

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (INTERNAL) COMMITTEE – Updated for 3 May 2022

Action List

Minute No. / Date	Action	Person responsible for Action	Most recent Update	Action Status
165	Report to next meeting on the 10-week backlog of work within the Housing Benefit Team – how this has progressed and implications to TDC and customers.	Jo Wells/Staci Dorey	Email sent 30.03.2022.	
165a	Snagging issue with door at Burrows Centre – is it a design issue?	Sean Kearney	Email sent 30.03.2022.	
165a	Update on progress with Seaweed Farm	Sean Kearney	Email sent 30.03.2022.	

165a	More details on timings for Economic Strategy	Chris Fuller	Email sent 30.03.2022. Email received 31.03.2022 from Chris Fuller- When we took the Recovery Plan to C&R in July 2021 it was approved on the basis that this would be a 3-year plan leading to the creation of the next Economic Strategy for the region, to cover a tumultuous period for the economy given the uncertainties that we were, and are, facing. As such, we anticipate a new Economic Strategy being finalised and approved in early 2024.	Complete
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165a	Enforcement caseload issues – lack of enforcement and how officers prioritise?	Shaun Harrington	<p>Email sent 30.03.2022.</p> <p>Email received from Shaun Harrington on 01.04.22 and forwarded to Committee Members and Members at the meeting on 06.04.22.</p> <p>Planning Enforcement work is prioritised in accordance with the published 'Guidance on Planning Enforcement Procedures' which can be found on the Torridge District Council website. In terms of priorities, this states -</p> <p>Priorities</p> <p>Torridge District Council receives a high number of requests for planning enforcement action each year. Local planning authorities have discretion to take enforcement action, when it is considered expedient to do so. The Council will seek to investigate concerns relating to breaches of planning control in order to decide whether action should be taken. However, anonymous complaints may not be investigated. Whilst Torridge District Council investigate the majority of breaches in planning control, Devon County Council also have a duty to control development associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mineral extraction and processing • the management of waste • the County Council's own development. <p>Given the amount of requests received, investigations are prioritised on the following basis -</p> <p>Breaches which cause irrevocable harm (such as irrevocable harm to the environment and heritage assets, health & safety, public wellbeing) will be categorised and investigated as a high priority, including:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. unauthorised demolition, partial demolition or significant alteration of a building, which is essential to retain (e.g. a listed building or building within a Conservation Area) or any other development that causes irreversible demonstrable harm; and 2. unauthorised works to trees covered by a tree preservation order (TPO) or in a Conservation area. <p>All other alleged breaches will be investigated as a medium priority.</p> <p>It should be noted that the following will not be investigated by the Enforcement team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neighbour boundary disputes; • property and land ownership issues; • persistent complaints we have previously investigated and consider resolved; • breaches of covenants between landowners or trespass issues; • malicious, spurious or vexatious reports; • loss of views; • competition between businesses; and • perceived reduction in land or property value. <p>The majority of enforcement investigations are resolved without formal enforcement action being necessary, such as through the regularisation of the development, although many require lengthy investigations over several months. Resources are limited, and it is essential to use them to the maximum effect, therefore the Council will give priority to those cases where greatest harm is caused.</p> <p>Planning enforcement is not a statutory duty, however effective enforcement is important to maintain public confidence in the planning system. Within the last year, TDC have served 3 Enforcement Notices, 27 Planning Contravention Notices and 226 cases have been resolved or closed. Many investigations are currently at the latter stage of the process and it is envisaged the formal action will be taken on a number of further cases this financial year.</p>	Complete
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167	Email to Committee confirming if there is a plan for improved maintenance of plants and flowers included in the new GM Service	Richard Haste	<p>Email sent 30.03.2022.</p> <p>Email from Richard Haste 31.03.22 - The flowers and the plants will be within the GM Service going forward. They have been ordered by the property team for this year and I intend to review all the beds throughout the year to decide on future planting. Throughout the life of the contract a number of beds have been taken out of the program of works by Torridge. Whether this was because Tivoli couldn't maintain them well enough or the council just wanted to reduce costs, I don't know.</p> <p>That said the staff have already started saving cuttings and plants in anticipation of doing more within our parks.</p>	Complete
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