

**DELEGATED**

**AGENDA No.**

**REPORT TO PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER  
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 second quarter of 2007/2008 and present an update on the current staffing situation.

### **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 was required that all LPA reached these standards by March 2007, which Stockton Planning Services achieved. 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. The reporting timeframes for the BVPI targets runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> March. This report presents the performance of the second quarter in that period, 1<sup>st</sup> July-30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

### **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 83.33% for major applications, 80.20% for minor and 79.3% for others, achieving above performance in the major and minor categories. Table 1 highlights the performance over the second quarter and the cumulative performance to date.

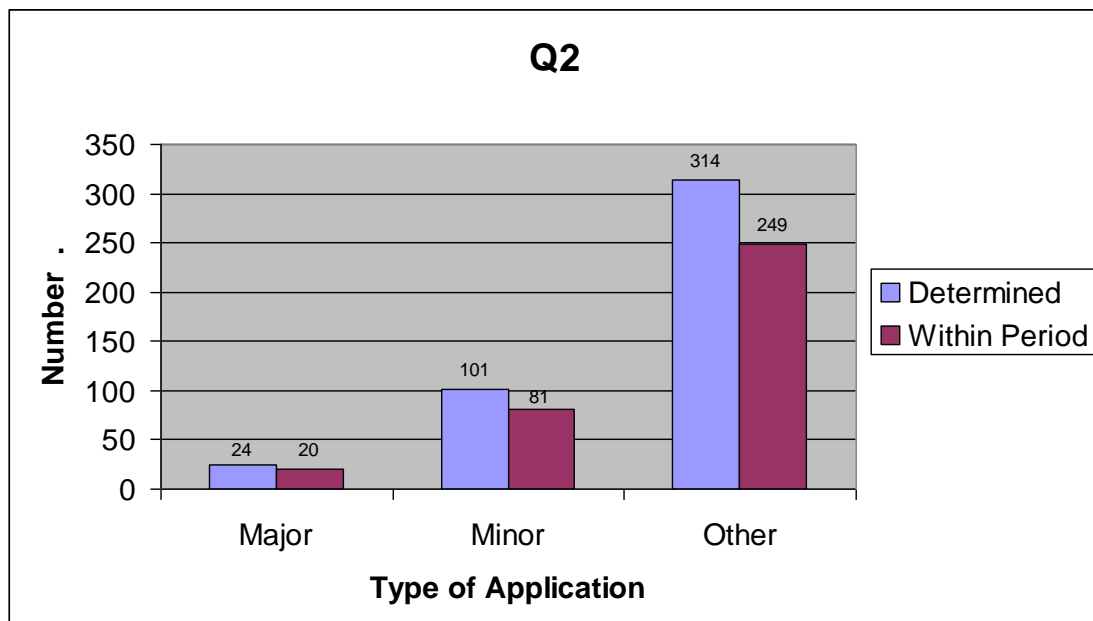
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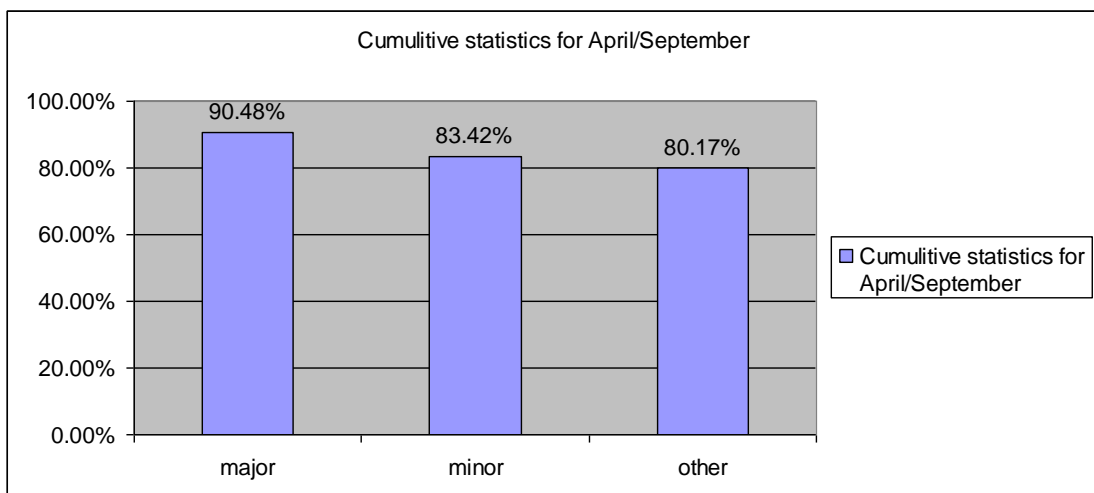
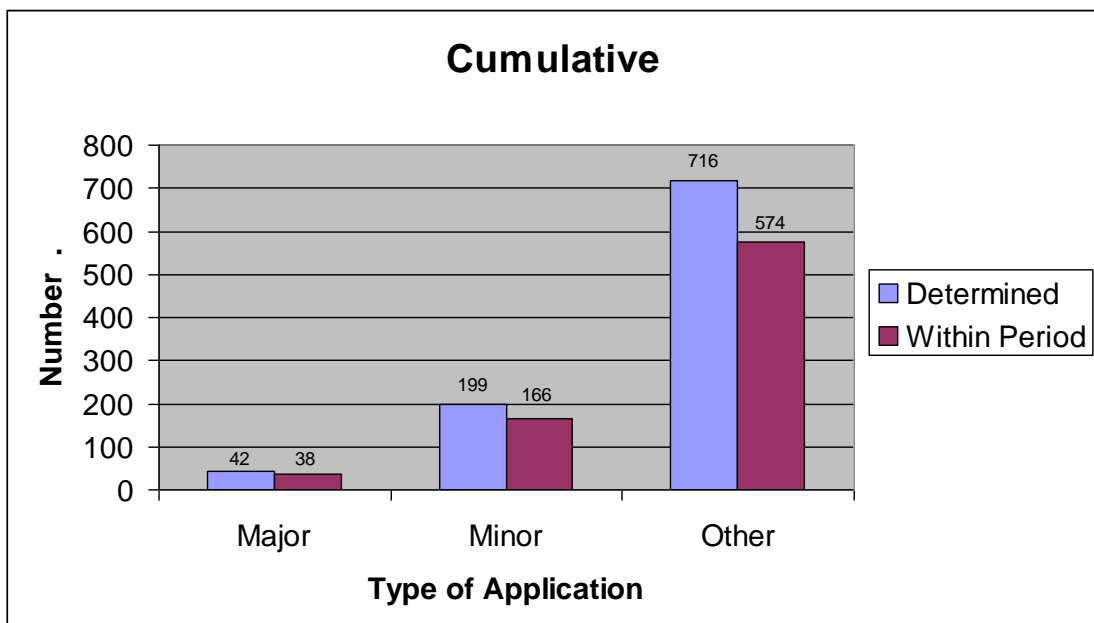
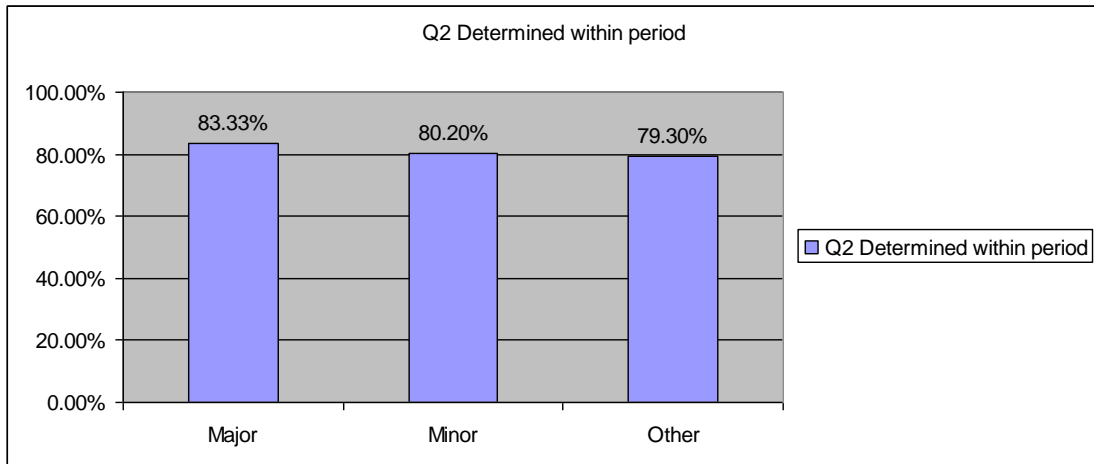
	Q1			Q2		
	Determined	April/June within period	percent	Determined	July/Sept within period	percent
Major	18	18	100.00%	24	20	83.33%
Minor	98	85	86.73%	101	81	80.20%
Other	402	325	80.85%	314	249	79.30%

category	target	Cumulative April/September		
		Determined	within period	percent
major	60.00%	42	38	90.48%
minor	65.00%	199	166	83.42%
other	80.00%	716	574	80.17%

Table 1 Quarter 2 performance results

- Performance of major applications has exceeded BVPI standards for a second quarter and remains above target at 83.33%, with 20 Of the 24 major applications determined within the 13 week time period. There are 3 major applications which have not been determined and are passed the target date.
- Whilst performance in BVPI 109 c (other) applications is just below the national target at 79.3% with 249 of the 314 applications being determined within 8 weeks, the cumulative result is 80.17%. This is due to the staffing situation as reported previously to Members, and will take the next quarter to get back on track as well, as the increased workloads and pressures for existing staff level off when the new staff take up post. The following graphs highlights performance against national targets.





6. From a staffing perspective, there have been no new professional members of staff appointed in the quarter, although there have been 4 appointments

made this month, 2 in Development Services and 3 in Spatial Planning. There are currently 3 vacancies in Development Services, a senior planning officer post and two planning technician posts. However to tackle the problem of recruiting a new Area Team Leader, the section has been restructured to create a Majors Team, to be led by Greg Archer, the Major Projects Officer. The vacant Area Team Leader post has now been upgraded and instead 2 senior officers will be appointed to work in the new team. As the Majors team will be able to take on an increased number of larger applications, this will allow the other Area Team Leaders to devote more time to management and performance issues within the 2 area teams. The turnover of staff has undoubtedly effected performance levels, but measures have been put in place to ensure that the long term performance of the service continues to improve and provides the first class quality service that the citizens of Stockton expect from a 4\* rated authority.

### **Recommendations**

7. That planning committee note this quarterly performance report.

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

**Environmental Implications; None directly.**

**Community Safety Implications; None directly.**