

Quarterly Report on Planning Performance	22 January 2020
Planning Committee	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets
Outcome	Pro-active decision making which protects the natural features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough
Lead Officer	Denise Dickson
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

FOR NOTING

1.0 Background

1.1 Schedule 4 of The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 sets out the statutory performance targets for the Planning Department for major development applications, local development applications and enforcement cases.

1.2 The statutory targets are:

- Major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks
- Local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks
- 70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint.

1.3 The Northern Ireland Planning Statistics is an official statistics publication issued by Analysis, Statistics & Research Team within Department for Infrastructure. It provides the official statistics for each Council on each of the statutory targets and is published quarterly and on an annual basis. The Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin was published on 19 December 2019 providing planning statistics for this period. It also provides a summary of Council progress across the three statutory targets.

2.0 Details

Website link 1 <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-statistics-july-september-2019> provides the link to the published bulletin.

Development Management Planning Applications

2.1 Table 1 below provides a summary of performance in relation to the statutory targets for major development applications and local development applications for the

second quarter of 2019-20 business year and provides a comparison of performance against all 11 Councils.

Table 1: Q2 Planning Applications Statistics

2019/20	Major		Local		Total		Live	
Q2	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	4	11	252	314	256	317	704	143 (20.3%)
Rank	3 rd	2 nd	6 th	4 th	6 th	4 th	4 th	6 th (%)
Average Processing Times	88.4 weeks		19.1 weeks					
Rank	6 th		10 th					
Approval Rate	100%		95.2%		95.3%		5 th Rank	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

- 2.2 In the Q2, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council continued to issue the 2nd highest number of major applications out of the 11 Councils, and received the 3rd highest number of major applications in this period. In comparison to the same period last year, 1 less major applications was received in Q2 of this business year. The number of local applications received remains in the middle of all 11 councils and we have issued/withdrawn the 4th highest number of local applications in this period.
- 2.3 The number of live applications is now sitting at the 4th highest out of the 11 Councils and in terms of the percentage of live applications that are over 12months in the system remains, we remain ranked in the middle out of all 11 Councils in terms of percentage of live applications that are over 12 month in the system.

Table 2: YTD Planning Applications Statistics

2019/20	Major		Local		Total		Live	
YTD	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Rec'd	Dec'd/ W/D	Total	Over 12mths
Planning Applications	6	11	565		571	629	704	143 (20.3%)
Rank	3 rd	2 nd	5 th	5 th	5 th	5 th	4 th	6 th (%)
Average Processing Times	78.8 weeks		19.6 weeks					
Rank	7 th		10 th					
Approval Rate	100%		94.1%		94.2%		8 th Rank	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

- 2.4 Performance YTD remains steady having received the 3rd highest number of major applications and determined the 2nd highest number of major applications, all of which were approved. In terms of local applications we remain ranked 5th out of 11

Councils both in terms of applications received and applications decided/withdrawn. However processing times remain a concern. A workshop has been held with Planning Committee Members regarding the delays in the process and discussions have taken place on actions to improve the processing times of applications. A Report will be presented to Planning Committee shortly on this issue for agreement.

Enforcement

- 2.4 Table 3 and 4 below show statistics in relation to enforcement for Q2 of the 2019/20 business year and year to date. Of note is that of the cases closed, almost 34% were as a result of no breach of planning control being identified. Furthermore, the Enforcement team had the 2nd highest number of prosecutions in Q2 out of the 11 Councils and 4th highest number of live cases.

Table 3: Q2 Enforcement Statistics

2019/20	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Court Action	
Q2			70% within 39wks	Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	92	62	76.2%	5	1
Rank	7 th	9 th	9 th	2 nd	2 nd

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

- 2.5 The Enforcement team continues YTD to meet the statutory target for concluding 70% of cases within the 39 week statutory target and is ranked in the middle of all 11 Councils in terms of cases opened and concluded.

Table 4: YTD Enforcement Statistics

2019/20	Open	Conclude	Conclusion Times	Court Action	
YTD			70% within 39wks	Prosecutions	Convictions
Cases	195	166	85.9%	10	1
Rank	5 th	6 th	5 th	2 nd	3 rd

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

Other Activity by Planning Department

- 2.6 Tables 5 and 6 below indicate the level of other activity carried out by the Planning Department over Q2 of 2019/20 business year and year to date.

Table 5: Q2 Other Activity

Q2 2019/20	Received	Rank
Discharge of Conditions	22	2 nd
Certificate of Lawful Development	21	4 th
Pre Application Discussions	9	7 th
Non Material Change	11	5 th
TPOs	2	6 th
Pre Application Notice	3	7 th
Total	68	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

2.7 In addition to the formal applications received, the Planning Department received 68 other types of applications relating to planning applications in Q2 and 135 YTD.

Table 6: YTD Other Activity

YTD 2019/20	Received	Rank
Discharge of Conditions	45	4 th
Certificate of Lawful Development	31	6 th
Pre Application Discussions	27	5 th
Non Material Change	20	9 th
TPOs	4	8 th
Pre Application Notice	8	5 th
Total	135	

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Statistics: Second Quarter 2019/20 Statistical Bulletin

Income

2.8 Table 7 below provides a breakdown of the income generated by the Planning Department from April - September of 2019/20 business year. Income is relatively steady but spiked in June and August due to receipt of large wind farm applications. Otherwise income has been lower month on month when compared to the same period last year. It is unlikely that the predicted income of £1,567,773 will be achieved this financial year.

Table 7: Income

YTD 2019/20	Received
Planning Applications	£817,321.25
Property Certificates	£66,604
Total	£883,925.25

Source: Unvalidated Statistics – Internal Reports

Conclusion

2.9 In conclusion, performance within the Planning Department continues to steadily improve towards meeting the statutory targets. However areas of concern remain with the number of applications in the system over 12 months and the length of time taken to process local applications. Caseloads of Planning Officers and staff resources continue to be monitored.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the Planning Departments Quarterly Report.