

SUBJECT	Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan Update
RELEVANT MEMBER	Cllr J Read, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Steve Bambrick, Director of Services
REPORT AUTHOR	Mark Jaggard
WARD/S AFFECTED	All wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the progress of the implementation of the Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To note the content.

2. Content of Report

- 2.1 The Exemplary Planning Service Action Plan was approved by the SBDC Cabinet on the 17th April 2018, and CDC Cabinet on 1st May 2018. The Plan sets out key principles for the delivery of an exemplary Planning Service and an Action Plan for doing so.
- 2.2 It set out a route map to take the Planning Service to that of an exemplary service. It sets out a series of short, medium and longer term actions. Several of the actions inevitably overlap with the on-going work around the implementation of a shared planning service
- 2.3 The work on the shared planning service has identified a need for a long term vision within which the various process changes can be delivered. This work has also identified that there are opportunities to take the shared planning service from the current position in which it finds itself to an exemplary position. This approach builds on the long standing high performance of both Councils on the speed of processing planning applications
- 2.4 Since that time, some of the short term actions have now either been delivered or have been started. The attached Appendix sets out how progress is being made against the targets in the Action Plan.
- 2.5 Both Councils have also approved the Local Enforcement Plan in 2018. This added clarity about the enforcement process and timescales, and how and when the Councils will consider whether it was expedient to take action. A new permanent Planning Enforcement Manager started in September 2018 which will bring some

much needed stability to a team that had suffered from high personnel turn over in the past 12 months.

- 2.6.1 Since September the team has reviewed its internal procedure and have improved the process (particularly in relation to issuing formal notices and the use of temporary stop notices). A new scheme of delegation for issuing Enforcement Notices has been brought into effect. A review of all standard planning conditions has also commenced as well as a project to review and compliance with extant enforcement notices.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken as this is an update report.

4. Options (*if any*)

- 4.1 Do not pursue an exemplary planning service. This is not recommended as the service needs a range of improvements in any event. In making changes it appears best to strive for excellence.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial

There are no direct financial implications of this report. Major initiatives such as the production of the Joint Local Plan and the implementation of a shared planning registration system are already agreed within the Service's budget. Other initiatives are based around a different form or service delivery rather than actions which would require direct financial expenditure.

5.2 Legal

The delivery of an exemplary planning service does not, in itself, change the statutory or legal requirements within which the service operates.

5.3 Other Matters

This report has no direct implications for – Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 6.1 The delivery of an exemplary planning service will assist in the delivery of:
- Key Theme 1: Thriving Economy
 - Key Theme 2: Sustainable Environment
 - Key Theme 5: Cohesive and Strong Communities

Key Objectives available here:

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/Aims-and-Objectives>

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/prioritiesandperformance>

7. Next Steps

- 7.1 The Action Plan sets out a series of actions in the short, medium and longer term. The implementation of the various actions will be incorporated into future service plans and will be monitored by the Head of Planning & Economic Development and the two Portfolio Holders.