

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 (April - June 2017) a further 80 new cases have been reported, higher than the previous quarter (64). The current number of open cases is 298 (less than at the end of the last quarter). The number of open cases has therefore creased for the third consecutive quarter.

The increase in number of open cases for the third quarter can be attributed, to some extent, to the nature of the cases which are taking longer to reach a resolution and the lack of planning officer resources is also considered to be a contributory factor. The amount of officer resource will increase following the successful recruitment of a Trainee Planning Officer who is unlikely to have much involvement, at least initially, in enforcement case work but will be enable a reduction in the caseload of other officers.

A number of the cases indicate in the Table below have associated pending planning applications that are awaiting determination (6 as at 15 September 2017).

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
2017	201	73	2	56	14	1	-	-	-
2016	259	40	1	22	17	-	-	-	-
2015	238	31	1	17	12	1	-	-	-
2014	212	43	-	33	10	-	-	-	-
2013	219	27	5	18	4	-	-	-	-
2012	229	24	8	11	5	-	-	-	-

2011	204	11	2	7	2	-	-	-	-
2010	206	9	2	6	1	-	-	-	-
2009	233	10	-	6	1	1	-	1	1
2008	276	10	-	-	-	-	3	7	-
2007	353	5	-	-	-	-	1	3	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 **298**
(inc Backlog)

Previous Quarter 300

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

Date report prepared

15 September 2017