

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

**DATE 15th NOVEMBER
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 the second quarter of 2006/2007, the year to date, and annualised figures, as recommended in the PIP. An update on the current staffing situation will also be presented.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly performance report and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Planning Staff and colleagues within other service areas that has also led to Stockton-on-Tees not being classed as a Planning Standards Authority for 2007/2008.

Background

1. In terms of the processing of applications, the government established new national targets, broken down by categories of development, known as BVPI standards. It is required that all LPA reach these standards by March 2007. Members will be aware that this refers particularly to 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).
2. 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), 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

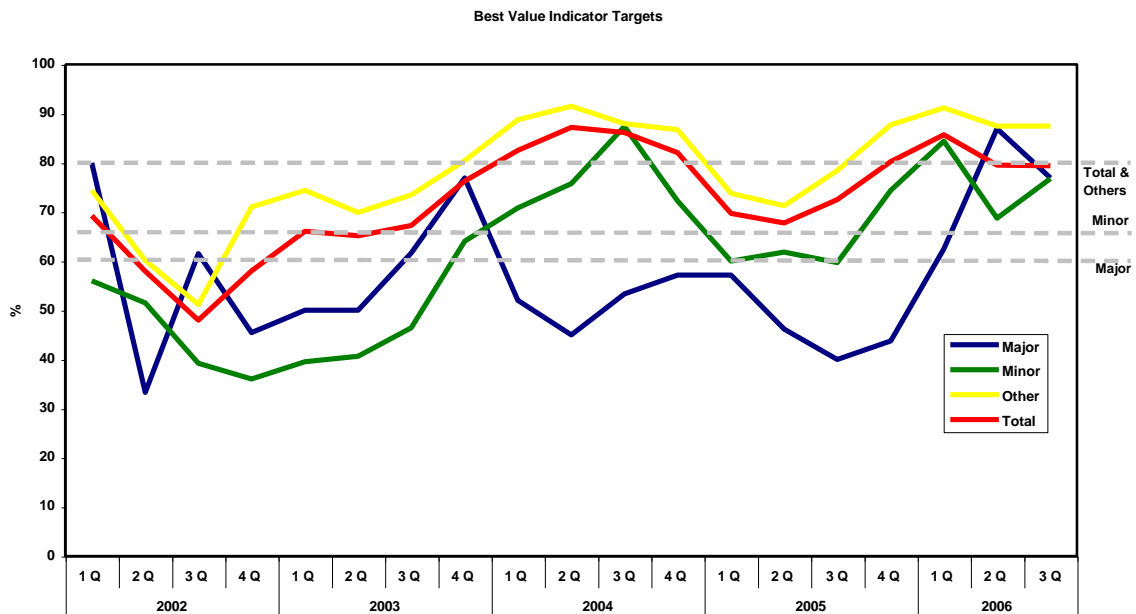
3. The BVPI 109 indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the second quarter of that period has now passed. Performance results achieved for that period are 76.92% for major applications, 76.79% for minor and 87.43% for others, achieving above performance in all categories. Considering that there is still a staffing shortage with 2 vacant posts at present, and 4 new posts still to be filled, this shows the dedication and hard work of existing staff to achieve these levels. Table 1 highlights the performance over the 2 quarters, and the cumulative performance to date.

2006/2007

	Q1			Q2			Cumulative		
	Determined	within period	percent	Determined	within period	percent	Determined	within period	percent
major	23	20	86.96%	39	30	76.92%	62	50	80.65%
minor	96	66	68.75%	112	86	76.79%	208	152	73.08%
other	335	293	87.46%	358	313	87.43%	693	606	87.45%
overall	454	361	79.52%	509	404	79.37%	963	765	79.44%

Table 1

4. A report produced by DCLG “Proposed Planning Best Value Performance Standards for 2007/8” published in October 2006 confirmed the fact that Stockton will not be classed as a Planning Standards Authority for next year, thus contributing positively in that respect to the overall Council’s CPA score. The results of the 2 quarters outlined above were taken into account in this respect.



5. It is also possible to chart the trajectory and show how there have been improvements over the last 4 quarters. It can be noted from the graph above that the performance of majors is beginning to go down, and will continue to do so to some extent for the current quarter. However it must be pointed out that whilst performance issues with regards to current applications submitted within the last year have been addressed, there still remains a backlog of 12 old major applications dating back to 2003 which must be determined, and these will obviously affect overall performance and counter act all the current majors which are going through within the 13 weeks. Once these have gone through the system, performance will rise again as performance management systems closely monitors the process. Annualised figures from 1/11/05 to 31/10/06 though highlight that performance is still on track overall with 72.04% for majors, 76.53% for minors and 89.15% for others.

Recommendations

That planning committee note this quarterly performance report and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Planning Staff and colleagues within other service areas that has also led to Stockton-on-Tees not being classed as a Planning Standards Authority for 2007/2008.

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Financial Implications; PDG based on performance targets reached

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.