

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE

DATE 3rd FEBRYARY 2010

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 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%

- The reporting timeframe for the NI targets remains and runs from 1st April-31st March. This report presents the performance of the third quarter in that period, 1st October -31st December 2009.

Current performance position and service update

- The NI indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the third quarter's results are now available. Performance results achieved for that period are 90.00% for major applications, 87.50% for minor and 94.92% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over the third quarter/year to date.

Table 1 Third quarter and cumulative results

Q3			Cumulative		
Determined	Oct/Dec Within period	Percent	Determined	within period	percent
20	18	90.00%	47	43	91.49%
64	56	87.50%	216	191	88.43%
197	187	94.92%	604	563	93.21%

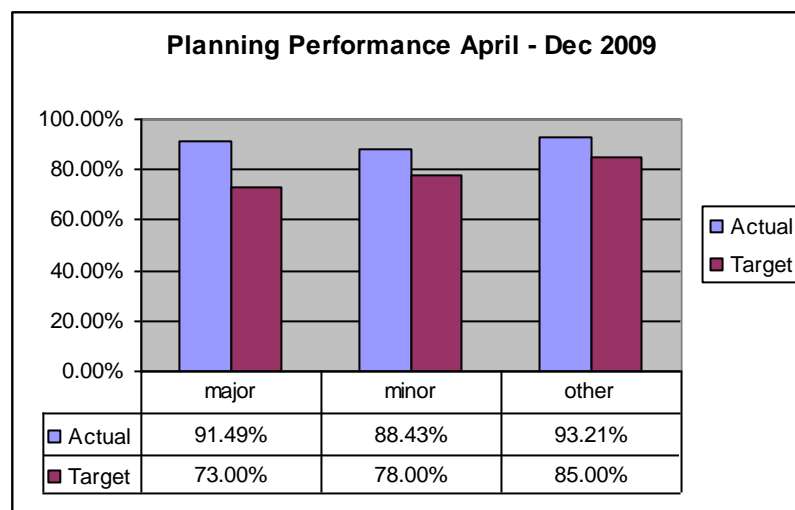


Chart of planning performance for the year to date 2009/10

- 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 the residential development at Allens West where the section 106 agreement was only signed before Christmas due to the company going into receivership as a result of the economic climate, and a variation of an existing approval for a residential development off Millbank Lane in Thornaby.
- With regards to staffing, Simon Grundy has been appointed Area Team Leader to replace Peter Whaley who retired in September, and Ann Austin retired from her post as Enforcement Officer. It is not the intention to fill these

2 vacant posts at the present moment in time. In addition, Fiona Bage, the Historic Buildings Officer, started her maternity leave and will be off for a year, with the job role being shared amongst existing staff on a temporary basis.

8. The Housing and Planning Delivery Grant allocation for 2009/2010 was received prior to Christmas, with just over £296,000 being awarded to Stockton for its housing delivery, and for progress with the LDF and associated documents, including the SHLAA. This is in excess of what had been anticipated, and it was rewarding to see the hard work of all the staff reflected in the size of the grant allocation. It is not known if HPDG will continue in the next financial year, which could potentially place a budgetary pressure on the service and its delivery.

Recommendation

9. 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.