

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE

DATE 12th MAY 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 final quarter of 2009/2010.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly and year end 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 fourth quarter in that period, 1st January -31st March 2010.

Current performance position and service update

- The NI indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the fourth quarter's results are now available. Performance results achieved for that period are 89.47% for major applications, 91.53% for minor and 95.74% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over the fourth quarter/year to date.

Table 1 Fourth quarter and cumulative results

Q4 Oct/Dec			Cumulative April/March		
Determined	Within period	Percent	Determined	within period	percent
19	17	89.47%	66	60	90.91%
59	54	91.53%	275	245	89.09%
141	135	95.74%	745	698	93.69%

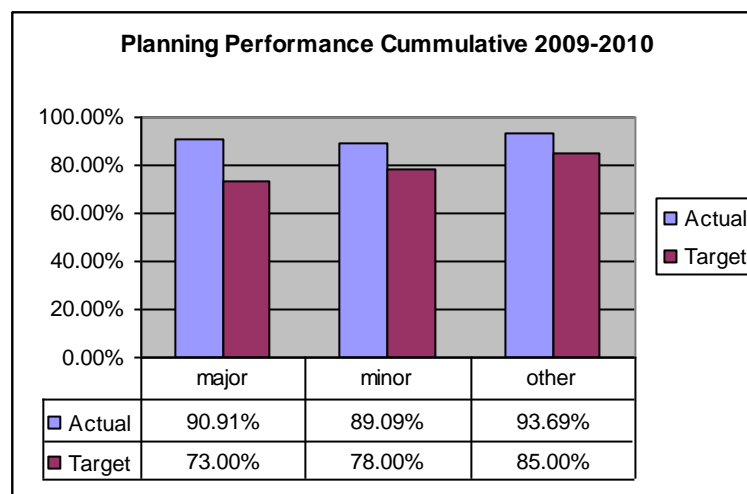


Chart of annual planning performance for the year 2009/10

- Performance in all categories has exceeded NI standards in the final 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 an outline application for B1 offices and car showroom at Queen Elizabeth Way and the Aldi application on Yarm Lane.
- There has been no movement in staff during the final quarter of the year and the year has ended with Planning Services as a whole having 14 vacant posts due in the most part to the down turn in the economic climate and the drop in income in both Development Services and Building Control.

8. With regards to the final income figures, Planning Services showed an underspend for the year, due in part to the £288,000 savings against employee expenditure, and income levels higher than anticipated as the year progressed. In addition the timescale for the Local Development Scheme changed, with the net result that some of the work moved into the next year financial year ie 2010/11, and the income required for that has been carried forward so that the work can be undertaken this year instead.

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.

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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.