



CAI.52 16/17

Committee: Challenge and Improvement

Date 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**D**

**Subject: Planning Enforcement Update**

Report by:

Chief Operating Officer

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Purpose / Summary:

To provide elected members with an update in regards to the performance of planning enforcement services

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1) Members are asked to note the contents of this report

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

**Financial: FIN REF: - FIN/153/17**

There are no financial implications within this report.

**Staffing:**

The section on resources outlines the current challenges facing the work area in relation to resources. Temporary measures are in place until June 17.

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

**Risk Assessment :**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## 1. Background

1.1. This report has been produced as a result of a request from elected members at a previous challenge and improvement committee and a subsequent briefing. The report outlines the current performance information relating to planning enforcement.

1.2. It is recognised that this area of work is high profile and high priority for elected members.

## 2. Performance

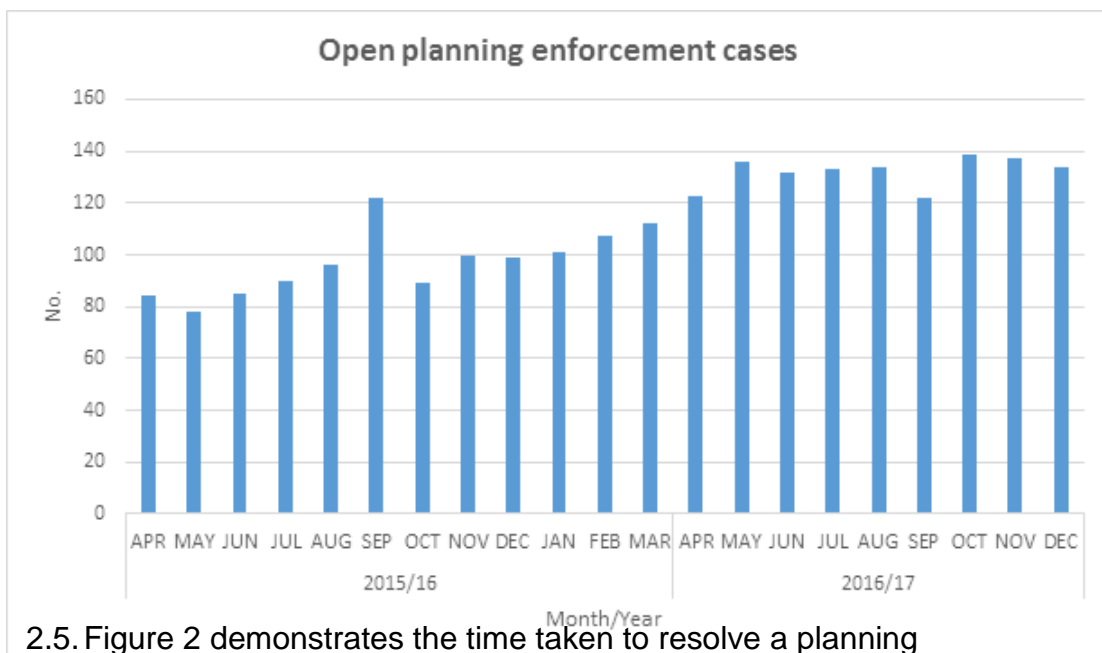
2.1. Information is provided to elected members within the progress and delivery report which outlines the month to month situation within the service area. This report provides an overview of the key measures.

2.2. Figure 1 shows the number of open planning enforcement cases. This is currently 154 and has increased from a caseload of 80 in April 15. The number of open cases has increased steadily as demonstrated by the graph.

2.3. There were 267 reports in 14/15, 248 in 15/16 and already 200 to February 17. Each report requires assessment and investigation depending on its priority.

2.4. 6 notices have been served in an attempt to rectify breaches in 16/17 and 4 were served in 15/16. This does not include planning contravention notices served.

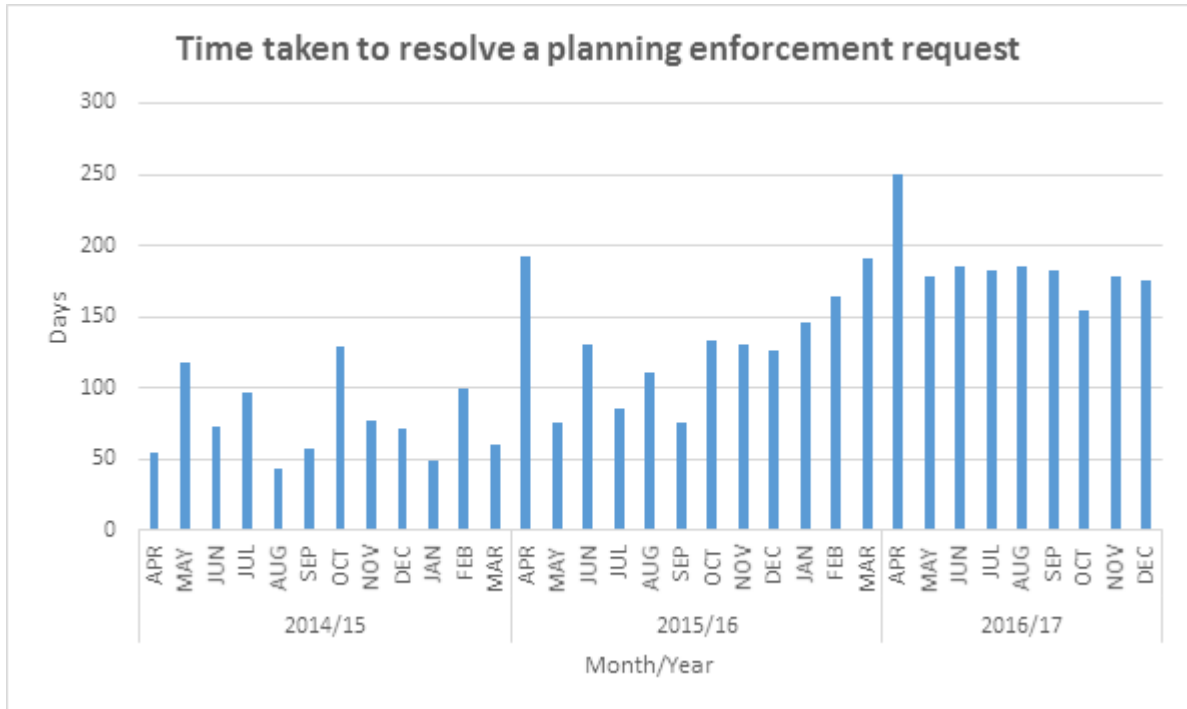
Figure 1.



2.5. Figure 2 demonstrates the time taken to resolve a planning enforcement request. This is the average number of days taken to

determine (close) a request in the year to date. In January 17 this figure was 147 days. In 15/16 the average number of days was 130 and in 14/15 it was 78.

Figure 2.



2.6. Table 1 shows the priority level of cases that have been reported to date in 16/17. The assessment on the case is made by the officer in line with the enforcement policy.

| Month    | Priority 1 | Priority 2 | Priority 3 | Priority 4 |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Apr 2016 | 1          | 20         | 25         | 1          |
| May 2016 | 1          | 21         | 28         | 2          |
| Jun 2016 | 1          | 22         | 36         | 2          |
| Jul 2016 | 1          | 24         | 41         | 2          |
| Aug 2016 | 1          | 27         | 52         | 2          |
| Sep 2016 | 2          | 31         | 55         | 3          |
| Oct 2016 | 4          | 33         | 58         | 4          |
| Nov 2016 | 4          | 35         | 61         | 5          |
| Dec 2016 | 4          | 35         | 64         | 7          |
| Jan 2017 | 7          | 36         | 72         | 9          |
| Feb 2017 | 8          | 37         | 80         | 13         |

2.7. Table 2 shows the reasons for closure for cases that have been closed in 16/17 to date. There are 113 in total and in 56 of these no breach of

planning has been identified. This data has only been collected in detail during this financial year but will now be collected routinely.

| <b>Month</b>  | <b>No Breach Found</b> | <b>Not Expedient</b> | <b>Breach Rectified</b> | <b>Deemed Closed</b> | <b>Enforcement Notice Complied With</b> | <b>Lawful – Planning Permission Granted</b> |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Apr-16        | 2                      | 4                    | 1                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 0   |
| May-16        | 4                      | 1                    | 1                       | 1                    | 1                                       | 0   |
| Jun-16        | 6                      | 2                    | 5                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 2   |
| Jul-16        | 7                      | 1                    | 2                       | 1                    | 0                                       | 2   |
| Aug-16        | 16                     | 4                    | 1                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 4   |
| Sep-16        | 4                      | 1                    | 1                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 1   |
| Oct-16        | 0                      | 1                    | 0                       | 1                    | 0                                       | 3   |
| Nov-16        | 3                      | 1                    | 1                       | 1                    | 0                                       | 1   |
| Dec-16        | 9                      | 1                    | 1                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 0   |
| Jan-17        | 4                      | 2                    | 0                       | 2                    | 0                                       | 2   |
| Feb-17        | 1                      | 0                    | 1                       | 0                    | 0                                       | 3   |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>56</b>              | <b>18</b>            | <b>14</b>               | <b>6</b>             | <b>1</b>                                | <b>18</b>                                   |

### 3. Resources

3.1. There are 1.5 FTEs allocated to planning enforcement. From October 15 to October 16 there was 1 FTE due to maternity leave. In October 16 the 0.5 FTE returned and in January left WLDC. Therefore there has been 1 FTE covering the entire work area during a period of around 18 months.

3.2. In February GCLT agreed an additional resource and one further FTE has been brought in temporarily until June 17 who is in post now. There is no administrative or direct customer service support for this work area.