

SUBJECT:	<i>Chiltern/South Bucks Local Enforcement Plan</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr P Martin & Cllr J Read</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Steve Bambrick/Andrew Ashcroft</i>
REPORT AUTHOR	<i>Andrew Ashcroft, aashcroft@chiltern.gov.uk</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All Wards</i>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out a revised way of handling enforcement complaints and to approve Local Enforcement Plans for the two Districts.

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendation to Cabinet:

RECOMMENDATION to Cabinet

- 1. That the Joint Local Enforcement Plan as set out at Appendix 1 is approved.**

The Cabinet to consider the advice of the Portfolio Holder and any comments arising from the PAG.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The proposed Local Enforcement Plan will provide clarity and certainty for all concerned in this important frontline activity of the planning service.
- 2.2 The production of a Local Enforcement Plan is recommended to all local planning authorities in the National Planning Policy Framework.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The proposed Local Enforcement Plans will provide a common platform for the delivery of efficient and effective enforcement services in the two Councils.
- 3.2 A Local Enforcement Plan will ensure that both Councils are compliant with national guidance as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

4. Content of Report

- 4.1 The proposed Local Enforcement Plan fulfils two primary functions. Firstly, it sets out clear priorities for enforcement action. This should provide a degree of confidence to the communities in the district and will provide clarity to the enforcement team.

4.2 Secondly, it sets out distinct phases for enforcement investigations and timescales in which they would be completed. This second aspect of the Local Enforcement Plans will address many of the issues which complainants and others have raised in recent years about the effectiveness, or otherwise, of the enforcement team.

5. Consultation

5.1 The two Portfolio Holders have been consulted on the document in general, and the approach to robust enforcement in particular.

6. Options

6.1 An option not to have a Local Enforcement Plan has been considered and discounted. This option would not relate well to national guidance and would cause the two Councils to be out of alignment with the majority of other councils that have adopted such an approach.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Financial

The delivery of a Local Enforcement Plan would not have any direct financial implications. It has been designed to result in a more efficient use of existing resources.

7.2 Legal

In its own right, the introduction of a Local Enforcement Plan does not directly change the legislation relating to enforcement or the tools available to the Councils as local planning authorities. Nevertheless, the more structured processes set out in the Plan are likely to result in the service of more Planning Contravention Notices.

7.3 Other Matters

This report has no direct implications for – Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability. In certain circumstances the Local Enforcement Plan may result in a more explicit use of direct action.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

8.1 The work of the enforcement team can touch on many aspects of the lives of individuals or the activities of wider communities. In this context the introduction of Local Enforcement Plans will have a significant impact on the following three Corporate Themes:-

- Theme 3 - Safer Communities - being safe, feeling safe
- Theme 4 - Health and Well-Being - healthier, happier and longer lives
- Theme 5 - Cohesive and Strong Communities - strong, confident and active communities

Key Objectives available here:

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

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

9. Next Step

- 9.1 The Plan will need to be shared with Town and Parish Councils to assist in their understanding of the revised arrangements. This can be incorporated within the planned training during 2018.
- 9.2 The Plan will also need to be incorporated within the two Councils websites so that complainants will understand the key stages in future enforcement investigations. As Members will see from the attachment it has been designed to be accessible to all users in an easy to understand and web-based format.

Background Papers:	None other than referred to in this report.
---------------------------	---