

Report for Information

Report to	Planning Applications Committee 26 August 2010	Item 7
Report of	Head of Planning Services	
Subject	Performance of the Development Management Service, April-June, 2010 (Quarter 1, 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 first quarter were 70%, 82% and 90% respectively. All were above minimum government targets (set at 60% and 65% and 80% respectively). "Majors" and "minors" were below the local targets of 80% and 85% respectively whilst others was three percentage points above the target of 90%. Relatively poor performance in May related to problems in the registering of new applications some 8 weeks previously. These issues were resolved and June performance was better than the other months (and an initial check of subsequent decisions in the first half of the next quarter from July 1st shows further improvement). The local targets are set at challenging levels equivalent to top quartile for English councils last year.
4. The Planning Applications Committee met on 3 occasions over this quarter and determined 16 applications, 15 of which were determined in accordance with officer recommendations. An application for a dwelling at the rear of 111 Newmarket Road was refused contrary to officer recommendation. It has subsequently been the subject of an appeal and members have been notified of this separately.
5. The percentage of decisions delegated to officers was 91%, close to the Government target of 90%.
6. Of the 12 applications which were determined outside of the 8 or 13 week period the reasons (and on occasion more than one reason applies) for the lateness in determination was as follows:

- Procedural errors or delays	2 cases
- Complex issues in application or legal agreement	4 cases
- Need to refer to Committee	7 cases
- Reference to GO East	3 cases
- linked to associated application dealt with "in time"	1 case

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
Major % 13 wks	60%	27%	60%	17%	37%	54%	90%	70%	86%	72.5%	70%				
Minor % 8 wks	65%	72%	78%	79%	75%	90%	85%	81%	98%	88.4%	81.7%				
Others % 8 wks	78%	74%	80%	82%	80.0%	92%	91%	90%	89%	90.3%	93.6%				

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			
Withdrawn/called in	21	29	24	22	14	14	16	9	16			
On hand (pending) at end of quarter	229	228	193	166	155	143	128	146	145			
Decisions	306	222	210	225	180	209	185	169	180			