

## Central Bedfordshire Council

### Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 March 2018

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### **Planning Enforcement Review – Outcomes of the scrutiny enquiry of planning enforcement.**

Report of Nigel Young - Regeneration - Executive Member

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#### **Purpose of this report**

1. To summarise the findings of the planning enforcement enquiry and to provide an update in respect of the Planning Enforcement Service.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the outcome of the actions undertaken of the planning enforcement enquiry.
2. Comment on the draft Planning Enforcement Plan and Member Protocol.

#### **Background and Resource Considerations**

2. The OSC meeting in November 2017 received a verbal update regarding progress on the actions set previously by the planning enforcement enquiry.
3. At the November meeting Members were made aware of the consideration being given by Executive to allocating additional funding for Planning Enforcement resources.
4. Following the MTFP review and further discussion it was determined that further funding for the Planning Enforcement Team was not to be made available.

5. Following a directorate wide restructure, the Planning Enforcement Team now sits under the Head of Planning Delivery, Jennie Selley who will continue to monitor performance in line with the revised Planning Enforcement Plan.
6. Taking account of this Appendix A sets out the outcomes following the Executive response to the requirements from the Planning Enforcement review as far as has been achieved to date.
7. A requirement of the enquiry was to produce a Member Protocol to sit with the Planning Enforcement Plan, Appendix B sets out the proposed Member Protocol on which we welcome comments.
8. The Planning Enforcement Plan has been re drafted to take account of the recommendations and actions suggested by Planning Enforcement enquiry, the final draft of which is provided at Appendix C.

### **Council Priorities**

9. The improvement of the Planning Enforcement Service directly addresses the Council's priority of Enhancing Central Bedfordshire and ensuring a more efficient and responsive Council.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Legal Implications**

10. The changes in the draft Planning Enforcement Plan are minor based on the resources in the team and the recommendations of the Planning Enforcement Enquiry. The new Head of Planning Delivery will discuss with the Executive Member for Regeneration to consider if the changes are significant to require the plan to be presented back to Executive.

#### **Financial and Risk Implications**

11. There are no financial implications as a result of this review.

#### **Equalities Implications**

12. The Council has a duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics. The recommendations included in this enquiry relate to several aspects of communication with residents and the application of existing committee procedures. If implemented it is envisaged that the recommendations would enhance communication with all residents in Central Bedfordshire.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

13. It was acknowledged at the November OSC meeting that improvements have been noticed as a result of the Planning Enforcement Enquiry.
14. The Committee are asked to comment on the Draft Member Protocol contained at Appendix B and the Draft Planning Enforcement Plan at Appendix C.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Planning Enforcement Enquiry Response Sheet

Appendix B – Draft Member Protocol

Appendix C – Draft Planning Enforcement Plan

## **Background Papers**

15. None