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## **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for 2010/2011**

To: **Cabinet – 17th June 2010**

Main Portfolio Area: **Community Services**

By: **Mark Richardson – Community Safety Manager  
Madeline Homer – Landlord Services Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All wards**

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**Summary:** The over-arching aim of this strategy for the next 12 months is to forge a stronger partnership between the Community Safety Unit, TDC Landlord Services, Orbit and the Mediation Service in the pursuit of tackling anti-social behaviour, protecting victims and improving confidence in the services provided.

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Thanet District Council have a responsibility to do all that It can to consider and respond to crime and disorder issues in its area under two key pieces of legislation: the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- 1.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gives the council a statutory duty to consider crime, anti social behaviour and the fear of crime in its area under section 17 of this provision. The same act also made it mandatory to establish a crime and disorder reduction partnership. In Thanet we have the Thanet Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.3 The Community Safety Unit is the lead agency for tackling the worse cases of anti-social behaviour in Thanet for both Kent Police and Thanet District Council and have at their disposal a vast tool kit of powers to apply proportionately to each case.
- 1.4 Landlord Services at TDC is committed to promoting a safe and secure environment in which tenants, leaseholders and visitors can live peacefully and enjoy a good quality of life. The department recognises that the quality of life of a community can be seriously eroded by ASB.

Officers from Landlord Services firmly believe that everyone has the right to enjoy life in their own way providing they do not cause nuisance or annoyance to neighbours.

- 1.5 The purpose of developing a new joint annual anti-social behaviour strategy along with Orbit and the Mediation Service is to ensure that all actions are worked on jointly and the most efficient course of action is chosen to deal with the issues quickly and proficiently.

#### **2.0 The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010 / 2011**

- 2.1 The new and first anti-social behaviour strategy for Thanet targets four key priority areas of supporting victims and witnesses, delivering enforcement in the worse cases, ensuring that all other cases are dealt with using prevention and diversion and that the services are persistently looking to raise standards in services to residents.

- 2.2 The key targets within the strategy that the four agencies are looking to target are a reduction in overall anti-social behaviour incidents by 5%, a reduction in perceived high levels of anti-social behaviour by 3.5% and an improvement in the public's perception and confidence in the police and council in tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 Key actions within the strategy that are being delivered within the next 12 months are the introduction of a victims and witnesses service for the worse cases in ASB to ensure that residents feel comfortable providing evidence and attending court, continued use of the ASB toolkit including ASBO's, dispersal orders and crack house closures and a roll out of additional CCTV cameras in particular in housing blocks.
- 2.4 As well as a strong focus on enforcement there will be an improved resource to tackle cases before they get to that stage using tools such as acceptable behaviour agreements, mediation and referrals to diversionary activity such as sport 4 NRG.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial**

- 3.1.1 There are no specific costs within this report that are not already covered by the councils budgets or the external grant funding associated with Thanet Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.1.2 The partnership receives funding from the Kent Partnership, the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Group in the Home Office along with smaller pots of money from other Government departments in order to run specific initiatives in Thanet.

#### **3.2 Legal**

- 3.2.1 As outlined in the introduction to this report, the council has statutory responsibilities around community safety firstly from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider community safety issues and respond to them, from the Police and Justice Act 2006 to scrutinise issues and finally through that act to adhere to national standards.
- 3.2.2 Thanet District Council, through work carried out by the Community Safety Unit; adhere to both pieces of legislation and the national standards.

#### **3.3 Corporate**

- 3.3.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010/11 forms the basis along with resident surveys to the council's corporate response to Anti-Social Behaviour. All priority projects listed within priority two of the corporate plan fit within the priorities outlined within the Strategy.

#### **3.4 Equity and Equalities**

- 3.4.1 There are no issues involving equalities and diversity. The strategic assessment would highlight any issues regarding racism and discrimination if it were assessed as a priority issue for the Thanet District.

### **4.0 Recommendation(s)**

- 4.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010/11 be reviewed and any comments or alterations be given to the Community Safety Unit to be included in the final published document.
- 4.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010/11 be endorsed by the Cabinet as Thanet District Council's plan of action to tackle and target anti-social behaviour in Thanet

## **5.0 Decision Making Process**

5.1 This report and Annex is given to Cabinet for approval as the endorsed Thanet District Council ASB Strategy for 2010/2011

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### ***Annex List***

Annex 1	Thanet Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2010/11
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