

<b>Committees:</b> Community and Children’s Services Committee – For decision Police Authority Board – For decision Policy and Resources – For decision	<b>Dated:</b> 13/12/2023  13/12/2023 14/12/2023
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Communities and Children’s Services	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Valeria Cadena, Community Safety Manager, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to share with members the new City of London Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy. In the Square Mile, the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police are the first responders to incidents of anti-social behaviour. The policy aims to bring clarity to members and the public on how the city deals with all the different types of ASB.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Support the publication of the ASB Policy.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City of London is a safe and pleasant place to live, work and visit, with low levels of crime compared to other areas. However, its unique geographical area and authority presents complex problems that are unique to this area. Issues range from having a distinctive ASB challenge to supervising a safer, vibrant and modern night-time economy.

2. To bring clarity on how we deal with ASB in the Square Mile, the Department of Community and Children's Services, in partnership with other corporation departments and City of London Police have produced a new ASB Policy (Appendix 1) to share with our communities.
3. The Government definition of ASB according to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is:
  - Conduct that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress to any person
  - Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or
  - Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.
4. The definition is quite broad and covers a wide range of behaviours. It may include, but it is not limited to, noise, physical violence, intimidation, harassment, verbal or written abuse, threats of violence, vandalism, drug misuse and drug dealing, environmental nuisance, and hate crime.
5. Anti-social behaviour can be categorised into three main types, depending on how people are affected:
  - a. Personal anti-social behaviour: when a person targets a specific individual or group.
  - b. Nuisance anti-social behaviour: when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
  - c. Environmental anti-social behaviour: when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.
6. The City of London Police are one of the Square Mile's first responders and are responsible for dealing with ASB reports that fall outside of the remit of the Corporation. This will include public disorder, crime, and nuisance behaviour.
7. There are no set guidelines on when ASB becomes a criminal offence and fundamentally a police issue. However, often the actual act may be criminal and the behaviour before during or after the act may be considered ASB.
8. The Corporation has teams within the departments of Public Protection, City Operations, and Community and Children's Services that respond to ASB. The Housing Service, Noise Service and Street Enforcement Officers within those departments have public procedures in place for how their officers address ASB.
9. The 2022–2025 City of London Safer City Partnership Strategy has seven priorities, with a view to deliver on its mission statement: "To make the Square Mile a safe place for people to live, learn, work or visit". Reducing and preventing

Neighbourhood Crime and anti-social behaviour, including those linked to the night-time economy, is one of those aims.

## **Current Position**

10. The intention of this policy is to ensure clarity across our communities on how the City Corporation and City Police deal with ASB, and what areas are dealt with by both. For example, the Corporation's response structure is certainly different from other local authorities (see Appendix 2). ASB is reported to different committees depending on where the departments and teams report, therefore it is important to try to paint the whole picture for everyone's information.
11. In developing this policy, meetings were held with the relevant departments, teams and service managers to ensure that the uniqueness of each department or service was considered. This policy has also been discussed at the ASB Strategic Group and is co-chaired by the Director of City Operations and Chief Superintendent for Uniform Policing.

## **Proposals**

12. The City of London ASB Policy has been drawn up in line with changing government policy, a further revision of the Statutory Guidance for Frontline Professionals of the ASB Act 2014, the Housing White Paper and the ASB Action Plan set by central government, and to reflect issues in the local community and ways of tackling them. i.e. county lines, cuckooing (using a vulnerable person's property as a base to conduct criminal activity), and serious youth violence.
13. The policy also incorporates the requirement for ASB Case Reviews (previously known as the Community Trigger) which were introduced in the ASB Act 2014 to give victims and communities subjected to repeat ASB a mechanism to have their case independently and professionally reviewed.
14. We have reviewed and researched work across the Corporation's services and departments, and members of the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) including the police. We have assessed what the new policy should include and ensured that each department has the tools they need to respond to different forms of anti-social behaviour. This work aims to provide better outcomes for Square Mile residents and visitors.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

15. Strategic implications – The adoption of a Corporate ASB Policy is expected to bring understanding of the delivery of ASB management and ensure compliance throughout the City of London.
  - Financial implications – None

- Resource implications – None
- Legal implications – This proposal is intended to ensure the City Corporation’s compliance with statutory requirements.
- Risk implications – None
- Equalities implications – None
- Climate implications – None
- Security implications – None

## **Conclusion**

16. The City of London is committed to keeping people safe and feeling safe, which is recognised within the Corporate Plan. The ASB Policy further commits the Corporation to this aim in standardising the approach to ASB investigation and management.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – City of London Corporation Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Appendix 2 – Map of all City Corporation teams dealing with ASB

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