



## **REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

---

**to  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
21 JUNE 2017**

### **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Council with an update on the current status of the Planning Enforcement Policy, Practice and Guidance and the Harm Matrix.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to recommend adoption of the updated Planning Enforcement Policy, Practice and Guidance to the Planning and Licensing Committee.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 11 January 2017 it was resolved that Councillor Bamford and the Chairman, at the time, of this Committee (Councillor Heard) were to meet with the Group Manager for Planning Services to discuss the revised Planning Enforcement Policy, Practice and Guidance. A copy of the original report is appended to this report as **APPENDIX 1**.
- 3.2 A meeting was held on 16 January 2017 to discuss any issues with the existing policy and the proposed amendments. This meeting resulted in a number of further amendments and alterations; a further meeting was held with Councillor Bamford on the 10 April 2017. A further revised Planning Enforcement Policy, Practice and Guidance has been brought forward in response to the comments provided by Councillors Bamford and Heard. The amended policy, including track changes so Members can see the proposed amendments, is attached as **APPENDIX 2** to this report.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Corporate Fraud and Enforcement Team has bedded in over the past eighteen months and the additional resources put into the service as well as the increase in knowledge, experience of the officers and operational improvements to the service has resulted in a betterment to the planning enforcement service offered by the Council. It is acknowledged that improvements can still be made and these will be forthcoming; including an update of the Planning Enforcement Policy, Practice and Guidance.

## 5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 Having an effective planning enforcement service is linked to the Corporate Goals of strengthening communities to be safe, active and healthy and aiming to be an organisation that delivers good quality cost effective and valued services in a transparent way.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The ability to ensure that enforcement process, including enforcement action where appropriate, is taken in a timely, open and transparent way.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – There are no risks associated with carrying out this review.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Staff resources as required.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (Human)** - To continue to be identified through the Planning Services Improvement Plan.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Failure to have an effective enforcement policy or service could result in an increase in unauthorised developments and delays in investigating breaches in planning control could lead to adverse impacts on the environment resulting in long term harm which might be difficult to mitigate.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Matt Leigh, Group Manager - Planning Services, (Tel: 01621 875740).