

Title of Report:	Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework Annual Report 202/21
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 December 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Noting

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them
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:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an analysis of the Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework Annual Report 2020/21 published 02 December 2021 by the Department for Infrastructure.

2.0 Background

- 2.1** The Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework sets out the reporting arrangements to the Department of Infrastructure which came into effect on 1st April 2019. This is the third Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework Bulletin published. The Framework includes the three statutory planning indicators in addition to non-statutory indicators.

3.0 Details

- 3.1** Website link 1 <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-planning-monitoring-framework-202021> provides a link to the full Framework publication. The Statistical Tables are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2** The Framework provides details on performance across the three statutory targets along with a suite of additional indicators that are intended to provide a more comprehensive assessment of planning activity. 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.
- 3.3** Table 1 below details the performance against each Indicator and how this compares to all 11 Council's performance. The impact of restrictions due to Covid at the beginning of the year had an impact on the progression of planning applications and enforcement cases due to restrictions on site visits and access to laptops with VPN access. However, this was resolved towards the end of the second quarter of the year and performance improved throughout the remainder of the period.
- 3.4** Focus continues to reduce the average processing times for both major and local applications and meet the statutory target for concluding 70% of enforcement cases within 39 weeks. Recruitment of staff is nearing completion and with a stable workforce this will also assist in improving performance.

Table 1 Performance

Indicator	Description	2020/21	Rank out of 11 Councils
Indicator 1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine major applications	86.2 weeks (NI average 61.4wks)	10 th fastest
Indicator 1.1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine major applications (excluding withdrawn applications)	86.2 weeks (NI average 61.4wks)	10 th fastest
Indicator 2	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine local applications	20.8 weeks (NI average 17.8wks)	9 th fastest
Indicator 2.1	Average processing time (weeks) taken to determine local applications (excluding withdrawn applications)	20.6 weeks (NI average 17.4wks)	9 th fastest
Indicator 3	Proportion of enforcement cases progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks	66.5% (NI average 69.9%)	7 th highest
Indicator 4	Percentage of applications determined under delegated	91.8% (NI average 92.8%)	9 th highest
Indicator 5	Number of applications decided by Planning Committee Percentage of Committee decisions made against officer recommendation	77 (NI Total 756) 23.4% (NI average 13.9%)	4 th highest 4 th highest
Indicator 6	Number of appeals against refusals of planning permission that are dismissed	64.7% (NI average 68.3%)	8 th highest
Indicator 7	Number of claims for costs received by the Planning Appeals Commission Number of claims awarded	2 in favour (NI total 9) 1 against (NI total 3)	highest with one other council Same as 2 other Councils

Source: Northern Ireland Planning Monitoring Framework 2020/21

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Planning Committee **Note** the attached Planning Monitoring Framework Report.