

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 2nd NOVEMBER 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 second quarter of 2011/2012.

Recommendation

That planning committee note this quarterly report.

Background

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. It is therefore proposed to continue reporting performance to committee in 2011/12 along the lines that we have done already, as CLG have indicated that they wish this particular reporting criteria to remain. The performance level for this year therefore remains at the same level as that set for 2010/11, which is 75% for majors, 80% for minors and 88% for other applications.
4. The reporting timeframe runs from 1st April-31st March each year. This report presents the performance of the second quarter in that period, 1st July - 30th September 2011.

Current performance position and service update

5. Performance results achieved for the second period are 81.82% for major applications, 92.11% for minor and 94.34% for others, achieving above performance in all 3 categories. Table 1 and the chart highlight performance over this quarter.

Table 1 Second quarter results

	Q2 July/September 2011		
	Determined	Within Period	Percent
Major	11	9	81.82%
Minor	76	70	92.11%
Other	212	200	94.34%

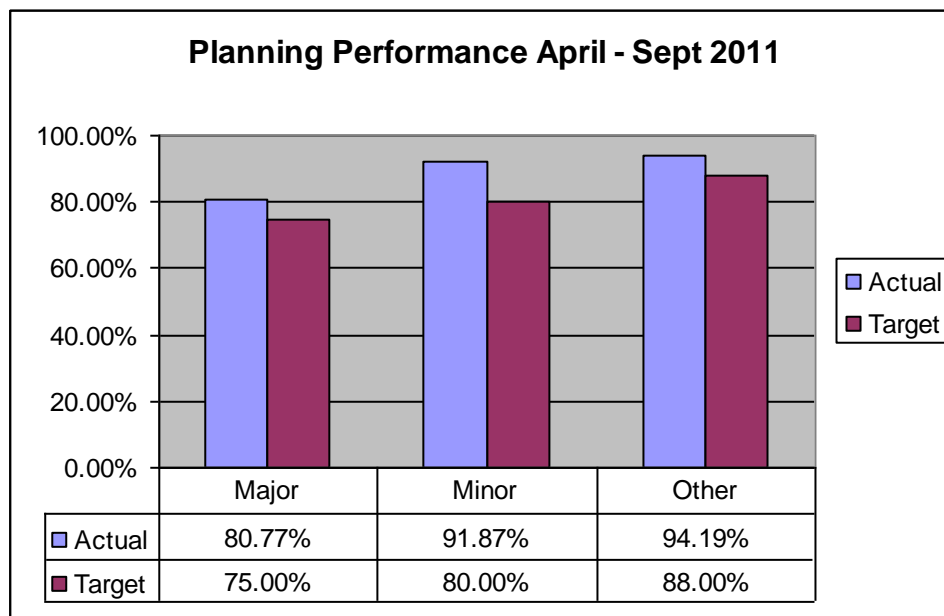


Chart of planning performance for the second quarter of 2011/12

6. 9 out of 11 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. Application 10/3118/FUL was for residential development of 192 dwelling units at Mandale phase 3 and was delayed due to the number of amendments and substantial changes made through the course of the application. The proposal is part of a major housing regeneration scheme currently under way and it was imperative that the scheme be kept going throughout the process to keep development moving on site so withdrawal was not an option. Application 11/0359/EIS was for Air Products for the erection of a 49kw renewable energy facility employing plasma gasification technology at the Reclamation Bond, Billingham. An Appropriate Assessment was required which meant the involvement of Natural England and subsequent submission of further information to satisfy them.
7. As previously reported to Members, a review of the staffing structure throughout the whole of Planning Services has now been undertaken,

culminating in a meeting with all staff on 13th October 2011. The restructure will lead to the loss of 6 full time posts, and the reduction from full time to half time for 2 other posts, effecting 8 staff out of a total of 44. The existing and proposed structures are attached at Appendix 1 and 2. The posts to be deleted from the establishment are 1 x Senior Planning Officer, 1 x Planning Officer, 2 x Technicians, 1 x Principal Building Control Surveyor, 1 x Technical Support Assistant, and the Land Search Assistant and one of the Principal Planning Officer posts in Spatial Planning will be reduced to half a post each.

Recommendation

8. 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 staff restructure.

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Financial Implications; decrease in income has budgetary implications for service delivery; changes to the Planning system will place additional budgetary pressures on the service in the future; costs of redundancy payments

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.