

Report on Open Enforcement Cases

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the current situation regarding the enforcement caseload.

Recommendations

- **That the report be received**
- **That a further update be provided alongside the next quarterly monitoring report on cases where enforcement action has been authorised.**

Background

In accordance with previous Committee decisions, the format of this report shows existing and previous enforcement cases. The Table included in this report shows the total number of outstanding cases in one format (shown below).

In the last quarter a further 43 new cases have been reported, slightly more than the previous quarter (29). The number of open cases stood at 230 at the end of the quarter (17 more than at the end of the last quarter). The number of open cases has increased each quarter for the last three quarters and it would appear that this may becoming a trend. To break such a trend it is intended to work closely with the enforcement officer and planning officers and move cases forward to a point that they can be closed. An overall reduction in open cases can be reported in the next quarterly report.

Conclusions

It remains inevitable that some cases in the 'backlog' will remain open for some time because of their complexity.

Progress continues to be made in tackling older cases and there is still a significant body of work being undertaken behind the scenes, which has lead to progress in several complex cases. Officers' enforcement workload is regularly reviewed to ensure continuity and case progression, and will continue to be undertaken.

Current Outstanding Enforcement Cases

The Table below shows the current statistics in comparison to the previous Quarter.

Current Enforcement Status

Year	Total	Open	C1	C2	C3	BOC	L	M	H
2014	43	34	1	24	9	-	-	-	-
2013	219	92	7	67	17	-	-	-	-
2012	229	37	10	17	10	-	-	-	-
2011	204	12	2	7	3	-	-	-	-
2010	206	9	2	6	1	-	-	-	-
2009	233	11	-	6	2	1	-	1	1
2008	276	11	-	-	-	-	3	8	-
2007	353	6	-	-	-	-	1	4	1
2006	280	6	-	-	-	-	2	3	1
2005	227	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
2004	252	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2003	244	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

2002	247	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
2001	204	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
2000	219	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Open Cases **230**
(inc Backlog)

Previous Quarter 213

Note for Table – C1, C2 and C3 are the categories agreed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 17th February 2009 when it approved the Council's Planning Enforcement Policy; BOC indicates that the case concerns a Breach of Condition, whilst L, M and H represent Low, Medium and High priorities respectively allocated to the pre-February 2009 cases

Officers will continue to make progress in tackling the backlog, whilst maintaining a manageable reservoir of new/existing cases at a sustainable level. A number of the above cases have associated pending planning applications awaiting determination (3 as of 3rd April 2014).

Date report prepared

4th April 2014