



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 January 2024

Report of Councillor Philip Dilks,
Cabinet Member for Planning and
Housing

South Kesteven District Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

Report Author

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The purpose of the report is to notify to the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the intention to take the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy to Cabinet.

The policy addresses how the Council will manage any anti-social behaviour of the occupants of Council owned housing stock.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Notes the contents of the report, policy and appendices**
- 2. Recommends any changes to the policy, if deemed necessary**
- 3. Recommends to Cabinet to approve the draft policy**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Housing that meets the needs of all residents Healthy and strong communities
Which wards are impacted?	All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 Any financial implications associated with the implementation of this policy will need to be met from existing budgets.

Completed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Deputy Director (Finance & ICT) and Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no legal implications arising from the development of this policy. All social housing landlords have a duty to have in place a published policy on Anti-Social Behaviour and which sets out how the Council will react to, and target reported instances of anti-social behaviour. Failure to implement a policy may constitute grounds of complaint.

Completed by: Mandy Braithwaite, Legal Executive

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required?

Yes, this will be undertaken prior to the policy being taken to Cabinet.

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 Statute has existed for many years to tackle types of behaviour that could be deemed as "anti-social". The most recent being the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- 2.2 The legal definition of anti-social behaviour as defined within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) is:
- (a) conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, **harassment, alarm, or distress**, to any person,
 - (b) conduct capable of causing **nuisance or annoyance** to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
 - (c) (c) conduct capable of causing housing-related **nuisance or annoyance** to any person
- 2.3 The strategic aims of the policy are to:
- Tackle the causes and impact of anti-social behaviour;
 - Improve public perceptions and build confidence;
 - Provide support to victims and vulnerable people;
 - Detail the Council's approach to managing anti-social behaviour
- 2.4 The levels of anti-social behaviour for the South Kesteven area remain low in comparison to other areas. The number of cases managed by the local authority has fluctuated over the years. This policy is intended to reassure residents that South Kesteven District Council will continue to work with partners to make this District a safe place to live, work and visit.
- 2.5 Responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of organisations and in particular the police, councils and social landlords. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) is a Lincolnshire wide multi-agency approach, recognising that no one organisation alone can deal with anti-social behaviour in isolation and therefore, partnership working is central to the approach required. They have identified ASB as being a county wide priority for the period 2022-2025. A county-wide ASB policy has also been adopted; this provides a framework for the way all partners and agencies in Lincolnshire respond to ASB.
- 2.6 The policy sets out how ASB can be reported and details the powers and tools used to tackle it.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 Key areas for Members to consider are whether they think the policy covers all matters they would expect to see in an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council considered managing ASB in line with the Lincolnshire wide ASB policy only. However, the Regulator of Social Housing requires the Council to have a local ASB policy specific to the South Kesteven area.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Housing OSC notes the contents of the report, policy and appendix, recommends any changes, if deemed necessary and recommends to Cabinet to approve the draft policy. The reason for this is so that the Council can demonstrate how it manages ASB in South Kesteven.

6. Consultation

6.1 The draft policy was;

- published on the Council's website both in the 'Current Consultations' and 'Tenancy Involvement' sections and was open for feedback over a two week period until the 20th December 2023.
- emailed directly to tenants who had responded to the Tenant Satisfaction Survey and commented regarding ASB issues. This was to c.90 people.
- emailed to members of our Readers Panel, who are tenants and expressed an interest in proof reading documents to check they are written in plain English, makes sense and presented well.

6.2 We have received four responses to the consultation. These are set out in Appendix 1. The responders comments mainly related to the implementation of the policy.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Not applicable

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Policy

8.2 Appendix 2 - Consultation Responses