

**ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS – DELEGATED AUTHORITY
(Report by Director of Operational Services)**

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 This report seeks delegated authority for the application of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave local authorities and the police the power to apply for ASBOs to address the growing public concern about individuals or groups who cause alarm, distress or harassment within the community.
- 2.2 The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 strengthened the powers of the 1998 Act and demonstrated the government's desire to further tackle anti-social behaviour.
- 2.3 An ASBO is an order of the court designed to put an end to persistent and serious anti-social behaviour that can make life a misery for the community. The prohibitions in the order should protect people from further anti-social acts by the offender in the locality.
- 2.4 At present an ASBO needs the authority of the Council, which requires a report to Cabinet.

3. DEALING WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1 The Council have established effective partnership mechanisms to deal with complaints of anti-social behaviour. There are four area based multi-agency problem solving groups and an anti-social behaviour forum which co-ordinates the work of the area based groups.
- 3.2 When a complaint is received there is a process of evidence gathering and then the matter is taken to the local problem solving group for a plan of action to be agreed. This may include applying for an ASBO.
- 3.3 It is important that complaints are dealt with speedily to ensure the situation does not worsen. Delegated authority to apply for ASBOs is sought to reduce any possible delays in dealing with cases of anti-social behaviour.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet:

delegate to the Director of Operational Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor for the Public Health and Community Safety, the power to apply to the courts for ASBOs in accordance with the provisions of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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