

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gloucestershire is a historic county with a rich natural, built and heritage environment. With a growing population and economy, the County requires increased and improved infrastructure, some of which is provided through its local mineral and waste management resources. Any conflict this might bring to local amenity is minimised through appropriately siting development and controlling operations; this is partly regulated through the planning system.

Effective enforcement is important in supporting the planning system, through investigating as well as identifying breaches of planning regulations, and addressing them by taking appropriate action. Gloucestershire County Council's commitment to this approach is the basis of its Planning Enforcement Plan, which sets out in more detail how this will be done.

This document is intended to be easily referenceable, setting out in more general terms how the planning system operates, with links provided for further information, explaining how we investigate, assess, work with others to resolve, and if necessary, take enforcement action. It provides flowcharts in Appendices 5 and 6 to show this in visual form.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Plan sets out the scope of the service, advising what actions might normally be a breach of planning regulations, or not. It clarifies those breaches which are the responsibility of County Council to address, the team in place to do so and their roles.

Section 4 advises how you can contact us to report a suspected breach of planning, and what information we need from you to help us.

Section 5 explains how we undertake planning investigations, including setting out our prioritisation system in Appendix 1, designed so we can look at the most serious cases first. Before considering any action, we must first establish the facts of any matter, establishing whether or not a breach of planning control has taken place, the nature of that breach, the degree to which it is happening, and its impact. This section identifies how we make this assessment, and subsequently arrive at the appropriate course of action (section 6).

The Council will always try to work with those responsible for planning breaches, or for resolving them, to try and identify an acceptable resolution. Where this is not possible, or co-operation is not forthcoming, we will consider formal action including legal measures where these are merited. Appendices 3 and 4 set out the powers available to us, and how they should be applied.

We will be open and transparent as possible about the work of the team, reporting to each Planning Committee, and making key information available on the Council's website, under its Planning pages.

This is how we undertake planning enforcement, and the service we aspire to provide you with, whether you are making a report or are the subject of one, is identified in Appendix 2.