



## London Borough of Enfield

<b>Report Title</b>	Planning Performance
<b>Report to</b>	Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Panel
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 30 January 2024
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Susan Erbil
<b>Executive Director / Director</b>	Brett Leahy
<b>Report Author</b>	Karen Page karen.page@enfield.gov.uk
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All
<b>Classification</b>	Part 1 Public
<b>Reason for exemption</b>	N/A

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on the progress of the Planning Wellness and Improvement Project (WIP) which commenced in September 2022 with the aim of improving service performance and officer wellbeing.

### Main Considerations for the Panel

2. To give consideration to the progress made to date in particular in addressing:
  - The backlog of planning applications and enforcement cases
  - The quality of service to customers
  - The wellness of officers

### Background and Options

3. At the start of the transformation process, the Development Management team had over 2200 applications on hand, most of which were legacy (over target) cases. This has reduced now to 629 cases with the majority of live cases being determined within statutory timeframes and without reliance on an Extension of Time. Officer caseloads have also reduced significantly.

4. Similarly, the Planning Enforcement team was carrying a case load of 1446 reports of suspected planning breaches and formal action was only being progressed in response to a limited number of cases.
5. The backlog of enforcement cases has now reduced now to 91 cases with officer caseloads at manageable levels. Over 200 formal notices were served in 2023 representing a significant uplift from the 8 notices served in 2022.
6. Whilst the transformational work undertaken to date has yielded exceptional results, the service will continue to robustly monitor performance and review working practices to ensure workloads remain manageable. We have commenced a review of how we manage appeals, pre-applications and Planning Performance Agreements to ensure that we are working efficiently and delivering high quality outcomes for our customers and communities and continue to explore ways to commercialise our service to provide resilience and help alleviate the budgetary pressures we are facing.

### **Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies**

7. The Planning Wellness and Improvement Project (WIP) supports delivery of the key priorities set out in the Council Plan 2023 to 2026. It also assists in delivering the objectives of the Council's existing and emerging Development Plan Framework.

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### **Appendices**

N/A – this item will be supported by a presentation at the meeting.