

## For publication

### Approval to adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 - 2025

<b>Meeting:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	14 December 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Cabinet member Health and Wellbeing Cabinet member for Housing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Chesterfield Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, 2022 – 2025.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the new Chesterfield Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be approved and adopted for the period 2022 through to 2025.

#### 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 and improving quality of life for local people by actively contributing to making Chesterfield A great place to live, work and visit.

#### 4.0 Report details

- 4.1 This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 1 November, 2022 where it was resolved that the report and its recommendation be supported and referred to Council for approval.

- 4.2 The proposed 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.
- 4.3 The existing Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and the Housing Service Anti-Social Behaviour Policy both date from the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 4.4 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:

### **Early Intervention and Prevention**

- 4.4 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 early, 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.

### **Enforcement**

- 4.5 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.

### **Diversion**

- 4,6 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. These 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.

### **Communication**

- 4.7 Chesterfield Borough Council will seek to develop effective communication channels with 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 communities of 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.

### **Consultation on the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 – 2025**

- 4.8 The consultation programme for the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy took place between February and August 2022. This programme, in addition to ongoing internal officer engagement, included:
- An online survey for members of the public to respond.
  - A presentation and discussion with the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership.
  - Workshops with external partners including Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire Fire Service and Chesterfield Spire Trust

- 4.9 Comments from partnership agencies include the following:

Superintendent Richard Lambert, North Division Operational Policing Commander said:

“Derbyshire Police recognises the blight of antisocial behaviour and its negative impacts on both the communities and the individuals it affects. We also recognise our role as a key partner to Chesterfield Borough Council and

share the vision set out in this document, as well as the commitment to tackle this kind of behaviour. Working with the partnership, we will help turn this strategy into real-world improvements in the quality of life for the people of Chesterfield.”

Christine Flinton, Head of Community Safety for Derbyshire County Council said:

“Derbyshire County Council supports the work of Chesterfield Borough Council to address anti-social behaviour in Chesterfield. This strategy contributes to the aims of the Derby and Derbyshire Neighbourhood Crime and ASB Board and the countywide multi-agency work that is ongoing to ensure that victims of ASB are the heart of everything we do, through the ASB policies and procedures, risk assessment tools, multi-agency case management system, restorative approaches delivered by Remedi and provision of support from Derbyshire Victim Services.”

Matthew Thompson Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety Officer said:

“The Chesterfield ASB strategy is a good approach to dealing with ASB in the Chesterfield area. This summer has seen a massive increase in the amount of deliberate fire incidents reported to DFRS, and I think the most effective way to counter this problem is with a multi-agency approach to use the right people and resources in the most effective places. This strategy will help tackle the problem of ASB and divert young people away from criminal behaviour and will strengthen communications with partners. I support the approaches, which are displayed in the strategy.”

Jayne Bacon, Community Manager for Chesterfield Football Community Trust said:

“I support the strategy and its core principals of multi-agency working, engagement, early intervention, and diversion. These principals have guided us in the work we have done with partners Using Chesterfield FC and the power of the badge with non-judgements engagement and a desire to implement change for our future generations.”

- 4.10 The online consultation was held over a period of four weeks with eight responses being received. It is recognised that there were a low number of responses to this consultation, but significant consultation had already taken place with key partners and their feedback had already been incorporated into the draft consultation document. The comments and responses are set out in Appendix D.
- 4.11 Feedback from the consultation was extremely positive and supportive of the strategy including its key themes, approach and direction of travel.

- 4.12 Comments from partners within the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership suggested more specific reference to the strategy being victim focused and secondly, how the strategy integrates with the wider anti-social behaviour governance structures within the county.
- 4.13 Following feedback, a Victim Focus approach is now embedded as an important thread throughout strategy and the wider Derbyshire ASB structures and processes are referenced in the strategy's governance structures.
- 4.14 It is pleasing to note that only two revisions as referenced above were needed within the strategy following the public consultation.

## **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 proposed 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 proposed 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 proposed 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

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 proposed 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.

5.2 The preferred option (recommendation,) as covered in this report, supports both the strategic need and operational delivery requirements to maintain high standards in the authority's approach with partners towards tackling ASB.

5.3 The preferred option (recommendation) will support the Council to target resources effectively and efficiently through using the clear framework

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

6.1 No specific financial implications have been identified from the consultation on the strategy.

6.2 To maintain the quality and the desired levels of positive community experience through the proposed ASB strategy the Council, in addition to its general fund resource will continue its highly successful approach to securing external funding (as evidenced through the recent awards of Safer Streets funding) to enable the progressive development of the strategy.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

7.1 The proposed 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.

7.2 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 proposed 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.

7.3 The proposed 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.

## 8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

8.1 No specific human resources implications have been identified from the consultation on the strategy. Going forward, it is anticipated that resource levels will remain as they are currently, subject to the securing of additional external grant funding.

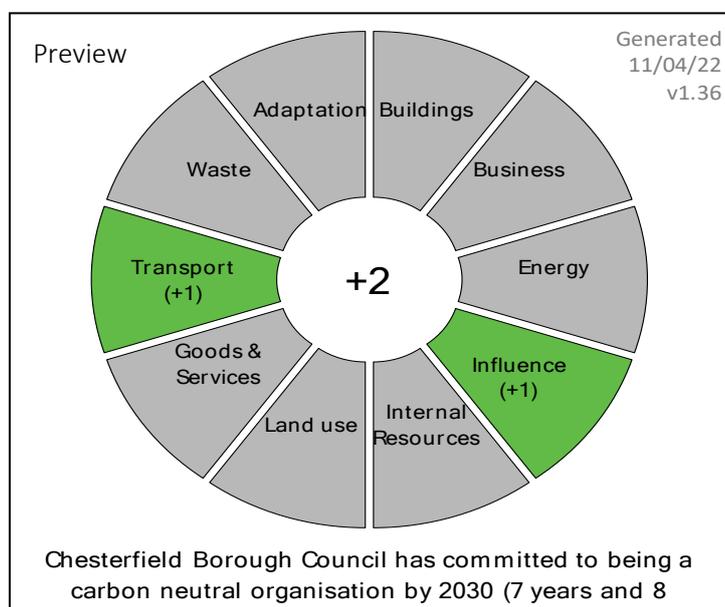
## 9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 The proposed 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, both 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 proposed ASB Strategy will support enhancing community safety as an integrated, coordinated, multi-agency approach to further develop trust and confidence within our communities to enable a consistent problem-solving approach to addressing community concerns.

## 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 and a copy of the 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
Strategy not adopted	Medium	Low	The strategy has been developed to fully reflect national legislation and best practice. It has been informed by a varied evidence base and as such it supports the Council vision and council plan objectives. A full consultation programme has been undertaken to ensure local input and engagement to reflect local need.	Medium	Low
Insufficient resources available to deliver the Chesterfield Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022 – 2025.	Medium	Low	The Council will continue to maximise its use of internal resource and will compliment this by continuing its successful approach of attracting external funding, in parallel with council funding sources, where appropriate, to support the delivery of the strategy. Additionally, the strategy, outlines how the Council will work with partners to coordinate and	Low	Low

			target resources to address emerging issues.		
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### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>1137</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>	
<i>Shaun Morley – Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services</i> <i>Ian Waller – Service Director - Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing</i>	
<b>Background documents</b>	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>Not applicable</i>	
<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	Draft Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy
Appendix B	Climate Change Impact Assessment
Appendix C	Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix D	Consultation responses