

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 2nd FEBRUARY 2011

**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 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. DCLG have now published a draft version of the Single Data List (SDL), which is intended to replace the previous performance management systems – National Indicators, etc. The SDL is a basic catalogue of all the data collections (existing and proposed) that central government departments require from local authorities. There are 152 separate data collection topics within this Single Data List, with 64 of these relating directly to Development and Neighbourhood Services. The large majority of these data collections are already undertaken within services, with only a small number of new data collections proposed. A consultation exercise is now open to allow local authorities to comment on the proposed SDL, with the intention that one overall Stockton Borough Council response is collated and issued.
3. Within the SDL, the data collections that will be required from Planning remain much the same as we report already, and revolve around the performance of managing planning applications, enforcement, green belt land data, previously developed land data and the Annual Monitoring Report for

the LDF. There will be 5 data collections and then 41 data topics within the 5 broad collection areas. It is therefore proposed to continue reporting performance to committee in the 2011/12 along the lines that we do already, although what actual performance targets we will have to achieve within the performance of planning applications is as yet unknown.

4. With regards to performance to date, 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

5. 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%

6. The reporting timeframe for the NI targets runs from 1st April-31st March each year. This report presents the performance of the third quarter in that period, 1st October -31st December 2010.

Current performance position and service update

7. 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 93.75% for major applications, 86.27% for minor and 91.67% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over this quarter.

Table 1 Third quarter results

<u>Target</u>		Determined	Q2 Oct/Dec Within Period	Percent	Determined	Cumulative April/December Within Period	Percent
Major	75.00%	16	15	93.75%	35	33	94.29%
Minor	80.00%	51	44	86.27%	199	180	90.45%
Other	88.00%	204	187	91.67%	626	580	92.65%

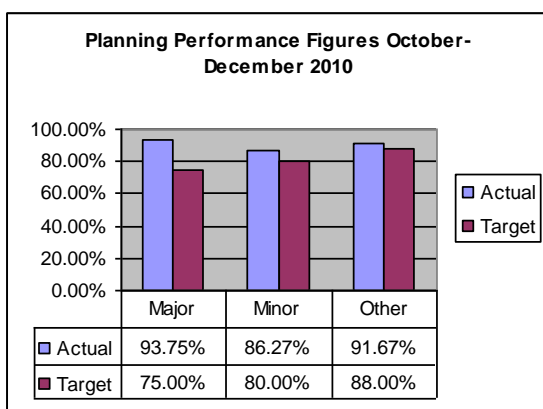
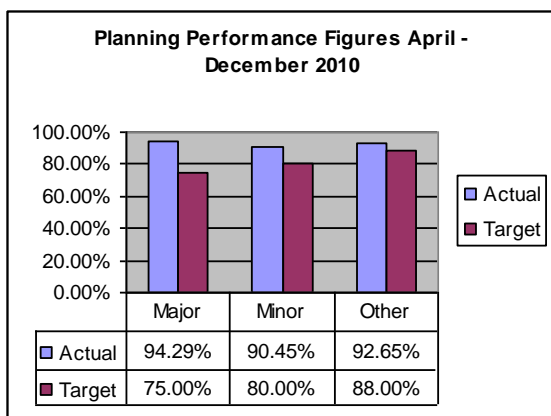


Chart of planning performance for the third quarter 2010/11

8. Performance in all categories has exceeded NI 157 targets in the third quarter of the year. 15 out of 16 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. Application 10/1676/VARY at Chandlers Wharf, Stockton to vary a condition regarding the delivery and timing of the footpath under Victoria Bridge as required for the casino application went over target due to a new section 106 required and the delays with the various legal teams involved in that process.
9. With regards to the income generated in the year to date, there is a shortfall of £59,645 as against target set, although this is off set to some extent by the vacant posts and other measures in place. 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. With the changes proposed to Planning with setting your own fees, neighbourhood plans and referendums to fund, there will be greater budgetary pressures 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; changes to the Planning system will place additional budgetary pressures on the service in the future

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.