

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & SPORT

TO:	PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE		
DATE:	7 th February 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE - Quarter 3, 2017/18		
SERVICE:	PLANNING	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the quarterly report for Q3 (October - December) of 2017/18. The report sets out the Council's current performance against government criteria for designation and corporate indicators where they vary from the government criteria.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The main measure used by the Secretary of State in assessing a local planning authority's performance in determining planning applications is the percentage of decisions on applications made:

- (a) within the statutory determination period; or
- (b) within such extended period as has been agreed in writing between the applicant and the local planning authority;

These measures are applied separately to major applications and to non-major applications. There are also quality measures that relate to appeal decisions which are reported in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Performance indicators and targets

- 4.1 The following table provides monitoring information against the relevant quarterly corporate indicators:

Table 1 RBC Planning Service Quarterly Performance Indicators for Q1 and Q2 2017/18

Description	Target	15-16	16-17	Q1 17-18	Q2 17-18	Q3 17-18	Q4 17-18
Percentage of major applications decided within: (i) statutory 13/16 weeks, or (ii) the extended period agreed with the applicant. (NB note that a risk of designation occurs where 40% or fewer of their decisions on major applications are made within the statutory determination period or such extended period as has been agreed in writing with the applicant).	60%	85% (17/20)	89% (42/47)	83% (5/6)	100% (5/5)	88% (7/8)	
Percentage of minor applications decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period agreed by the applicant.	65%	71% (143/201)	74% (166/223)	83% (45/54)	94% (61/65)	85% (57/67)	
Percentage of other applications decided within statutory 8 weeks	80%	54% (366/676)	59% (457/769)	64% (94/147)	66% (129/196)	76% (147/194)	
Percentage of other applications decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period as agreed by applicant.	80%	73% (493/676)	85% (657/769)	97% (142/147)	95% (187/196)	957% (185/194)	
Percentage of householder applications (not for prior approval) decided within (i) statutory 8 weeks or (ii) the extended period agreed by the applicant.	80%	75% (342/457)	62% (308/499)	98% (104/106)	96% (129/135)	80% (94/117)	
Percentage of householder applications (not for prior approval) decided within statutory 8 weeks.	80%	55% (249/456)	86% (430/499)	66% (70/106)	69% (93/135)	72% (84/117)	
Planning Enforcement: % of enforcement complaints resolved within appropriate deadline according to priority	60%	66% (178/269)	82% (244/299)	66% (35/53)	83% (70/84)	77% (40/52)	
Appeal performance - % allowed as a total of all appeals (a lower % figure is better)	30%	27% (9/33)	20% (8/41)	33% (2/6)	13% (1/8)	10% (9/10)	
Major application appeal performance - % allowed as a total of all appeals (NB note that a risk of designation occurs where more than 20% of major applications decisions are overturned on appeal. (a lower % figure is better)	20%	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/1)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	

Comments on planning application performance and workload

4.4 The key results for Quarter 3 of 2017/18 are as follows:

- A total of 311 planning applications were validated during Quarter 3 compared to a total of 281 in the same period during 2016/17, a rise of 10.7%. The total number of applications validated during Quarters 1-3 was 945 compared to a total of 964 in the same period during 2016/17, a fall of almost 2%.
- The Council's performance overall remains steady and generally well above the target levels.
- Enforcement performance remains above target;
- Performance on appeals was good.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Planning services contribute to producing a sustainable environment and economy within the Borough and to meeting the 2016 - 19 Corporate Plan objective for "Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active." Under the heading, Neighbourhoods, the Corporate Plan aims to improve the physical environment - the cleanliness of our streets, places for children to play, green spaces, how we feel about our neighbourhood and whether we feel safe, have a sense of community and get on with our neighbours.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Statutory consultation takes place on planning applications and appeals and this can influence the speed with which applications and appeals are decided. Information on development management performance is publicly available.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 In terms of the key equalities protected characteristics, it is considered that the development management performance set out in this report has no adverse impacts.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The collection and monitoring of performance indicators is a statutory requirement and a requirement of DCLG. In addition a number of the work related programmes referred to in this report are mandatory requirements including the determination of planning applications and the preparation of the development plan.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.