

**PLANNING SERVICES
(DEVELOPMENT CONTROL)
SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 2009 AND FOR THE
YEAR APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the position with respect to achieving the Performance Indicators for the Development Control Section of Planning Services, and the overall workload of the Section. This report covers the quarter from 1 January to 31 March 2009 and includes an overview of our annual performance.

2. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

2.1 This section sets out the position on achieving the Performance Indicators identified in the Council's Planning Services Best Value Business Plan.

2.2 Table 1 sets out the figures relating to Planning Applications and Appeals for the quarter.

Table 1

Objectives	Indicator	Targets	Jan-March 2009
Considering planning applications	% of planning applications determined within set time	Not less than: a) 60% of all Major applications within 13 weeks. b) 65% of all Minor applications within 8 weeks c) 80% of all Other applications in 8 weeks	60% 64% 100%
Departures	% of departures from Local Plan approved	Not more than 1% of total permissions granted	0%
Appeals	% of appeals allowed against decision to refuse	Not more than 40% of total decisions	50% (1 out of 2)

2.3 Table 2 sets out the quarterly figures for Planning Enforcement.

Table 2

Objectives	Indicator	Targets	Jan-March 2009
Investigating alleged breaches of planning control	Working days to respond to complainants	a) Acknowledge within 5 working days	100%
		b) Written response to complainant about what action is proposed within 15 working days	100%

2.4 Table 3 sets out the quarterly figures for planning advice.

Table 3

	Jan-March 2009
Response to enquiry letters – target 100% within 10 working days	92%

2.5 Table 4 sets out the Quality of Service Checklist

Table 4

	Jan-March 2009
Quality of Service Checklist Overall Result – (BVPI)	100%
A. Whether the Authority provides guidance for applicants on requirements for submission of applications	3/3
B. Whether the Authority provides pre-application advice	3/3
C. Whether the Authority has local arrangements for specialist advice on design	3/3
D. Whether the Authority has local arrangements for specialist advice on historic environment	3/3
E. Whether there is a multidisciplinary approach to determining major planning applications	3/3
F. Whether the Authority provides capability for an electronic planning service	3/3

2.6 Table 5 sets out the percentage of applications dealt with under the scheme of delegation and decisions where the Development Control Committee has overturned Officer recommendation.

Table 5

Delegated and Overturned Applications	Jan-March 2009
Applications dealt with under scheme of delegation	85%
Recommendations overturned by Development Control Committee	0%

3. WORKLOAD

3.1 This section deals with the workload undertaken by the Development Control Section in the past three months.

Table 6

Planning Applications and Appeals	Jan-March 2009
Number of new planning applications received	115
Number of new planning applications received via the Planning Portal	34
Number of applications with an environmental statement	0
Number of requests for screening and scoping opinions	1
Number of planning applications determined	103
Number of appeals determined	
a) Allowed	(a) 1
b) Dismissed	(b) 1
c) Withdrawn	(c) 1

Planning Enforcement	Jan-March 2009
Number of cases arising from complaints received	25
Number of Planning Contravention Notices, Requisitions for Information served	5
Number of Enforcement and Breach of Conditions Notices served	0

Minor Amendments and Conditions	Jan-March 2009
Number of minor amendments received	6
Number of conditions dealt with	43

General Planning Advice	Jan-March 2009
Number of general planning enquiry letters received	155

3.2 The total amount of planning fee income received for the quarter was £47720.00

4 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FIGURES 2008 - 2009
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Table 7

Planning Applications and Appeals	Apr 2008--Mar 2009
Number of new planning applications received	570
Number of applications with an environmental statement	0
Number of requests for screening and scoping opinions	8
Number of planning applications determined	565
Number of appeals determined	
a) Allowed	2
b) Dismissed	13
c) Withdrawn	2

Objectives	Indicator	Targets	Apr 2008--Mar 2009
Considering planning applications	% of planning applications determined within set time	Not less than:	
		a) 60% of all Major applications within 13 weeks.	87%
		b) 65% of all Minor applications within 8 weeks	80%
		c) 80% of all Other applications in 8 weeks	97.5%

4.1 The total amount of planning fee income received for the year was £357224.00

5 COMMENT ON WORKLOAD

- 5.1 Major and other applications have reached their target for the last quarter with minor applications 1% below the target. This is largely due to a small number of minor applications for dwellings which were granted permission notwithstanding objections from Natural England. However, the overall targets were exceeded for the year (April 08 – March 09) and it is anticipated that meeting these targets will influence the level of Housing and Planning Delivery Grant the Council may be awarded. It is envisaged that the allocation of this grant will also be connected to the Government's objectives for E-planning.

The applications on hand at the end of this quarter numbered 84, the majority of which were within time for determination. In this quarter a number of the outstanding applications which were being held in abeyance pending resolution of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area have been determined. As a result of this action there are only four applications which are currently outstanding for this issue, namely Land east of Sheeling Close Aldershot (x2), Enterprise House 88-90 Victoria Road Aldershot and Fox Garage Site Hawley Road Farnborough.

There has been a decrease in planning fee income for the year April 2008 – March 2009 of £125982.73 in comparison with that received between April 2007 – March 2008. This can be attributed in part to changes to residential permitted development rights which came into effect on 1 October 2008 and to the general economic downturn which has reduced the number of applications being submitted. However it is noted that this decrease is less than that experienced between 2005/06 and 2006/07. The fee income in 2006/07 was £154843.00 less than that received in 2005/06.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is recommended that the report be NOTED

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers.