

## Report for Information

<b>Report to</b>	Planning Applications Committee 21 July, 2011	<b>Item</b> <b>6</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Planning Services	
<b>Subject</b>	Performance of the Development Management Service, April -June, 2011 (Quarter 1, 2011-12)	

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### **Purpose**

To report the performance of the development management service to members of the committee.

### **Recommendations**

That the report be noted.

### **Financial Consequences**

The financial consequences of this report are none.

### **Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities**

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future” and the implementation of the planning improvement plan.

### **Contact Officers**

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### **Background Documents**

None.

# Report

## Background

1. On 31 July 2008 Planning Applications Committee considered a report regarding the improved working of the Committee which included a number of suggested changes to the way the Committee operates. In particular it suggested performance of the development management service be reported to the Committee and that feedback from members of the Committee be obtained.

## Performance of the development management service

2. Table 1 of the appendix provides a summary of performance indicators for the development management service. The speed of determining applications is National Indicator 157. Table 2 shows the numbers received, pending and on hand at the end of the quarter.
3. For both "Major" and 'Minor' and "Other" applications the National Performance Indicators (NI157) achieved in the first quarter of 2011-12 were 75%, 50% and 70% respectively. All were below minimum targets set by the previous government (set at 60% and 65% and 80% respectively) as well as the local target of 80%, 85% and 90%. The Jan – March 2011 figures were also poor. NI157 is a lagging indicator and action taken to address this performance necessarily takes time to work through in the outturn figures.
4. The number of pending applications on hand at the end of March was 206 and this dropped to 169 by the end of June - with more decisions made than new applications received.
5. Measures have been taken to re-organise staffing levels by switching resources from policy making to development management, the appointment of a planner for 12 month period and the filling of a vacant post. This should provide the right level of resources to secure top quartile service standards by quarter 3. As new staff are not yet all in place, and some applications are part way through the determination process, it is expected that performance will improve but that the NI157 indicator will remain low in quarter 2 (July- Sept).
6. The Planning Applications Committee met on 4 occasions over this quarter and determined 18 applications (plus the "in principle" views on the Anglia Square proposals), all but two of which were determined in accordance with officer recommendations. Applications for a change of use at 8 Hall Road was approved and a mobile phone mast at Bowers Avenue was refused permission contrary to officer advice.
7. The percentage of decisions delegated to officers for the quarter was 92% (previous quarter 88.6%), marginally above the former government's target of 90%.

**Table 1 –  
Speed of determination of planning applications**

	2008 - 2009	2009 – 2010					2010 -2011					2011 - 2012
	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1
<b>Major</b> % 13 wks	<b>37%</b>	54%	90%	70%	86%	<b>72.5%</b>	70%	100%	88.9%	44.4%	<b>75.7%</b>	75%
<b>Minor</b> % 8 wks	<b>75%</b>	90%	85%	81%	98%	<b>88.4%</b>	81.7%	89.0%	87.8%	51.9%	<b>78.9%</b>	50%
<b>Others</b> % 8 wks	<b>80%</b>	92%	91%	90%	89%	<b>90.3%</b>	93.6%	94.3%	93.9%	73.1%	<b>89.6%</b>	70%

**Table 2**  
**Numbers of planning applications**

	2008 - 2009				2009 - 2010				2010 - 2011				2011 - 2012
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Received	302	250	199	222	185	211	188	196	212	222	197	255	184
Withdrawn/called in	21	29	24	22	14	14	16	9	15	11	19	15	9
On hand (pending) at end of quarter	229	228	193	166	155	143	129	144	144	132	136	206	169
Decisions	306	222	210	225	180	209	185	172	197	222	174	169	212