



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



Ministry
of Justice

Damian Hinds MP
Minister of State for Prisons and Probation
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

7th July 2023

Dear Leader,

We are writing to give you sight of, and encourage you to take up the up-coming opportunities offered in the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan provided by the Community Payback and Immediate Justice schemes to address local environmental need and demonstrate local commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour.

For too long, anti-social behaviour has blighted our neighbourhoods, making people's lives a misery and stopping businesses and individuals from flourishing. That is why the Government published the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan on 27th March to crack down on anti-social behaviour and restore people's confidence that these crimes will be quickly and visibly punished.

The Action Plan recognises the crucial role that local authorities play in tackling anti-social behaviour, and we thank you for the crucial work you do currently. The Action Plan will give many opportunities to support you with this work and to help you go further. It includes measures such as: raising the maximum fines available for fly-tipping, graffiti and littering; providing greater powers to address properties attracting anti-social behaviour; and providing funding for transport safety officers, youth service providers and improvements to parks and high streets.

One opportunity we think it is important is not missed, is the opportunity to become involved in the Community Payback and Immediate Justice programmes to help maintain local neighbourhoods from April 2024.

Community Payback

Unpaid Work, known as Community Payback, provides a range of community projects for local authorities across England and Wales. The work is beneficial in delivering visible payback and helping to level up communities, working with Community Safety Partnerships to address local priorities such as anti-social behaviour.

Local authorities are key to the success of Community Payback, enabling the delivery of community projects including painting and decorating work, grounds maintenance, litter and fly tipping projects, tree planting, graffiti removal, and work in parks and open spaces. Many local authorities have already agreed work programmes with Community Payback, and our ambition is to expand delivery so that all areas benefit.

Community Payback plays a key role in the Government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, giving communities the confidence that these crimes will be quickly and visibly punished. A Community Payback rapid deployment model is being piloted in up to 12 local authorities to clean up graffiti, litter, and remove fly-tipping within 48 hours of notification by the local authority. There is an ambition to roll this model out across England and Wales in 2024, but to do this we will need agreements in place with all local authorities.

Community Payback teams are keen to engage with you to take this agenda forward and will be contacting your officials through the Local Government Bulletin and as part of the statutory duty to provide more detail on Community Payback delivery, including information on the criteria for suitable placements and contacts for further discussion.

Immediate Justice

The Action Plan also introduces a new policy of Immediate Justice whereby those found committing anti-social behaviour will be made to repair the damage they inflict on victims and communities.

Through this programme, police officers will issue out of court disposals to anti-social behaviour perpetrators with conditions to swiftly repair any damage – the aim being for them to start within 48 hours of a relevant order or referral to the Funder Service being made. In some circumstances, for example where the original damage has already been cleared up, they will support the local community in other ways, like site clean-up after council-funded events or installation of hanging baskets or temporary civic notices. The types of services and activity undertaken should be informed by community engagement and consultation and, where appropriate, (e.g. for public facing/outdoor work), participants should wear high-visibility clothing, clearly branded as part of the Immediate Justice programme, to ensure maximum visibility to the public.

This will start in 10 initial trailblazer police force areas and will be available in your area in 24/25. Police and Crime Commissioners will take a leading role, commissioning services for Immediate Justice to fulfil out of court disposals, working with local authorities, the police, youth offending teams and other agencies to do so.

How your authority can be involved

The teams leading on Community Payback and Immediate Justice are keen to engage with your authorities to take this agenda forward and will be contacting your staff through the Local Government Bulletin. Community Payback officials will also contact local authorities as part of the statutory duty, and you should expect that Police and Crime Commissioners will be contacting as they prepare for delivery of Immediate Justice in advance of April 2024. These

further communications will provide more detail on delivery, including information on the criteria for suitable placements and contacts for further discussion.

We would urge you to share this letter with your local town and parish councils, as they may also be able to identify suitable opportunities.

We trust you recognise the opportunity these programmes could provide for your community and look forward to hearing your proposals.

With every good wish,



DEHENNA DAVISON MP



DAMIAN HINDS MP