

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PLEDGE

Head of Service:	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	None

Summary

Report recommending the Council be part of the ASB Pledge committing the Council to support all those experiencing anti-social behaviour in a consistent and dedicated manner.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree to be part of the ASB Pledge**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 In partnership with other agencies, the Council is central to dealing with many instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB), in the Borough.
- 1.2 A recent exercise revealed the Council has received almost 7,000 complaints of ASB in the past decade ranging from neighbourhood issues, noise nuisance, tall vegetation, bonfires, flytips, and inconsiderate parking.
- 1.3 The modern approach to ASB is to be victim focussed and the Council has various tools to approach each issue ranging from warning notices to more formal options including abatement notices, community protection notices, prosecutions, seizures and injunctions.
- 1.4 In common with other authorities in Surrey, over the past year the Council has been working closely with a victims charity "ASB Help" who have assisted the Community Safety Partnership with certain complex community trigger applications and who have invited the Council to be part of the ASB Pledge.

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2 Background

2.1 ASB Help are promoting a range of benefits which are reproduced as follows:

- **Promote awareness:** Actively encourage the use of the community trigger to residents and partner agencies.
- **Legality:** Confirm your organisation is legally compliant and embracing the spirit of the community trigger.
- **Ensure accessibility:** Publicise the community trigger so the most vulnerable know what it is and how to invoke it.
- **Develop your process:** Embrace the full potential of the community trigger by continually reviewing and learning from best practice.
- **Generate inclusivity:** Use community trigger review meetings to work collaboratively and strategically, formulating solutions to end the anti-social behaviour.
- **Establish a precedent** of using the community trigger to put victims first and deter perpetrators.

3 Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that the Council will sign up and be part of the ASB Pledge.

3.2 Other members of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), notably Surrey Police have signed the ASB Pledge and it is considered equitable that the Council too would indicate its support for this agenda by committing to the principles set out in 2.1 above.

3.3 The Council, as part of the CSP is already part of the community trigger process which is the main thrust of the pledge. Through the Community Trigger mechanism it is possible for victims of ASB to request a review of their case if it meets the Surrey wide threshold criteria for Community trigger.

3.4 The advantage of publicly supporting the ASB Pledge is that ASB Help will be available to assist the Council in reviewing its internal procedures, enabling the Council to consider best practice into the community trigger process as well as the Council making a public statement about the support for victims of ASB in the borough alongside partner agencies who have similarly signed the pledge.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Impact Assessment

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4.1.1 There is expected to be a positive impact on all members of society but particularly those who may have been marginalised through exposure to ongoing ASB.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 There is expected to be a positive impact on the ability of the Council and partner agencies to address ASB, particularly those more difficult cases which result in the use of the community trigger.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 There is likely to be a positive impact on safeguarding.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 There are no known dependencies.

4.5 Other

4.5.1 none

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications to this proposal. Costs associated with the investigation and resolution of ASB issues, and of resourcing community trigger applications are included within the committees existing budget.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The pledge encourages the use of community triggers, a legal mechanism to review instances of ASB that the Council has already implemented to enable members of the public to access the community trigger.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** none arising from the content of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged: Safe and Well

7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** There is a positive impact on community safety.

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7.5 **Partnerships:** The existing statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP), is the strategic body with strategic aims incorporating ASB.

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None

Other papers:

- <https://asbhelp.co.uk/home-practitioners/the-asb-pledge/> [accessed 20/12/2021]