

Title of Report:	Development Management Monthly Statistical Report.
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Information

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	Head of Planning

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The "Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee" sets out the requirement to provide monthly updates on the number of planning applications received and decided
- 1.2 The Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework sets out the reporting arrangements to the Department of Infrastructure. DfI's Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB) publishes the official statistics on a quarterly and annual basis. The Framework includes the three statutory planning indicators in addition to new non-statutory indicators.
- 1.3 This Monthly Statistical Report provides Members with unvalidated statistics in relation to how Council's Planning Department and Committee are performing against the Framework indicators.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 A list of planning applications received and decided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for January 2021 is available on the Council's website at the link below:

<https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/planning/schedule-of-applications>

Please note that Pre-Application Discussions; Certificates of Lawful Development – Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions and Non-Material Changes, have been excluded from the reports to correspond with official validated statistics published by DFI.

- 2.2 *Indicator 1: average processing time taken to determine major applications*
Statutory Target – major applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 30 weeks

Table 1 below details the number of Major planning applications received and decided, as well as the average processing times. Please note that these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of major applications received has decreased by 3 applications and the number of major applications decided has decreased by 6. 1 Major applications issued in the month of January. Taking account of restrictions relating to Covid-19 pandemic, average processing times are only 9 weeks slower when compared to same period last year. Although this is significantly above the statutory indicator for major applications, focus continues to reduce the number of older major applications in the system which inevitably will have a negative impact on average processing times.

The major application issued in January required the following consultations and was first presented to Planning Committee at the meeting held on 28 October 2020. 13 consultations – 2 x Environment Health, 3 x DfI Roads, 2 x NI Water, 3 x DfI Rivers, 1 x HED, 2 x NIEA.

Table 1 Indicator 1: Processing Major applications

Major applications (target of 30 weeks)				
2020/21	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 30 weeks
April	0	0	-	-
May	1	0	-	-
June	1	1	70.8	0%
July	2	0	-	-
August	0	2	110.4	0%
September	1	2	93.6	0%
October	0	1	54.8	0%
November	0	2	93.3	0%
December	1	2	78.9	50%
January	1	1	119.2	0%
TOTAL	7	11	87.8 weeks	9.1%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics.

2.3 *Indicator 2: average processing time taken to determine local applications*
Statutory Target – local applications processed from date valid to decision or withdrawal within an average of 15 weeks

Table 2 below details the number of Local planning applications received and decided as well as the average processing times. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of applications received has increased by 14 applications and the number of decisions issued/withdrawn has decreased by 324 applications.

Table 2 Indicator 2: Processing Local applications

Local applications (target of 15 weeks)				
2020/21	Number received	Number decided/ withdrawn	Average processing time (weeks)	% of cases processed within 15 weeks
April	58	37	21.6	32.4%
May	70	53	14.8	52.8%
June	86	62	18.6	37.1%
July	104	45	19.2	28.9%
August	98	55	25.6	30.9%
September	111	72	21.7	36.1%
October	94	92	19.9	34.8%
November	127	128	19	39.8%
December	117	75	20.6	36.0%
January	75	68	19.8	35.3
Total	940	687	20.0 Weeks	36.8%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics; Excludes: Pre-Application Discussions; Proposal of Application Notices; Certificate of Lawful Development Proposed or Existing; Discharge of Conditions; Non-Material Change.

The restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 in Q1 and Q2 and the lack of resources to access the Planning Portal during that time are the main reasons for the drop in decisions issuing. With provision of resources to access Planning Portal remotely rolled out to staff by end August, decisions issuing increased to reflect the numbers for Q3 of last year. However, processing times are only 0.2 weeks slower than same period last year when operating in the normal working environment.

2.4 *Indicator 3: proportion of enforcement cases progressed to the target conclusion within 39 weeks*

Standard – 70% of all enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint

Table 3 below details the number of Enforcement cases opened and concluded as well as the percentage of cases concluded within the statutory target of 39 weeks. Please note these figures are unvalidated statistics. In comparison to the same period last year, the number of cases opened has decreased by 99 and the number of cases brought to conclusion has decreased by 82

Table 3 Indicator 3: Processing Enforcement Cases

Enforcement Cases Concluded (target of 39 weeks)				
2019/20	Number opened	Number brought to conclusion	70% conclusion time (weeks)	% of cases concluded within 39 weeks
April	13	10	38.4	70%
May	19	22	39.0	72.7%
June	27	8	40.5	62.5%
July	21	10	44.6	70%
August	26	37	33.8	75.7%
September	17	19	52.8	63.2%
October	21	27	37.2	74.1%
November	15	17	31.9	88.2%
December	16	16	56.6	62.5%
January	24	20	54	40.0%
Total	199	186	39.8 weeks	68.8%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

The statutory target for concluding 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks has not been met by our Enforcement team with 68.8% of cases YTD concluded within the statutory target a decrease of 18.9% when compared to the same period last year. The length of time to bring these cases to target conclusion is due to the delays in site visits at the beginning of the pandemic restrictions and the knock-on effect that has had. Furthermore, focus for Q4 is to work to conclude older cases in the system which impacts on the conclusion target.

2.5 *Indicator 4: percentage of applications determined under delegated powers*

Table 4 below details the total number of Local applications determined under delegated powers. Determined is taken as the date the decision issued and excludes withdrawn applications. DfI Development Management Practice Note 15 Councils Schemes of Delegation recommends that councils should aim to have 90-95% of applications dealt with under the scheme of delegation. To date 91.98% of applications determined were delegated under the scheme of delegation.

Table 4 Percentage of Local applications determined under delegated powers

Applications Determined				
2019/20	Total Determined	Delegated Determined	Planning Committee Determined	% Delegated Determined
April	36	36	0	100%
May	52	52	0	100%
June	59	54	5	91.5%
July	42	42	0	100%
August	55	51	4	92.72%
September	70	67	3	94.37%
October	88	78	10	88.64%
November	123	111	12	90.24%
December	72	60	12	83.33%
January	64	57	7	89.06%
Total	661	608	53	91.98%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

2.6 *Indicator 5: number of applications taken to Planning Committee and percentage of Committee decisions made against officer recommendation*

Table 5 provides details on the number of decisions that were determined by the Planning Committee at each monthly meeting and the percentage of decisions made against officer recommendation, including Major, Council and Local applications. This is taken from the date of the Planning Committee meeting. To note is that 14 out of 25 referred local applications had the officers' recommendation overturned at Planning Committee which is a 56% overturn rate for referred applications and a 25% overturn rate in total.

Table 5 Percentage of decisions at Planning Committee against Officer Recommendation

	Total Planning Committee Determined	Officer Recommendation Overturned	Requested Referred to PC Determined	Total no of Referrals overturned by PC
June	5	0	0	0
August	11	6	6	5
September	14	4	5	4
October	9	1	1	1
November	11	4	7	3
December	7	0	0	0
January	11	2	6	1
Total	68	17	25	14

Source: Unvalidated Statistics

2.7 *Indicator 6: percentage of appeals against refusals of planning permission that are dismissed*

Table 6 below details the number of appeal decisions issued YTD of 2020/21 business year. Please note that these figures relating to planning appeal decisions only are unvalidated statistics extracted from internal management reports.

Table 6 Appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC)

Appeal Decisions	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Total To Date
Upheld	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
Dismissed	2	5	1	2	2	0	12
Cumulative Total Appeal Decisions	3	7	1	2	2	1	16

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

Fifteen Planning Appeals decisions have issued by the PAC YTD of which the Planning Department has successfully defended its decision on 75% of appeals.

2.8 *Indicator 7: Number of claims for costs received by the PAC and number of claims awarded*

Table 7 provides the details of the number of application for claims for costs made by either third parties or Council to the PAC and the number of claims where the PAC have awarded costs.

Table 7 Total number of costs received

2020/21	Claims for Costs by third parties	Cost awarded against Council	Claim for Costs by Council	Costs awarded to the Council
Q1	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0
October	1	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0
January	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

- 2.9** Table 8 details the number of contentious applications which have been circulated to all Members and the number of applications subsequently referred to the Planning Committee for determination. At end of December 2020 almost 50% of contentious applications were referred to Planning Committee for determination.

Table 8 Total number of referrals requested

2020/21	No of contentious applications	No of contentious applications referred	% Referred
Q1	0	0	0
July	3	2	66.66%
August	9	3	33.33%
September	8	2	25%
October	10	6	60%
November	6	3	50%
December	3	3	100%
January	3	3	100%
Total	42	22	48.72%

Source: Unvalidated Statistics Internal Management Reports

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee note the update on the development management statistics.