

REPORT FOR: PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 17 Feb 2016

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT –
Enforcement Statistics**

Responsible Officer: Beverley Kuchar – Head of
Development management and
Building Control

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Enforcement Register Quarters 1- 4
2015

Section 1 – Summary

This report provides the Committee with an overview of enforcement statistics for Quarters 1-4 (Jan-Dec of 2015).

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Planning Enforcement

Below is a summary of enforcement statistics for the period Jan 2015 – December 2015. A copy of the enforcement register for this period is appended to this report for information.

Planning enforcement continues to receive a significant number of complaints regarding alleged breaches of planning control and with the introduction of an online web form, this has seen a substantial increase in informal queries. It was therefore decided to extend the funding for the two additional Officers given the additional workload. Notwithstanding the above, due to unforeseen circumstances, there have at times been only two officers have been available, and this has had an impact on the work of the team.

It is clear that the challenges associated with the substantial number of outstanding cases remain and the resources allocated to planning enforcement should therefore continue to be monitored. However, as of 1st January 2016 we have four officers in post. Furthermore, following a restructure of the Planning Service, the post of an Appeal and Enforcement team leader has been agreed.

Action post Enforcement Notice

The Planning Enforcement Team continues to encourage compliance with the requirements of enforcement notices, however in circumstances when this has not been adhered to and the department considers it expedient and within our limited financial budget, the department can either under section 178 of the Town and Country Planning Act, obtain the services of contractors, to enter the property and undertake the works required to secure compliance with the notice(Direct Action) or initiate prosecution proceeding through the Magistrates Court for failure to secure compliance with the notice. During this period we executed five (5) orders for Direct Action involving cessation of the unauthorised Bed in shed and removal of the kitchen and bathroom, the removal of unauthorised extension, cessation of an unauthorised scrap metal yard with over £10,000 worth of scrap removed, cessation of the unauthorised car repairs and builders yard.

Table 2: Enforcement Statistics by Quarter 2015

Summary of Enforcement Statistics

Months/Year	Total New Cases Created	Appeals Lodged	Outstanding Appeals Allowed	Outstanding Appeals Dismissed	Prosecution
Apr – Dec 2014	547	15	1	3	1 pending
Apr – Dec 2015	492	14	6	6	2 pending

Section 3 – Further Information

This report, insofar as it reports on enforcement action, will be updated on a regular basis, in accordance with Proviso F of the Planning and Building Control Scheme of Delegation, March 2013, which requires that any decision on taking enforcement action be reported to the planning committee.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

This report, for information, has no direct financial implications.

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

The delivery of effective defence against appeals and planning enforcement has a direct role to play in the achievement of Council Corporate priorities, including making a difference for communities and businesses’.

The objectives of the Council’s involvement in appeals and planning enforcement, set out in this report will contribute directly to improving the physical environment of the Borough and reinforcing the integrity of the statutory planning process, for the benefit of the Borough and its residents and businesses.

Name: Abiodun Kolawole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28.1.2016		
Name: Jessie Man	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 27.1.2016		

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Beverley Kuchar, Head of Development Management and Building Control, x6167

Background Papers:

Enforcement Register Q 1 - 3 2014/15