

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service Compliance Policy



To:

Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Infrastructure
Planning and Transport Scrutiny, 21 March 2023

Report by:

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Wards affected:

All

KEY DECISION

1. Executive Summary

Members will be aware that a review of planning enforcement activities of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) has been undertaken.

The aim is to create a unified approach to handling planning enforcement by both partner Councils with an emphasis on early intervention and compliance.

The review included combining the enforcement policies of both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council into one united Compliance Policy for GCSP.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- i. Adopt the unified Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Compliance Policy.

3. Background

Members will be aware that a review of planning enforcement of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) has been undertaken. This

has included a review of processes, use of IT to improve workflow and an update of the website, including updated guidance and a video, along with a unified GCSP Compliance Policy.

Enforcement is discretionary and National Guidance provides that Councils should enforce planning law in a proportionate manner and where it is expedient to do so.

Councils are obliged to provide a register of Enforcement Action and keep this up to date. Previously, separate registers were published on the respective websites of each Council and in different formats. This information is now published via the Public Access system, which is automated.

Government guidance also states that Councils should consider publishing a local compliance policy to manage enforcement proactively, in a way that is appropriate to their area.

This policy sets out how we will monitor the implementation of planning permissions, investigate alleged cases of unauthorised development, and act, where appropriate. Previously each Council had its own compliance plan, these have now been amalgamated into a single document.

The new document sets out:

- what is and what is not a breach of planning control,
- the responsibilities of the owner, occupier and users of a development in the event of a breach of control,
- the priorities and response times in dealing with complaints and breaches,
- possible outcomes in terms of investigations,
- the powers available to the Councils to take action where required.

A formal consultation process was followed, as outlined in section 5.

The Compliance Policy has been reported to the Planning Committee of each Council following the agreement of the relevant Cabinet/Portfolio Holder.

4. Implications

a) Financial Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

b) Staffing Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

e) Procurement Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

f) Community Safety Implications

None – this is an update of the existing policy into a unified one for GCSP.

5. Consultation and communication considerations

A public consultation process was held for 6 weeks starting 9 December 2022 until 20 January 2023. This was published on the website and circulated to all members and other interested parties.

A total of 9 responses were received, 5 online and 4 via email, these were reviewed, and the Policy was updated, as necessary.

6. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

N/A

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Compliance Policy Feb 2023 V1.2a

Appendix B EqIA form template 210607 CCC Compliance Feb 2023 v1.1

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Heather Jones

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