

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Enforcement Action

**REPORT OF:** Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise the Committee of the progress of enforcement action previously authorised by the Committee.

### **Background**

2. The properties, which are the subject of enforcement action and their current status, are set out in Appendix 2.

### **Recommendations**

3. It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

**1. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**2. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**3. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**6. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

**7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The Human Rights Act states a person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. However this does not impair the right of the state to enforce such laws, as it deems necessary to control the use of property and land in accordance with the general interest.

**8. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Birtley, Bridges, Blaydon, Pelaw & Heworth, Chowdene, Crawcrook & Greenside, Ryton, Crookhill and Stella, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill, Wardley & Leam Lane, Winlaton and High Spen, Whickham North, Whickham South and Sunnyside, Lobley Hill and Bensham. Lamesley, Dunston Hill and Whickham East and Low Fell.

**9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Nil.

APPENDIX 2

Item Number	Site	Ward	Alleged Breach of Planning Control	Date Approval given for Enforcement Action	Date Served	Plan App Rec'd Y/N	Appeal Rec'd Y/N	Date Notice comes into Force	End of Compliance Period	Current Status	Compliance Y/N
1.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlton and High Spen	Change of use from agricultural to mixed use for keeping of horses, breaking, dismantling of vehicles, storage and burning of waste and the storage of caravans and vehicle bodies.	25 March 2013	25 March 2013	N	N	29 April 2013	29 June 2013	Complaints have been received over a considerable period regarding the inappropriate use of an area of green belt adjacent to B6315. During investigation it was established that the land was being used for a range of inappropriate uses. Despite attempts to negotiate with the land owner to reach a satisfactory conclusion no sustained improvement was secured. Therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the removal of the inappropriate material from the site together with the cessation of the unauthorised use. No appeal has been received and the notice has taken effect. A visit to obtain quotes is being arranged in order to look at the costs of carrying out work in default.	
2.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlton and High Spen	Erection of a breeze block building	25 March 2013	25 March 2013	N	N	29 April 2013	29 June 2013	Complaints have been received over a considerable period regarding the inappropriate use of an area of green belt adjacent to B6315. During the course of investigations it was established that a building had been erected without	

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										<p>consent.</p> <p>The building is considered to be unacceptable and therefore the council have issued an enforcement notice requiring the removal of the unauthorised building. No appeal has been received and the notice has taken effect.</p> <p>The new owner of the site has been contacted and works are well underway to tidy the site with the demolition of the breeze block structure taking place in the near future</p>	
3.	Land at Litchfield Lane, Winlaton Gateshead	Winlaton and High Spen	Unsightly Land	25 September 2013	25 September 2013	N	N	31 October 2013	31 December 2013	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the land which has planning permission for a residential development that has not yet commenced. Despite attempts to resolve the matter amicably a notice has now been issued requiring a scheme of remedial works within a specified timescale. The majority of the steps required by notice were complied with following the issue of Summons'.</p>	
			Unsightly Land	21 <sup>st</sup> September	21 <sup>st</sup> September	N	N	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015	16 <sup>th</sup> December	<p>A planning application is expected to be submitted soon.</p>	

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				2015          3 January 2017	2015          4 January 2017			8 February 2017	2015       8 April 2017, 8 May 2017 and 8 June 2017	However, a further Section 215 notice has been served requiring a hoarding to be erected around the site.  Planning permission has now been granted for the site and discussions regarding the compliance with the notice are ongoing.  A further notice has now been issued requiring the site to be tidied and a hoarding erected.  Work to erect the hoarding is now complete.	
4.	40 Whitemere Gardens Wardley	Wardley and Leam Lane	Unauthorised Change of Use of residential land	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	N	N	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	The notice has been served as the land in question is being used as a mixed use of dwelling house and vehicle repair and servicing, storage of vehicles and vehicle repair parts and equipment and vehicle recovery.  A file has been prepared and the matter is being progressed with PACE interviews with those suspected of breaching the Notice	
5.	21 Saltwell View	Saltwell	Unauthorised alteration to property	16 July 2014	16 July 2014	N		20 August 2014	13 September 2016	The unauthorised installation of UPVC windows without consent, -fronting the highway in an area subject to a Direction under Article 4 of the	

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										<p>Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. Contrary to contrary to Policy ENV7 of the Unitary Development Plan.</p> <p>Enforcement Notice has been served which requires the replacement of the windows with white painted timber sliding sash windows identical to the windows which were in place when the Article 4 Direction was applied</p> <p>Decision issued, notice upheld as varied. Notice to be complied with by the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016</p> <p>A planning application has been approved to retain an amended version of the windows.</p>	
6.	Land at Woodhouse Lane, Swalwell (Known as South West Farm Site One)	Swalwell	Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture, storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and scrap metal and vehicle dismantling and repair	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	Notices were issued in September 2015 in respect of an unauthorised scrap being stored. Due to the scale of the breach of planning control an additional Notice was required in relation to the potential Environmental Impact of the Development.	
	(Known as South West Farm Site Two)	Swalwell	Without planning permission the change of use of the land from	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	As such the original Notices (which were	

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	(Known as South West Farm Site Three)	Swalwell	<p>agriculture and reception, composting and transfer of green waste to a mixed use for agriculture and the storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and parts, repair and restoration of vehicles and machinery and the reception, composting and transfer of green waste.</p> <p>Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture to a mixed use for agriculture and the storage of vehicles, agricultural equipment and scrap metal and vehicle dismantling and repair</p>	11 January 2016	12 January 2016	N	N	15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 2016	<p>all being appealed) were withdrawn and further Notices have now been issued including those in respect of the requirement to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment and provide an Environmental Statement with an subsequent appeals.</p> <p>The Notices requires firstly, the cessation of the unauthorised use and secondly, the removal from the land of the scrap.</p> <p>The site is to be visited following the expiration of the compliance period the visit is to be carried out imminently in conjunction with the Environment Agency.</p> <p><b>The associated legal action at Newcastle Crown Court has been completed a further hearing at Gateshead Magistrates Court has been listed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.</b></p>	
7.	Site of former Stella South Power Station, Stella Riverside	Ryton, Crookhill and Stella	Failure to comply with a condition attached to the planning permission in relation to play areas	18 January 2016	18 January 2016	Y	N	18 January 2016	<p>14 March 2016 (stage 1)</p> <p>9 May 2016 (stage 2)</p>	Complaints have been received that a condition attached to the planning application for the site has not been complied with in respect of the provision of play equipment. Despite protracted negotiation	

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										<p>the work to comply with the condition had not commenced on site. As such a notice was served requiring compliance within a specified timescale.</p> <p>Work on site is complete on 3 of the 4 play areas and approaching completion on the one remaining area.</p> <p><b>All play areas are now complete</b></p>	
8.	Tynedale House, Main Street, Crawcrook	Crawcrook and Greenside	Unsightly Building	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Y	N	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the appearance of the front elevation of the property which is a former butchers shop.</p> <p>Whilst the site is noted to be under renovation the works have not substantially progress and the matter has become protracted.</p> <p>Therefore the Notice has been issued to ensure the façade is brought up to an acceptable standard within a specified period.</p> <p><b>The majority of the requirements of the notice have been complied with and further discussions with the owner have taken place</b></p>	



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9.	Site of Station House, Green Lane, Gateshead	Pelaw and Heworth	Breach of Planning Condition	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Y	N	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Complaints have been received regarding the use of the site which has planning permission to change to a scaffolding yard. The permission was granted subjected to a number of conditions many of which related to highway safety and which required discharge prior to the new use being commenced.	
			Breach of Planning Conditions	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Y	N	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	The use has commenced without the conditions being discharged. Adjacent to the site a new supermarket is under construction as a result Officers have significant concerns regarding highway safety. Therefore a Temporary Stop Notice was issued requiring the use to stop until the conditions are discharged.  A Breach of Condition Notice was issued and the required information has been submitted.  Whilst the information is being considered complaints have been received regarding activity on site and the owners have been warned that further, formal, action is being considered.	

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10.	Lidl, Hexham Road, Swalwell, NE16 3AF	Whickham North	Breach of Condition	4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	Y	N	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	The development of the Lidl Supermarket was subject to planning permission including a range of planning conditions. One of these conditions restricts the hours that deliveries and servicing can be carried out. Complaints have been received that this has been breached including multiple breaches on Easter Sunday. As such a notice has been issued requiring compliance with the delivery and servicing condition (no. 15)h	
11.	Land to the rear of 17 Flexbury Gardens, Gateshead, NE9 7TH	Chowdene	Unightly Land	19 May 2017	19 May 2017	N	N	23 June 2017	4 August 2017	The land which is not attached to any property has been overgrown for a long period and is unsightly.  Officers have made enquiries as to the owner of the site and have now issued a Notice requiring it to be tidied within a specific timescale.  The specified time period has elapsed and while some work has been carried out it is not satisfactory. The owner now has until 17 August to complete the work otherwise further action will be taken.  A prosecution file has been prepared. <b>The first hearing is listed</b>	

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										<b>at Gateshead Magistrates Court on 20.12.17</b>	
12.	Land adjacent to Wilson's Auctions, Shadon Way, Birtley, DH3 2SA	Birtley	Unauthorised Change of Use	27 July 2017	28 July 2017	Y	Y	4 September 2017	27 November 2017	<p>The land has been covered with a hard standing and is being used for the storage of cars connected to the adjacent car auction use.</p> <p>The planning application to retain the development ref. DC/17/00156/COU was refused by Planning and Development Committee on</p> <p>An Enforcement Notice has been issued to resolve the issues identified which resulted in the refusal of the application</p> <p>An appeal against the Enforcement Notice has now been received. The Council are awaiting a start date from The Planning Inspectorate</p>	
13.	8 Thirlmere, Birtley, DH3 2JY	Birtley	Unauthorised Change of Use	27 July 2017	28 July 2017	Y	N	4 September 2017	2 October 2017	<p>The property is been used as a mixed use involving residential, dog grooming and dog boarding.</p> <p>The planning application to retain the development ref. DC/17/00428/FUL was refused by Planning and Development Committee on</p>	

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										An Enforcement Notice has been issued to resolve the issues identified which resulted in the refusal of the application	
14.	Site of Former Collinson Brothers Garage, Derwent Street, Chopwell	Rowlands Gill and Chopwell	Unsightly Land	31 August 2017	1 September 2017	N	N	4 October 2017	29 November 2017	<p>The land is derelict and complaints have been received regarding its condition on what is a prominent site.</p> <p>A notice has been issued to require improvements, particularly relating to the boundary treatment.</p> <p>However, the site owners appear to have gone into liquidation which may cause problems in securing compliance with the notice</p>	
15.	47 Heathfield Road Gateshead NE9 5HH	Lowfell	Unauthorised Development	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	N	N	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	<p><b>Erection of wooden fencing and raised platform area which has facilitated the use of the garage roof as a terrace area</b></p> <p><b>Complaints have been received in relation to the development.</b></p> <p><b>An Enforcement Notice has been issued to resolve the issues identified</b></p> <p><b>The Notice has been issued to require the removal of the wooden fencing and raised platform.</b></p>	