

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 29 JANUARY 2019

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY STEERING
GROUP**

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: JO MERCER / COUNCILLOR PETER
CREW**

KEY DECISION: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the development of the community safety initiatives which the Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group has reviewed;
2. Supports the continued focus on addressing anti-social behaviour in North Somerset by the Community Response team and a range of colleagues and partner organisations;
3. Supports the continued development of the 'One Council' approach with all officer teams in the field being encouraged to proactively take opportunities to address and enforce anti-social behaviour activity across the district;
4. Support the use of focused monthly 'days of action' to target key issues. It is proposed that the first priority to be addressed through 'days of action' in March 2019 should be dog fouling;
5. Endorses the use of clear and effective communication to enforce the positive messages resulting from the community safety initiatives being implemented, and further consideration of the various ways in which this could be developed;
6. Supports the review and upgrade of the CCTV system and the negotiation of a joint approach with the four Town Councils in North Somerset.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group has reviewed and influenced the development of a range of community safety work areas including the use of anti-social behaviour tools and powers (particularly Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)), CCTV, Community Response and communications.
- 1.2 At the most recent meeting of the Steering Group, members received updates about anti-social behaviour enforcement activity, Community Response, CCTV and communications. A number of questions focussed on action to tackle dog fouling and

the use of PSPOs. Members agreed a number of actions which are set out as recommendations in this report.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 North Somerset Council's Community Safety priorities (including tackling anti-social behaviour) are set out in the People and Communities Strategy and the Joint Police and Crime Plan. The development of both these plans included input from the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel.
- 2.2 Tackling anti-social behaviour supports the vision and ambition of the council to "build and sustain great places to live and visit that are vibrant, accessible and safe".
- 2.2 The implementation of PSPOs is a key project delivered in line with Development & Environment's (D&E) Annual Directorate Statement.
- 2.3 The Community Response Team is pivotal in identifying local problems and developing strategies and action plans to deal with them. The team is well placed within the Safer and Stronger Communities Service to work with community safety, CCTV and partner agencies to tackle key issues with local communities.
- 2.4 There are many types of action that can be taken depending on the nature of the problem. One size does not fit all and therefore all appropriate sanctions will be considered in line with our enforcement policy. A link to our enforcement policy can be found in background papers.
- 2.5 Enforcement action may not be appropriate in all circumstances. National policy and guidance is not to disproportionately target certain groups in some areas.

3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel has received detailed reports during 2018 setting out the Council's approach to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which were introduced across the district at the end of October 2017 (see background papers).
- 3.2 Previous reports have noted that ticket books have been issued to Council staff, Police officers the Business Improvement Team (BIT) and the British Transport Police. Fines have now been issued and we are now starting to see the first prosecutions progress through the system. The recent meeting of the Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group noted this positive progress and agreed that this momentum should be built upon. Members were keen to see proactive involvement (including enforcement) in relation to anti-social behaviour by the full range of staff who have received training and ticket books. The potential to extend training to some additional staff groups was also noted.
- 3.3 Anti-social behaviour that cannot be addressed specifically by a PSPO can be tackled using Community Protection Warnings and Notices (CPW/CPNs) and other legislative tools. More information on ASB tools and powers can be found in background papers. During the 9 months to the end of December 2018, there have been 47 Community Protection Warnings, 11 Community Protection Notices and 8

Criminal Behaviour Orders issued in North Somerset. This reflects an increased level of enforcement activity amongst partner agencies and suggests effective use of early interventions as most warnings have not escalated to notices or orders.

- 3.4 The Community Safety Steering Group noted particular concerns about dog fouling and how to effectively tackle this. There was some discussion about the responses which are already in place. Members suggested that 'days of action' to tackle key issues would be helpful and officers agreed to develop this approach in relation to dog fouling with 'days of action' in March.
- 3.5 The development of the Community Response Team has also been considered in reports to the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel in 2018 (see background papers). Members received an update on the work of the Community Response team at the recent meeting of the Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group. They were supportive of the approach being taken by the team including joint work with the Police and CCTV colleagues and encouraged recruitment as soon as possible to the current Community Response Officer vacancy.
- 3.6 Members were also very pleased to see further development of communication about the work of the Safer Stronger Communities service including the Community Response Team. They noted positive developments on the Safer and Stronger North Somerset website including an interactive map of current issues being dealt with by Community Response which can be seen at www.saferstrongerns.co.uk/our-services/communityresponse/ Members were keen to see this work continue.
- 3.7 Members suggested that in addition to the development of existing communications, it would be helpful to produce a newsletter which could be circulated to Council Members and other stakeholders. This would provide an opportunity to highlight the successful community safety work taking place including: levels of intervention and enforcement activity, development of a Best Bar None scheme and Purple Flag.
- 3.8 The Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group also received an update on work to commission an upgrade of the CCTV system which they strongly supported. A joint approach is planned with the Town Councils in North Somerset. To date there have been positive discussions with Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare Town Councils. Further discussions are planned, including with Nailsea and Portishead Town Councils. The members of the Community Safety Scrutiny Steering Group

supported this cohesive approach with the Town Councils and offered their assistance with this work.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The steering group have met regularly and informed the various projects throughout.
- 4.2 Consultation was undertaken to introduce the PSPOs we currently have in the district. Any newly proposed PSPO orders would need to follow a similar process.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 PSPOs were brought in under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in 2014, which came in to force on 20 October 2017. Previous detailed reports setting out these legal powers and implications can be seen in the background papers.
- 6.2 There is no current need to review the PSPOs in place at the present time as we are satisfied that they are in line with the revised guidance. They will be routinely reviewed in 2020 in accordance with legislation. The proposals identified for future consultation in the report to the Executive of 20 June 2017 will need to be reconsidered in light of the revised guidance.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY STEERING GROUP:

Councillors:

Peter Crew (Chairman)

James Clayton

Terry Porter (CCO Panel Chairman)

Peter Burden

Mark Canniford

Donald Davies

Sarah Codling

Richard Nightingale

David Oyns

AUTHORS

Jo Mercer

Service Manager, Safe and Stronger Communities

Corporate Services Directorate

North Somerset Council

Tel: 01934 426880

E-Mail: jo.mercer@n-somerset.gov.uk

Post: Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ

Philippa Penney
Electoral Services and Scrutiny Manager
Corporate Services Directorate
North Somerset Council
Tel: 01275 884010
E-Mail: philippa.penney@n-somerset.gov.uk
Post: Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CCO Panel Meeting Papers- 13 March 2018

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx219-2017.asp>

CCO Panel Meeting Papers- 9 October 2018

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx219-2018.asp>