

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
7 DECEMBER 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member responsible	Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member, City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism	
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CITY CENTRE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ENFORCEMENT

R E C O M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : , Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member, City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism	Deadline date : 7 th December 2015
For Cabinet to propose changes to the way that enforcement and compliance activity is delivered, In order to protect the City Centre from Anti-Social behaviour.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to outline proposed measures that change the way City Centre enforcement and compliance activity of Peterborough City Council is delivered.
- 1.3 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No 3.2.2 To promote the Council’s role as community leader, giving a ‘voice’ to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates’ Courts Services and 3.2.3 To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area.

2. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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3. THE CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Council has a number of enforcement functions as part of its statutory duties these include:
 - Trading Standards
 - Licencing and Markets
 - Environmental Health – food, health and safety and pollution control
 - Parking Management
 - Planning Compliance
 - Housing Enforcement
 - CCTV
 - Neighbourhood Enforcement (including littering, fly posting, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, waste management and fly tipping)

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- 3.2 In addition, the Community and Safety service comprises officers who work alongside police and fire service staff to focus on tackling anti-social behaviour.

City Centre Enforcement

- 3.3 There are currently no dedicated enforcement staff working in the city centre dealing with anti-social behaviour including begging, busking and street drinking. A Street Warden team existed prior to 2008 but this service was cut due to budget pressures. The police have the necessary powers of enforcement but with stretched resources, low level crime and anti-social behaviour are not always able to be given the priorities needed.
- 3.4 There is particular and significant concern from Members, and the general public concerning:
- aggressive begging
 - busking
 - street drinking
 - illegal street trading
 - cycling in the City Centre

Co Coordinating Enforcement across Agencies

- 3.5 Section 40 of the Police Reform Act 2002 enables Chief Constables to grant a limited range of police powers to employees of non-police organisations who contribute towards community safety. These are known as Community Safety Accreditation Schemes.
- 3.6 Therefore discussions have taken place with Police colleagues regarding such accreditation and also how criminal and civil enforcement could be brought together across both agencies.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is therefore proposed to:

A) Merge appropriate enforcement activity of the Authority. These services would include:

- CCTV Officers
- Parking Enforcement Officers
- City Officers
- Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers
- Housing Enforcement Officers
- Community and Safety Service Officers, including existing Police and Fire staff managed within this service

B) Clarify policy and priorities relating to City Wide and City Centre Enforcement activity, giving consideration to extending powers or transferring powers from the police to the staff within the merged enforcement team.

- 4.2 Officers from this merged team would work alongside Police officers from the wider constabulary who would provide support and would work with the enforcement team on patrols and would continue to deal with more serious matters. The team would be co-located, building upon existing arrangements within the Community and Safety Service which operates from Bayard Place.
- 4.3 The new team would result in bringing together Officers from within CCTV, Parking Enforcement, Neighbourhood Enforcement, Housing Enforcement and Community and Safety Officers (ASB) covering all areas of work formerly covered by a number of separate services. This will provide a flexible workforce with broader areas of responsibility. Staff would be uniformed, but distinguishable from the police by being appropriately identifiable as "Safety & Enforcement" staff.

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4.4 The responsibilities for these staff would include:

- Dealing with people issues including anti-social behaviour, begging, busking and street drinking
- Dealing with vehicle issues including parking offences, blue badge enforcement, abandoned vehicles, untaxed vehicles, highway obstruction, taxi licensing checks, cycling offences and road closures
- Safety work including CCTV monitoring, stewarding and security work at events
- Environment issues including fly tipping, litter, dog fouling, graffiti and waste management
- Housing Enforcement, particularly dealing with poorly managed or dangerous housing

4.5 These staff would be Security Industry Authority (SIA) trained, and in addition CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) accreditation would be sought to enable staff to have statutory enforcement powers that currently reside with Police Officers. Training on the law of evidence would be provided to ensure a consistent level of knowledge and competence in gathering evidence, as well as training on parking enforcement, and environmental crime legislation.

4.6 By using existing technology (for example the My Peterborough mobile phone application) members of the public would be able to report matters directly to the team to enable issues to be quickly resolved.

5. BENEFITS FROM CHANGE

Deterrent

5.1 There is little deterrent to anti-social behaviour in the City Centre at present other than that afforded by the presence of Peterborough Police. A uniformed "Parking Enforcement Officer" is no deterrent to cyclists, beggars and buskers. A re-uniformed "Safety and Enforcement Officer" who addresses such behaviour would be an effective deterrent.

Major events and safety issues

5.2 There are no uniformed staff within PCC who can deal with event security, enforcement or to support major safety issues such as City Centre demonstrations. Uniformed and appropriately trained Safety & Enforcement Officers could provide support to such issues.

Availability of resource

5.3 Particularly in times of seasonal or daily demands adequate enforcement resource cannot always be provided. These proposals address this situation. By adopting these proposals resilience will be built across enforcement services, particularly through the ability to multi-skill officers.

Commercial Opportunities

5.4 Implementation of these proposals would provide a large team of safety and enforcement staff which could provide services to other Local Authorities, public bodies and the private sector.

Environment and Amenity

5.5 The wider team could focus upon days of action to target anti-social behaviour in the city centre along with other longer term measures such as Public Space Protection Orders

5.6 The staff of this new team would be trained in Parking Legislation and also in SIA (Security and CCTV), CSAS (Community Safety Accredited Scheme), Environmental enforcement and housing legislation. The service would look to develop an enforcement training programme, effectively creating our own 'Peterborough Enforcement Training Academy'. This could be achieved by upskilling existing members of the wider department to deliver training both in house and external training to both public and private sectors.

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6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place with departmental teams as well as Police colleagues. Further consultation would need to take place with staff and trades unions.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 By having a joined up multi skilled enforcement team to work alongside the police this would act as both a deterrent to City Centre anti-social behaviour and would also ensure that resources were available to deal with issues such as street begging, cycling and busking.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations would ensure that the City centre would be a more attractive place to visit and work.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Consideration could be given to leaving the separate teams as they are. However it is already apparent that by not having joined up services, the needs of visitors and businesses in Peterborough are not being adequately met.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 10.1 The proposal will have financial implications. There will be costs to provide necessary training, provision of equipment and uniforms. However these will not be significant.

Legal

- 10.2 The legal implications of the proposals are set out in the body of the report. The Councils existing statutory powers of enforcement are unaffected.

Human Resources

- 10.3 There are significant Human Resources implications. Consultation will need to take place with staff and their representatives on changes in roles and job descriptions. All staff will need to be appropriately trained and also issued with the necessary personal protective equipment. Should the proposal be approved consultation with affected staff and their representatives will commence immediately.

Corporate Priorities: Environment Capital

- 10.4 These proposals support the Councils priority relating to keeping our communities safe.