

Councillor Vimal Choksi
Executive Member
Towns & Communities

Julian Jackson
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Chair of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Claire Reid

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Ask for Paul Radcliffe
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Dear Councillor Choksi,

Draft ASB Policy

I write on behalf of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel. Following a meeting on 12 September 2023, members received a draft version of the Council's Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy. Thank you for sharing the paper with us and I can confirm that members have taken time to review the content and provide feedback that will hopefully help to inform and support the final document.

Anti-social behaviour impacts the lives of residents and communities across the borough and therefore must remain in place as a key priority for the Council and our Community Safety Partnership (CSP). For local residents and businesses, behaviour and offences related to ASB can have devastating and long-standing impacts. Scrutiny therefore welcomes the development of a local policy and the intention to remain focused on reducing the cumulative impact that ASB can have on victims.

The Scrutiny Panel wishes to submit a collective response in support of the Council's ASB Policy. This letter therefore aims to provide a summary of collective points and I would be extremely grateful if you can take the appropriate action to record the responses and take forward any points you consider will strengthen the policy.

I have listed some of the main points below, which are to be viewed as individual responses from members, under the collective of the Council's Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel.

- Tameside Council and the Community Safety Partnership are taking positive steps that affirm ASB as a priority issue. The ASB Policy not only highlights the importance and seriousness of related behaviour and offences, but is also underpinned by a commitment to reduce the incidence and impacts of ASB in Tameside.
- Anti-social behaviour is a significant contributing factor as to why people may not feel safe in their local area and therefore related issues must be treated with vigour and urgency they deserve.

- Within the section titled 'Policy Statement and Commitment', this could provide an opportunity to open with a pledge or aspiration for the borough e.g, In Tameside everyone has the right to live without fear of facing anti-social behaviour.
- Within the same section and in addition to the Corporate Plan reference, it feels important that a specific line is also added regarding the ASB commitments detailed within Priority 3 of our Community Safety Strategy. To also add greater emphasis that this requires a comprehensive and committed partnership approach in order to succeed.
- To consider whether the policy is clear in its understanding and methods to address the local issues that drive ASB. That while discouraging and deterring ASB, further opportunities can be explored to consider a range of proactive and preventative measures, informed by intelligence.
- That the ASB Policy and related projects remain focused on the ability to work with and for our residents and businesses to tackle related issues. Notwithstanding, the need to acknowledge and consider the broader/unwritten roles and responsibilities placed upon the conduct and behaviour of local citizens.
- The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 seeks to place victims at the heart of local responses to ASB and this is something that Scrutiny members want to ensure is working as effectively as possible in Tameside. Empowering victims, the awareness of rights and the swift action taken against perpetrators. Through ASB case reviews (Community Triggers), victims of ASB be offered the opportunity to review responses where problems continue, to ensure the Council and partners have done all they can to intervene and take further action where needed.
- Within the section titled 'Our approach and responsibilities', to avoid any possible doubt can the responsible authorities be named for the purpose of a local policy? Namely:
 - Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Greater Manchester Police (Tameside Division)
 - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
 - National Probation Service
 - Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (Tameside Provider Partnership) – no longer CCG.
- For the purpose of clarity, under section 2 of the policy, to clearly present the tools and powers available to the Council and CSP in their leading roles in tackling ASB. While some detail on this is provided within the title of 'Actions we can take', there is a possible benefit to separate actual powers from the actions/options available. To incorporate the following tools and a brief summary:
 - Community Trigger
 - Community Remedy
 - Injunction
 - Criminal Behaviour Order
 - Police Dispersal
 - Community Protection Notice
 - Public Spaces Protection Order
 - Closure Power
- In addition to the sound monitoring equipment are there additional options for evidence to be gathered and reported with the use of visual monitoring? - e.g, cameras, CCTV, pictures, video.
- To consider whether appropriate to add or make reference to examples of ASB that may be closely or directly connected to issues of equality and/or protected characteristics – such issues will/may be considered and acted upon as a hate crime and referred to the responsible authority e.g, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation etc.

- Detail on how ASB reporting and responses are to be measured and the impact or outcomes from this work – governance arrangements e.g monitored closely by CSP or a sub-group of. How we will learn from resolution and complaints.
- To incorporate a further statement or commitment regarding the ongoing education and awareness of ASB. Raising awareness of the harms caused by ASB, roles of education and youth provision/services to deter and deflect known behaviour within certain areas or age profiles.
- While the policy does mention social landlords and other departments like environmental health, are there any direct actionable links with private landlords?

I am keen to ensure the Scrutiny Panel remains suitably updated on key developments related to ASB and wider community safety initiatives.

If further clarity is needed on any of the above points, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Claire Reid

Chair – Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel