

OPEN ENFORCEMENT CASES

Purpose of the Report

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

Recommendations

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

1. Background

- 1.1 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).
- 1.2 Since the preparation of the last report on 22 June 2012 a further 42 new cases have been reported and overall 72 cases have been closed this Quarter. The net figure as of 14 September 2012 therefore stands at 157 open cases (30 less than last quarter). Progress has again been made within this past Quarter and the fewer 'new cases' received (relative to some previous Quarters) has allowed officers to focus again on older cases. The number of total open cases is currently at its lowest for a number of years.
- 1.3 Planning Committee Members continue to be sent a Monthly Enforcement List, which identifies what new enforcement related cases have been logged each calendar month.

2. Conclusions

- 2.1 It remains inevitable that some cases in the 'backlog' will remain open for some time because of their complexity.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The Council's Planning Enforcement Officer continues to assist Planning Officers where possible by providing updates to their enforcement caseload and to seek to progress either the taking of enforcement action or their closure. This has also resulted in the submission of several additional planning applications. It should be noted that the total number of cases open remains well below 200 cases (157 at the time of report preparation).

3. Current Outstanding Enforcement Cases

- 3.1 The Table below shows the current statistics in comparison to the previous Quarter based on the position up to and including 14 September 2012.

Current Enforcement Status

Year	Total	Open	C1	C2	C3	BOC	L	M	H
2012	180	66	13	38	13	2			
2011	204	22	2	14	6				
2010	206	11	2	7	2		-	-	-
2009	233	18	-	12	3	1	-	1	1
2008	276	13	-	-	-	-	3	10	-
2007	353	6	-	-	-	-	1	4	1
2006	280	9	-	-	-	-	2	4	3

2005	227	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2004	252	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
2003	244	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2002	247	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
2001	204	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
2000	219	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	217	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1997	263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Open Cases **157**

(inc Backlog)

Previous Quarter

187

Note for Table – C categories represent the categories agreed by the Planning Committee in February 2009; 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 previous 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 14 September 2012).

4. **Date Report Prepared**
14 September 2012