

# Subject: Antisocial Behaviour in London

Report to: Police and Crime Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 5 July 2017

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information to the Police and Crime Committee for its meeting with invited guests to discuss antisocial behaviour in London.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on antisocial behaviour in London, and notes the subsequent discussion.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 This meeting will be used to consider antisocial behaviour in London. The term antisocial behaviour includes a wide range of incidents – from those seen to be inconsiderate and thoughtless to behaviour which is intimidating and criminal. It can have a lasting impact on individuals, neighbourhoods and communities and it is often associated with fear of crime. It is described as “behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the person.”<sup>1</sup>
- 3.2 There is little doubt that antisocial behaviour is a concern in London, and it has been a longstanding issue for the police and London’s local authorities. In the year to February 2017, there were almost 272,000 calls related to antisocial behaviour made to the Metropolitan Police Service’s (MPS) Command and Control Centre<sup>2</sup> – a 10 per cent rise on the same period in the previous year – and the Mayor’s new Police and Crime Plan identifies it as a mandatory priority for every borough.<sup>3</sup>
- 3.3 The MPS classifies antisocial behaviour into three main categories:<sup>4</sup>
- Personal antisocial behaviour – when a person targets a specific individual or group;

<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan Police, [What is antisocial behaviour?](#)

<sup>2</sup> London Datastore

<sup>3</sup> Mayor of London, [A safer city for all Londoners – Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021](#), March 2017

<sup>4</sup> Metropolitan Police, [What is antisocial behaviour?](#)

- Nuisance antisocial behaviour – when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community; and
- Environmental antisocial behaviour – when a person’s actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

3.4 The wide range of behaviours and crimes covered by the term antisocial behaviour necessitates a multi-agency response and a number of agencies have a duty to respond. Depending on the type of action taken, these could include the police, local authorities, registered social landlords, housing trusts, fire and rescue services or youth offending teams.<sup>5</sup>

3.5 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is the law that guides agencies in how they can respond to antisocial behaviour.<sup>6</sup> It received Royal Assent on 13 March 2014 and changed the way agencies deal with antisocial behaviour – the “reforms are designed to put victims at the heart of the response to antisocial behaviour, and give professionals the flexibility to deal with any given situation.” The Act introduced simpler and more flexible powers and made communities central to the response – it replaced 19 pre-existing powers, many of which had proven to be ineffective, with six new powers:

- Civil Injunction;
- Criminal Behaviour Order;
- Community Protection Notice;
- Public Spaces Protection Order;
- Closure Powers; and
- Dispersal Power.

It also introduced two further measures that give communities and victims a say in how local agencies deal with antisocial behaviour: the community trigger and the community remedy.

## 4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The meeting will be used to explore antisocial behaviour in London. This includes, for example, to what extent antisocial behaviour is a problem in London, what demand it places on the MPS and other partners, how these partners work together to tackle and prevent antisocial behaviour and what more the Mayor and the MPS can do to help tackle antisocial behaviour in London.

4.2 Invited guests include:

- Paul Dunn, Chair, London Antisocial Behavior Advisory Service;
- Janine Green, Managing Director, Resolve ASB;
- David Millar, Chair of Hammersmith & Fulham Safer Neighbourhood Board;
- Molly Blackburn, Programme Manager, Victim Support;
- Kuljit Bhogal, Joint Head of the Housing Team, Cornerstone Barristers; and

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<sup>5</sup> London Councils, [The new ASB powers in London](#)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>

- Joe Joseph, Director of Resident Services, Peabody.

4.3 The scoping and terms of reference for the Committee’s investigation were noted at the Committee’s meeting on 21 June 2017 but maybe accessed on the GLA’s website [here](#)<sup>7</sup>:

The terms of reference for the review are to:

1. To identify the extent and scope of antisocial behaviour in London.
2. To assess the effectiveness of policy responses to antisocial behaviour in London (including current legislation, Mayoral and local initiatives).
3. To examine the effectiveness of multi-agency partnership working.
4. To make recommendations on what more the Mayor, the Met and partner agencies can do to help reduce antisocial behaviour in London, in particular in light of the Mayor prioritising tackling antisocial behaviour in every London borough.

## 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.
- 5.2 Officers confirm that the scope for this thematic session falls within the Committee’s terms of reference.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

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### List of appendices to this report:

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=240&MIId=6276&Ver=4>