

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Portfolio Holder, Housing and Organisational Development

REPORT NO: TSE0038

DATE: 3RD August 2009

TITLE:	Anti Social Behaviour Strategy	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key decision	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Paul Carpenter Housing and Organisational Development Portfolio	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jane Booth Service Manager, Tenancy & Neighbourhood Services 01476 406631 j.booth@southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Equality and Diversity	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below: Yes	Full impact assessment Required: No
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet adopt the draft anti social behaviour strategy.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

The new and improved anti social behaviour strategy for Tenancy Services has been revised to reflect legislative changes, the introduction of the RESPECT Standard, best practice and changes to officers working practices.

The strategy is central to the council's approach to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for tenants and residents living in the council's properties. This accords with the council's 'quality living' priority theme.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT (SUMMARY – USE APPENDICES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION)

There are currently two anti social behaviour policies/strategies. One relates to the housing service and the second is a corporate policy covering anti social behaviour as dealt with by the community safety team. The housing anti social behaviour policy was written and adopted in 2005 and are both due for review as part of a regular process. The corporate policy is to be reviewed by the end of this year.

A strategy specific to the landlord service has been developed as this is seen as best practice and was a recommendation of the Audit Commission inspection carried out in April 2008.

The attached strategy was drafted following a specific review of the service. Legislative changes and best practice have been researched from other beacon and 3 star authorities together with guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. All examples of best practice and suitable guidance have been considered and included as appropriate.

The strategy outlines the aims and objectives of the service and explains how tenancy services will tackle and deal with anti-social behaviour. It also includes what we expect of our tenants, preventative measures we will use and how we will monitor our performance.

There are clear linkages between the work carried out by the tenancy services team and the community safety team and the strategy reflects the importance of partnership working with many different agencies.

It has been the subject of consultation with staff, other agencies, tenants and key stakeholders and any suggested changes have been incorporated into the strategy. On the 8th June 2009 the strategy was approved by the Housing Consultative Group, which is a sub group on the Resources PDG.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not updating the strategy is not an option as the current one is no longer fit for purpose.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The aims and objectives of the strategy will be met from existing resources.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key activity in regenerating and sustaining our communities.

The adoption of this policy will ensure that all tenants and residents living on our

estates are aware that anti-social behaviour is not acceptable, will not be tolerated and that we will take firm action to deal with it. There are no significant risks identified.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equalities impact assessment has been carried out (copy attached). A full impact assessment is not required.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The strategy will help us in our obligation to reduce crime and disorder. There are no significant crime and disorder implications.

9. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

Any financial implications arising from the strategy will be met from existing resources.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The need for two strategies is noted, however, there is a need for consistency and link with both strategies. To avoid confusion, this strategy should be referred to as the Tenancy anti-social behaviour strategy or be given some other title indicating the strategy relates to that particular service alone and not to the community as a whole. The strategy has been completely rewritten. The strategy refers to the numerous options available to the Council to tackle alleged anti-social behaviour by tenants of the Council. A clear policy is needed to determine which option will be used for each case of anti-social behaviour.

. Consultation should be extensive and in accordance with the Constitution provisions relating to adoption by Council of policies to be considered as matters of local choice. The comments of the relevant Policy Development Group should have been reported to Cabinet for consideration.

The use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) is often used in association with anti-social behaviour. Reference to the policy relating to the use of RIPA and its importance should be made in this policy.

11. COMMENTS OF OTHER RELEVANT SERVICE MANAGER

Mark Jones- Service Manager – Partnerships and Community Safety Myself and Sandy Kavanagh (Community Safety Officer) are confident that the revisions made to this strategy are fully comprehensive. We are pleased that there is a focus on partnership working with an emphasis on community empowerment. This strategy compliments the Corporate ASB policy.

12. APPENDICES:

- Anti social behaviour strategy
- Equality impact assessment

