



<b>Development Control Committee</b>	<b>Thursday, 30 April 2026</b>	<b>Matter for Information</b>
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**Report Title:** **Planning Enforcement Annual Review (2024-2026)**

**Report Author(s):** **Jamie Carr (Planning Policy & Development Manager)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	Provide Members with an update / summary in relation to Planning Enforcement activity during the 2025 to 2026 monitoring year.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	<p>The number of 'open' cases has risen from between 80-90, to circa 130. In an ideal world, the number of open cases would be down at between 40-50 at any one time for 1 full time Planning Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>The number of Planning Enforcement Notices served between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026 is 9.</p>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That the content of the report be noted.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	<p>Teresa Neal (Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2642 <a href="mailto:teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">teresa.neal@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of the Built Environment) (0116) 257 2645 <a href="mailto:adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Jamie Carr (Planning Policy &amp; Development Manager) (0116) 257 2652 <a href="mailto:jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Strategic Objectives:</b>	<p>Our Communities (SO2)</p> <p>Our Economy (SO3)</p> <p>Our Environment (SO4)</p>
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	<p>"Our Borough - The place to be" (Vision)</p> <p>Customer Focused - We do the best for our customers (V4)</p> <p>Respect - We treat everyone with dignity and respect (V1)</p> <p>Excellence - We strive to work to a high standard and deliver high quality services (V2)</p> <p>Accountability - We do what we say and take responsibility for our actions (V3)</p> <p>Teamwork - We achieve more by working together (V5)</p>
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	<p>Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1)</p> <p>Reputation Damage (CR4)</p> <p>Regulatory Governance (CR6)</p>

	Economy / Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	None.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 It was agreed that an annual report summarising Planning Enforcement activity would be reported to Development Control Committee. Due to resourcing, an update report was not reported to Committee for the year 2024 to 2025. However, this report takes account of the period 2024 to 2026.
- 1.2 As Members may be aware, the Council as a Local Planning Authority (LPA) is monitored on its performance in the determination of planning applications on a quarterly basis. One of the performance measures is the number of Planning Enforcement Notices that are overturned at Appeal.
- 1.3 This report provides a summary of Planning Enforcement activity for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026.

## 2. Information

- 2.1 During the period mentioned above, the Council has been able to provide a settled Planning Enforcement service. The current Planning Enforcement Officer has been in post for a number of years, and we have not had to rely on outside agency resources to provide the core service like we had to a few years ago.
- 2.2 Although the service has been settled from a staffing point of view, the number of potential planning enforcement cases submitted to the Council for investigation has risen notably recently. On 1 April 2024, the number of 'open' cases stood at between 80 and 90, however this rose to over 130 towards the back end of 2025 even though the number of cases being resolved remained consistent. In an ideal world, the number of open cases would be down at between 40 and 50 for 1 full time Officer at any one time. The increase in the number of cases submitted to the Council could be attributed to the higher number of planning applications being (correctly) refused, and residents knowing that we have an effective Planning Enforcement resource.
- 2.3 Although planning enforcement cases, do not have statutory determination timescales set

like planning applications do, the Council does have a duty to deal with planning enforcement cases as quickly as possible. Therefore, with the number of 'open' cases rising, a business case was put to SLT to take on an additional temporary resource (funded through the Planning Performance Agreement budget code) for a 4-month period which was approved. Since January 2026, the number of 'open' cases has reduced to under 100, from over 130. It is envisaged that by the end of the contract period (31 April) the number of 'open' cases would have reduced to circa 90. The number of 'open' cases will be reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure that the number does not rise to an unmanageable level.

- 2.4 During 2024, 110 planning enforcement cases were added to the system to be investigated. In 2025, this number was 114, and since the 1 January 2026, the number of planning enforcement cases added to the system to be investigated is 36, which extrapolated over the remaining year would be circa 140 cases, showing a notable increase. It should be noted that the number of planning enforcement cases logged on the system, is not the total number of potential cases submitted to the Council to investigate. At least a further 50 to 60 enquiries were deemed non planning related (i.e a civil matter) at the initial investigation stage and were not logged on the system. However, these still require input and time from the Enforcement Officer to deal with.
- 2.5 The number of Planning Enforcement Notices served between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2026 is 9. Of the 9 notices served, one has been appealed by the site owner, however as of now, that appeal has not been determined. The Enforcement Notice appealed relates to unauthorised windows inserted at The Elms, Bushloe End in Wigston. The appeal has been lodged as the site owner considers that the 6 months' timescale to replace the unauthorised windows is insufficient.