

CABINET – 10TH MAY 2018

Report of the Overview Scrutiny Group

ITEM 7 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group in relation to the approval of the revised Planning Enforcement Plan.

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Team Leader for Planning Enforcement on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

Following questions from the Group, the Team Leader for Planning Enforcement provided the following responses:

- (i) The Group was advised that the policy had been updated in line with the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the advice was to have a plan which included the processes involved in planning enforcement and how the process worked for customers and officers. It also fitted with the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy and the other enforcement policies.
- (ii) The Enforcement Team was working more closely with other Planning officers following the recent restructure. This meant that planning conditions for developments would be checked to ensure they were relevant and enforcement could be taken if necessary.
- (iii) The policy had been out for consultation to engage with the public and all local parish councils. There was a suggestion that training would be offered for parish councils to enable them to cascade the information to their residents as they received a lot of enquiries.
- (iv) The Group asked about the arrangements by which members were kept up to date with planning enforcement and were advised that a list could be provided for members' information.
- (v) The Group was pleased to see that enforcement had been taking place and cited some successful recent cases.

- (vi) The enforcement team also worked with the Private Sector Housing Team to refer matters when required if it was relating to private landlords and their properties. There were different options for enforcement depending upon the issue.
- (vii) Although some of the comments received via the consultation said that residents' concerns should take precedence it was felt that enforcement action should be taken on a case by case basis.
- (viii) There was a suggestion to engage with the local press to inform them of the work being undertaken by the Council and to assure the public that the Council was taking action where required.
- (ix) There were tight timescales in place which the Enforcement Team were meeting but resources were stretched due to staffing issues. There was a restructure taking place and recruitment was underway so the targets should be met long term.
- (x) Most action taken incurred no additional costs for the Council unless it progressed to court action.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a scrutiny committee should be considered by the Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Overview Scrutiny Group Minute 108 2017/18, 8th May 2018
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