

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 18th JANUARY 2012

**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 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 third quarter in that period, 1st October to 31st December 2011.

Current performance position

5. Performance results achieved for the third period are 90% for major applications, 77.79% for minor and 92.63% for others, achieving above performance in major and other applications and missing the minor threshold by the equivalent of 2 applications. Whilst the performance level for minor applications has not been achieved for this quarter, the cumulative result for the year to date is 87.36% therefore well above target. Table 1 and the charts highlight performance over this quarter and the cumulative results for the year to date.

Table 1-Third quarter results

| Q3 | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| October to December 2011 | | | |
| | Determined | Within Period | Percent |
| Major | 10 | 9 | 90.00% |
| Minor | 59 | 46 | 77.79% |
| Other | 190 | 176 | 92.63% |

Chart 1-Third quarter results

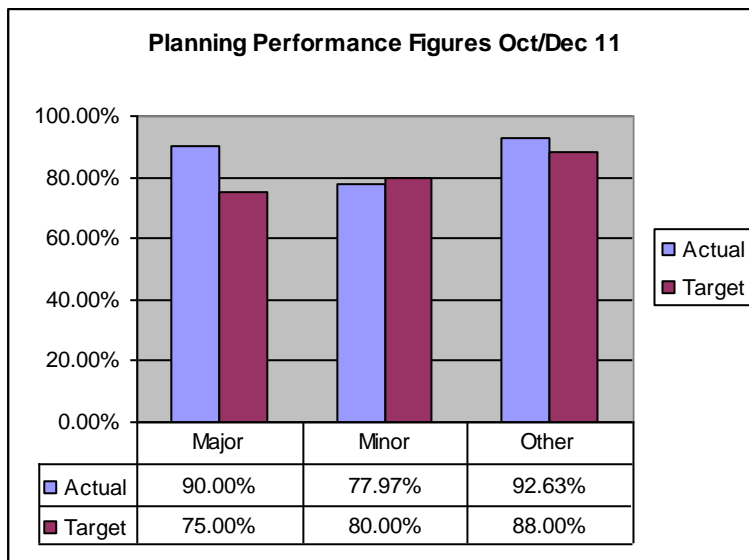
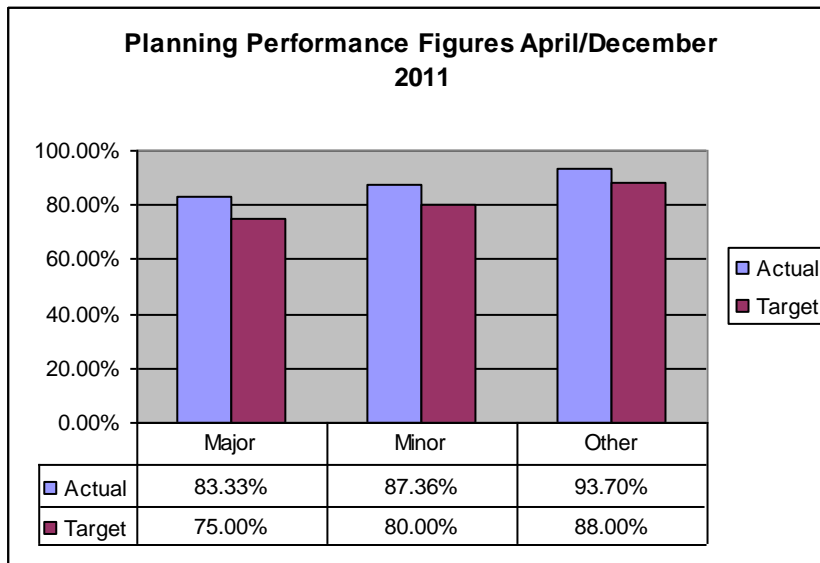


Chart 2-Cumulative performance 2011/12



6. 9 out of 10 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. The application which went over the target was for land to the west of Stillington for the erection of 4 No. wind turbines (max height 125m) and associated infrastructure to include anemometer masts, access roads, crane pads, control building, substation and temporary construction compound (10/2549/EIS) which had also been the subject of a judicial review with the original decision being quashed and subsequently approved at committee in December 2011.

Recommendation

7. 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.

Corporate Director, Development & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer: Carol Straughan
Tel: 01642 527027
carol.straughan@stockton.gov.uk

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

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.