

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR HOWARD MARSHALL, CALNE CENTRAL DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JOHN BRADY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING

Question 1

Following the restructuring and downsizing of the Planning Enforcement team, can the Cabinet Member assure me that we will have the capability to enforce the ever increasing digressions of the developers? Particularly in the North where we are left with one full time officer and one part time officer to do the work formerly done by a team of four plus one part time officer. Also can the cabinet member tell me the extent of the backlog of work currently not completed.

Response

Following the Management Review, the service is undergoing a number of changes as it moves from four independently managed teams, one in each each hub, to a single county wide team with one manager who took up post on the 14th Feb. The Enforcement Team is currently reviewing the way it operates, its structure, the job descriptions of officers and how it applies staff to ensure effectiveness is improved and the allocation of resources reflects demand.

The number of open enforcement cases varies across the county and is as follows: -

North Hub (Monkton Park)	280
Central Hub(The former Devizes and Bradley Rd hubs)	167
South Hub (Bourne Hill)	152

The number of open cases does not mean there is a 'backlog', all cases are being investigated but enforcement is often a slow process. Having said this, capacity to deal with cases in the north has been affected because of the absence of the former manager due to illness, but this is now in the process of being addressed as part of the service review process and a vacant post in the north hub is currently being advertised.