

FAVERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH

BACKGROUND

1. The Council has received an amount of money from my KCC members' grant for research on crime and anti-social behaviour in Faversham.
2. Crime is a significant concern to Faversham residents.
3. Many of us might consider that more investment in policing is necessary but that is, sadly, beyond the powers of the Town Council.
4. A challenge for us is to properly understand what is happening in Faversham and identify what useful steps can be taken by the Town Council, or other stakeholders such as local businesses or residents themselves, to prevent crime/asb.
5. This research will benefit from professional input, and it was on this basis that the grant was secured from KCC.

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

6. We must identify questions that we want investigated and answered by the research. I would provisionally propose that these are:
 - a. What types of crime/asb occur in Faversham?
 - b. Are there patterns in:
 - i. where in the town,
 - ii. when,
 - iii. against whom crime/asb takes place?
 - c. Following the above, are there certain types of Faversham resident who are most vulnerable to crime/asb?

- d. How should we factor into this crime against Faversham residents not committed by a person in Faversham at the time, e.g. scams based on cold calling?
- e. How does the fear of crime/asb affect Faversham residents beyond those who are the direct victim?
- f. What can be said from analysis of the evidence about who is committing crime/asb in Faversham, for example to what extent is crime committed by residents or by non-residents of Faversham?
- g. What factors are really driving crime/asb in Faversham? Poverty? Lack of aspiration among the young? Substance abuse? Other identifiable factors?
- h. What real action could the Town Council or other stakeholders take to prevent crime/asb?

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

- 7. I would expect the researcher to look at evidence from sources such as:
 - a. Data from Kent Police and British Transport Police,
 - b. Conversations with local police officers,
 - c. KCC/ SBC data on community safety,
 - d. Information from Kent Probation Service and others who work with offenders,
 - e. Local charities that work with young people,
 - f. Local charities that work with the elderly or other vulnerable groups,
 - g. Victim Support,
 - h. Conversations, surveys or focus groups with local residents and local businesses,
 - i. Their own professional or academic expertise.

SPECIFICATION OF THE PERSON TO DO THIS RESEARCH

- 8. We need to recruit a person, or company, suitably qualified to do this work.
- 9. I would suggest that their skills need to include:
 - a. Professional or academic expertise in criminal justice, criminology or a related field.

- b. Proven track record in conducting research drawing on sources such as those identified and in writing an intelligible report with deliverable recommendations.
- c. Ability to work with councillors on an ongoing basis to guide the project to a successful outcome.
- d. Ability to work pro-actively without day-to-day supervision.
- e. Ability to quote for the work and deliver on budget and on time.

10. The timescale for producing the research and report is something I feel we can be open-minded about. I am expecting it to be something like 6-12 months but can be discussed in the course of appointing someone to do this work.

NEXT STEPS

- 11. Agree the provisional “questions to answer”, “sources of evidence” and person specification set about and delegate to Cllr Hook with assistance from LB (or another member of the staff team) to investigate places to advertise for a suitable person to do this work.
- 12. The process for interview and appointment to be discussed in due course.
- 13. In the recruitment process I propose that rather than advertise the job as being for a flat £x, we invite applicants to indicate what they could do, how they would approach it and what budget they would require – effectively providing us with a quote. We will of course be constrained by the maximum budget available.

COUNCILLOR ANTONY HOOK

1 JUNE 2021