

Homes and Neighbourhoods
222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

Report of: Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 5 September 2024

Ward(s): All

Decision No. I035879

Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Islington Council is committed to ensuring that everyone in Islington has a safe place to call home. We want to ensure that residents feel safer in neighbourhoods, parks and on high streets. Our focus is on preventing ASB by tackling the root causes of problems that arise, as well as taking enforcement actions where appropriate. This approach aims to balance providing respite for residents from ASB incidents in the short term and addressing the root causes of problems in the long term.
- 1.2. The ASB policy has developed to set out a clear approach to residents so they can be clear on our approach. It sets out what we as a council mean by 'anti-social behaviour' and outlines an agreed set of principles that the council applies when responding to a report of ASB. It will explain how and when the council will respond when contacted for help by people impacted by ASB. It will highlight what will happen when reported behaviour is not ASB and will provide information on where else you can get support or guidance if it is not for the council to respond to. The policy explains the roles of our partners, including the police or other external organisations.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To approve the Anti-Social Behaviour policy for implementation in the delivery of the council's housing services.

3. Background

3.1. Significant work has been carried out to consider the procedures that the service implements. A number of recommendations were set out as a result of that work, including that Islington Council has a single corporate ASB policy. This policy has been developed to complement that work, providing a resident-facing document that sets out the principles of how we work clearly so that residents know what to expect if they want to report ASB.

3.2. Design

3.2.1. This policy has been created working with services across Islington Council and partnership services and has been informed by engagement with resident representatives including ward panel members. The work has involved benchmarking, desk-based research, interviews with services and a workshop with resident representatives.

3.2.2. The structure of the policy:

- 3.2.2.1. Our approach to anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- 3.2.2.2. Our commitment to you
- 3.2.2.3. Purpose of the ASB policy
- 3.2.2.4. Definition of ASB
- 3.2.2.5. Examples of behaviour that is not ASB
- 3.2.2.6. The role of the social landlord in dealing with ASB
- 3.2.2.7. Statutory nuisance
- 3.2.2.8. Reporting ASB
- 3.2.2.9. Reporting Crime and Police ASB
- 3.2.2.10. How to report other issues
- 3.2.2.11. How we will respond to reports
- 3.2.2.12. Supporting vulnerable residents
- 3.2.2.13. Preventing ASB
- 3.2.2.14. If you are not happy with our response
- 3.2.2.15. ASB review procedure
- 3.2.2.16. Complaints procedure

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

4.1.1. There are no quantifiable recommendations arising from this report. The report makes no request for additional funding and seeks to use existing resources.

4.2. **Legal Implications**

4.2.1. As a Local Authority landlord, Islington Council has a responsibility to prevent anti-social behaviour by keeping the neighbourhood and communal areas under its control safe and clean.

4.2.2. Government guidance makes clear that Local Authority landlords should make it easy for residents to report anti-social behaviour, should take complaints seriously, and should act professionally. Local Authority landlords must publish, and provide to residents upon request, documents that set out the types of behaviours they can help to tackle. Local Authority landlords should make it clear what information they need from residents, and what help they can provide, and keep residents updated until their case has been closed.

4.2.3. Local Authority landlords should also tell residents about the help available from other agencies, and support residents to approach these agencies if they need help. Local Authority landlords should also inform residents about the right to make an application for an ASB case review (also known as the Community Trigger) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

4.2.4. Local Authorities have powers to tackle ASB under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Local Authorities also have duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to inspect their area to detect any statutory nuisance, and to investigate noise complaints, so as to decide whether the noise is a statutory nuisance.

4.3. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

4.3.1. This policy will have no environmental implications and there is no procurement of services included.

4.4. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.4.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 4.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Tool was completed on 2nd April 2024. The main findings are that a full EQIA does not need to be completed, as the policy itself has neutral impacts and resident engagement has been carried out. The screening tool is appended.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. This ASB Policy is part of a wider programme of work to improve our approach to ASB across the borough, following the recommendation arising from a review of the service area. A priority from that review was that as a local authority we should have a single, corporate ASB policy which will inform a streamlined approach to ASB procedure.
- 5.2. Following consultation with internal and external stakeholders, as well as benchmarking against other council policies, this policy sets out the principles and approach to ASB in Islington in a single policy, as recommended. This policy will inform our approach to ASB procedure and is part of our broader mission to create a safe place to call home for Islington residents.

Appendices:

1. ASB Policy
2. EQIA Screening Tool

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

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