

<b>Report to</b>	Planning applications committee 25 July 2013	<b>Item</b> <b>6</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of planning services	
<b>Subject</b>	Performance of the Development Management Service, Apr-Jun 2013 (Quarter 1, 2013-14)	

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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. The National Performance Indicators (NI157) achieved in the first quarter of 2013-14 were 50% for major schemes, 70% for minors and 85.5% for others. The majors (defined as over 10 dwellings or 1,000 sq.m. of floorspace) figure relates to a few cases (10 in total). All of these figures are higher than the previous quarter. The figures are below the locally set top quartile target of 80%/85%/90% but all are in the second quartile nationally. The national average for the previous quarter being 58%, 68% and 81% respectively i.e. the exceeded by between 2 and 8 percentage points.
4. The government has commenced collecting and publishing data on decisions made in 26 weeks. In the last quarter 60% of major applications, 96% of minors and 100% of others were dealt with in 26 weeks.
5. The 8 and 13 week data for this quarter for all three categories are higher (or the same) than the previous three quarters. This is encouraging and results from changed staffing levels and improvements to processes to speed up the early stages of processing. The next quarter may have a suppressed percentage of major schemes in 13 weeks due to long standing and very complex decisions (Deal Ground and Bowthorpe and others) being issued after extensive negotiations and before the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
6. The government has announced that it will be taking action if councils perform poorly on major applications or have a very poor appeal success rate. It is not anticipated that there will be any issues with the appeal rate of success. Although the details are not completely clear as yet the relevant percentage of decisions will be linked to the currently submitted NI157 data. If a Council determines fewer than 30% of decisions in a two year period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June then the council would be designated. Applicants would then have the option of submitting applications direct to the Planning Inspectorate. The council would lose the planning fee, but more importantly, designation would have reputational harm, and have negative impacts on trust in the proper working of the planning function.

7. The government will be producing new guidelines so that future schemes are excluded from the data if the applicant has agreed a “post application agreement” where there is mutual agreement that the decision process is best served by extending the 13 week period. This would set a new timetable for the decision process. However this is unlikely to be applicable to past cases so it will be very important that decisions over the coming months are within 13 weeks or any “post application agreement” dates. For the two years ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (and which will form the basis for the government’s designation to be announced in the autumn) the figure for determination of major applications in 13 weeks is 39.7%. For the latter half of that period the figure is 30.2% so it will be very important that the figures for the next year are excellent to avoid a risk of designation.
8. The percentage of decisions delegated to officers for the quarter was 92.4% (previous quarter 82.8%). The national average for district council’s is 91%.

## APPENDIX

Table 1

Speed of determination of planning applications recorded by National Indicator 157

	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012					2012 - 2013					2013 - 2014				
	Year	Year	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
<b>Major</b> % 13 wks	<b>37%</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>	75%	20%	71.4%	30%	<b>52.9%</b>	77.7%	50%	14.2%	7.1%	<b>35%</b>	50%				
% 26 wks	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>88.9%</b>					<b>73.5%</b>	88.8%	90%	28.6%	35.7%		58.3%				
<b>Minor</b> % 8 wks	<b>75%</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>78.9%</b>	50%	64.3%	83.1%	74.5%	<b>67.2%</b>	81.5%	69.6%	66.1%	63.3%	<b>73.4%</b>	70%				
% 26 wks			<b>99.6%</b>					<b>95.9%</b>	97.7%	98.5%	100%	96.6%		96.2%				
<b>Others</b> % 8 wks	<b>80%</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>89.6%</b>	70%	78.3%	90.1%	88.5%	<b>81.6%</b>	86.4%	77.2%	78.6%	82.4%	<b>81.1%</b>	85.5%				
% 26 weeks			<b>99.6%</b>					<b>97.9%</b>	100%	98.6%	100%	97.7%		100%				

**Table 2****Numbers of planning applications recorded by National Indicator 157**

	2010 - 2011				2011 - 2012				2012 - 2013				2013 - 2014			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Received	212	222	197	255	184	245	176	221	273	255	171	207	223			
Withdrawn/called in	15	11	19	15	9	21	10	8	17	6	8	8	5			
On hand (pending) at end of quarter	144	132	136	206	169	160	119	179	190	154	149	173	168			
Decisions	197	222	174	169	212	232	203	157	246	223	167	175	223			