in shaping the new policy. Residents who had experienced ASB in the last 12 months were invited to two Challenge Days and a number of the proposed changes directly reflect that involvement.

4.0 Reviewing the ASB Policy

- 4.1 The existing policy is 3 years old and needed updating to reflect the changes in the management, monitoring and enforcement of ASB. Some of these changes are legislative and others are improvements now considered to be best practice in high performing organisations.
- 4.2 It was vital that residents were involved in the process of reviewing the current ASB policy and not simply given a finished document to comment on. The aims of the review were therefore also to give residents the opportunity to:

- Question the current policy;
- Consider the policies of other organisations; and to
- Discuss and agree collectively what should be in the new policy.

4.3 In order to meet these aims the policy was reviewed using Challenge Days. Tenants who had experienced ASB in the previous 12 months were invited to attend two Challenge Days which were designed to review the existing policy, examine current best practice and changes in legislation and to capture the views and ideas of residents as to what makes an effective ASB policy.

4.4 40 residents attended the first Challenge Day, which was held on 4th October 2010 at Bretby Conference Centre. Working in small groups, residents scrutinised how we deliver the ASB service and put ideas forward that would improve the service and make it more victim centred.

4.5 All the ideas and suggestions expressed on the day were gathered together and a further Challenge Day was held on 16th November 2010, at which residents were asked to consider a draft of the new ASB policy. To ensure that the proposed new policy captures their comments a “You said, we did” summary sheet was provided. (See Appendix 2)

5.0 The New Policy

5.1 The proposed new ASB policy is a comprehensive policy document which:

- Clearly outlines SDDC’s statutory duty to tackle ASB;
- Lists the tools and powers that could be used; and
- Covers the standards SDDC aims to meet and what residents can do if they feel that the service has fallen short.

5.2 The proposed new ASB policy is shown at Appendix 1. The main changes are shown in the “*You said we did*” summary sheet at Appendix 2.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 The Council’s vision is being delivered through actions grouped into 4 themes within the Corporate Plan 2009-2014. This policy contributes to Theme 2 - Safe & Secure. This theme covers quality decent homes to promote independent living in neighbourhoods that feel safe and secure.

6.2 This policy also contributes to Housing Services’ mission statement that:

“Through high quality services, delivered in partnership with customers, the provision of well maintained affordable homes that meet the requirements and aspirations of the people of South Derbyshire.”

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no additional financial implications associated with this policy.

8.0 Community Implications

8.1 The South Derbyshire Partnership consists of 23 organisations representing public services, local businesses, voluntary and community groups, and residents, all of which are committed to working together to improve the District.

8.2 The Sustainable Communities Strategy has five themes that provide the Partnership with a focus for our joint work. These are:

- Healthy Communities
- Safer Communities
- Sustainable Development
- Vibrant Communities
- Children and Young People

8.3 This policy contributes to the Safer Communities theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy, where we strive for communities that people feel are safer places in which to live, work and visit. The projected outcomes of having a robust ASB policy which has been developed in conjunction with residents are

- Less anti social behaviour and criminal damage
- A realistic view about the relatively low levels of crime
- The integration of individuals and groups into the wider community