

Executive response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Development Management Improvement Programme – Progress Update

Context

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report it had requested as part of its work plan titled “Development Management Improvement Programme – Progress Update”, on 4 September 2024. The Committee commended the quality of the report and the progress that has been made.

In response to questions about enforcement, the Committee heard that some years ago the Council had employed a proactive enforcement officer which had proven to be a very effective resource, and considered the reintroduction of this function would be beneficial.

The Committee also discussed the legal framework the Council has to operate within when dealing with enforcement cases and felt that it would be very beneficial if training on planning enforcement was offered to all Members.

Item	Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Executive Member	Lead Officer
Development Management Improvement Programme – Progress Update	I. That a business case is developed and considered for a proactive enforcement officer post.	Y	This is an agreed action. Historically there was such a post and the evidence was that it assisted in driving up the number of applications as agents volunteered prospective changes as opposed to not applying or replying retrospectively. As such	Councillor Hugo Ashton – Executive Member for Planning	Phil Shaw – Business Manager, Development Management



			there will be a likely increase in fee income but possibly not enough to cover costs. A business case will be made following the repatriation of the service and the completion of the existing round of recruitment.		
	2. That training is offered to elected Members on planning enforcement, including the legal framework and the role of Members.	Y	This is an agreed action. A provisional date has been set for early next year alongside a training session on modern design.	Councillor Hugo Ashton – Executive Member for Planning	Phil Shaw – Business Manager, Development Management