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| Council name                | <b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>   |
| Name and date of Committee  | <b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2021</b>  |
| Report Number               | <b>AGENDA ITEM 10</b>  |
| Subject                     | <b>PLANNING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</b>   |
| Wards affected              | ALL  |
| Accountable Member          | Cllr. Clive Webster: Cabinet Member for Planning, Town and Parish Councils   |
| Accountable officer         | Deborah Smith, Development & Planning Enforcement Manager<br>Tel: 01285 623000 Email: <a href="mailto:deborah.smith@publicagroup.uk">deborah.smith@publicagroup.uk</a> |
| Summary/Purpose             | Update on the performance of the Planning Enforcement Team in 2020.  |
| Annexes                     | None   |
| Recommendation/s            | <i>To note the report</i>  |
| Corporate priorities        | Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard  |
| Key Decision                | NO   |
| Exempt                      | NO   |
| Consultees/<br>Consultation |  |

## **I. BACKGROUND**

Following a review of the Planning Enforcement Service in 2017, updates on staffing and performance are provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

### **2.1. Staffing**

#### **2.1.1. The Team structure:**

- Senior Enforcement Officer: Lisa Evans (full-time)
- Senior Enforcement Officer: Kevan Hooper (4 days)
- Case Officer, Enforcement: Ed Leeson (full-time)
- Assistant Enforcement Officer: Alison Roberts (full-time)

2.1.2. The Assistant Enforcement Officer post was formerly a fixed term post, but has, in the last few weeks, been established as a permanent post within the organisation.

### **2.2. Performance**

#### **2.2.1 Data for 2020:**

- New cases received: 420 (compared to 424 in 2019)
- Cases closed: 262 (compared to 308 in 2019)
- Current live cases: 487

2.2.2 Notwithstanding the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically, the need to work from home and the difficulties in conducting site visits during lockdown, the team has continued to perform at a high, albeit a slightly reduced, level during 2020.

#### **2.2.1. Enforcement Service re-design**

2.2.2. The Planning Enforcement function at Cotswold District Council (CDC) is one of the three review projects within the wider Development Management Service that is scheduled to take place this year, which will review working practices and consider the introduction of a pro-active approach to Enforcement (subject to resource requirements).

2.2.3. A pro-active approach to Enforcement may act as a deterrent to those who might consider breaching planning regulations; may result in additional income through the submission of retrospective applications to regularise any breaches; and would ensure the quality of the built and natural environment would be retained.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1. None

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1. None.

**6. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)**

6.1. N/A

**7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)**

7.1. N/A

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

8.1. None.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1. None.

(END)