

**Report of: Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager**

**Title: Crime and Nuisance Action Team –  
Contractual work for Registered Social Landlords**

**Ward: All**

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**Key Decision: No**

**Lead Member: Cllr Susan Brown, Crime and Community Safety**

**Scrutiny responsibility: Community**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the continuation of existing contractual arrangements be agreed and this progress report on the effectiveness of those arrangements be noted.**

**Summary**

1. Members will be aware that, in May 2003, permission was given by the Executive Board for the Crime and Nuisance Action Team (“CANAcT”) to provide a contractual service to another public body i.e. Registered Social Landlords (“RSL’s”). Executive Board asked for a further report to be submitted 6 months after the operation of completed agreements.
2. Due to delays that occurred in preparing contracts for the RSL’s, these in fact commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 with the following RSL’s; Ealing Family Housing Association, Cherwell Housing Association, Oxford Citizens Housing Association, and Vale Housing Association.
3. As agreed in May, 2003, no costs other than insurance and indemnity arrangements have fallen on the Council

**How does it fit in with the Council’s Vision and strategic aims**

4. This work fits in to the Council’s Vision and strategic aims as the work of the Crime and Nuisance Action Team (“CANAcT”) directly impacts upon the

Council's vision in making a positive difference to people's lives, and thus benefiting the whole community.

### **Background and context**

5. Registered Social Landlords ("RSL's") were heavily involved in the development of CANAcT in 2001. RSL representatives were part of a sub-committee of the then Community Safety Partnership, which made the decision to set up an Anti-social Behaviour Unit for the City.

6. Consequently, it was understood that CANAcT would work with and for RSL's from its inception.

7. However, CANAcT was established as a Housing Unit, and the requirements of the Housing Revenue Account precluded any work for RSL's or indeed any other Landlord by CANAcT whilst it remained so.

8. In April 2002, CANAcT became a General Funded unit, which freed it up to provide a service to RSL's and other Landlords.

9. However, CANAcT has always regarded its core client group as being Local Housing Offices of the City Council, and it is still the case that as much as 80% of the activity of the Team is as a result of work in that domain. Consequently, 20% of the teams' work is with RSL's – but this has a concomitant impact upon the core work as a result of the movement of perpetrators of anti social behaviour within the city.

10. Following some delays, contracts were finally prepared and ready for Registered Social Landlords to sign by late 2004.

11. Subsequently, each RSL in turn agreed the terms of the contract and signed so that work for the RSL's commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005. Each one has also indicated that they would be prepared to consider continuing this arrangement over the next few years, subject to performance review.

12. Advantages and disadvantages of the options considered (including risk assessment) This was fully addressed in the 2003 report, and full risk assessments carried out. Feedback from the RSL's has proved extremely positive, and Members may well already be aware of this.

13. For instance, work with the RSL's has enabled CANAcT to deal successfully and effectively with a number of cases where the problems were ranged over a variety of tenures, including RSL properties and Oxford City Council stock. This has been particularly true in Greater Leys (Northfield Brook) and Blackbird Leys.

14. This consideration also helps facilitate and improve CANAcT's role as a key link between the City Council and the Police.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

15. With regard to the contracts, each of the RSL's agreed that a lump sum payment was a more effective way of managing this contract rather than through calculations as to the amount of work done. Consequently, each RSL pays the equivalent of an annual sum of between £10,000 and £12,000 for CANAcT's services, which is apportioned accordingly. As indicated above, this funding is highly likely to be on-going for the future.

16. This has meant there has been no difficulty in projecting the sums that CANAcT is to receive, and consequently, CANAcT has appointed 1 - 2 additional investigative officers ("NAO's") as a direct result of these contracts being obtained.

17. It is quite clear that this additional resource is already making a considerable impact into CANAcT's work and is benefiting all aspects of the service tremendously. Effectively, this resource has considerably increased the team's capacity to deal with asb in Oxford City and specifically those cases referred to it by Housing Management Business Unit.

### **Legal implications**

18. Contracts have been concluded with RSL's for the provision of services, drafted by the Legal Services Business Unit.

### **Other possible means of achieving the objectives**

19. There are no comparable teams to CANAcT marketing their services with RSL's, and the RSL's recognise that to engage their own resources in this work is not cost effective whilst CANAcT can provide them.

### **The grounds for recommending a particular option**

20. It has therefore been recommended that the existing contractual arrangements continue and that this progress report on the effectiveness of those arrangements be noted.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY:  
Portfolio Holder: Crime and Community Safety – Councillor Susan Brown  
Strategic Director: Michael Lawrence  
Legal and Democratic Services: Jeremy Thomas  
Financial Management: Andy Collett/Claire Reid

Background papers: (CANAcT contracts with RSL's)

