

Agenda Item 8
Report PC24/25-15

Report to	Planning Committee
Date	14 September 2023
By	Director of Planning
Title to Report	Enforcement Update
Purpose of Report	To update SDNPA Members on planning enforcement workload statistics including notices served

Recommendation: To note the update on enforcement action

I. Overview

- I.1 The SDNPA planning enforcement team investigates alleged breaches of planning control within the recovered areas of the National Park: Adur & Worthing, Arun, Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne, Mid-Sussex, & Wealden. In addition, the Authority now deals with breaches of Planning control within the area of Horsham within the Park (as from 1 October 2024) The team also investigate any alleged breaches where the SDNPA “called-in” any original planning application post October 2017 or any other investigations that we wish to “call-in”, plus any breaches relating to Minerals & Waste for the entirety of the Park. We also monitor the host authorities’ response to investigating enforcement for the non-recovered areas (Chichester, East Hampshire, Lewes, & Winchester).
- I.2 The purpose of this report is to highlight the work the SDNPA Planning Enforcement Team. The team is comprised of: DM Lead (Jean Chambers) currently off sick with her role covered by temporary Senior Enforcement Officer (Rob Campbell), Enforcement Officers (Alan Hiron & Emma Goodwin), and a recent addition to the team, Monitoring & Compliance Officer (Sam Whitehouse). The yearly figures in the table below run from the start of April each year.
- I.3 It has been over a year since we last reported these matters to the Committee. These figures in the table below were taken on 20 October 2024.
- I.4 Alan and Emma have now been with the Authority for two years in their current roles. In the past two years they have closed 244 enforcement complaints. 119 (48%) were found not to be breaches of Planning. 31 of the remaining 125 (25%) resulted in compliance by removing the breach. 35 of the remaining 125 (28%) resulted in the breaches being resolved by the successful submission of Planning Applications, bringing in associated planning fees.
- I.5 In the last two years they have served five Enforcement Notices, and have three cases under legal consideration for prosecution; one for a TPO offence, the other two for non-compliance with an enforcement notice. One Article 4 Direction has been served.
- I.6 The cases received and cases closed figures for the whole Authority are shown in Section 3.

2. SDNPA Enforcement Team Figures

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (so far)
Current (open) Investigations	-	21	30
Cases Received	159	112	130
Cases Closed:	159	99	50
• Compliance	23	3	4
• Not Expedient to Pursue/NFA	41	11	3
• No Breach	78	74	43
• Retrospective Application Approved	17	11	0
Enforcement Notices	3	0	3
• Compliance	1	0	0
• Still Within Compliance Timeframe	0	0	2
• Appealed EN with PINS	2	0	2
• Considering Prosecution	0	0	1
• Prosecution Due to Non-Compliance	0	0	0
Stop Notices (excluding Temporary Stop Notices)	1	0	0
Breach of Condition Notices	0	0	0
• Compliance	0	0	
• Still Within Compliance Timeframe	0	0	
• Prosecution	0	0	
Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)	1	0	0
Article 4 Directions	0	1	0

3. Total Authority Figures (inc Host Authorities)

	2022/233	2023/24	2024/25 (so far)
Cases Received	608	544	249
Cases Closed	674	568	305

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Appendices: None

SDNPA Consultees: Director of Planning, Legal Services

