

DELEGATED

Report to Planning
Committee

5th November 2025

Report of Director of Regeneration
and Inclusive Growth

Planning Compliance Performance Report

Summary

Following members requests for quarterly updates to be provided to Members on Planning Compliance caseloads and performance, this is the latest quarterly report (Quarter 2, 2025/26).

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the contents of the report

Background

1. The Stockton on Tees Local Enforcement Plan (LEP) was approved at planning committee in September 2024 and became 'live' on the 1st November 2024 and this report provides the latest quarterly report.
2. As part of the LEP, service targets were introduced which are;
 - 70% of enforcement case closed where no breach identified within 20 working days.
 - 60% of enforcement requests receiving an initial response, for example no breach of control identified or further investigation to be undertaken, within 10 working days.
 - 60% of planning enforcement cases, where the case actions are determined within the established priority timescales.

Detail

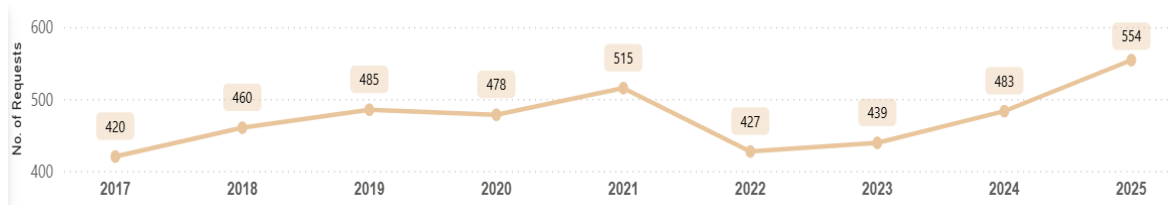
3. Appendix 1 provides members with a snapshot of the over the last quarter's performance for the planning compliance function. Some narrative and explanation of current performance and trends are also detailed below;

Quarter 2, 2025/26 Performance

4. As can be seen from Appendix 1 below, performance against the internal performance standards remains high with the relevant thresholds being exceeded in the majority of cases, and overall 98% of all the number of cases in the last quarter have had case actions determined within the identified priority period.

5. As detailed within table 1 below, over the last quarter the number of cases received has again increased. The chart below shows this is consistent with an upward annual trend in compliance cases being received since 2022.
6. Notwithstanding that, the overall time to process cases has reduced on the previous quarter demonstrating that the processes introduced to both manage and maintain momentum on compliance cases are continuing to work well.

Chart 1: Total cases received annually since 2017



7. A number of cases have resulting in formal enforcement action, with notices having been served on three occasions this quarter with assistance from the Council's Legal Services team.

Table 1: Comparisons over quarters since introduction of Local Enforcement Plan

	Requests received	Requests determined	Av days to process	Notices Served
Q4 (24/25)	127	85	29	2
Q1 (25/26)	167	112	14	6
Q2(25/26)	204	148	12	3

8. Additionally, following the serving of notices in quarter 1, four notices have been fully complied with and those breaches of control have been resolved.
9. Non-compliance with an enforcement notice is a criminal offence and unfortunately there are two cases where enforcement notices have not been complied with. As a result Officers are liaising with colleagues in legal services over appropriate next steps which may include prosecution.
10. Additionally, as a result of undertaking works in default associated with a Section 215 case, we are also seeking to recover costs through the courts.
11. For completeness, at the time of writing, the total number of unresolved compliance cases currently equates to 223, with 66 cases being historic cases received before the introduction of the Local Enforcement Plan.

Next update

12. The next quarterly update will be quarter 3 of 2025/26 (October - December), which is anticipated being reported in January 2026.

Financial Implications

Potential associated costs in pursuing legal action over non-compliance with enforcement notices.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable

Legal Implications

Potential implications as a result of pursuing legal action over non-compliance with enforcement notices.

Community Safety Implications

The provisions of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Human Rights Implications

The provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights 1950 have been considered in the preparation of this report.

Ward and Ward Councillors

All

Background Papers

Stockton on Tees Local Plan
Town and Country Planning Act
Stockton on Tees Local Enforcement Plan

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Appendix 1: Local Enforcement Plan performance indicators

