

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management**AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN DATED OCTOBER 2019****1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to give formal endorsement amendments to the Planning Enforcement Plan, which was originally adopted in October 2019.

2. Recommendation

The Policy Overview Working Group considered the report and RECOMMENDS that Cabinet approve the proposed amendments to the Planning Enforcement Plan.

3. Detail

In reference to Part 6 of the Planning Enforcement Plan sections 6.1 and 6.4 refer to anonymous complaints. Previously the Council has accepted anonymous enforcement complaints on a case by case basis. However, inherently, such complaints usually lack specific detail, and if the complainant is not willing to identify themselves or provide contact details, the Council is then unable to request any additional information from the complainant or to provide them with updates on the complaint. Additionally, there can be difficulties later in the process if the complainant is required to provide evidence, for example for court proceedings.

For these reasons, anonymous complaints are usually given a low priority in terms of investigation unless they involve works to a listed building, conservation area or involve a matter which may be a public safety issue.

It is proposed that moving forward, the Planning Enforcement Plan should be amended so that anonymous complaints are no longer accepted, with the exceptions of works to a listed building, conservation area or where they involve a matter which may be a public safety issue. Alternatively, complainants who decline to provide their full details will be encouraged to refer their complaint to their local Ward Member or Parish/Town Council who may then raise the concerns on their behalf. This provides a mechanism for members of the public to complain about enforcement matters, and retain their anonymity.

The proposed changes are set out at Appendix 1. Attached at Appendix 2 is the Equality Impact Assessment, Appendix 3 is the Planning Enforcement Policy, and the Process Flowchart is attached at Appendix 4.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance were as follows:

There are no financial implications with any costs being contained within existing budgets.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications that arise from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

N/A

7. Union Comments

N/A

8. Climate Change Implications

There were no comments from the Climate Change Manager.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact assessment is included at appendix 2.

11. Background Papers

Nil.