

Report of the Chief Executive

SUBJECT:	Planning Enforcement Service Update
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This report 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.

1.2 Since January 2026, the service has three full-time officers in post. This is an increase of 0.5 FTE since we were last fully staffed.

1.3 In 2025, 474 enforcement cases were received. This is an increase from 408 in 2024.

1.4 This year to date, we have received new 259 enforcement cases.

1.5 The service currently has 285 open enforcement cases, shared between 3 officers. Seasonally we expect to see an increase in the number of cases during the Spring and Summer months due to more reports of untidy land and gardens and more outdoor householder work being carried out in general.

1.6 The service continues to deal with cases relating to unauthorised works to protected trees which is a more recent addition to the workload as well as high hedge complaints.

1.7 Income is generated by the enforcement function in terms of planning applications 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 2025 planning applications associated with enforcement cases generated £24,113.00 in fees. In previous years, the incomes were as follows:

2024	£21, 501.00
2023	£15,112.00
2022	£19,440.00

This year, to date we have generated £12,127.00 in planning fees.

- 1.9 We previously reported that the Government were considering the introduction of fee increases relating to retrospective planning application, designed to act as a deterrent. This however has still not been introduced. Planning fees did in general increase by 3.8% in April this year.
- 1.10 The total number of Notices served by the enforcement team to date this year is 29. Breakdown of notice types as follows:

Notice Type	Number Served
Breach of Condition Notice	2
Planning Enforcement Notice	11
Section 215 Notice	2
Community Protection Warning	7
Community Protection Notice	3
Section 16 Notice	2
Advertisement Removal Notice	2

Of the 11 Enforcement Notices served, two have resulted in appeals which are currently pending.