

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 2ND AUGUST 2006

**REPORT OF HEAD OF
PLANNING**

PLANNING PERFORMANCE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the current performance of the planning department for both the year ending 1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006, and also for the first quarter of the current year, as recommended in the PIP.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly performance report and acknowledge the hard work and dedication that Planning Staff and colleagues within other service areas have shown to improve the performance targets, in particular with regards to major planning applications.

Background

1. A key part of the domestic agenda of the last government was to modernise and reform the delivery of the planning service. This was manifest in the new Planning Act (**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004**) and also in the establishment of the **Planning Delivery Grant (PDG)** regime which is now well established.
2. In terms of the processing of applications, the government established new national targets, broken down by categories of development and LPA's were rewarded for their progress towards meeting these targets. It is required that all LPA reach these standards by March 2007. Members will be aware that this refers to the BVPI 109 a, b and c, where 60% of all major applications must be determined within 13 weeks (109a), 65% of minor within 8 weeks (109b) and 80% of others within 8 weeks (109c).
3. There are two different performance reporting periods, the first which determines the level of PDG and determines whether the authority will become a Planning Standards Authority (PSA) for the year 2007-2008, and the BVPI reporting year. Both have different reporting timeframes, the first running from 1st July-30th June in any one year, and the BVPI targets from 1st April-31st March.

Current position

4. The table below therefore illustrates the performance position with regards to performance over the year ending on 30th June 2006, and will determine the level of PDG for its final year of operation, 2007-2008. However it is not possible to advise Members of what this will equate to in PDG terms, as this has not been finalised by DCLG yet. This particular reporting period is also the one in which it will be determined whether the authority will be designated a PSA.

Q1 July/Sept			Q2 Oct/Dec		
Determined	within	percent	Determined	within	percent
	period			period	
15	6	40.00%	16	7	43.75%
124	74	59.68%	125	93	74.40%
385	302	78.44%	269	236	87.73%
524	380	72.52%	410	329	80.24%

Q3 Jan/Mar			Q4 Apr/June		
Determined	within	percent	Determined	within	percent
	period			period	
16	10	62.50%	23	20	86.96%
96	81	84.38%	96	66	68.75%
237	216	91.14%	335	293	87.46%
349	299	85.67%	454	361	79.52%

Cumulative July/June			target
Determined	within	percent	
	period		
70	43	61.43%	60.00%
441	314	71.20%	65.00%
1226	1047	85.40%	80.00%
1737	1369	78.81%	80.00%

5. Staff have worked tremendously hard to bring in the new measures and working procedures to achieve increased performance quarter on quarter, and my gratitude and thanks go to everybody involved in this process. As can be seen from the final cumulative graph, 61.43% was achieved for majors, 71.20% for minor applications, and 85.40% for others, above the performance targets set by DCLG and resulting in the fact that Stockton will not be designated a PSA in 2007, thus contributing positively in that respect to the overall Council's CPA score.

6. The BVPI 109 indicator is reported on the annual year end results, and we have just completed the first quarter of that period, and achieved 86.96% for major applications, 68.75% for minor and 87.46% for others, achieving above performance in all categories. Considering that there is still a staffing shortage with 2 vacant posts at present, and 3 awaiting the new staff to start highlights the achievements of the Planning Section.

Determined	Q1		percent
	within period	Apr/June	
23	20		86.96%
96	66		68.75%
335	293		87.46%

Recommendations

That planning committee note this quarterly performance report and acknowledge the hard work and dedication that Planning Staff and colleagues within other service areas have shown to improve the performance targets, in particular with regards to major planning applications.

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Financial Implications; PDG based on performance targets reached

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.