



CABINET

Tuesday, 07 June 2022

Subject	Anti Social Behaviour Policy
Report by	Councillor Mark Jepson Assistant Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Supporting Officer	Rachel Tucker ASB Transformation Coordinator Rachel.tucker@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To seek adoption of an updated and revised Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy for 2022.

Options:

Retention of the existing ASB Policies. However, this does not reflect current ways of working or the latest ASB legislation changes implemented by the Antisocial Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014.

Adoption of a new ASB Policy 2022, written in consultation with all East Suffolk Teams which have a responsibility for tackling ASB. This revised policy aligns activities around ASB and promotes joint working between these departments for the benefit of all East Suffolk Council Residents.

Recommendation/s:

That the revised Antisocial Behaviour Policy 2022, attached as Appendix A, be adopted and authority be delegated to the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, to make minor changes to the policy to accommodate evolving requirements of the service and changes to legislation and guidance.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

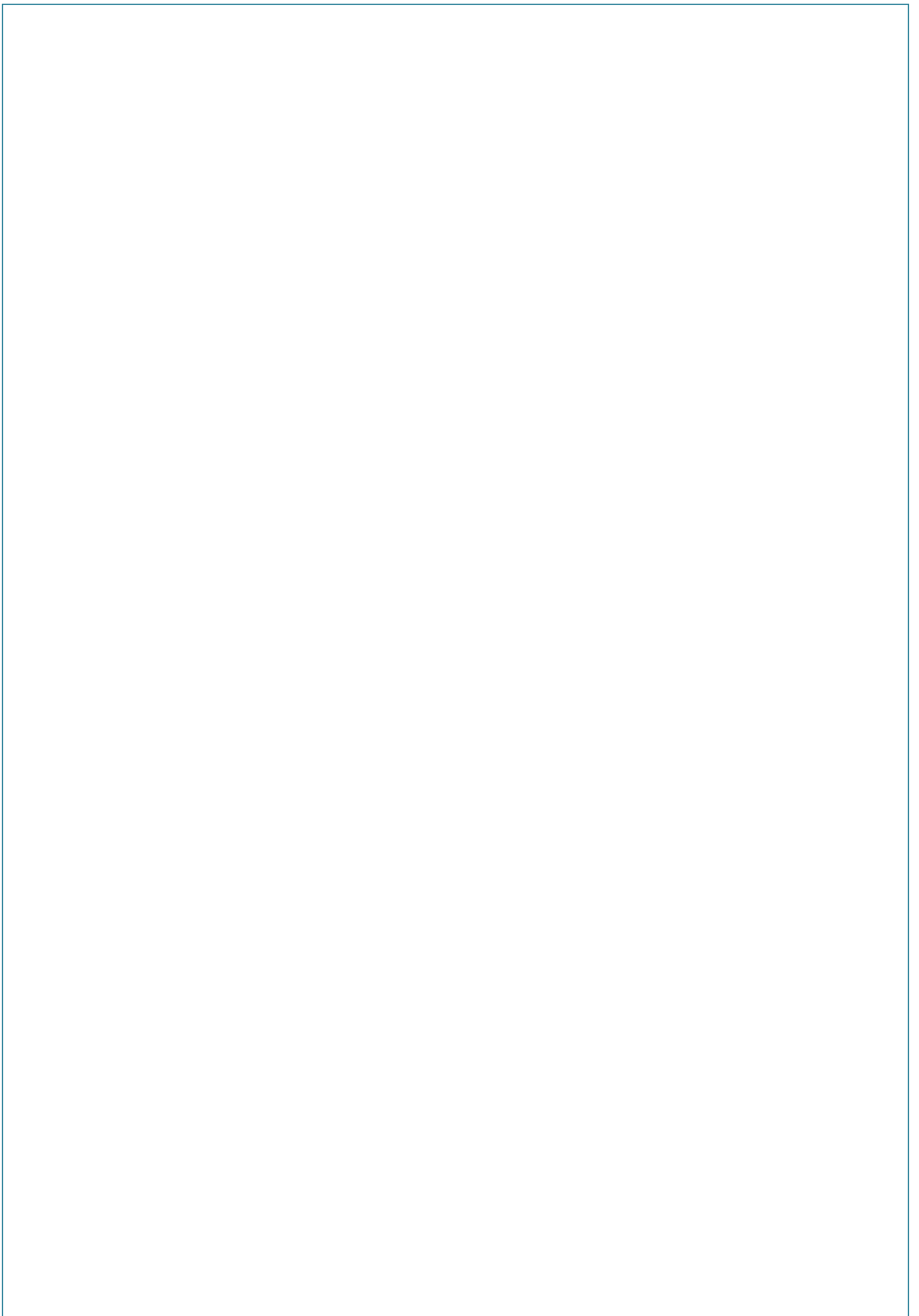
ASB policy involves several Council teams, including the Environmental Protection Team, the Communities Team, and the Tenancy Services Team. These teams have a range of roles including receiving reports of ASB, undertaking investigations against various criteria, including tenancy conditions, statutory nuisance, and community safety. In undertaking these roles, the respective teams often find their workloads overlapping. An Anti-Social Behaviour Policy helps to define the processes by which these teams will collaborate and co-operate in dealing with ASB across these service areas, with the aim to provide a coherent and efficient service in pursuit of the council's statutory obligations and strategic objectives.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

Clearer definition of the interactions with other service areas will assist in delivery of the council's strategic objective "maximising health, well-being and safety in our District" and "Protection, education and influence", particularly around specific statutory functions relating to Environmental Protection, such as statutory nuisance, dog control and waste management and policies.

The policy will also impact upon strategies governing our role as a housing provider, contributing to the strategic objective of "leading by example".

Environmental: Clarification of arrangements for consistent and collaborative working across teams with responsibilities for dealing with ASB also contributes to the Environment strategic objective "Protection, education and influence"



Equalities and Diversity:

Appropriate planning, management, and implementation of the council's activities in pursuit of its responsibilities regarding ASB will always require appropriate consideration of vulnerabilities of victims and perpetrators, including (but not restricted to) prescribed 'protected characteristics'. This subject is covered in detail in the policy.

Financial:

There are no additional financial implications. The policy relates to existing obligations across several teams and to the use of existing staffing resource. Implementation of the policy will result in the needs of service users being met more effectively and efficiently with no additional resource implications.

Human Resources:

No implications – as outlined above the Policy reflects the activities of existing Teams.

ICT:

No implications

Legal:

Dealing with ASB effectively will help in securing compliance with the council's legal obligations across several service areas, including dealing with statutory nuisance, managing tenancies effectively and engaging with vulnerable individuals and groups.

Risk:

Failure to adopt effective and appropriate policies regarding ASB creates a risk of the council failing in its statutory duties and ineffective use of resources in discharging its functions under the various statutory provisions.

External Consultees:	N/A
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Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education, and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</p> <p>Effective discharge of the Council's various functions in respect of ASB will provide transparency for service users in how the council proposes to meet their needs. It will also provide some clarity on the mechanisms in place to ensure cooperative and collaborative working between the respective teams, with the aim of achieving more efficient and effective services for the community This will have a direct influence on the council's strategic objectives regarding 'Taking positive action' 'maximising health and wellbeing' and 'community pride' (T02 Enabling Our Communities) and 'protection, education and influence' (T05 Caring for Our Environment).</p>			

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	The most recent Anti-Social Behaviour Policy was developed in 2011 – it is now out of date and not fit for purpose
1.2	Political/ Organisational change - The previous policies pre-date the formation of East Suffolk Council and the current Strategic Plan. The formation of East Suffolk Council from the two predecessor authorities brought together two organisations which operated in distinctly different ways in relation to ASB, due to the different priorities of the predecessor Authorities and the type of problems they were seeking to tackle.
1.3	Legislation changes – Existing policies also reference older legislation, some of which is out of date, repealed and replaced by later statutory provisions which are not referenced. Hence, the political and legislative framework has changed significantly, necessitating a review of the ASB policies.

2 Current position	
2.1	Previous policies relate to individual parts of the organisation, with little reference to collaborative working between teams and areas of joint activity.
2.2	Legislation introduced in 2014 (the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014) places a great deal of emphasis on consultation, communication and collaborative working between agencies with a role in dealing with ASB.
2.3	Current policies do not address these requirements adequately or take account of the changes introduced by the 2014 Act.
2.4	Whilst collaborative working has evolved to meet many of the needs of the legislative and organisational changes which have occurred since the last policy updates, these have evolved organically and are not captured in any formal policy or process, which means the system of handling ASB in the organisation is opaque and not easy for service users or partner organisations to understand or navigate. Service users' needs have not always been accurately assessed and allocated to appropriate teams for further processing, leading to duplication and confusion.

3 How to address current situation	
3.1	<p>The Policy includes our aims and objectives, a definition of ASB, outlines our role in supporting victims, witnesses, and perpetrators, as well as providing updated information about ASB Case Reviews, our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and includes details of how to complain if people are not happy with the service that we provide.</p> <p>A revision of ASB policy is due. The proposed revised policy has been developed collaboratively by the Communities, Environmental Protection and Housing Teams and is attached as Appendix A to this report.</p>

3.2	Whilst the evolution of services has gone some way to accommodate the need for adopting a consistent approach, a revised and formally adopted policy will also assist in providing direction for the service teams involved.
3.3	The policy captures some of the changed and improved practices which have evolved with the formation of East Suffolk Council and reflects updates in legislation.
3.4	The lack of transparency for service users and partner organisations can be addressed by ensuring the policy is made available on the council's website, including in accessible formats. It will also be promoted appropriately to reach those to whom it is most likely to be of use. This will include ensuring content is summarised and distributed through appropriate channels, for example, to housing tenants. This will also provide a better and more efficient service for residents to contact the team that can assist them.
3.5	The policy will be kept under review as necessary in the light of emerging legislation or other significant relevant changes or in 3 years from the date of adoption, whichever is the sooner.

4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The current policy needs revision and updating as outlined above and the revised document recommended for adoption fulfils that need.
4.2	The policy will allow us to actively work in partnership across all relevant teams in the Council and provide a joined-up approach.

Appendices

Appendices:

Appendix A	Anti Social Behaviour Policy 2022
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Background reference papers:

Date	Type	Available From
2014	The Anti Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014	Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)
2014	Anti Social behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 Statutory Guidance	ASBC&D Act 2014 Statutory Guidance