



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
16 MARCH 2004

Report of the Community Regeneration Commission

'Together: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour' National Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

1. That a) the National Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan be commended to Council Cabinet b) it be implemented locally with adequate funding to ensure its success.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The national document promises a comprehensive range of practical steps regarding:

- tackling nuisance neighbours
- tackling beggars
- environmental crime
- putting victims and witnesses first

and evidence that it will be backed by political will and through a strong drive toward multi-agency action, including the criminal justice system.

- 2.2 The Commission were told a local strategy is to follow and this should require a more joined up approach between Derby's Community Safety Partnership, Police, the City Council, Derby Homes, registered social landlords and the community. While much should be delivered through existing resources the Commission noted that the Director of Policy's report included, under financial implications: 'To work in partnership with the *[national]* ASB Unit and link local and national strategy together, will test the capacity of the *[local]* ASB Team within the Community Safety Partnership'. The Commission therefore logs the importance of ensuring adequate resources are available to underpin the local strategy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Andy Thomas attended the Commission meeting, outlined the policy background and key points in 'Together: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour', the Government's national strategy and action plan. Politically anti-social behaviour – ASB - was high on the Government's agenda, tying in with crime and disorder policy, civil renewal and local accountability. The new ASB Act provided new and innovative powers, which were discussed during the question and answer session. The key areas of the Action Plan were:
 - tackling nuisance neighbours

- tackling beggars
- environmental crime
- putting victims and witnesses first

Nationally, a new ASB Unit was being created within the Home Office to provide advice and support to local agencies. The Commission later agreed the recommendation above.

- 3.2 Andy Thomas offered to provide a timetable of implementation dates for the various provisions in the ASB Act; these were subsequently circulated to Commission members and are available to other Members on request from the co-ordination officer (see below).

For more information contact:	Rob Davison 01332 255596 e-mail rob.davison@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	All public domain
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Too soon to quantify.

Legal

- 2.1 There is a statutory duty under sections 5 and 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the City Council as “responsible authority” to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime within its boundaries. That is delivered through the Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.
- 2.2 Under Section 17 of that same Act, it is a duty of the City Council “to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area”.
- 2.3 Section 38 makes it the duty of the City Council, acting in co-operation with partner bodies, to secure that, to such extent as is appropriate for the area, all youth justice services are available here. Under Section 37, the principal aim of the youth justice system to prevent offending by children and young and persons and the Council and its partners must have regard to that aim when carrying out their responsibilities under Section 38.
- 2.4 Under paragraph 7 of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989: every local authority with social services responsibilities shall take reasonable steps designed (a) to reduce the need to bring criminal proceedings against children within their area (b) to encourage such children not to commit criminal offences and (c) to avoid the need for children within their area to be placed in secure accommodation.

- 2.5 The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 became law in January 2004 and the associated high profile national media coverage of the new powers is likely to raise public expectations about the response by local authorities and partner agencies. The various provisions are being phased in.
- 2.6 The Audit Commission consultation document *CPA 2005 – the way ahead* strongly indicates that i) crime reduction and prevention ii) anti-social behaviour, iii) drug and substance misuse and iv) community cohesion, race equality and addressing disadvantage are likely to become factors considered as part of the theme *stronger and safer communities* and from 2005 impact on the City Council's CPA rating.

Personnel

3. None directly arising.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

4. The local implementation of the national action plan can promote the following three *Corporate Objectives*: • strong and positive neighbourhoods • protecting and supporting people • shops, commercial and leisure activities and this *Priority for Change*: 8. Enhance the community leadership role of the Council both at strategic and neighbourhood level, through partnership working and listening to, and communicating, with the public.

