

REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REPORT TO PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

26 NOVEMBER 2013

QUARTERLEY OVERVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This is the quarterly report to inform members of the work being undertaken by the Planning Enforcement Team. The period covered runs from 1st July to 30th September 2013.

2. ACTIVITY DURING THE QUARTER

- 2.1 A total of 207 enforcement complaints were received out; of these 50% were concerned with unauthorised development and 18% were failure to comply with planning conditions or approved plans. The percentage of cases involving Section 215 untidy land/buildings was 13%, unauthorised advertisements were 12% and all other complaints were 7%.
- 2.2 The number of cases resolved within the target of 6 months was almost 65% of all the cases closed in the period, which is more than the service target of 57%. Almost 42% of these cases have been either remedied or made acceptable.
- 2.3 The table below shows the number of Notices served and prosecutions carried out within this period, previous quarter and the period between 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013: -

Notice type	Year to Sept 2013	Quarter 1 Apr – Jun 2013	Quarter 2 Jul – Sept 2013
Breach of Conditions	7	2	3
Discontinuance (adverts)	1	0	0
Enforcement	19	2	3
Stop	3	0	0
Temporary Stop	4	0	1
Section 215 (untidy land)	7	0	0
Section 225 (signs)	11	5	1
Total Notices Served	52	9	8
Prosecutions	8	0	2

2.4 The number of complaints received this quarter has increased by almost 10% as compared with the last quarter. The numbers of formal Notices that been served have remained consistent.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The six month service target has been exceeded by 8%. The number of complaints remedied or made acceptable in the last six months has decreased by 3%.

3.2 A new Enforcement Team Leader has been appointed and started in his role on Monday 4th November. This new role will provide effective leadership, supervision and support for the team. However, as a consequence of this process there has been a deletion of one Enforcement Officer post. There is possibility of backfilling some of the reduced Enforcement Officer capacity at Enforcement Assistant level, subject to the availability of resources. However, as you are aware, we are currently in a budget savings process for next year, so there are currently no plans to backfill the Enforcement Assistant post at present.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that Members note the report.