

Committee: Planning
Date: 16/03/2022
Title: Information Item: Adopted Enforcement Policy
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Summary

1. The Planning Committee will recall receiving an information item at Planning Committee on 27 October 2021. That item drew attention to the PEER Review of Planning carried out by The East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) and the implementation plan that accompanied it.
2. The report recommends actions under themes called pathways. One of these pathways relates to Planning Enforcement. Monitoring of progress with the pathways is taking place regularly with the Interim Director of Planning in consultation with the portfolio Holder for Planning. Formal reports on progress go to Scrutiny and Cabinet.
3. The overarching objective in the Enforcement Theme/Pathway is to promote greater public understanding of the roles and responsibilities, powers and procedures of the planning enforcement service. There are also actions round streamlining internal processes. These are happening too.
4. A first step to promoting greater understanding is to ensure there is awareness of current adopted planning enforcement policy, to re-engage with it and ensure it is being implemented. That policy was adopted by Cabinet on 18/10/2018. It is up to date and fit for purpose. It is attached here at Appendix 1. Any consequential amendments due to legislative changes are made as necessary. The policy appears on the Planning Enforcement page of the UDC website. That page was updated and refreshed in February 2022.
5. The Planning Enforcement Policy sits within the framework of the Corporate Enforcement Strategy which was adopted in 2017.
6. During the month of March to support an understanding of the Planning Enforcement Policy and how it is implemented there are a number of activities planned. Training offered to all UDC Cllrs took place on 03/03/22. The information from that training is available for Cllrs on their library. To partner with this officer training has been programmed to take place on 29/03/22. In addition, and to ensure we complete the promotion and understanding of the existing policy there is a Parish Forum due to take place on 29/03/22. The main topic at that forum is the Planning Enforcement Policy.

Recommendations

7. Note the adopted Planning Enforcement Policy and the fact that it sits within a Corporate Enforcement Strategy. Note the training about planning enforcement that has already taken place for Cllrs on 03/03/22. Also note that there is training programmed for officers on 29/03/22 and that there is a topic based Parish Forum session due to take place on 29/03/2022.

Financial Implications

8. None

Background Papers

9. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report
 - (a) Corporate Enforcement Policy October 2017
 - (b) PEER Review of Planning, Fit for Purpose, East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) August 2021