

**DELEGATED**

**AGENDA No.**

**REPORT TO PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

**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 2013/2014.

### **Recommendation**

That planning committee note this quarterly report.

### **Background**

1. DCLG 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 2013/14 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 75% for majors, 80% for minors and 88% for other applications.
4. The reporting timeframe runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> March each year. This report presents the performance of the first quarter in that period, 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

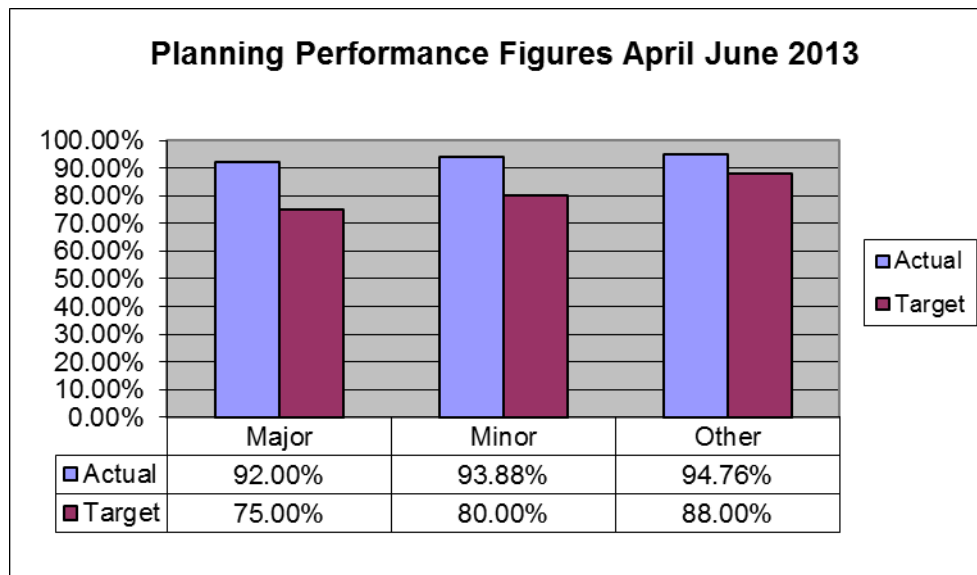
**Current performance position**

5. Performance results achieved for the first quarter are 92.00% for major applications, 93.88% for minor and 94.76% for others, achieving above performance in all categories.

Table 1 - First quarter results

Category	Determined	Within Target	Per cent	Target
Major	25	23	92.00%	75.00%
Minor	49	46	93.88%	80.00%
Other	191	181	94.76%	88.00%

Chart 1-Cumulative performance 2012/13



6. There was an increase in the number of major applications determined from 16 to 25 in the first quarter of this year compared to the last quarter of 2012/13. 23 out of the 25 major applications were determined within the 13 week target. The two major applications which went over the target were 11/2482/EIS which was the outline application for 845 dwellings at Allens West in Eaglescliffe where the signing of the section 106 took a long time to sign due to administrators being involved, and 12/2047/OUT which was for land at Urray Nook and was refused contrary to officer recommendation. This application was delayed due to it being part of the wider modelling work which was undertaken by the Engineers.
7. Of interest to Members will be a recent article in Planning magazine dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013 which related to those authorities most at risk of being put into special measures by DCLG. Whilst it is predicted that there may be the possibility of 7 Councils being put into special measures whereby DCLG would deal with and determine the major planning applications, as can be seen from the “top performers” table, Stockton-on-Tees are the fifth top authority in terms of performance on major planning applications during the period July 2011-December 2012. The article is reproduced at Appendix 1.

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

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**Financial Implications; decrease in income through the increase of PD and prior notifications has budgetary implications for service delivery; changes to the Planning system will place additional budgetary pressures on the service in the future; unknown variable if the authority fails to meet Planning Guarantee targets**

**Environmental Implications; None directly.**

**Community Safety Implications; None directly.**