

## **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 29 new cases have been reported, slightly less than the previous quarter (59). The number of open cases stood at 213 at the end of the quarter (33 more than at the end of the last quarter). The increase in the number of open cases reflects the limited experience of the enforcement officer who has been in post since June. Appropriate support is being given to the enforcement officer and it is not anticipated that this will become a trend.

### **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	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
2013	216	105	7	76	21	1	-	-	-
2012	229	38	10	18	10	-	-	-	-
2011	204	13	2	8	3	-	-	-	-
2010	206	9	2	6	1	-	-	-	-
2009	233	12	-	7	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	217	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Open Cases*      **213**  
*(inc Backlog)*

*Previous Quarter*      180

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

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 (4 as of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014).

**Date report prepared**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2014