



REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- FC24/08

Committee:-	Finance and Governance Committee
Date:-	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	Business Crime Partnership
Wards Affected:-	William Knibb, Avondale Grange; potentially others

### 1. Purpose of Report

To seek the committee's views about setting up an anti-social behaviour reporting system for town centre and local shopping area businesses.

### 2. Recommendations

The committee's views are requested

### 3. Information

- 3.1. The Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership attended Council on 24<sup>th</sup> April to explain their role and functions and to describe a proposed system for businesses in the town centre to easily report anti-social behaviour. The NBCP would handle all referrals and direct them to the relevant agency, and then follow up to ensure the reports have been addressed. This was their presentation to Council:-  
<https://www.ketteringtowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/kettering-town-council-presentation.pptx?v=1714038280>
- 3.2. The reporting system would be used within the multi-agency town centre tasking group, on which the Council is represented, which is seeking to address a range of issues in the town centre, to improve its appearance and safety and perceptions of it.
- 3.3. A reporting service for reputable businesses within the Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District already functions in Northampton and they have recently agreed to set up this service for Wellingborough Town Council in the town centre area as well. They have secured funding from the Northamptonshire PFCC

to meet their set up costs, so only revenue costs need to be met. Wellingborough Town Council is contributing £1500 to their scheme roll out. Discussions are also underway with Corby Town Council.

- 3.4. NBCP have requested funding of £1500 per annum from the Town Council. This will allow all reputable businesses in the agreed town centre area access to the Kettering ASB reporting system. It will allow easy reporting of ASB concerns. The NBCP staff will administer all the data and ensure it is legally processed, collated and passed to the relevant agencies for appropriate action and followed up.
- 3.5. Their definition of the town centre is shown on the attached map ( the lines show shop frontages not the limits of the scheme.) Arguably the map should include Morrisons site and all of Sainsbury's, and they are happy to do this.
- 3.6. At the Council meeting, members asked whether the reporting service could be extended to include local shopping centres – the Grange shops were cited as an example, although clearly there are a number of other local shopping areas – Ise, Brambleside, Lake Avenue, and London Rd being the largest. Including the retail premises along Northfield Avenue and at Pytchley Rd might also be considered. NBCP are happy to include the Grange shops as part of the proposal, but adding in other areas would increase the costs significantly – by about £500-£1000 per year.
- 3.7. The relative position of Kettering town centre within the county would suggest that if schemes exist in Northampton and Wellingborough, and possibly Corby, to tackle ASB more effectively, that it would be in the town's interests to do the same.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1. The Council is being asked to support this scheme. If it were to do so, then consultation and engagement with the affected business communities would be the next stage.
- 4.2. The consultation that the Council carried out in November 2023 on its budget showed a wide range of concerns about the appearance and care of the town centre and there are known anti-social behaviour issues in the town centre.
- 4.3. The views of Sgt Matt Rock were sought after the presentation to Council and he has said he is in support of the scheme, as, from a neighbourhood policing perspective it helps the police to get a greater picture of where ASB is taking place and assists them in directing resources and in supporting the work of the multi-agency town centre task group, to make the town centre more desirable and safe.

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

The Council's community resilience budget is set at £7500 per annum and could therefore meet the costs of this service.

## **6. Climate change implications**

None directly, but more people that use the town centre for services, leisure and retail are less likely to travel further afield.

## **7. Policy Implications**

7.1. The Council's policy framework includes the following objectives

1. The Council will support growth and the continuing economic welfare of the town, provided this growth is as sustainable as it can be.
2. The Council will support the town centre - through encouraging and delivering facilities, through putting on events and markets, and will help to make the town centre safe, attractive, interesting and varied, with local businesses thriving alongside national retailers and service providers.
3. The Council will support measures to improve physical and mental health wellbeing, through its own services and in partnership with others.
4. The Council will support measures to improve public safety, road safety, and the safety of the night time economy in Kettering.

7.2. The Local Area Partnership has identified dealing with anti-social behaviour in the town centre, and providing activities for young people to help reduce ASB, as one of its priorities.

### Background Papers

Material from NBCP and email exchanges

Emails from police and Wellingborough Town Council

### Proposed Coverage of the scheme

