

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

2 JULY 2009

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

QUARTERLY ENFORCEMENT REPORT

1 Introduction and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform and update Members of the progress of outstanding formal enforcement cases and to inform Members of various caseload statistics.

2 Wards Affected

- 2.1 All Wards

3 Effect on Policy

- 3.1 None

4 Contact Officer(s)

- 4.1 Bob Duxbury (Ext: 1821)

5 Background

- 5.1 This is the third quarterly planning enforcement report since the Committee agreed to the new format at the 9 October 2008 meeting.

6 The Present Situation

- 6.1 Since the 2 April 2009 report, progress where possible, has been made on the formal enforcement cases listed on the schedule attached to this report (appendix 1).
- 6.2 The second element of this report relates to the planning enforcement statistics which provide information relating to the number of cases closed and reasons why since 1 April 2009 to the date of print. The statistics also show the number of enforcement cases registered, closed and ongoing since 1 April 2009 (appendix 2). By the next quarterly report we will be in a position to compare like for like statistics as we will have a full quarter of records.
- 6.3 Overall, the statistics show a continuous and consistent level of activity since the Enforcement Team was created in April 2008. The total number of cases registered in 2008/9 was 666, with 562 closed and 104 ongoing.

7 Financial Effect and Risk Management

- 7.1 The risk assessment was approved by Rosemary Watts (Ext. 1566) (Risk) and Eric Meadows (Ext. 1552) (Financial)

- 7.2 Risk Assessment – Where relevant the risk of taking enforcement action is that costs could be awarded against the Council in any appeal if this action was considered to be unreasonable. The risk of not taking enforcement action at this time is that a complaint could be made to the Local government Ombudsman in respect of not pursuing an apparent breach of control.
- 7.3 Financial Effects – It is anticipated that the cost of taking enforcement action could be met from the existing budgets.
- 7.4 Efficiency Savings – There are no efficiency savings arising from this report.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee resolves to accept this report and the content of the appendices.

Background Papers:

None