

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 13th AUGUST 2008

**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 first quarter performance for 2008/2009 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 old BVPI's have now been replaced National Indicators (NI). Planning will be directly responsible for 3, (NI 157, 159 and 170) and will have an impact into another 7 (NI 154, 155, 185, 186, 187, 188 and 198). Of these, 2 planning indicators have been included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), in consultation with GONE and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) i.e. Renaissance Board. NI157 replaces BVPI 109 and is the processing of planning applications against targets which the local authority sets itself for major, minor and other applications. NI 159 relates to the supply of ready to develop housing sites, which is determined through the RSS housing numbers and the SHLAA.
3. With regards to performance, it has been the responsibility of each local authority to set their own targets, rather than sticking to the 60%, 65% and 80% from previous years, with the exception of the major target in 2010/11. For LAA purposes it will be necessary to set annual targets (for the next three years) to show the ambition to have the service improving year-on-year from a baseline position. The expectation from GONE of us as an excellent Council will be to be ambitious and stretch our performance levels.

9. The targets that have now been set for the next 3 years are as follows:-

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Major	70%	73%	80%
Minor	75%	78%	80%
Other	82%	85%	88%

Meeting or exceeding these targets no longer qualifies for Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG), but grant will be deducted instead if targets are not reached.

4.

5. The reporting timeframe for the NI targets remains and runs from 1st April-31st March. This report presents the performance of the first quarter in that period, 1st April -30th June 2008.

Current position

6. The NI indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the first quarter of that period has now passed. Performance results achieved for that period are 95.83% for major applications, 76.92% for minor and 87.82% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 highlights the performance over the fourth quarter 2007/8 and the first quarter 2008/9.

Table 1 Quarter 1 performance results

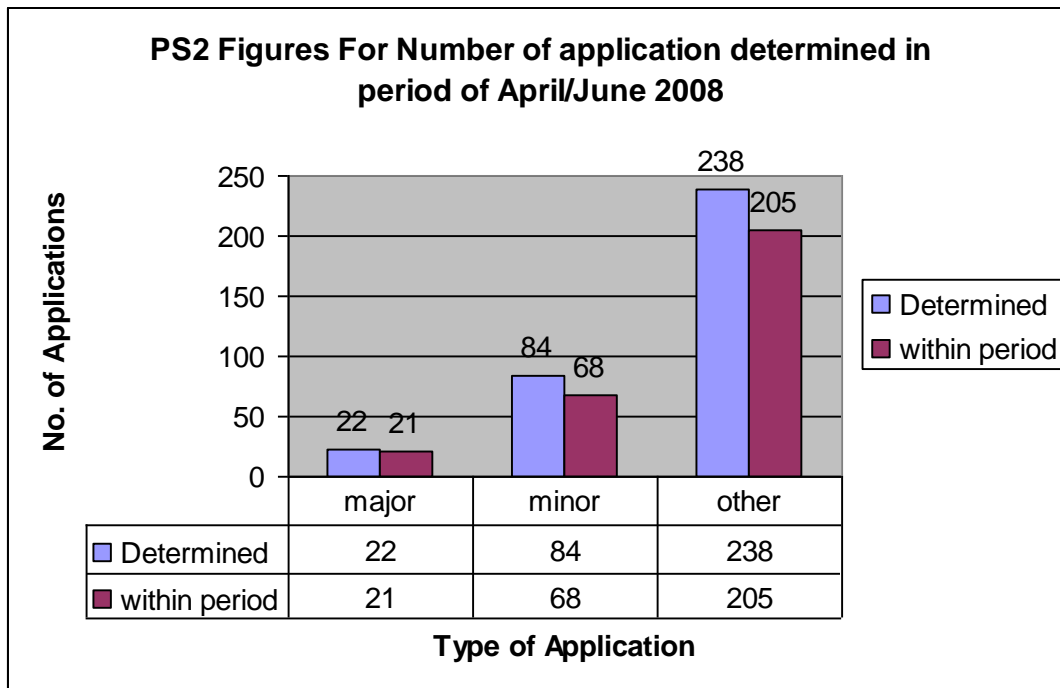
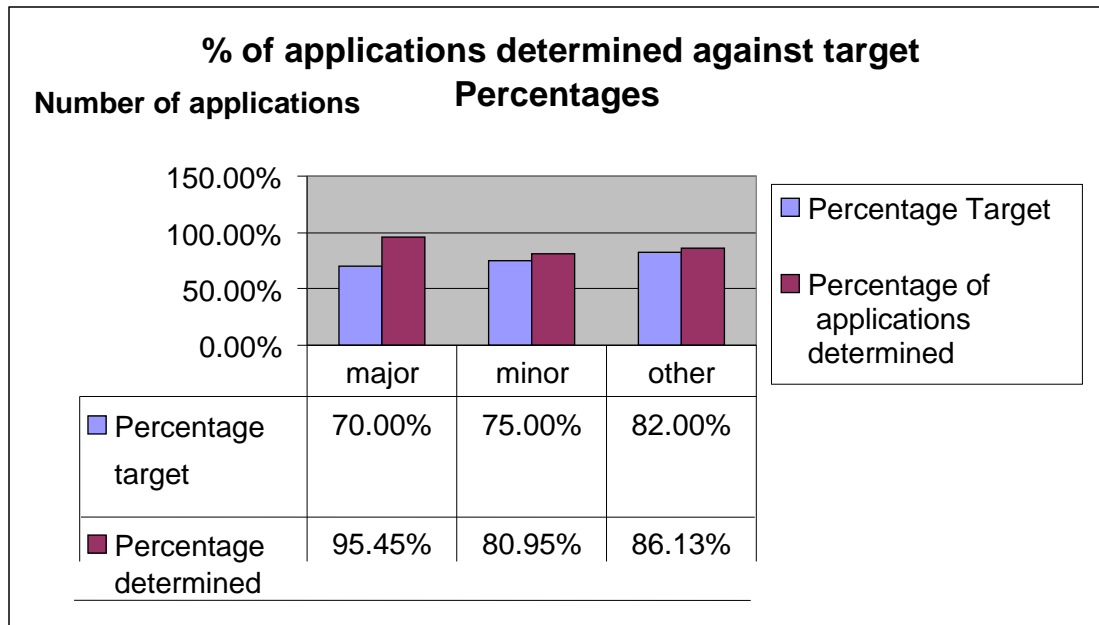
Q4 Jan-March 08			Q1 April- June		
Determined	within period	percent	Determined	within period	percent
Major 24	23	95.83%	Major 22	21	95.45%
Minor 78	60	76.92%	Minor 84	68	80.95%
Other 197	173	87.82%	Other 238	205	86.13%

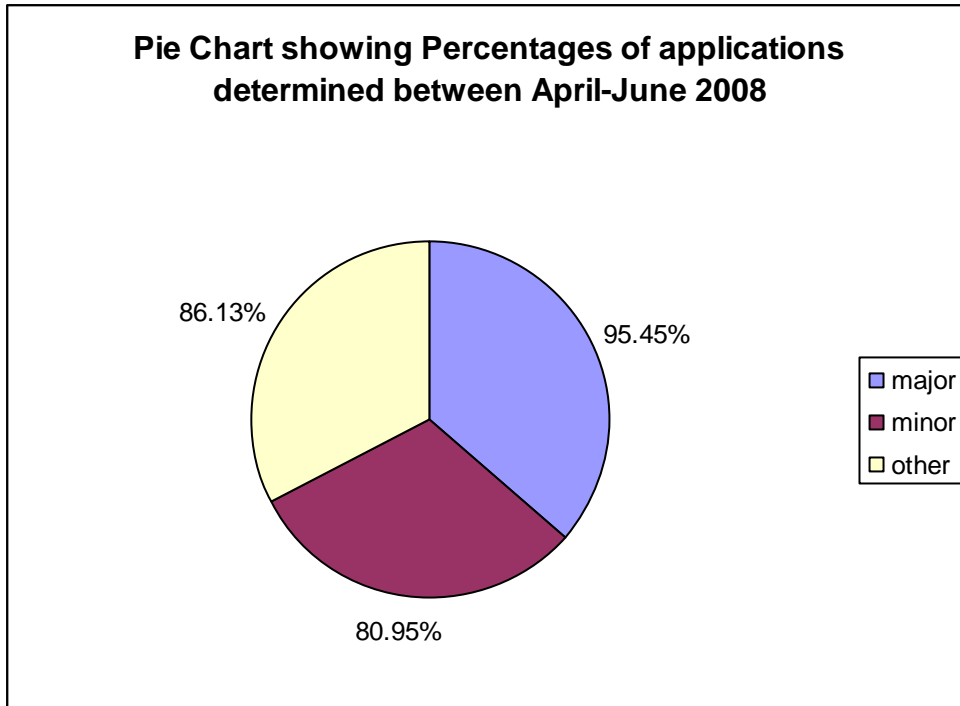
7. Performance of major applications has exceeded NI standards for the first quarter with 21 out of the 22 applications determined within the 13 week time period.

8. Performance in other applications has continued at a high level, following from a period of decline due to staffing issues at the time. Performance for the final quarter of 2007/8 was 87.82%, and for the first quarter 2008/09 is 86.13%. Minor applications have risen in the quarter from the previous quarter from 76.92% to 80.95%

9. The following graphs and charts highlight performance against national targets.

Quarter 1 statistics of applications determined





10. From a staffing perspective, there has been 1 appointment in the quarter in Development Services of Kieran Campbell to fill one of the existing planning technicians posts made vacant by the appointment of Ruth Hindmarch to a planning officer post. Spatial Planning have a vacant planning officer post due to the post holder accepting an appointment with Redcar and Cleveland

Recommendation

11. 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; HPDG abated if targets not met

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.