

NORTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 9 February 2011

**Report of: Deborah Ackerley Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement)
Cheshire East Borough Council.**

Title: Update Report on Planning Enforcement Performance

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To inform Members of the details of existing live Enforcement Notices/enforcement action carrying on from the last update report put before Members of the Strategic Planning Board on 23 December 2009.
- 1.2** Table 1 of this report details all existing cases where Notices have or are due to be issued or where legal action is pending or has been through the courts since the last report.
- 1.3** Table 2 details the number of enforcement enquiries received since the last report; the number of cases closed; and the numbers and type of Notices issued. It also details the team's performance as per the Local Performance Indicators set out in the Council's adopted Enforcement Protocol i.e. numbers of site visits undertaken within the prescribed timescales.

2.0 Performance Reporting

- 2.1** Enforcement Officers currently have to work using four different enforcement computer data bases inherited from the legacy authorities. Given the apparent vagaries of the Oracle data base and licensing arrangements it appears not to be possible for each officer to have access to all systems. Consequently this significantly hinders cross borough working and officers, in the main, are restricted to dealing with cases within their legacy authority boundaries.
- 2.2** This, accompanied with the loss of a member of the team, has resulted in extreme pressure being placed on already limited resources. However, every effort is being made to respond to complaints in accordance with the timescales set out in the adopted Enforcement Protocol.
- 2.3** Progress is being made on the transition to the Swift computer system. This should allow greater cross borough working and allow for more detailed statistical reports to be put before Members.

- 2.4** It is anticipated that the Swift system should be in use for enforcement early in the New Year.

3.0 Future Reporting Procedures

- 3.1** It was previously recommended that an update report be presented to the Strategic Planning Board on a quarterly basis. On reflection it is suggested that a bi-annual report would be more appropriate taking into account the timescale for appeals to be decided and matters to progress through the courts. It is clear from Table 1 that the majority of Enforcement Notices issued result in an appeal. The appeal process, on average takes approximately 6 months. A further point worthy of note is that the compliance period of many notices is greater than 3 months.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1** That Members receive this report and also confirm the proposed future reporting procedures as recommended in paragraph 3.1 above.

For further information:

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