

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MIDSUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

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| From: Head of Corporate Organisation | Report Number: JSC/09/14 |
| To: Joint Scrutiny Committee | Date of meeting: 28 May 2014 |

SCOPING OF A JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable Members to establish the scope of a Joint Scrutiny Review of planning enforcement in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee agrees the proposed scope of the review and undertakes the review.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications identified from this report.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 The nature of this report is such, that a risk management assessment is not needed

5. Consultations

- 5.1 N/A

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 This scoping document has no direct equality and diversity issues but the review should include consideration of whether there are any equality issues in relation to planning enforcement.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 The scoping document has no specific partnership implications although consideration of partnership working should form part of the review.

8. Key Information

- 8.1 To examine the understanding and impact of planning enforcement within the two Districts and the role of Members in planning enforcement. A proposed scoping document is attached as Appendix A to form the basis for discussion at the meeting.

9. Appendices

| | Title | Location |
|---|---|----------|
| A | Joint Scrutiny Committee - Planning Enforcement Review Scoping Document | Attached |

10. Background Documents

See Appendix A

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Joint Scrutiny Committee – Planning Enforcement Review Scoping Document

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Review Topic | Planning Enforcement |
| Lead Members | Either Rachel Eburne / Peter Burgoyne; or nominated Members |
| Officer Support | James Buckingham – Corporate Manager Environmental Protection Christine Roofe – Project and Research Officer |
| Rationale | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community concerns on Planning Enforcement within the Districts • Changes in service management |
| Purpose of the review/Objective | <p>To examine the understanding and impact of planning enforcement within the two Districts and the role of Members in planning enforcement.</p> <p>Excluded: A service review of the current ODT as this is being carried out as part of the Planning Transformation Project</p> |
| Success measures | Outcomes of the review deliver the objectives |
| Background information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation and powers • Delegated powers • Legal input • Planning Enforcement Policies for Babergh and Mid Suffolk • Performance information • Information for public available on websites • Future legislative changes which may impact on planning enforcement • Formal service complaints • Appeals • Need to be more proactive? • Member training • Publication of successful prosecutions |
| Methodology/ Approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence gathering • Review of the Evidence <p>Questions to be answered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Do our Communities have a clear understanding and realistic expectations of planning enforcement policy and activities?</i> • <i>Are there any improvements which can be made to enhance Communities understanding and expectations?</i> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is the Member role in planning enforcement issues clear to our Communities, all Members and Officers?</i> • |
| Resource requirements | Officer and Member time |
| Project parameters | Within scope of MSDC / BDC powers |
| Specify Witnesses/ Experts/ Stakeholders | Corporate Manager – Environmental Protection & Planning Enforcement Corporate Manager – Legal |
| Specify Evidence Sources for | <p>Council Website pages</p> <p>BDC and MSDC Corporate Enforcement Statement of Policy</p> <p>Mid Suffolk Planning Enforcement Policy</p> <p>Mid Suffolk Planning Enforcement Web Page</p> <p>Mid Suffolk Planning Enforcement Notices Web Page</p> <p>Babergh Planning Enforcement Policy 2009</p> <p>Babergh Planning Enforcement Web Page</p> <p>Babergh Planning Enforcement Notices Web Page</p> <p>Member Training Notes / Presentation (available in June)</p> |
| Specify Site Visits (where and when) | |