

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT BY DIRECTOR, HELEN STANDEN

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PROGRESS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- Provide a progress report and action plan on the current position in regard to the Council's Planning Enforcement Service

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to comment on the proposed draft Action Plan as detailed in Essential Reference Paper "B".</b>
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**1.0 Background**

A review of the Planning Enforcement Service was undertaken in May 2017. A further update was provided in July 2017. A task and finish group (set up in September 2015) considered and revised the Enforcement Plan, culminating in a report back to Environmental Scrutiny Committee in February 2016. The Plan was adopted but not fully integrated within the service area.

**2.0 Report**

2.1 Following on from the report on 13th June 2017, significant progress has been made.

2.2 Both vacant permanent posts have been offered and accepted, with the required clearances and references in the process of being finalised. An expected start date of September for both officers is anticipated.

- 2.5 Thirty-eight backlog cases are being worked through by LSR Planning Consultants. Significant progress is being made, but this does come at an additional cost to the council. The overall cost is hard to predict as each case needs different action.
- 2.6 The Enforcement Team locally is working through the remaining backlog and is now managing to contain day to day enforcement issues arising.
- 2.7 An Action Plan has been developed (ERP B) but it should be noted that this is work in progress and will not be fully implemented until the team is fully resourced and new employees effective.
- 2.8 Planning Enforcement is included in the wider Digital East Herts Project and work has already commenced to improve our use of IDOX (software system) which will be rolled out and implemented during the 6 months to March 2018, with on-going improvement to our use of technology.
- 2.9 The support will be ongoing for the team and the workload will continue to be monitored until a point of stabilisation has been reached.

### **3 Implications/Consultations**

- 3.1 Information on corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

#### Background Papers

None

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