Item No.



Development Control Committee

31st January 2006

REPORT OF THE ACTING HEAD OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

Development Control Performance Update Report

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise Members of the Development Control Committee of the latest performance and outcomes regarding development control matters and in particular to: -

- i) The 3rd quarters performance figures for applications determined between 1st October and 31st December 2005.
- ii) The decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate on appeals lodged with the Secretary of State.
- iii) A quarterly progress report of enforcement proceedings with respect to matters that have been resolved by the Committee.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee notes the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Within Council policy – YES

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The briefing of members as to the outcome of individual appeals made by the Planning Inspectorate will enable members to keep abreast of planning issues as may be raised within individual cases. Appeal decisions are material considerations and can be material considerations in the determination of subsequent applications where relevant.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

NOT APPLICABLE

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The impact of decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate on the environment is included in their decision letters.

8. WARD(S) AFFECTED

All.

9. CONSULTEES

Officers in Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10. CONTACT OFFICER

David Elsworthy - Extension: 2409

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

All published.

David Elsworthy, Acting Head of Planning and Transportation

1st November 2005

Development Control Performance Update Report

i) BVPI 109 a), b), and c): Speed of planning applications determined between 1st October and 31st December 2005

Application type	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Out Turn for 2004-5
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	
a) Major applications Within 13 weeks (target = 60%)	71.43%	68.52%	66.66%		52.04% (31.9% in 2003/4)
b) Minor applications Within 8 weeks (target = 65%)	82.30%	81.09%	84%		65.1% (42.1% in 2003/4)
c) Other applications Within 8 weeks (target = 80%)	91.23%	90.95%	92.51%		83.85% (65.9% in 2003/4)
Overall applications Within 8 weeks (target = 80%)	88.91%	84.73%	89.98%		80% (previous best 67.9% in 2002/3)

- 12.1 The above third guarter results again represent an excellent outcome for all application types. This continues levels that are at an all time high for Walsall and which have considerably exceeded all Government targets. The results sustain the performance which should enable all Government targets to be achieved at the end of the year. This is particularly important as Members will recall that the Government included the Council in a list of 90 local authorities as 'standard authorities' for 2005-7 based on performance levels for 2003-4. This means that the council has imposed targets of 57% for major applications and 63% for minor applications with the offer of support and the threat of intervention should these targets fail to be met. Following an audit by consultants on behalf of the ODPM, the Council has recently been notified that it has been accredited a 'green light' in terms of a risk assessment carried out by the consultants on all standard authorities as to whether it will meet the standard authority targets by March 2007. Therefore the council will not face any external intervention. This is excellent news and the authority has been congratulated for the way it has turned performance around since 2003-4.
- 12.2 The performance rewards the hard work and commitment of officers and members of the Development Control Committee who together have implemented the new development control arrangements with high a degree of dedication and professionalism. This is despite the number of applications received continuing to be at high levels and the service carrying several vacancies. The continued high level of performance will rely heavily on the retention and recruitment of staff and the continued use of the new development control governance arrangements.

ii) Decisions made by the planning Inspectorate between 1st July and 30th September 2005

12.5 The following decisions have been made by the Planning Inspectorate between 1st October and 31st December 2005. Decisions 1 to 45 can be found in the first and second quarters performance report.

Арр No.	Address	Proposal	Decision	Officer Rec	Comments
46) 05/0303/FL/H2	7 Treetops Drive, Willenhall	Two storey side extension	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to amenity of neighbour
47) 05/0518/OL/E4	R/O 25 Little Aston Lane	Change of use from garden to plot for 3 bed house	Dismissed	Refuse	Out of character with existing built form of development and potential overbearing on neighbouring house
48) 05/0599/FL/H4	10 Newquay Close	Two storey side extension	Dismissed	Refuse	Terracing effect and out of character
49) 05/0264/FL/H1	32 Norman Road	Two storey front and rear extension	Allowed	Approve	Adequate gap between adjacent properties to avoid harm to amenity
50) 05/0447/FL/E6	19 Laurel Drive, Streetly	Two bedroom house	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to the character and appearance of the area
51) 05/0501/OL/E2	269 Lichield Road	12 flats	Dismissed	Approve	Overlarge and detrimental to character of the area
52) 04/2525/FL/M1	EMI Itd Bentley Road South, Darlaston	Metal recycling facility and acoustic barrier	Dismissed	Approve	Unacceptable environmental and residential amenity impacts
53) 04/2632/FL/W3	Unit 6 Ashmore Lake Road	Indoor motor vehicle dismantling	Allowed	Refuse	limited level of activity unlikely to have an impact on environment / area
54) 05/0522/FL/E5	14 Churchill Road, Aldridge	Change of use from shop to hot food take away	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental impact on amenity of neighbours and area
55) 05/0258/FL/H7	30 Branton Hill Lane	Retention of walls pillars and railings	Allowed	Refuse	not unacceptably harmful
56) 05/1211/FL/H4	16A Scott Road, Walsall	Single storey side extension	Dismissed	Refuse	Poor design not in keeping with the existing house
57) 05/0540/FL/E2	149-159 Chester RD, Streetly	43 retirement apartments and visitors suite, lounge, office and 22 parking spaces	Allowed	Approve	Would not cause harm to character of area and amenity of neighbours. Cost application allowed in full

58) 04/2463/E3	Adj 122 Pelsall Rd	Erection of 4 one bed flats	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to highway safety due to intensified use of
					a substandard access
59) 04/1583/FL/E5	Adj 241 Lichfield Road, Shelfield	Erection of one dwelling and new access	Allowed	Refuse	Would not be detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring properties
60) 05/0590/PT/E4	Pavement off Chester Road (outside Audi Garage) Streetly	12m streetworks pole supporting 3 antennae, shroud and radio equipment housing	Allowed	Approve	Lack of viable alternative sites outweighs any harm to character of the area.
61) 05/0921/FL/H4	67 Liskeard Road	garage conversion and new boundary fencing	Part Allowed / Dismissed	Refuse	Fence is detrimental to the open character of the area but granted consent for conversion of garage
62) 05/1198/PT/E3	Adj 138 Green Lane, Shelfield	15m telecom tree mast	Allowed	Approve	lack of alternative site is very special circumstance to set aside green belt policy and harm to character of the area
63) 05/1245/PT/W5	Highway at Queen Elizabeth Avenue Willenhall		Withdrawn		Withdrawn by appellant (O2 (uk) Itd
64) 05/1418/AD/E3	Bus Shelter, Stafford Street, Bloxwich	Illuminated advert panel on bus shelter	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to the appearance of the bus shelter and character of area
65) 05/1417/AD/E3	Opposite 218 Lichfield Road, Bloxwhich	Two Illuminated advert panels on bus shelter	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to the amenity of residents and character of area
66) 05/05/1449/PT/ E4	Pavement outside Audi garage Chester Rd	Streetworks telecom mast	Withdrawn		Withdrawn by appellant
67) 05/0074/FL/E3	Land at Beacon Park Farm	Temporary airwave communication installation	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to the character and appearance of the area
68) 05/0758/FL/W5	229-233 Lichfield Road,	15m streetworks column and	Dismissed	Approve	Detrimental effect on visual amenity outweighs the need

	Willenhall	antenna			
69) 05/0137/FL/E4	Land adj Fleet House Anchorbrook Business Park Aldridge	Change of use to storage and retailing of vehicles	Dismissed	Refuse	loss of employment land and detrimental to highway safety
70) 05/0459/PT/E3	Land at Silver Street, Brownhills	15m Streetworks column with 3 antennas	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental effect on visual amenity outweighs the need
71) 05/0997/FL/H1	2 Kewstoke Road Willenhall	Proposed Conservatory	Dismissed	Refuse	Detrimental to privacy and amenity of adjoining occupiers
Performance to date from 1 st April, 2005 to 31 st December 2005			20 appeals not decided in accordance with Councils	19 appeals not decided in accordan	Total number of appeals to date = 67 that relate to BVPI 204. Appeals against non determination,
Target = 40% National Average (2004/5) = 34%			decision = 32.93%	ce with officer recomme ndation = 28.35%	conservation / listed building consent and those withdrawn are not included.

- 12.6 The above outcomes show that 32.93% of appeals were not determined in accordance with the councils' decisions between 1st April 2004 and 31st December 2005 (28.3% not determined in accordance with the officer's recommendation). This represents a good performance for the year to date despite first quarter figures being disappointing (46%). This means that the council is on course to beat its locally set target of 40% and return figures for the whole year around or below the national average of 34%.
- 12.7 The ability of the council to defend a high percentage of its decisions is particularly important as all local planning authorities are now assessed on this basis as part of a new statutory performance indicator (BVPI204 the percentage of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse planning applications), which was introduced in April 2004. The government uses this performance indicator in its assessment of the performance of the council and in allocation of Planning Delivery Grant. This is exemplified by the award of this years Planning Delivery Grant when £57,056 was deducted from the grant we received as the Government was critical of the councils appeal success rate in 2003-4. Last years outcome (45%) also exceeded the target.
- 12.8 Members will note that I have highlighted the appeal decision 57) 149-159 Chester RD, Streetly when the inspector allowed an application for full costs against the council. The inspector considered that the council had behaved unreasonably in that it was clear from the evidence that the decision to refuse was made by Council Members against their own officer's professional advice and that there were no grounds for refusal. The inspector concluded that *"in such cases planning authorities will be expected to show that they had reasonable planning grounds for taking a decision contrary to such advice; and they were able to produce relevant evidence to support their decisions in all respects" (para 9 of Annex 3 of Circular 8/93)*. The

inspector also concluded that it was unreasonable to introduce late evidence based on the council's new affordable housing policy.

12.9 Clearly it is very disappointing to have been awarded full costs against the council in this respect and serves as a reminder to members that all decisions against officer's advice puts the council at risk if the reasons cannot be substantiated at appeal. The total costs claimed amount to £56,607 including VAT. Legal Services are currently considering these costs as the Council can challenge those that may be considered unreasonable. As there is no contingency budget for such payments this money will need to be found from existing budgets at the expense of other service provision.

iv) Progress on Enforcement Proceedings

12.8 A table to show progress made on enforcement matters authorised by the Committee is attached at appendix A. These matters are included in part A of the table. Members will see that steady progress is being made on most matters although some delay is being experienced on several matters due to legal complexities. Members will also note that there are other matters being dealt with by the planning enforcement team under delegation in addition to these matters and the most notable of these are included in part B of the table.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

APPENDIX A

PROGRESS OF CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION – (FROM 1 APRIL 2004)

Date of Authorisation	Site Address	Action to be taken	Date Notice Served/ Progress	Compliance / appeal date	Complied? Yes/No	Prosecution ?
Part A – Enford	cement Action a	uthorised by t	he Development Control C	Committee		
0	Bloxwich	Enf. Storage of Commercial vehicles	Action held in abeyance as the vehicles were moved onto the highway. RFI on ownership/occupier not returned. Previously reported that no vehicles now thought to be on site.	Will continue to be monitored.		

24 August 2004	7 Broadway North, Walsall	Enf. Notices Excavations and removal of front boundary walls to form new access and parking space.	Following dismissing of planning and Conservation Area Consent Appeals, a replacement wall was erected but this was not ideal in design. Legal Services have advised regarding whether permitted development, and now advising on scope to serve unusual Conservation Area Consent Enf. Notice.			
24 th August 2004	9 Broadway North, Walsall	Enf. Notices Excavations and removal of front boundary walls to form new access and parking	Notice served 3/11/04.	Joint Appeals in respect of planning permission, Conservation Area Consent, and Enf. Notice have all been Dismissed, and Enf. Notice requiring reinstatement upheld. Owner has sought limited deviation from 'like for	Pending	

		space.		like' reinstatement, and with Conservation Officer support. Owner has been advised in detail and a date for works sought.		
14 Sept. 2004	47 Sites for which remedial works are required for unsightly land and buildings	S215 Notices	At time of presentation to Committee, 31 sites had been resolved informally. Monitoring and negotiation continues on remainder with intention to bring forward for action if appropriate. 8 were identified for formal action. Some of these resolved by demolitions or compliance and 4 Notices served on the most difficult cases, June to September 05.	Compliance due as follows; 182 Wolverhampton Road - 2/8/05, 49 Wednesfield Road - 24/8/05, 69/72 Wednesfield Road - 3/11/05	No Yes Yes – overall -impact on street scene greatly improved, but full compliance in preparing for painting is doubtful in places.	Owner difficult to trace – options being investigated No No Not at present. Weathering, appearance, and possible redevelopmen t to be monitored
				Mellish Road Church -13/12/05	No	Prosecution of co-owners

				Previously reported that Appeal made to Magistrates and date being obtained. However appeal lapsed and was returned by Court.	timetabled for 22 nd March in Magistrates Court. If works completed beforehand, proceedings may be adjourned.
26 October 2004	17 Newport Street, Walsall	Listed Building Enf Notice - Installation of UPVC windows to first floor.	Witness statements currently being updated as case being reviewed to gather further evidence before legal action can proceed.		
		Listed Building and Advert Regs Prosecutions in respect of display of adverts.	As above		
7 December 2004	Rear 40 -54 Cartbridge Lane, Rushall	Enf. Notice -Erection of timber cabin with concrete base, on gypsy site.	RFI regarding ownership and occupation not returned. Case reviewed with Legal Services, who now contacting solicitor who has begun to represent owner.		

7 December 2004	16 -19 Church Street, Darlaston	(temporary permission following Appeal) Enf. Notice Use as a car wash.	Ownership/occupier information being considered and draft Enf. Notice being prepared.			
4 January 2005	Sleems, 8 West Bromwich Road, Walsall	Prosecution regarding -Illuminated adverts	RFI regarding ownership/occupier not returned. New proprietor for business has been contacted and problem fully discussed with new proprietor as part of renewed attempt to negotiate a solution.			
4 January 2005	74 and 75 Stafford Street, Willenhall	Section 215 Notice	Served 7/9/05	Compliance due in stages; 7/11/05 and 7/12/05	No (Minimal works carried out)	The alternatives of prosecution or Direct Action need to be compared. (Possible report). Also considering role of other legislation.

8 th March 2005	43 Wenlock Gardens	Section 215 Notice	Notice receiving final checks.		
30 th March 2005	Fastpack Solutions Ltd, Queen Street, Walsall	Enf. Notice – Installation of shipping container	Enf. Notice appeal dismissed and container removed after correspondence.	Yes	
19 th April 2005	29 & 35 Bilston Lane, Willenhall	Enf. Notice – change of use to car sales. Prosecution regarding display of advert	Enf. appeal dismissed and use ceased and advert removed	Yes	
19 th April 2005	Green Lane & Old Birchills Green Lane & Rayboulds Bridge	Prosecutions- Poster hoardings at each junction	Green Lane/Old Birchills – hoarding removed. Green Lane /Rayboulds Bridge - Discussions between Planning and Estates Depts on alternative sites. Currently awaiting response from poster company.	Yes Pending	
10 th May 2005	37 – 38 Bradford Street	Section 215 notice	Notice has been re- drafted to suit latest ownership information. Logistics in relation to		

			possible demolition and redevelopment being finally considered together with Legal Services			
7 th June 2005	60 Spring Lane	Enf. Notice – installation of shipping container	Served 23/9/05	Compliance due 26/4/06		
28 th June 2005	Ikea Ltd, Park Lane, Darlaston	Enf. Notices Erection of steel framed building ('Bargain Corner')	Notice served 13/7/05.	Compliance due 21/12/05.	Yes	
		Erection of modular building	Not served - building removed		Yes	
		Extension to site comprising fenced compound	Not served - fence removed and most use ceased. Being monitored whilst major internal works affecting site and adjacent land.		Yes	
28 th June 2005	Pallet Racking Systems Ltd, Ashmore Lake Way	Withdrawn from Agenda -planning application received				

19 th July 2005	454 Sutton Road Walsall MBC	Enf. Notice Erection of boundary wall and gates	Served October 05.	Compliance date 30 th Jan 2006. Appeal was commenced but not validated, and now a current planning application for an amended scheme.	Pending	
19 th July 2005	Land west side of Acorn Street, Willenhall	Enf. Notice Use for vehicle storage, and repair / preparation of 'banger' racing cars as part of recreational activity.	Previously reported that not served whilst a planning application (possibly acceptable) being submitted. This application not received and case now referred to Legal Services for RFI on ownership/occupier and drafting notice.			
19 th July 2005	35 Flaxall Street, Walsall	Section 215 Notice	Relationship with other possible initiatives being discussed inter- departmentally.			
20 th September 2005	The former Hatherton Liberal Club, and House	Section 215 Notice	Drafting now advanced - schedule of works refined prior to checking by Legal Services.			

11 th October 2005	Land rear of 232 Lichfield Road, New Invention.	Enf. Notices – Vehicle bodies etc used as buildings, and metal panel on posts. Section 215 Notice – metal panel on posts	Enf. notice to require removal of vehicle bodies served 1 st November 05. Enf. notice requiring removal of metal panel on posts now being drafted following final letter to occupier.	Compliance was due 6 th February 2006, but Inspectorate now expected to confirm an Appeal is valid. Written Representation appeal procedure commencing.		
22 nd November 2005	9 Goodall Grove, Pheasey	Erection of amateur radio mast within residential curtilage.	RFI for information served on owner/occupier before drafting notice			
22 nd November 2005	South side of Wolverhampt on Street (site cleared for Waterfront Development)	Prosecution action – in respect of displaying Poster Hoarding Panels above brick wall.	Not commenced – poster hoarding panels removed following legal action by land-owners.		Yes resolved – by land owners.	
13 th December 2005	The former Manor House Public House,	Section 215 notice. -advanced	At drafting stage			

	Mill Street, Walsall	dereliction			
13 th December 2005	228 Tyndale Crescent, Pheasey	Enf. notice - Dormer roof extension	Legal Services serving an RFI on owner/occupier prior to drafting Notice.		
13 th December 2005	Rear of 232 Lichfield Road, New Invention	Informal action - that 'T Mobile' be instructed to remove their telecom mast at end of 6 month period. (claim of 'emergency permitted development' for 6 months)			
10 th January 2006	Barr Beacon Farm, Bridle Lane, Barr Beacon, Aldridge	Enf. Notice Telecommuni cations mast and base compound	Legal Services serving RFI for owner/occupier information prior to drafting of notice.		

Address	Breach	Type of Action	Date Notice served / Progress	Compliance date / appeal	Complied? Yes/No	Prosecution?
Redrow Homes, Aldridge Road	Breach of Condition Notice – Breach of operational hours	BCN	Notice Served 1st October 2004	To be complied with by 30 October 2004	Some breaches were reported by residents- compliance improved following correspondence. At time of writing no evidence of breaches.	Evidence for prosecution is to be monitored.
34 Milton Street	Planning Contravention Notice- Use as a Community Centre	PCN	Notice served 19 October 2004	Compliance 21 days	Returned by Post Office. Not re- served - circumstances changed meeting, inspection, and planning application discussions.	
Unique Roofing Ltd Balls Street, Walsall	Breach of Condition Notice – storage on parking area	BCN	Notice served 28/6/05	Compliance 30 days	No A planning application for alternative parking was expected but was not received.	Report for Committee authority may be made following consultation with Transportation officers.

Part B – Enforcement Action taken under delegation

11 Aldridge Road, Walsall	Breach of Condition Notice - Formation of opening for side-facing window.	BCN	Notice served 22/9/05	Compliance 30 days	No	Report for Committee authority may be made.