

Report of:	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety Director of Environment and Community Services
Submitted to:	Executive
Date:	18 October 2022
Title:	Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Tough Enough? Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its Impact on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour - Service Response
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	Crime and anti-social behaviour
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will have a significant impact in two or more wards
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Executive summary

That Executive agrees to:

Implement the action plan proposed by Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to consider recommendations by the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Board following its meeting on 22nd June 2022.

Background and relevant information

2. At the panel's first meeting, they agreed their work programme and raised increasing concern regarding crime and anti-social behaviour within the town. Press reports had drawn to issues within Hemlington and the Town Centre and therefore the panel wished to gain a better understand of the Council's approach to enforcement. The investigation was named Tough enough? Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its impact on crime and anti-social behaviour.
3. During the course of Scrutiny's investigation, members were provided with information relating to Middlesbrough's approach to community safety, the overall structure of the community safety partnership, provided with Police crime and ASB statistics as well as an overview of locality working.
4. Following the BBC Panorama documentary featuring the Hemlington ward, the panel also sought guidance from the National charity "ASB Help" who had also featured on the programme talking about community triggers.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

5. That members consider recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Board which are contained within the attached action plan as follows;
6. That a general awareness session be established for elected members to discuss the Community Safety partnership, the roles of the community safety teams and how to raise a community trigger.
7. That further promotion of the community trigger process be shared with elected members and the local communities, this could be done through, for example, ward council meetings, love Middlesbrough magazine and community councils.
8. Given the recent concerns surrounding the number of police officers within the wards, the panel ask that the Council continue discussions with Cleveland Police to ensure the correct resources are allocated to Middlesbrough.
9. That Middlesbrough council work in partnership with ASB help to sign up to the ASB pledge.
10. That the panel members receive 6 monthly updates from the locality wards regarding crime/ anti-social behavior statistics.
11. That members receive further updates, as and when, to the rolling out of locality working in other wards within the town.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

12. Based on the evidence received, the Panel applauds the excellent work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team and partners. Whilst there is excellent work being undertaken, the panel feels councillors and the wider community need further information on what the Council is doing in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour.
13. The Panel are passionate to ensure Middlesbrough is a safe place to live and bring up a family. Whilst it is pleasing to hear that asb levels were at their lowest, the panel is concerned about the raising levels of criminal activity across certain areas of the town.
14. Whilst the panel recognises that the Council and Cleveland police work in partnership to combat issues in our town, the levels of Cleveland police officers patrolling our neighbourhoods is still lower than expected and the panel feel having more officers would help to reduce some of the nuisance and crimes being displayed.
15. From evidence received, it is clear more information sharing on the community trigger needs to be filtered to our communities. Whilst saying this, the panel cannot take away the excellent work of our teams and feels that their hard work should be acknowledged. Signing the ASB Pledge would further put Middlesbrough on the map for putting victims at the heart of what we do.
16. From statistics and first hand evidence, it is clear that locality working does work, especially in raising perceptions amongst our communities. The panel is delighted that locality working will continue within Newport and North Ormesby and would be keen to hear about any further roll out as well as receiving further information on how locality working in the existing areas is impacting the levels of crime and asb.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

17.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

18. There are no legal implications regarding the recommendations.

Strategic priorities and risks

19. The risk is that if the proposal is not accepted then we will continue to see crime, ASB and environment crime increase throughout Middlesbrough.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

20. An Impact Assessment will be carried out.

Financial

21. There are no financial implications

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	1. Action Plan – Tough enough? Enforcement in Middlesbrough and its impact on crime and anti-social behaviour.
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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