
REPORT TO:	Development Control Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	17 December 2002	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Tony Sylvester (Ext. 5743)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Prioritising Enforcement Work	REF:
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Reason for Exempt (if appropriate)

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Committee accept the priority policy (see annexe A) and that the comments of Parish Councils be sought with a view forming the basis of limited reporting to the senior enforcement officer on breeches of control.

3.0 Purpose of Report

To obtain the committee's instructions.

4.0 Executive Summary

Not applicable.

5.0 Detail

- 5.1 As part of its continuing pursuit of improvement of the service and comments made in the Best Value Inspection Report, it is considered prudent to set out a priority policy for all types of enforcement work so that all stakeholders are aware of such and to enable monitoring of enforcement activity against the different work areas. This will enable the Council and others to measure how well the service is performing against the agreed targets. The targets are clearly set out and can be clearly communicated to all users of the service. The preparation of an enforcement priority policy is a commitment contained in the Development Control Best Value Implementation Plan.
- 5.2 When a breach of control has taken place the Council has discretion as to whether or not to take action depending on the extent of any breach of its policies or guidance. Given that enforcement work is so time consuming and resource intensive it is necessary to prioritise cases to ensure that vigorous action is taken against the most damaging breaches of planning control. The aim of this policy is to determine a

priority for dealing with all enforcement work in order that resources are best utilised and the most urgent cases dealt with more quickly. All complaints would be given an initial assessment and consequently may be moved from one priority to another as the situation and the facts become clearer.

- 5.3 It should be noted here that the Council's Planning Services' Development Control Charter states that concerns that breaches of control have occurred will be: treated fairly investigated, at least provisionally, within 15 days in 85% of cases, and the outcome of any action will be explained to the owner/occupier of the site if he/she has requested it.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 None. The priority policy aims should be achievable with existing resources.

7.0 Corporate Implications

- 7.1 The priority policy aims to make action more predictable.

8.0 Community Implications

- 8.1 None

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 Whilst the achievements of the Senior Enforcement Officer especially in the light of the caseload experienced is acknowledged, it is necessary to prioritise all enforcement work in order to help ensure that resources are best utilised and the most urgent cases dealt with more quickly.
- 9.2 The recent appointment of a part-time enforcement assistant should result in its successful implementation.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 Document "Prioritising Enforcement Work" attached at annexe A.