

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE
18 MARCH 2008**

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CO-ORDINATOR POST

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek members' approval for the temporary post of Community Safety Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator to be made permanent.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has always featured as a priority theme within the Community Safety strategy, and this has been reinforced by Exeter being awarded Respect Action Area status. The ASB post is also the main contact point with the Respect Task Force – now the Youth Task Force. This involves collating the performance data from agencies across the city, and reporting back on a quarterly basis to Respect. In relation to the ASB post, there is a need for co-ordination across all departments of the Council and partners, and the post could be a single point of contact for all members of the public reporting ASB in the city. There is currently an ASB Case Manager in Housing, dealing specifically with issues arising in and around City Council housing stock. The City Council has a responsibility to take a leadership role in tackling ASB wherever it occurs in the city, regardless of the housing tenure of any perpetrator, since this clearly affects the quality of life of all citizens of Exeter, and this is clearly expected by the government and the Respect Task Force in keeping with our Respect Action Area status.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSFERRING THE POSITIONS INTO THE CITY COUNCIL

- 3.1 Currently, the roles of both posts involve taking a Partnership view of all matters, and a considerable amount of time is devoted to multi-agency meetings and co-ordination. The Partnership needs to have an officer to co-ordinate the work across the varied and sometimes disparate strands of the Community Safety Strategy. For example, work to improve services and reduce crime amongst young people needs to be balanced with an enforcement approach to tackling ASB. Planning needs to be done to ensure that the work of different Actions Teams is linked in order to avoid either conflict of interest or duplication and waste of resources.
- 3.2 As the council would be fully funding and directly managing the ASB post, there would be an expectation that more of the officer's time would be devoted to support City Council ASB work within the overall Community Safety Strategy. For example, there has been very little planned work done in relation to ensuring the understanding of the Council's responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act. The Act

requires that the Council should *‘exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can, to prevent crime and disorder in its area.’* In other words the Council is expected to mainstream crime prevention and community safety into its everyday activities.

Although this may be done in some areas of the council, there is currently no planned or consistent approach to this. This post currently co-ordinates the work being done across the city by police, housing providers, Youth Offending Team, voluntary sector agencies, and this needs to continue.

4 PROPOSAL

4.1 The transfer of the post into the City Council would involve

- A review of the roles and responsibilities of the post to ensure that the Council is providing an effective and efficient response to issues related to Community Safety.
- Job Evaluation of the post

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional resource requirements associated with the post as funding was agreed in the 2008/9 budget process to compensate for the possible loss of funding as a result of agreements made by the Devon Community Safety Partnership as part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) process.

6 RECOMMENDED

That the post of Anti Social Behaviour Partnership Co-ordinator becomes a permanent City Council post.

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

29 February 2008