

## DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

REPORT TO PLANNING  
COMMITTEE

DATE 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009

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 2009/2010.

#### Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly performance report.

#### Background

1. There are a range of National Indicators (NI) against which the performance of the Council will be assessed, Planning being directly responsible for 3, (NI 157, 159 and 170) and having an impact on 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 relates to the processing of planning applications against targets which the local authority sets itself for major, minor and other applications and NI 159 relates to the supply of ready to develop housing sites, which is determined through the RSS housing numbers and the SHLAA.
2. With regards to performance, it has been the responsibility of each local authority to set their own targets. For LAA purposes it was necessary to set annual targets (for a three year period) to show the ambition to have the service improving year-on-year from a baseline position. The expectation of GONE was for ambitious and stretching targets since we are an "excellent" Council
3. The targets that have now been set for the 3 year period are as follows:-

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

4. The reporting timeframe for the NI targets remains and 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 2009.

**Current performance position**

5. The NI indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the second quarter's results are now available. Performance results achieved for that period are 84.62% for major applications, 89.61% for minor and 92.71% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over the second quarter/year to date.

Table 1 Second quarter results

Q2			
Determined	July/Sept within period	percent	
13	11	84.62%	
77	69	89.61%	
192	178	92.71%	

April/Sept 2009/10			
Determined	within period	percent	
Major-27	25	92.59%	
Minor-152	135	88.82%	
Others-407	376	92.38%	

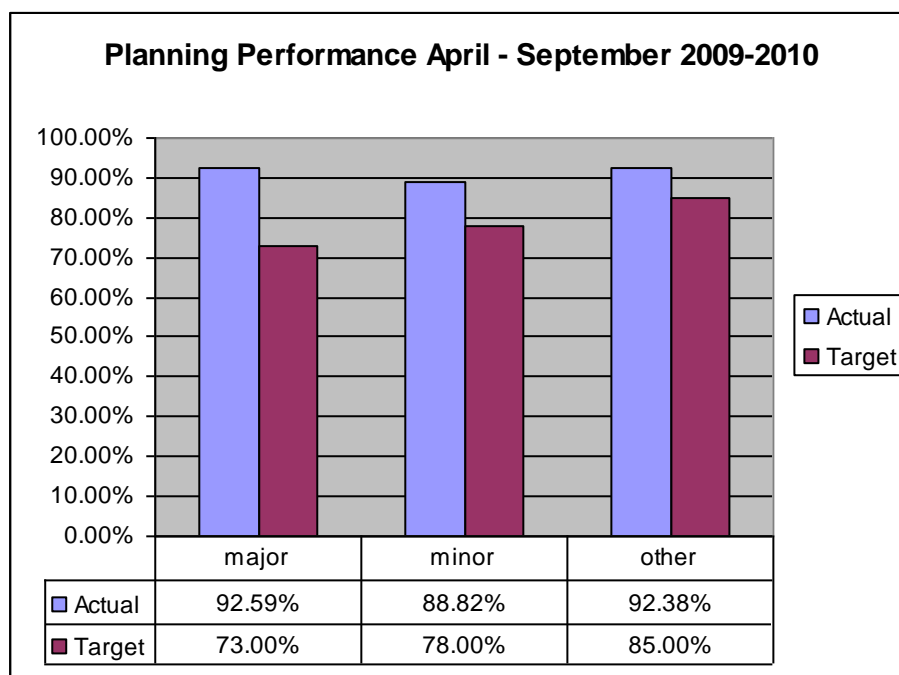


Chart of planning performance for the year to date 2009/10

6. Performance in all categories has exceeded NI standards in the second quarter of the year, and also the cumulative figures for the year to date. The 2 majors which missed the target date for determination were a 2007 application which had outstanding section 106 issues, and the application for the wind turbines which was delayed due to GONE, hence outside our control. With regards to staffing, an area Team Leader has subsequently retired, and interviews for the post are being held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 leaving 6 frozen posts in development services. However the impact of the reduction in staff within Development Services is being felt by each officer, with the workload having to be spread across fewer people

### **Recommendation**

7. That planning committee note this 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 against the background of the current difficult economic circumstances and low morale.

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**Financial Implications; HPDG abated if targets not met , decrease in income has budgetary implications for service delivery**

**Environmental Implications; None directly.**

**Community Safety Implications; None directly.**