

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 4th AUGUST 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 first quarter of 2010/2011.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly 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 first quarter in that period, 1st April -30th June 2010.

Current performance position and service update

- The NI indicator is reported on the annual year-end results, and the first quarter's results are now available. Performance results achieved for that period are 100% for major applications, 93.65% for minor and 94.17% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over this quarter.

Table 1 First quarter results

	Q1 April/June Within Period		
	Determined		Percent
Major	8	8	100.00%
Minor	63	59	93.65%
Other	206	194	94.17%

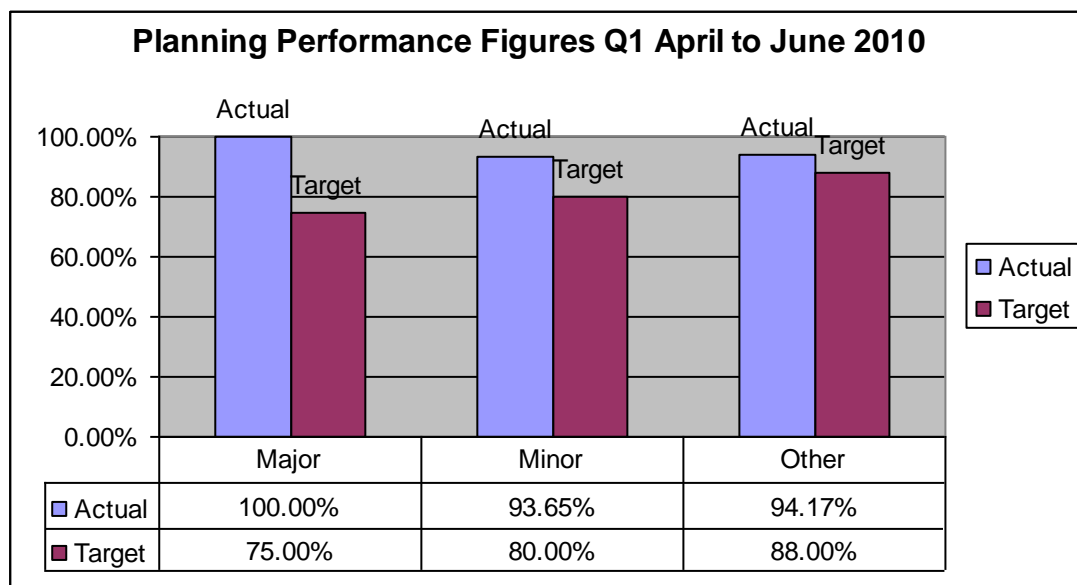


Chart of planning performance for the first quarter 2010/11

- Performance in all categories has exceeded NI 157 targets in the first quarter of the year. 8 major applications were determined within that timescale, all within the 13 week determination period.
- There has been no movement in staff during the first quarter of the year although Rebecca Richardson from Spatial Planning will leave in August to start a PhD at university; we wish Rebecca all the best with her studies

8. With regards to the income generated in the year to date, there is a shortfall of just under £55,000. Due to staff redeployment and vacant posts, which means there is a saving against staff expenditure, this shortfall has been accommodated within the existing budget. However HPDG has been abolished which leaves an additional £50,000 budgetary pressure that will be a major issue if fee income levels do not increase throughout the remaining 3 quarters.

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; decrease in income has budgetary implications for service delivery; abolition of HPDG has implications for the balanced budget

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.