

Planning enforcement update

As part of the recent Development Management restructure, the Planning Enforcement function has been reorganised to bring a more efficient and resilient way of working. This is now in place.

As the clearing of the backlog in planning applications is progressing well, additional resource will soon be moved back to help deliver the enforcement function and placed in the new team structure.

A working partnership with the Neighbourhood enforcement team has been established and their officers are now gathering intelligence in relation to planning enforcement cases to save officer time and increase efficiency.

Publishing Planning Enforcement Notices has been a way to keep DC committee members aware of what enforcement activity has taken place by the planning enforcement officers. However, this does not reflect the overall enforcement activity undertaken within the wider development management team and the dedicated enforcement staff.

As well as continuing to provide DC committee members with details of Planning Enforcement Notices served, the below table provides an indication of the workload being handled within the team.

Enforcement case statistics 1/4/24 – 3/3/25

Cases received and validated for an enforcement investigation	407
Cases closed in the same period.	509
Reasons for cases closed.	
No Breach of planning control found	114
Below intervention threshold*	238
Breach removed through negotiation	153
Planning enforcement Notices served	7

*i.e. where no or very limited planning harm is found; or it is not in the wider public interest to take further action. In such cases the team would, for example, invite a planning application to regularise the situation.