

To: Cabinet
Date: 10 November 2021
Report of: Ian Wright, Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety
Title of Report: Anti-social Behaviour Policy 2022-25

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	Approve the reviewed Anti-social Behaviour Policy 2022-25.
Key decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthier Oxford
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Corporate Enforcement Policy
Recommendation: That Cabinet resolves to:	
1. Approve the Anti-social Behaviour Policy	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Oxford City Council ASB Policy 2022-25
Appendix 2	Oxford City Council ASB Procedures 2022-25
Appendix 3	ASB Policy Risk Register

Introduction and background

1. Oxford City Council is committed to tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour. Its responsibilities are integral to its role as a housing provider, environmental champion and a Responsible Authority for the Oxford Community Safety Partnership. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a legal duty on the council to work in partnership to tackle the city's crime and disorder priorities.
2. Oxford City Council's existing Anti-social Behaviour Policy is reviewed every three years. The current policy expires in December 2021.

Policy summary

3. The policy sets out the council's responsibilities as a landlord, environmental protection champion and lead member of the community safety partnership.

Members of the partnership include Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Local Police Area, Brookes University, University of Oxford, Thames Valley Probation Service, Turning Point, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

4. The policy defines what is, and what is not, considered to be anti-social behaviour and sets category service standards depending upon the nature of the case. Anonymous cases that have no complainant details will not be investigated.
5. The policy describes the five core principles that underpin the council's commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour, and activities that support these principles. These are:
 - Principle One: No one should have to suffer from anti-social behaviour.
 - Principle Two: Reports of anti-social behaviour will be treated seriously and dealt with professionally.
 - Principle Three: Anti-social behaviour will be addressed firmly, fairly and proportionately.
 - Principle Four: We will work with partners in order to deliver an effective ASB service for our communities.
 - Principle Five: We will deliver high quality customer service.
6. The policy describes the relationship with the Council's Safeguarding Policy, an element in many anti-social behaviour cases, and sets out how Council officers will address vexatious complaints.
7. The policy includes reference to Oxford City Council's Compliments, Complaints and Comments process for customers who wish to provide feedback on the service they have received.

Policy review

8. The policy will be reviewed on a three-year cycle.

Financial Implications

9. All financial implications are covered within existing budgets.

Legal Implications

10. The policy assists in fulfilling our duties under Section 17, Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which "without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area."
11. The policy fulfils the council's duty under Section 218A, Housing Act 1996, as amended by the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, requiring local authority housing providers to formulate and publish anti-social behaviour policies and procedures.
12. The Council has a range of legal powers to deal with environmental anti-social behaviour such as noise, graffiti, litter, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles. These responsibilities come from a number of legal instruments and local byelaws, but in particular from the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Environmental Implications

13. The policy makes a clear statement on the council's approach to tackling environmental crimes through the use of available powers. The implementation of this policy does not have any negative impact upon the environment.

Equalities Impact

14. The policy focuses on support and protection of victims of anti-social behaviour and has a positive impact on people with protected characteristics. For those suspected of causing anti-social behaviour, mental health being by far the most common protected characteristic, the policy requires officers to identify where possible any support needs and seek to address them in partnership with third sector and statutory partners.

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Background Papers: None

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