

## **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 86 new cases have been reported, higher than the previous quarter (36). The current number of open cases is 282 (75 more than at the end of the last quarter). The number of open cases this quarter has therefore significantly increased. It would appear that such an increase is in part as a result of there being considerably more than the average number of new cases combined with the absence of the Enforcement Officer during this quarter at a time that coincided with other absences from the wider Development Management Team.

The issue of resources within enforcement has been identified as part of the Planning Peer Review's recommendations and various actions will be pursued to address the current backlog which is too high.

Officers are seeking to continue to make progress in tackling the backlog. A number of the cases indicated in the Table below have associated pending planning applications awaiting determination (3 as of 21st October 2014).

6 new high hedge complaints/enquiries have been received in the last quarter.

### **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 led 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***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>C3</b>	<b>BOC</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>
2014	183	130	3	93	28	-	-	-	-
2013	219	57	7	38	12	-	-	-	-

2012	229	32	9	15	8	-	-	-	-
2011	204	12	2	7	3	-	-	-	-
2010	206	9	2	6	1	-	-	-	-
2009	233	10	-	6	1	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	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
2001	204	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Open Cases **282**  
(inc Backlog)

Previous Quarter 207

Note for Table – C1, C2 and C3 are the categories agreed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**Date report prepared**

21st October 2014