

**DELEGATED**

**AGENDA No.**

**REPORT TO PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY  
2007**

**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 third 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.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> July-30<sup>th</sup> June in any one year, and the BVPI targets from 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Current position**

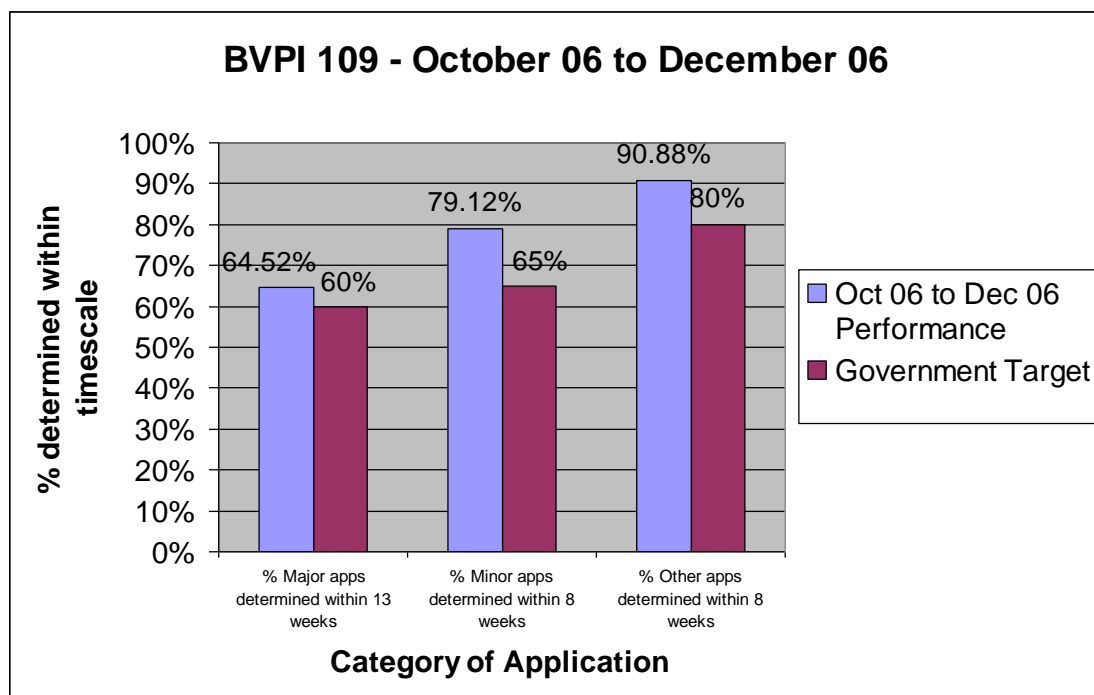
3. The BVPI 109 indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the third quarter of that period has now passed. Performance results achieved for that period are 64.52% for major applications, 79.12% for minor and 90.88% for others, achieving above performance in all categories. Table 1 highlights the performance over the last quarter and the cumulative performance to date.

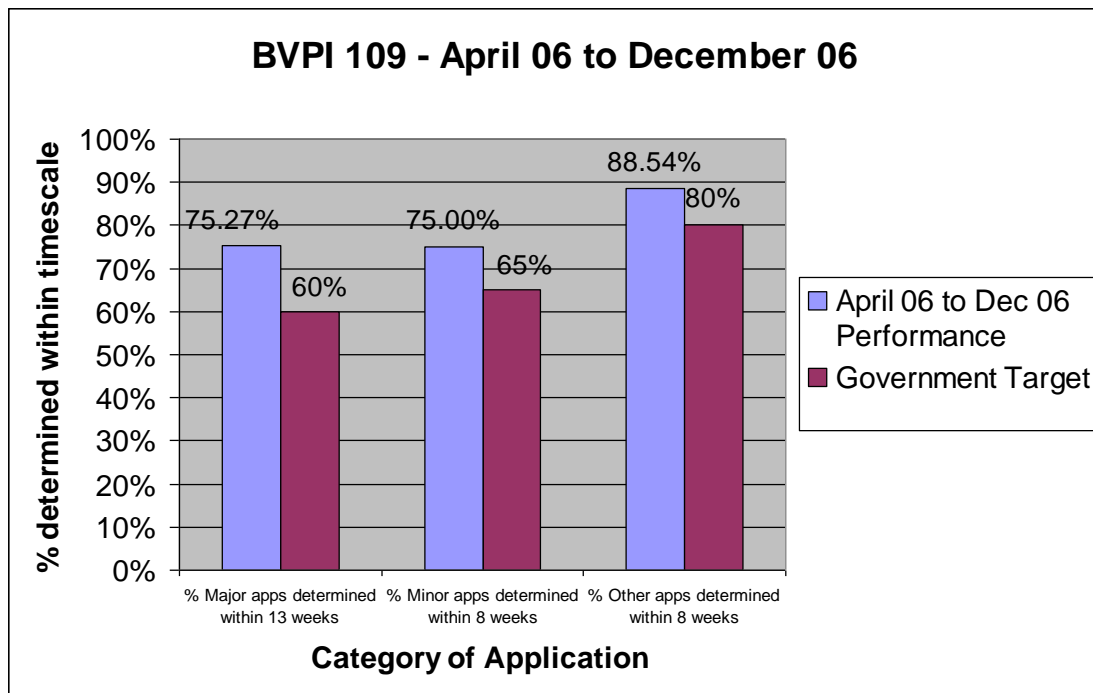
2006/2007

	Q3			Cumulative		
	Determined	within	percent	Determined	within	percent
	Oct/Dec 06	period		April/Dec 06	period	
major	31	20	64.52%	93	70	75.27%
minor	91	72	79.12%	299	224	74.92%
other	329	299	90.88%	1022	905	88.55%

Table 1

4. Whilst there has been a drop in the performance of major applications since the last quarter, this has been as a result of a concerted effort to get rid of the backlog of old major planning applications that have been in the system longer than 13 weeks, which has resulted in the overall performance for the quarter dropping. New applications within time were on target. There are now only 8 outstanding major applications that have expired still in the system, 7 of which have already been to committee for determination and the final which is a delegated application. 6 of the 8 applications should be processed through the system in the current quarter. The following 2 graphs chart the performance over the quarter and the year to date.





- From a staffing perspective, there have been 5 new members of staff appointed and all who took up post in January 2007. This leaves 1 post still to fill, that of the Area Team Leader. This is a crucial post, but 3 attempts so far to appoint have not been successful and the issue will be tackled in another way. The workload of the section should improve once the new members of staff become established.

### **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 to continuously improve performance and the reputation of the Council.

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**Financial Implications; PDG based on performance targets reached**

**Environmental Implications; None directly.**

**Community Safety Implications; None directly.**