



Cabinet 28 July 2010

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regulatory Enforcement Update (Aug10/08)

1. The Committee received a report which was in three parts. Firstly, it reviewed and updated the Council's Enforcement Policy. In particular the obligations of the Regulators' Compliance Code were now incorporated, together with two new service specific policies. The section on Directed Surveillance had been updated to reflect the new Code of Practice, although this may be subject to further change.
2. Secondly, the report introduced the new Code of Practice on Covert Surveillance and Property Interference, which recommended that elected Members review the authority's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 on a quarterly basis. The five authorised applications for Directed Surveillance that were approved in 2009/2010 were detailed for this purpose.
3. Thirdly, Members had requested information about the planning enforcement service, and this was provided via the annual report to the Development Control Committee, which outlined the work undertaken, and was the means by which the outcomes of this service area were monitored.
4. The Committee considered the information provided and discussed a number of areas of the report, in particular planning enforcement. Members were disappointed that, although officers were as pro-active as they could be, resources did not exist to monitor the implementation of every planning condition made on every application, and that officers sometimes had to rely on information from parish councils or members of the public to find out about breaches. However, there had been a number of enforcement success stories, and presentations to Parish Council meetings raised the profile of the issue. Members also discussed the Council's policy on Article 4 Directions, and were pleased to hear that a review report on this issue would be considered by the Policy Development Committee in November 2010.
5. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee **recommends that the revised Enforcement Policy, at Appendix 1 to Report B99, be adopted.**

Contacts:

David Lockwood, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01638-718002)
Stefan Oliver, Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, (01284-706172)
Adriana Stapleton, Scrutiny Manager, (01284-757613)