

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2005

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY FOR EAST AYRSHIRE 2005-2008

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request Members to approve the content of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy for East Ayrshire and authorise its publication.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on each local authority and the relevant chief constable to prepare a strategy for dealing with anti-social behaviour in the authority's area.
- 2.2 Guidance on the production of an Anti-social Behaviour Strategy has been produced by the Scottish Executive and this can be viewed on their web site at www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/asbs2

3. CORE SECTION

- 3.1 The Act provides a range of new legal tools – in the areas of justice, the environment, housing and child welfare – designed to enable local authorities and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour more effectively.
- 3.2 The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy for East Ayrshire 2005 - 2008 forms part of a wider national strategy for tackling antisocial behaviour and aims to bring about a step change in people's attitudes and behaviour. In common with the national strategy the strategy for East Ayrshire will focus on four strategic aims:
- Protecting and empowering communities
 - Preventing antisocial behaviour by working with children and families
 - Building safe, secure and attractive communities
 - Effective enforcement.
- 3.3 In accordance with statutory requirements the Council and the Police have in the preparation of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy consulted with:
- the Principal Reporter
 - registered social landlords with properties in East Ayrshire

- community bodies and other persons considered appropriate including young persons and the representatives of people adversely affected by antisocial behaviour.

The consultation process with these bodies will continue as and when the strategy is reviewed and revised.

3.4 Following the Executive's guidance the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy sets out:

- an assessment of the extent and types of occurrences of anti-social behaviour in East Ayrshire
- the arrangements for consulting community bodies and others in areas where antisocial behaviour is a problem or becomes a problem about how it will be dealt with
- the range and availability in the Council's area of services for people generally, young people under 16 years, victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour and people involved in neighbour disputes
- how the Council and the Chief Constable will work jointly to deal with anti-social behaviour, how they will coordinate their functions and how they will exchange information relating to antisocial behaviour.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The management of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy will be met from Scottish Executive grants under the Second Round Funding programme to tackle anti-social behaviour until March 2006. Further financial arrangements by the Scottish Executive to fund the Strategy until March 2008 will be announced in the near future.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The preparation and publication of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy for East Ayrshire ensures that the Council and the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police comply with the statutory duty imposed on them by Part 1 of the Antisocial Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The development of an Anti-social Behaviour Strategy for East Ayrshire complements the aims of the Improving Community Safety Action Plan 2003-2007 of the Community Plan, and those outlined in the East Ayrshire Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009.

7. EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

- 7.1 Members should note that the strategy is due to be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Planning Partners Joint Officers Group on 22 March 2005 for endorsement by all the Community Planning Partners.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 East Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Police and their Community Planning Partners have frequently shown their commitment to tackling the damaging effects of anti-social behaviour in our communities. The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy will further enhance the existing close working relationships of the Community Planning Partners, facilitate a greater knowledge of the nature and extent of anti-social behaviour in East Ayrshire and provide local solutions to local problems.
- 8.2 The East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership has the vision that its Community Plan is and should be seen by all interested parties to be the sovereign planning document for the area and that working jointly with Partners, including the Scottish Executive, we should seek to rationalise the requirement to produce separate plans such as one for Anti-social Behaviour, which we would see as simply being part of our Improving Community Safety theme within the Community Plan.
- 8.3 Indeed, the desire to avoid the submission of separate strategies for topics such as anti-social behaviour, would be consistent with the associated planning guidance that accompanies the Local Government in Scotland Act, 2003, which tasks Community Planning Partnerships to rationalise and simplify the cluttered landscape of strategic plans. More recently, the Statutory Guidance issued by the Executive in April 2004 confirms the requirement to rationalise strategic plans and operating structures.
- 8.4 In meeting the Executive's request to prepare a separate strategic plan for anti-social behaviour, the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership would respectfully request that the Executive seeks to minimise any future demands for strategy documents which could more effectively be addressed within the Community Planning context.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee are recommended to:
- (i) approve the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy appended to this report for submission to the Scottish Executive subject to any minor contextual changes agreed at the Community Planning Partners Joint Officers Group meeting to be held on 22 March 2005.

- (ii) note that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services will provide a report on the progress of the strategy's action plan after 30 September 2005
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/JP/LA

22 February 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. The Antisocial Behaviour Etc (Scotland) Act 2004**
- 2. Scottish Executive's Guidance on Antisocial Behaviour Strategies**

For further information, please contact John Pilkington, Antisocial Behaviour Strategy Officer on 01563 576616.

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