

For publication

Approval to consult on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	17 May 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Cabinet member for Housing Cabinet member Health and Wellbeing
Directorate:	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet for the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy to go out to public consultation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for public consultation.
- 2.2 That a report be brought to Cabinet with a final draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy following the completion of the public consultation by September 2022.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 It is essential for the Council to have a modern and relevant Anti-social behaviour strategy that reflects recent developments in anti-social behaviour (ASB) characteristics, legislation and national and local priorities. This will enable the Council to strategically plan and prioritise resources across the Borough and to work appropriately with stakeholders to maximise effectiveness.
- 3.2 The effective management of ASB related issues will support the Councils wider ambitions regarding making Chesterfield a thriving borough by actively contributing to making Chesterfield a great place to live, work and visit.

4.0 Report details

4.1 The draft Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (Appendix A) provides the framework for all Chesterfield Borough Council services involved in responding to ASB; including the legal service, the housing service, environmental protection, private sector housing, planning and the community safety team. It seeks to ensure consistency of approach including the use of the various powers and responsibilities each service area has.

4.2 The existing Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and the Housing Service Anti-Social Behaviour Policy both date from the 5th of February 2019. These policies set out a more reactive and prescriptive approach and given the date of publication do not fully take account of current national and local developments. These developments include enhanced opportunities relating to working in partnership, victim focused, preventative and utilising a problem-solving approach to anti-social behaviour.

4.3 The new single strategy for the whole authority provides a clear structured approach from the strategic to operational levels. It outlines how the council will work with other key stakeholders to manage and reduce anti-social behaviour; whilst aligning to key legislative requirements of engagement with local communities, taking a preventative early intervention approach, being victim focused and using proportionate enforcement. The strategy is designed to ensure corporate consistency and creates integrated partnerships that will ensure the council can identify emerging anti-social behaviour issues quickly and intervene early and effectively. The key principles of the new ASB strategy are outlined below:

4.4 Early Intervention and Prevention

4.5 Chesterfield Borough Council and our partners will consistently and effectively collate and analyse information and intelligence to understand the root causes of anti-social behaviour issues and those involved or vulnerable to becoming involved in ASB. Together with our partners, we will put in place positive, joined-up problem-solving activity to bring long term solutions to anti-social behaviour by seeking to prevent incidents arising in the first instance. This activity will centre on evidence-based practice, in which we will proactively work alongside community organisations, educational establishments and statutory partners to tackle issues as soon as they arise; looking for local solutions and developing community resilience. We will therefore utilise a multi-agency problem solving approach as a means of delivering early intervention and prevention at a neighbourhood level.

4.6 Enforcement

4.7 The Council will work in partnership to tackle anti-social behaviour in Chesterfield by delivering a positive, proportionate, robust and effective response to emerging issues. The approach will involve the proportionate use of current legislative tools and powers, targeted towards protecting vulnerable

victims and or addressing the more serious incidents of anti-social behaviour, thereby achieving long-term solutions.

4.8 Diversion

4.9 Together with our partners, Chesterfield Borough Council will develop services to change the behaviour of those involved and susceptible to becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. This will be a partnership approach, working alongside our local community and voluntary organisations to create structured diversionary activity and citizen focused programmes. All of which will provide our local young people with opportunities to undertake constructive activity and also understand the value of being a positive member of their local community.

4.10 Communication

4.11 Chesterfield Borough Council will seek to develop effective communication channels with both the communities of Chesterfield and across our partner agencies. This will include proactively ensuring regular information on our activities to address anti-social behaviour is available and promoted within the borough, particularly by highlighting successful resolutions to problems. It is envisaged that by actively promoting the work of Chesterfield Borough Council and our partners to address anti-social behaviour, we will collectively increase confidence and trust within our local communities.

4.12 Objectives of ASB Strategy

4.13 The draft ASB Strategy will positively contribute to the council plan, particularly in regard to ensuring Chesterfield is a great place to live, work and visit. The strategy will ensure that all stakeholders, internal and external partners work together to share information, identify emerging issues and work together to prevent issues escalating but also intervene early and positively.

4.14 Legislation

4.15 The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave powers to local authorities, social housing providers and the police to tackle anti-social behaviour (e.g., injunctions, Closure Orders, Community Protection Orders, Public Space Protection Orders and absolute grounds for possession). The new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy outlines how council services will use these powers in a consistent and proportionate way to seek to reduce and help to prevent antisocial behaviour.

4.16 The draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy reflects current national and local priorities (e.g., placing victims at the centre of services and improving the quality of life for local people.)

4.17 The type of anti-social behaviour and the profile of those involved has evolved since the publication of the Councils current ASB policies. Many more ASB

cases involve the use and / or supply of illegal drugs. Many of those involved face personal challenges including substance dependency, mental ill-health, behavioural disorders, social isolation and physical ill-health. The targeting of vulnerable people by organised crime gangs (e.g., “County Lines”) is also far more prevalent.

- 4.18 The new strategy therefore reflects the need to work in harmony with external partners such as the Police, to work collaboratively to understand emerging issues, create integrated problem-solving approaches and proportionately but consistently use enforcement powers where they are required.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 There is an option to retain the current policies, however these are now dated, reactive and process driven and therefore do not incorporate the national approach of taking a victim focused, preventive and multi-agency problem solving methodology. Additionally, the current polices encourage a more siloed approach to anti-social behaviour and do not promote the one team / unified and customer focused approach that is very much part of how the authority seeks to work. The draft ASB Strategy seeks to embed the national approach and organisational values into its structures and methodology, which will be applied consistently across all council departments.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with the request to consult on the draft ASB strategy.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 The corporate draft ASB strategy embraces and incorporates current national legislation relating to anti-social behaviour including the overarching principles of being victim focused, prevention, early intervention, and proportional enforcement and as a result there are no additional legal implications associated with the request to consult on the draft ASB strategy.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 There are no implications for Human resources as a result of the request to consult on the draft ASB Strategy. Going forward it is anticipated that structures and resource levels will remain unchanged.

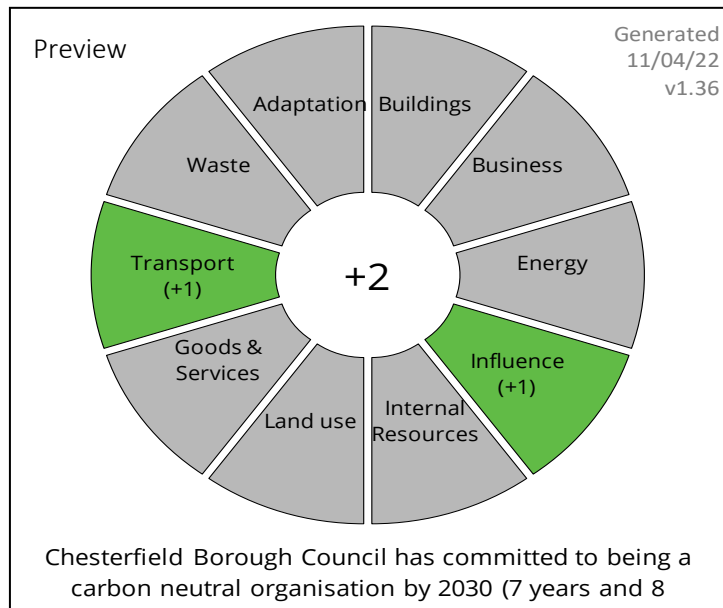
9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

- 9.1 The consultation and if approved the introduction of the draft ASB Strategy will positively contribute to the council plan, particularly in regard to ensuring Chesterfield is a great place to live, work and visit. The strategy and the consultation will ensure that all stakeholders, internal and external partners work together to share information, identify emerging issues, and work together to prevent issues escalating but also intervene early and positively.

9.2 It is believed that this multi-agency approach will positively contribute to reducing levels anti-social behaviour and positively contribute to the environment and wellbeing of our communities across Chesterfield. In addition, the approach set out in the ASB Strategy will support enhancing community safety as an integrated, coordinated, multi-agency approach to further develop trust and confidence within our communities.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1



10.2 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed in consultation with the Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Change Officer, a copy of the full impact assessment can be viewed at Appendix B.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 A preliminary equalities impact assessment is attached at Appendix C.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

12.1 The main risks associated with the consultation on the draft ASB Strategy are shown below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Inappropriate or inadequate responses to the draft strategy.	Medium	Low	Extensive partner engagement to maximise coverage regarding the public consultation	Low	Low
Challenges relating to the proposed strategy	Medium	Low	The draft ASB Strategy has been developed through multi agency engagement to reflect current methodology and priorities.	Low	Low

Decision information

Key decision number	1096
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author	
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Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Draft Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
Appendix B	Climate Change Impact Assessment
Appendix C	Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment