

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 17th NOVEMBER 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 second quarter of 2010/2011.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly report.

Background

1. There were a range of National Indicators (NI) against which the performance of the Council was 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 had 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. However as Members will be aware, it is the intention of the government to simplify the performance reporting regime, as outlined in a letter from Rt Honourable Eric Pickles MP received on 10th October 2010 and attached at Appendix 1. It is unknown what planning indicators will be abolished, but for now the intention is to report the performance of planning applications against the current NI157 target until the matter becomes clearer and further guidance is forthcoming. The issue of what local indicators will be used by the Council in the future is currently being looked at corporately.
3. With regards to performance, it had 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

4. The targets that had been set for the 3 year period were as follows:-

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

5. The reporting timeframe for the NI targets runs from 1st April-31st March. This report presents the performance of the second quarter in that period, 1st July -30th September 2010.

Current performance position and service update

6. 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 90.91% for major applications, 90.59% for minor and 92.13% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over this quarter.

Table 1 Second quarter results

<u>Target</u>		Determined	Q2 July/Sept Within Period	Percent	Determined	Cumulative April/September Within Period	Percent
Major	75.00%	11	10	90.91%	19	18	94.74%
Minor	80.00%	85	77	90.59%	148	136	91.89%
Other	88.00%	216	199	92.13%	422	393	93.13%

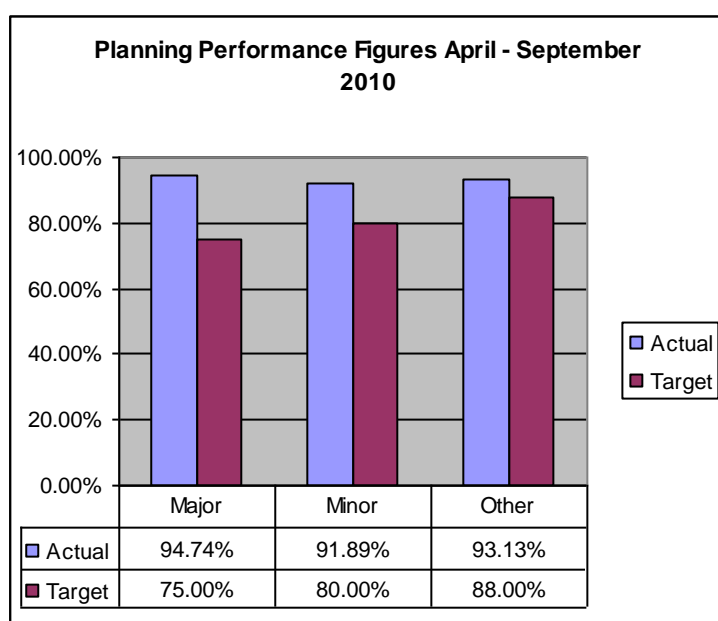


Chart of planning performance for the second quarter 2010/11

7. Performance in all categories has exceeded NI 157 targets in the second quarter of the year. 10 out of 11 major applications were determined within the 13 week, application 10/0244/OUT for outline consent for residential development at Bowesfield North, Bowesfield Lane going over target due to the open book approach taken with regards to the section 106 contributions required.
8. Rebecca Richardson from Spatial Planning left in September to start a PhD at university and due to the current financial position of Planning Services and the Council as a whole, it is not the intention to fill the post at the present moment in time.
9. With regards to the income generated in the year to date, there is a shortfall of £23, 683. As Members may recall, HPDG has been abolished which left another £50,000 budgetary pressure. This has been supplemented from the additional HPDG awarded last year and held corporately so is covered for 2010-2011. However it will remain as a budgetary pressure in the medium term financial plan in future years.

Recommendation

10. 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.