

Report for Information

Report to	Planning Applications Committee 20 January, 2011	Item 9
Report of	Head of Planning Services	
Subject	Performance of the Development Management Service, Oct - Dec, 2010 (Quarter 3, 2010-11)	

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.
3. For both "Major" and 'Minor' and "Other" applications the National Performance Indicators (NI157) achieved in the second quarter were 89%, 88% and 95% respectively. All were well above minimum government targets (set at 60% and 65% and 80% respectively) as well as the local target of 80% (actual was 89%), 85% (actual was 88%) and 90% (actual was 95%). Relatively poor performance in May, and quarter 1 generally, related to problems in the registering of new applications some 8 weeks previously. The local targets are set at challenging levels equivalent to top quartile for English councils last year. The "year so far" figures for three quarters are also above local targets.
4. There is some indication that performance was slipping in December as this month had worse figures in all three categories than for the months of September, October and November. This was linked to reduced staffing levels due to maternity leave of a planner and a resignation of a technical officer. It is expected that performance will fall further at the start of 2011 for the same reasons and because of a significant increase in applications in the last few weeks of 2010 (partly from the Council related HCA applications for new affordable housing. and which will be reported, if necessary, to Committee over the next two months).
5. The Planning Applications Committee met on 4 occasions over this quarter and determined 16 applications, all but one of which were determined in accordance with officer recommendations. An application for a variation of a condition at 53 Earlham Rd (Workshop café /bar) to allow usage of the forecourt until 10.30pm was approved for a temporary period of 12 months contrary to officer advice which was to refuse permission.
6. The percentage of decisions delegated to officers for the quarter was 92%, and for the year so far was 90.7%, close to the former government's target of 90%.

7. Of the 12 applications which were determined outside of the 8 or 13 week period the reasons for the lateness in determination was as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| - Procedural errors or delays | 6 cases |
| - Complex issues in application or legal agreement | 4 cases |
| - Need to refer to Committee | 2 cases |

APPENDIX

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

	2008 - 2009					2009 - 2010					2010 - 2011				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year so far
Major % 13 wks	60%	27%	60%	17%	37%	54%	90%	70%	86%	72.5%	70%	100%	88.9%		88.5%
Minor % 8 wks	65%	72%	78%	79%	75%	90%	85%	81%	98%	88.4%	81.7%	89.0%	87.8%		86.2%
Others % 8 wks	78%	74%	80%	82%	80%	92%	91%	90%	89%	90.3%	93.6%	94.3%	93.9%		93.9%

Table 2
Numbers of planning applications

	2008 - 2009				2009 – 2010				2010 – 2011			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Received	302	250	199	222	185	211	187	196	213	223	201*	
Withdrawn/called in	21	29	24	22	14	14	16	9	16	12	19	
On hand (pending) at end of quarter	229	228	193	166	155	143	128	146	145	134	140*	
Decisions	306	222	210	225	180	209	185	169	180	222	174	

* Applications received and on hand are an estimate at the time of writing this report and may increase. Figures will be updated at Committee.