

Mole Valley District Council
Anti-Social Behaviour Enforcement Strategy
2017-2020

INTRODUCTION

This strategy sets out Mole Valley District Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Mole Valley. It seeks to address environmental ASB such as fly-tipping, littering, fly-posting, dog-fouling and vehicle abandonment as well as complex community incidents of ASB. The Strategy is supported by an Action Plan which sets out improvements that will be delivered in the short to medium term, and aspirations and principles for the longer term.

CURRENT CONTEXT

Mole Valley is a District that prides itself on high quality natural environments and attractive towns and villages many of which have historic features. It is made up of numerous inclusive communities who contribute to the high quality of life enjoyed by many residents. Owing to this, Mole Valley regularly performs well in national league tables measuring an area's attractiveness and popularity as a place to live.

Many residents take great care and interest in the environment around them and participate in formal or informal activities to maintain the natural and built environment. MVDC takes great pride in maintaining the cleanliness of both rural and urban environments through its street-cleaning and parks services. MVDC also works with Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and others to manage, maintain and protect the character of Mole Valley. MVDC supports community litter picks by providing litter pickers, hi-viz jackets, bags and free collection of filled bags. We also provide a small financial payment to reward groups for their efforts. For businesses, MVDC launched the Clean High Street pledge scheme to encourage businesses to take pride in and responsibility for the areas outside their premises.

In addition to practical efforts, MVDC has also conducted two recent campaigns to raise awareness of the effects of environmental ASB and the penalties associated with it. Both campaigns (*CleanMV* and *'Fine by Us'*) attracted a great deal of on-line and press coverage. In 2016, MVDC also supported a county-wide fly-tipping campaign on radio, on-line and across outdoor advertising e.g. buses and bus stops.

MVDC is an active member of the Surrey-wide Enforcement Officers Network. This provides an opportunity for officers to share best practice in tackling environmental ASB, particularly fly-tipping. As well as developing evidence-sharing protocols and networks, the group reviews and implements the most appropriate surveillance techniques to address ASB.

MVDC has adopted a similar approach to tackling fly-tipping as that promoted by Keep Britain Tidy. Action Plan. Their recent action plan, *Reaching the Tipping Point*, has informed the development of this strategy.

Environmental ASB is emotive for most residents. The sight of litter, fly-tips, graffiti, dog mess and fly-posters is unsightly and repulsive for many. Whilst most residents choose the responsible option with regard to these issues, sadly some residents and visitors to Mole Valley show little respect for the area and dump their rubbish with no apparent consideration for the law or the impact it has on the environment and local community.

In addition to environmental ASB, the Council also works in partnership to address broader anti-social behaviour such as excessive or persistent noise, abusive behaviour or criminal damage, sometimes exacerbated by drug and alcohol abuse. These incidents could be in relation to a particular location such as a park or recreation ground or an individual who is causing problems within a community because of mental health issues or substance misuse.

This anti-social behaviour has a negative impact on victims and the wider community and the complex nature of these cases requires a multi-agency response. MVDC works with other agencies through the Joint Action Groups (JAG) and Community Incident Action Groups (CIAG) to tackle these issues.

Mole Valley is regularly highlighted as one of the safest places to live in Surrey. MVDC aims to reassure residents that we will work in partnerships with other agencies such as Surrey Police and housing associations to tackle complex ASB issues that arise.

THE LEGAL CONTEXT

The powers for enforcement against environmental ASB lie with the Environment Agency and District and Borough Councils. Various pieces of legislation provide opportunities to penalise and prosecute offenders. These include, among others: Environmental Protection Act 1990; Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; Town and Country Planning Act 1990; Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Littering:

The offence of littering occurs when a person discards or throws down an unwanted item such as food wrappings, drinks containers and cigarette ends. It can also include items that are spilt during business or waste management operations.

- Under Section 88 of Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authority officers can issue a fixed penalty notice for littering. Offenders have 14 days to pay or face prosecution in court.
- Failure to pay the fixed penalty notice can result in prosecution where a Magistrates Court can sentence the offender to a maximum fine of £2,500.
- The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 also gives local authorities powers to control litter in areas where it is a problem. A Community Protection Notice (CPN) can be used to require businesses (such as fast food outlets) to ensure that litter associated with their business does not cause nuisance to the local community. A CPN can also be used to require land owners to keep their land free from litter.

Fly-tipping:

Fly-tipping occurs when waste is deposited on land without the landowners consent and is an offence under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (for controlled waste) and Section 2 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 (for other types of waste)

- Minor fly-tipping (such as a single bag of household waste) is aggravated littering and may be tackled under the litter powers described above.
- Local Authority officers have powers to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of being used to fly-tip waste.
- Fixed Penalty Notices: From 9 May 2016, local authorities in England can issue fixed penalty notices for small-scale fly-tipping offences pursuant to the Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016.
- Anyone transferring waste to another person who fly-tips may also be in breach of their 'duty of care' under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The penalty for failing to comply with the duty of care is either a fixed penalty notice or, upon conviction in a Magistrates Court, a maximum fine of £5,000. Serious breaches may result in conviction in the Crown Court, where the penalty is an unlimited fine.

- Transporting controlled waste without a waste carrier registration license is an offence punishable by either a Fixed Penalty Notice or an unlimited fine.
- Failing to produce waste transfer notes is an offence punishable by either a Fixed Penalty Notice or an unlimited fine.
- Fly-tipping fines can be up to £50,000 or up to 12 months imprisonment (or both) if convicted in a Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine and/or 5 years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

Graffiti and Fly-posting:

Graffiti is defacement by way of writing, drawings, scratching or spraying on a wall or other surface and can be classed as criminal damage.

Fly-posting is the posting of stickers, posters and other advertising material without the consent of the owner of the property. If the sticker or poster is advertising it may be contrary to regulations made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. If the sticker or poster is not advertising then it can be classified as defacement and dealt with in the same way as graffiti.

- Local Authority officers can issue penalty notices for minor acts of graffiti and flyposting. The Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 allows local authority officers, community support officers and those persons accredited under a community safety scheme to issue fixed penalty notices.
- Defacement can be regarded as criminal damage under the Criminal Damage Act 1971. In the Magistrates Court the maximum sentence is a fine of £5,000. For serious criminal damage the maximum penalty in the Crown Court is 10 years' imprisonment.
- With fly-posting it can also be effective to take action against those people or organisations who benefit from the advertising. It is an offence to display an advertisement in contravention of regulations and authorities have the power to remove posters without notice. Fines of up to £2,500 can be issued (Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisement)(England) Regulations 2007).

Vehicle abandonment:

Vehicle abandonment occurs when someone deliberately leaves a vehicle in any place that is open to the air and has no intention to remove or return to it.

- The deliberate abandonment of any vehicle is an offence, punishable by a fine of up to £2,500 and/or three months' imprisonment (Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978, s.2).
- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 allows the Council to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of an offence of abandoning a vehicle.

Noise Nuisance:

Noise can be a major source of anti-social behaviour to residents and this includes barking dogs, loud music, etc. It is not an offence to create noise. However if MVDC finds something to be a Statutory Noise Nuisance they will serve an abatement notice on person responsible, it would then be an offence not to control the noise and abate the nuisance.

For noise to be a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it must be unreasonable and this includes the nature of the noise, locality, the duration of the noise, when it occurs and the how often it occurs. Case law has indicated that statutory nuisance cannot take account of individual sensitivity. Similarly unless there is an unreasonable

element, normal everyday noise will not constitute a statutory nuisance as it is not reasonable to expect neighbours to behave especially quietly because the sound insulation between their properties is poor.

If residents are concerned about on-going noise from their neighbour's, our advice is that where possible they should approach those making a noise in the first instance. Often they will be unaware that they are causing disturbance and will resolve the noise problem.

Where that is not possible or appropriate, or if the noise persists, then residents should report it to the Council. Information is provided on the Council website on how to do that.

On receipt of a noise complaint the initial approach of the authority will normally be to write to the source address pointing out that a noise complaint has been received and in the majority of cases responsible persons will modify their behaviour without further intervention. At the same time the complainant will also receive a letter advising what has been done and they will be provided with a set of log sheets to record any continuing disturbance over a three - four week period or reasonable amount of time as determined by the investigating officer.

Residents required to fill in log sheets for evidence, recording how the noise is affecting them, the times and duration. This record is needed to demonstrate to a Court that the problem is not just a one off event, but is an ongoing problem as the complainant will be required to possibly give evidence in court. The record also enables the Environmental Health Officer to decide whether further investigation is required. In some cases where the noise is infrequent a noise recorder can be installed in the complainant's home for a short period to provide further evidence of the problem and enable analysis of the noise problem.

If the log sheets and/or recordings show a pattern an Environmental Health Officer will visit the complainant's home on up to three occasions and if they witness the noise and consider it to be statutory nuisance then they will serve an abatement notice. Whilst the Council does not operate an Out of Hours service the Officers will visit outside normal working hours if the log sheets and/or recordings show this is the time to visit.

If the person responsible for the noise fails to adhere to the abatement notice then they can be prosecuted. Conviction for nuisance also gives grounds for possession by landlords.

Where the complaint shows other antisocial behaviour factors the Environmental Health Officers will be actively involved in JAG and CIAG case management procedures seeking to support or use of appropriate powers to address community ASB.

If the Council is unable to establish there is a statutory noise nuisance then the complainant will be given advice on how to take their own action.

MVDC has recently created a shared service for Environmental Health with Tandridge District Council. This brings many benefits for residents including resilience in the service and opportunities for improved efficiencies and effectiveness. The creation of a shared service presents an opportunity to review the way in which MVDC tackles nuisance noise.

Domestic Bonfires:

Whilst there are specific controls regarding the burning of commercial waste which are enforced by the Environment Agency, it is not illegal to have a garden bonfire. However responsible residents should take simple steps to avoid annoying their neighbours. Advice is given on the Council's website on how to minimise the likelihood of affecting your neighbours together with recommendations on composting waste and recycling.

Where residents experience problems with their neighbour's bonfires then we recommend speaking to them so that they are aware of any problems they might be causing.

Where those having bonfires fail to consider the needs of their neighbours or where approaching them is not possible or appropriate, or if the bonfire smoke persists, then residents should report it to the Council. Information is provided on the Council website on how to do that.

On receipt of complaint the initial approach of the authority will normally be to write to the source address pointing out that a bonfire complaint has been received together with advice on avoiding the problem in future and in the majority of cases responsible persons will modify their behaviour without further intervention. At the same time the complainant will also receive a letter advising what has been done and they will be provided with a set of log sheets to record any continuing bonfire smoke problems over a two week period.

Residents required to fill in and return log sheets, recording how the bonfire smoke is affecting them, the times and duration. This record is needed to demonstrate to a Court that the problem is not just a one off event, but is an ongoing problem as the complainant will be required to possibly give evidence in court. The record also enables the Environmental Health Officer to decide whether further investigation is required. If the log sheets show a pattern an Environmental Health Officer will visit the complainant's home on up to three occasions and if they witness the bonfire and consider it to be statutory nuisance then they will serve an abatement notice. The person responsible can then be prosecuted for further bonfires but the complainant will be required to give evidence of such non-compliance.

If the Council is unable to establish there is a statutory smoke nuisance then the complainant will be given advice on how to take their own action.

There are separate procedures for more active intervention where the smoke is arising from repeated burning related to construction work or burning of commercial waste where the issue must be referred to the Environment Agency.

Antisocial dogs

Dangerous dog legislation is primarily enforced by the Police, this includes dogs dangerously out of control and specified banned breeds, however where residents do have cause for complaint because antisocial behaviour is being allowed by the dog owner or keeper such as, dog consistently roaming loose, dog on dog attacks, dog on other animal attacks the Council can take action over what is often considered to be a private matter by other local authorities.

The process for dealing with complaints about antisocial dog behaviour is;

- Complaint about dog received requires details of the owner or keeper of the offending dog if it is to proceed further.
- Both parties are spoken to/visited by dog warden or authorised officer within maximum of 5 working days to gain a balanced perspective on incident.
- Where a Dangerous dog issue is identified refer matter to Police for joint approach.
- Where appropriate a 'come to order notice' (letter with advice) is sent to dog owner/keeper outlining advice to stop future incidents and information relating to further action will need to be taken if it persists.
- If a further incident occurs – it would be considered as persistent and ongoing- issue CPN warning and specifically outline what owner is required to do/needs to stop doing and in timescale. If dog on person bite is the issue usually serve CPN warning with the Police – sometimes under caution.
- If warning breached- evidence must be provided, video/photo/ witness account and complainant must be happy to stand in court etc. for CPN to be served in partnership with Police. Copy of CPN held on file/Police file and one sent to offender so that all parties aware of notice.
- Breach of CPN is enforced using the appropriate provisions under the Legislation.

Dog fouling:

A dog fouling offence occurs when the person in control of the dog at the time fails to pick up dog faeces after the dog has fouled. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 replaced Dog Control Orders with Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). PSPOs can be used to tackle dog related Anti-Social Behaviour issues including fouling and these will need to be introduced.

The Council has raised awareness of dog fouling through the Green Dog Walkers scheme whereby responsible owners pledge to wear a green badge/armband, always clear up after their dog, offering a spare poo bag to other walkers if needed and to report any fouling issues to the council. This can act as a deterrent for any irresponsible dog owners.

On receipt of a complaint Environmental Health send a warning letter to any offender whose address has been forwarded to the Council by a witness of an offence. The Council website outlines the current approach towards dog fouling and includes an on line complaint form.

There is an overall challenge around enforcing this and other non-premises based antisocial behaviour which requires an active presence across the district to witness and enforce offences. Whilst there is a proposal to introduce PSPO for specific locations where the problem is considered to be persistent, unreasonable and justify the restrictions. This will not address enforcement of dog fouling elsewhere. To ensure that Dog Fouling can be addressed in all public areas consideration will be made towards a blanket application of the PSPO for dog fouling. It should be noted that although you do have to specify the area for which you intend to have a PSPO there is nothing in the legislation to say it can only cover a single park at a time.

A breach of a PSPOs can attract a fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates Court where a maximum fine of £1,000 can be imposed.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY ASB

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides local authorities and its partners with a suite of tools and powers that enables an effective response to both perpetrators and victims of complex community ASB. There are a wide range of options open to the Council and each will be dependent upon the individual circumstances. Under this legislation the Council has a variety of statutory powers at its disposal in order to issue enforcement notices and these are:

- A Community Protection Notice (CPN) is intended to deal with particular, ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life by targeting those responsible.
- The Council can apply for a Civil Injunction from the Court to stop or prevent individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour which is likely to cause nuisance or annoyance. The injunction under Part 1 of the Act is a civil power which can be used to address the anti-social behaviour of specific individuals. The injunction can offer fast and effective protection for victims and communities and set a clear standard of behaviour for perpetrators aimed at stopping the person's behaviour from escalating.
- A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) is aimed at tackling the most serious and persistent offenders where their behaviour has brought them before a criminal court. The Council can apply for a CBO to deal with a wide range of anti-social behaviours following the individual's conviction for a criminal offence, for example, threatening violence against others in the community, or persistently being drunk and aggressive in public or causing criminal damage.

- Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are intended to deal with a nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- The Closure Power is a fast, flexible power that can be used to protect victims and communities by quickly closing premises both licensed and non-licensed that are causing nuisance or disorder to prevent them from continuing, occurring or recurring. These premises could range from pubs, clubs, residential or business premises. The power comes in two stages: the closure notice and the closure order which are intrinsically linked.

In December 2015 the Council's Executive approved an ASB Powers Policy Framework for using the powers set out in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Since the introduction of the Powers Framework, Community Protection Notices have been used extensively to tackle community anti-social behaviour such as neighbour disputes, animal control and noise nuisance. The Council has also consulted on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order in Leatherhead.

More detail can be found by reading the ASB Powers Policy Framework (October 2015), available on the Council's website.

Community ASB – Joint and Community Incident Action Groups

Complex Anti-social Behaviour which requires a multi-agency response in order to address is dealt with and co-ordinated by the Council through what are known as Joint Action groups (JAGs) and Community Incident Action Groups (CIAGs). These partnership groups work around a wide variety of community issues, the JAG focusing on a 'place' such as a recreation ground or housing estate and the CIAG on an individual who has been referred by an agency because of their negative impact on the community.

Both JAG's and CIAG's utilise a range of powers from across multiple agencies in order to address problems which range from hostility and abuse, violence, noise nuisance, drug and alcohol abuse through to people who cause multiple problems due to mental illness. The Council works in partnership with agencies such as police, housing associations, youth services and other stakeholders such as Councillors and residents to find a solution to the community issue.

The JAGs and CIAGs often use the powers set out in the Council's Powers Policy Framework which is predicted on the statutory powers set out in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Through the JAG and CIAG process Community Protection Notice's (CPN's), Public Space protection Orders, Civil Injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO's) have all been utilised in order to address serious community issues. JAG's and CIAG's are not time bound and will work collaboratively until the community ASB issue is resolved.

Joint Action and Enforcement

As part of the Joint Action Group process collaborative days of action are organised across the various agencies in order to enforce areas covered by a Public Space Protection Order. Where there are multiple complex issues within a given geographic area, Environmental Visual Audit's are conducted in order to develop area action plans and visually benchmark to ensure that improvements can be identified and monitored. It is important that this strategy builds on this joint collaborative work as it has proven to be highly effective in dealing with

complex community issues and importantly engaging residents and other stakeholders in the problem solving process.

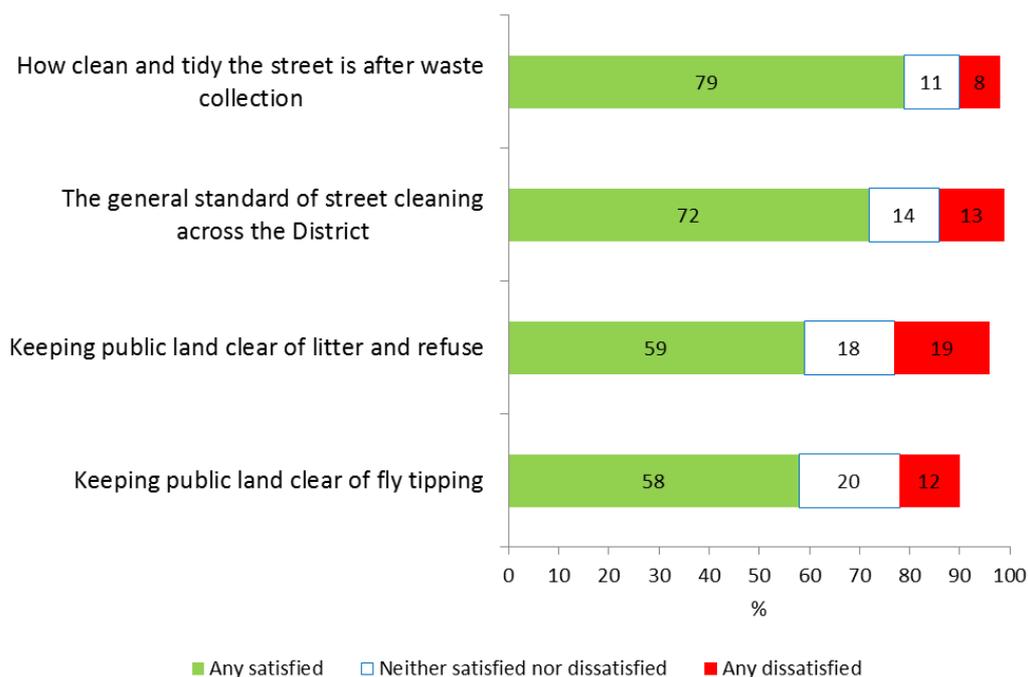
Community ASB - Dealing with Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The Council has powers under the Anti-social Behavior Crime and Policing Act to control alcohol and drug consumption in public spaces. Public Space Protection Orders can be used by the Council, following extensive community consultation to prevent people from drinking and taking drugs in public spaces such as recreation grounds. This behavior is often causing harassment, alarm and distress to users of the facilities. Alcohol Designation Zones which are currently in effect both in Leatherhead and Dorking Town Centres are set to be replaced by PSPO's from October 2017. It is therefore the aim of this strategy to replace the Designation Zones in Leatherhead and Dorking with a PSPO and to use PSPO's wherever possible to safeguard the enjoyment of our public spaces for residents.

LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

MVDC puts a strong emphasis on listening and responding to the views and concerns of residents. In April 2015, MVDC conducted a resident survey to gather residents' views on how well MVDC looked after the local area.

The chart below illustrates how satisfied they were in relation to specific street-cleaning activities carried out by MVDC.



Similar surveys were carried out in two other Surrey authorities. The table below presents their results (anonymised) for comparison.

Satisfaction rates			
	MVDC	LA 1	LA 2
The general standard of street cleaning across the borough/district	72%	75%	76%
How clean & tidy the street is after the waste collection	79%	80%	84%
Keeping public land clear of fly tipping	58%	50%	-
Keeping public land clear of litter and refuse	59%	56%	-

Overall net satisfaction scores (% satisfied less % dissatisfied)			
	MVDC	LA 1	LA 2
The general standard of street cleaning across the borough/district	59	62	66
How clean & tidy the street is after the waste collection	71	68	77
Keeping public land clear of fly tipping	46	32	-
Keeping public land clear of litter and refuse	40	36	-

MVDC compared better on clearing fly tipping, but slightly worse on general street-cleaning. MVDC has recently entered into a Joint Waste and Street Cleaning Contract, the specification of which, is intended to address some elements of street cleaning and raise the standards of cleanliness in certain locations.

MVDC uses a number of mechanisms to ensure residents can share their views and concern regarding community ASB with the authority. Formal consultation was held in January 2017 regarding the proposal to establish a PSPO in Leatherhead; the feedback from the consultation influenced the decision to introduce the PSPO. With other incidents, individual reports are regularly used to target the authority's resources on areas or individuals that are causing concern in the community. Furthermore, the work of the JAG and CIAGs are informed by feedback and input from residents.

ENFORCEMENT PRINCIPLES

MVDC will operate its enforcement activities in line with the following principles.

Proportionality: Legislation requires local authorities to be proportionate in their response. This should include ensuring we effectively publicise and communicate the responsibility required of individuals and organisations before taking any enforcement action. We will take into account the costs of compliance for businesses and individuals by ensuring that any enforcement action we take or remedial action we require is proportional to the risks and the effect upon the local community and consumers. Our considerations will include whether there has been:

- blatant disregard for the law, deliberate intent or negligence; or,
- persistent breaches of legal requirements, previous convictions related to poor standards or malpractice; or,
- a particular contravention that has caused serious public alarm or harm;
- those affected are particularly vulnerable.

We acknowledge that any fines (or where costs are recovered) are unlikely to cover the full cost of enforcement but to ensure value for money for our residents, we will use enforcement activities which are proportionate for the risk posed by the ASB.

Consistency: We will carry out our duties in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. Whilst officers exercise judgment in individual cases, we will have arrangements in place to promote consistency, including clear processes, staff training and sharing best practice with other authorities and agencies.

Targeting: We will target our operations on ASB activities that cause the most harm to the environment or our communities.

Transparency: We will be open about how we work and will provide accessible information and advice, in plain language, on the legislation that we enforce. We recognise that there are situations where there is a shared enforcement role and in those circumstances we will ensure enforcement is effectively and efficiently coordinated to avoid duplication of resources.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The strategic objectives for the MVDC's approach to ASB are set within the context of the Council's Guiding Principles:

- **Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations.
- **Cost Effectiveness:** By applying a cost-effective approach to delivering and developing services we are able to give residents the best deal.
- **Openness and accessibility:** Residents need clear timely information that enables them to help themselves, with support for those who need it.

The objectives and actions which follow are framed within the Council's Corporate Priorities as set out in MVDC's Corporate Strategy (2015-19):

- Environment
- Prosperity
- Community Wellbeing

Environment

Environmental ASB threatens the beauty and integrity of our natural environment. All forms of environmental ASB can lead to the degradation of soil, air and water quality; cause harm to animals and their habitats; and reduce the attractiveness of our natural environment. By tackling ASB, we aim to reduce the harm to the environment.

Objectives:

E1. Ensure a firm approach to tackling environmental ASB

E2. Develop a co-ordinated approach which makes best use of the resources from MVDC, as well as partners such as Surrey Police and Surrey County Council to prevent and tackle environmental ASB

E3. Maintain data and intelligence of the location and nature of environmental ASB to inform a targeted enforcement response

Prosperity

The quality and appearance of our town, village and rural areas contributes towards the vitality and attractiveness of our district. By maintaining a clean environment we aim to attract visitors and businesses to our district which in turn contributes towards the economy. Environmental anti-social behaviour undermines this goal.

Objectives:

P1. Encourage businesses to take pride and responsibility for the areas around their premises

P2. Help businesses to be aware of their legal responsibilities in relation to their waste

Community Wellbeing

Residents and visitors to Mole Valley enjoy the natural environment for outdoor activities as well as a place to live. An attractive natural and urban environment contributes to individuals' wellbeing whilst enjoying outdoor activities improves the health of our population. Having pride in your local area and feeling safe can also lead to greater community cohesion and participation. Many residents in Mole Valley take pride in their area and actively maintain it through community litter picks and disposing of their waste responsibly.

Environmental ASB can reduce the appeal of being active outdoors as well as reducing satisfaction and pride in the area in which people live. Furthermore, an unattractive and dirty environment can lead to an increase in criminal activity and increase the perception of crime. This, in turn, can lead to residents feeling less safe in public areas and less inclined to participate in maintaining their local area or becoming involved in their community.

Through its work, MVDC supports inclusive and harmonious communities that support the most vulnerable and allow residents to live healthy and fulfilling lives. The poor behaviour of a small number of individuals can undermine community cohesion and limit the ability of other individuals and communities to thrive.

Objectives:

CW1. Work with our communities to encourage community litter picks and pride in their local area

CW2. Make it as easy as possible to report incidents of environmental ASB

CW3. Help residents to be aware of their legal responsibilities in relation to their waste so they do not inadvertently neglect their duty of care

CW4. Work in partnership with other agencies and residents to tackle complex ASB in our communities

CW5. Make the most of our resources to tackle Statutory Nuisance

REVIEW

Progress with the implementation of the Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and the outcomes of delivering the strategy will be communicated through the monthly performance and finance reports. The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to provide a framework for delivery which is fully in line with the principles of the strategy.

FUNDING THE STRATEGY

No additional funds have been put in place to fund the initiatives set out in this strategy. Most of the actions can be implemented within existing budgets and resources. Where additional funding is required, growth bids will be considered through the annual budget setting process.