

REPORT TO:

Planning Committee May 2023

LEAD OFFICER:

Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Compliance Report

Executive Summary

1. On 1st April 2023 there were 139 open cases in South Cambridgeshire, compared with 143 cases compared to the month beforehand.
2. Details of all compliance investigations are sent electronically to members on a weekly basis identifying opened and closed cases in their respective areas along with case reference numbers, location, case officer and nature of problem reported.
3. Statistical data is contained in Appendices 1 and 2 attached to this report.
4. Data relates to the end of March statistical information as April information was not available in full at the time of the report. April information will be available in the next Committee Report. Q4 2022 (January to March 2023) statistical data is now available and included in the report.

Updates to Service Delivery

The Planning Compliance Team is part of the Development Management service of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.

The service has interviewed for the post of Planning Compliance Officer or Senior Planning Compliance Officer and an offer has been made to a candidate following those interviews. A further update on recruitment and staffing will be available in the next Committee report.

Alleged breaches of planning control continue to be reported online using the e-form, in conjunction the dedicated Planning Compliance webpage. The team continues to work towards the provision of a point of communication online using another webform for contact with the compliance service when the communication does not relate to a new compliance complaint.

Work has commenced on automatic acknowledgement to be sent to complainants when a new case is raised on the system, the acknowledgement will include the case officer name, reference number of the case and the direct email address of the case officer. It is anticipated this will be set up and working within the next week (from the date of the Committee meeting). An update will be provided in the next Committee report.

Following a question on reporting compliance complaints using the webform at the April 2023 committee, I have raised the matter of including advice on the compliance pages of the website to include information about persons who wish to remain anonymous, how they can contact their elected Ward Member or Parish Council to raise a complaint on their behalf, along with information as to how they find the contact details of ward Members. An update will be provided in the next Committee report.

Since 1 January 2023 the compliance team have received 225 enforcement referrals (South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City), 153 of those were made by e-form.

Since 1 January 2023 the Compliance team have closed 217 cases (South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City).

Updates on significant cases

Should Members wish for specific updates to be added to the Compliance Report then please request these from the Principal Planning Compliance Manager and they will be added to the next available Planning Committee. Alternatively, if you wish to speak about a specific case or specific cases, please feel free to contact the Principal Planning Compliance Manager.

Background Papers

Planning Enforcement Register.

Statistical Analysis of Uniform Planning Enforcement Software Program.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Compliance Cases Received and Closed.

Appendix 2: Notices Served.

Report Author:

Chris Braybrooke – Principal Planning Compliance Manager Date: 27/04/23