

Executive Response in Respect of Planning Enforcement Overview & Scrutiny Enquiry

Report of: Cllr Nigel Young, Executive Member for Regeneration
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Responsible Director: Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business, (Jason.longhurst@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

This report relates to a decision that is Non-Key

Purpose of this report

1. To agree the response of the Executive to the outcomes of an overview and scrutiny enquiry on Planning Enforcement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

1. **agree the response appended to this report including the proposed actions to be taken in light of the recommendations of the enquiry.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. The recommendations of this review were ratified by the Sustainable Committee at the meeting on 14 January 2016 and 24 November 2016.
3. The outcomes were agreed with the Executive Member verbally after Scrutiny and discussions regarding implementation have taken place with Cllr Matthews, as Chair of the OSC Task Force.
4. All of the recommendations were accepted by the Executive Member as applicable and relevant. The Head of Development and Regulation along with the Enforcement Team and Chair of OSC Task Force have been implementing the recommendations, progress on which is shown in the attached table (Appendix A).

Issues

5. Considerable time has passed since the recommendations of Scrutiny however as agreed by OSC Committee the Head of Development and Regulation has been working with the team and the Chair of the OSC Task Force and continues to do so to improve performance and prepare a revised Plan.

Reason/s for decision

6. The recommendations agreed at OSC in January 2016 should at that time have been signed off by Executive but were not.
7. The fourteen recommendations shown in Appendix A all relate to the aim of presenting an up to date Planning Enforcement Plan to support the delivery of an improved Planning Enforcement service following concerns of Members.

Council Priorities

8. The recommendations of the enquiry aim to support the Council's priorities listed below:
 - Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
 - Great resident services
 - Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing
 - Creating stronger communities
 - A more efficient and responsive Council.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

9. At this stage there are no legal implications in respect of this update.

Financial and Risk Implications

10. The costs of implementing the relevant recommendations can be met from within budgets and using existing resources without any financial implications.

Equalities Implications

11. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Throughout the course of the enquiry, efforts have been made to ascertain and understand the complexities relating to the differing needs of parents/carers, children of different ages and local residents.
12. A range of balanced and proportionate recommendations have been identified which will support the development of flexible and locally focused solutions.

Conclusion and next Steps

13. Subject to Executive agreement to these recommendations a revised Planning Enforcement Plan is being prepared for review at the OSC Committee in November 2017 and Executive in December 2017.

Appendices

Appendix A: Table of Responses to the Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny

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