

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

SUBJECT:	PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SERVICE UPDATE
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The application is brought to the Committee as requested by Councillor P Owen.

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The planning enforcement service aims and objectives are set out in the Planning Enforcement Policy originally adoption in October 2019 and updated in September 2023. This is due for review shortly.
- 1.2 The service currently consists of two full-time officers. Until recently, a planning officer was also assisting on a part-time basis. That officer has now left the authority.
- 1.3 In 2024, 408 enforcement complaints were received. This year to date, we have received 372 enforcement complaints. Based on this we expect to see an increase in case numbers for the year ending December 2025.
- 1.4 Numbers of enforcement complaints tend to fluctuate seasonally. For example, more complaints pertaining to untidy land and gardens can be expected during the Spring and Summer months because vegetation grows more rapidly at that time. We have also seen an increase in case numbers of cases relating to unauthorised temporary signs in the town centres. Additionally, we are now dealing with enforcement cases relating to unauthorised works to protected trees following the departure of the Council's tree officer earlier this year. All these factors will contribute to the general increase in case numbers this year.
- 1.5 At the time of writing this report, there are 228 open enforcement cases, shared between two officers.
- 1.6 In terms of a comparison with other nearby authorities:

Council	Number of Officers	Number of cases received 2024	Number of cases to date in 2025	Current open cases
Amber Valley	2	280	300	
Gedling	1	218	165	101
Newark & Sherwood	4	406	406	302
South Derbyshire	4	247	243	263
Charnwood	4	450		300
Broxtowe	2	408	372	228
Nottingham City	2 F/T & 1 P/T	124	114	

- 1.7 Income is generated by the enforcement function in terms of planning application which are retrospectively submitted in an attempt to regularise unauthorised issues, although it should be added that retrospective applications are only invited where it is believed that there is a reasonable prospect of success, in line with Government guidance (unless the applicant is insistent upon attempting to regularise a matter, in which case, they are at liberty to do so and the authority must consider that application).
- 1.8 In 2024 planning applications associated with enforcement cases generated £21,501.00 in fees, in 2023 this figure was £15,112.00 and in 2022 £19,440.00.
- 1.9 It is understood that the Government are still considering the introduction of a fee increase for retrospective planning applications to double the usual fee. This may be introduced next year.