

DELEGATED

AGENDA No.

**REPORT TO PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

DATE 22nd AUGUST 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 first quarter of 2012/2013.

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 2012/13 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 2011/12, 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 first quarter in that period, 1st April to 30th June 2012.

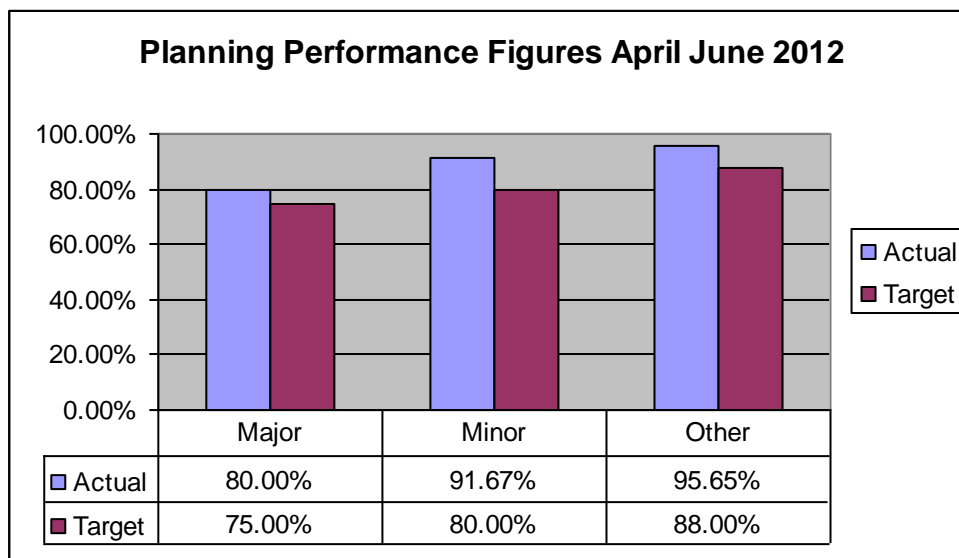
Current performance position

5. Performance results achieved for the first period are 80% for major applications, 91.67% for minor and 95.65% for others, achieving above performance in all categories.

Table 1-First quarter results

Category	Determined	Q1		Percent	Target
		Within	Target		
Major	15	12		80.00%	75.00%
Minor	72	66		91.67%	80.00%
Other	207	198		95.65%	88.00%

Chart 1-Cumulative performance 2012/13



6. 12 out of 15 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. Two of the applications which went over the target (12/0067/FUL and 12/0166/FUL) were related to the proposed developments around Red House School in Norton/Wynyard and were delayed whilst we examined the traffic implications, HSE concerns regarding the high pressure gas mains at Wynyard and the viability of the new school and proposed housing in greater detail. The third application was for the new Northshore Academy (12/0268/FUL) and whilst this application was reported to and approved by planning committee well within the 13 week period, it was subject to a satisfactory bat survey being undertaken to satisfy Natural England, and the inclement weather delayed the survey by many weeks. It is also important to note that in the final quarter of 2011/12, 9 major applications were determined, whilst there were 15 in this quarter.

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 determine applications within the target periods and improve performance and the reputation of the Council.

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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

Environmental Implications; None directly.

Community Safety Implications; None directly.