

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2022

**ANGUS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY
2021-2026**

**REPORT BY
ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval for the updated Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021–2026, following the expiry of the previous strategy.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (ii) notes the contents of this report and approves the Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021–2026 as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit
- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 requires each local authority and Police Scotland to jointly produce a written strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour for the local authority area.
- 3.2. This strategy considers the legislative and strategic context; our current approach and roles and responsibilities of key partners; and local trends and issues to set out the actions that are required to meet the strategic outcomes.
- 3.3. To help inform the development of the strategy, research was undertaken with partners and stakeholders from February to September 2020. A survey was developed and participants were asked a series of questions about their experiences of antisocial behaviour in Angus, what approaches they felt would best address the issues identified and challenges in responding to antisocial behaviour. The survey was completed using a combination of face to face interviews, as well as video call and telephone conversations. A number of partners participated in the survey, including Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Community Housing Teams, the Community Investigations and Resolutions team, Communities teams, Justice teams and our Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners Hillcrest Homes and Angus Housing Association.
- 3.4. A survey was issued to Angus citizens to obtain their views about antisocial behaviour and respondents were offered the opportunity to meet individually to get more detailed feedback.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1. The Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021-26 sets out how Angus Council, Police Scotland and Community Planning partners will achieve the vision that 'Angus is a good place to live , work and visit'. Three strategic outcomes support this vision which are:
- antisocial behaviour in Angus is reduced by adopting a preventative approach
 - collaboration and partnership working is at the heart of our approach to tackling antisocial behaviour
 - improved awareness and understanding of community needs through feedback and engagement with communities to address local antisocial behaviour issues.
- 4.2. The outcomes are supported by an action plan which clearly articulates the actions required to achieve the outcomes and how progress will be monitored.
- 4.3. The Angus Safer Communities Forum (previously known as Angus Community Safety Partnership) was previously established as an information sharing and planning forum to ensure that people in Angus could live in confidence and without fear for their own or other people's safety and included representation from Police Scotland, Angus Council, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and third sector organisations. It was supported by a Joint Services Team with resources from Angus Council and Police Scotland to address community safety in Angus. Following a service redesign in 2018, the Joint Services Team was disbanded, Police Scotland resources were re-located, and a Community Investigations & Resolutions Team was established within the Housing service.
- 4.4. Angus Council, Police Scotland and other partner agencies continue to take a proactive approach to antisocial behaviour based on support and early intervention. In recent years there have been changes to the operational arrangements for teams involved in antisocial behaviour, however, this has not altered the need for strong joint working relationships.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1. This strategy aims to deliver services that benefit the local community by identifying local concerns and then working together with partners and with local people to address those concerns. A wide evidence base and consultations with partners have been used to identify priorities and outcomes for this strategy.
- 5.2. The strategy document provides the proposed structure for delivery of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy in Angus to ensure that the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy is well embedded in the Community Planning Partnership. The partnership will take a lead role in bringing partners together to identify and resolve local issues relating to antisocial behaviour and other community safety matters. The Community Planning Partnership, at their meeting on 27 October 2021, approved the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy and proposed structure.
- 5.3. Stakeholders recognised that tackling antisocial behaviour is not the responsibility of one single agency and identified the importance of working together and sharing relevant information at a local level. This ensures that those individuals or groups whose behaviour is considered antisocial are identified as early as possible and action is taken; and that those individuals, groups or communities who become victims of antisocial behaviour are given support and assistance. Stakeholders strongly supported a focus on prevention and early intervention, and identified a number of measures that they felt are successful in tackling antisocial behaviour.
- 5.4. The strategy document outlines key outcomes and priorities to work towards during the lifetime of the strategy, how to achieve them and how the success will be measured.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the content of this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The Chief Executive has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The draft strategy has also been widely circulated to:

- The public in an online consultation
- Relevant members of Angus Council and partner agency staff
- Tenants of the Council through established Housing Division consultation
- Any external bodies as appropriate

A summary of consultation responses is included in Appendix 2.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2021-26

Appendix 2 – Summary Consultation Survey Results