

# Overview and Scrutiny

Meeting date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Member Questions on Local Enforcement Plan(Agenda item 8)

### 1. Question from Councillor Chris Day

Please could you tell me the current actual DM (Planning) staff numbers split between permanent and contract and how this compares to the target staff numbers? How does the cost of a contractor compare to the cost of a permanent employee performing the same role?

#### **Answer from Head of Development Management, Enforcement and Compliance**

The DM team (so excluding planning policy) established structure current comprises:

- 7 x planning officers (permanent) (one post is vacant)
- 2 x conservation officers (permanent) (both vacant)
- 2 x enforcement officers (permanent) (one vacant)
- 1 x ecologist (permanent)

We are currently employing 1 x contractor to cover one of the senior conservation officer roles.

The contractor in question is employed on an hourly rate of £57.60p/h. The hourly rate of an in-house senior conservation officer is £20.85p/h (top Grade H) *excluding* oncosts.

### 2. Question from Councillor Jackie Chelin

How does the local enforcement plan get communicated and how can it be done in such a way as to manage residents' perceptions about what can be done within the staffing resource available?

#### **Answer from Head of Development Management, Enforcement and Compliance**

If approved by Cabinet, the local enforcement plan will be published on the council's website with a clear link to it highlighted on the planning 'home page'. There is already some text explaining how the enforcement team operates but this can be revised to manage people's expectations and to bring it inline with the local enforcement plan.