

Report of the Chief Executive

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE UPDATE1. Purpose of Report

This report is brought to the Planning Committee following the previous update provided in July 2023.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the update.

3. Details

Since the previous report in July, the Planning Enforcement Policy (previously known as the Planning Enforcement Plan) has been reviewed and amendments made with Cabinet approval. The amendments are minor but notably, anonymous enforcement complaints are no longer accepted. The Policy does set out options for those wishing to make a complaint and remain anonymous. The revised Enforcement Policy is now available to view on the website.

At the time of writing this report, the number of open planning enforcement cases is 213 with 306 new cases having been opened so far this year. The increase in open case numbers is attributable to the season with untidy garden cases having increased over the summer months.

As previously requested, some benchmarking with other nearby local authorities was carried out between July and August to compare the number of open enforcement cases at other authorities and the figures are as follows:

Gedling Borough Council	128
Erewash Borough Council	194
Amber Valley Borough Council	272

It is understood that planning applications fees are due to increase in April 2024. It is proposed that the fees for retrospective planning applications will be doubled and that authorities will be able to charge the increased fee subject to this being included within their policy. This however has yet to be officially confirmed by Government.

4. Financial Implications

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

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with the costs/income being within the normal course of business and contained within existing budgets. Any separate financial issues associated with S106s (or similar legal documents) are covered elsewhere in the report.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows: The Legal implications are set out in the report where relevant, a Legal advisor will also be present at the meeting should legal considerations arise.

6. Data Protection Compliance Implications

Due consideration has been given to keeping the planning process as transparent as possible, whilst ensuring that data protection legislation is complied with.

7. Background Papers

Nil.