

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Enforcement Action

**REPORT OF:** Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director,  
Development, Transport and Public Protection

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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, Windy Nook And Whitehills, 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	Date Notice comes into Force	End of Compliance Period	Current Status
1.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlaton 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	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.
2.	Land adjacent Ricklees Farm, Spen Lane, High Spen, Gateshead	Winlaton and High Spen	Erection of a breeze block building	25 March 2013	25 March 2013	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 investigations, it was established that a building had been erected without consent.  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.  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  A site visit has been arranged for the week commencing the 29 <sup>th</sup> October to look at the costs of carrying out work in default.
3.	Land at Woodhouse Lane, Swalwell (Known as South West Farm Site One)  Known as South West Farm Site Two)	Swalwell  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  Without planning permission the change of use of the land from agriculture and reception, composting and transfer of green waste to a mixed	11 January 2016  11 January 2016	12 January 2016  12 January 2016	15 February 2016  15 February 2016	14 March and 4 July 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.  As such the original Notices (which were 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.  The Notices requires firstly, the cessation of the unauthorised use and secondly, the removal from the land of the scrap.  Both defendants pleaded guilty at Newcastle Crown Court and both received a fine of £750. Each defendant was ordered to pay costs of £422.50 and a victim surcharge of £75. The site has to be cleared in 6 months.  The site has recently been revisited and it is likely further action will be required.

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	(Known as South West Farm Site Three)	Swalwell	<p>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	15 February 2016	<p>14 March and 4 July 2016</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> Sep 2018</p>	<p>A site visit was undertaken in October where it was evident that the land has not been cleared and additional scrap had been brought on to the site. A further prosecution file is currently with the Council's legal department.</p> <p>A court date has been issued for the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Gateshead Magistrates Court.</p> <p>The court date has been re issued for the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019. In the interim officers are actively pursuing quotes to clear the land, to ascertain whether this is financially viable.</p> <p>The Court date has been adjourned until 24<sup>th</sup> June at 10am, discussions are to take place with the land owner prior to the court date to progress with the clearance of the land.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, two of the areas of land have been significantly cleared, efforts are being made by the owners to clear the third piece of land prior to the court date.</p>
4.	Gleeson's housing site, formally grazing land between Portobello Road Birtley	Birtley	Breach of Planning Conditions	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	<p>Despite communication with the developer, pre-commencement conditions have not been discharged and engineering operations and building operations have commenced on site. Conditions have now been submitted and discharged.</p> <p>The Council are awaiting confirmation from the Developer to confirm when they are due to recommence works on site.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup> September to see if work had recommenced on site. Although there were no builders on site at the time of the visit, it appears that development has recommenced since the Temporary Stop Notice was served as the most recent unit constructed has now had its roof erected.</p> <p>The inspectorate has arranged for the appeal hearing to commence on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.</p> <p><b>The appeal has been withdrawn. Following a site visit on the 16<sup>th</sup> August it appears that works have recommenced on site. As the concerns regarding the conditions have been submitted for approval and as the temporary stop notice has expired permission is sought from Committee to remove this item from the report.</b></p>

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5. Ale	44 Ponthaugh Rowlands Gill NE39 1AD	Chopwell and Rolwands Gill	Unauthorised change of use	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. An enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed. The notice has not been fully complied with. Prosecution files are now being prepared.
6.	Blaydon Quarry , Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Complaints have been received that the site has been open outside the approved hours, following further investigation this has been confirmed, therefore a notice has been served in relation to breach of condition 51 to ensure no HGV'S enter of leave the site before 06.30 or after 18.00 hours on Monday to Friday nor after 13.00 hours on Saturdays and no times on Sunday and Bank and Public holidays. A site visit was undertaken on the 20 <sup>th</sup> June in conjunction with the Environment Agency, to monitor the hours of operation. At the time of the visit no tipping was taking place, however activity on site will continue to be monitored.
7.	25 Sundridge Drive Felling Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley And Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. The loss of open space is unacceptable; therefore an enforcement notice has been issued requiring the use of the land as private garden to cease and the fence removed. An appeal start date has been received.  The appeal has been decided and the notice upheld. Further details are provided on the appeals report.  Council Officers are in discussions with the home owner to ensure compliance as the end of the compliance period has now lapsed.
8.	Blaydon and District Club and Institute, Garden Street	Blaydon	Untidy Land	03 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018	03 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the building and land. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the building to be demolished  Given the potential bat roost, Natural England will not issue a licence for the roost to be destroyed until after the hibernation period which is November to March.  Planning application intended to be taken to the 15 <sup>th</sup> May Committee, once a decision made, the Enforcement Officer is to pursue demolition following consent from Natural England.  Natural England has requested an up to date bat survey prior to issuing a licence.

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9.	Three Ts Bar, Longrigg Gateshead	Whickham North	Untidy Land	05th September 2018	05 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the building and land. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the building to be demolished and a hoarding erected.</p> <p>The owner has been in contact and will submit a scope of works with timescales to make this building safe and in part to be brought back into use, rather than demolish property.</p> <p>Following a site visit on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, a scope of works should be submitted by the developer no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Quotes however are being sought for the demolition of the property in preparation that the information is not forthcoming.</p> <p>Scaffolding has been erected and works are commencing to bring the building back into use. The windows have been inserted in the rear part of the building and works have commenced on the roof.</p> <p>Officers are visiting the site on the 21.03.19 to confirm that the proposed roof tiles are appropriate, once this is agreed works will re commence, it is anticipated that the works to the roof will take approximately 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>Roof tiles have now been agreed, works to the roof are to recommence imminently.</p>
10.	321 And 323 Rectory Road Bensham Gateshead NE8 4RS	Saltwell	Unauthorised change of use	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<p>Complaints have been received regarding the use of a dwelling as a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO). A previous planning application was refused for the change of use and the subsequent appeal dismissed; therefore, an Enforcement Notice has been issued requiring the use of the property as an HMO to cease.</p> <p>An appeal has been received but no start date has been given yet.</p> <p>A hearing date has been scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.</p> <p>The hearing date has been rescheduled to the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019</p>
11.	2 Wythburn Place Gateshead NE9 6YT	High Fell	Unauthorised development	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	12 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	<p>Complaints had been received regarding the erection of an extension to the property, the extension has a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area and thus an enforcement notice has been served seeking the extension be demolished and remove in its entirety.</p> <p>A planning application has been submitted and approved for the erection of a single storey side extension. The owner of the property has stated that the extension will be removed in the next four weeks and footings for the new extension installed.</p> <p><b>Following the expiry of the compliance period, officers have visited the site and wrote to the owner allowing a further 21 days to remove the structure, the site is being monitored weekly and progress has been made to partially demolish the structure.</b></p>

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12.	Blaydon Quarry Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	28 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	<p>Blaydon Quarry is in breach of several planning conditions. A Notice has been served in relation to condition 23 to require installation of a drainage system. The Council has designed an acceptable scheme to be installed in the interests of surface water drainage and to enable the safe and successful restoration of the site.</p> <p>A site visit was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, where drainage works had commenced. Officers are working closely with the Operator of the quarry to ensure compliance.</p>
13.	Blaydon Quarry Lead Road, Gateshead	Crawcrook and Greenside	Breach of Planning Conditions	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2019	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Blaydon Quarry is in breach of several planning conditions. A Notice has been served in relation to condition 24 to require installation of the previously approved drainage system on the southern boundary, in the interests of surface water drainage and to enable the safe and successful restoration of the site.
14.	81 Dunston Road, Gateshead NE11 9EH	Dunston and Teams	Untidy Land	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019	03 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Complaints have been received regarding the condition of the property which is considered to have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area. A Notice has been issued pursuant to section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act requiring the hedge be cut, all boarding removed from windows and the windows and frames made good. It also required that all the guttering and down pipes be re attached to the building.
15.	27 Sundridge Drive, Wardley Gateshead NE10 8JF	Wardley and Leam Lane	Unauthorised change of use	01 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	01 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	03 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	<b>Complaints have been received regarding the erection of fencing enclosing public open space and incorporating it into the private garden. A previous enforcement notice was served seeking the removal of the fence, however the notice was quashed following an appeal decision. The notice has been re served to include the change of use to residential garden.</b>