

CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY/COMMUNITY SAFETY – IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST VALUE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on Crime and Disorder issues, since the report made to this Committee in April 2004.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The national agenda has continued to develop with increasing emphasis being placed on addressing anti-social behaviour. Since the April report, the following has occurred:

- There has been a consultation paper regarding anti-social behaviour within tenancies. Many of the issues raised in the paper are already part of the Council's procedures.
- Police Dispersal Orders have been implemented from mid-July in specific areas within Rayleigh, Hullbridge, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford. The first arrest made for breach of dispersal in the RDC area occurred later that month in Rayleigh High Street involving a 17-year-old youth from Rawreth.
- No Alcohol Zones have come into force around Clements Hall, Magnolia Park and Rochford Town Centre.

(Maps for both the Dispersal Order Zones and Alcohol Exclusion Zones have been placed in the Members Library).

- The Council has appointed an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator.
- The Crime & Disorder Partnership in line with Home Office Guidance is drawing up a Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy.
- An audit of the existing Crime & Disorder Strategy has commenced.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 Appendix A is the third updated Action plan brought to this Committee for information. It details areas of update since April 2004 in bold italics.

- 3.2 The Dispersal Orders allow the police to disperse groups of 2 or more people, and return young people under 16 who are unsupervised in public places after 9pm to their homes.
- 3.3 Any Constable or Community Support Officer (CSO) believing that the presence or behaviour of a group of two or more persons in any public place in the relevant locality has resulted, or is likely to result, in any members of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed, may make:
- a direction requiring the persons in the group to disperse (either immediately or at a specified time)
 - a direction requiring those persons who do not live within the relevant locality to leave the relevant locality or any part of the relevant locality (either immediately or at a specified time)
 - a direction prohibiting the return of those persons who do live within the relevant locality from returning to the relevant area for a period as stated when giving the direction, but not exceeding 24 hours.
- 3.4 Officers can specify the time and area to which persons directed to disperse cannot return. If those persons to whom the direction applies do not live in that relevant locality, the officer issuing the direction can order them not to return to the relevant area for a specific period as long as it does not exceed 24 hours.
- 3.5 The Alcohol Exclusion Zones gives the police extra powers under Section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, which states a constable may require the person concerned:
- Not to consume in that place anything which is, or which the constable reasonably believes to be, intoxicating liquor.
 - To surrender anything in his/her possession, which is, or which the constable reasonably believes to be, intoxicating liquor or a container for such liquor (other than a sealed container).
- 3.6 The appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator will enable statistics to be compiled around anti-social activity that will influence future police and Council actions.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) is seen as an act of last resort, given that existing legislation, for example under Housing or Environment Acts, enable local authorities to take action, and this must be demonstrated before ASBOs will be authorised by a Magistrate.

3.8 The ASB Co-ordinator will be introduced to Members in Committee at the earliest opportunity.

3.9 It is evident that from the audit work done to date so far, more visible policing and targeting anti-social behaviour, picking up on alcohol and drugs issues are key themes which are likely to underpin the next Crime and Disorder Strategy.

4 OTHER ISSUES

4.1 Members expressed a very clear desire to see statistical evidence as often as possible.

4.2 To this end, the ASB Co-ordinator will compile statistics around anti-social activity that will influence future police and Council actions.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee consider the progress made in this report, and outlined in Appendix A, and comment accordingly.

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Background Papers:-

None

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