

**Proposal:** Development Control  
Performance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 –  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

**Report of:** Executive Director - Business      **Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Development Control  
Committee      **Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
  
Performance Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee      20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 It's important to ensure that as a Council we are striving to improve our performance. This report outlines the current position on the Planning Units performance on dealing with planning applications.

### 1.2 Previous year's figures and performance information for comparison

The Council's performance in processing planning applications has improved to the point where it is no longer subject to "special measures". Government targets for the percentage of "minor" applications processed within 8 weeks of receipt have gradually increased from 55% in (March 2003 to April 2004) 2003-04 to 65% in 2006-07(March 2006 to April 2007), while the percentage targets for "other" applications have increased from 70% to 80% over the same period. However, the Council's actual performance has comfortably exceeded these targets throughout this period.

In 2007-08 (March 2007 to April 2008), performance in processing major planning applications exceeded the Government target for the first time in four years. For that year, the target was 60% of applications processed within 13 weeks of receipt. The Council's actual performance was 62%.

This report highlights performance from April 2008 to September 2008 (Quarter 1 and 2)

## 2. Local Indicator Requirement (Corporate Plan 2008/2011 Requirement)

2.1 Committee will be aware that the Planning Unit seeks to meet its Local indicator targets. This we have set out in the Business Plan for the Business Directorate. These are based on National Indicator 157 which provides that planning applications should be determined in a timely manner. Timely manner is defined as 13 weeks for major applications/8 weeks for minor and other applications.

- 2.2 Local Indicator 109a in our Corporate Plan [2008-2011] provides that 65% of all major planning applications received by the Council should be determined within 13 weeks.
- 2.3 Local Indicator 109b in our Corporate Plan provides that 80% of minor applications should be determined within 8 weeks.
- 2.4 Local Indicator 109c in our Corporate Plan provides that 85% of other applications should be determined within 8 weeks.
- 2.5 Access to central government grant funding is based upon the requirement to meet National Indicator 157.

### 3. **Current performance**

Q.1 April 08 to June 08                      Q.2 June to September 2008

Majors 5 of 7 – 71.43%

Majors 1 of 1 – 100%

Minors 47 of 51 – 92.16%

Minors 61 of 67 – 91.04%

Others 91 of 101 – 90.10%

Others 89 of 99 – 89.90%

#### 3.1 **Performance Quarter 1 and 2 together (April 08 to September 2008)**

Major planning applications - 75% determined in 13 weeks (6 of 8 – 75.00%)

Minor planning applications - 91% determined in 8 weeks (117 of 131 – 89.31%)

Other applications - 90 % determined in 8 weeks (195 of 216 – 90.28%)

In conclusion the team continue to exceed the Local Indicator targets set out in the Corporate Plan.

### 4. **Appeals performance**

#### 4.1 **Appeals figures from 1st April to 30th September 2008**

4.2 The Committee are requested to note the Planning Units performance on appeals.

4.3 23 appeals dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, the decision of the Council to refuse planning permission supported.

4.4 11 appeals were upheld by the Planning inspectorate. This equates to a 68% success rate at appeals.

### 5. **Applications received**

5.1 Attached to this report are graphs outlining the number of planning applications received compared to last year.

## 6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Planning Unit continues to improve its performance to well above the national average.
- 6.2 The team have worked hard to ensure that we meet both the National Indicator targets and our local indicator targets set out in the Business Plan we have clear performance management systems in place to ensure that we effectively manage performance. Success at appeals means that both officers and the Development Control Committee are applying policy and material considerations effectively.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the Committee notes the content of the report and refer the report to Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

| <b>Contact Officer</b> |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name                   | Linda Fisher                    |
| Position               | Executive Director ( Business ) |
| Service / Team         | Development Control             |
| Telephone              | 01706 252447                    |

